

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: George Washington High School

Other names/site number: George Washington Middle School; DHR No. 100-0160

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1005 Mount Vernon Avenue

City or town: Alexandria State: VA County: Independent City

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/public high school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/public middle school

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK; STONE: Limestone; Granite

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The George Washington High School is located seven blocks south of Alexandria's National Register-listed Town of Potomac Historic District (NRHP 1992; #100-0136). Now referred to as the George Washington Middle School, the school building has been enlarged several times since its original 1934 - 1935 construction date yet retains its integrity and its original Art Deco features. The original 286,000 square-foot building is situated on level ground within a trapezoidal lot encompassing 1,040,169 square feet, located on the east side of Mount Vernon Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Braddock Road.¹ The site consists of the original building, which has two historic additions built in 1938 and 1947, the contributing Mechanical Arts Building built in 1941. The Tulloch Gymnasium was built in 1961 off the school's southeast corner and is a non-contributing building. A 2002-2003 addition linked the gym, the Mechanical Arts Building, and the original school. Two non-contributing structures on the site include a small metal bleacher adjacent to the athletic field and a power station near the northeast corner of the school.

Narrative Description

The George Washington High School Building:

The Art Deco-style **George Washington High School** (GWHS) building at 1005 Mount Vernon Avenue was built between 1934 and 1935 and expanded in 1938 and 1947. The original T-shaped core was designed by the Division of School Buildings, [Virginia] State Department of Education, then headed by State School Architect Raymond V. Long, and constructed by the

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Richmond-based contracting firm Doyle & Russell.² In 1937, the Division of School Buildings prepared drawings for the south wing, which was completed by contractor Calvin T. Owens the following year at a cost of \$157,500.³ [Figure 1] In 1947, a north wing was built, creating the present footprint, which resembles a squared figure 8 with two interior, enclosed courtyards. In 1941, a separate Mechanical Arts Building, also built in the Art Deco style and composed of brick and limestone, was erected immediately south of the school. The Tulloch Gymnasium was constructed as a separate building immediately east of the Mechanical Arts Building in 1961. Although built during the period of significance, the gymnasium is not in the Art Deco style, nor does it contribute to the history of the school. It is therefore not contributing. A 2002-2003 addition links the two historic buildings and the Tulloch Gymnasium together. These buildings comprise an open, scholastic campus on a 24-acre parcel bounded by East Glendale Avenue on the north, Mount Vernon Avenue on the west, Braddock Road on the south, and the RF&P Railroad lines on the east. Non-contributing structures on the site include small bleachers on an athletic field and an electrical building.

In December 1933, the City of Alexandria purchased 15.5 acres at the northeast intersection of Braddock (then called Mushpot) Road and Mount Vernon Avenue for \$1,100 per acre from the McCallum Company, a real-estate development holding formed in Pennsylvania.⁴ Doyle & Russell began construction on the original core in August 1934 and completed construction by September 1935.⁵ [Figure 2] Built for approximately \$350,000, which included the \$17,050 paid for the parcel on which it sat, the “most modern [school building] in this section of Virginia” featured 30 classrooms with slate blackboards and 12 flexible room spaces, offices for the Superintendent and Principal, a library, a 900-seat auditorium with gallery, boys’ and girls’ locker rooms with showers, halls with steel lockers, and a gymnasium.⁶ The building first appears on the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia,⁷ labeled as a steel column and beam structure with brick walls, concrete floors, and a gypsum slab roof on steel joists. The cafeteria was located in the rear on the first floor, while the gym was directly above. Behind the school, wooden frame bleachers and a one-story outbuilding surrounded the athletic fields. In this site plan, the original T-shape footprint has been morphed into a “b” shape by the 1938 southern wing [Figure 3].

The original building is a three-story, nine-bay, horizontal pile positioned on the southeast corner of Mount Vernon and East Glendale avenues. It rises from a raised basement of Indiana limestone and terminates in a flat roof coped with stone. The ornate central pavilion, composed of Indiana limestone blocks, forms a contrast to the flanking wings of stark red brick laid in a 3:1 common bond, in which the single course alternates stretchers and headers. Each wing contains four bays separated by decorative limestone pilasters, their keystone heads rising above the roofline. Each bay is further divided into three window bays by brick pilasters which terminate in limestone capitals carved with urn-acanthus leaf motifs. The façade’s fenestration features 79 apertures, configured as triple-sash windows with multiple lights. The lintels are composed of soldier bricks and the sills are brick headers.

The GWHS building’s Art Deco features are distinctive and highly manifest in the massive, 3-1/2- story Indiana limestone entrance surround which projects above the roofline. The three-bay

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pavilion is configured as a recessed central bay flanked by narrow projecting bays. The embrasures of the outer bays feature stylized, winged eagles and vertical striations. The central, recessed bay is fluted and features panels carved in geometric lines. A one-story “grand staircase” comprising wide, Indiana limestone stairs leads to the entrance marked by three multi-light metal doors with single-light, fixed transoms. The staircase’s bottom five steps curve behind the massive, octagonal fluted stone piers and walls. These walls serve as the stair rails and are decorated with a Greek-key design on the inner and outer surfaces directly under the capstones. There are two landings, one at the tenth step and another at the top of the staircase. Below the second-story reeding is a coffered plinth, and the wall continues down to the raised basement in a fluted design. The façade is entirely intact, as are the original, westernmost 1.5 bays on the southern and northern elevations. However, the bronze doors mentioned in a *Washington Post* article of August 1935 are no longer extant, and the windows are replacements in the same configuration as the originals.⁸

The three-story southern elevation was originally 1.5 bays deep but was enlarged to 5.5 bays with the 1938 extension. The L-shaped southern addition provided 18 additional rooms and spaces for shop classes.⁹ It is stylistically indistinguishable from the original building and provides a secondary entrance via a centralized limestone pavilion. Although the central pavilion resembles that on the façade, it is notable for its emphasized verticality rendered by five 2-1/2-story glass-block apertures above five multi-light doors. The outer two doors have coffin-shaped stone surrounds, while the three central entrances are decorated with original bronze fascia, comprising nine square panels with central rosettes. The L-shaped northern elevation, an addition completed in 1947, is identical to the southern elevation. This north wing first appears in the 1958 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia.¹⁰ [Figure 4]

The GWHS interior has many original features intact, most notably the 1935 auditorium with proscenium arch, coffin-headed door and ventilation surrounds, cast-iron seating, and gallery. The proscenium arch decoration includes bold horizontal reeding with pleated-fan corners, a running chevron design, a wave-like fluting pattern above, and a horizontally reeded cornice. Pilasters embrace the arch and feature narrow fluting with plain, bold capitals. The chevron, wave-like fluting, and cornice line continues along the walls next to the arch and the side walls of the auditorium. Only the fluting and cornice continue at the back, above the balcony. The gallery front features a decorative pattern consisting of three central recessed squares flanked by two recessed rectangles and an additional square at each end. The cast-iron seats are original and feature a stylized half-flower and stop-fluted design. Some of the hallway entrances have a sculpted archway while many hallways have the original yellow-tan colored tile work which extends from the floor to shoulder height. Many cast-iron stairwells are original. Original pilasters with stylized sun-chevron designs, as well as the plain molded entablature and cornice, survive in at least one classroom.

The Mechanical Arts Building:

The 1941 **Mechanical Arts Building** (MAB) is the second contributing resource on the school campus. Built in the Art Deco style by local contractor David E. Bayliss, the E-shaped building

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is located immediately south of the school and fronts Mount Vernon Avenue.¹¹ First appearing on the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, as a free-standing building comprising concrete floors and a gypsum slab roof on steel joists [Figure3], the northern elevation has been attached to a late-20th -century addition which connects the MAB to the original GWHS building. The building's brick façade with limestone trim and its similarly rendered southern elevation are largely intact; the eastern (rear) elevation has been modified heavily.

The MAB is a brick-clad building (laid in a 2:1 common bond in which the single course alternates headers and stretchers) with limestone trim and features. It rises one-story from a continuous brick foundation to a flat roof coped in metal. It is nine bays wide (four bays flanking a central pavilion) and six bays deep, although only three bays are visible on the northern elevation. The building's historic main entrance, with its decorative limestone surround, has been filled by a modern metal-frame window above which is a geometrically-patterned panel. The surround features bulky, projecting pilasters decorated with carved machine cogs and compasses. The central, recessed surround terminates in a plain parapet decorated with a band of carved, interlocking ogee arches and a centralized, ribbed panel with the word "SHOP" carved in a period, block font and oriented vertically. The four vertical bands surrounding the lettering extend above the parapet and lend a Streamline Moderne aura to the feature. As on the GWHS building, the fenestration's lintels are soldier bricks while the sills are composed of brick headers. A belt course consisting of a row of headers above a row of soldier bricks lies at the water-table height above the brick foundation. Massive, protruding brick pilasters with geometrically-carved limestone block capitals and stone bases divide each elevation into window bays. Although the fenestration has been modified with smaller windows and panels, the apertures' original configuration is easily recognizable.

