

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 6 1985

date entered MAR 7 1985

1. Name

historic (High School of Columbus, High School of Commerce)
and/or common CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

2. Location

street & number 75 South Washington Boulevard not for publication
city, town Columbus vicinity of congressional district
state Ohio code 039 county Franklin code 049

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Columbus Board of Education
street & number 270 East State Street
city, town Columbus vicinity of state Ohio

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Administration Building
street & number 440 South High Street
city, town Columbus state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no
date May, 1975 federal ☒ state county local
depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office
city, town Columbus state Ohio

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

(additions)

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Central High School is a monumental Neo-Classical Revival School built in 1924 of a shallow U-shaped plan which faces the Columbus civic center across the Scioto River. Sitting on a 17.87 acre site, the building serves as an anchor and important visual link between the government complex on the east and the west banks of the riverscape.

The structure is a three-story building (plus ground floor) of masonry bearing construction covering 243,594 square feet. Masonry walls with plain ashlar stone and granite facing are set on a poured concrete foundation. The majority of openings in the 19 bay facade have riveted steel frame multiple light windows. Entrances in the facade (east elevation) are through doors in the arms of the "U" or through a series of four fluted ionic columns detailing a central entrance. These columns are topped by an entablature with a frieze bearing the inscription "Central High School." Sunken courtyards with fountains (not operating currently) flank this entrance.

Interior details are significantly intact considering the school's activity from 1924-1982. These include: French doors with transoms, glazed decorative tiles behind drinking fountains, paneled wooden doors, curved wooden display cases and original natural woodwork in the hallways; plaster mouldings and ornament, iron grillwork and railings, and natural woodwork in select offices, large auditorium, and library; slate chalkboards flanked by enclosed wooden bookcases (built-in), narrow strip wood flooring, dais, and operable transoms over doors in classrooms; wooden stall doors, marble stalls, tile floors, and some original plumbing fixtures in bathrooms; and extensive skylights and subtle classical detailing throughout.

Major additions took place as follows:

1926 - Shop addition, Howard Dwight Smith, architect

1955 - 25' addition to southwest corner utilizing original stone for facing.

1955 - addition of northwest wing. Freshwater/Harrison, architects for both additions.

1966 - partial remodeling of school, Brubaker/Brandt, architects.

The original coal furnace has been converted to gas/oil.

Boundary justification:

The total acreage being nominated is 17.87 acres. This site includes the school building and its additions, the football field and stadium, the baseball field and parking lots to the north and south of the school. The total acreage is being nominated because it is the original parcel of land which was packaged for the school and because the site contributes to the planning significance of the school.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** William B. Ittner, St. Louis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria A and C

Central High School is significant as a fine example of a Neo-Classical Revival style educational facility in Columbus. It sits on a prime 17.87 acre site across the Scioto River from Columbus' civic center. The building site and style are directly responsive to the recommendations of the 1908 Columbus Plan. Furthermore, the structure is significant for its historical association with William B. Ittner of St. Louis, designer of the building. He was a nationally recognized leader in the design of educational facilities.

Outstanding architectural features of Central High School include the monumental columned entrance facing the river, the sunken courtyards, classical detailing throughout, and a well-preserved interior. Interior details include original naturally-finished woodwork, narrow strip floors, slate chalkboards flanked by enclosed bookcases, and dais in classrooms; wooden display cases and decorative tiles behind drinking fountains in hallways; plaster mouldings and ornament, iron grillwork and railings, and extensive skylights. Rooms of note are the large auditorium and library.

Central High School was the first structure built along the Scioto River following the publication of a 1908 Columbus Plan. The structure is in many ways responsive to that plan. Of particular relevance, the Plan recommends that an attempt be made to visually unite the east and west banks of the river, that schools be developed in conjunction with open spaces, parks and parkways, and that new buildings be classical in spirit and simple in composition. The stone facing material and massive scale do indeed provide an anchor and important visual link between the government complex and the west banks of the riverscape.

