



Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Purcell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Date March 9, 2023

Name and telephone of author of application Joanna M. Kendig, 609 933-4291 and  
Elizabeth A. Purcell, 202 544-0178

Date received \_\_\_\_\_  
H.P.O. staff \_\_\_\_\_  
Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior**  
 National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Eastern High School

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: **Public School Buildings of Washington, DC, 1862-1960**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1730 East Capitol Street NE

City or town: Washington, DC State: DC County: \_\_\_\_\_

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A      \_\_\_B      \_\_\_C      \_\_\_D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____  <b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object



Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_Brick and limestone\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Eastern High School occupies a prominent and spacious site at 1700 East Capitol Street, NE in east Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Begun in 1921 by the Office of the Municipal Architect under Snowden Ashford in an exuberant Collegiate Gothic Revival style and completed in 1923 under Ashford's successor, Albert L. Harris, Eastern High School survives as one of Ashford's last and best public buildings in the city. The large red brick school building is characterized by its five-part plan consisting of a visibly prominent turreted central pavilion with long and flanking four-story wings that terminate in four-story end pavilions. The entire building is graciously outfitted with long banks of windows trimmed with limestone quoining in the wings and with projecting limestone window bays in the end pavilions. A two-story porte-cochère, located on-center of the central pavilion and providing pedestrian access to the main entrance of the school features highly ornate detailing, including a character-defining Tudor arch entrance door, a crenellated parapet with a limestone panel supporting a clock and decorative Tudor-inspired stone carvings.

In 1925, the stadium was built west of the school building at its rear. In 1937-1938, a gymnasium and new classroom wing were constructed to the building's north and connected to the original 1923 building by one-story enclosed brick corridors, or hyphens. During this building campaign,

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

a greenhouse was also added to the property. It is in front of and east of the gymnasium addition at the north end of the building.

The school was modernized in the 1980s and 2010s. Although the original plan remains in place and some interior spaces, such as the main entrance stair and second floor lobby area have survived renovation, most of the interiors have been significantly altered by the removal of historic fabric, and by dropped ceilings, furred out walls and new floors.

The school property occupies four combined city squares that includes the school building, its athletic facilities (stadium, tennis and basketball courts, baseball field and open field). The school building sits on a slightly elevated, but flat, site on the north side of East Capitol Street with a grassy flat lawn and semi-circular path in front.

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## Narrative Description

### Site

Eastern High School is located in the 1700 block of East Capitol Street, NE at the eastern edge of Capitol Hill, bounded by 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and East Capitol streets and by Constitution Avenue, NE. The school and its site occupy four city blocks--squares 1094, 1095, 1108 and 1109—measuring 486,176 square feet, while the building itself covers 288,800 square feet.<sup>1</sup> The property consists of the school building and its athletic facilities including tennis courts and open fields to the building's east and a multi-use stadium to the north (completed in 1925). The school includes a gym and additional classroom wing, added to the original building in 1937-38. East Capitol Street extends past the school building before it then approaches and circles around RFK Stadium to cross the Anacostia River. Concrete walkways connect the front entrances with East Capitol Street. One is ADA compliant. A driveway runs between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets, NE, north of the building, providing access to the rear and parking spaces.

In 1915, as the city began to acquire the land for the school building, the site was sparsely developed. Eastern was completed on the site in 1923 and in 1931 Eliot Junior High was built immediately north of Eastern. Today, the area is characterized by rows of dwellings to the north, south and west of the schools, and to the east, by RFK Stadium. On June 14, 1923, the Alumni Association of the Eastern High School installed a bronze flag staff in front of the school in memory of Eastern students who died in the Spanish-American War and World War I.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund, *Replace or Modernize? The Future of the District of Columbia's Endangered Old and Historic Public Schools* (2001), pp. 3-51. "Stadium, Big Foot Ball Field, Pride of Eastern High School," *Evening Star*, 22 Nov. 1925, 34.

<sup>2</sup> Katherine Harris's design for the flag staff was produced at Tiffany Studios of N.Y Charles Hart, *Memories of a Forty-Niner* (Phila., Pa.: Dunlap Printing Co., 1946, 158-159). "Program of Exercises for the Dedication of the Flag Staff Base." Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives vertical files on Eastern High School. "Schools," *Evening Star*, 19 Nov. 1922, 20. Gardner, 3.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Eastern High School Building--Exterior Description<sup>3</sup>

The original four-story Eastern High School building was completed in 1923, added onto in 1937-38 and modernized in the 1980s and again in 2010s. The original four-story building is roughly rectangular in plan, approximately 170 feet wide, 398 feet long, with basement and sub-basement extending northward. The entire building is of brick, laid in 5:1 American bond with extensive limestone trim. A limestone and granite veneer plinth extends up to the windowsills at the basement level. Limestone courses at basement and third story window heads and the parapet with limestone cap continue on all sides of the original building. [Photos 14, 15]

The original windows were wood, single-glazed, with two operable austral sashes below and a fixed transom above.<sup>4</sup> These original windows were replaced with double-hung aluminum windows and insulated transom panels in the 1980s Modernization program. The 2010s Modernization restored the windows' original look, specifying nine-by-nine simulated divided light sashes in all three panes, closely following the original historic profiles. [Photos 8, 12]

Quoined limestone surrounds frame all windows and doors on the original outer facades. Simpler brick openings are used on inner courtyards' windows and 1930s classroom and gymnasium addition.

The original structural system of steel and concrete floors and masonry-encased columns provided significant fire resistance. A grid of concrete-encased steel I-beams supports the concrete joists and slab and terracotta block floor system. The floors are supported by exterior brick load-bearing walls and an interior grid of steel columns. The building structure has been retained through the life of the school. During the 2010s Modernization the plaster was stripped from most ceilings exposing the original floor system. A few of the original truss-like steel columns are now exposed, visible in the corridors, providing an interesting record of 1920s construction methods.

The original (unbuilt) design of the attic floor and roof structure was wood. Municipal Architect Harris ordered it changed to reinforced concrete, further improving building's fire safety. These changes also involved a change in design of the roof. Early 1921 drawings (not built) show steeply sloped slate roofs starting from five feet-6" walls and brick gables facing south and north on projecting building corners. The as-built roof slopes are shallower, and not visible behind tall parapet walls.<sup>5</sup> The school, as built, presents a clean Collegiate Gothic appearance.

<sup>3</sup> The building description relies on present-day site visits and from building plans from 1921, 1935, 1982, and 1985. Public Building Drawings, DC Department of General Services. Plans provided by William Spack, AIA, principal, Cox Graae + Spack Architects. Interviews with William Spack and Raymond Woodfork, Custodial Foreman, Eastern High School. "Plans Balk School," *Washington Post*, 10 Oct. 1921, 1. "Firetrap Charges Denied," *Evening Star*, 18 Feb. 1922, 3. "Assails Eastern High Auditorium," *Evening Star*, 22 June 1922, 23.

<sup>4</sup> "Introduced in the U.S. in the 1920s, austral windows were not commonly used, but sometimes appeared in schools and other public buildings. When closed they closely resemble double hung windows. However, instead of sliding vertically along a fixed track, the sashes pivot simultaneously, easing operability and greatly increasing ventilation." No austral windows remain at Eastern High School, but the replacements in the 2010s restored their appearance. Old House Web. [The repair and thermal upgrading of historic steel windows | Old House Web](#). Internet; accessed 24 January 2023.

<sup>5</sup> "Plans Balk School," *Washington Post*, 10 Oct. 1921, 1. "Firetrap Charges Denied," *Evening Star*, 18 Feb. 1922, 3. "Assails Eastern High Auditorium," *Evening Star*, 22 June 1922, 23.



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

The 1921 plans labeled the roofs as “slag.” In the 2010s Modernization, a majority of the roofing materials were replaced with white membrane roofing on a layer of insulation. As of 2023 solar panels on the auditorium roof contribute to District’s clean energy portfolio.

The principal elevation of the building faces south to East Capitol Street and is divided into three parts: central entry pavilion, wings and end pavilions. The central entry pavilion is three bays wide and buttressed by castellated towers. The main entry to the school is through a two-story portè-cochere centered in the entry pavilion at its first story. Its detailing includes quoined limestone corners, arched doorways, lancet arched window surrounds, and limestone tracery. [Photos 10, 13] The entry arch is enhanced by quatrefoil ornament and protected by a (basement contemporary interpretation of the original marquee. [Photo 12] The leaded, diamond-shaped glass windows above are preserved. During the 2010s modernization program, the wood tracery and leaded glass were restored and the steel fire doors which were installed in the 1980s were replaced with a contemporary interpretation of the original wood doors. Above the two-story entry bay, the central pavilion rises another two stories, but is set back from it. A broad decorative limestone frieze divides the third and fourth stories. A decorative limestone panel with a sundial and an inscription below it that reads, “1923 Eastern High School No. 176” caps the central pavilion.

The south façade is further enhanced by projecting pavilions at the corners of the building with wide limestone-clad bays topped by castellated parapets. Banks of four windows on the bay front and windows on the sides continue building’s pattern of horizontal window bands and balance the vertical thrust of the projecting bays. A tall chimney accents NW corner of 17<sup>th</sup> Street elevation.

### Interior Description

Originally, most interior walls and ceilings were plastered. The floors were terracotta tile in corridors and wood in most classrooms, and a majority of the bases were wood. The floors in the central lobby, stairs up to auditorium and part of first floor corridor were marble. A marble base complemented marble floors in the building core and was also specified in the 1921 plans for all corridors. The marble stairs, floors, and base in the center core have been preserved. Concrete floors (labeled “cement”) were originally specified in some service areas and corridors, probably in the lunch room, and in the second floor auditorium gallery. Terrazzo flooring was introduced in the classroom corridors of 1937-1938 addition. Most of the original terracotta tile and wood floors have been retained or restored as were central core’s marble floors and stairs. Most of the original walls throughout the school were plastered. In the 2010s Modernization the corridor walls surrounding courtyards were stripped down to expose original brick.

