

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Booker T. Washington High School
other name/site number: Grant Junior High School, Grant Elementary

2. Location

street & number: Off US 60, Wyatt Street not for publication: N/A
city/town: London Vicinity vicinity: X
state: WV county: Kanawha code: 039 zip code: 25126

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 nationally statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce 10/8/99
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

Booker T. Washington H.S.
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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____ 1 _____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____ 1 _____	_____ 0 _____	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

SOCIAL: Community Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MODERN MOVEMENT:
Streamlined Moderne

Materials

Foundation: Concrete Block
Walls Brick, Tile Block
Roof Asphalt
Other _____

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1925 to 1956

Significant Dates

1925

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

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

Montgomery Quad Map

17 467480 4228000
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description
(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO Date: September 10, 1999

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

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

Name: Washington High School Alumni Association
Attention: Louise Anderson, President

Street & Number: PO Box 6 Telephone: 304/442-8603

City or Town: Cannelton State: WV Zip: 25036

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National Park Service

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The Washington High School is sited on the river side of U.S. 60, next to the railroad tracks for the old C&O Railroad. The school is sited between Cedar Grove and London. In the rear of the property is a nearby ballfield with a residential area. To the east of the building is a large grassed area with play equipment. The two story wire brick building is slightly L-shaped with a rear section in tile block and brick. The building has a concrete foundation and watertable.

The front or east facade has a center entrance with a projecting gable and double doors with a multi-light transom and a stone surround. Attached to the entrance is a later shed portico with metal posts. Near the roof edge is corbelled brick in two tones of color, repeated across the building in a stringcourse pattern. Over the doorway are three decorative pieces of stone at the parapet level. A concrete or stone cap sets off the roof edge. On the far left section of the front facade the wall projects out. On this section is a pattern of a square block of stone in a stepped pattern with corbelled brick in horizontal rows dropping down. The building has ribbon rows of windows, on the front and south facades, with the original metal multi-lights and awning style of openings. The first floor windows have been covered with a stiff wire to deter vandalism and a wire fence with barbed wire surrounds the property.

The rear or west facade, has various projections with several doors leading into a small yard area. The doorways all have shed overhangs. The wall behind the gym is solid brick with a row of single metal windows below on the lower level. The north wall is partially tile block with single windows, and a double door on the main floor with a paired window above. A set of double doors is also on the lower level.

The interior of the building has intact classrooms with brown boards for blackboards. The woodwork on the baseboards and trim is intact, with the rooms having plaster walls, hardwood floors and lockers. The ceilings have been changed in some areas with new lights and dropped ceilings. But 3-4 rooms still have the original ceilings with dropped lights and glass globes. On the main floor is a large gym and stage area. A second floor balcony is accessed from the hallway.

The Booker T. Washington High School is a simplified Classical Revival design in what could be called a Streamlined Moderne style, with the main facade having the pedimented doorway, and decorative brick and stone designs. The building is relatively unaltered, with original windows and interior plan.

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The Booker T. Washington High School is significant under Criteria A for Education and Criteria C for Architecture. The period of significance is 1925 to 1956, the year the school opened to serve eastern Kanawha County and the surrounding area until desegregation took effect. Criteria Consideration G is used to bring the date of significance to 1956.

The development of Booker T. Washington High School came about because of a frustration that no educational facilities were available, in the area of eastern Kanawha County and Fayette County, for African Americans to have opportunities for higher learning after the eighth grade. Any attempt to further education, meant that students had to attend classes at WV Colored Institute, now known as WV State College in Institute, WV. This provided a hardship for many families. Other high schools in other areas could not take out-of-town students because there was not a place for students to stay, while Institute had dormitories for those few who could pay room and board.

In 1924, Mr. J. H. Oliver, a superintendent of Cabin Creek District, and Mr. Edward Smith, Secretary of the Board of Education, suggested to Mr. Bernard Brown that the parents try to get a school in the district. As a result of this suggestion, students wrote letters to parents and other schools asking them to unite in an effort to secure a Junior-Senior High School.

The Cabin Creek District Board of Education was approached and the petition was presented. The petition was met formally and funds were allocated to build a high school in the town of London. It must be noted that the participation of families from every coal camp in the Cabin Creek District supported and gave its time and energy and money in the cause of building the high school.

The plans for the school were temporarily derailed when the town of Cedar Grove heard about the project in London and petitioned the board for the location of the school in their town. A satisfactory location could not be found in Cedar Grove. Ground was donated, however, by London residents and construction commenced.

On September 7, 1925, the high school for colored boys and girls of the Cabin Creek District opened. School convened in a two story brick dwelling with 35 students and 3 teachers. The teachers were Mrs. Roberta Yancey, Mr. Bernard Brown and Mr. Leonard Barnett, who also served as principal. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Andrew H. Calloway, the first coach arrived. He organized the football team. The student body officially moved into the building on December 17, 1925.

