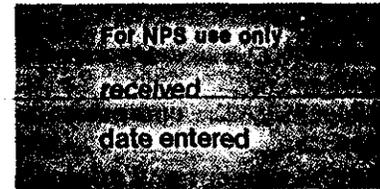


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic West End School  
and/or common Stonewall Jackson School (Preferred) VHLC File No. 127-376

**2. Location**

street & number 1520 West Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~  
state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 760

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Historical Associates c/o Mr. Glen Hogan  
street & number 1205 West Main Street  
city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of state Virginia, 23220

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond City Hall  
street & number 900 East Broad Street  
city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title VA Historic Landmarks Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
File No. 127-376  
date 1983  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records 221 Governor Street  
city, town Richmond state VA 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Erected in 1886-1887, the tall, brick and granite two story mass of the Stonewall Jackson School dominates the lower townhouses and shops of Richmond's Fan District. Sitting on a battered granite basement wall, the school's brick walls rise to an Italianate, bracketed cornice and shallow, standing seam metal, hipped roof. The composition of the plan is unusual, with identical wings facing west and south, and a curved bay, which contains a double stair, as a connecting element. Each of the wings has a central bay with a cast-iron, Corinthian porch, flanked by three bay classrooms. A third porch is attached to the rear of the school on the curved, stairhall element. The school was not altered significantly during the 86 years it was used for educational purposes. It was converted to office use in the late 1970s, with all major architectural elements preserved on the exterior and in the interior.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The first floor of the Stonewall Jackson School sits seven feet above grade. The granite walls of the basement are battered, and are laid in regular courses. The stones are rough ashlar except for the top surface of the wall which acts as a water table and is smoothly dressed. A one-inch band around each of the basement windows is also smooth. The basement windows are wood casements.

The brick walls of the first floor rise 15 feet to a one foot deep granite string course which indicates the location of the second floor. The second floor walls rise another 15 feet to the bracketed cornice. The walls are laid in common brick and in common bond, with courses of headers occurring at irregular intervals. Segmental arches are used above the double-hung, wood windows on the first and second floors. The sills are granite, and there is a cast-iron grille below each window.

The location of each interior bearing wall is indicated by a brick pilaster which projects four inches from the wall. A three-brick deep corbel table is located at the top of the second-floor wall.

The identical wings, one which faces Lombardy Street on the west and the other West Main Street to the south, are conventional and symmetrical in composition, with a narrow central bay flanked by wider classroom bays. The entrance is marked by a cast-iron porch at the middle. There are two narrow, tall windows above this feature. Each classroom bay has three windows on each floor. The cornice is four feet deep and is subdivided by brackets. The brackets are arranged to reflect the window pattern below. The 3-2-3 pattern of windows creates an irregular rhythm in the brackets. Depending on the spacing, there are between one and four consoles between the brackets. Below the consoles is a line of dentil-like ornaments, and below these, a paneled recess.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1886-1887 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stonewall Jackson School was erected in 1886-1887 and is the only nineteenth century school in Richmond to survive without major alterations or additions. Regularly used until 1973, it was well maintained and is the best preserved early school in the city. It was the first to serve the rapidly expanding western townhouse districts and its construction marked the end of a period of great turbulence in public education, which threatened to undermine the entire public school system in Virginia and Richmond. The exceptionally large scale of the school and its imposing design symbolized the emerging role of public education in the later nineteenth century. The school's architecture is a rare example of free and imaginative design in the Italianate style, which, in Richmond, tended to be standardized and conventional. The design is dramatically asymmetrical, but is composed of symmetrical units with an interplay of curved and rectangular elements. This singular approach is not found elsewhere in the city and appears to be a unique expression. The Stonewall Jackson School is among the best known educational landmarks of Richmond.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Education in Richmond

Before the Civil War, Richmond and Virginia were not disposed to the concept of public education, and efforts to establish public schools generally were not successful. The City of Richmond established a free school for white children in 1802 in response to the General Assembly Act of 1786. A school was opened in 1804, but it received no funds from the city or state and was entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. It failed, thus, in 1815 a Lancasterian School was established in which older students taught younger pupils. In 1816 a large building was erected next to the city jail for this purpose. This school was not supported by wealthy Richmonders who preferred to send their children to private schools or to make use of tutors. Public education was regarded as being subversive and was resisted by both the city and state governments.