*Central Core:* The school is entered at street/basement level through the central entry door into a lobby that extends to the south corridor and cafeteria.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Sweeping marble stairs on-axis with the entry door lead up to a first story landing with administrative offices occupying the front of the building and a large auditorium originally designed to seat 800 behind it. The auditorium was designed with wood floors on the first and “cement” on balcony levels, plastered walls and pilasters and a coffered ceiling. Floors are now tiled with carpet and linoleum tile (MCT). The original coffered ceiling with its 1980s acoustical panels has been retained.

Labeled “Assembly” on the original drawings, the auditorium was originally open to corridors on east and west sides through four of five two-story bays. Those corridors, with floors sloped in concert with the Assembly, essentially served as side aisles. In 1980s floors were leveled and the bay opening enclosed. Auditorium bays opening to the south corridor were originally glazed on both first and second floors and infilled in 1980s. These modifications were reversed in 2010s with reglazing the side bays and creating the current spacious auditorium lobby. The auditorium retains much of its historic character and detailing, even though its entry area was significantly modified over time.

In 1933-1934, C.W.A artists painted the walls of the main entrance to the school and panels in the auditorium. Those in the entrance hall were frescoes by Miss Margaret Austin. In 2009, the modernization plans called for preserving the paintings by the front door, but as of 2023, no trace of the paintings remains. Research and interviews yielded no additional information about these works.<sup>6</sup> The panels in the auditorium were painted on canvas by Fritz Fuglister. They represented “Music” and “Drama.”<sup>7</sup> Margaret Austin also painted a fresco at Roosevelt High School. Fritz Fuglister (1909-1987) was a muralist active during the New Deal.<sup>8</sup> His paintings may have been lost during a major renovation of Eastern’s auditorium in 1948.

On the basement (ground) floor, the narrow passages originally flanking the main stair led from the porte cochère to the main corridor loop and the lunchroom. The entry hall was expanded in 1980s Modernization and reconfigured again in the 2010s Modernization. Currently the lobby accommodates security check-in operations, provides inviting view of the reception, and opens up towards the cafeteria. [Interior photos to be added]

The lunch room/cafeteria was first modified in the 1980s. Glass block replaced the glazed windows and door and south entry was closed off. Part of the floor was enclosed for teachers’ seating. In the 2010s Modernization the glass block on the south wall was replaced with windows, the original entry was functionally restored with a new stair and the whole floor area opened up again. In 2023 the detailing of the cafeteria interior is cleanly contemporary with suspended acoustical ceiling and decorative arches. [Interior photos to be added]

Boys’ and girls’ gyms and associated lockers were originally located in the basement on the north side of the central core. In 1938 these were replaced by two levels of classrooms accessed from new corridors circling the auditorium and brightened by a small courtyard/light well. New

<sup>6</sup> Eastern’s yearbook, *Punch and Judy*, (1948) shows a photograph of the auditorium’s gutted interior. Kyle Johnson, “A New School in an Old School,” *Hill Rag*, July 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Gardner, 35. “Public Works Art Exhibit Opened,” *Evening Star*, 7 May 1934, 4.

<sup>8</sup> <https://livingnewdeal.org/artists/fritz-fuglister>, Internet; accessed 8 July 2022.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

stairs were added, completing the circulation on the north end of the school. A new gym was built northeast of the main building. Materials and details of these additions were somewhat simpler but consistent with the original building. [Photos 23, 24, 25, 27]

*Classroom Wings:* Four floors of classrooms are located in the building wings that extend to the east and west of the central core. The classrooms open off single-loaded corridors that frame two large courtyards in the center of these two wings. The open courts historically provided daylight and fresh air to the classroom corridors. During the 2010s Modernization program, the east and west courts were enclosed and transformed into light-filled gathering spaces. Large barrel-vault skylights span the full width of the original courts. The windows on the south and north walls from second and third floor have been restored to their original appearance and function. On the side walls adjacent to the bathrooms the original window openings were filled in with brick as part of the 1980s Modernization program. At the first floor, new arched openings were created, connecting the courts to the corridors. The brick soldier course lintels of the original windows have been preserved as visible traces of the original building. Each court was designed with trees and plantings intended to create a feeling of outdoor environment, but as of 2023, no longer alive. Colorful stained concrete floors, sundial sculpture and a gazebo add interest to the spaces.

The classrooms themselves follow the original plan and retain their original window openings, but otherwise no longer have intact original materials. Original plaster walls have been furred out with gypsum board, ceilings have been dropped, and the original wood doors and their surrounds were replaced with steel doors with sidelights. Most of the wood floors remain and have been restored to their original color, though in some cases the original floors have been covered. The wood baseboards are original. Classroom windows arranged in sets of five to six with operable sashes below and fixed transom above provided ample natural light and some ventilation.

*Circulation and building systems:* The school was originally served by a ventilation system sending air through air supply and exhaust ducts located in double-walled spaces in the corridor walls. One air intake pavilion and a fan room was located adjacent to boiler room along the west side of the building. Another was in the northeast corner. Castellated parapets top these two freestanding structures, continuing the Collegiate Gothic detailing [Photos 8, 12] Operable austral windows provided natural ventilation. Radiators at all exterior walls provided heat in cold months. The system was powered by a coal-fired boiler in the sub-basement power plant.

Multiple entry/exit doors are located at termination points of various corridors on the basement / ground floor level. The corridors circle the court spaces on each floor. As the building was added on to and modernized, new corridors created more complete circulation in the central core area. These included two new passages flanking cafeteria inserted during 1980s Modernization. Six stairs are evenly distributed throughout the building. An elevator in the northwest corner completes building's vertical connections.<sup>9</sup> Most of corridor floors are the original terracotta tile, retained, preserved through the decades.

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<sup>9</sup> The school was built with an elevator, which remains in the same location.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

The masonry double walls between classrooms and corridors were originally designed as service zones for ventilation, plumbing, and presumably electrical wiring. Building systems remain in these service zones, but now ducts and pipes are housed in soffits on both classroom and corridor sides [Interior photos to be added]

Wide stairs flanking the main entry connect all floors on the East Capitol Street side. These stairs were originally open to the corridors. During the 1980s Modernization fire-rated doors were added to improve fire safety in the building. This configuration has been retained while overall fire safety in the building has been improved with the introduction of sprinkler system in 2010s Modernization. [Interior photos to be added]

Two other stairs located in the northwest and northeast corners of courtyard rectangles were also originally open to the corridors. These stairs were demolished in 1980s and rebuilt to allow a full fire-rated enclosure. As of 1923 large student toilet rooms were located next to the stairs, boys on the west, girls on the east side of the building. In the 1980s these toilet rooms were reconfigured, providing boys, girls, and teachers separate lavatories on both ends of the building.

Originally boys' and girls' locker rooms were located on first and second floors south of the toilet rooms in large spaces aligned with the classrooms. Lockers are now distributed along the corridors. No records were found to determine when the change was made. In 2010s Modernization new lockers were installed and configured with alcoves between the lockers providing space for bulletin boards and art.

*Basement and Sub basement:*

The basement level, two feet above grade, is functionally a ground floor. At that level the building floor plate extends outward to the north, east and west to accommodate various special functions. The basement floor drops 7.75 feet in some areas to allow for high ceilings in large spaces including the original lunch room, wood working and armory. These lowest floors extend adding another level of rooms or providing tunnels under corridors and classrooms where utilities (piping and ducts) were originally routed to vertical shafts feeding the upper floors.

Generously sky-lit spaces under the interior courts originally housed a wood shop and an armory. A rifle range (a storage area as of 2023) was located in subbasement space to the east of the main footprint of the original building. A greenhouse (conservatory) approximately 21 feet wide by 63 feet long, was placed on the axis with the south corridor. [Photo 20] The school's "power plant" including a coal vault, boilers and engine room, and a forge and foundry occupied the northwest corner of the sub-basement. [Interior photos to be added]

*Gymnasium:* The original boys' and girls' gymnasiums and lockers were located north of the central core. In 1938, a large approximately 100 foot by 120 foot coeducational gymnasium was built to northeast of the school. This two-story gymnasium is entered on the basement level. It is connected to the main building by several enclosed passageways. Two stairs lead to a dance studio on the upper level. Extensive locker facilities and fan rooms occupy the sub-basement below. Areaways on the north, east and south sides and a courtyard to the west provide light to the subbasement functions. The 1980s Modernization did not substantially alter the gymnasium.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

“Opaque” glass was specified for replacement windows in the locker areas. The gymnasium was damaged by a fire during the 1980s Modernization, and was repaired in 1985.<sup>10</sup>

### Stadium

Eastern was designed with a large stadium to the north of the school comprising a football field, running track, and bleachers for spectators. The stadium opened in 1925. To the east of the stadium were separate playing fields for boys and girls, eight tennis courts, a basketball court, and a hockey field. In 1986, the stadium was refurbished with new bleachers and a 400-meter track.<sup>11</sup> The bleachers are noncontributing.

### 1980s Modernization

While over the decades various improvements and maintenance work were done on the building, it remained essentially unchanged from the 1930s until the first extensive modernization in the 1980s executed by Perkins and Will Architects. New construction was modest, consisting of two new storage buildings, one at the northwest corner of the school, and one by the stadium. A new brick wall enclosed the existing flower and vegetable garden next to the greenhouse, which was improved with new glazing.

On the exterior, major work was limited to replacing doors and windows. Exterior wood doors were replaced with solid steel doors. All austral wood windows were replaced with double-hung aluminum, double glazed ones. Insulated aluminum-clad panels were specified to replace the glass in the window transoms. The window security grates were marked for removal, but based on a 1987 photo they were never removed or were reinstalled and remained in place until the 2010s.

