

**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.

**LISTED:**  
VLR: 6/15/2017  
NRHP: 9/18/2017

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Robert Fulton School  
 Other names/site number: Fulton Hill Elementary School; VDHR No. 127-0378  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
Public Schools of Richmond, Virginia, 1869-1930  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 1000-1012 Carlisle Avenue  
 City or town: Richmond State: VA County: Independent City  
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

**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:  
X A      \_\_\_ B      X C      \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

WORK IN PROGRESS

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; ASPHALT; WOOD

### 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

Located in the City of Richmond, Virginia, the Robert Fulton School occupies a 1.5-acre parcel at the intersection of Union Street and Carlisle Avenue. The Colonial Revival building was designed by architect William Leigh Carneal, who produced numerous designs for school buildings and campuses across Virginia during the early twentieth century. The Fulton School is a two-story brick building with a poured concrete basement, red brick veneer, hipped roof, and a monumental, two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed portico on the west façade. The portico is supported by huge cast concrete Doric columns and pilasters on brick pedestals with a wide, molded frieze and pediment. The centered entry has double-leaf, half-glass doors with a 10-light transom. The façade's fenestration is regular, and is composed primarily of ribbons of double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 light configurations. The building was completed in 1916 and opened to students on January 1, 1917. Overall the property's integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association is very good.

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#### Narrative Description

The Robert Fulton School is located at the corner of Union Street and Carlisle Avenue. The latter street is still constructed of cobblestones which are reminiscent of this time period. The site, 1.5 acres, is flat consisting of lawn, scattered trees and shrubs, and a large, paved parking area on the

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rear of the building. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of single-family detached houses in addition to a community park.

The Robert Fulton School is a two-story brick building with a poured concrete basement and is an example of the Colonial Revival style. The school has a T-shaped footprint constructed of poured concrete and slab foundation. The structural system is also poured concrete with a red brick exterior finish laid in Flemish bond. The hipped roof is wood framed and is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The main entrance to the building fronts the cobblestone Carlisle Avenue. The two-story, three-bay, front-gabled portico contains a major portion of the ornamentation of the building. The portico is supported by huge cast concrete Doric columns and pilasters on brick pedestals with a wide, molded frieze and pediment. The centered entry has double-leaf, half-glass doors with a 10-light transom. The façade's fenestration is regular, and is composed primarily of ribbons of double-hung wood sash windows with 6/6 light configurations. A fixed three-light transom is a common feature above all windows on the first and second floors. Widely spaced, round-arched dormers with 6/6 sash punctuate the roof.

On the interior, the T-shaped plan is defined by two double-loaded hallways: a longitudinal hallway on axis with the main entrance, and a transverse hallway with open stairwells at either end. Classrooms are on either side of the hallways. An auditorium/assembly hall is located on the second floor, at the north end of the building. The building has little interior ornamentation. Interior finishes are characterized by plaster walls and ceilings, tile floors, slate stair treads and cast metal balustrades.

During the 1990s, the building was rehabilitated for use as an apartment building. All of the rehabilitation work was reviewed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and conformed to the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic rehabilitations. The building now is undergoing another rehabilitation project that again will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines. The original floor plan has been retained, with classrooms now serving as residential apartments (see attached floor plan). Interior public spaces such as corridors and stairwells also have been retained, along with the openness of the second-floor auditorium/assembly hall.

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## 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1917-1930

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

**Significant Dates**

N/A

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Carneal, William L.

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

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**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.)

The Robert Fulton School in Richmond, Virginia, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education due to its direct association with an important phase of the City's public school system development during the tenure of city schools superintended Dr. J. A. C. Chandler. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of the work of William Leigh Carneal, an architect of considerable importance in Virginia. The school's period of significance is 1917-1930, beginning with its construction and ending with the period of significance of the *Public Schools of Richmond, Virginia, 1869-1930* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD), under which this property is being nominated.

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

The Robert Fulton School was named for the surrounding community and for the American inventor, Robert Fulton. The community is believed to have derived its name from the Fulton family, which at one time was prominent in the area. The school was constructed as a direct result of residential development in the Fulton Hill area of Richmond during the early twentieth century and as part of a major school construction program initiated by Richmond School Superintendent Dr. J.A.C. Chandler. The school's size and placement on top of Fulton Hill make it visible from many vantage points in the city. It replaced an older school (Nicholson) which was located in the flat area of Fulton near the James River. The Nicholson School was first established in 1872 and remained at its address at 308 Nicholson Street throughout its history. In 1893, a nine-room, two-story brick building was the first purpose-built school building to be occupied by the Nicholson School. The school closed in 1916, after which the all-white student enrollment transferred to the Robert Fulton School, which was completed in 1917.<sup>1</sup> With its hilltop location, the Fulton School's Colonial Revival style and impressive portico made it a dominant landmark in the Fulton neighborhood.

