

DELISTED ✓
AUGUST 2006
DEMOLISHED

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name John T. West School

other names/site number DHR File No. 122-1004

2. Location

street & number 1425 Bolton Street not for publication N/A
city or town Norfolk vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Norfolk, independent city code _____ Zip 23504

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/15/2000
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: Education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls brick

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.

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- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ETHNIC HERTIAGE: Black: Education

Period of Significance 1906-1916

Significant Dates 1906
1911
1913

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder William T. Zepp, architect
Charles F. Harper, general contractor
Browne and Lehman, architects

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2

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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	18 386705	4079895	2	
3			4	

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kimble A. David, Architectural Historian

Organization: _____ date August 27, 1999

street & number: P. O. Box 7638 telephone (757) 623-2752

city or town Norfolk state VA zip code 23509

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Norfolk

street & number 810 Union Street telephone (757) 664-4242

city or town Norfolk state VA zip code 23501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Abstract:

John T. West School consists of a complex of three connected and one separate buildings. The complex lies on a 2-acre site, with open playground space to the south. The original school, a two-story brick building with a hipped roof and central entrance, is located to the north. The school was doubled in size with an addition to the south. The addition is similar to the original building in construction and style, and is connected via a two-story ell. A one-story brick cafeteria was added in 1950, attached to the west elevation of the ell connecting the two school buildings. A simple concrete block building housing a music room was constructed north of the cafeteria in c. 1960.

Exterior:

The John T. West School is a complex of three connected and one separate buildings. These buildings lie on a 2-acre site in a predominantly residential area. The buildings are clustered near the north border of the lot. The original building lies near the north border of the lot. The south addition, which doubled the school's size, is located directly to the south, but extends slightly to the east of the original building, due to its larger size. Connecting these buildings is a two-story ell, which is connected to a cafeteria addition located to the west. The cafeteria addition extends west to Calhoun Street. North of the cafeteria is a simple concrete block building with a rectangular footprint, which housed a music room. There is an open greenspace to the south of the south addition extending to Denhart Street. There is some blacktop remaining just south of the south addition, and also a portion of a former jungle gym.

The original building is a two-story, rectangular 7-course-American-bond brick masonry building, with a low hipped roof treated with asphalt shingles. The facade has a central entrance with a double-leaf wood door surmounted by a multi-light, fixed transom. The doors are accessed via a poured concrete stair flanked by brick wing walls. There is a projecting, three-course brick watertable with small rectangular openings to the crawlspace below the first story. The south part of the facade has two groupings of three windows each, and the north part has four individual windows, on each story. (This configuration is also found on the west elevation.) There is also a grouping of three windows on the second story above the entrance. The windows are original wood, four-over-four, double-hung sash. The windows have cast concrete sills and soldier- and rowlock-course brick flat arches. Above the second-story windows' flat arches is a wood, box cornice. Applied to the eave is a hanging, copper gutter. On the roof ridge are three roof vents, with a large one in the center. There is also a brick chimney on the north slope of the roof near the ridge. On

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the north elevation, there are seven evenly spaced windows on each story. The first story windows have been filled due to a one-story, brick addition, which houses mechanical equipment. A chimney rises from this addition near the north elevation of the original building. A cornerstone at the northeast corner of the façade, at ground level, reads, "Tanner's Creek Public School N. 4 Col; Board - Jno. A. Lester, Chairman, B. F. Cartwright, Secretary, A. D. Philpotts; Jno. T. West, Division Superintendent; Chas. F. Harper, General Contractor; W. T. Zepp, Architect."

The first addition is a slightly larger building with similar characteristics adjoined to the south of the original building by an ell. The ell has a double-leaf, wood door on its east elevation framed by a semi-circular soldier-course, brick arch, with common-bond brick above the door. On the second story, above the door, is a window opening with a cast-concrete sill. The window has been partially filled with brick leaving a smaller opening. The original opening is surmounted by a soldier- and rowlock-course flat arch. The ell continues the wood, box cornice above its second story windows. The ell has a side gable roof that joins the two buildings. There is a large roof vent on the roof ridge.

In the south addition, the classrooms are articulated on the exterior by wide window openings flanked by single windows for each classroom on the east and west elevations. The windows have been replaced with metal louvered windows and partially bricked, but feature flat arches and stone sills, similar to those found on the original building. This building has a wood, box cornice, which is also similar to the original. The roof is also hipped, but there are four massive chimneys on the east and west slopes of the roof, near the north slope. On the roof ridge are three, smallish, evenly spaced roof vents. They have metal caps and the two east chimneys have been partially built up.