On the interior, changes to room layouts and door locations were made presumably to accommodate new teaching programing, but according to drawings the original double masonry wall corridor-to-classroom zone was mostly retained. New boys’ and girls’ lavatories replaced the original toilet rooms. The original classroom wood doors were replaced with steel doors. Four primary exit stairs were either enclosed or rebuilt to improve fire safety. Some courtyard windows were removed and replaced with brick.

The most notable changes were to central core spaces. At the ground floor/basement entry narrow passages flanking marble stairs were opened-up and the original walls were removed to create a larger lobby. In the existing lunch room, stairs on axis with the main entry were removed and glazed wood openings filled with glass block. The entries from the north corridors were retained. The lunchroom was modified to provide dedicated space for teachers. In the auditorium open bays on three sides of the space were filled with masonry and acoustical panels were inserted into the coffered ceiling.

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<sup>10</sup> Memorandum from George H. Margolies, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent to Inez Smith Reid, Corporation Counsel, 28 Aug. 1984. Sumner School Museum and Archives, vertical files on Eastern High School. Martin Weil, Eastern High School Gym Heavily Damaged by Arson,” *Washington Post*, 17 July 1984, B3.

<sup>11</sup> Hart, *Memories of a Forty-Niner*, 158-159. “Stadium, Big Foot Ball Field, Pride of Eastern High School,” *Evening Star*, 22 Nov. 1925, 34. “The Two-Meter Mistake,” *Washington Post*, 9 Dec. 1986.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

### 2010s Modernization

The architectural firms of Fanning Howey and Cox, Graae + Spack emphasized sustainable strategies, such as indoor air quality, acoustics, and daylighting, complemented by historic preservation efforts. The exterior renovations included cleaning and repairing brick and stone surfaces, removing added equipment and non-historic building elements, and returning windows to their original appearance. The 1980s windows were replaced with custom aluminum frames and sash closely following the original historic wood profiles. The new windows are energy efficient insulated tempered glass with nine-by-nine simulated divided lights in all three panes. The operating sash is single hung, with bottom sash limited to opening only four inches. [Photo 16]

The 2010s Modernization was a gut renovation: a majority of the interior partitions were removed. This was done in response to DC Public Schools' directive to "right-size" classrooms. The corridors were retained in the original locations. Interior work also included removing hazardous materials, applying new interior finishes, and replacing mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems.<sup>12</sup> However, while the interior work was extensive it included preservation of important historic features, such as the original flooring, marble in the entry lobby, terracotta tile in corridors and wood in classrooms, and restoring interior plaster detailing in the central entry areas. Enclosing the original open courts created dramatic, light-filled public spaces while preserving the historic brick walls and windows. Basement spaces below are now lit with skylights built into the atria floors. In the central core, modifications included expanding the basement lobby and improving the cafeteria and auditorium.

### **INTEGRITY**

Eastern High School retains a high degree of integrity. Despite modernizations, the historic building retains its design, workmanship and materials. The building remains in its original location in a setting that has not changed dramatically since the building's completion in 1923, the opening of the stadium in 1925, and additions in 1937 – 1938. Eastern has retained the basic spatial relationships and materials that contribute to its architectural significance: the central section formed by two turreted towers, flanked by long hyphens with broad banks of windows in groups of six, and at the ends, projecting wings with limestone-trimmed bay windows and a central two-story porte-cochere with a Gothic arch entrance. Limestone string courses, quatrefoils in the limestone trim, and castellated lines at the parapet tie the building together. The original windows have been replaced twice, but the recent replacement respects the original configuration and pattern.

On the interior, some classroom spaces and layouts have changed, but the overall plan remains intact as does the configuration of the principal public spaces (auditorium, gymnasium, lobbies, classrooms). The marble walls remain in the lobby and along the staircase leading to the auditorium. Eastern High School continues to function as a school building with facilities for education, athletics, performing arts, and other extracurricular activities. Therefore, it retains both integrity of feeling and association.

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<sup>12</sup> Despite upgrades to building systems, as of 2023, a number of window air-conditioning units are visible, suggesting that the central HVAC is not adequate to cool some areas in the building.

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1923-1938

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1923

1938

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Eastern High School, constructed in 1923 and expanded in 1938, is a large and impressive red brick and limestone school building executed in a highly detailed Collegiate Gothic Revival style. The school was designed by Municipal Architect, Snowden Ashford, but was completed by his successor, Albert Harris. Eastern High School meets National Register A and C with Education and Architecture as its Areas of Significance under the *Multiple Property Document, Public Schools in Washington, DC 1862-1960*. It meets Criterion A under Education because the school provides important information on the history and development of the public school system in the District of Columbia. In 1908, Congress established a Schoolhouse Commission to guide public school education in the District of Columbia along Progressive Era principles of education. These principles included: a generous site, maximum natural light in the interiors, specialized classrooms for science, vocational training, and home economics, plus athletic fields, and an auditorium accessible to the public. To meet its goal for education and principles of design, the Commission recommended construction of a new forty-room Eastern High School for 800 students be built east of the old high school (across from Eastern Market). Although it was not immediate, the Board of Education responded by acquiring the generous lot of ground, designing and building a new and larger Eastern High School in the growing community of east Capitol Hill. Eastern High School meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of the work of noted Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford under the MPD's Associated Property Type: *The Office of the Municipal Architect, Snowden Ashford, 1909-1921*. Eastern High School exemplifies the high quality of design of Ashford's public building design, and contributes significantly to his body of work, which itself contributes to the development and aesthetics of the city.

Eastern High School meets the requirements established in the MPD to be eligible under that cover document: Eastern is a purpose-built DC public school building; its date of construction is within the period of significance of the MPD; the building is in its original location; and it retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship; alterations made, such as window replacements, are reversible; and the building conveys information about public school architecture, is the work of a recognized architect.

The Period of Significance for Eastern High School extends from 1923, the date the building was completed through 1938, the completion of the auditorium and classroom addition.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## EDUCATION

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, psychologists and educators recognized adolescence as a distinct stage of life between childhood and adulthood. Influential psychologist G. Stanley Hall wrote that adolescence is “a stormy period of great agitation, when the very worst and best impulses in the human soul struggle against each other for its possession.” High school education, including organized activities, would aid teenagers in navigating adolescence. In addition, beautiful high quality school architecture with “taste, simplicity and dignity in the matter of form and design” produced refined adults who appreciated good architecture.<sup>13</sup> Progressives also advocated a high school education to promote good citizenship.<sup>14</sup> John Dewey, a leading Progressive Era educator, said that “education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform.”<sup>15</sup> Eastern High School followed the principles of design established during the Progressive era just as Charles R. Hart, who was the principal of Eastern High School from 1918 to 1945 and led the school through its new building construction, followed this Progressive Era philosophy of education:

The welfare of the individual as a member of a democratic society is the fundamental basis of our philosophy. This implies not only development of personality but also preparation for the assumption of the privileges and responsibility of citizenship. The accomplishment of these aims calls for a many-sided educative process which will include his adjustment to the society in which he lives – physically, psychologically, economically, intellectually and spiritually.<sup>16</sup>

Eastern provided a variety of academic and vocational courses, plus extra-curricular activities all of which supported Progressive Era goals. Eastern’s academic/college preparatory course required four years of English, two years of Latin or a foreign language, one year of American history, one of natural science, two years of mathematics, along with minor subjects: two years of freehand drawing, four of singing, and four years of physical education. Elective courses included technical and business courses plus journalism and drama.

The 1921 architectural plans show specific rooms supporting this curriculum: classrooms specifically dedicated to English (11 classrooms); Latin (4 classrooms); modern languages (4 classrooms); history (4 classrooms); science (general science, physics, chemistry, biology,

<sup>13</sup> G. Stanley Hall, *Youth, Its Education, Regimen, and Hygiene* (New York, N.Y.: D. Appleton, 1907, 135), quoted in Gyure, 62. William George Bruce, *School Architecture; A Handy Manual for the Use of Architects and School Authorities* (Milwaukee, Wis.: Johnson Service Co., 1906), quoted in Gyure, 66.

<sup>14</sup> “The Progressive Era (1896–1916) was a period of widespread social activism and political reform across the United States of America that spanned the 1890s to World War I. The main objectives of the Progressive movement were addressing problems caused by industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and political corruption.” “Progressive Era.” Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 20 July 2022. Haycock, 34-35, 60. Gyure, 8, 62-63.

<sup>15</sup> John Dewey, quoted in Gyure, 64.

<sup>16</sup> Charles Hart. *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 25. “Mrs. Charles R. Hart, Educator’s Widow,” *Evening Star*, 29 Dec. 1970, 21.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

botany, 15 classrooms/laboratories); mathematics (4 classrooms); freehand drawing (2 classrooms); music (one classroom), and commercial subjects (12 classrooms). Domestic science (sewing, dressmaking, embroidery, millenary, food preparation, home care) occupied a suite of 9 rooms on the third floor.<sup>17</sup>

## ARCHITECTURE

Eastern High School is significant in the area of Architecture as the work of Snowden Ashford and one of the last designs of his career as Municipal Architect. It is also an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture.

Snowden Ashford, architect and native Washingtonian, began his career in the city's Office of the Inspector of Buildings, eventually becoming its Inspector of Buildings. In 1901, when the city's Office of the Municipal Architect was created, Ashford was selected as the first Municipal Architect, a position he held until 1921. During his tenure, Ashford oversaw the design and construction of dozens of public buildings, the vast majority of those being public school buildings. Ashford followed the best contemporary national practices in school design and designed in a variety of styles but showed a predilection for the Collegiate Gothic and Elizabethan styles which he adopted for many city school buildings, but most notably Dunbar High School (1916, demolished) and Eastern High School (designed, 1921). This preference for the Romantic conflicted with that of the Fine Arts Commission, established in 1910, which sought to adopt a more traditional Colonial Revival style of design for the city's public schools. The Commission felt that Gothic Revival and Elizabethan styles were foreign to the times and city and that the Colonial Revival better reflected the city's history and tradition and was thus more appropriate. Despite the Commission's opinion and role in affecting such conformity, Snowden Ashford continued to design in the Gothic Revival and Elizabethan styles. Eastern High School is not only the last public school building in the city to be executed in a Collegiate Gothic style, but it is the last school building designed by the Office of the Municipal Architect under Snowden Ashford before his resignation in 1921.