The George Washington Memorial Stadium (demolished):

The George Washington Memorial Stadium, located to the east of the GWHS building, was dedicated in 1947. The old wooden bleachers were replaced by concrete structures with wooden seats on steel frames, and the state-of-the-art stadium featured a quarter-mile track, a lighted football field, and an electronic scoreboard. From the outset, the new stadium hosted collegiate and professional football games.¹² It was such a popular venue that the city's Chamber of Commerce gave \$37,000 to increase the stadium's seating from 11,500 to 14,800 seats in 1949.¹³ By the time the 1958 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, was published, the stadium appeared as parallel bleachers marked as "wooden seats on steel frames" along with the notation for a "Noncomb[ustible]" structure with a concrete floor, concrete roof on steel joists, and cinder block walls built in 1950.¹⁴ In 1969, school officials discontinued night games due to falling attendance and disorderly crowds.¹⁵ The stadium was ultimately demolished between 1977 and 1980.¹⁶

Renovations:

Continuous renovations and alterations were made to the GWHS building from the outset: almost as soon as it opened, it became apparent that the school would not sustain expanding

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school enrollment. In 1961, the Tulloch Memorial Gymnasium was built, and in 1970 the cafeteria was altered. A 1970 fire caused so much damage to the interior that repairs were made throughout the decade. Between 1978 and 1979, offices were altered and the interior remodeled. Fire and security systems were upgraded in 1983, and a passenger elevator added in 1985.¹⁷ The modern hyphen connecting the GWHS building with MAD was designed by Hillier Architecture and constructed in 2002-2003, at which time alterations such as fireproofing and adding sprinkler systems were made to both historic buildings.



Figure 1: South Elevation (1937). “Addition and Alterations to George Washington High School, Corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and Cedar Street, Alexandria, Virginia.” Plan No. 834, June 1937. Division of School Buildings, State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia. Repository: City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

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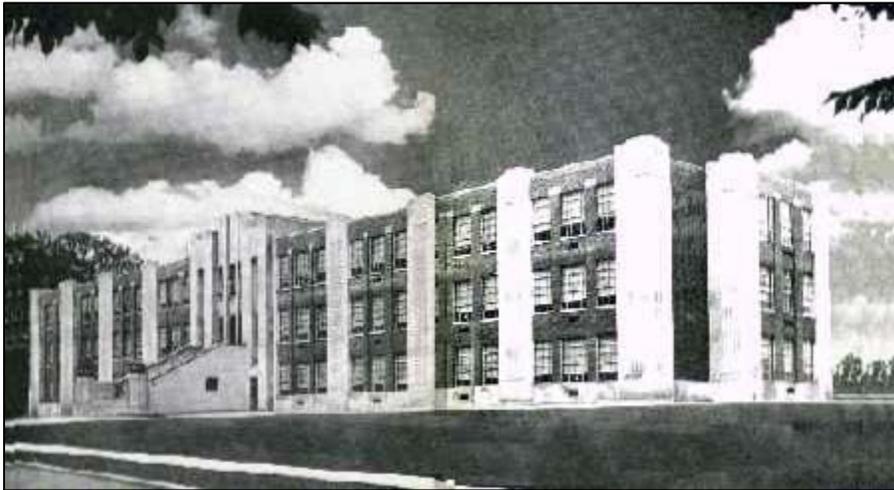


Figure 2: Image of GWHS soon after its completion in 1935.

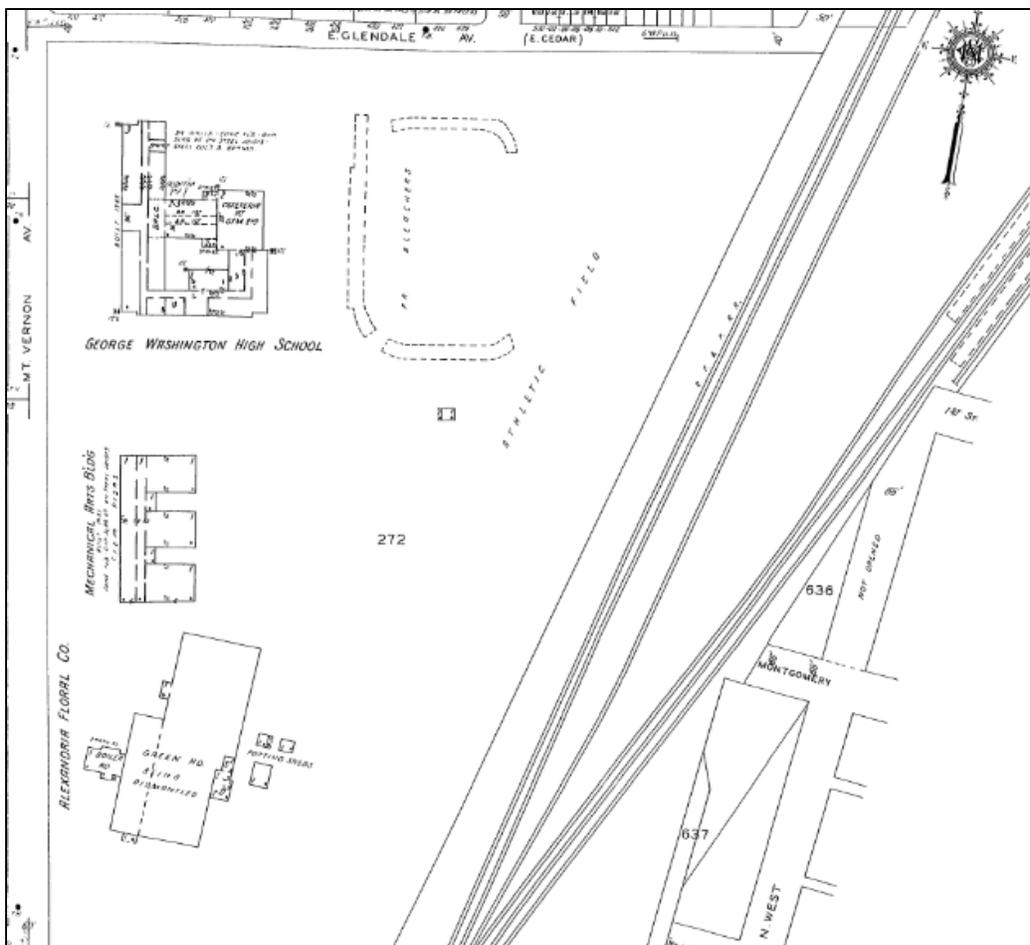


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 40.

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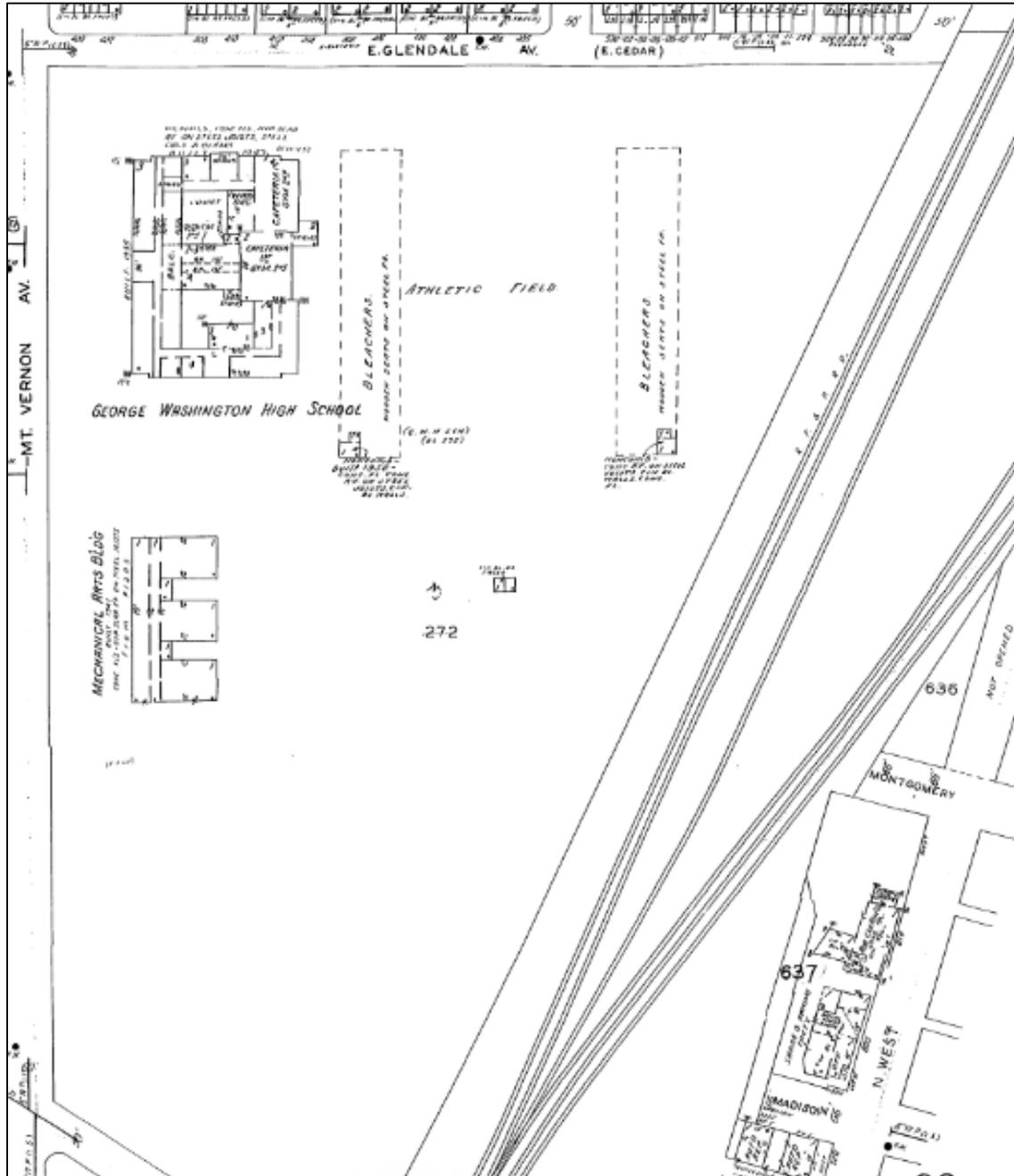