William B. Ittner, Central High School's architect, was a major figure in innovative school building design during the early decades of the 20th c. He served as Commissioner and Architect for School Buildings in St. Louis from 1897 to 1916, after which time he designed schools in more than 60 towns and cities throughout the Midwest, including Central High School in 1923. A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Ittner received a medal from the St. Louis chapter of the AIA for his achievements in the design and construction of school buildings, including his introduction of an "open plan" for school design. This provided maximum light and ventilation for classrooms. Central High School is significant as a product of this talented architect.

In relation to the educational history in the city of Columbus, Central High School is the descendant of the original public "High School of Columbus", organized September 22, 1847. C.1911 when the school was located in the central location of Broad & Sixth Streets, (the school's first permanent location) and after other public high schools were developing in the city, the school was informally called Central High. Officially, however, this school was titled Commerce High School, a name it kept until 1924 when the institution relocated. On September 2, 1924, 900 students reported to Central High School on Scioto Drive (now Washington Boulevard), the second permanent location for the institution and the subject of this nomination. Dr. Asa B. Lord, employed as superintendent of the school, in May, 1847, was the first superintendent of schools in the State of Ohio. He became one of the state's most famous educators.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- * Information from Myron Seifert, historian for Columbus Public Schools.
- * Architecture: Columbus, 1976.
- * Position paper from Columbus Landmarks Foundation, 1982.
- * City of Cols. Building Permit Records
- * Info. from Cols. Public Schools Architect's Office
- * Educational History of Ohio
- * Historical Sketches of Ohio
Public Schools, 1876.
- * A History of Education in Ohio
1876

10. Geographical Data

- *1908 Columbus Plan
- *National Cyclopedia of American Biography, 1930.
- *Cols. Dispatch & Citizen-Journal

Acreage of nominated property 17.87 acres

Quadrangle name Southwest Columbus, Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7
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3	2	8	4	2	0
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4	4	2	5	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	7
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3	2	8	6	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	2	5	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
---	---

3	2	8	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	2	4	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	7
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3	2	8	4	6	0
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4	4	2	4	8	0	0
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E

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathy A. Mast, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization

date August 16, 1982

street & number 991-B Manor Lane

telephone 614-457-3582

city or town Columbus

state Ohio 43221

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date

Jan 11, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date

3-7-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Central High School, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page

1

17.875 acres including:

Sullivant & Mitchell's Addition:

Partial Lots #1-3, 43, 44

Complete Lots #4-42

Ohio Tool Co. Subdivision:

Partial Lots #1, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24

Whole Lots #2-8, 19, 21, 23

Andrew C. Emmicks Subdivision

Whole Lots #1-9 (formerly lots 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 of O.T. Co's. Sub.)