A two-story stair tower projects from the south elevation and is capped with a hipped roof. Double leaf doors access the stair tower on the first story on the east and west elevations. There are windows on the first and second stories on the south elevation of the stair tower.

On the west side of the buildings is a cafeteria wing, which is a one-story brick, rectangular building with a flat roof. It is connected to the ell between the other two buildings. There is a large brick chimney on the west elevation of the cafeteria. Windows adorn the south and north elevations and consist of a group of 12 metal awning windows. There is a stoop on the west elevation on the south corner sheltering a single-leaf, metal door. Also on the west elevation, at the north corner, is a poured-concrete porch sheltering a metal, double-leaf door.

The music room was added c. 1960 and is a simple one-story, rectangularly planned, concrete-block

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building. It has a flat roof and small window openings with rowlock-course brick sills. There is a single leaf entrance on the east side, which is sheltered by a corrugated metal canopy. The canopy extends from the music room entrance east to a double leaf entrance on the west side of the cafeteria.

Interior:

The central entrance of the original building leads into a hall, oriented east-west, with a double return stair at the west end. A narrow central corridor extends north and south from the east-west hall, at the center of the building. There are classrooms located to the east and west of the north-south hall. The south portion of the east-west corridor has a large classroom on either side, and the north corridor has smaller offices and administrative rooms. The second floor has large classrooms in all four corners and a smaller room in the east end of the east-west hall above the east entrance.

The doors are four-panel, wood and are surmounted by 2-light transoms. Chalkboards have been mounted on two walls of each classroom with built-in chalk trays. Some original slate remains in one of the chalkboards. The floors have been treated with linoleum tile and drop ceilings have been added. The walls and ceilings are original plaster and there is beaded-board wainscoting in the hallway. The double return stair has turned wood balusters, wood handrail, wood treads, and wood paneled newels. Flanking the stair on the first story are two door openings, which access a small hall. This hall is the width of the double return stair and accesses two single leaf doors on the west elevation of the original school.

From the original north-south hall, there is a door opening on the south end accessing the ell. The ell consists of a hall oriented east-west. On the first story, this hall accesses the cafeteria addition to the west, and there is a stair at the west end also. On the east end of this hall is a double-leaf entrance, found on the façade.

South of the east-west hall in the ell is access to the south addition. There is an opening approximately opposite the opening to the original building. The wide central corridor in the addition is oriented north-south with three large classrooms to the east and west. The first and second floors have identical configurations.

Original elements in the 1913 addition classrooms include built in cabinetry shelves and storage spaces. Storage spaces are also found in the hall. There are wood doors accessing each classroom.

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They have two wood panels under six lights and are surmounted by transoms.

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Abstract:

John T. West School, built in 1906, is an early 20th century African-American school, originally constructed in the Huntersville neighborhood in Norfolk County. Upon the 1911 annexation of the Huntersville neighborhood by the city of Norfolk, John T. West School became a combined elementary and high school, holding the first public African-American high school classes in the city of Norfolk.¹ A subsequent addition in 1913 doubled the size of the school and allowed for additional space for the new high school classes. In 1916, the city of Norfolk purchased the Norfolk Mission College, a private high school, and moved the John T. West high school to the Norfolk Mission College. John T. West continued holding elementary school classes until its closure in 1980. The building is presently used as school storage.

History:

The John T. West School, located in the Huntersville neighborhood in Norfolk, Virginia, is an historically significant African-American school dating from the early twentieth century. It is rich in African-American history and reflects the progress made in the education of African-American school children in the early twentieth century. It is the first public African-American school in the City of Norfolk to hold high school classes for African-American school children.

John T. West School was constructed in 1906 in the predominantly African-American Barboursville neighborhood located east of the Huntersville neighborhood, both of which have been combined presently into the Olde Huntersville neighborhood. Originally, these two neighborhoods were located in Norfolk County, just north of the city of Norfolk. The school served the county elementary African-American school children in this vicinity. There was another Norfolk county school constructed the same year for Caucasian children in the Lafayette Residence Park neighborhood, located north of the Huntersville and Barboursville, on the north side of the Lafayette River.