Following the Civil War, in 1869 Richmond was the third Virginia city to establish a public school system. The same year in which the new state constitution required the creation of a public education system

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Buck, J. L. Blair. The Development of Public Schools in Virginia, 1607-1952. Richmond, 1952.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .703  
Quadrangle name Richmond, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert P. Winthrop, Architect  
organization Aquino & Winthrop, Architects date 1 February 1984  
street & number 417 N. Boulevard telephone (804) 353-8828  
city or town Richmond state Virginia, 23220

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*H. Bryan Mitchell*

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date March 20, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

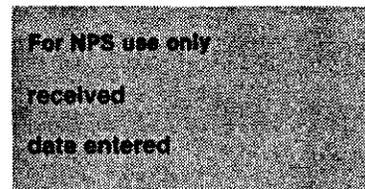
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1



7. Description

Detailed Description

The south and west wings of the school are 64 feet wide and 31 feet deep and could be viewed as ordinary four-room school houses. The central portion of the school links the wings and contains the stair, cloakrooms, and offices. The wings are at right angles to each other and the corridor which connects them is curved. The south and west sides of the wings are connected by a convex curved wall. There is a window on each floor and the wall is detailed to match the wings.

On the north and east elevations a classroom projects five feet from the sides of the wings. The sides of these projecting classrooms recede to a curved wall which repeats the composition on the west and south sides, but at a larger scale. The curved wall has three openings on each floor; the central opening on the first floor is a door with a porch similar to those on the wings. However, it is trapezoidal in plan, and the pediment is curved, thus reflecting its location on a curved wall. The detailing of this wall matches that of the wings.

The three porches sit on granite steps which diminish in size as they rise. The rail and balustrade are heavy and cast iron. The iron columns are Corinthian, fluted, and twelve feet high. A bracketed cornice replaces the traditional entablature. A pair of brackets is located above each column, and there are three brackets spaced between the pairs. The detailing of the cornice is similar to that of the main building cornice, but smaller in scale. The pediment is classical.

The south and west doors are flanked by narrow sidelights and have a transom with a segmental arch above. The northeast door has no sidelights. All doors are double, panelled and are made of wood.

The roof of the school is standing-seam metal and is painted. Shallow hipped roofs give the impression of a flatroof when viewed from nearby. The ridge of the northeast side of the school has cast-iron roof cresting. Ventilating shafts penetrate the roof and give the impression of chimneys.

The west and south doors lead to an eight foot wide corridor which is 52 feet long. A curved corridor thirty feet long links the two straight segments. The floors are wood, which are now covered with carpet. A wood wainscot of beaded boards surmounted by a chair rail is used in the corridor and classrooms. The walls above the rail are plastered; the ceiling is pressed metal as is the cornice. A simple, half-round plaster stop is used as door and window trim. All interior trim, doors and hardware are original.

(see Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 7

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received
date entered

7. Description

Detailed Description

Most of the curved central portion of the building is occupied by an elaborate stair. Turned balusters, railings and newel posts all of oak remain intact with their original dark stained finishes. The stair is made up of two scissors stairs at right angles which meet at intermediate landings. The wainscot of the corridors continues up the stairs. The underside of the flights of stairs is pressed metal. Interior windows in the stairwell light cloakrooms.

The basement rooms were used as play spaces and a cafeteria. The walls were exposed granite, and the brick piers which supported the bearing walls above were also exposed. This area has been converted into a restaurant.

The school yard is unchanged in size as is shown on early maps. A wooden picket fence was indicated on Lombardy and West Main Streets. This was replaced with a wire mesh fence in the 1950s, and in 1982 was replaced with a metal picket fence. The front yard is now landscaped as an outdoor cafe, with a wood deck and extensive plantings. The side yards were paved as play areas for children, and are now used for automobile parking.

An auditorium was erected in two stages in the early twentieth century in the narrow yard between the school and the northern property line. This faces on Lombardy Street and is three bays wide and seven bays long. The auditorium is one story high, brick (common bond), and has a hipped roof and a metal classical cornice. The roof is covered in built-up roofing, but the remains of a standing seam metal roof can be discerned. A Tuscan porch shelters the entrance in the middle of the Lombardy Street elevation. Windows are double-hung, tall and narrow. Those on the north side are high and are fixed. Twenty-five feet wide and eighty feet long, the auditorium was a large meeting room, with a raised platform at one end. It was not an auditorium in architectural form. It was used as a police station in the late 1970s, but has not been altered.

The school and the auditorium are exceptionally well preserved. The complete remodeling in 1982-83, which converted the structure to office use, did not significantly alter the structure, retaining all exterior features and maintaining the floor plan and finishes of the interior.

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National Park Service**

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STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 8

Page 1

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received
date entered

8. Significance

Education in Richmond

for children of both sexes and races, the city, which joined the state system in 1871, provided part of the funds, \$15,000.00, to get the schools underway. This sum was matched by grants from the Peabody Fund and the Freedmans Bureau. The first schools were accommodated in older buildings such as the Lancasterian School and the former White House of the Confederacy. The first new buildings were for Leigh and Bellevue Schools, erected in 1871-72.