According to public records, the Robert Fulton School opened January 1917, with seating for up to 1,083 white pupils ranging from kindergarten through seventh grade; its opening enrollment in 1916-1917 was 609 students.<sup>2</sup> From 1928-1930, the principal of Robert Fulton also had supervision over the one-room, ungraded Indian School on Nicholson Street, which was created for about 10 students of Virginia Indian ancestry after white residents opposed their enrollment at the Robert Fulton School. The Fulton neighborhood was attractive to Native Americans because several of the manufacturers in the nearby Rocketts Industrial area were known to openly hire Indians. The Richmond Cedar Works Manufacturing Company was one such company, employing both Pamunkey and Chickahominy laborers. Fulton Hill was the area of the neighborhood where the white families resided, whereas Fulton Bottom was the area that wage laborers of several ethnic groups resided, including African American and Native American. In 1930, the Indian School "was discontinued when the families of these pupils moved from the city."<sup>3</sup> Also during the 1920s through 1933, the Fulton School principal supervised Webster Davis Elementary School on Northampton Street. The enrollment at Davis Elementary enrollment numbered 300-350 African American students during this time.<sup>4</sup>

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During the mid-twentieth century, the demographics of the Fulton neighborhood changed. Increasing numbers of African Americans were moving to urban areas, such as Richmond, in pursuit of better employment and educational opportunities that became available during and after World War II. However, African Americans were limited in their selection of places to live as, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, real estate developers in Richmond and across Virginia (and throughout the United States) had included restrictive covenants in the deed for each property they sold; these covenants prohibited sale of residential lots to various minority racial, ethnic, and religious groups. Examples of such developments in the Richmond area include the Ginter Park neighborhood, built between the early 1890s and about 1930 and located northwest of Richmond's downtown; the Boulevard neighborhood developed almost entirely between 1910 and 1935 and located west of downtown Richmond; and the Carillon neighborhood, which developed sporadically between the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the 1950s and is directly west of the Boulevard. Such restrictions typically were not included in urban areas where development predated the use of covenants. Therefore, white residents fled urban environments for suburban neighborhoods built in ever-expanding concentric rings around Richmond and, by the 1950s, stretching into Henrico and Chesterfield counties. The vast majority of these newer suburban neighborhoods also included covenants that prohibited sale of houses to African Americans and other minority groups ( this practice remained legal until the Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin or sex). As a result, the Fulton neighborhood became a predominately African American neighborhood even as the Robert Fulton School's all-white enrollment declined through the 1950s and 1960s.

Richmond's public schools slowly desegregated during the 1960s, with the last white school in the Church Hill area closing in January 1969, after which its students were transferred to the Fulton School. In June 1979, the Robert Fulton School was closed and, on August 1, 1980, declared surplus to the City. The building was subsequently purchased for use as an arts center, before being converted to an apartment building during the 1990s, a function it continues today.

The Robert Fulton School is being nominated under the *Public Schools of Richmond, Virginia, 1869-1930* Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD), which states that Richmond's public schools constructed between 1869 and 1930 are locally significant and fulfill Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Under Criterion A, the properties included are locally significant in the area of Education as they are directly associated with events and patterns of development significant to the development of public education in the City of Richmond between 1869 and 1930. It is important to note that during this period, public education was racially segregated. Although the doctrine of "separate but equal" established by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision was supposed to require separate, equal facilities for white children and those for minority children, in reality Virginia's and Richmond's public school programs devoted far more resources to schools for white children, such as the Robert Fulton School.

Under Criterion C, the city's public schools also may be locally significant in the area of Architecture as good examples of public school architecture. They frequently have further significance for their detailing, embodiment of an important style or material, or their association

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with a significant architect. In the case of the Robert Fulton School, it is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture that was produced by William Leigh Carneal.

### **Criterion A – Education**

A statewide system of public education had not existed in Virginia prior to the Civil War. This was due in large part to a reluctance by the Commonwealth's ruling elite to devote resources to such a system and their preference for maintaining a strong tradition of private schools, academies, and colleges, that were reserved in great part for white males from well-to-do families.

Virginia's first state support for public education began in 1851, following a revision of the Virginia Constitution that allowed certain state taxes to be earmarked for local primary schools. As a result, the City of Richmond initiated a modest public school program. In 1851 the Richmond City Council voted to establish free ward schools where needed. By February 1853, there were primary schools in Monroe, Madison, Jefferson, and Marshall wards. Virginia educational conventions at Richmond in 1856 and 1857 probably stimulated expansion of the local school system. By January 1860 Monroe Ward had three schools. Funding was, however, modest. City Council records indicate that teachers were at times purchasing books, supplies, and other needed items from their salaries. Classes were held in rented space or city owned property. It appears from the historical record that no buildings specifically designed as public schools were ever constructed in Richmond prior to the Civil War.