The school was designed by William T. Zepp, a local architect. He also designed five other schools for the City of Portsmouth and Norfolk County. Charles F. Harper was the general contractor of the school.²

1 Henry S. Rorer, History of Norfolk Public Schools, 1918-1968, Norfolk: Henry S. Rorer, 1968, 129.

2 School Date stone.

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Unlike other schools for African-American school children found in the counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia, John T. West School was constructed in brick. Most public African-American schools were of frame construction, served students of all ages, and accommodated the entire county. In a survey of public schools in Virginia, schoolhouses were described as "wretched buildings."³ Most had no plumbing and were in a deplorable condition. John T. West was constructed in a predominantly African-American neighborhood to serve the surrounding African-American community and similar communities also had schools for African-American students in other regions of Norfolk County. John T. West School, with its brick construction and two-stories, was an improvement in school design for minorities. Compared to other schools constructed during the same period in Norfolk County, it is approximately the same size, though slightly smaller and plainer in form and lacking interior restrooms.

John T. West School was originally named Tanner's Creek School No. 4, with a colored designation. In 1911, it was renamed the Barbourville School when the city of Norfolk annexed the Huntersville and Barbourville neighborhoods.⁴

Shortly after the 1911 Huntersville neighborhood annexation by the City of Norfolk, the City of Norfolk public schools were renamed for notable persons. This was suggested by Supervisor J. Paul Spence. The Barbourville School was renamed John T. West School, for John T. West, the Norfolk county School Superintendent. David G. Jacox, principal, was instrumental in having the school named in honor of John T. West School.⁵ John T. West was the first Superintendent of Schools for Norfolk County after the Civil War and was instrumental in having schools constructed for children of all races.⁶ (David G. Jacox, a graduate of the Norfolk Mission College, would also later be memorialized by the city of Norfolk Schools, by having a middle school named after him.)⁷

³ M. V. O'Shea, Public Education in Virginia: Report to the Educational Commission of Virginia of a Survey of the Public Educational System of the State, Richmond: Commonwealth of Virginia, 1908, 206.

⁴ Rorer, 203.

⁵ Ibid., 207.

⁶ Lyon G. Tyler, Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life. A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State, Washington, DC: Men of Mark Publishing Company, 1906, 407.

⁷ Rorer, 299.

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The John T. West School gained significance in its earliest years. In 1909, the graduates of the Cumberland Street School, an African-American public school, petitioned the city of Norfolk School Board to implement high school classes that were unavailable in Norfolk's public African-American schools. The Norfolk Mission College, established by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883, was a private African-American high school in Norfolk that offered a broad curriculum of high school classes. The Norfolk Mission College was tuition free and only requested that students pay \$0.25 per week, but it was not mandatory and the school did not turn students away who could not pay.⁸

In 1911, the principal of the Barbourville School, the soon to be John T. West School, David G. Jacox, also requested of the School Board that high school classes be held for African-Americans and that he be "allowed to introduce studies of a higher grade." Then city of Norfolk School Superintendent, R. A. Dobie implemented high school classes for African-American school children and later expanded the John T. West School. An addition designed by the short-lived firm of Browne and Lehman was constructed to the south and cost \$31,295.00 in 1913.⁹

John T. West School was known for having stronger literary courses than any other African-American high school in the South. Students had a curriculum of English, History, Science, Latin, Domestic Arts, and Mathematics. The first high school class graduated from John T. West High School in June 1914.¹⁰

The John T. West School also boasts the first African-American high school football team in Norfolk. In the fall 1914, Chester "Robbie" Robinson organized and coached the first football team for John T. West High School. The team was financed by the sale of season tickets and each team member had to purchase his own uniform. There were no cheerleaders for the team,

⁸ Rorer, 195.

⁹ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*, Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997, 50.

¹⁰ D. G. Jacox, "Brief History of Norfolk Colored Public Schools," *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, Vol. XXII, No. 32.

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but the team was quite successful and won its first game against the Royal Social Club.¹¹

The John T. West High School only held classes in the John T. West School until 1916. The City of Norfolk purchased the Norfolk Mission College in 1916 for \$15,000 and converted it into a public African-American High School. In 1922, a new school was constructed and named Booker T. Washington High School. Classes moved from the Norfolk Mission College building to the new school at that point.¹² John T. West continued to hold elementary classes for students until 1980 when it was closed. It is presently used as storage.

¹¹ Rorer, 222.

¹² Ibid., 195.

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Jacox, Prof. D. G. "Brief History of Norfolk Colored Public Schools." Norfolk Journal and Guide, 12 August 1922, p.1.