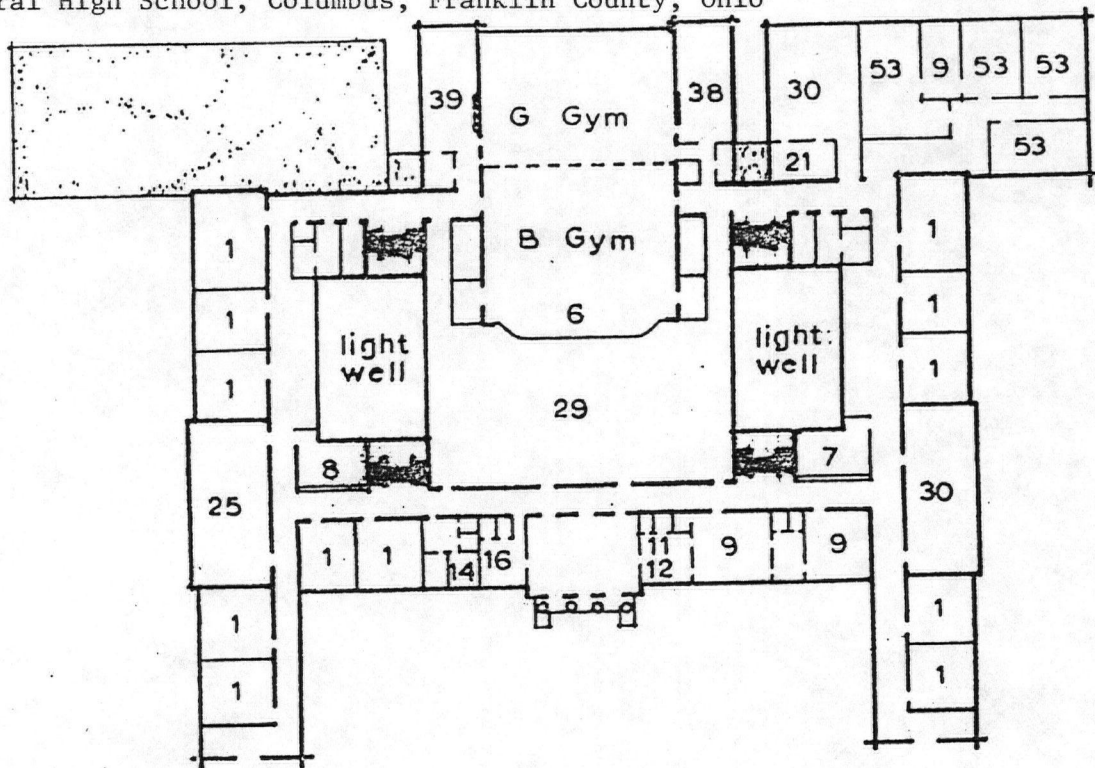
Sullivant's Western Addition

Whole Lots #135-144

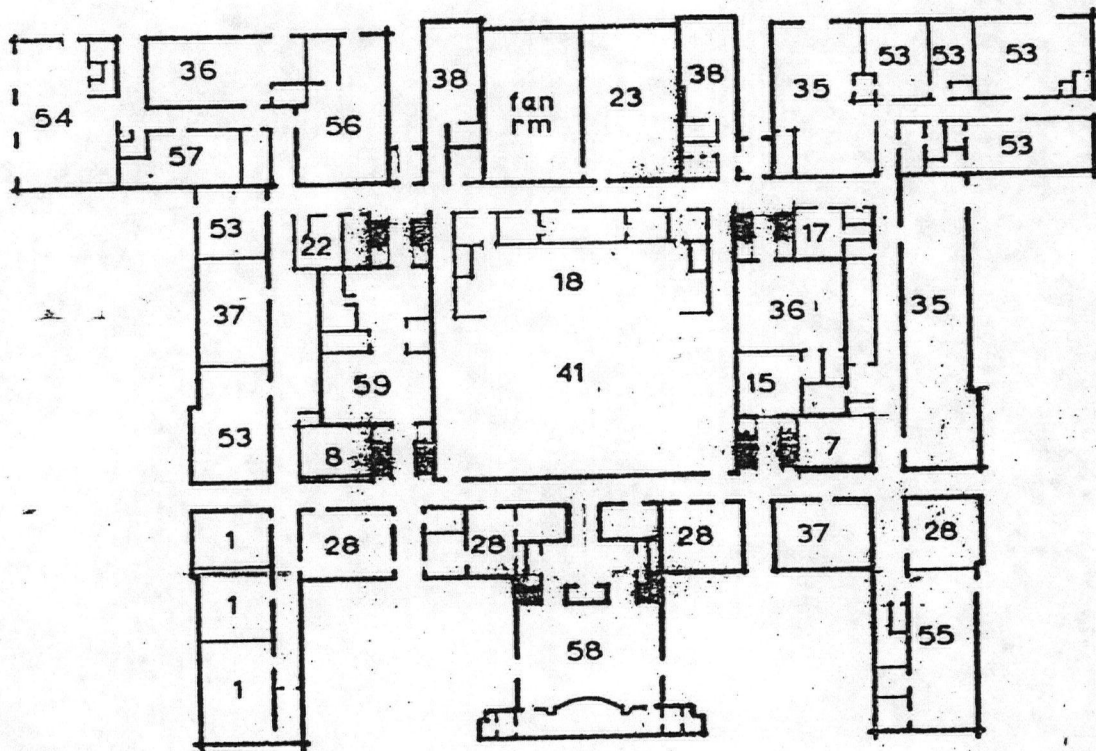
Platt's Subdivision

Whole Lots #1-6 (formerly Lots 145, 146 of Sullivant's West. Add.)

as indicated in Franklin County Courthouse records, map books G, p. 24,
F, p. 28 and G, p. 31.