Virginia's 1869 Reconstruction-era state constitution mandated creation of the Commonwealth's first statewide system of free public schools. Federal judge John C. Underwood presided over the constitutional convention, and the resultant document is also known as the Underwood Constitution. Although the 1869 constitutional convention was dominated by "Radical Republicans" dedicated to reforming Virginia's previously slavery-based society, the Underwood Constitution mandated racially segregated public education, with white, African American, and Virginia Indian children attending separate schools.<sup>5</sup> By 1872, according to the *Second Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction*, 3,695 public schools were recorded in the Commonwealth.<sup>6</sup>

The State Board of Education was established to oversee this new system, and to later historians has been considered symbolic of the growing awareness of the value of public education to society, as espoused by national educational reformers such as Thomas Mann and Henry Barnard. According to the Richmond Public Schools MPD, creation of the public school system also was part of a trend toward institutionalized and professionalized governmental services and regulation both at the state and local level. In addition to its local board of education, the City of Richmond created a Board of Health in 1870, a Board of Police Commissioners in 1877, and a Fire Commission in 1888. These services added to the quality of life in Richmond and served to promote the common good by improving health care and implementing public safety programs.

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On June 9, 1869, the Richmond City Council established a local public school system, creating a seven-member board of education. Andrew Washburn of Massachusetts was appointed the first superintendent. Between 1865 and 1869, the Freedmen's Bureau and northern missionary societies provided several schooling programs for Richmond's African American children, including one housed at the Confederate Arsenal. These schools were quickly incorporated into the City school system. In attendance the first year were 1,008 white and 1,769 African American students. Two years later the local system was fully aligned with the state public education system. Funding support was derived from the poll tax, property taxes, and local taxes. The Peabody Fund, founded in 1867 by George Peabody of Massachusetts to provide financial support for primary schools and teacher training in the former Confederate states, matched the initial appropriation of Richmond's city council. Driven by rapid population growth, its importance as one of the major urban industrial centers of the South, and compulsory attendance, the City of Richmond built a large number of schools between 1869 and 1930.

Despite the good intentions of the 1869 constitution, during its first decades Virginia's public school system was poorly regulated and even more poorly funded. In 1902, under Governor Andrew Montague, a new state constitution was passed to replace the Underwood Constitution of 1869. The new constitution did much to disfranchise African Americans and enshrined Jim Crow segregation in Virginia law, but also provided some Progressive Era reforms, such as provisions for workmen's compensation, railroad regulation, and, importantly, increased funding for public schools, improved teacher training, and a goal of making high school available to more students.<sup>7</sup> In 1905, Joseph D. Eggleston Jr. became the Commonwealth's first elected state Superintendent of Public Instruction with a campaign slogan of "Education should be the chief business of the state."<sup>8</sup> Under Eggleston's purview, the Mann High School Act of 1906 was passed, which promised funding to communities for school construction. By the 1906-1907 school year, there were a total of 7,172 public schools reported in the state and 75 high schools. Out of those 75, only 10 were tuition free. But within just a few years, by 1910, across the Commonwealth there were 360 free high schools and by 1916 there were over 400 throughout the state.<sup>9</sup> Due to Jim Crow segregation, the overwhelming majority of high schools served only white students, and the majority of both state and local school construction funds were set aside for constructing schools that enrolled only white children.<sup>10</sup>

In 1909, Dr. J.A.C. Chandler was named Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools. Dr. Chandler soon initiated an ambitious construction program which was overseen by Charles M. Robinson, who was appointed Public School Architect that same year. School facilities dating from the period 1909-1930 were more numerous, larger, and superior to the earlier schools through their design, materials, and methods of construction. During Chandler's term as superintendent (1909-1919) twelve new schools, including the Fulton School were constructed in Richmond, nearly equaling the total of the previous forty years. All but two of these were completed by 1915, during the first six years of his term; the Fulton School was completed in 1916 and opened to students on January 1, 1917. The first three junior high schools in the city also were completed under the Chandler administration. These were Bainbridge, Belleview, and Binford. Another thirteen schools were brought into the system through annexation, primarily

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from former areas of Henrico County. Major additions were also made to several existing schools during the period.

By 1930, the monumental school had become the most common public building in the city and a source of civic aspirations and pride. With its prominent siting on a hill overlooking Richmond's East End and its façade dominated by a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed portico, the Robert Fulton School certainly fits this standard.

### **Criterion C – Architecture**

#### *William Leigh Carneal*

The following information about William Leigh Carneal's career is drawn from the following two sources: "A Guide to the Carneal & Johnston Architectural Drawings and Plans Collection, 1911-1990" (Richmond, VA: Library of Virginia, 2008) and Multiple Exposure, "Carneal & Johnston Negative Collection" (Catalog of the Prints and Photographs Collection at the Library of Virginia).

The Robert Fulton School was designed by the firm of Carneal and Johnston, Architects and Engineers, of Richmond. William Leigh Carneal was a native of Richmond and designed numerous buildings in the city. In addition to the Robert Fulton School, he designed the Nathaniel Bacon School, the Springfield (Bowler) School, and the former Virginia State Library building in Richmond's Capitol Square.

