

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

other names /site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 900 Eighth Street Not for publication N/A

city or town Huntington Vicinity N/A

state West Virginia code 011 county Cabell zip code 25703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of certifying official

2/10/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals - Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Synthetic
walls Brick

other Stone columns and friezes
Terra cotta ornamentation

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1916 Significant Dates 1916

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Ritter, Versus T., Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

The books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form are listed on a continuation sheet.

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: City of Huntington, Dept. of Development & Planning

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.45 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Quad Map:
<u>17</u>	<u>3 74,000</u>	<u>42 52,500</u>	<u>Huntington</u>

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet

Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Dixon, Director of Planning
organization City of Huntington date September 1, 1999
street & number P. O. Box 1659, 800 Fifth Avenue telephone (304) 696-4438
city or town Huntington state WV zip code 25717

Property Owner

name William Dotson, President, Huntington High Limited Partnership
street & number 30 Northcott Court telephone (304) 526-4442
city or town Huntington state WV zip code 25701

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

Narrative Description:

The former Huntington High School consists of the original building with three additions and a converted carriage house. The main building was constructed from buff brick in 1916 and rises four and one-half stories high. The building contains 123,000 sq. ft. and forms a long rectangle with a shorter rectangular wing on each end of the main rectangle. The wings are flush with the long rectangle, and extend toward the rear of the property, forming a "U" shape with a courtyard at the rear of the building. The courtyard area, however, was later enclosed with newer additions. The first, or ground, floor of the building is raised almost a full story above grade. This arrangement has allowed for an elaborate exterior staircase to be centered front with access to the main floor entrance. Attached to the rear of the north wing is a buff colored brick gymnasium addition of 13,240 sq. ft., which was constructed in 1951; and a buff colored brick cafeteria addition, constructed in 1956 of 436 sq. ft. The kitchen is located in an older red brick building built in 1916, which could have been a carriage house. It is also located in the courtyard area and connects to the cafeteria. Connected to the south wing is a buff colored brick addition of 18,836 sq. ft., constructed in 1977 which contains a library, the music department, classrooms and mechanical and maintenance rooms. Total square footage is 155,512.

The main portion of the high school building was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. It is an impressive example of this period of American architecture and demonstrates its significance to the community. A grand double stairway built of limestone leads from grade to the first floor level. It has limestone balustrades and steps, with buff colored brick cheek walls. There is a round open archway in the center which is edged in stone. The stairway is supported by flat arches over the front driveway.

There is a wide stone belt course at the raised first floor level. The front entrance has three round arched openings with double doors and semi-circular transoms above. The door openings are flanked by four cylindrical stone columns which are two stories in height. Decorative stone panels, medallions, and entablatures with carved shields and educational quotations crest each door opening. The columns have stone Doric capitals and are crowned with a decorative stone entablature and frieze with the name of the building carved in stone. There is a projecting cornice and dentil molding above. The facade is capped with a stone cornice which runs around the perimeter of the building. In the center portion is a raised parapet with an open stone balustrade topped with ornamental urns.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

The windows are not original and were replaced in the 1970's. The original windows were wood 9/9 double-hung sashes. The windows are linked together in pairs with brick pilasters separating the fenestration. Each pilaster is capped with a stone capital. Another stone belt course between the second and third floor forms a large projecting cornice. Flanking the ends of the original building are solid brick areas with an applied terra cotta medallion on the second floor level and terra cotta pilasters and a picture molding.

The side of the original building repeats the fenestration from the front. There is a pair of doors on each side of the building. Above the doors is a projecting terra cotta false balcony with brackets and an open balustrade. There are several terra cotta panels between the windows.

The gymnasium, cafeteria, and music/library additions are devoid of ornamentation and indicative of the period architecture when they were constructed. They were built with light colored buff brick with some stone work. They are compatible but do not reflect the grandeur of the original building.

The building contains 155,512 square feet of space. Interior access through the building is by means of a stair tower located in each wing of the building, adjacent to the central portion of the building. The stair towers are open from the ground floor to the third floor. A stair tower on either side of the auditorium allows access from the first floor to the half story above the third floor. There is an elevator which goes from the ground floor to the third floor. There is another stair tower at the end of the north wing which allows access from the ground floor to the third floor. A one story stair tower connects the music department to the library above. There is an exterior metal fire escape from the third floor to grade at the rear of the south wing.

The original gymnasium is located in the rear center of the building below the auditorium. This gym with adjoining locker room and office space is located completely below grade and forms a basement level. There is a rear exit from the gym which leads directly to the exterior and is accessed by an exterior set of stairs. On the same level as the ground floor of the building in the gymnasium area is a running track and viewing area. Adjacent to the gymnasium on the basement level is the original mechanical room which contains two large inoperative boilers, an air handling unit and assorted electrical and plumbing equipment. Directly behind the mechanical room, forming a half-story between the basement and ground floor levels, is a large storage room with direct access to the exterior.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

The ground floor of the building is accessed through a central stairway under the main building entrance with a ground level doorway in each wing. Adjacent to the central entrance is a custodial/maintenance office and storage room. Located in this office area is a control panel for the fire suppression system. The corridor of the ground floor basically forms a "U" shape. On the outside of the "U" on the remainder of the ground floor are classrooms with access to the gymnasium and music department. The inside of the "U" provides access to the cafeteria, original gymnasium, original boiler/mechanical rooms, and the new boiler/mechanical room. A new gymnasium is located in an addition. It contains a regulation basketball court, men's and women's locker rooms, and pull out bleachers on both sides of the basketball court. The music department is located in another addition and it has a variety of practice and band rooms with acoustical treatment. The new boiler room contains two gas fired hot water boilers which are less than five years old, as well as a new electrical service. At the rear of the boiler room is a large storage room which has outside access via an overhead garage door.