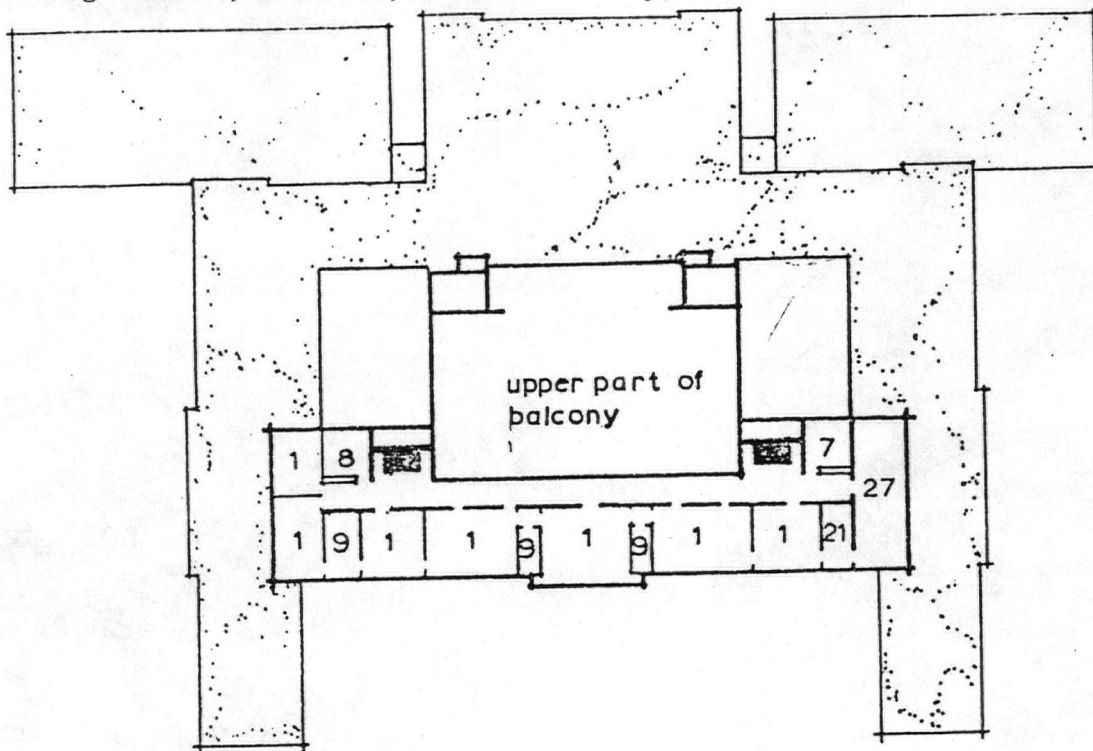
1st FL.