Students came from as far as 55 miles away, as well as from Ansted, Paint Creek, and Cabin Creek areas, and a few from near Oak Hill. Because students were so far from the school, the school board bought a mine bus and helped a 16 year old boy get his license to drive the bus. The board also made arrangements with the C&O Passenger train which ran four times a day from Charleston to Gauley Bridge to transport the Fayette County students to London. The train stopped opposite the school to pick up and drop off.

By May 1929, the faculty had increased to 7 and the student enrollment to 184. Much had been accomplished - clubs organized, a variety of courses offered, athletics introduced and various

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extracurricular activities organized. A school newspaper, *The Washington Observer*, was published by the students. As enrollment continued to increase, it was found that there was a need for more varied offerings in subject matter. This in turn required a bigger staff and larger building.

So it was that Mr. Barnett and a group of interested patrons and parents met the board and asked that because of these needs a larger building be erected. Washington High School became one of the projects of the 2 million dollar expansion program of Kanawha County in 1939. There was a complete renovation of the building, including a new lighting system, a raised ceiling in the gymnasium, a sound proof gym and a music room, spacious corridors, 2 fire-proof stairways, and better fire protection for the building. A stage was placed in the gymnasium, with lower level dressing rooms having shower and toilet facilities. The building was expanded to include nine new classrooms.

In 1950, the school began to intensify its preparation to attain qualifications to gain membership in the North Central Association of Secondary School and Colleges. After an evaluation the school became a member in March 1953. The school continued in its educational efforts for colored students until the desegregation of schools took effect in 1956.

After the desegregation of the school, teachers were moved to other areas and the students went to high school in Cedar Grove. The school was renamed Grant Junior High and later, Grant Elementary until its closure in June 1986. The Washington High School Alumni Association was chartered in 1987 for the express purpose of converting the former Booker T. Washington High School into a community center for the Upper Kanawha Valley. The Association, a grass roots organization, completed the renovation of the first floor of the building which was extensively damaged during the two years it was vacant. The building was formally opened on November 11, 1989 for limited use and continues today as a community center.

The building is a Streamlined Moderne style of red brick with ribbon windows, concrete stringcourse, and an L-shaped appearance from the front facade. The rear is staggered with varying projecting bays for the gymnasium and rear classrooms. The earlier section can still be perceived from the west side with the block construction still visible. The school has a remarkable number of original features such as the ribbon windows which are still intact. Vandalism has caused wire screening to be placed over the glass openings, and metal doors have been installed at the entrances. Even interior doors have had to be changed to metal openings against vandals. The interior spaces remain intact with many blackboards, baseboards and hallway lockers still in place.

Booker T. Washington represents one of two early black high schools in Kanawha County during the early part of the 20th century. Its construction in eastern Kanawha County for the Cabin Creek District opened educational opportunities for young students. The Streamlined Moderne style brick construction has remained unchanged and represents the period of the late 1930s when the building was enlarged to serve an increasing student enrollment.

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Bibliography

“School History,” *The Washingtonian*. London, WV: Washington High School, 1955.

The Washington Observer, issues from 1929, and 1930.

“Washington High School,” Column “Blacks in the Past,” *The WV Beacon Digest*. December 15, 1987.

“Washington High Alumni Association proposes renovation of School for community center.” *Charleston Gazette*. March 25, 1987.

Papers by Richard Brown, Katheren Abedlete, and the Washington High School Alumni Association. Obtained by Louise Anderson, August and September 1999. Attached to National Register file.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning on the NW corner of Wyatt and School Streets, and thence running South approximately 620 feet along the West side of Wyatt to the corner; Wyatt then turns West and the boundary follows the northern edge of the street for approximately 460 feet to the rear or West property line; thence turning North and running with the West property line to School Street; thence turning East and running along the South edge of School Street to Wyatt and the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This includes the property historically associated with the Booker T. Washington High School, and all land within the present fenced area.

