

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ulysses S. Grant School

other names Analostan School; School Without Walls High School

2. Location

street & number 2130 G Street, N.W. ☐ not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C. ☐ vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, ACTING DC SHPO 04-10-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Ulysses S. Grant School
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

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		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C.: 1864-1945

**number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Elementary School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/High School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The Ulysses S. Grant School at 2130 G Street, N.W. in the midst of The George Washington Campus in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington, D.C. is a three-story red brick public school building constructed in 1882. The robust U-shaped Victorian-era building¹ sits upon a raised foundation, is covered with a hipped roof and features a central tower dominating the building's primary façade. The façade features pressed brick laid in an all-stretcher bond and the roof is sheathed with slate shingles.

+

General Description:

Exterior:

The main façade of Grant School faces north on G Street and is divided into three parts: central tower and connecting wings. The tower, which projects slightly beyond the plane of the main block rises four stories in height and is capped by a pyramidal roof, sheathed in slate shingles. The entrance to the building, located in the first story of the tower, consists of a paired metal door (replacement) that is flanked by sidelights. The entrance, reached by a series of granite steps, is crowned by a multi-light transom and brick lintel, set within a flattened Gothic opening. Above the door in the second and third stories are pairs of single 6/6 wood windows with segmental arched, three-light transoms and segmental arched brick lintels. This window grouping is set into a slightly recessed brick panel, similarly topped by a brick segmental arch. The fourth story of the tower, set beneath the steeply pitched pyramidal roof, has vents located on center of each wall, with incised and decorative brickwork dematerializing its mass.

To either side of the tower are four single bays of windows, all 6/6 wood sash with three-light transoms set beneath segmental arched brick lintels. Brick piers or pilasters demarcate the first bay on either side of the tower and at the corners, giving the whole façade a three-part division into central pavilion, hyphen, and end wings.

Four massive interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the roof. Architectural ornamentation includes a corbelled brick cornice, brick belt courses, brick pilasters, and heavy corner piers with incised brickwork that extends down the shaft.

¹ The Grant School cannot be better described stylistically than as simply "Victorian." It is representative of the very free and eclectic modes employed from the 1850s through the 1880s, given such names as "Italianate Gothic," etc. The Grant School is probably most influenced by the French Renaissance-Revival "Second Empire" style, but was designed and built after it had fallen from fashion and thus lacks the style's characteristic principal mansard roof but has one on the central tower. The building's pilasters are evocative of the style, as is its 3-part configuration and overall symmetry. The pointed-brick-arch windows may reference Gothic or simply be a nod to the variety of window hoods seen during the period, and they seem to prefigure the popularity of the Romanesque Revival over the next dozen years.

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Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Section 7 Page 2

The east and west side elevations extend nine bays deep with windows symmetrically arranged along the wall at the first through third floors. Pairs of windows on center of both walls at lower levels than the other windows indicate stair landings within the interior of the building.

The south rear elevation consists of the two wings projecting beyond the central bay of the building thus creating a large light well to light the interior of the building on three sides. The end walls of these end wings have equally arranged windows, all 6/6 with segmental arched brick lintels as on the front and sides. The end wall within the light well is similarly arranged with two single 6/6 windows capped by segmental arched brick lintels on each floor.

Interior:

The interior of the Grant School is one of few school interiors that retain an exceptionally high degree of integrity. The interior floor plan includes four classrooms with adjoining cloakrooms arranged around the V-shaped hallway with two classrooms in front and two in the rear of the building. The condition of the interior is good; original wainscoting, molded window and door surrounds, some original wood panel doors, hardware, and transoms remain intact.

Grant School is still in use as a public school building. The entire building retains a high degree of integrity.

Ulysses S. Grant

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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)

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE, EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1882-1957 (50 years from the present)

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

John B. Brady

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 files (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: _____

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Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Grant School building is an important example of a D.C. Public School and qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Designation, "Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1864-1945." The building is an important example of the historic period "*The Office of the Building Inspector, 1874-1897*" as discussed in the multiple property documentation. Grant School is one of the earliest surviving school buildings, representative of the second phase of public school construction in the District and features an exceptionally intact interior. Moreover, the building continues to function as a school to the present day.

The Grant School is a Victorian-era three-story, twelve-room public school built in 1882. Although originally named the Analostan School in recognition of the Native Americans who once inhabited the nearby Potomac River shores, the building was re-named in 1890 in honor of Ulysses S. Grant, leader of the Union forces during the Civil War and 18th President of the United States. The building was designed by noted Washington D.C. architect John B. Brady.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Grant School and Late-Nineteenth Century Public Schools

Under the District of Columbia's Commissioner government, instituted in 1878, the city was governed by three District Commissioners. Among these was the Engineer Commissioner, a member of the Army Corps of Engineers who was responsible for the construction of public works, including school buildings. His staff included the Office of the Building Inspector, who designed and supervised the construction of municipal buildings. During the 1880s and much of the 1890s, the Building Inspector and his staff prepared the designs and specifications for public school buildings in the District of Columbia.

During the 1880s, architect John B. Brady designed many of the school buildings under the supervision of Building Inspector Thomas B. Entwistle. John B. Brady was also the architect of the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Car Barn (1877); 14th and Boundary Streets, NW (now Florida Avenue); the Metropolitan Railroad Car Barn (1892); 4th, O, and Half Streets, SW; the Fernando Woods Flats (1880); and 1418 I Street, NW. Brady's work is characterized by vigorous, architectonic massing, and imaginative, atypical use of stylistic detail. In Grant School, his design includes a central tower, corbelled cornice, and unusual pointed arch window surrounds.