Eastern High School not only offered a large, impressive Collegiate Gothic design that emphasized the importance of architecture and aesthetics, the school building provided students and teachers with the latest in education design and technology. When it opened, Eastern offered:

- 100 classrooms, laboratories and shops;
- an auditorium seating 1,400, equipped with a film projector and a "cycloramic dome" to produce specialized lighting effects;<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The technical program in 1923 was the same as the academic program, with electives in technical subjects, e.g., printing, wood working, metalworking, and auto mechanics (discontinued in 1933-1934) with specialized rooms for each activity in the basement and on the third floor. "Information for Students taking the Two-year Commercial Course," 1924-1925. Eastern High School vertical file Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives. Gardner, 35.

<sup>18</sup> Eastern's 1923 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* used the cycloramic dome to evoke "moonlit forest glades ... down which lovely fairies and mischievous elves flitted, and baffled lovers fled their bewildered ways." Gardner, 5. During lunch periods students could watch educational films in the auditorium. In 1923 a simplex machine showed silent films, replaced in 1932 by a new projector (donated by alumni) to show sound films. In 1941 students watched newsreels and films such as *Copper Mining in Arizona*, *Where the Trade Winds Blow*, and *Beavers at Home*. Charles Hart, *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 51. Gardner, 30.

Eastern High School

District of Columbia

Name of Property

County and State

- a school library with 6,000 books;
- Music room equipped with opera chairs arranged in tiers, a platform, and a new grand piano.<sup>19</sup>
- Wide, light-filled hallways with over 3,000 lockers for students (to minimize bullying and theft)<sup>20</sup>
- an in-house telephone system for teachers to communicate without the need for an operator,<sup>21</sup>
- a stereopticon (a slide projector with two lenses used to project photographic images, (a popular form of education before motion pictures)),<sup>22</sup>
- the largest and best-equipped rifle range in the country, 200 by 85 feet, allowing 50 students to shoot at the same time. Galvanized ducts vented the smoke;
- wood and metal shops;
- a state of the art printing plant, equipped with \$30,000 of machinery;<sup>23</sup>
- an automobile repair shop;
- an armory for the cadet program
- a greenhouse with its own heating system, the first in a city school, used for botany classes, and featuring a large aquarium;
- a laundry;
- an elevator;
- a lunchroom and kitchen in the sub-basement<sup>24</sup>
- a modern steam heating system superior to many schools in the city.<sup>25</sup>
- handball courts (above the rifle range);
- two gymnasiums;
- stadium, athletic field (1925);
- tennis courts,<sup>26</sup>

The only missing amenity was a swimming pool, an intentional omission in response to expert advice on problems maintaining sanitized water in pools.<sup>27</sup> The school was “novel, glorious” and

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<sup>19</sup> Gardner, 3.

<sup>20</sup> Gyure, 73-74. Hart, *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 25.

<sup>21</sup> “New Eastern High School Ready for Opening Feb. 15,” *Evening Star*, 14 Jan. 1923, 18.

<sup>22</sup> “Stereopticon,” Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 26 June 2022.

<sup>23</sup> In 1923, Eastern’s print shop was equipped with the latest technology: presses, folding machines, all kinds of type, to give boys a complete course in printing. The shop produced posters, tickets, invitations, and any other print work the school needed. In 1925, they printed the school newspaper, *The Easterner*. “New Print Shop Thrives at School,” *Evening Star*, 23 Dec. 1923, 7. “Eastern High School Printery Now Working,” *Washington Post*, 29 Nov. 1925, F11. Gardner, 17.

<sup>24</sup> Gardner, 3, 5. “New Eastern High School Ready for Opening Feb. 15,” *Evening Star*, 14 Jan. 1923, 18.

<sup>25</sup> (For example, in 1920, 89 school buildings still had old hot-air furnaces.) Tunnels in Eastern’s sub-basement served as ventilating ducts, space for wiring, heating pipes, water pipes. Fresh air passing over heating coils was circulated by motors throughout the building. Haycock, 29-92, 73. George H. Dacy, “Eastern High School at Washington, D.C.,” *School Board Journal*, Vol. 69, No. 2 (1923).

<sup>26</sup> Dacy.

<sup>27</sup> Dacy. Hart, *Memories of a Forty-Niner*, 159-160.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

“a veritable embarrassment of riches.”<sup>28</sup> Eastern also offered the community a public library and an auditorium available to the public after school hours.

By the early 1920s, most new schools built in the District followed Eastern’s open plan.<sup>29</sup> The two open air courtyards (later placed under roof), single-loaded corridors with classroom windows opening to the outside, (with large banks of operable windows) provided natural light and ventilation. The “E” design allowed placing the auditorium, gymnasium and restrooms the center of the building (the small middle bar in the “E”), easily accessible to the public from the front entrance, reserving the natural light for the classrooms on the exterior elevations of the building. Laboratories, workshops, gymnasiums and the lunchroom were in the basement. The “E” plan also facilitated expansion, as was done in 1937-1938, when a wing was built at the rear for a gymnasium and additional classrooms.

### History and Development of District of Columbia Public Schools

The first District public schools date from an 1804 act “to establish and endow a permanent institution for the education of youth” in the city. The act established a board of trustees, led by the President of the United States, which looked to create a system of primary and secondary schools. The Eastern Free School for White students, east of the Capitol, opened in 1806.<sup>30</sup> Churches and private citizens founded the first school for Black students in 1807. The school system remained small through the mid-nineteenth century, and classes were held in residences and commercial buildings rather than purpose-built schools. Schools for Black children were informally created through the sponsorship of private citizens and religious groups, and classes were held in churches and other structures. Congress formally established a separate Black school system in 1862.<sup>31</sup>

After the Civil War, the District launched a major school building program, instituting the concept of grades and high schools. Adolph Cluss designed seven separate schools for White and Black students, beginning in 1864. The typical layout was a two-story brick building with large windows, eight classrooms (four per floor) on a double-loaded corridor, with classrooms separated by cloakrooms for privacy and sound abatement.<sup>32</sup> Beginning in 1878, the newly created Office of the Building Inspector oversaw the design of new schools. Schools constructed during the late nineteenth century were of brick construction and generally reflected the Romanesque Revival style. They were also small and geographically distributed to serve individual neighborhoods.

In 1881-1882, the first high school, Washington High School for White boys and girls, designed by Edward Clark, the Architect of the Capitol, was constructed at 7<sup>th</sup> and O streets, NW. “It was a large, three-story red brick building, but it provided limited space for athletics and social

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<sup>28</sup> Gardner, 1.

<sup>29</sup> D.C. Department of General Services. Public Building Drawings. (1921).

<sup>30</sup> Haycock, 37. *Schools for All*, 2.

<sup>31</sup> Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960, E1-6.

<sup>32</sup> *Schools for All*, 8. Beauchamp, National Register of Historic Places, *Public Schools Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960, Multiple Property Documentation Form, Washington, District of Columbia*, National Register # 64500851. 2001, E 10.

Eastern High School

District of Columbia

Name of Property

County and State

organizations.” To serve additional White students, two new high schools were opened: Western in Georgetown, and Eastern at the Peabody School (built in 1879), 425 C Street, NE.<sup>33</sup> When Western and Eastern High Schools were established 1892-1893, Washington High School at 7<sup>th</sup> and O Streets NW was renamed Central High School. In 1916 a new Central High School (later Cardozo) was built at 13<sup>th</sup> and Clifton streets, NW to the designs of William B. Ittner, a leader in school architecture.<sup>34</sup> That same year, Dunbar High School, D.C.’s first public high school for Blacks in D.C. was built to the designs of Snowden Ashford. Both Central and Cardozo were designed in an Elizabethan style of architecture.

### The Schoolhouse Commission

In 1906 Congress established the Schoolhouse Commission to study the public schools in the District of Columbia, and to recommend “a general plan for the character, size, and location of school buildings in accordance with which the educational and business interests of the public school system may be subserved.”<sup>35</sup> The Commission visited schools in several cities, and issued its report in 1908, with recommendations on plans, facilities, fenestration, lighting, heating, and ventilation. For example, the Commission recommended that all new high schools provide a gymnasium to accommodate at least 80 students, with separate gyms for boys and girls, if possible, and eight acres of playing fields.<sup>36</sup> In 1908 the Schoolhouse Commission recommended building new high schools.<sup>37</sup> In response and over the course of the next two decades, the District built Central High School at 13<sup>th</sup> and Clifton streets, NW (1916), Dunbar (for Blacks) at 1<sup>st</sup> and O streets, NW (1916, demolished in 1977), Eastern at 1700 East Capitol (1921-1923) and McKinley at 2<sup>nd</sup> and T streets, NE (1929).<sup>38</sup>

As part of this study, the Commission highlighted the need for a new Eastern High School. Since 1890, the school had been located in a school building at 7<sup>th</sup> and C streets, SE, but was severely overcrowded with double its intended enrollment. In addition to being over-crowded, the Commission found that the building was not well adapted to high school use and should be replaced with a new high school that could accommodate its 800-student capacity. The Commission also recommended constructing the building further east as residential development in Capitol Hill was pushing that way. America’s entry into World War I, however, delayed funding for the new high school among many other municipal projects, and in the interim

<sup>33</sup> Haycock, 35. Multiple Property Documentation E 14, F6. Schoolhouse Commission, 7-8. Hart, *Memories of a Forty-Niner*, \*\*\*.