O'Shea, M. V. Public Education in Virginia: Report to the Educational Commission of Virginia of a Survey of the Public Educational System of the State. Richmond: Commonwealth of Virginia, 1908.

Rorer, Henry S. History of Norfolk Public Schools, 1918-1968. Norfolk: Henry S. Rorer, 1968.

Tyler, Lyon G. Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life, A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State. Washington, DC: Men of Mark Publishing Company, 1906.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

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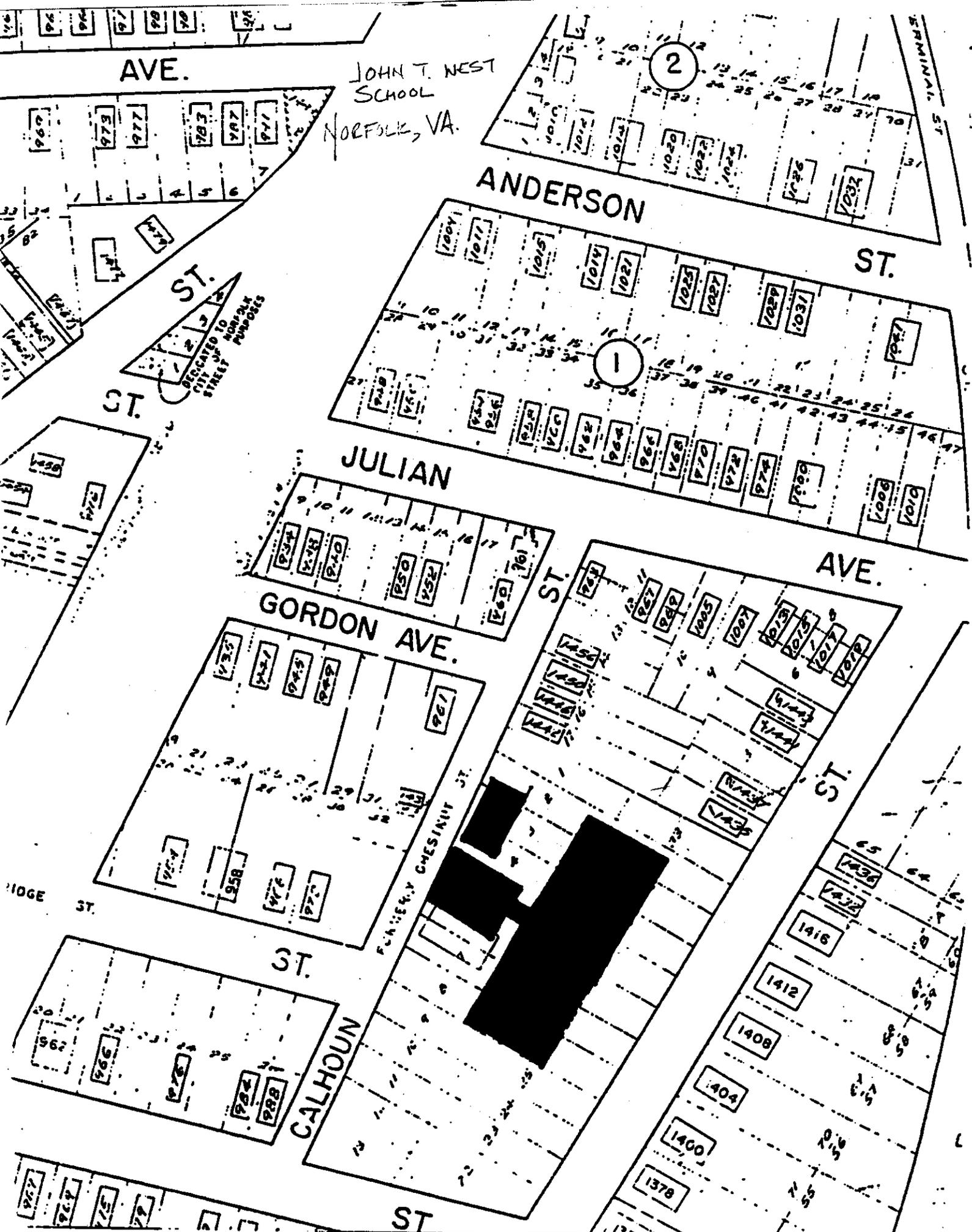
Verbal Boundary Description:

John T. West School and its site are bound by Bolton Street on the east, Denhart Street to the south, Calhoun Street to the west and the dwellings and their respective lots marked 1442 Calhoun Street and 1435 Bolton Street to the north.