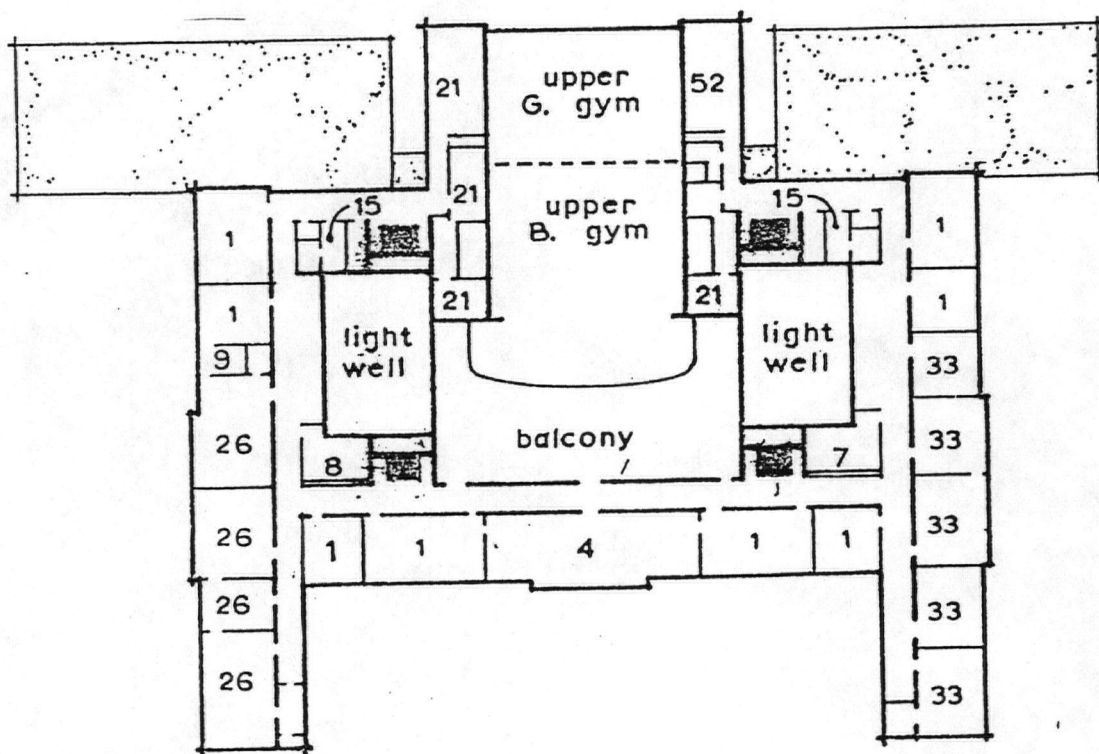
Ground FL.

N
1" = 80'

CENTRAL H.S.
SHEET ONE



3rd FL.