<sup>34</sup> Beauchamp, National Register of Historic Places, *Public Schools Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960*, Multiple Property Documentation Form, Washington, District of Columbia, National Register # 64500851. 2001, E 10. [Central High School: Washington DCGenWeb \(theusgenweb.org\)](http://www.theusgenweb.org). William Butts Ittner, HPO, *DC Architects Directory*.

<sup>35</sup> An Act to fix and regulate the salaries of teachers, school officers, and other employees of the board of education of the District of Columbia, Pub. L. No. 254 (89<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 1906). United States Schoolhouse Commission, *Report of the Schoolhouse Commission Upon a General Plan for the Consolidation of Public Schools in the District of Columbia*. (Wash., D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908). James Knox Taylor (1857-1929) served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury between 1897 and 1912, and is listed ex officio on dozens of federal buildings constructed during that period. “James Knox Taylor,” Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 22 July 2022.

<sup>36</sup> Schoolhouse Commission, 30-32.

<sup>37</sup> United States Schoolhouse Commission, *Report of the Schoolhouse Commission Upon a General Plan for the Consolidation of Public Schools in the District of Columbia*. (Wash., D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), 7-9.

<sup>38</sup> Haycock, 38, 52.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

between 1908 and 1921 when the school was eventually built, its enrollment had expanded significantly. After the War, as school populations grew city-wide, the Office of the Municipal Architect under Ashford designed a larger new Eastern High School with a capacity of 1,800 students.<sup>39</sup>



Historical photo of old Eastern High School (left) and Wallach School (right) at 7<sup>th</sup> and C Streets SE.  
(National Photo Co., Library of Congress 2016824740)

### The Design of Eastern High School

Snowden Ashford's design for Eastern High School was strongly influenced by that of Central High School (now Cardozo). As Municipal Architect, Ashford did not design all of the city's new public buildings in-house, but in some cases, hired private architects to collaborate with the

<sup>39</sup> The city's population grew from 333,069 in 1910 to 437,571 in 1920, from 486,869 in 1930 to 663,091 in 1940, and to 938,000 in 1945. Enrollment in senior high schools grew from 1,767 in 1890 to 5,920 in 1910 to 8,470 in 1920, with corresponding growth in lower grades. By 1920 high schools were overcrowded. <sup>39</sup> Haycock, 29-92, 37, 67, 69, 79, 81.



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

office. For the most part, Ashford hired local Washington, DC architects, but in 1915, he instead hired a St. Louis-based and nationally recognized architect, William B. Ittner (1864-1936) to design Central High School (now Cardozo). Ittner was a leader in school architecture with a vast portfolio of 500 schools including 135 high schools to his name. The Schoolhouse Commission had praised several of Ittner's schools including Yeatman and William McKinley high schools, both in St. Louis, MO and built in 1904 in a Collegiate Gothic style.<sup>40</sup>



Circa 1904 photograph of McKinley High School, St. Louis, MO. William B. Ittner, architect (S. Kresge postcards, CardCow.com 296417)

For D.C.'s Central High School, Ittner also chose the Collegiate Gothic style which offered large windows providing an abundance of light and good ventilation. Ittner introduced an open E-shaped plan for the building, rather than the closed plans of earlier DC school buildings. The E-shaped plan not only allowed air and natural light to permeate the interior, but it readily accommodated single-loaded corridors, allowed for future expansion, and could accommodate an auditorium wing to be open to the public, an important feature because of "the growing demand for the use of high-school auditoriums for evening lectures and purposes other than strictly school use."<sup>41</sup> Ittner's design for Central was to be "in the national forefront, a modern school offering business, manual training (for boys) and domestic art and science (for girls), and gymnasiums for each sex, along with its academic curriculum."<sup>42</sup> To support instruction in all these subjects, Central was built with multiple specialized classrooms, and a large, centrally located auditorium.<sup>43</sup> Indeed, upon its completion, the Schoolhouse Commission concluded that "The building as a whole is one of the best arranged and most useful high schools of this capacity in the United States."<sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> [Exploring Abandoned Yeatman High School | St Louis - YouTube](#) (2019). Internet; accessed 28 July 2022.

Google Earth shows the school, 3616 North Harrison Street, St. Louis, Mo., as vacant, as of July 29, 2022.

<sup>41</sup> Guyere, 113.

<sup>42</sup> HPO, *DC Architects Directory*, Willam Butts Ittner.

<sup>43</sup> HPO, *DC Architects Directory*, Willam Butts Ittner.

<sup>44</sup> Schoolhouse Commission, 67.



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

While Ittner was designing Central High School, Snowden Ashford and the Office of the Municipal Architect were at work on the designs of Dunbar High School, also designed in a Collegiate Gothic style with two central fortified towers with wings on each side.



Historical photo of Dunbar High School, ca. 1920-1960.  
Snowden Ashford, architect  
Whitelaw Hotel Collection, DC History Center CHS  
16313.05

The school offered 35 classrooms plus diverse spaces to support Progressive Era education including lecture rooms, laboratories, rooms for teaching typewriting, shorthand, and bookkeeping, a music room with phonograph, grand piano and player piano, four domestic science classrooms, a banking department for business classes, a library, cafeteria, a study hall, gymnasiums with locker rooms and showers, swimming pool, printing plant, rifle range, an armory for the cadets, a 1,500-seat auditorium equipped to show motion pictures, and a pipe organ.<sup>45</sup> Identical classroom spaces were arranged along traditional double-loaded corridors, disparaged by some critics as an “egg crate” design.<sup>46</sup>

In his designs for Eastern five years later, Ashford followed the same Collegiate Gothic style that Ittner had used in his high school designs in St. Louis and that Ashford had also embraced at Dunbar. However, rather than the double-loaded corridor, Ashford instead chose the single-

<sup>45</sup> “Local News Briefs,” *Washington Post*, 17 Sept. 1916, 16. Amber N. Wiley, “The Dunbar High School Dilemma: Architecture, Power, and African American Cultural Heritage,” *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Spring 2013), pp. 95-128. Guyere, 39.

<sup>46</sup> Gyure 113.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

loaded corridor design introduced by Ittner along with other important features such as the E-shaped plan with its open courts, and a variety of spaces for learning and community activities.

In 1921, before the designs for Eastern High School were completed, Snowden Ashford resigned as Municipal Architect. His successor, Albert Harris, completed the designs and oversaw construction of the school building. In 1923, as the building was nearing completion, students prepared for the move out by cleaning trophies and organizing school memorabilia to bring with them. On March 1, 1923, with the school band leading the way, students marched from the former Eastern High School at 7<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, SE east for one mile along East Capitol Street to take possession of their new school. Students and alumni were “astonished at the magnificence of the new school compared with the old Eastern they had known.”<sup>47</sup>

#### Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford (1866-1927)

Snowden Ashford, a District native, studied civil engineering and architecture at Lehigh University and Lafayette College. He then worked for A.B. Mullett, who had been the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, and next for John L. Smithmyer, Architect of the Library of Congress, and helped design library buildings. In 1895 Ashford was appointed the District’s Assistant Inspector of Buildings (an office established by Congress in 1871). He revised the building code, and prepared plans for schools, fire stations, and other District buildings. In 1901 he was promoted to Inspector of Buildings. Ashford served as Municipal Architect from 1909 to 1921.<sup>48</sup> Ashford designed buildings in Romantic styles such as Tudor Revival and Collegiate Gothic. Ashford preferred these styles for school buildings because these were suggestive of traditional higher education buildings “scholastic” and afforded large areas of windows, beneficial for a school. He disagreed with the Commission of Fine Arts (established in 1910) which favored the Colonial Revival style. He prevailed on the Collegiate Gothic design for Dunbar High School for Black students (1916, demolished 1977), and Eastern High School (1921-1923).<sup>49</sup>

Albert L. Harris, who had worked with Ashford, succeeded Ashford as Municipal Architect, serving in that capacity from 1921 to 1933.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> “New Eastern High School Ready for Opening on Feb. 15,” *Evening Star*, 14 Jan. 1923, 18. Bertha L. Gardner, 1-2.

<sup>48</sup> Ashford resigned as Municipal Architect possibly because of conflicts with the Commission of Fine Arts over Collegiate Gothic vs. Colonial Revival school design. S.J. Ackerman, “Architect of the Everyday,” *Washington Post*, 6 Nov. 2005, B-8 (citing Ashford’s tiring of hassles and low pay).

<sup>49</sup> Ashford also designed over 75 school buildings including Jesse Reno School, 4820 Howard Street, NW (1903, extant); Military Road School, 1375 Missouri Avenue NW (1911-1912, extant); Alexander Crummel School, Kendall and Galludet streets, NE (1911-1913, vacant), Park View School, 3570 Warder Street, NW (1916, closed in 2009), and Miner Normal School Building, Howard University; and Eastern Market North Hall (1908); fire stations Engine C. No. 5, 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue (1902); Engine Co. No. 20 (addition) (1913); Engine C. No. 23 (1910, collaboration with Hornblower & Marshall); and Old Engine Co. NO. 12 (1896-1897). “Snowden Ashford,” Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 21 Sept. 2022. HPO, *DC Inventory of Historic Sites*.

<sup>50</sup> “New Delay Faced in Opening School,” *Evening Star*, 18 Feb. 1922, 3. “Assails Eastern High School Auditorium,” *Eastern Star*, 22 June 1922, 23. D.C. Department of General Services. Public Building Drawings (1921 plans).