Figure 4: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 40.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1935 - 1971

Significant Dates

1935, 1938, 1941, 1947

1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Division of School Buildings, State Department of Education

Long, Raymond V., architect

Doyle & Russell, builder.

Bayliss, David E., contractor

Owens, Calvin Tilden, contractor.

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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 George Washington High School is locally significant and eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It has functioned continuously as a school since its inception, and its stalwart presence on Mount Vernon Avenue adds to the commercial character of the thoroughfare. Under Criterion A, George Washington High School is locally significant as a school built with funding provided by the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration. It was considered very modern at the time of its construction. Dating to the Jim Crow era of segregation, the school was constructed to serve only white students. It is also a remnant of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives, which were rampant across the nation throughout the Great Depression. The school served only white students until desegregation in 1965. Under Criterion C, the school, designed by a notable Virginia architect and state agency, is one of the largest and signature examples of Art Deco in Alexandria. It is of high architectural merit and retains its original Art Deco design, a popular style of the period that expressed modernity and optimism, characteristics that harmonized with the Roosevelt administration's vision for a new America. Like the Thomas Jefferson High School (124-0431) in Richmond, the design of GWHS emanates civic pride while successfully fusing architectural design with educational function. The period of significance begins in 1935, the date of construction, and ends in 1971, the year that T.C. Williams High School became the city's only school to serve junior and senior high-school aged children. The thirty-six-year period of significance encompasses George Washington High School's entire run as a four-year high school, the construction of all contributing buildings, and its desegregation.

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

Named after Virginia's native son and the country's first President, the GWHS building lies in a neighborhood generally known as Braddock Heights, immediately south of the 19th-century subdivision, Park Addition. [Figure 5] This land originally fell within the Jefferson Magisterial District of Alexandria County, and was annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1915. The trapezoidal parcel on which the building stands once belonged to the Swann and Calvert estates. A 1900 map of Alexandria County, prepared for the Virginia Title Company by Howell & Taylor, depicts the present site as a 21.5-acre, undeveloped parcel belonging to Helen M. Calvert. A triangular sliver of land, less than half of the 7.43 acres ascribed to the whole parcel belonging to Alexander C. Williams, abuts Mount Vernon Avenue and also comprises part of the present site.¹⁸ [Figure 6] When Edward J. McCallum and Thomas J. Beck purchased the 21.5-acre parcel for \$13,000 in 1927, it was described as "designated No. 5 on plat annexed to the deed of partition between Thomas W. and Helen M. Swann, Hampton C. and Frances A. Williams"¹⁹ and "being the property inherited by Susan P.A. Calvert from her mother, the late Helen M. Swann."²⁰ The 21.5-acre parcel, however, was conveyed minus an 8.5-acre swath Susan P.A. Calvert previously sold to the Washington Southern Railway Co., which developed

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the rail lines on the eastern edge of the site, and with a 2.44-acre parcel Calvert had purchased from Mary F.S. Williams, making the total 15.5 acres – the amount which the McCallum Company later sold to the City of Alexandria.

The area remained rural and under-developed for decades after the annexation, yet the Deed of Trust issued by McCallum and Beck in 1927 describes the tract as containing buildings and greenhouses; a curiosity supported by the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, which shows a small building at the northeast corner of Mount Vernon Avenue and Braddock Road, with a large greenhouse immediately to the north labeled “Dunbarr Floral Co. Green Ho's.”²¹ [Figure 7] By the time the 1931 Sanborn map was published, the northern portion of the lot appears undeveloped yet the southern portion is filled with wooden framed greenhouses and the notation “J. Ludivicy, Green Houses.”²² [Figure 8] The greenhouses and three one-story potting sheds appeared in the 1941 Sanborn map, with the name Alexandria Floral Co. associated with it, and the notation “Green Ho. Being Dismantled;” by the 1958 Sanborn edition, the greenhouses were gone. [see Figures 3 and 4]

After the City of Alexandria annexed the Town of Potomac in 1930, the Mount Vernon Avenue corridor was slated for commercial development. This is apparent in a ca. 1933 map prepared by urban planner Irving C. Root of the Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, which also shows the undeveloped GWHS tract as zoned for residential development. [Figure 9] Yet a ca. 1934 real-property survey conducted under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) shows the lot - designated as McCallum’s property- as slated for mixed residential-commercial development, suggesting that the city’s decision to build a school on that lot had been made by that time.²³ [Figure 10]

Criterion A: Social History

When the City of Alexandria purchased this property from McCallum Company in 1933, the Great Depression was thoroughly entrenched and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal programs had just been initiated. These federal programs were intended not only to put unemployed men and women to work, but to build necessary and sorely lacking infrastructure, such as schools. Funds were administered to municipalities through various “alphabet agencies,” such as FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), the CWA (Civil Works Administration), and the PWA (Public Works Administration), and “Virginia availed itself of these programs ... More than 40,000 Virginians were employed on FERA projects building schools, roads, and sewer systems.”²⁴

The GWHS was built in 1934-1935 with funding provided by the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration,²⁵ and cannot be considered outside of the context of national infrastructural works undertaken during the Great Depression. The PWA “helped to finance the construction of approximately 70 percent of all school-building construction in the United States” between 1933 and 1937.²⁶ By 1936, the PWA had initiated over 300 educational building construction projects in Virginia and administered nearly five million dollars in grants and over three million dollars in loans to municipalities across the state. The schools that were built varied in style, yet the majority advertised in PWA booklets from the period exhibit Art Deco features

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and characteristics. Art Deco radiated an aura of modernity and an optimism that befitted the Roosevelt administration's vision for a new America.²⁷

Criterion C: Architecture

The high quality of the Art Deco execution on the GWHS building can be attributed to the in-house architects at the Division of School Buildings in the [Virginia] State Department of Education, overseen by Raymond Victor Long. Long (1887-1960) was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, and was educated at Columbia University, from where he was graduated with a B.S. in 1913 and an M.A. in 1914. Settling in Farmville, Virginia, by 1915,²⁸ Long met and married Harriet Crute Paulett in 1916, with whom he had his son Raymond V., Jr. and his daughter H. Paulette in 1917 and 1923 respectively. By 1920, the Long family was residing in Richmond.²⁹ Long was an educator as well as an architect, serving as the state Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education in 1924 and as the State School Architect between 1923 and 1937. In this latter capacity, he was responsible for the designs of 35 public school buildings across the Commonwealth, including a high school in Lexington (1927), an addition to the Bridgewater High School (1930), and the Art Deco-style Booker T. Washington High School (1936) in Staunton.³⁰ Closer to home, Long is credited with the designs of the Claude A. Swanson Junior High School (1939) and the Walter Reed Elementary School (1938), both in neighboring Arlington County, as well as a nursery for African-American children (1943) at 224 N. Fayette Street in Alexandria.