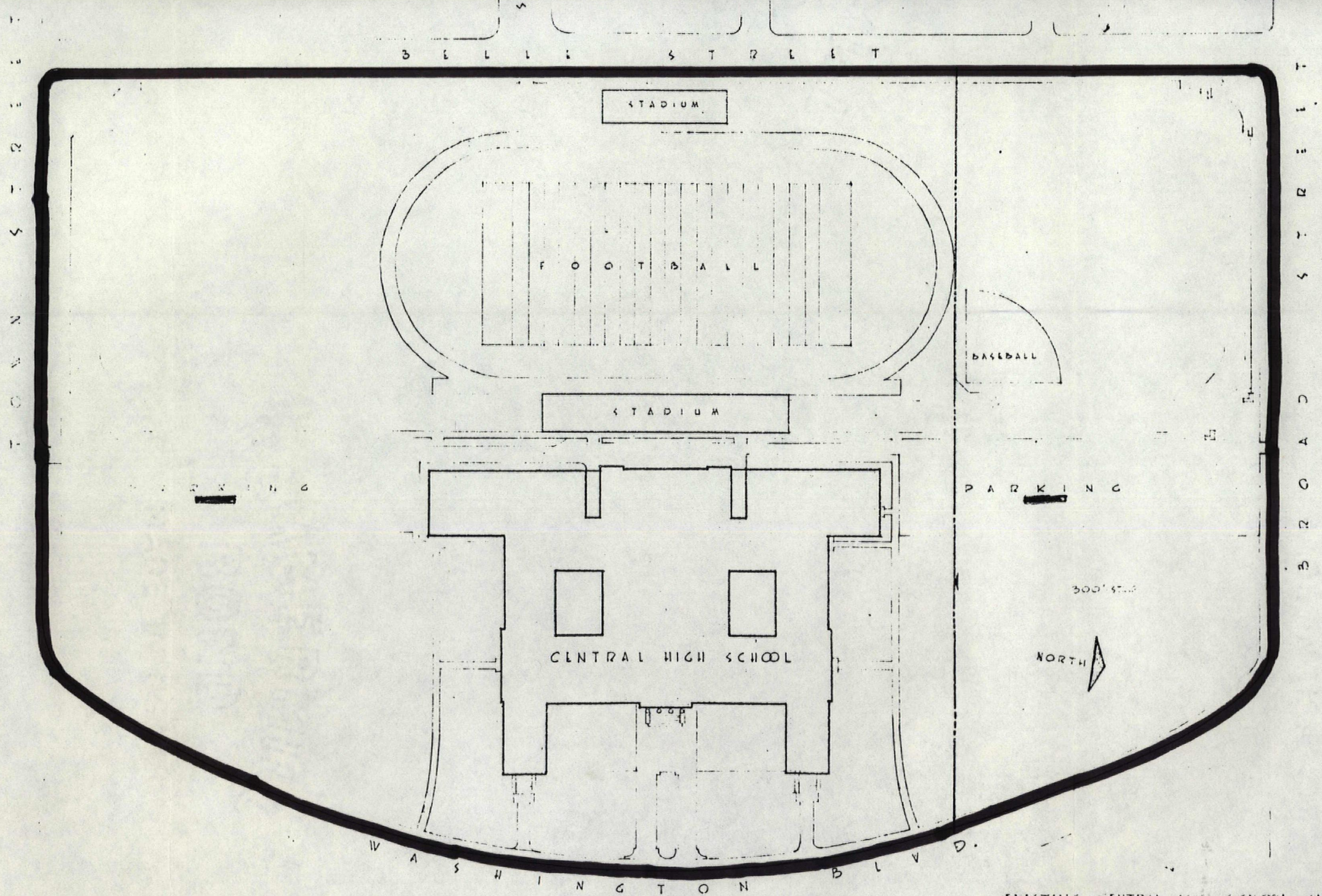


2nd FL.



1" = 80'

CENTRAL H.S.
SHEET TWO



EXISTING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SITE

COLUMBUS BOARD OF EDUCATION
DAVID SCHMIDT JR. 11.1.11

Central High School, Columbus, Franklin
County, Ohio

95

5.

17.875 acres TOWN

Central High School, Columbus, Franklin
County, Ohio

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Central High School
Franklin County
OHIO

FEB 6 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-86

Date Due: 3-7-85 3-23-85

Entered in the National Register Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3-7-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

Central High School
Franklin County
OHIO

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd. Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

FAcade detail

262



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washinton Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

Columbus setting

0
^
^



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd. , Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
AUGust, 1982

West elevation

236



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
AUGust, 1982

Facade detail

22



SELF-CONQUEST IS THE GREATEST
OF ALL VICTORIES ' ' PLATO

CHEVELLE

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

Side entrance detail (east elev.)

sc



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

Evening School addition (nw corner)

926

LONGFELLOW • EMERSON

STAND OF LANDS FOR THEE TRY
SON'S SHALL NOBLY LIVE



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., cols.

Ross Hunt

c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, cols.

August 1982

FAcade side entrance & approach

✓ 22



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

Window/door detail

2
82



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
AUGust, 1982

Facade from Washington Blvd.

247



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

South elevation detail

741

THE NOBLEST MOTIVE
IS THE PVBLIC GOOD, VIRGIL

SUMMER
ENTRANCE
Barnes - Davis - 144-111
←

SC

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August 1982

Side entrance detail

262



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd. Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

North courtyard of east elevation

22V



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

South/ East elevation

292



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

Facade with fence

222



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
AUGust, 1982

South elevation

29V



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.
AUGust, 1982

West elevation detail

92



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane Cols.
August, 1982

West elevation, track

991



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washinton Blvd., Cols .

Ross Hunt
c/o MAST, 991- B Manor Lane, Cols.
August, 1982

West elevation - entrance detail

file



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Ross Hunt

c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.