Carneal was born in 1881 in Richmond, where he lived for almost all of his life. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1903, whereupon he worked in his father's hardware store for three years. In 1906, he joined an architecture firm, but after about a year he left to form his own. A year later, he entered a partnership with James Markham Ambler Johnston, an alliance that would become the highly successful Carneal & Johnston, Architects and Engineers firm. Between 1928 and 1945, Oscar Pendleton Wright also was a partner. But for a span during World War I, when Carneal served as a U.S. Army captain assigned to the Ordnance Department in Washington D.C., he lived his entire life in Richmond and practiced architecture up until his death in 1958.

Carneal & Johnston quickly became one of Richmond's most influential architectural firms. In addition to the works listed above, the most prominent of the firm's Richmond work included the State Office Building in Capitol Square (1922-1923), the State Highway Commission Building (1937), and several buildings on the University of Richmond campus, including the Cannon Chapel (NRHP 2013). Among the firm's most enduring legacies are the numerous school buildings produced for elementary schools, high schools, and colleges and universities. The campuses of Virginia Tech and Carneal's alma mater, VMI, bear the indelible stamp of Carneal and Johnston, with over twenty of their designs at Virginia Tech and over a dozen at VMI.

Carneal and Johnston notably displayed considerable diversity in their stylistic choices and demonstrated a proclivity for unexpected designs to suit their clients' needs. Thus, their work

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included the austere “Modern classicist” Library of Virginia and Virginia Supreme Court Building, a 1950s Modern-style building for F. W. Woolworth’s (which typically used Art Deco design), and a corporate headquarters for the high-tech Ethyl Corporation that, at the client’s request, was based on the Colonial Revival Williamsburg Inn.

Carneal served as the first president of the Virginia Society of Architects, elected in 1939, and was also a member of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at various times. He also had a strong connection with societies committed to assisting orphaned children. In 1923 he designed the main building for the Richmond Male Orphan Society (later the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls). Upon the building's completion, Carneal served on the organization's board from 1924 to 1949.

#### *Richmond’s Public School Architecture*

The Richmond Public Schools MPD explains that, while historic school buildings varied greatly in terms of their size, style, and materials, their designs adhered to standards first promulgated in 1832 by William A. Alcott in a brief treatise on school design. Alcott stressed that fresh air, space, and light were necessary in promoting a healthy learning environment. Alcott stressed that fresh air, space, and light were necessary in promoting a healthy learning environment. He suggested the liberal use of large windows, classrooms providing a separate desk for each pupil, and open surroundings for recreation. For more than a century afterwards, school architects utilized these standards in their designs. These characteristics were shared by schools ranging from one-room rural types to large urban schools such as the Robert Fulton School.

In Richmond’s public school system, most schools built between the 1870s and 1930 featured a basic classroom size of about 25 by 35 feet, expansive windows, high ceilings, and an open setting, usually with adjacent playgrounds and athletic fields. The Robert Fulton School shared these characteristics, which also were seen statewide in schools ranging from one-room rural types to large urban schools. As noted previously, schools built for white children tended to have far more amenities and educational resources than those for African American and Virginia Indian children, whose parents and community members devoted their own labor and funds to add these features to their children’s schools as well.

The original setting of schools built in Richmond between the 1870s and 1930 was generally in residential areas, free of noise, traffic, and other disagreeable elements. Many schools were closely associated with Richmond’s historic neighborhoods, often taking the name of the area in which they were located. Such is the case with Robert Fulton, which is located in the long-established neighborhood of Fulton Hill.

In terms of design characteristics, Richmond’s public schools were generally two-and-one-half to three-and-one-half stories high, frequently with a raised basement, and were generally the largest buildings in their neighborhoods with regard to height, width, mass, and square footage. The prominence and careful design of these schools made them sources of community pride.

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Reflective of their functional purpose as a building filled with classrooms, the massing of school buildings tended to be regular, frequently with a centrally placed entrance within a projecting pavilion and a symmetrical footprint in a rectangular, H, U or, as in the case of Fulton, T shape. The basic interior plan featured classrooms of equal size located on either side of a central corridor. In urban areas such as Richmond, many schools featured auditoriums, meeting rooms, and/or gymnasiums that served as community centers, along with a dedicated principal's office, library, or other special purpose rooms. Such amenities further strengthened the link between schools and their neighborhoods; although these amenities often were not included in schools built for African American and Virginia Indian children, their parents and community members lobbied for them, provided their own labor and materials, and often engaged in private fundraising efforts to create similar spaces.

As explained by the Richmond Public Schools MPD, Richmond's public schools dating from the 1870s to 1930 also often are constructed of locally significant materials. Masonry was the material of preference for Richmond's schools due to its durability and fire-proof characteristics, and was readily available due to a highly productive local brick-making industry. Poured and cast concrete came into use during the 1910s, such as at the Robert Fulton School, and became a common material during the 1920s.

While detailing was generally kept secondary to functional considerations, Richmond's schools, particularly those post-dating 1909, exhibited a range of significant design qualities and architectural styles, including Italianate, Gothic Revival, Beaux-Arts, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Second Empire. Decorative features and significant materials were usually concentrated at exterior entrances and interior staircases.