The first floor of the building is accessed by means of the front entrance, an elevator and interior stair towers. On either side of the main entrance are offices which are located on the outside of the buildings' "U", as well as classrooms. On the inside of the "U" is access to the auditorium, interior stairwells, restrooms, and two service rooms.

The second floor of the building is accessed by means of the elevator and stair towers. The second floor is comprised entirely of classrooms and the balcony of the auditorium. The third floor of the building is accessed by means of the elevator and interior stair towers. The third floor is comprised of classrooms. There is a half story above the third floor which is located above the auditorium and consists of three classrooms.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Huntington High School is significant under Criteria C for Architecture due to its Neo-Classical Revival details. The building's date of construction in 1916 serves as its period of significance.

The building was designed by Versus T. Ritter who was a local architect in Huntington, WV. He also designed the Huntington City Hall Building in 1914 and the Huntington National Bank Building in 1914. Both of these buildings are still standing in the Downtown Huntington National Register Historic District. All three of these buildings are excellent examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture which was popular after the turn of the century in the period of 1910 to 1920 in Huntington.

By 1887, the Cabell County School System established a three grade high school in the prayer meeting room of the old Congregational Church, located on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street in the Downtown. The school was later moved to the Council Chambers of City Hall, originally located on the east side of Ninth Street and 4 ½ Alley.

In 1890, Huntington High School was given two rooms in the Oley School Building which was built in 1888 and named for the Union Civil War General John H. Oley. The 1890 graduating class had two students. The Oley School Building was located at Fifth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. It was demolished in the 1970's.

The first high school building was completed in 1916 at Eighth Street which is the building recommended for nomination. The building was designed for an enrollment of 1,100 students. By 1928 however, the high school had two sessions per day to accommodate an enrollment of 2,198 students.

The former Huntington High School building has been the center of secondary public education for the City of Huntington from 1916 until 1995, when a new facility was constructed. At one time, the City of Huntington was able to boast that it had more students who went on to become Rhodes Scholars than any other school of its size.

The need for a separate high school building became apparent in the early 1900's with the growing number of students. This was a reflection of the various trends that were taking place during the early decades of the City and its rise in population during its formative years. There was an increasing population nationally, beginning in the 1880's with an increased percentage of Americans living in urban areas. In

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**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

the 1880 Census, which was the first census conducted after the founding of the City of Huntington, the urban population of the United States was roughly 25% of the overall population. West Virginia's urban population was 8.7% of the state's total population. By 1920, for the first time in American history, the urban population exceeded 50%, while the state's urban population had increased to 25% of the total population.

This growing urbanization was reflected in the rapid growth of the City of Huntington. At the time that the City first offered high school classes back in 1888, approximately 10,000 residents lived in the City of Huntington. By 1920, the City's population had increased to over 50,000 people. Therefore, the need for a high school was justified with a capacity of 1,100 students.

The building occupies a block in a prominent location on a major thoroughfare in the heart of the city. The former high school building is an excellent example of the grand architectural style of public and institutional buildings that were built from 1910 to 1929. The building is unique in that it retains the majority of its original Neo-Classical Revival features and materials. One of the most outstanding features is the grand double staircase on the front elevation that leads to the main floor. A stone balustrade encloses the stairs on both sides. The elevated staircase allows for a carriage driveway underneath for passengers to disembark and enter the building on the ground floor level. The facade has a stone colonnade with two story columns flanking three sets of arched double entrance doors. There are stone spandrels and terra cotta panels and friezes throughout. The parapet at the center of the building has an open stone balustrade capped with metal urns on the pilasters.

The Huntington High School warrants consideration as a historic building due to its grandiose architectural style and use of attractive, long lasting natural materials. As a center of secondary education for over eighty years, the building has gained local significance as many of its graduates went on to prominent positions in the community.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

Bibliographical References -

“Huntington An Illustrated History - The Marshall University Edition” by James E. Casto
Published by the Marshall University Foundation
1997

“The City of Huntington – A Pictorial History”
Edited by Jill DeKeyer
Published by WSAZ Television 3
1995

The records and files of the Cabell County Board of Education, Huntington, WV

“A Feasibility Study for the Reuse of the Former Huntington High School” by Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.
1997

"A Survey of Downtown Huntington, Phase II" by Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater
1985