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Eastern High School Grows

Before the construction of Eastern High School, the area east of 19<sup>th</sup> Street was virtually undeveloped and the area east of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was swampy from the Anacostia River. In 1914 the Board of Education recommended purchase of the East Capitol Street site and the District government acquired the four squares by condemnation between 1915 and 1917. In 1923, Eastern opened with 1,100 students and a capacity for 1,800. The first students found the location two blocks east from the streetcar terminus “at the end of the world.”<sup>51</sup> Eastern was not isolated for long; developers soon began building houses nearby, attracting new families.<sup>52</sup> Over the next decade, the school’s enrollment more than doubled: in the fall of 1923 1,409 students were enrolled; by 1930 there were 2,256 students and then in 1934, just eleven years after the school had opened, the number of students had reached 3,000. Beginning in 1933, the school was forced to teach in double sessions: Two groups totaling 2,000 students went to school from 9:00 am to 2:40 pm with different lunch hours and 800 went from 11:15 am to 5:00 pm.<sup>53</sup> Double shifts continued in 1935 and 1936. Citizens’ associations advocated building wings to Eastern to accommodate 1,500 additional students. The superintendent opposed this plan, arguing that a 3,500-student high school would be impossible to administer and that instead, Eastern’s many out-of-bounds students who lived east of the river should be shifted into Anacostia High School.<sup>54</sup> No new wings were added to Eastern High School and out of bounds students were indeed shifted out of Eastern to Anacostia.

During World War II, as many high school students left school to work at wartime jobs, Eastern offered a co-op program where students could work part-time for outside employers. In 1949, seventy-five seniors worked as typists, sellers, stockboys, theater ushers and buyer’s assistants. The program continued until at least 1972.<sup>55</sup>

Some functions and activities were gender-segregated: Boys participated in the cadets, first organized in 1890. Eastern’s popular cadet program (similar to Junior ROTC), open to all boys, promoted Progressive Era ideals of good citizenship: “The cadet learns the value of cooperation, teamwork, self-control and personal responsibility with his group.”<sup>56</sup> An Army officer oversaw instruction and rifle drills. Cadets drilled twice a week and participated successfully in drill

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<sup>51</sup> “Eastern’s Site Picked,” *Evening Star*, 25 Nov. 1914, 3. Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives vertical files on Eastern High School. Baist map (1915, 1921). “Seek to Condemn Tract,” *Evening Star*, 16 Feb. 1915. “New Eastern High School Ready for Opening Feb. 15,” *Evening Star*, 14 Jan. 1923, 18. Rosemary Arnold, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education, “Modern City High School, Typical of Approved Ideas of To-Day,” *School Life*, Vol. X, No. 4, December 1924. Note: Rosemary Arnold taught at Eastern High School.

<sup>52</sup> “12 New Dwellings Near Eastern High School,” *Washington Post*, 4 Feb. 1923, 48. “18 More Dwellings Planned by Kline,” *Washington Post*, 23 Mar. 1930, R1. “Jordan Show Homes Erected for 2 Families,” *Washington Post*, 22 Sept. 1935, R10.

<sup>53</sup> “Meeting Asks 12 School Projects,” *Evening Star*, 23 May 1933, 14. “Two Eastern High Plans Discussed,” *Evening Star*, 15 Mar. 1934, 34. “With D.C. Civic Organizations,” *Evening Star*, 18 Mar. 1934, 41. Haycock, 38. Gardner, 4, 7, 10, 14, 27, 34, 38, 41.

<sup>54</sup> “Eastern Has 430 Excess Pupils,” *Washington Post*, 2 Oct. 1921, 1. “Larger Tech and Business to Aid in Remedying Bad Conditions,” *Evening Star*, 18 Jan. 1926, 3. Jesse Fant Evans, “Students at Eastern High Throw Talents Behind Play,” *Evening Star*, 29 Mar. 1936, 23. Gardner, 4. Modernization 1982-1985, by Perkins & Will.

<sup>55</sup> Haycock, 81. *Punch and Judy* (1949). *Handbook for Students* (1972-1973).

<sup>56</sup> Hart, *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 45-46. Haycock, 76.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

competitions with other schools.<sup>57</sup> To support the cadet program Eastern had an armory in the sub-basement and basement, also once used to hold dances.<sup>58</sup> (The armory is now used by Eastern's Health Sciences Academy.) Eastern currently has an Army JROTC program open to all students, located in a different space in the building.<sup>59</sup>

In 1923 Boys studied manual arts. As of 1952, these programs remained for boys only. In 1949 boys could study flying an aircraft by instruments, using a Link Trainer, the only one of its kind in District schools.<sup>60</sup> Boys and girls used separate gyms and playing fields, and played on separate sports teams (e.g., for boys: basketball, baseball, track, tennis, golf, and rifle teams, and clogging teams. for girls: basketball, volleyball, field hockey, archery). In 1925, the girls' rifle club won the city championship.<sup>61</sup> Eastern students excelled in sports, winning many city championships in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Rowing was added in 1993. In 2023, there are boys' teams for football, basketball, baseball, cross country, and track; girls' teams for cheerleading, cross country, track, softball, and volleyball; and co-ed teams for golf, swimming, and tennis.

Girls studied domestic science (home economics), a new field in the Progressive Era. The theory was that "homemaking, as a profession, required education and training for the development of an efficient and systematic domestic practice. The curriculum aimed to cover a variety of topics, including teaching a standardized way of gardening, child-rearing, cooking, cleaning, performing household maintenance, and doctoring. ... Women had separate but equally important responsibilities in life with men that required proper training." Eastern offered courses in home nursing, food/nutrition, and clothing. There were classrooms devoted to dressmaking, millinery, and embroidery.<sup>62</sup> A "model apartment" in the domestic science department, complete with an operable fireplace, was used for "teach[ing] girls to entertain and serve as charming hostesses." In 1931 students served a model dinner based on a weekly menu for four costing \$7.17: meat loaf, baked stuffed potatoes, spinach, corn meal rolls, butter, steamed graham pudding with lemon sauce, and tea with lemon. In 1934, students taking an

<sup>57</sup> Hart, *Memories of a Forty-Niner*, 222-223.

<sup>58</sup> Rosemary Arnold, "Modern City High School, Typical of Approved Ideas of To-Day," *School Life*, Vol. X, No. 4, December 1924. Charles Hart, *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 45-46. Haycock, 76 "Eastern High School Cadet Company A Wins Drill Competition Again After 12 Years," *Washington Post*, 24 May, 1950, B1. "Eastern High Prom at Armory April 16," *Washington Post*, 21 Mar. 1926, 8.

<sup>59</sup> [Eastern High School \(easternhighschool.org\)](https://www.easternhighschool.org). Internet; accessed 12 July 2022. Ronald Nelson interview, 22 July 2022.

<sup>60</sup> The Link Trainer was a flight simulator produced during the 1930s and 1950s used to train pilots on instrument flying "Link Trainer," Wikipedia, Internet; accessed 2 Sept. 2022. *Punch and Judy* (1949).

<sup>61</sup> Gardner, 17, 22, 25, 33. *Punch and Judy* (1949). *Report of the Visiting Committee Evaluation of Eastern High School* (1952), DC History Center, P 1385. Maurine Hoffman, "Eastern High Striving to Erase Stigma of 1962 Stadium Outbreak: Sets Student Goals," *Washington Post*, 29 Oct. 1963, C1. "Eastern Rows Forward With New Crew," *Washington Post*, 20 Apr. 1993, E5.

<sup>62</sup> "Progressive Era." Wikipedia; Internet; accessed 20 July 2022. Charles Hart. *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 47-48. Plans dated 1921 and 1964. D.C. Department of General Services. Public Building Drawings. Guyere, 87-88.

Eastern High School

District of Columbia

Name of Property

County and State

upholstery class (the only one in the city) completely reupholstered the living room furniture in yellow and brown tones. In 1950, boys could study cooking.<sup>63</sup>

In the basement were separate infirmaries for boys and girls, managed by an experienced nurse.<sup>64</sup> Except for shops and home economics boys and girls generally studied in the same classrooms. For example, in 1923 boys and girls took typing class together. They also worked together on the yearbook (*Punch and Judy*) and the school newspaper, *The Easterner*, which won many awards.<sup>65</sup> School plays won the Brown University Cup several times. In 1929 Eastern won again and kept the cup permanently.

The school library, located on the second story, offered 6,000 titles. In 1927 a sub-branch of the public library, located in the basement, opened, offered 10,000 books plus periodicals.<sup>66</sup>

The auditorium, seating 1,400, was used for assemblies, some featuring quiz programs,, “chapel,” school plays.

Beginning in 1913, Eastern and five other high schools each operated a school bank. The banks were intended to operate like a regular savings bank, to the extent possible, and with the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency. It had a safe. As of 1941, Eastern’s bank handled \$150,000 a year, including all the school’s funds, and cashed paychecks for teachers and staff. Students were encouraged to open passbook accounts with a minimum deposit of ten cents. There was an annual audit; the bank had a perfect record in protecting deposits. Students vied to work at the bank and received such good experience that banks hired many of them.<sup>67</sup> In 1923 and 1941, the school bank was on the first floor. The bank continued to function until the modernization in the 2000s.<sup>68</sup>

### Integration and afterward

In 1950, Spottswood T. Bolling, Jr. and four other Black students applied to enroll at Sousa Junior High School, a school reserved for White students as there was no high school for Blacks east of the Anacostia River where they lived. They were rejected on the basis of race. Bolling’s mother and others sued to challenge the decision; the case, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, was joined with *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that

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<sup>63</sup> D.C. Department of General Services. Public Building Drawings. Rosemary Arnold, “Modern City High School, Typical of Approved Ideas of To-Day,” *School Life*, Vol. X, No. 4. Interview with Raymond Woodfork, \*\* 2022. Gardner, 26, 38. “Economics Pupils Will Serve Meals,” *Washington Post*, 18 Feb. 1931, 13. *Punch and Judy* (1950).

<sup>64</sup> Charles Hart, *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 54-55.

<sup>65</sup> Gardner, 15, 16. 26. “Eastern High Newspaper Wins Again,” *Washington Post*, 14 Mar. 1954, R8. *Punch and Judy* (1949). Eastern High School’s Fifty-Plus Club (2015 reunion), DC History Center, p. 1399.