The Robert Fulton School is an example of Colonial Revival design. As stated in the Richmond Public Schools MPD, the term "Colonial Revival" refers to a rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic Seaboard. The Georgian and Adam styles were the backbone of the Colonial Revival, which also drew upon Post-Medieval English and Dutch Colonial architecture for references. The Colonial Revival style was introduced at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876. The centennial of the Declaration of Independence sparked renewed interest in the architecture of the colonial period. Many of the buildings designed for the Exposition were based on historically significant colonial designs. Publicity on the exposition occurred simultaneously with efforts made by several national organizations to preserve Old North Church in Boston, Mount Vernon in northern Virginia, and Monticello in central Virginia, making the Colonial Revival movement symbolic also of the Founding Fathers. As noted in the *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940* style guide, the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition not only featured monumental classical buildings but also replicas of famous colonial buildings like Mount Vernon. Viewed as the quintessentially "American" style, Colonial Revival also was seen as a way to help immigrants, who were arriving in unprecedented numbers during the late nineteenth century, to assimilate to American values

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Some identifying characteristics of Colonial Revival architecture include gable, hip, and gambrel roofs; an accentuated door, normally with a pediment or crown and pilasters surrounds; a fanlight or transom over the door; simple entry porches supported by slender columns; symmetrical facade; double-hung window sash, usually with multiple-pane glazing in each sash; and windows that are frequently set in pairs. The Robert Fulton School was designed with many of these features, although its monumental, classically inspired, two-story portico may be more closely related to the desire to make schools visually prominent landmarks within their neighborhoods.

### **Registration Requirements of the Richmond Public Schools MPD**

As specified under the MPD, to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Education, Richmond's public schools built between 1869 and 1930 must have a direct association with the events and developmental trends in Richmond's public education system. The Robert Fulton school, completed at the end of 1916, falls within the specified period and from its beginning was a public elementary school. To be eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, the school building is required to be a significant example of a structural type, to embody an important style or material, or to represent the work of a prominent builder or architect. The Robert Fulton School was designed by William Leigh Carneal, of the locally influential Carneal and Johnston architectural firm. The school building retains a high level of integrity, including its original massing, footprint, roof form, brick and concrete construction materials, and monumental portico, as well as detailing including the fenestration pattern, wood 6/6 window sash, primary centered entrance, and round-arched dormers. Rehabilitation projects undertaken during the 1990s were completed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, meaning that the building retains the necessary integrity for listing in the National Register.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*1905-06 and 1906-1907 Biennial Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Virginia with Accompanying Documents.* Richmond, VA: 1908.

Bearss, Sarah B., editor. *Dictionary of Virginia Biography: Volume 3, Caperton through Daniels.* Richmond, VA: Library of Virginia, 2006.

Breitzer, Susan. "Virginia Constitutional Convention (1901–1902)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 20 May 2015. Accessed April 2017.  
[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Constitutional\\_Convention\\_Virginia\\_1901-1902#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Constitutional_Convention_Virginia_1901-1902#start_entry).

Brownell, Charles, Calder Loth, William M.S. Rasmussen, and Richard Guy Wilson. *The Making of Virginia Architecture.* Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992.

"A Guide to the Carneal & Johnston Architectural Drawings and Plans Collection, 1911-1990." Richmond, VA: Library of Virginia, 2008. Accessed April 2017.  
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[http://www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/multiple\\_exposure/2011/06/15/carneal-johnston-negative-collection/](http://www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/multiple_exposure/2011/06/15/carneal-johnston-negative-collection/).

Novelli, Chris, and Melina Bezirdjian, Calder Loth, and Lena Sweeten McDonald. *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940.* Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2015.

"Remaking Virginia: Transformation Through Emancipation: Education." Accessed April 2017. <http://www.virginiamemory.com/online-exhibitions/exhibits/show/remaking-virginia/education>.

Richmond Public Schools: A Mini History: Bits and Pieces. Published online at <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/RPSHistory/AE.aspx>.

Robert Fulton School  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

Spivey, Ashley L.A. *Knowing the River, Working the Land, and Digging for Clay: Pamunkey Indian Subsistence Practices and the Market Economy, 1800-1900*. Ph.D. Dissertation, College of William and Mary. Williamsburg, VA. 2017.

Virginia School Report. Second Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year ending August 31, 1872. Richmond, VA.

Weaver, Paul L. *Public Schools of Richmond, Virginia, 1869-1930* Multiple Property Documentation Form. Approved 8/24/1992 by the National Park Service.

Wilson, Richard Guy, editor. *Buildings of Virginia: Tidewater and Piedmont*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

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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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 127-0378

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 1.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Robert Fulton School  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.517290 | Longitude: -77.404480 |
| 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.)

The historic boundary coincides with the legal tax parcel boundary of the Robert Fulton School as identified by the City of Richmond Tax Assessor's Office. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map and Tax Parcel Map.