"Cabell County, West Virginia Heritage" by the KYOWVA Genealogical Society
1996

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

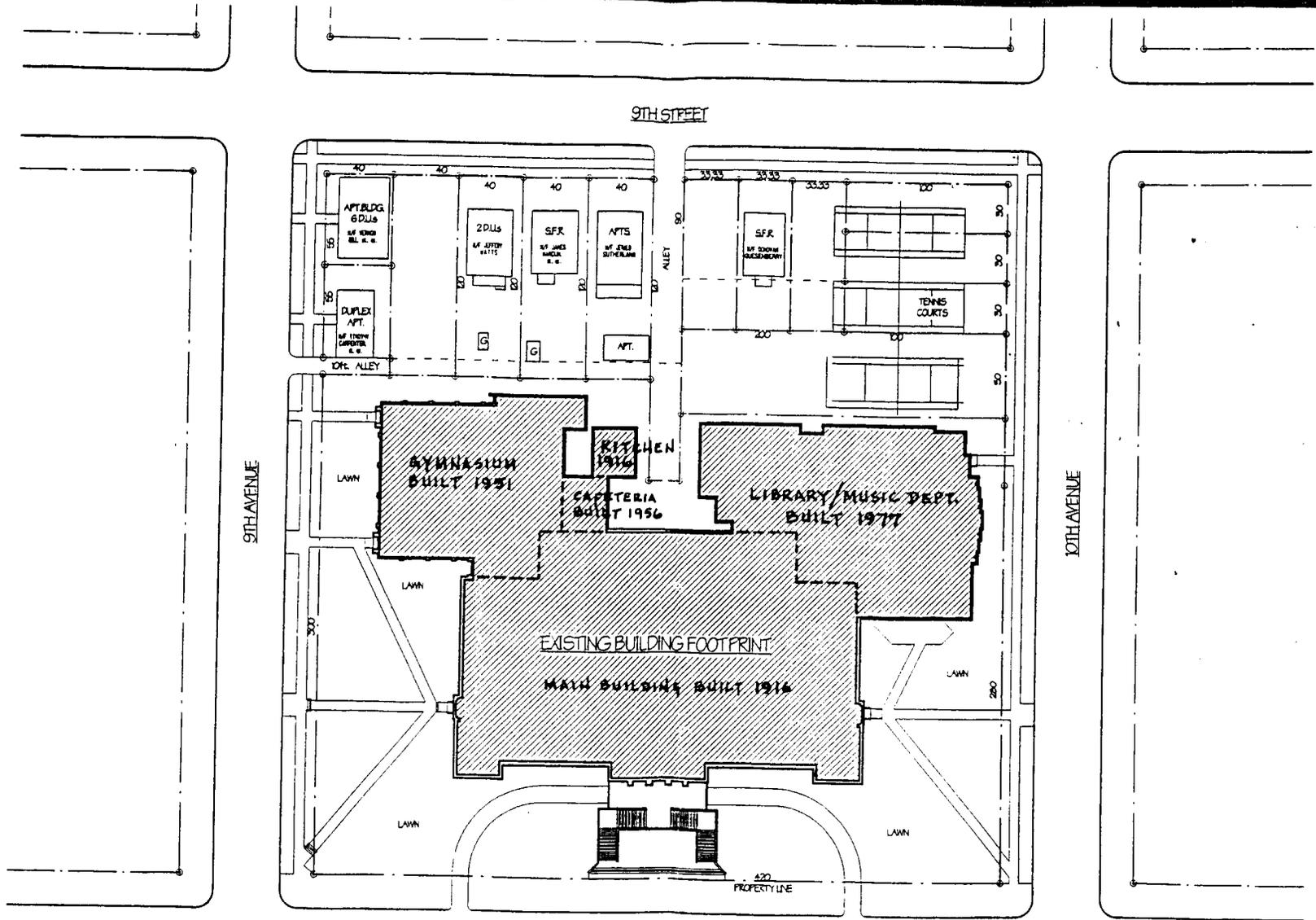
**Huntington High School
Cabell County, West Virginia**

Verbal Boundary Description -

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Ninth Avenue right-of-way with 8th Street right-of-way, thence southeastwardly along the easterly right-of-way line of 8th Street a distance of 420 feet to its point of intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of Tenth Avenue; thence northeastwardly along the northerly right-of-way of Tenth Avenue a distance of 420 feet to its point of intersection with the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street; thence northwestwardly along the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street a distance of 133.33 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcel 230 and Tax Map Parcel 231 of Block 101; thence southwestwardly along said property line a distance of 90 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcel 230 and Tax Map Parcel 235 of Block 101; thence northwestwardly along said property line a distance of 33.33 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcel 230 and Tax Map Parcel 229 of Block 101; thence northeastwardly along said property line a distance of 90 feet to its point of intersection with the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street; thence northwestwardly along the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street a distance of 33.33 feet to its point of intersection with the southerly right-of-way line of a 20 foot wide alley; thence southwestwardly along the southerly right-of-way of the alley a distance of 180 feet to its terminus; thence northwestwardly at a right angle a distance of 20 feet to its point of intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of the same alley; thence northeastwardly along the said northerly right-of-way line a distance of 60 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcels 226, 227 and 228 with Tax Map Parcel 222 of Block 101; thence northwestwardly along said property line a distance of 120 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcel 225 and Tax Map Parcel 226 of Block 101; thence northeastwardly along said property line a distance of 120 feet to its point of intersection with the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street; thence northwestwardly along the westerly right-of-way line of 9th Street a distance of 40 feet to its point of intersection with the property line separating Tax Map Parcels 223 and 224 with Tax Map Parcel 225 of Block 101; thence southwestwardly along said property line a distance of 120 feet to its point of intersection with the westerly right-of-way line of a 10 foot wide alley; thence northwestwardly along the westerly right-of-way line of the alley a distance of 40 feet to its point of intersection with the southerly right-of-way line of Ninth Avenue; thence southwestwardly along the said right-of-way line a distance of 300 feet to its point of intersection with the easterly right-of-way line of 8th Street, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification -

The boundary was chosen based on the property lines of the existing property of the former Huntington High School.