The 1935 section of the GWHS was constructed by the Richmond-based contracting firm of Doyle & Russell, headed by Hobart E. Doyle. Doyle was born in Virginia in 1890 and attended Cornell University. His firm is credited with construction of the 1938 Virginia State Library Building in Richmond as well as the Pentagon Building (1941) in Arlington. The GWHS 1938 south addition was constructed by Calvin Tilden Owens (1906-1975), general contractor, about whom not much is currently known. The 1941 MAB, however, was constructed by a local contractor and Alexandria resident, David E. Bayliss. Bayliss built a number of edifices in the city during this era, including the three-story brick apartment building at 2701-2705 Mount Vernon Avenue (1941) and the Streamline Moderne commercial building at 1509-1517 Mount Vernon Avenue (1941).³¹ Bayliss is also credited with building the Capitol Theatre (1939), an Art Deco/Streamline Moderne movie house designed by John Zink and intended for African-American patrons within the Parker-Gray neighborhood of Alexandria.³² In 1940, when issued a permit to erect a concrete, limestone, and granite Memorial for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bayliss (residing at 518 King Street in Alexandria) was listed as an architect as well as builder.³³ His work in the area was so prolific that he warranted mention in the 1922 edition of *Manufacturers' Record*, volume 8, and a place in *Prominent Builders of Virginia*, published by the Architects Publishing Company circa 1940.

The school stands on the main street and at the southernmost tip of Del Ray, the community with the largest number of Art Deco buildings in Alexandria. A walk through Del Ray reveals several buildings with the rectilinear design, rich colors, bold geometric shapes, and stylized floral patterns characteristic of Art Deco design. These other buildings do not have the same presence or stylistic detailing as the GWHS. For example, the 1937 Glendale Garden Apartments, now the

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Brenton Court Apartments, at 412-414 and 420-422 East Glendale Avenue stand across the street from the north side of the school. These symmetrical red brick buildings feature protruding geometric door surrounds accented with yellow brick, glass blocks arranged vertically over the center entrance doors, and crenelated parapets. Like the school, they display many defining characteristics of Art Deco, but they do not have the same level of gravitas or monumentality.

Criterion A: Education

When GWHS opened its doors in September 1935, it accepted the merged student bodies of Alexandria High School and George Mason High School. Henry T. Moncure was the first principal of 1,200 students and 35 faculty members. GWHS served only a white population from 1935 until integration was instituted in 1965. The 1957 school year witnessed the last class to graduate from GWHS intact; in 1958, half of the upperclassmen graduated from Francis C. Hammond High School on Seminary Road. In 1971, T.C. Williams High School became the city's only school to serve junior and senior high-school aged children, while GWHS and Hammond served the city's ninth and tenth grade populations. In 1979, GW became a Junior High School, housing seventh through ninth grades. In 1993, GW officially became one of the city's two middle schools, educating students from sixth through eighth grades. And in 2009, in a further reorganization of Alexandria's school system, the building was split into two middle schools: GW1 and GW2.³⁴

Throughout the decades, nationally and regionally notable persons walked through those halls and were graduated from GWHS, including Willard Scott (Class of '51) author, NBC news anchor, and the original Ronald McDonald; radio broadcaster Donald Merrill (Don) Beagle (Class of '50), who was inducted into the Richmond Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and Jim Morrison (Class of '61), an excellent student and the celebrated lead singer for The Doors. In the same class as Morrison was Ellen Naomi Cohen (aka Mama Cass Elliot) of The Mamas & The Papas, while one of The Papas, John Phillips, graduated in the Class of 1953. Other luminaries include Francis C. Hammond (Class of '51), who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for aiding and assisting in the evacuation of wounded marines from Sanae-Dong during the Korean War, and Guy S. Gardner (Class of '65), a NASA astronaut and pilot of the orbiters Atlantis (1980) and Columbia (1990). Presidents visited the campus and watched football games at the GW Memorial Stadium, which witnessed the Redskins lose to the Packers in 1951. On 7 August 1965, quarterback Joe Namath made his professional debut at a pre-season American Football League game between the New York Jets and the Houston Oilers. The high school's stadium was expanded that year to 25,000 seats and tickets to see Namath play sold for the hefty sum of \$6.00.³⁵

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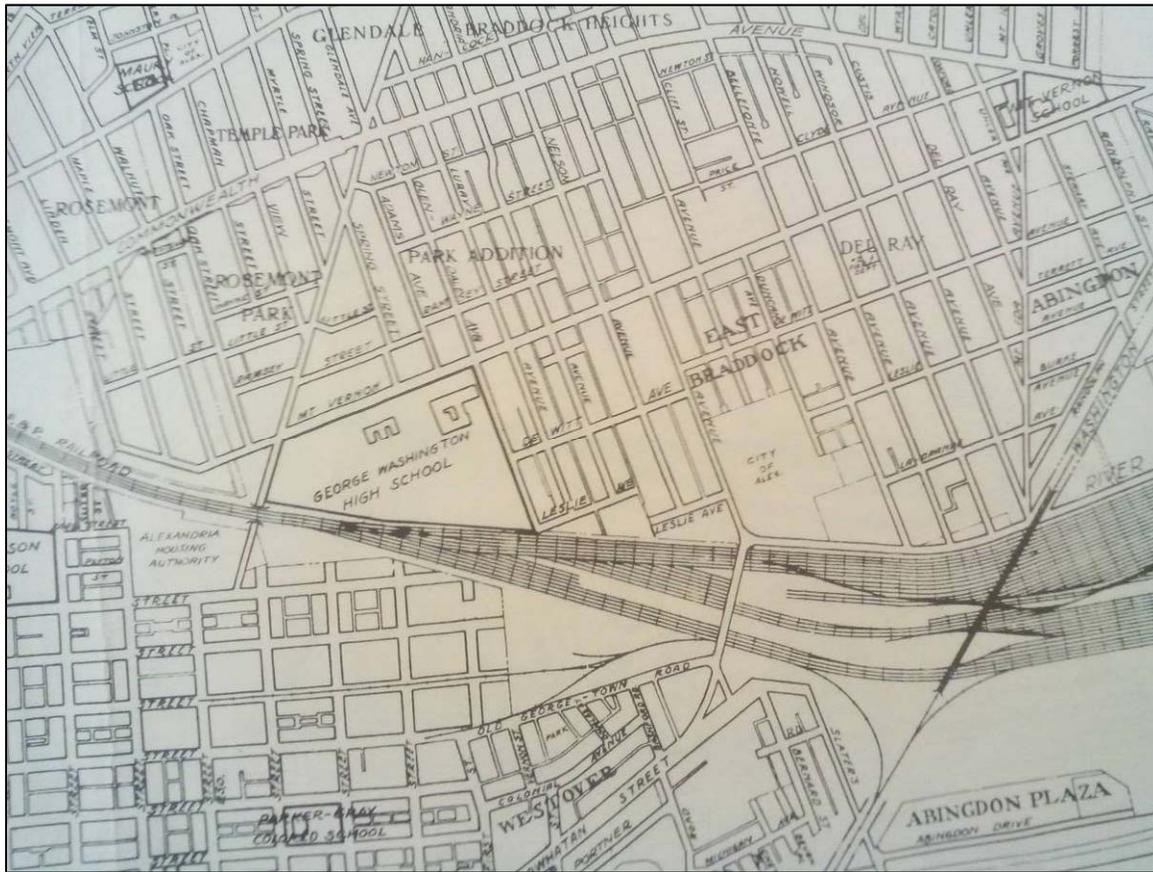


Figure 5: Map of the City of Alexandria, Office of City Engineers, 1948. North is to the right, following Mount Vernon Avenue at the 2:00 position. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 8.

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Figure 6: Howell & Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., 1900." North follows Mount Vernon Avenue, at 1:00 position. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5. The present site is seen in the center of the map, marked as the 21.5a property of Helen M. Calvert and part of the 7.43a property of Alex. C. Williams.

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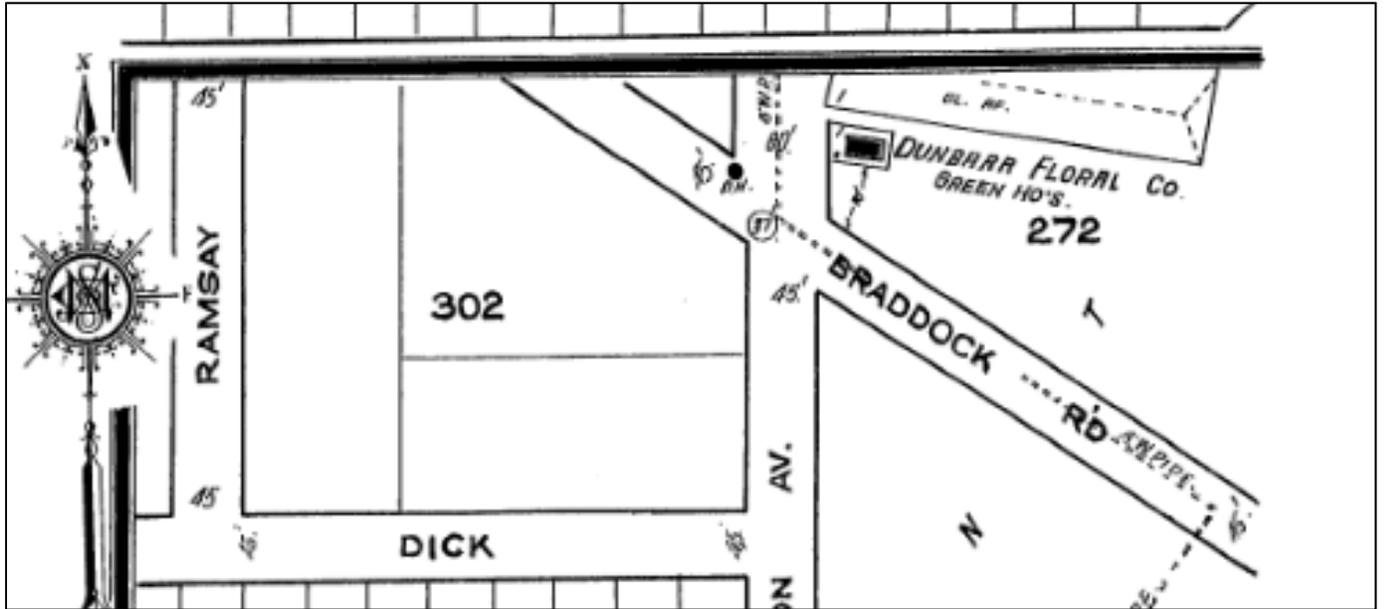


Figure 7: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, August 1921, Sheet 27. The parcel on which the GWHS building would be erected 14 years later contains the 'Dunbarr Floral Co. Green Ho's.'