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

The historic boundary encompasses the entirety of the parcel associated with the Robert Fulton School since its construction in 1917 as well as the property's historic setting and all known historic resources.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Margaret Freund  
organization: Fulton Hill Properties  
street & number: 1000 Carlisle Avenue  
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23231  
e-mail: mfreund@fultonhillproperties.com  
telephone: 804-226-9555  
date: April 2017

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Robert Fulton School  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

### 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.)

### 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: Robert Fulton School

City or Vicinity: Richmond State: Virginia

Photographer: Margaret Freund

Date Photographed: February 2017

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

1 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0001  
View: West façade, camera facing east

2 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0002  
View: West façade, camera facing east

3 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0003  
View: South elevation, camera facing north

4 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0004

Robert Fulton School  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

View: South elevation, camera facing north

5 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0005

View: East elevation, camera facing west

6 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0006

View: Oblique view of south and west elevations, camera facing north/northwest

7 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0007

View: North and east elevation, camera facing southwest

8 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0008

View: North elevation, camera facing south

9 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0009

View: Typical former classroom, camera facing northeast

10 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0010

View: Typical former classroom, camera facing north/northeast

11 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0011

View: Typical corridor, camera facing south

12 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0012

View: Typical public stairwell, camera facing south

13 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0013

View: Former auditorium/assembly hall, camera facing northwest

14 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0014

View: Former auditorium/assembly hall, camera facing north

15 of 15. VA\_RichmondCity\_RobertFultonSchool\_0015

View: Typical corridor, camera facing south

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Robert Fulton School  
Name of Property

Richmond, VA  
County and State

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Richmond Public Schools: A Mini History: Bits and Pieces, "Nicholson," published online at <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/RPSHistory/FN/Nicholson.aspx>
- <sup>2</sup> Richmond Public Schools: A Mini History: Bits and Pieces, "Fulton (Robert) School," published online at <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/RPSHistory/FN/Fulton.aspx>.
- <sup>3</sup> Richmond Public Schools: A Mini History: Bits and Pieces, "Indian School," published online at <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/RPSHistory/FN/Indian.aspx>.
- <sup>4</sup> Richmond Public Schools: A Mini History: Bits and Pieces, "Davis (Webster) School," published online at <http://web.richmond.k12.va.us/AboutRPS/RPSHistory/AE/Davis.aspx>.
- <sup>5</sup> "Remaking Virginia: Transformation Through Emancipation: Education," at <http://www.virginiamemory.com/online-exhibitions/exhibits/show/remaking-virginia/education>.
- <sup>6</sup> Virginia School Report, Second Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year ending August 31, 1872 (Richmond, VA).
- <sup>7</sup> Susan Breitzer, "Virginia Constitutional Convention (1901–1902)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 20 May 2015, published online at [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Constitutional\\_Convention\\_Virginia\\_1901-1902#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Constitutional_Convention_Virginia_1901-1902#start_entry). The 1902 constitution finally was replaced in 1971, after the victories of the Civil Rights Movement abolished the legal framework for Jim Crow segregation.
- <sup>8</sup> Ronald L. Heinemann, "Joseph D. Eggleston (1867-1953)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 28 May 2014, published online at [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Eggleston\\_Joseph\\_Dupuy\\_Jr\\_1867-1953#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Eggleston_Joseph_Dupuy_Jr_1867-1953#start_entry).
- <sup>9</sup> *1905-06 and 1906-1907 Biennial Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Virginia with Accompanying Documents* (Richmond, VA: 1908).
- <sup>10</sup> Additional information about Jim Crow-era educational opportunities for African American children is available in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Rosenwald Schools in Virginia (012-5041)*, published online at [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Brunswick/012-5041Rosenwald\\_textlist.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Brunswick/012-5041Rosenwald_textlist.htm), as well as the NRHP nomination for the Switchback School in Bath County, published online at [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Bath/008-5042\\_SwitchbackSchool\\_2013\\_NRHP\\_final.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Bath/008-5042_SwitchbackSchool_2013_NRHP_final.pdf). Information about educational opportunities for Virginia Indian students is available in the NRHP nomination for the Sharon Indian School, published online at [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/KingWilliam/050-5005\\_SharonSchool\\_2007\\_NRfinal.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/KingWilliam/050-5005_SharonSchool_2007_NRfinal.pdf).



**LOCATION MAP**

**Robert Fulton School**

**City of Richmond, VA**

**DHR No. 127-0378**

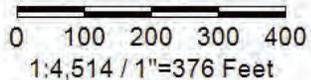
**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Latitude: 37.517290

Longitude: -77.404480



Feet



**Title: Robert Fulton School**

**Date: 2/13/2017**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

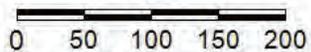
*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

## SKETCH MAP

Robert Fulton School  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR No. 127-0378



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 4/12/2017**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

# PHOTO KEY/ FLOOR PLAN

Exterior & First Floor

Robert Fulton School  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR No. 127-0378

Photo Locations **1 ^**

VHDA REVIEW SET  
[NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION]  
11/18/2016

ARCHITECT:  
Architecture Design Office  
105 E Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804.343.1212