August, 1982

West Elevation toward north

262



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

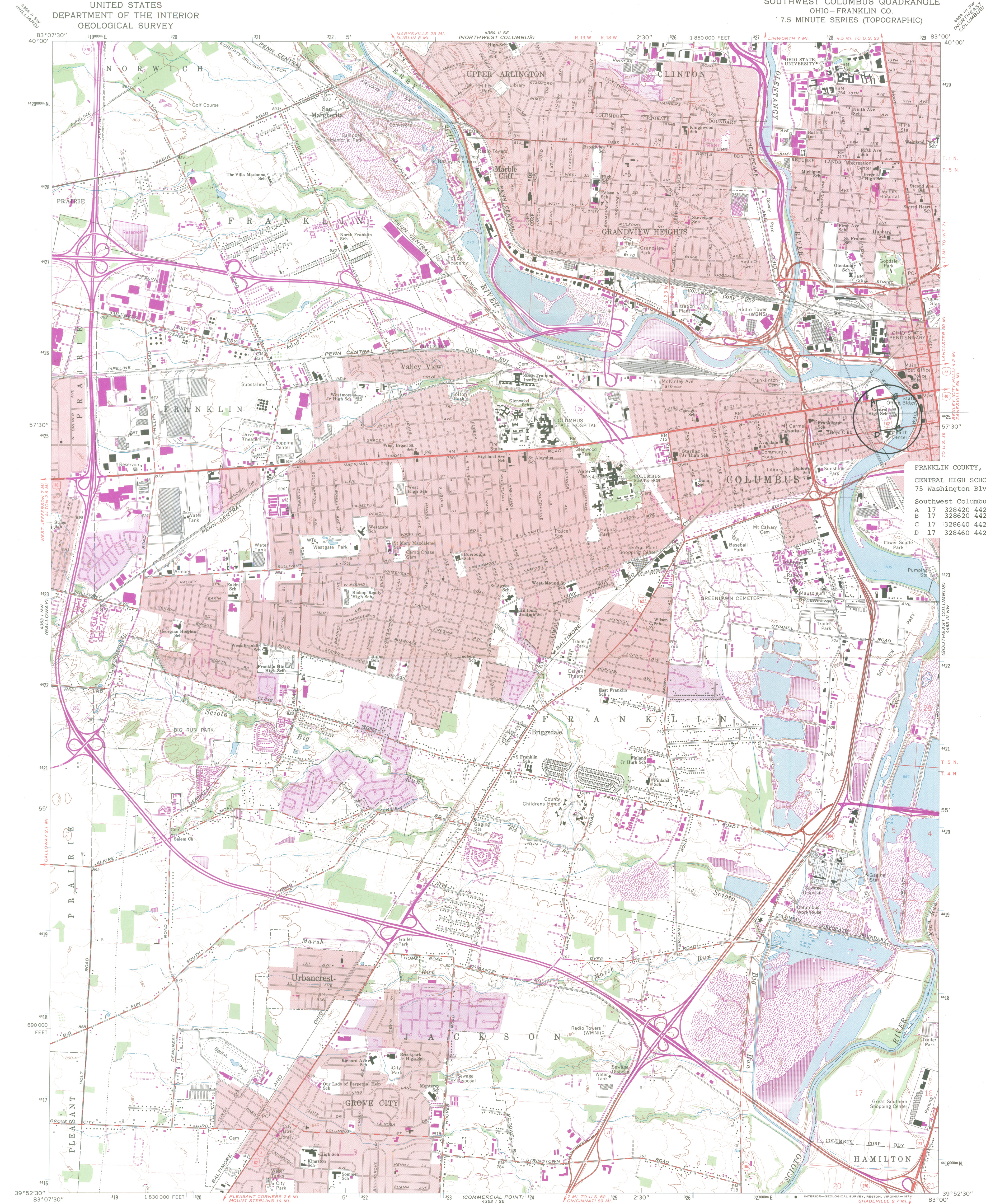
Ross Hunt

c/o MAST, 991-B Manor Lane, Cols.

August, 1982

North elevation

267



FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL,
75 Washington Blvd., Cols.

Southwest Columbus, quadrangle

A 17 328420 4425160
B 17 328620 4425180
C 17 328640 4424810
D 17 328460 4424800

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and City of Columbus
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1953 and 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system. south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area west of the Scioto River lies within the Virginia Military District
Area north of Base Line lies within the United States Military District
Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States Military District
Area south of Base Line lies within Congress Lands east of the Scioto River
Land lines based on the Scioto River Base

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SOUTHWEST COLUMBUS, OHIO

N3952.5—W8300/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 4363 1 NE—SERIES V852