Like most schools of the period, Grant School is a relatively small building, reflecting the city's

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Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

modest and dispersed population, as well as perceived advantages in terms of operational efficiency and economy of size, particularly where in-town land was expensive. By the 1890s, the small red brick school was a neighborhood institution and a characteristic part of the cityscape. Indeed, it had become so favored that when additional space was needed, the customary response was to construct a new school building on an adjacent lot or a nearby site.

As tastes changed, public school design from this period eventually fell into disfavor as people sought something new and post-Victorian. Reviewing the “great red brick boxes” in its issue of July 8, 1897, the *Evening Star* unfairly if understandably termed them “unattractive if not positively ugly” and “mere boxes or brick without any pretensions to beauty.” Soon afterwards, the city initiated a new practice of commissioning private architects to design the public school.

Most of the Building Inspector’s schools were indeed simple and sometimes austere red brick buildings in Romanesque Revival or a similar style. Like the ubiquitous row houses of the era, they were efficient and durable, using standard floor plans, mass-produced materials, and common decorative treatments. Most were symmetrically designed, although some had towers and other picturesque features. They were modestly embellished with brick corbelling, pressed metal cornices, and trim of molded brick, stone, and terra cotta.

By the 1940s, the Grant School was considered outdated because of its lack of an assembly hall or gymnasium. As much of the surrounding residential area of Foggy Bottom converted to institutional use, the school age population drastically decreased. For several years, it housed classes for special education. Since 1971, the Grant School has served as the District-wide School Without Walls (SWW), established to offer an alternative to conventional instructional programs and provide a small school environment for students who have difficulty adjusting to the large traditional public high school.

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Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

Lee, Antoinette J. "Public School Buildings of the District of Columbia, 1804-1930" and survey of existing buildings, 1864-1930, D.C. Historic Preservation Office, 1987-1988.

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation, "Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1864-1945."

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of Washington, D.C. , 1878-1892.

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Schools, 1878-1892.

"Grant School is 'Saved' Again; Briggs-Montgomery May Close," *Evening Star*, June 18, 1959.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools in and for the District of Columbia, 1875.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools in and for the District of Columbia, 1882.

"Mrs. Roosevelt Finds School in Bad Shape," The Washington Times-Herald, March 19, 1940.

Wilson, J. Ormand, "Eighty Years of the Public Schools of Washington, 1805-1885," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Vol. 1, 1896, pp. 119-170.

Ulysses S. Grant School
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21,0338 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kim Williams, Architectural Historian
Organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date March 20, 2007
street & number 801 North Capitol Street, NE telephone 202 442-8840
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
X A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name District of Columbia Public Schools
street & number 825 North Capitol Street, NE telephone
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20002

Paperwork Reduction 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. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Ulysses S. Grant School is located at 2130 G Street, N.W. and occupies lot 829 on Square 80. +

Boundary Justification:

The Grant School has occupied lot 829, Square 80 since its original construction in 1882.+

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Ulysses S. Grant School
2130 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams, photographer
March 2007
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View looking west showing north front and east side elevations
1 of 4
- 2) View looking southeast showing north front and west side elevations
2 of 4
- 3) View looking north showing south rear elevation
3 of 4
- 4) View looking northeast showing west side elevation
4 of 4

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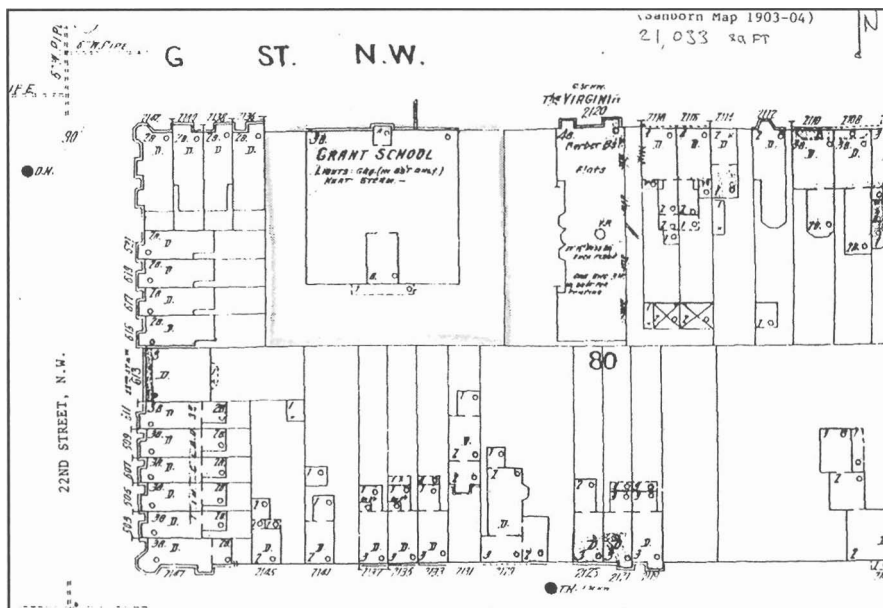
Ulysses S. Grant School

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

SITE MAP



Ulysses S Grant School
2130 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
(From Sanborn Map, 1991)