CIVIL ENGINEER:  
VANASSE HAGEN BRUSTLIN  
115 South 15th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804.343.7100

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:  
SPEIGHT, MARSHALL & FRANCIS, P.C.  
2128 McCrossin Way, Suite 102  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466  
757.427.1020

MEP ENGINEER:  
ONEIL ENGINEERING SERVICES  
2420 New Dorset Terrace  
Richmond, Virginia 23129  
804.339.4035

RENOVATIONS AT THE HISTORIC:  
**FULTON HILL SCHOOL**  
1000 CARLISLE AVE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

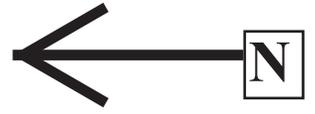
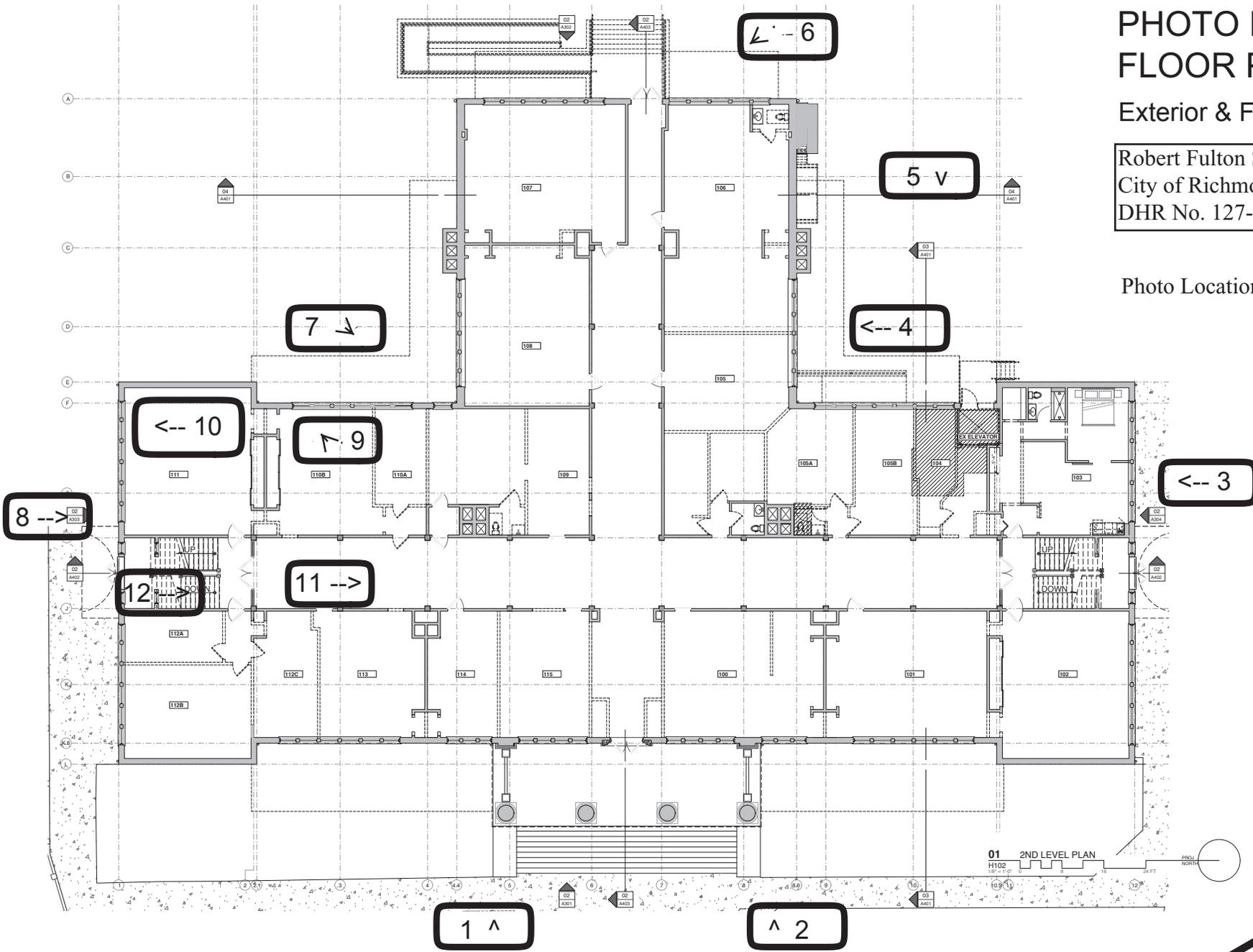
EXISTING/ALTERATION PLANS