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Name of Property: Booker T. Washington High School
Address US 60
Town London Vicinity, WV
County Kanawha County

Photographer: Erin Pogany, WV SHPO

Date: April 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 of 7: Front or East facade
 Camera looking SW

Photo 2 of 7: Front facade, south end
 Camera looking NW

Photo 3 of 7: Main Entrance
 Camera looking W

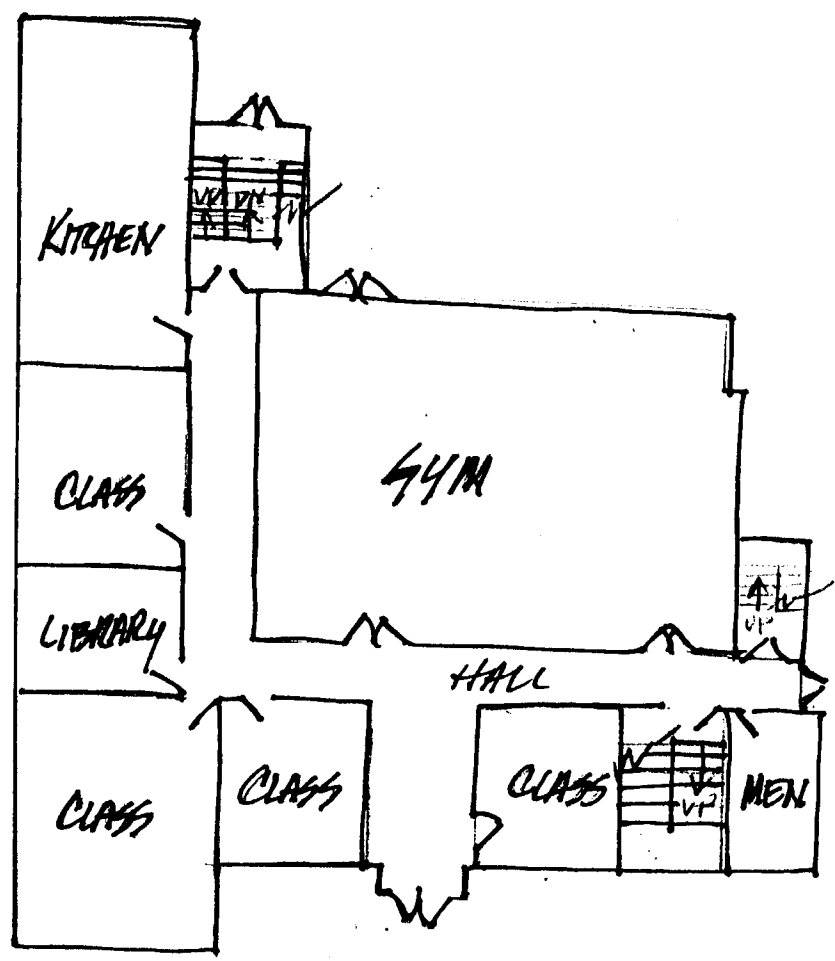
Photo 4 of 7: South Facade
 Camera looking N

Photo 5 of 7: Rear or West facade, North end
 Camera looking E

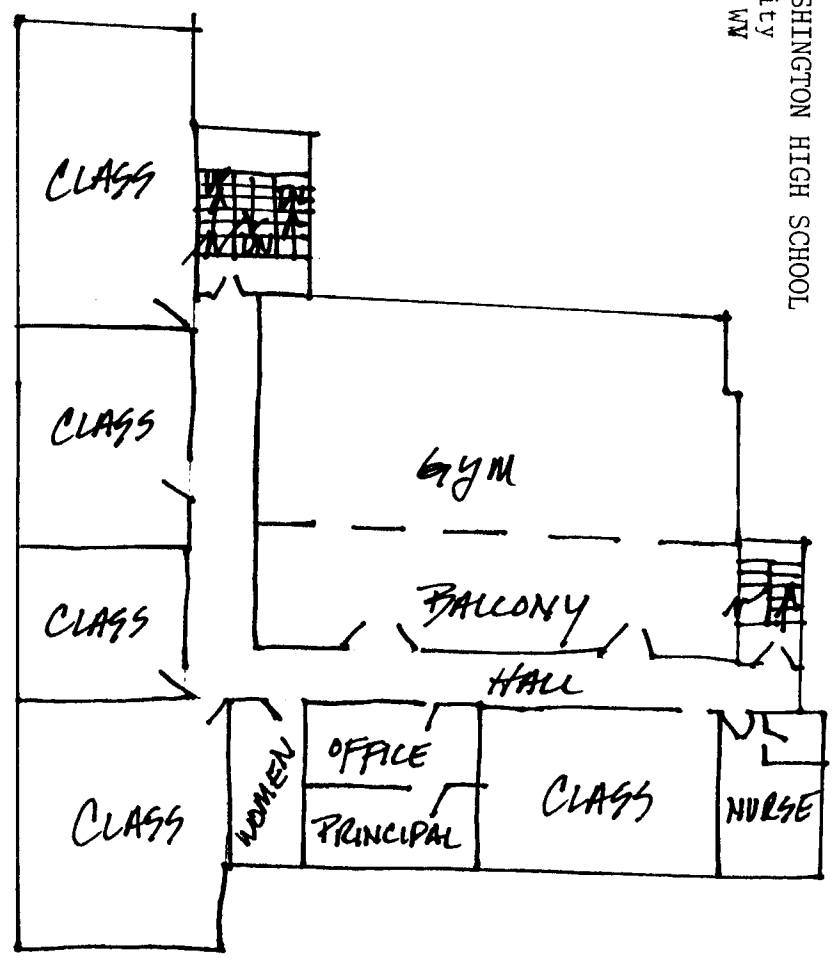
Photo 6 of 7: Rear or West facade
 Camera looking SE