Legal Description: 1 to 9 and 25 to 33 256.8 ft (Section J01, Plate 0677)

Boundary Justification:

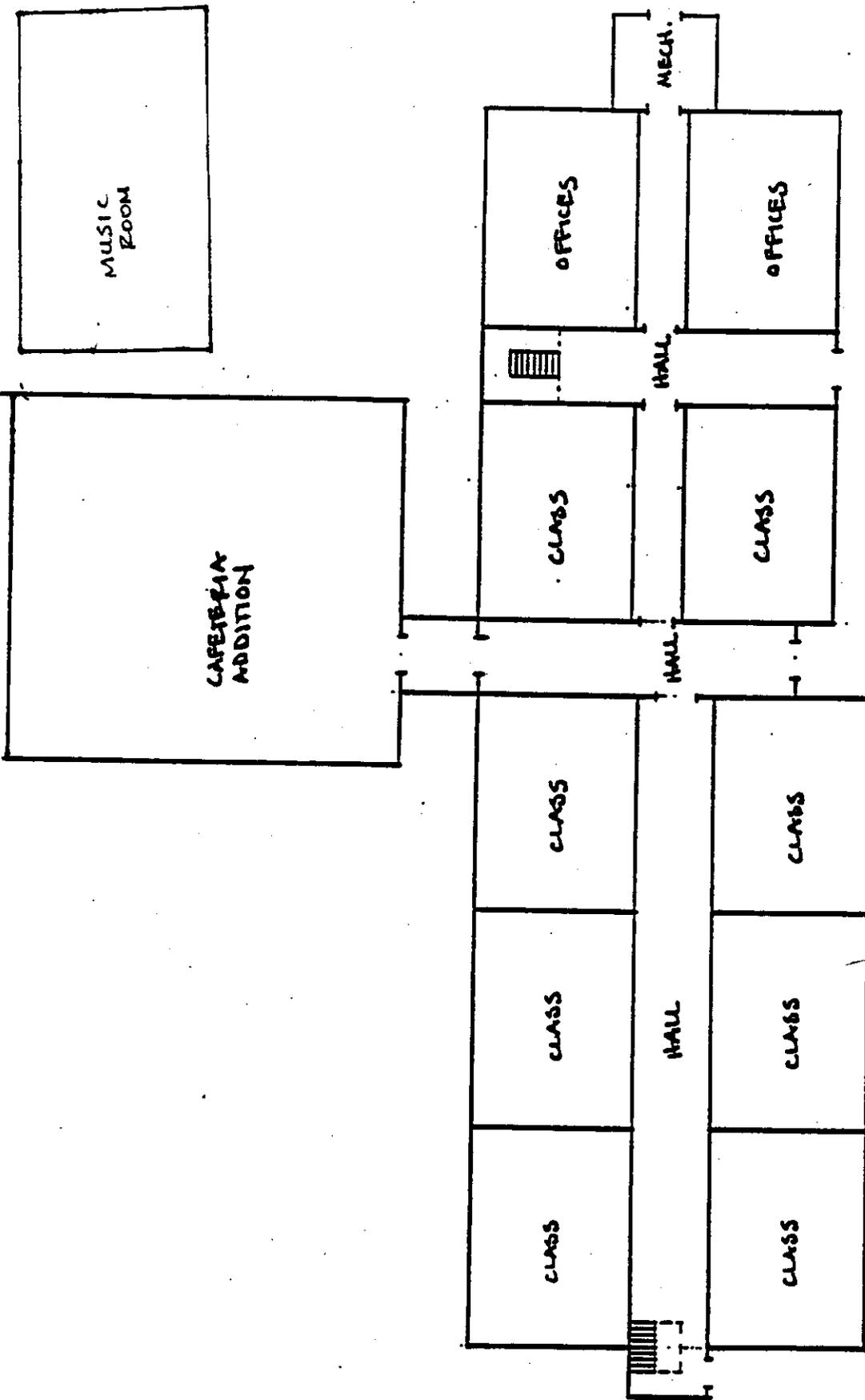
The boundaries established for John T. West and its site are the original school boundaries established at the construction of the school.