<sup>66</sup> “Eastern High School Houses Branch Library,” *Washington Post*, 9 Oct. 1927, 12. Bertha L Gardner, *A History of the Eastern High School: 1923-1940* (1940), 15. Public plans (1921).

<sup>67</sup> Charles Hart. *The Survey and Evaluation of the Eastern High School* (1941), 58-59. Charles Hart, *The Plan and Operation of the Eastern High School Bank* (1941). “Ex-Eastern Principal Tells of Problems,” *Evening Star*, 20 Sept. 1956, 42. Interview with Raymond Woodfork, 2 Aug. 2022.

<sup>68</sup> Interviews with Raymond Woodfork, *Handbook for Students*, (1972-1973), Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

segregating the District's schools violated the 5th Amendment's guarantee that the federal government treat all citizens with "due process of law." *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided on the basis of the 14th Amendment which required only "states" to provide equal treatment.

In order to comply with the Court's decision, new school boundaries were drawn by July 1, 1954, and students were required to attend the school within the boundary of their residence, with narrow exceptions.<sup>69</sup> By then, the lure of the suburbs had already begun and White flight from the city was well under way. This trend, which began in the pre- and post-World War II years was further encouraged after 1948 when the Supreme Court deemed racial restrictions in deeds unenforceable, opening neighborhoods to African Americans that had previously been restricted to whites-only. The 1954 *Brown v. Board* decision inspired even greater out-migration, converting once predominantly White neighborhoods to largely Black ones. In the 1953-54 school year, Eastern's White student population was already 22.3 percent lower than the previous year and overall enrollment was down 8.4 percent. Still, in the fall semester after the May 1954 *Brown vs. Board* decision, only 1.4 percent of Eastern's enrollment was Black. To encourage greater integration of schools city-wide, the city transferred students from 18 schools with predominantly Black students into schools that were predominantly White. As a result, African American students from Cardozo and Spingarn were reassigned to Eastern. By 1963, Eastern's enrollment was 99 percent Black.

During this demographic shift, student pride at Eastern remained strong. Students cared deeply about their school and excelled in academics, music and sports. In 1957, Lynn F. Woodworth, principal from 1955 to 1963 noted, "We have welded a fine group of young people, the best kids in town, as we forged away at a new set of problems. ... What knitted us together are the football and basketball teams and the chorus and art work ... ." In 1963 Woodworth noted that the school's students continued to excel in academics (achieving the same number of scholarships), and in prizes for yearbook, football, basketball and track.<sup>70</sup> In 1968, a student group at Eastern High School, the Modern Strivers, raised funds from private sources to establish The Freedom School for Eastern students, offering courses for high school credit (approved by the Board of Education) on economics, literature, art, Swahili and Black history and culture. Classes were held at educational wing of Keller Memorial Lutheran Church, 907 Maryland Avenue, NE during school hours. University professors taught courses; Roberta Flack taught a music class. (By 1970, Eastern High School began to offer classes in Black history. After funding ran out, the school closed in fall 1970). In 1968 the Modern Strivers recruited 50 students from their neighborhood for summer jobs at the National Institute of Health.<sup>71</sup> In 1969, Eastern students

<sup>69</sup> *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497 (1954), *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954). Multiple \*\* E 27. "District Schools Show 8.7 Pct. Drop in White Pupils," *Evening Star*, 31 Oct. 1954, 11. "Ex-Eastern Principal Tells of Problems," *Evening Star*, 20 Sept. 1956, 42. Evaluation of the Eastern High School (1964).

<sup>70</sup> Jeanne Rogers, "Eastern High Is 'New School'," *Washington Post*, 6 Jan. 1957, A14. Thomas Diamond, "Retiring Principal Proud of Eastern's Record," *Evening Star*, 11 Aug. 1963, 61.

<sup>71</sup> "Fred Barnes, "Freedom School Set at Eastern," *Evening Star*, 24 Oct. 1968. Ernst Holsendolph, "NE Freedom School Viewed as Pacesetter," *Evening Star*, 14 Nov. 1968. Lawrence Feinberg, "Pupil-Run School for Black Studies Fails Test of Time," *Washington Post*, 1 Nov. 1970. Susan Jacoby, "Students Find Jobs for Ghetto: Group Places Youths with Unit of NIH," *Washington Post*, 4 July 1968, D3.

Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

were invited to a White House conference on education.<sup>72</sup> In 1980, 300 students walked out to protest the transfer of 10 teachers, a move which students believed would harm their education.<sup>73</sup>

The Turkey Bowl, the city's high school football championship, remain an important event. Eastern has played in the Turkey Bowl 12 times since 1955 and won eight times. Players who went on to NFL careers recall the Turkey Bowl as one of the most exciting games of their lives. "The Turkey Bowl is like an NFL game in that there are so many fans and every game is a show. ... For that one game, the Turkey Bowl game, it felt like the Super Bowl."<sup>74</sup>

Eastern is famous for its gospel choir, originally led by Joyce Garrett. In 1988, choir members raised \$180,000 to travel to Vienna, Austria to compete in the Youth and Music Festival, where they earned the silver medal. The choir was in great demand for performances. In 1996, the choir presented an original gospel show "Joy! In de Morning." In 2023 Eastern's concert choir "explores music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance."<sup>75</sup> Students are proud of their marching band, The Blue and White Marching Machine. [Photo 30] The 65-member band has played at presidential inaugurations, the Capitals' victory parade, other celebrations, and plays many engagements year-round including the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade on Capitol Hill. Band members share a bond and more 90 percent of graduating members go on to college. People around the country are supporting the band; the Capitol Hill Community Foundation has collected more than \$190,000 for the band's travel, new instruments, and uniforms.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>72</sup> John Matthews, "Varied Groups Invited to U.S. School Talks," *Evening Star*, 14 Dec. 1969, 19.

<sup>73</sup> Judith Valente, "300 Fed-Up Eastern Students Walk Out," *Washington Post*, 22 Dec. 1980.

<sup>74</sup> Preston Williams, "Talking Turkey, Remembering Their Roots," *Washington Post*, 23 Nov. 2006, T21. "District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association." Wikipedia, Internet; accessed 24 Feb. 2023.

<sup>75</sup> Hamil R. Harris, "From Hard Work to Harmony: Youth Choir Learns the Value of Discipline," *Washington Post*, 16 Nov. 1995, J3. Rene Sanchez, "Eastern Choir in Demand After Triumph in Austria," *Washington Post*, 31 Oct. 1988, E6. [Clubs and Activities - Eastern High School \(easternhighschooldcps.org\)](http://easternhighschooldcps.org). Internet; accessed 12 July 2022.

<sup>76</sup> Karlyn Barker, "Inaugural Nod to Bands of Eastern High, Ravens," *Washington Post*, 30 Dec. 2000. Lizzie Johnson, "Eastern High band is hearing the love," *Washington Post*, 17 Oct. 2022, B-1. Elizabeth O'Gorek, "Support Pours In For Eastern Marching Band," *Hill Rag*, Nov. 2022, 34.



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State



Eastern High School Marching Band on Eastern Market Plaza, Capitol Hill, May 2019  
Elizabeth Nelson, photographer

There were controversies: In 1962 there was a fight after a football game. In 1978, the *Washington Post* ran articles describing illiterate students, and students smoking marijuana in the hallways. In the 2000s, the graduation rate fell to 55.8 percent and enrollment declined to approximately 450, possibly because of parents' concerns about school safety and academic quality. On the first day of the school year in 2004 students were sent home because their schedules were not ready; three administrators were fired.<sup>77</sup> In June 2008 (while Michelle Rhee was Chancellor), DC Public Schools announced that no new ninth graders would be registered at Eastern for fall 2008, that tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades would be phased out year by year, until the ninth graders as of 2008 graduated. A new Eastern High School would open in 2011. The announcement took the community by surprise.<sup>78</sup> By 2009, Eastern had surplus square feet, a declining student population, and was scheduled to undergo modernization. When the renovated school reopened in 2010, students experienced a sense of pride to study in the new learning environment.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>77</sup> Kyle Johnson, "A New School in an Old School" *Hill Rag*, July 2009. Juan Williams, "Secret of a Senior Classman: He Doesn't Know How to Read," *Washington Post*, 30 Apr. 1978, A1. Juan Williams, "'Hall People' are Rarely in Class," *Washington Post*, 1 May 1978, A1. Maurine Hoffman, "Eastern High Striving to Erase Stigma of 1962 Stadium Outbreak: Sets Student Goals," *Washington Post*, 29 Oct. 1963, C1.

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<sup>78</sup> Virginia Aveniel Spatz, "Eastern High to Phase Out," *Hill Rag*, June 2008.

<sup>79</sup> Virginia Aveniel Spatz, "Fast Track to Where?" *Hill Rag*, Nov. 2008. Kyle Johnson, "A New School in an Old School" *Hill Rag*, July 2009. Kyle Johnson, "Out With the Old, In With the New," *Hill Rag*, Nov. 2009. Timothy Wilson, "People have waited a long time for this day," *Washington Post*, 2 Sept. 2010, DE 18.