While the new Richmond schools were established with great expectations, they immediately encountered opposition. Traditional attitudes in Virginia toward education, especially toward the education of blacks, asserted themselves. The precarious financial condition of the Commonwealth following the war led to the diversion of funds intended for the public school system to other uses. This problem was not resolved until 1879 when a more adequate level of funding was restored by the General Assembly. In Richmond, political and racial disputes dominated the school system and the administration of the schools until 1884 when comparative stability was established. The construction of the West End School and the now demolished Marshall and Moore Schools in 1886-87 marked the stabilization of the system and the beginning of a school construction program which continued into the 1920s.

The School and Its Neighborhood

Lombardy Street was the western boundary of Richmond after the annexation of 1869. The Stonewall Jackson School was erected at the extreme western edge of the city near Richmond College and the new hospital of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Although the school was served by horse car lines, there were few houses in the blocks surrounding the new school, and almost no houses to the west. When the school opened, only eight of the twelve classrooms were occupied.

Monument Avenue was laid out in 1889 and helped to focus development in the western part of the city. By 1900 the area east of Lombardy was fully developed and by 1910 there was extensive growth to the west of Lombardy. The new West End School was erected on a small site, and the plan did not encourage expansion. The increased population of the area was accommodated in separate schools. Randolph School was built in 1897, Fox School in 1911, and Binford School in 1915. The West End School remained unchanged. Every nineteenth century school in Richmond

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #4

Item number 8

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date entered

8. Significance

The School and Its Neighborhood

has been greatly altered and expanded. The name of the school was changed to the Stonewall Jackson School in 1909-- the original name, the West End School, being no longer appropriate. From 1915-1919 it housed the Richmond Normal School in addition to elementary school classes. Its use as an elementary school ceased in 1962, but the building served a number of special education functions until 1973. It was sold to a private developer in 1980 and was redeveloped as offices at that time.

Architecture

The earliest new public schools in Richmond were in the Second Empire style with tall Mansard roofs. The most impressive Second Empire building in the city was Richmond College, erected in the 1870s and a few blocks from the school site. The Little Sisters of the Poor was originally Italianate, but was altered with the addition of a Mansard roof. The Stonewall Jackson School is in the Italianate style, the most popular style in late nineteenth century Richmond.

The Italianate style dominated Richmond's architecture in the post Civil War period and retained its popularity in commercial and residential construction until the twentieth century. Italianate design in Richmond was generally repetitious and standardized with simple massing. It rarely was used for large monumental structures.

The Stonewall Jackson School is an exception to the typical character of Richmond's Italianate. It combines imaginative planning, complex massing, and composition with restrained elevational treatment. The simple elevations on the west and south seem to foretell the character of the Colonial Revival of the early twentieth century, but the free composition of curved walls and complex stair hall are eccentric and individual.

The southern and western edges of the school are conventionally composed, with central entrances flanked by classroom wings, recalling a Georgian compositional pattern. The central part of the building contains offices and a double stair enclosed within curved corridor walls. The northeast and southwest elevations are symmetrical, while all the other elevations are dramatically asymmetrical. There is a constant play between symmetrical and asymmetrical, rectangular and curved elements.

The Stonewall Jackson School was recognized as an important work immediately. It was the only public school to be illustrated in Picturesque Richmond published in 1891, and was called the finest of

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

United States Department of the Interior  
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STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #5

Item number 8, 9, 10

Page 3,1,1

8. Significance

Architecture

Richmond's schools in Richmond on the James in 1893. The individual character of the building indicates that a talented architect designed the school. The drawings, which exist, are both detailed and professional. These drawings are not signed.

Public school buildings in Virginia were small and unimpressive until the twentieth century. The majority of School buildings contained only one or two rooms. The twelve classrooms and additional playrooms, offices, cloakrooms, and indoor plumbing of the Stonewall Jackson School thus set it apart from the vast majority of schools in Virginia of the period. The design anticipates the sense of community pride expressed in the impressive monumental school buildings erected during the twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Carlton, H. G. The Evolution of the Richmond Public Schools. Richmond, 1925. (An unpublished typescript in the collection of the Valentine Museum.)
- Christian, W. Asbury. Richmond, Her Past and Present. Richmond, The Hermitage Press, 1912.
- Heatwole, Cornelius J. A History of Education in Virginia. New York, Macmillan Company, 1916.
- Meagher, Margaret. History of Education in Richmond. Richmond, 1939.
- Morrison, Andrew, ed. The City on the James, Richmond, Virginia. Richmond, George W. Engelhardt, Publisher, 1893.
- Picturesque Richmond. Richmond, J. C. Hill Printing Company, 1891.

Extensive newspaper clipping files on the school system exist in the Valentine Museum and Richmond Public Library. The Board of Education of the City of Richmond retains a file on the Stonewall Jackson School.