EXISTING SITE PLAN
 WEST ENTRANCE 8TH STREET
 1" = 60'-0"
 GENERAL NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCALE.



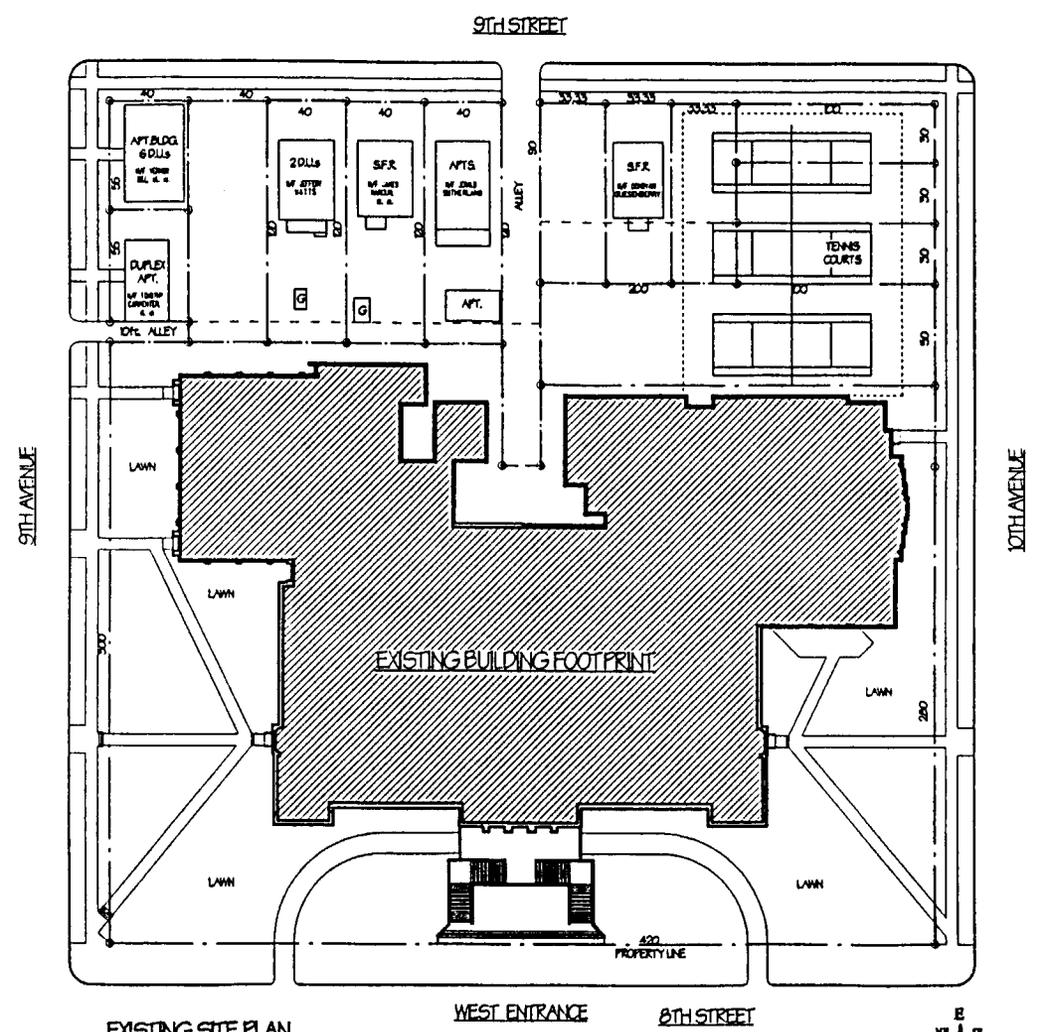
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SITE 1

HUNTINGTON HIGH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP - PROPOSAL, REFERRAL, SCHEMATIC DESIGN

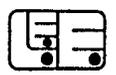


EXISTING SITE PLAN

1"=60'-0" GENERAL NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCALE



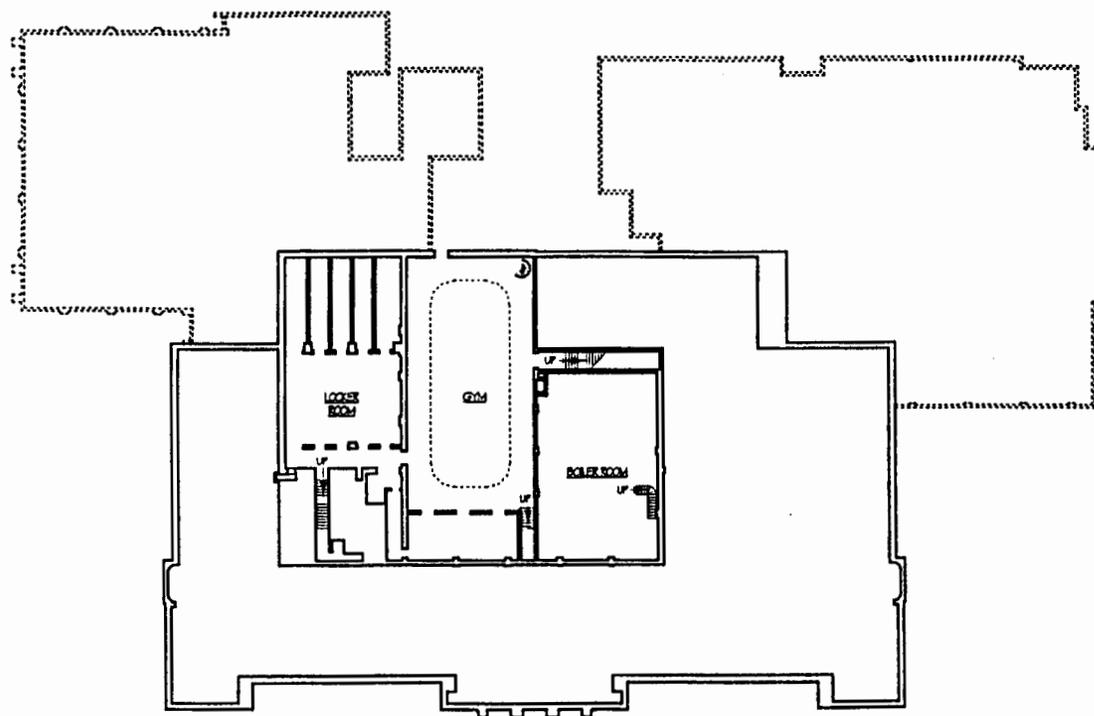
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SITE 1

