

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 Rutherford B. Hayes School
other names _____

2. Location

street & number 5th and K Streets, N.E. not for publication
city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity
state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____ 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 MAZONEY, ACTING DC SHPD 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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 See continuation sheet.

Determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Hayes School
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

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)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1864-1960

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/Elementary School

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Slate
other Wood and stone trim

Narrative Description

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

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Hayes School
Name of Property

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Description Summary:

The Rutherford B. Hayes School, located at 5th and K Streets, N.E., is a large two-story, red brick school building constructed in 1897. Designed in a unique Italianate style characterized by twin entry towers and round-arched openings, the former school building is set upon a raised and rusticated brick foundation, has red brick walls and is covered with a wide, hipped roof supported by wooden brackets. The school property occupies Lot 66 of Square 830 and includes an asphalt "black top" on either side of and at the rear of the school building.

General Description:

The principal elevation of the school building, facing 5th Street, is divided into three parts including a central entry bay and two-bay-wide end wings. The central bay consists of a projecting entry foyer with a pair of round-arched door openings set within an architrave surround formed by 3/4-engaged brick columns supporting a wide brick frieze bearing the name of the school and topped by a bold and projecting limestone cornice. Above this cornice, three brick piers survive as the sole remnants of a brick balustrade that originally topped the vestibule.

Two round-arched, double-hung wood windows on the second story and two bulls' eye windows at the attic level rise above the entry, and are recessed from it. The bulls' eye windows are embellished with ornate wooden trim and flanked by torches of knowledge. Two towers, square in plan, are located to either side of the central entry, and feature distinctive round-arched window openings on the second story defined by pairs of narrow 1/1 round-arched sash set beneath the brick voussoir with a wooden bas-reliefs of an open book in the window spandrels. Now truncated, the towers were originally capped with belfries and clad in tile.

The end wings to either side of the central entry each feature rectangular openings and double hung wood sash with grates on the first story and round-arched openings with double-hung wood sash on the second story. All of the windows feature decorative brickwork in the brick surrounds of each of the window openings. Although less decorative than the upper floor windows, small square openings at the basement level feature exaggerated keystones that break the horizontality of the rusticated base.

The K Street elevation, though somewhat less prominent, is also a publicly viewed and thus highly articulated façade. It is similarly divided into three parts with a central bay and end wings. The central bay is dominated on the second story by a projecting oriel bay comprised of a pair of windows deeply recessed from round-arched openings set above a blind arcade of corbelled brick. A group of three arched window openings with double-hung wood sash define

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Name of Property

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the two end bays at this second story level. At the first story and ground levels, six single, window openings span the façade (large, rectangular windows at first story and square openings at basement level).

The east elevation and rear entrance to the school presents a central entry in front of a recessed central bay and two end wings, flush with the central entry. Like the main (5th Street) entry, this rear entry consists of a pair of round-arched door openings topped by a projecting cornice and brick balustrade wall. The end wings are divided into three equal bays and defined by single window openings on the first and second stories (first story openings are rectangular, those on second, round-arched).

The north side elevation of the school facing the "blacktop" is the least articulated elevation of the building. It spans six bays and is defined by single windows on both the first and second stories. Like the other elevations, these openings are rectangular on the first story and round-arched on the second story, but lack the brick surrounds and the architectural embellishments found on the other three elevations. Intersecting gable roofs cover the width of this elevation and intersect with the main, hipped roof behind.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Rutherford B. Hayes Elementary School qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Designation, "Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960." The building falls under the Associated Property Sub-Type: "The Architects in Private Practice, 1897-1910" and meets all of the following registration requirements as established and outlined in the Multiple Property Designation:

1. Hayes School is a purpose-built District of Columbia public school building
2. The date of construction of Hayes School falls within the period of significance for the Multiple Property Listing
3. Hayes School stands on its original site
4. Hayes School retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.
5. Hayes School retains its original building massing, materials, pattern of fenestration, and decorative features.

The Hayes School qualifies for listing under Criterion C. Constructed in 1897 to the designs of private architect Charles E. Burden, Hayes Elementary School survives as an excellent example of a public school building. Stylistically, the Italianate style building is a notable divergence from the Romanesque Revival-style schools that preceded it and that typically defined the city's late 19th-century school buildings. Further, Hayes School is regarded as a transitional school building, and one that bridged two eras of school building design in the city. It is one of the first schools built after the city moved away from the design of school buildings within the Office of the Inspector of Buildings and towards the design of school buildings by architects in private practice.