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Figure 8: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, August 1931, Sheet 31. The parcel on which the GWHS building would be erected 3 years later – shown on the extreme right of each image – contains nothing in the northern half (left image, marked by the compass) but contains greenhouses marked “J. Ludivicy” in the southern half (right image).

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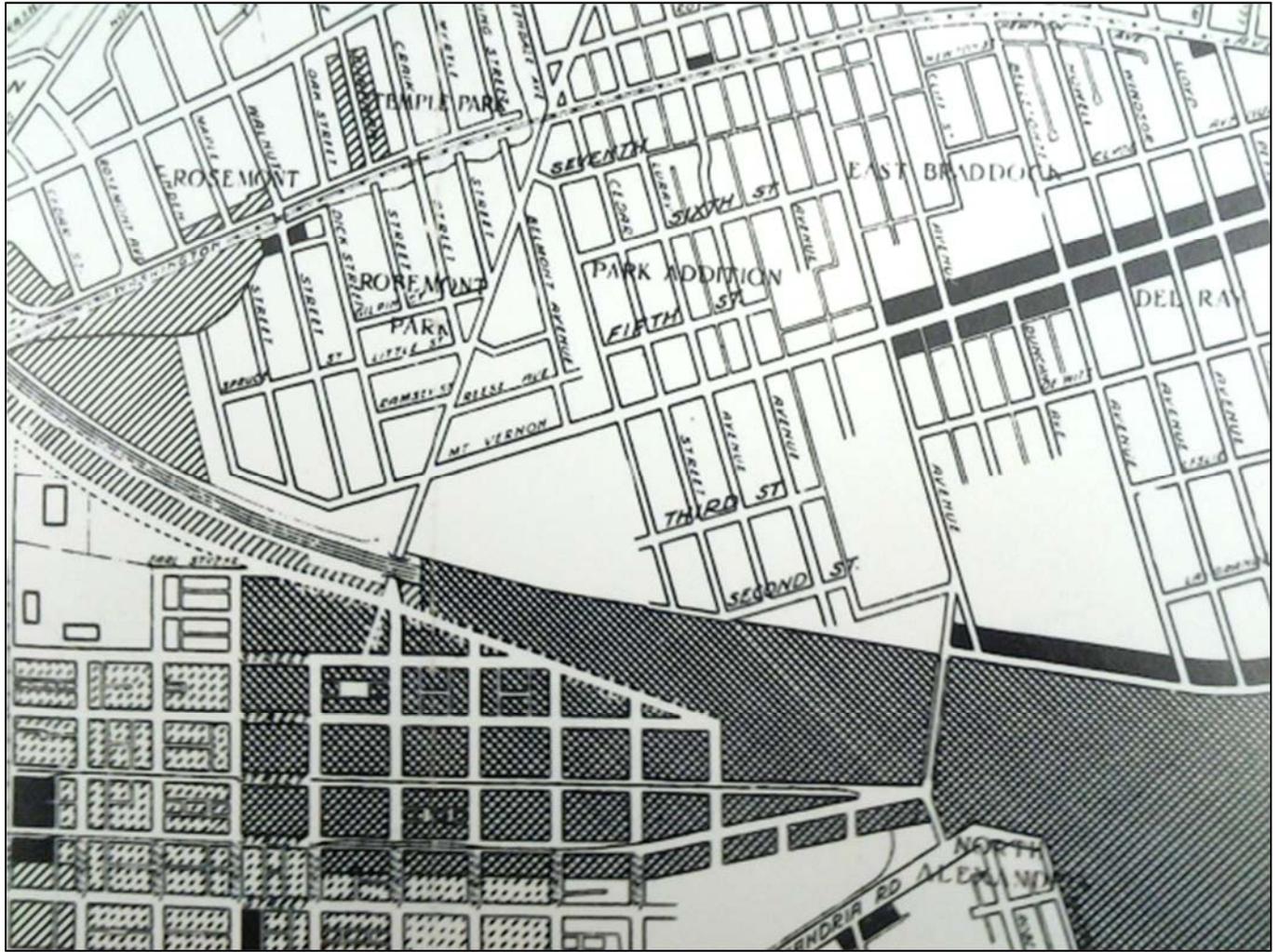


Figure 9: Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, Irving C. Root, "City of Alexandria, Virginia" ca. 1933. North is to the right, following Mount Vernon Avenue at the 2:00 position. The various hatching patterns denote different zoning areas. The black band flanking Mt. Vernon Avenue (to the right) signifies commercial development. The white of the vast central parcel (the GWHS site) signifies residential development. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 7.

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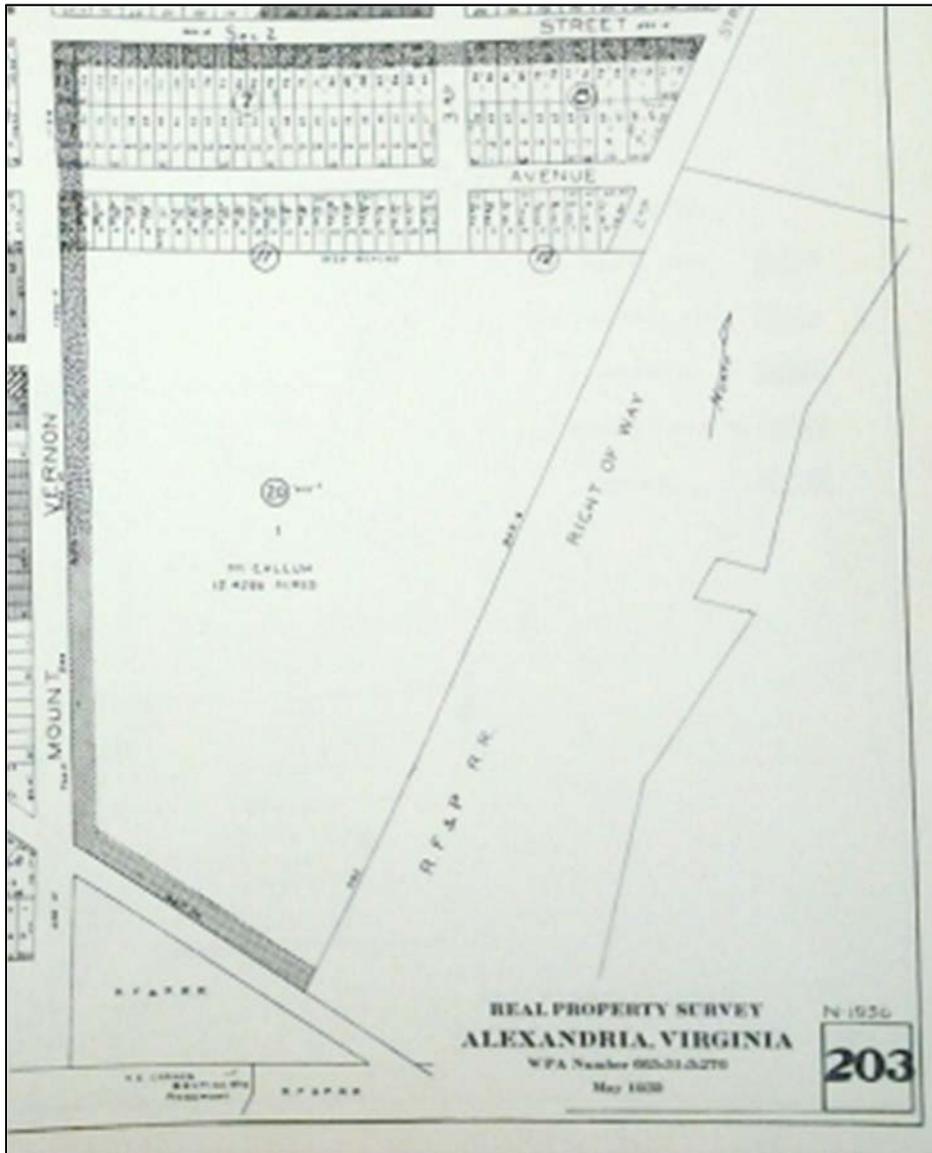


Figure 10, left: WPA, "Real Property Survey: Land Use Survey Maps, Alexandria, Virginia." O.P. No. 665-31-3-276, Vol. II, 1939, p.203. North is at the top. The hatching denotes mixed residential and commercial/public zoning function on this large parcel. Note the continuation of Jackson Avenue east of Mt. Vernon Avenue and the subdivision that was part of Park Addition (top of the image); this was never realized. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Archival Sources

Archives and Records Center, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia

City of Alexandria Real Estate Assessment Database, Alexandria, Virginia

Deeds, Circuit Court, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Preservation Division, Department of Planning & Zoning, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia

Land Records, Arlington County, Arlington, Virginia

Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch, Alexandria, Virginia

Newspaper and Journal Articles

“City Council Award Contract for School: Firm Doyle and Russell of Richmond to Erect Building” in *Alexandria Gazette*, August 1, 1934, p. 1.