Eastern High School

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Eastern High School maintains certain traditions. For example, each year on the first Friday in November is the homecoming parade and game. Another tradition, beginning c. 1954, provides that only alumni are allowed to walk on the marble staircase leading to the auditorium. According to school folklore, Principal Ralph Neal had the brass railing on the steps shined daily, and any student caught using the stairs would be suspended for the number of days equal to the step where they were caught.<sup>80</sup>

### Notable Alumni<sup>81</sup>

- [Sheila Abdus-Salaam](#) (1970), [New York Court of Appeals](#) judge<sup>[4]</sup>
- [Vernon D. Acree](#) (1937), Commissioner of the [United States Customs Service](#)<sup>[5]</sup>
- [Gayle Adams](#) (1970), disco, funk, and house music musician<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- Love Fever” a hit on the dance and soul charts [Maude E. Aiton](#) (1894), [D.C. Public Schools](#) teacher, principal of the Webster [Americanization School](#) in Washington D.C.<sup>[6][7]</sup>
- [Queen Anunay](#) (1991), first female assistant chief of the [District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department](#)<sup>[8]</sup>
- [Calvin Beale](#) (1941), demographer whose work led to the development of the [Beale code](#)<sup>[9]</sup>
- [Monta Bell](#) (1909), film director, producer, screenwriter<sup>[10]</sup>
- [George D. Beveridge](#) (1940), [Pulitzer Prize](#)-winning journalist
- [George S. Blanchard](#) (1938), [United States Army four-star](#) general<sup>[11]</sup>
- [Robin Campbell](#) (attended, did not graduate), Olympic sprinter<sup>[12]</sup>
- [Jerry Chambers](#) (1961), former NBA player<sup>[13]</sup>
- [Dave Chappelle](#) (attended, did not graduate), actor, comedian<sup>[14]</sup> stand up comedian, winner of Mark Twain prize, Grammy [Bennett Champ Clark](#) (1908), United States Senator (Missouri), [D.C. Circuit Court](#) judge<sup>[15]</sup>
- [Al Chesley](#) (1975), former NFL linebacker ([Philadelphia Eagles](#))<sup>[16]</sup>
- [Frank Chesley](#) (1973), former NFL linebacker ([Green Bay Packers](#))<sup>[17]</sup>
- [The Choice Four](#) (1969), all-male soul vocal group<sup>[18]</sup>
- [Gail Cobb](#) (attended, did not graduate), [D.C. Metropolitan Police](#) officer who was the first female police officer in the United States killed in the line of duty<sup>[19]</sup>
- [Vince Colbert](#) (1964), former [Major League Baseball](#) pitcher, ([Cleveland Indians](#))<sup>[20]</sup>
- [Y'Anna Crawley](#) (1995), contemporary gospel music artist and musician; winner on BET's [Sunday Best](#)<sup>[21]</sup>
- [Lester A. Dessez](#) (1914), [United States Marine Corps Brigadier general](#)<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- [Eleni S. Epstein](#) (1943), fashion editor, [Washington Post](#).
- [Stephen Early](#) (1907), [White House Press Secretary](#), [United States Deputy Secretary of Defense](#)<sup>[22]</sup>

<sup>80</sup> Interviews with Mark Roy, 15 Nov. 2022, Ronald Nelson, (Class of 1998), 28 July 2022, John Gibson (Class of 1992), 15 Nov. 2022.

<sup>81</sup> “Eastern High School,” Wikipedia. Internet; accessed 12 July 2022.

Eastern High School

District of Columbia

Name of Property

County and State

- [Pat Flaherty](#) (attended, did not graduate), actor, [Major League Baseball](#) pitcher for five teams, punter for the [Chicago Bears](#)<sup>[23]</sup>
- [Isaac Fulwood](#) (1959), [Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia](#) (1989–1992)<sup>[24]</sup>
- [Alexander D. Goode](#) (1929), [rabbi](#) of the [United States Army](#) who was one of the [Four Chaplains](#) who gave their lives saving soldiers during the sinking of the [Dorchester](#)<sup>[25]</sup>
  - [Alvin C. Graves](#) (1927), [nuclear physicist](#)<sup>[26]</sup> served at the [Manhattan Project's](#) Metallurgical Laboratory and the Los Alamos Laboratory during [World War II](#)
- [Calvin H. Gurley](#) (1972), accountant and [perennial candidate](#)<sup>[27]</sup>
- [Cecil D. Haney](#) (1974), retired [United States Navy](#) admiral<sup>[28]</sup>
  - served as [Commander, United States Strategic Command](#) (STRATCOM) from November 15, 2013 to November 3, 2016.<sup>[1]</sup> Prior to STRATCOM, he served as Commander, [United States Pacific Fleet](#).
- [Ernest E. Harmon](#) (1911), early aviator<sup>[29]</sup>
- [George Huddleston Jr.](#) (1937), member of the [United States House Of Representatives](#) (Alabama)<sup>[30]</sup>
- [Gilbert Hunt](#) (1934), mathematician, tennis player<sup>[31]</sup>
- [Mark Johnson](#) (1989), former professional boxer, [International Boxing Hall of Fame](#) inductee<sup>[32]</sup>
- [Gilbert Kelly](#) (1896), American football player ([Princeton](#)), football coach ([University of Tennessee](#))<sup>[33]</sup>
- [Charles T. Lanham](#) (1920), [United States Army](#) major general, author, poet<sup>[34]</sup>
- [Kevin LeVar](#) (1995), singer, songwriter
  - Gospel singer, Number 1 hits on Gospel Channel<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- [Jackie Martin](#) (1921), award-winning [photojournalist](#)<sup>[35]</sup>
- [Mike Martin](#) (1979), former NFL wide receiver, ([Cincinnati Bengals](#))<sup>[36]</sup> [Anthony McAuliffe](#) (1916), [United States Army](#) general<sup>[37]</sup>
- [Franklin McCain](#) (1959), civil rights activist and member of the [Greensboro Four](#)<sup>[38]</sup> participated in lunch counter sit-in during 1960,
- [Charles Mooney](#) (1969), American boxer<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- [Josh Morgan](#) (attended, did not graduate), former [NFL](#) wide receiver<sup>[39]</sup>
- [Andy Ockershausen](#) (1947), Washington-area media executive, longtime manager at [WMAL](#) radio, hired [Sonny Jurgensen](#), [Sam Huff](#) and [Frank Hezog](#) to broadcast Washington football games<sup>[40]</sup>
- [Edna G. Parker](#) (1948), [United States Tax Court](#) judge<sup>[41]</sup>
- [Art Perry](#) (1964), former collegiate basketball coach<sup>[42]</sup>
- [Jamorko Pickett](#) (2016), NBA player ([Detroit Pistons](#))<sup>[43]</sup>
- [James Ratiff](#) (1977), American basketball player, ([Howard](#))<sup>[44]</sup>
- [Thomas Robinson](#) (attended, did not graduate), Lebanese basketball player<sup>[45]</sup>
- [Kelvin Scarborough](#) (1983), American basketball player ([University of New Mexico](#))<sup>[46]</sup>

Eastern High School

District of Columbia

Name of Property

County and State

- [Eugene Scott](#) (1999), political reporter for *The Washington Post*, former *CNN* reporter<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Won multiple awards and fellowships for his work related to covering politics, [business](#) and [education](#).
- [Dallas Shirley](#) (1931), basketball referee<sup>[47]</sup>
- [John Smith](#) (1924), [Major League Baseball](#) utility player, ([Boston Red Sox](#))<sup>[48]</sup>
- [Mary Eleanor Spear](#) (1915), data visualization specialist who pioneered the development of the [bar chart](#) and [box plot](#)<sup>[49]</sup>
- [Gladys Spellman](#) (attended, did not graduate), educator, member of the [United States House of Representatives](#) (Maryland)<sup>[50]</sup>
- [Ibrahim K. Sundiata](#) (1962), American scholar of [West African](#) and [African-American](#) history<sup>[51]</sup>
- [Krissah Thompson](#) (1993), managing editor for *The Washington Post*<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- [Brandon Todd](#) (2001), former D.C. Council member<sup>[52]</sup>
- [Earle Wheeler](#) (1928), [United States Army general](#)<sup>[53]</sup>
- [Mike Wilcher](#) (1979), former NFL linebacker<sup>[54]</sup>
- [Frank Wright](#) (1950), award-winning [artist](#)<sup>[55]</sup>
  
- [Linda W. Cropp](#), at-large member of the Council of the District of Columbia (1991-1997), first female chair of the Council of the District of Columbia (1997-2007)<sup>[56]</sup>
- [Patrick Lundy](#), gospel recording artist<sup>[57]</sup>
- [Charles Mooney](#), retired boxer who won a silver medal in the boxing tournament at the [1976 Summer Olympics](#) in [Montreal, Quebec](#), Canada<sup>[58]</sup>
- [Dallas Shirley](#), basketball referee who was inducted into the [Basketball Hall of Fame](#) in 1980<sup>[59]</sup>

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

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Woodfork, Raymond, Custodial Foreman, Eastern High School (Eastern High School Class of 1981). Interview on August 2, 2022 with Joanna Kendig, Elizabeth Purcell, Mark Weinheimer, and Jen Harris.

*Washington Times*. Newsbank

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

*Washington Evening Star*. Newsbank

*Washington Post*. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

*Hill Rag*, Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, Washington, D.C., Eastern High School Vertical File.

Interview notes for Raymond Woodfork, Ronald Nelson, John Gibson, and Mark Roy are in custody of Elizabeth Purcell, 1607 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 11 acres

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.89151 | Longitude: -76.97958 |
| 2. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |
| 3. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |
| 4. Latitude:          | Longitude:           |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Eastern High School at 1700 East Capitol Street NE occupies the four city Squares 1094, 1095, 1108 and 1109 in east Capitol Hill. The four squares are bounded by East Capitol Street on the south, Constitution Avenue NE on the north, 19<sup>th</sup> Street on the east and 17<sup>th</sup> Street on the west.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries include the entire site owned and occupied by Eastern High School, including its building and additions, its stadium, fields, tennis courts, greenhouse and other associated resources.

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Elizabeth Purcell  
organization: Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
street & number: 420 10<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
city or town: Washington, DC state: DC zip code: 20003  
e-mail beth@eapdc.com  
telephone: 202 543-0425  
date: March 22, 2023

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State



Locational Map showing site of Eastern High School at 1700 East Capitol Street NE  
Longitude: 38.89151      Longitude: -76.97958

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State



Site Map showing boundaries of Eastern High School

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Eastern High School  
Name of Property

District of Columbia  
County and State

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of \_\_\_\_.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.