Source: City House Plates #30

Scale: 1" = 100'

North



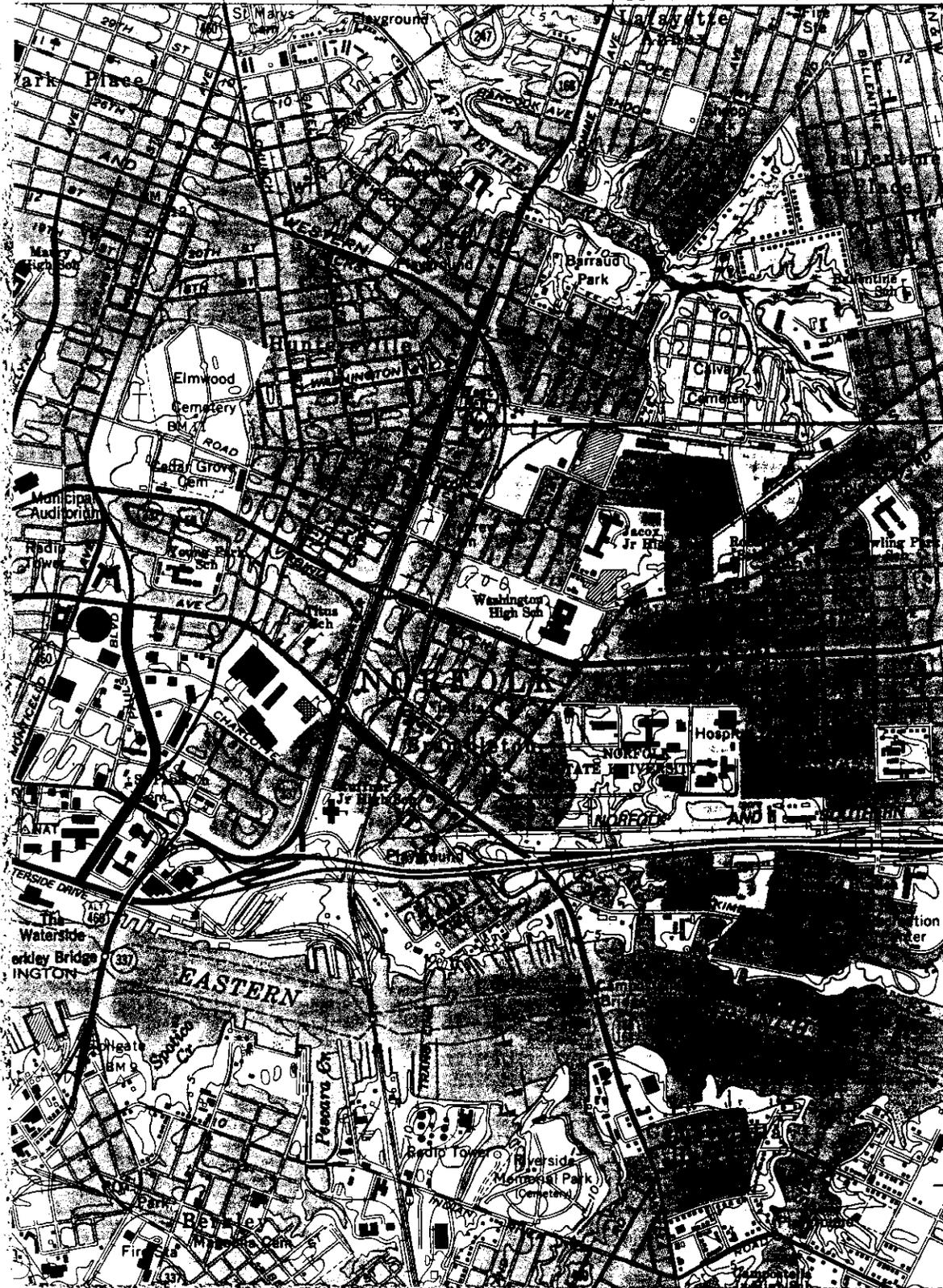
JOHN T. WEST SCHOOL - MAIN FLOOR PLAN
 (NOT TO SCALE)

NORFOLK, VA.

NORFOLK SOUTH QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5757' NW
(LITTLE CREEK)

385 6 MI. TO U.S. 60 386 2 650 000 FEET 387 HAMPTON (U.S. 258) 17 MI. 76° 15'
2.3 MI. TO INTERSTATE 64 36° 52' 30"



John T. West
School
200 000 122-1004
FEET
UTM Reference
18 386705 4079895

2.4 MI. TO U.S. 13
VIRGINIA BEACH (U.S. 60) 16 MI.

4081
4078
4077
50'