“Joe Namath Made his pro football debut at George Washington High School in Alexandria,” in *Washington Post*, January 7, 2013.

National Education Association of the United States, *N.E.A. Bulletin*, Vols. 4-5, 1915. Also, Virginia Education Association, *Virginia Journal of Education*, Vol. 15, 1921.

School Annex To Be Inspected at Alexandria: Building Almost Complete for Opening Day on Thursday,” in *Washington Post*, September 6, 1938.

“School Building in Alexandria Ready in Fall: 30 Classrooms Included in Modern Structure for Virginia City,” in *Washington Post*, August 19, 1935.

Books

Ickes, Harold I. (Federal Emergency Admin of Public Works), Public Works Administration: Aids to Education (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937) p. 4.

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Historical Reports and websites

Ancestry.com (United States census data)

Cox, Al, City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning. "An Analysis of the Alexandria Union Station: An Historic Structure Report," Prepared for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, 14 February 1995, page 44.
[https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation\(1\).pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation(1).pdf) Accessed 13 June 2014.

Escherich, Susan. Town of Potomac Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1992.

Frazier, William T., Nancy Sorrells. "Booker T. Washington High School," Augusta County, Virginia. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2014. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

George Washington High School Alumni Association website: <http://gwhsaa.com/>

Heinemann, Ronald L. "The New Deal in Virginia," in *Encyclopedia Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Library of Virginia), website:
http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/new_deal_in_virginia#start_entry

Jones, Mark. Before He Was Broadway Joe," PBS/WETA *Boundary Stones*, 06 December 2012.

Necciai, Terry and Arianna Drumond. "Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2008/2010. Accessed 13 June 2014 at:
https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR_to_transfer/PDFNoms/100-0133_Uptown-Parker_Gray_2011_FINAL_amended_nomination.pdf

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

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- Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia; Archives and Records center, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia; City of Alexandria Real Estate Assessment Database, Alexandria, Virginia; Deeds, Circuit Court, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia; Historic Preservation Division, Department of Planning & Zoning, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia; Land Records, Arlington County, Arlington, Virginia; Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch, Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR File No. 100-0160

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 23.879 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.81577 | Longitude: -77.05523 |
| 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: |

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4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The true and correct historic boundary of the George Washington High School, City of Alexandria, is shown on the accompanying Boundary Map and is denoted in City records as tax parcel #054.01-01-01.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the George Washington High School, City of Alexandria, encompasses the full extent of the 23.879 acres that have been historically associated with the property since the school was constructed. The boundary includes the property's historic setting as well as all know historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Hellman/Principal Planner; Heather McMahon, Consultant
organization: City of Alexandria Planning & Zoning, Historic Preservation
street & number: 301 King Street
city or town: Alexandria state: VA zip code: 22314
e-mail susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov
telephone: 703.746.3818
date: 14 July 2020

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

George Washington High School
Name of Property

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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: George Washington High School, now George Washington Middle School, VDHR #100-0160.

City or Vicinity: City of Alexandria

County: None, Independent City **State:** Virginia

Photographer: H. Townley McElhiney; Susan Hellman

Date Photographed: Photos 1, 3, 7, 8 taken by Ms. McElhiney on June 27, 2014
Photos 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 taken by Ms. Hellman on July 10, 2020

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

- 1 of 10: Primary/west elevation on Mount Vernon Avenue, looking southeast.
- 2 of 10: Main entrance on Mount Vernon Avenue, looking east.
- 3 of 10: South elevation looking north.
- 4 of 10: Entrance on South elevation, looking north.
- 5 of 10: Mechanical Arts Building primary/west elevation on Mount Vernon Avenue, looking east.
- 6 of 10: Mechanical Arts Building original entrance, looking east.
- 7 of 10: Proscenium arch in 1935 auditorium.
- 8 of 10: Interior hallway showing original arch detail.
- 9 of 10: 412 & 414 East Glendale Avenue, Alexandria, VA
- 10 of 10: 420 & 422 East Glendale Avenue, Alexandria, VA

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.

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ City of Alexandria Real Estate Assessment database, Account No. 13339500, Assessment Map 054.01-01-01. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records. NB: The lot's square feet equivalent acreage (23.879) is greater than the acreage listed in the deeds of trust (15.5).
- ² "City Council Award Contract for School: Firm Doyle and Russell of Richmond to Erect Building" in *Alexandria Gazette*, August 1, 1934, p. 1. The article states that the low bid of \$292,369 was accepted unanimously at the previous evening's Council meeting.
- ³ "School Annex To Be Inspected at Alexandria: Building Almost Complete for Opening Day on Thursday," in *Washington Post*, September 6, 1938.
- ⁴ City of Alexandria Deed Book 115, page 388, from 11 December 1933: McCallum Company, Grantor to City of Alexandria, Virginia, Grantee, with L.H. Dudley and William P. Woolls, Trustees. Chain of Title begins with City of Alexandria Deed Book 123, page 518, from 23 August 1935: McCallum Company, Grantor to City of Alexandria, Virginia, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records.
- ⁵ "School Building in Alexandria Ready in Fall: 30 Classrooms Included in Modern Structure for Virginia City," in *Washington Post*, August 19, 1935.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- ⁸ "School Building in Alexandria Ready in Fall: 30 Classrooms Included in Modern Structure for Virginia City," in *Washington Post*, August 19, 1935.
- ⁹ "School Annex To Be Inspected at Alexandria: Building Almost Complete for Opening Day on Thursday," in *Washington Post*, September 6, 1938.
- ¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- ¹¹ New construction permit #3030 from 11 June 1941, for the Mt. Vernon Ave.; Builder: D.E. Bayliss, Owner: City of Alexandria. Repository: City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- ¹² Vertical File, "Schools: High Schools in Alexandria." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. See also: Dave Beach, *George Washington High School*, website, last updated 2 September 2012. Accessed 11 February 2020 at: <http://gwhsaa.com/st-history.html>
- ¹³ Ibid. Also, New construction permit #4550 from 18 July 1949, for George Washington High School: Builder: Eugene Simpson & Bro., Owner: City of Alexandria. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- ¹⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- ¹⁵ Amy Bertsch, Office of Historic Alexandria, "Out of the Attic: George Washington High School Stadium," *Alexandria Times*, 8 October 2009. Accessed 17 January 2020 at: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/attic/2009/Attic20091008GWStadium.pdf>
- ¹⁶ HistoricAerials.com. Accessed 20 December 2019.
- ¹⁷ History Card for 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- ¹⁸ Howell & Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., 1900." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5.
- ¹⁹ For derivation of Title, see Arlington County Land Records, Liber Z, No. 3, page 51.
- ²⁰ City of Alexandria Deed Book 90, page 495, from 18 May 1927: Edward J. McCallum and Thomas J. Beck, Grantor to L.H. Dudley and William P. Woolls, Trustees. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records.
- ²¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1921, Vol. 1, Sheet 27, inset. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- ²² Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1931, Vol. 1, Sheet 31. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.

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²³ Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, Irving C. Root, "City of Alexandria, Virginia" ca. 1933. Also, WPA, "Real Property Survey: Land Use Survey Maps, Alexandria, Virginia." O.P. No. 665-31-3-276, Vol. II, 1939, p.203. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawers 5 and 7.

²⁴ Ronald L. Heinemann, "The New Deal in Virginia," in *Encyclopedia Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Library of Virginia), website, last update 7 April 2011. Accessed 18 March 2015 at: http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/new_deal_in_virginia#start_entry

²⁵ "City Council Award Contract for School: Firm Doyle and Russell of Richmond to Erect Building" in *Alexandria Gazette*, August 1, 1934, p. 1.