HUNTINGTON LEGAL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP : EXISTING DOCUMENTATION
 901 Ave. A, 2nd Street, Huntington, West Virginia
 DATE: 02/18/99



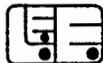
EXISTING BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

1" = 40'-0"

GENERAL NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCALE

NOTE

THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON ISA DOCUMENTS. ACCURACY HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED AND IS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.



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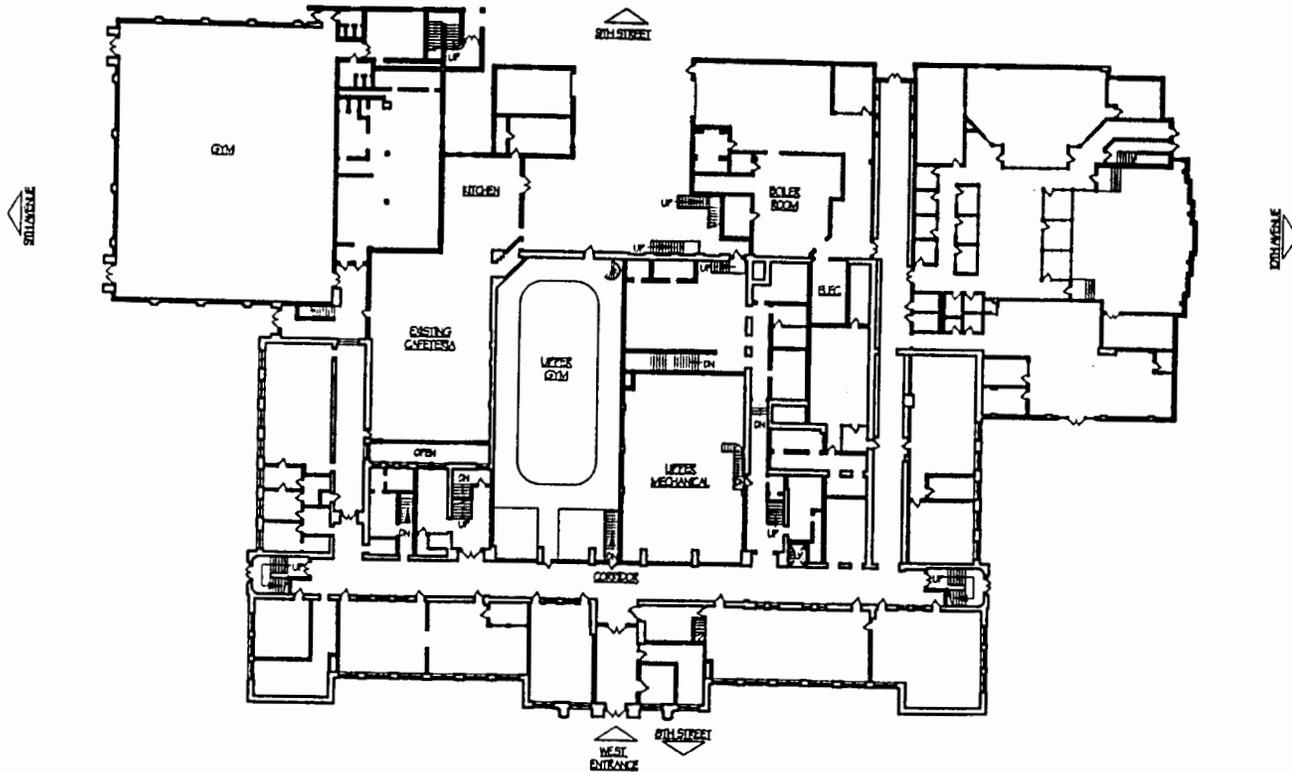
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HUNTINGTON HIGGE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP - EXISTING DOCUMENTATION

100 S. 10th Street, Huntington, West Virginia, 25301

DATE: 02/23/1999



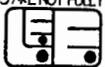


EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1" = 40'-0" GENERAL NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCALE.