PROJ NUMBER PUBLISH DATE

16.1000 16/11.18

AUTHOR(S) DRAWING TYPE

SOCIAL H102

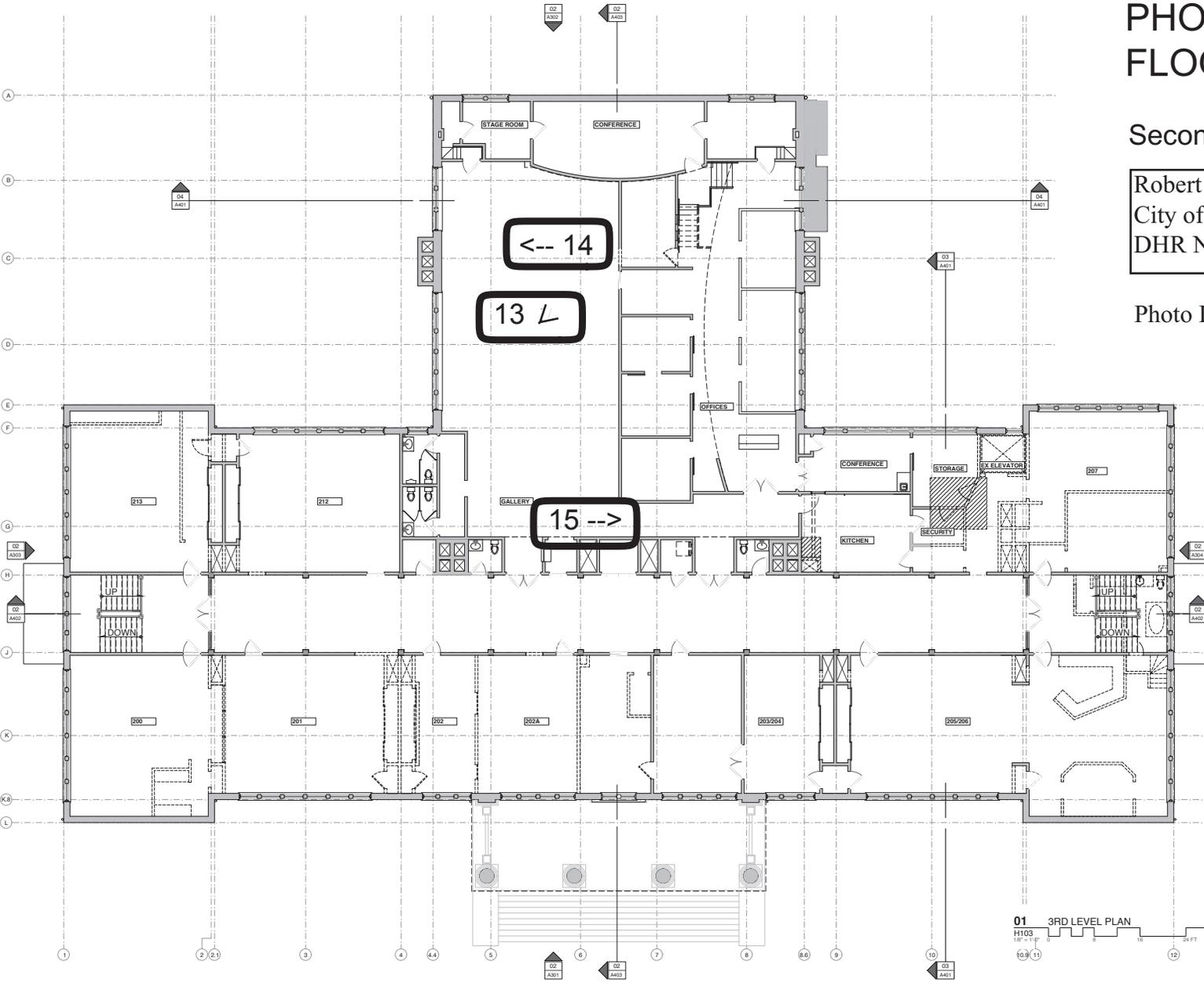


# PHOTO KEY/ FLOOR PLAN

## Second Floor

Robert Fulton School  
City of Richmond, VA  
DHR NO. 127-0378

Photo Locations 1 ^



VHDA REVIEW SET  
**[NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION]**  
11/18/2016

ARCHITECT:  
Architecture Design Office  
105 E Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804 343 1212

CIVIL ENGINEER:  
VANASSE HAGEN BRUSTLIN  
115 South 18th Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804 343 7100

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:  
SPEIGHT, MARSHALL & FRANCIS, P.C.  
2125 McCrossen Way, Suite 103  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466  
757 427 1020

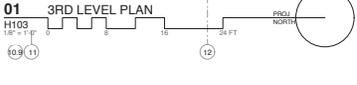
MEP ENGINEER:  
ONEIL ENGINEERING SERVICES  
2420 New Dorset Terrace  
Richmond, Virginia 23129  
804 339 4035

RENOVATIONS AT THE HISTORIC:  
**FULTON HILL SCHOOL**  
1000 CARLISLE AVE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

EXISTING/ALTERATION PLANS

PROJ NUMBER 16.1000  
PUBLISH DATE 16/11.18  
AUTHOR(S) SOCIAL

**H103**



**TAX PARCEL MAP**  
**Robert Fulton School**  
**City of Richmond, VA**  
**DHR No. 127-0378**