²⁶ Ickes, Harold I. (Federal Emergency Admin of Public Works), Public Works Administration: Aids to Education (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937) p. 4.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ National Education Association of the United States, *N.E.A. Bulletin*, Vols. 4-5, 1915. Also, Virginia Education Association, *Virginia Journal of Education*, Vol. 15, 1921.

²⁹ Biographical information gleaned from the U.S. Population Censuses, 1920-1940. Accessed 18 March 2015 on Ancestry.com, website.

³⁰ William T. Frazier & Nancy Sorrells, "Booker T. Washington High School," Augusta County, Virginia. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2014. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

³¹ Susan Escherich, Town of Potomac Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1992, Section 7: page 26 and Section 8: page 54.

³² Terry Necciai and Arianna Drumond, "Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2008/2010, Section 8: page 299. Accessed 03 January 2020 at: http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Alexandria/100-0133_Uptown-Parker_Gray_2011_FINAL_amended_nomination.pdf

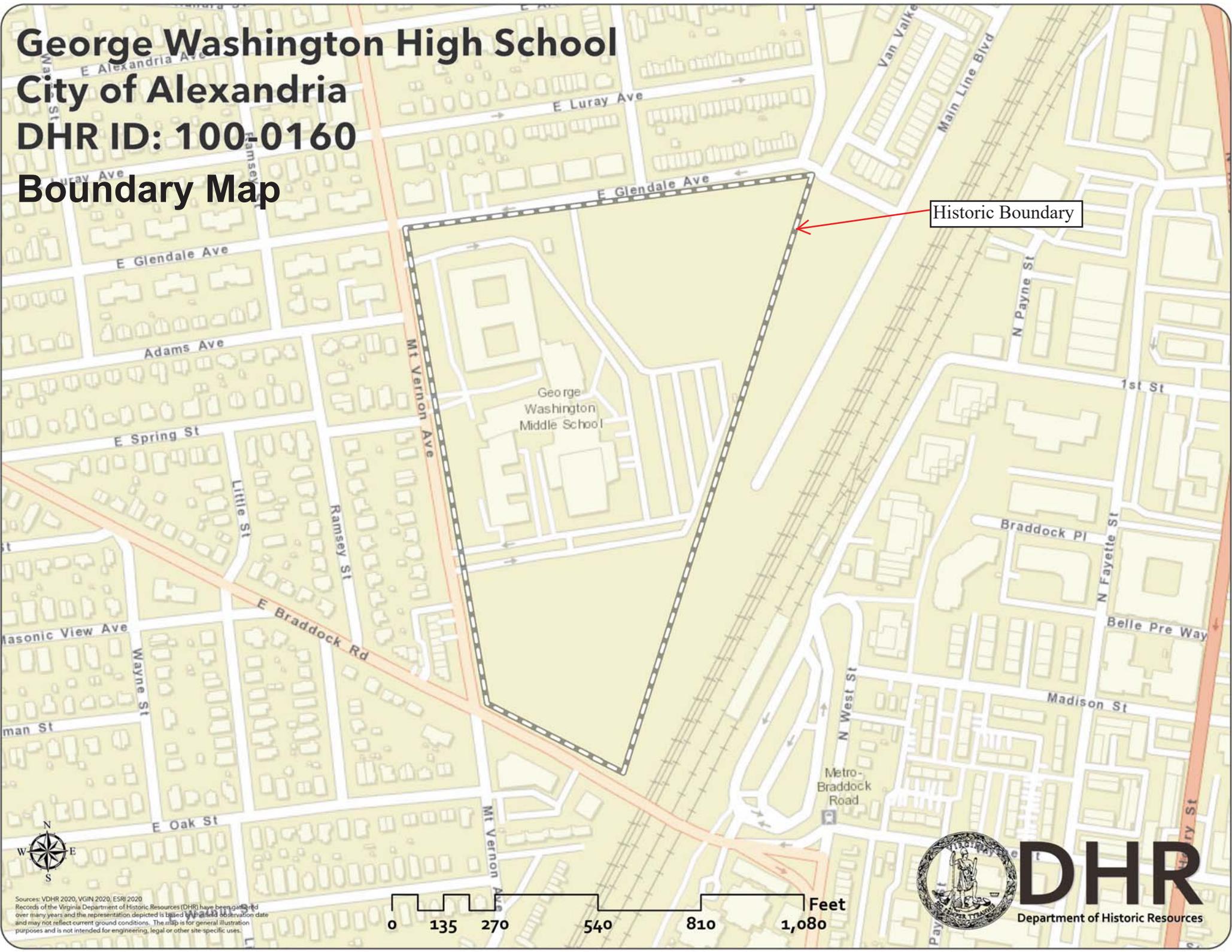
³³ Al Cox, City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, "An Analysis of the Alexandria Union Station: An Historic Structure Report," Prepared for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, 14 February 1995, page 44. Accessed 13 June 2014 at: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation\(1\).pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation(1).pdf)

³⁴ Vertical File, "Schools: High Schools in Alexandria." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. See also: Dave Beach, *George Washington High School*, website, last updated 2 September 2012. Accessed 11 February 2020 at: <http://gwhsaa.com/st-history.html>

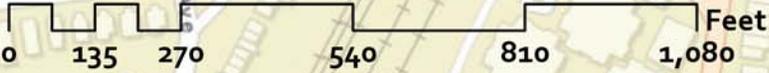
³⁵ "Joe Namath Made his pro football debut at George Washington High School in Alexandria," in *Washington Post*, January 7, 2013. Also, Mark Jones. "Before He Was Broadway Joe" in *PBS/WETA Boundary Stones*, 12.6.12.

George Washington High School City of Alexandria DHR ID: 100-0160 Boundary Map

Historic Boundary



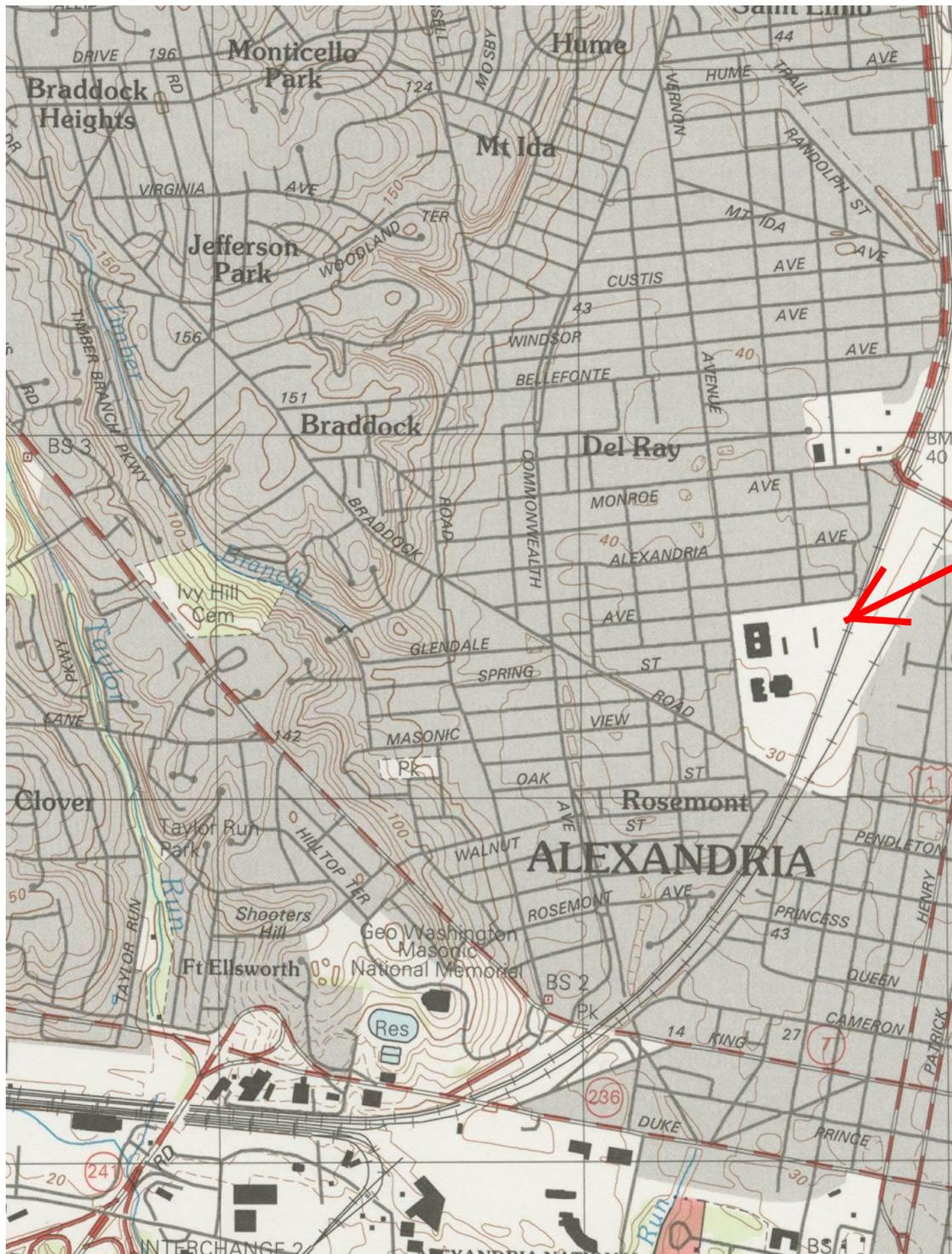
Sources: VDR 2020, VGIN 2020, ESRI 2020
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the best information available and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.