The Period of Significance for the Hayes School extends from 1897, the year of its construction, until 1957, a date fifty years from the present.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Hayes Elementary School, built in 1897 at 5th and K Streets, N.E., was built in a neighborhood today referred to as Capitol Hill/Near Northeast. This area, sparsely settled before the Civil War, began to develop when the Columbia Railroad Company introduced a street railway line to the area. Chartered in 1870, the line originated at 15th Street and New York Avenue, N.W., then went southeast along Massachusetts Avenue to H Street, N.E. The line terminated at 15th and H Streets, N.E. where the company built a car barn and stable. By 1883, the company was running 15 cars, each making 11 trips daily.

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The new streetcar line provided direct access to a number of employment sources including the railroad, the Government Printing Office, the brickyard, the streetcar barn, and the more remote Navy Yard. While a number of large and handsome, middle-class residences were erected in the emerging neighborhood, many more, smaller houses were built to accommodate workers and their families employed at these nearby industrial concerns. From the beginning, a mixture of white and African Americans resided in the neighborhood, and churches and schools for both races existed in the survey before the turn of the century.¹

During the 1880s and 1890s, the population of Near Northeast grew vigorously, as did that of the entire city. At the same time, the number of businesses doubled from 75 in 1880 to 154 in 1890, and continued to grow substantially in the next decades. Most of these businesses, which included a variety of types from grocery stores and tailor shops to tobacco stores and saloons, were concentrated along the H Street corridor and catered to the surrounding residents.

The construction of Rutherford B. Hayes School, along with several other area schools, reflected the late 19th century population growth of the Near Northeast neighborhood. Between 1894 and 1904, seven schools were constructed in the larger area, including the Francis P. Blair School between 6th and 7th on I Street (1884), the James Madison School at 10th and G Streets (1889), the Zachary Taylor School (1891), the John A. Logan School (1891) at 3rd and G Streets, the Franklin Pierce School (1894), the Hayes School (1897) and the William Ludlow School (1904). All but the John A. Logan School, which served an African American student body, were erected for the larger area’s white population. All except the Ludlow and Taylor schools are still standing.

The Hayes School is notable as the first product of a program developed to improve the appearance of the city’s public schools. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, the Office of the Inspector of Buildings prepared the designs and specifications for all of the public school buildings in the city. Many of the schools produced by the Inspector and his staff followed a standard pattern: Most were of red brick construction and designed in the Roman Revival style. The interiors consisted of four classrooms and adjoining cloakrooms on each floor around a central hallway. These buildings were visually perceived as simple, efficient and durable and were originally well regarded for their design qualities. However, by the mid-1890s, the once lauded and familiar red-brick school building began to be criticized as “unattractive” and “ugly.”

In response to this criticism, city and school officials sought to improve the quality of design of the city’s schools. Following the example of the federal government, which for similar reasons had opened the design of certain federal buildings to private competition, the city decided to invite private architects to prepare designs for its schools, rather than prepare them under the supervision of the Office of the

¹ Nancy Schwartz, “Capitol Hill North/Near Northeast Cultural and Social History Study,” Near Northeast Citizens Against Crime and Drugs, 2002.

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Inspector of Buildings. The Hayes School, completed in 1897, was one of the first schools to be built under this new system. The school was designed by private architect Charles E. Burden and constructed by Columbus Thomas & Son, Builders. While the exterior treatment of Hayes School differed stylistically from its predecessors, the interior plan followed the traditional two-story, eight-room model - a trend that continued into the first decade of the 20th century. The architect, Charles E. Burden, worked in the field in the city from 1887 until at least 1911,² designing several rows of dwellings in the Foggy Bottom area as well as several individual residences near Logan Circle and in Mount Pleasant.

In the first decades of the 20th century, private architects continued to design the city's schools, producing a greater variety of buildings in both style and use of materials. In addition, during this later period, 12-room school buildings evolved in response to increased school-age population, replacing the 8-room 19th-century model, as did the addition of auditorium and gymnasium.