10. Geographical Data

Description

From the intersection of West Main Street and Lombardy follow the eastern line of the sidewalk north 179.67' to the alley. Follow the southern edge of the alley 170.68' to the east. From that point proceed south 179.75' to Main Street. Return west 170.67' to the starting point.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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

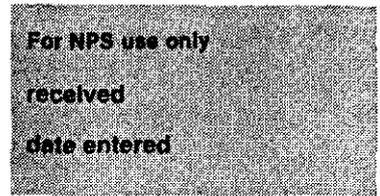
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #6

Item number 10

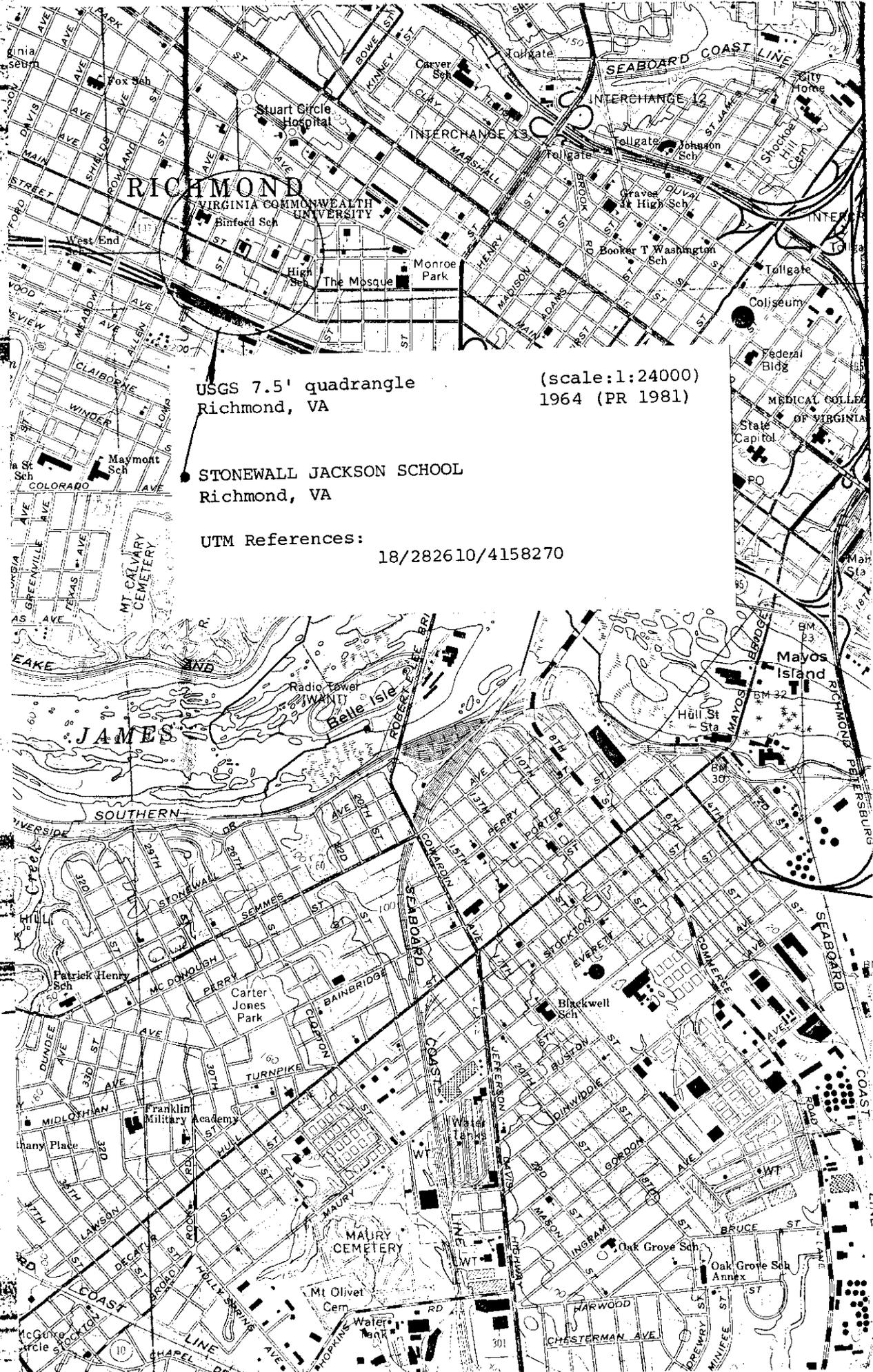
Page 2



10. Geographical Data

Justification

The boundary includes the Stonewall Jackson School and the auditorium structure and the entire school yard. The school yard has not changed boundary size since the erection of the school.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Richmond, VA

(scale:1:24000)  
1964 (PR 1981)

● STONEWALL JACKSON SCHOOL  
Richmond, VA

UTM References:  
18/282610/4158270