DHR
Department of Historic Resources

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Name of Property

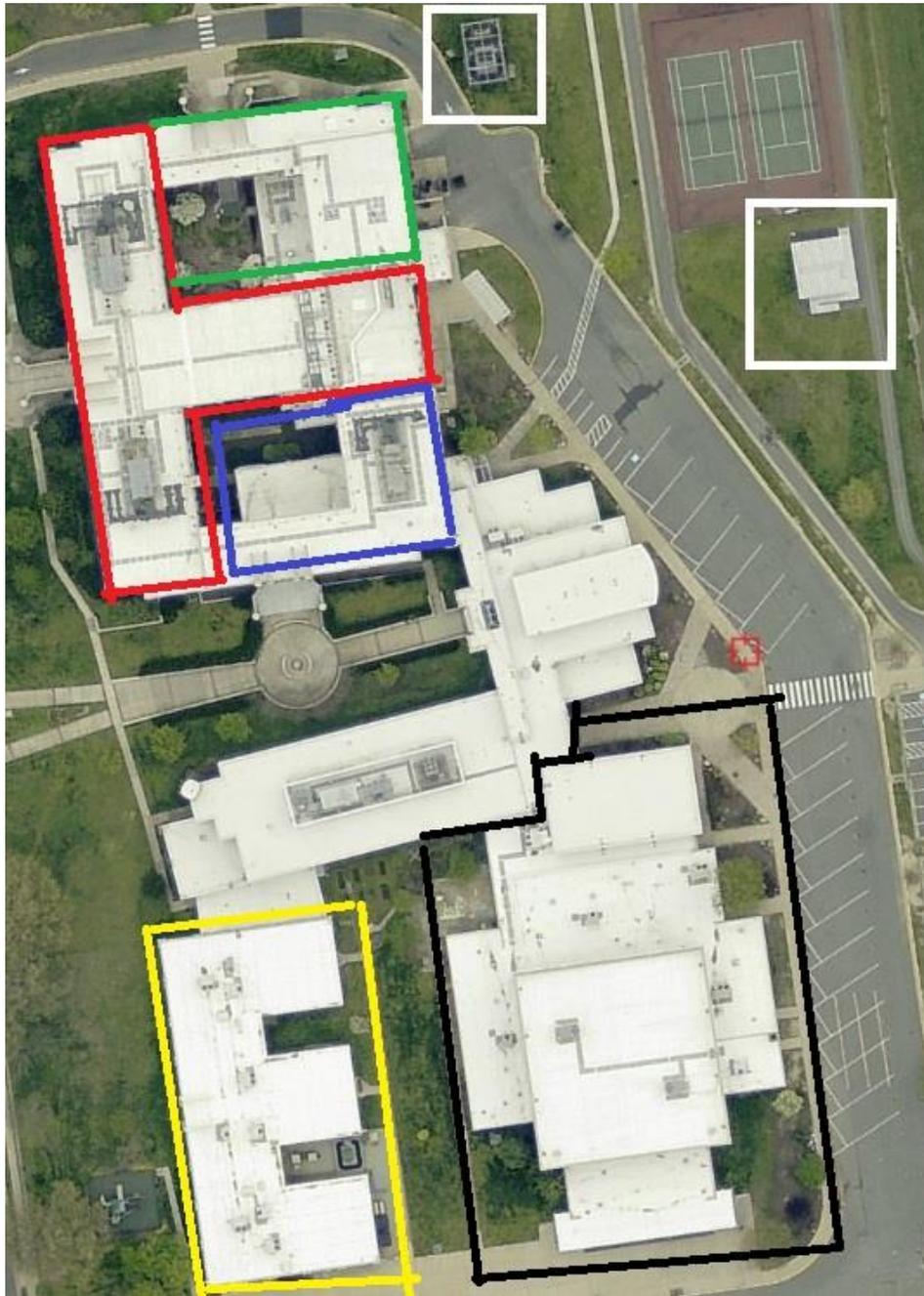
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George Washington High School, City of Alexandria, Virginia. VDHR #100-0160.
Alexandria Quadrangle. NAD 1983. Zone 18. North is top.

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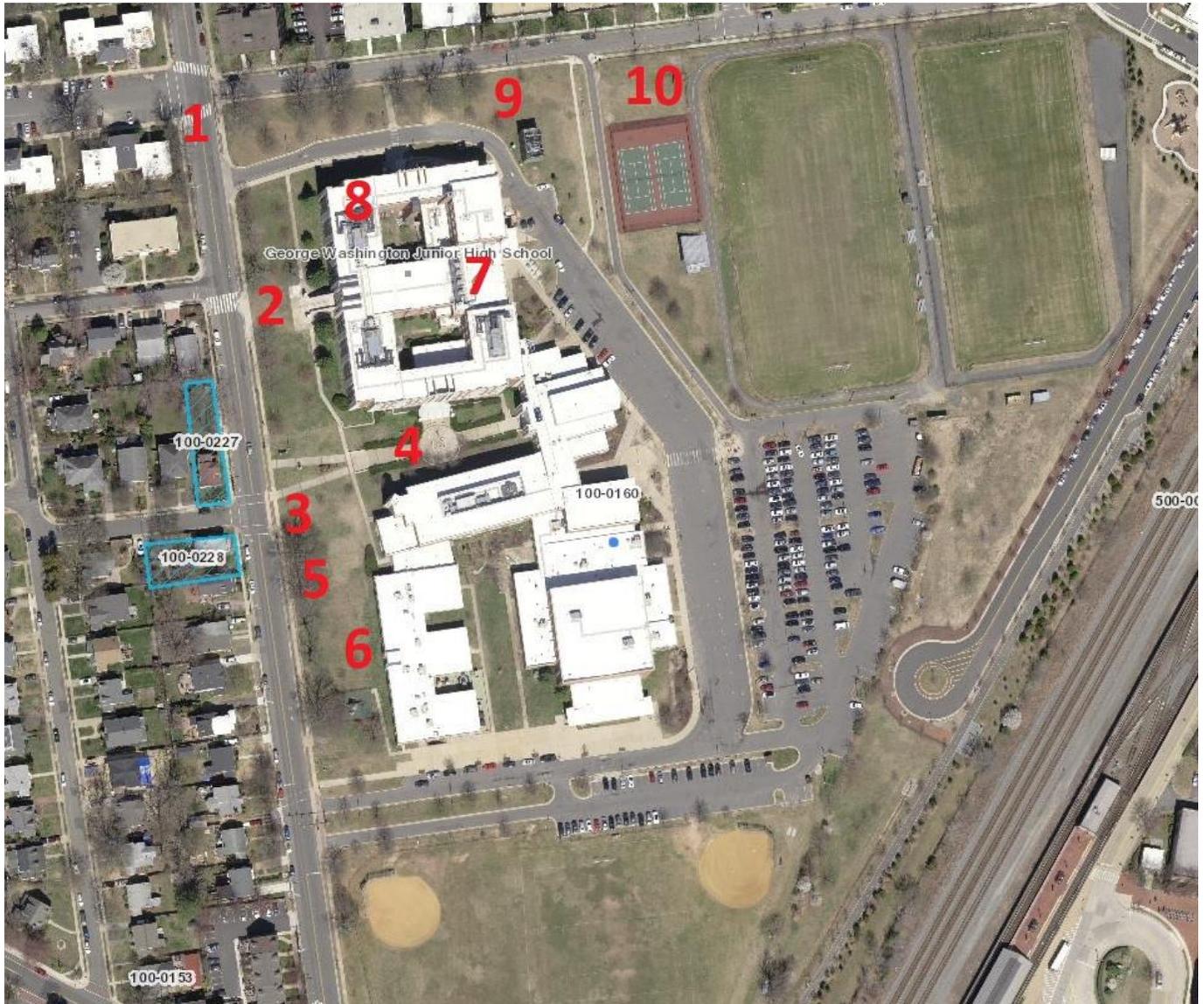
Alexandria, VA
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George Washington High School, City of Alexandria, Virginia. VDHR #100-0160.
North is top. Red T: Original school building; Yellow square: Mechanical Arts Building; Blue square: 1938 addition; Green square: 1947 addition; White small squares: non-contributing bleachers and electrical building; Black square: Tulloch Memorial Gym; Remainder: 2002/03 addition.

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George Washington High School, City of Alexandria, Virginia. VDHR #100-0160.
Photo key. North is top.