Hayes School was named for Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th President, and was intended for white students. The school was not named for Hayes for any particular reason, but simply followed the city tradition of naming schools after well-known persons, including U.S. Presidents. According to a May 26, 1897 article in the *Evening Star*³ addressing the names of schools in the District, all but three of the U.S. Presidents' names had been honored, these three being Washington, Hayes and Cleveland. By September of that same year,⁴ the school building erected at 5th and K Streets, N.E. had been dubbed the Hayes School after Rutherford B. Hayes, reducing that number to two.

Throughout the 20th century, the African American population of the Near Northeast neighborhood had been growing, both in total numbers and in a percentage of the population. The African American population, which had risen from 1/4 of the population in 1930 to 1/3 in 1940, became a majority by the late 1940s. Many of the white immigrant families who moved to this area in the early 20th century had established and maintained successful businesses. Though this demographic group remained during the Depression and even through World War II, they were quick to leave the city for the suburbs during and

² According to Pamela Scott's "A Directory of District of Columbia Architects," Washington, D.C. 2001, Charles E. Burden is first listed as a clerk in the 1886 city directories, but beginning in 1887 is alternatively listed as architect or draftsman. He is specifically listed as Draftsman for the Department of the Navy, as well as the War Department. He is last listed in 1911 as architect.

³ "Names of Schools," *The Evening Star*, May 26, 1896.

⁴ See "Names of Schools," *The Evening Star*, September 27, 1897.

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Hayes School
Name of Property
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after the War. This white exodus, not unique to this city neighborhood accelerated after the war as more suburban housing became available. As a result of these changing demographics, Hayes School was transferred to the black school division in 1947. In 1954, public schools were ordered desegregated and the city was re-zoned with new integrated boundaries.

By 1961, Hayes School, which catered to a primarily black student body, was considered overcrowded and in deteriorating condition. A 1961 article in the *Washington Afro-American* on the overcrowded and decaying state of elementary schools in the city, cites Hayes School as an example. In an effort to relieve this overcrowding at Hayes the school board proposed transferring 100 students to the newly constructed J. Ormond Wilson School, built in proximity to Hayes. According to the article, parents expressed disappointment that Hayes was to remain open at all, given the unsafe condition of the decaying building.⁵ In the 1980s, Hayes school was closed.

In 1988, the Hayes School building was selected as the site for a City Museum and was partially renovated. By 1993, the museum was no longer active and the school building was left vacant.

⁵ Edward Peeks, "Physical Facilities 'Terrible,'" *Washington Afro American*, May 13, 1961.

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Hayes School
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

Haycock, Robert L., "Sixty Years of the Public Schools of the District of Columbia—1885-1945," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, vol. 48-49, 1949, 29-92.

Lee, Antoinette, "Public School Buildings of the District of Columbia, 1804-1930." Sumner School Museum and Archives, Public Schools of the District of Columbia, 1989.

"Names of Schools: A Correspondent Calls Attention to Certain Omissions," *The Evening Star*, May 26, 1897.

"Names of Schools: Local Buildings Recall Famous Men of the Past," *The Evening Star*, September 27, 1899, 11-3.

Peeks, Edward, "Physical Facilities 'Terrible'," *Washington Afro-American*, May 13, 1961.

Schwartz, Nancy, "Capitol Hill North/Near Northeast Cultural and Social History Study." Near Northeast Citizens Against Crime and Drugs, 2002.

Scott, Pamela. "A Directory of District of Columbia Architects, 1822-1960." Second Edition, June 2001, Corrected October 2001, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960.

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

Hayes School
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13,671 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 6 6 1 9 Easting	4 3 0 7 6 4 9 Northing	3																
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 Prothro Williams

Organization DCHPO date March 14, 2003

street & number 801 North Capitol Street telephone 202-442-8800

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ 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.
- 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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Verbal Boundary Description:

The Hayes School at 5th and K Streets, N.E. occupies Lot 66 on Square 830 in the District of Columbia. The property includes the school building itself and the surrounding asphalted "black top."

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Hayes School property follow the boundaries of Lot 66 on Square 830, and have been associated with the school since the construction of the school building on the lot in 1897.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View looking northeast from intersection at 5th and K Streets, NE
1/6

- 2) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View of main entry facing 5th Street
2/6

- 3) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View looking southeast from west side of 5th Street
3/6

- 4) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View looking north from south side of K Street, NE
4/6

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PHOTOGRAPHS

- 5) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View looking northwest from southeast corner of building
5/6

- 6) Rutherford B. Hayes School
5th and K Streets, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams
March 2003
DCHPO
View looking south at north elevation of school
6/6