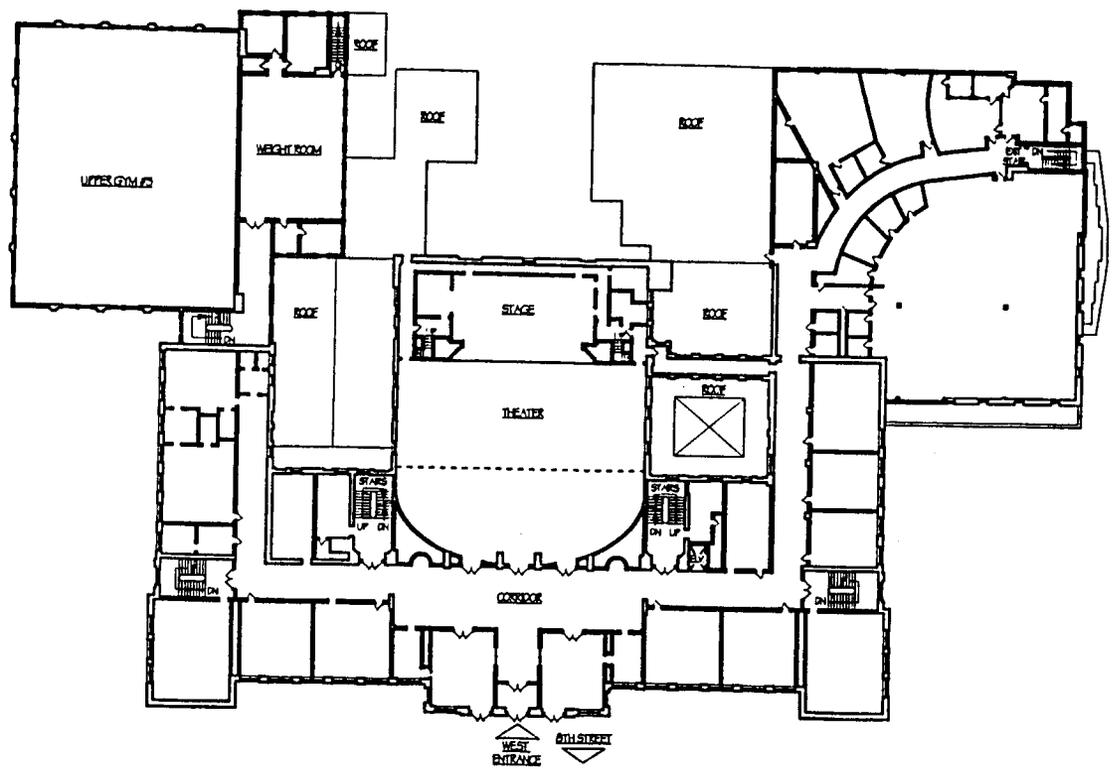


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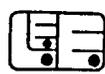
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 100 Ave. of the States Huntington, West Virginia
 25201-1000



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1" = 40'-0"

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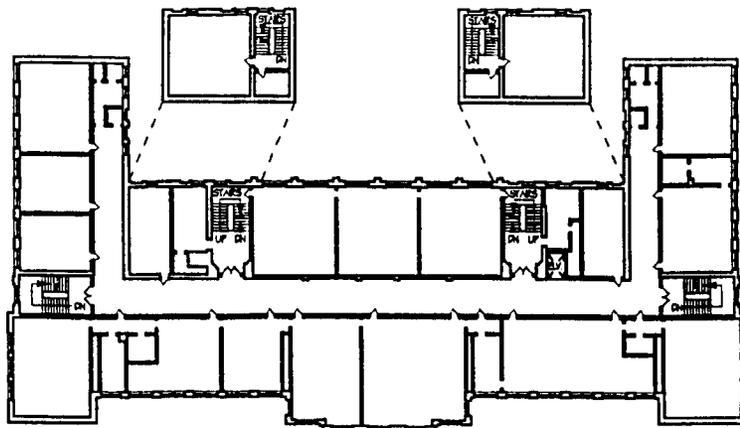


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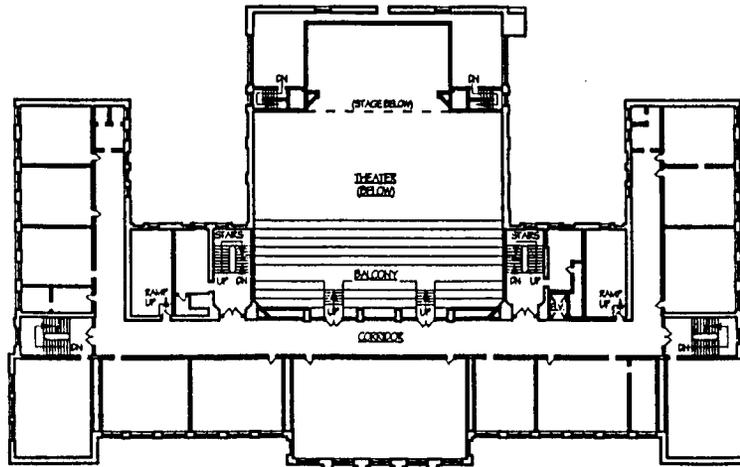
HUNTINGTON HIGH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP : EXISTING DOCUMENTATION
 301 Ave. A, 4th Floor, Huntington, West Virginia
 DATE: 02/18/99





EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN

1" = 40'-0" GENERAL NOTE: THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCALE

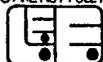


EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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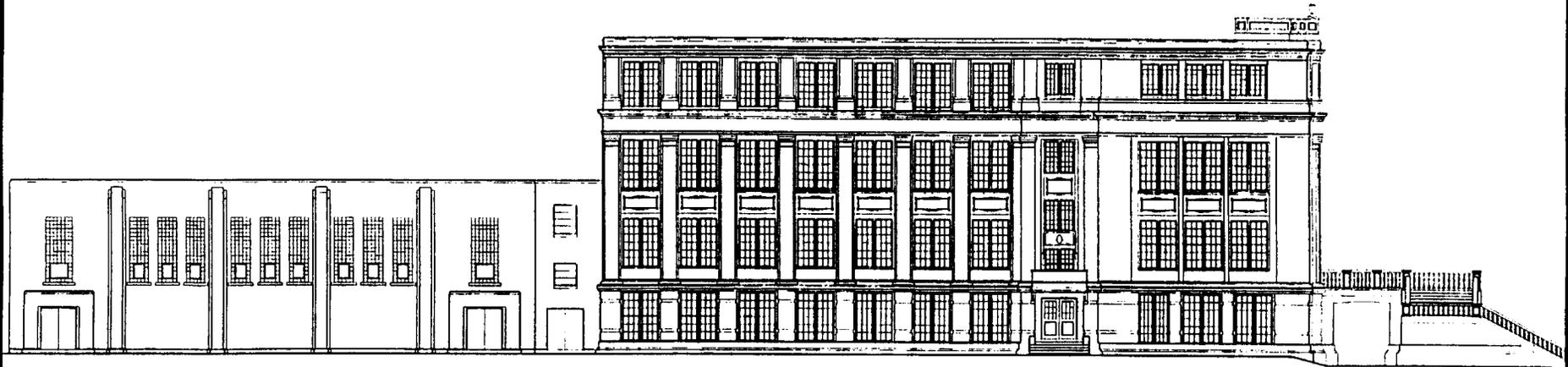
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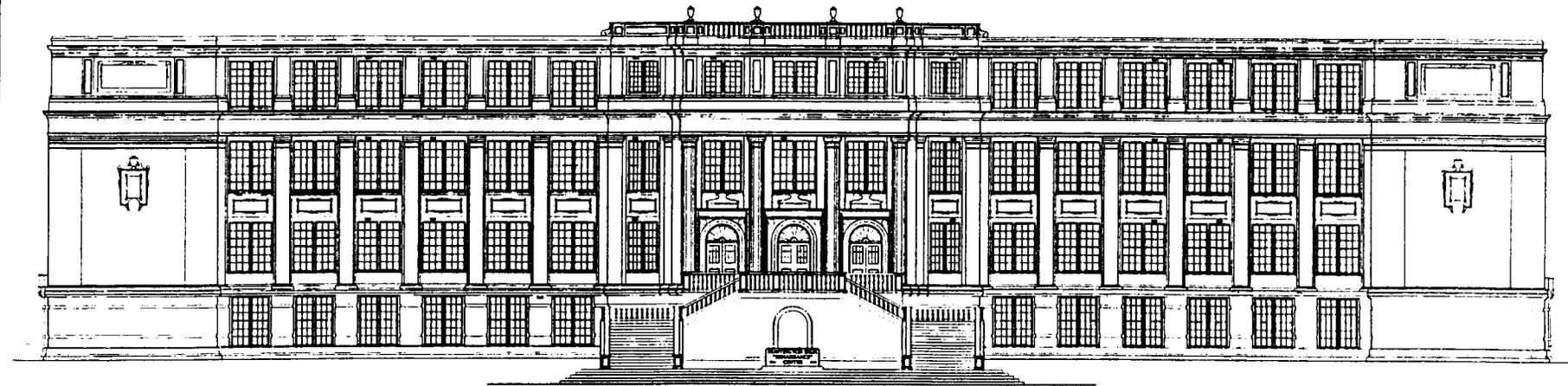
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9th Ave., S. 4th Street Huntington, West Virginia
DATE: 02/18/1999



SIDE ELEVATION (NORTH)
1/8" = 1'-0"



FRONT ELEVATION (WEST)
1/8" = 1'-0"

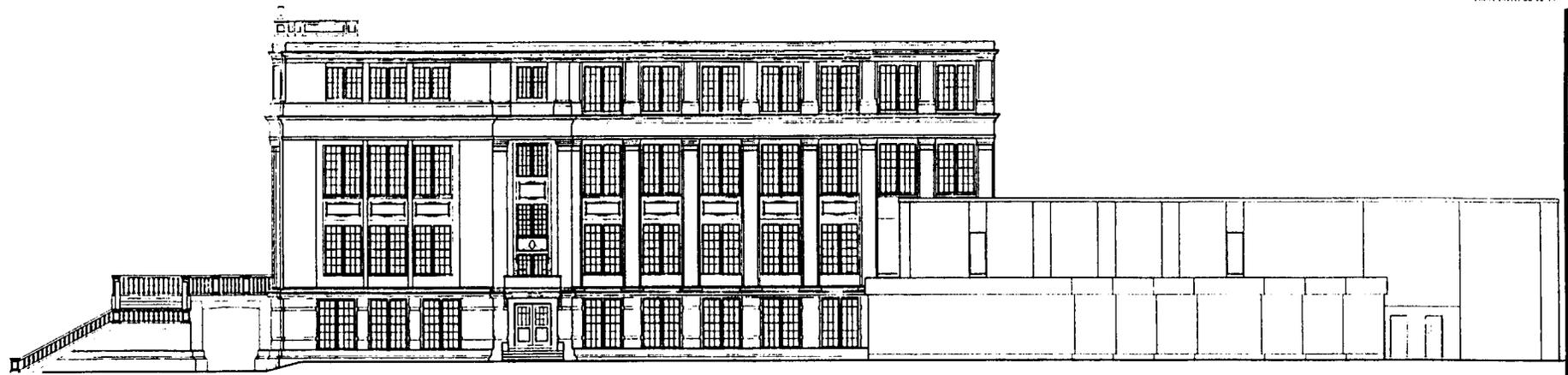
HUNTINGTON HIGH RENAISSANCE
OWNER: HUNTINGTON HIGH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
9th Ave. & 6th Street Huntington, West Virginia