Photo 7 of 7: North facade
 Camera looking S

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
London Vicinity
Kanawha Co., WV
Floorplans



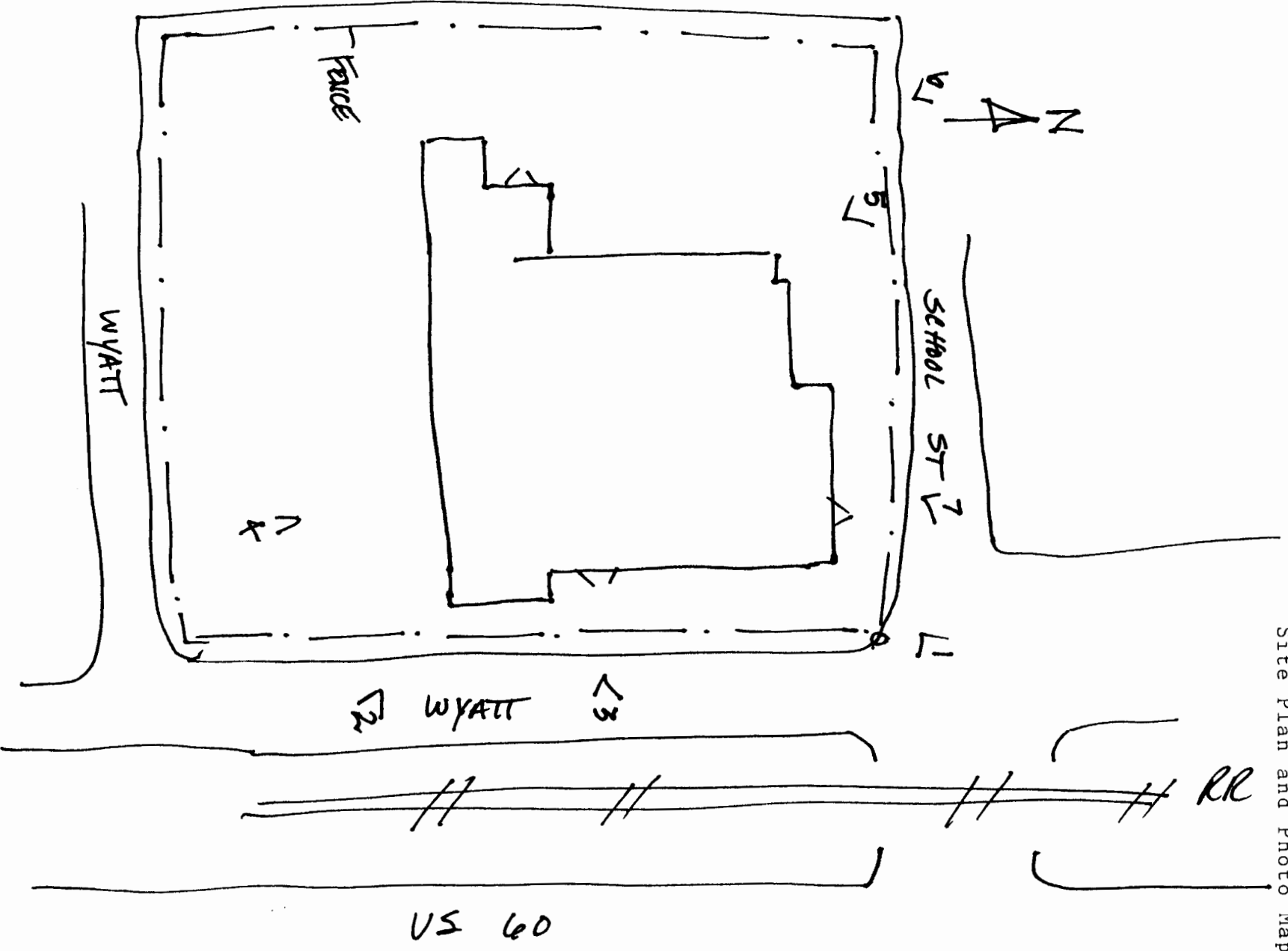
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

Booker T. Washington H.S.
London Vicinity
Kanawha County, WV

Site Plan and Photo Map



WASHINGTON HS
17 467 480
4228000
MONTGOMERY