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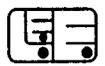


SIDE ELEVATION (SOUTH)

1/8" = 1'-0"

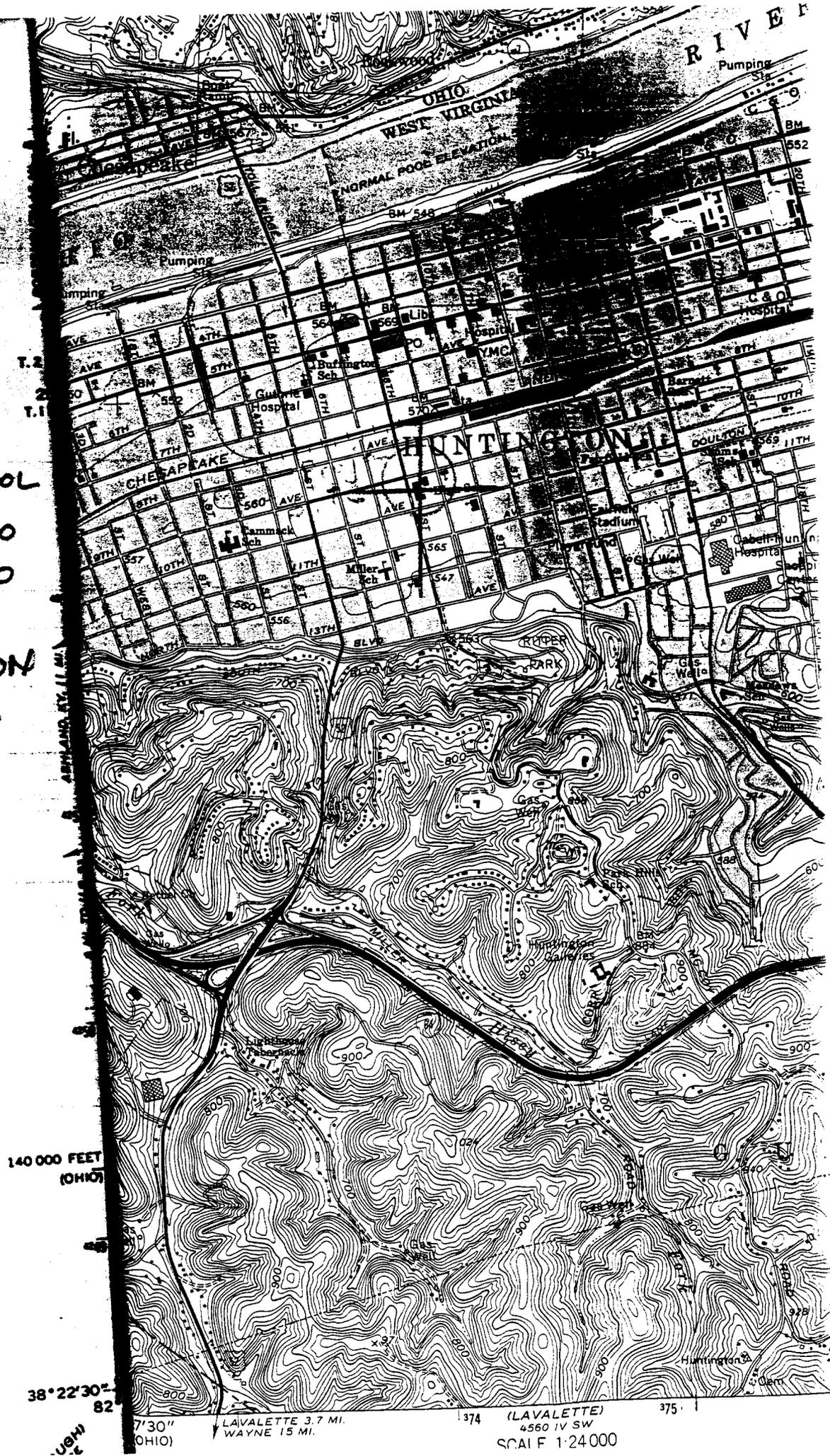
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904 Ave. B Bldg. Street Huntington, West Virginia
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JOB: 890112

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HUNTINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL
17 374000
4252500
HUNTINGTON
QUAD



140 000 FEET
(OHIO)

38° 22' 30"
82'

U.S.G.

LAVALETTE 3.7 MI.
WAYNE 15 MI.

374 (LAVALETTE)
4560 IV SW
SCALE 1:24000

375

