

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 Randall Junior High School

other names Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School (original name)

### 2. Location

street & number 65 I Street, S.W. ☐ not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C. ☐ vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county \_\_\_\_\_ code 001 zip code 20024

### 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).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Randall Junior High School  
Name of Property

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## 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	
1	

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

Public School Buildings of the District of Columbia:  
1804-1960

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

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls Brick

roof

other

Slate

**Narrative Description**

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

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### Description Summary:

The Randall Junior High School is located on I Street, between First and Half streets in southwest Washington, D.C. (Square S643, Lot 801). The main block of the building, originally constructed as the Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School in 1906, currently stands as the centerpiece of the Randall Junior High School complex. Two hyphenated wings constructed in 1927 flank the central block. These three sections of the current complex represent the building's 1927 conversion from eight-room elementary school into a larger junior high school. Later additions that range in construction date from 1932 to 1973 are attached to the main I Street buildings, while a formerly freestanding building set to the northwest and constructed in 1912 has been encased within them. The entire school building complex occupies almost the entirety of the lot, though the former street rights-of-way at First and H streets remain unimproved. Several of the out-of-period additions extend perpendicular from the rear of each of the I Street buildings. A 1949 addition along H Street connects two of the three perpendicular extensions.

Along I Street, in front of the main block and wings, a low, wrought-iron fence, replaced in places with chain-link sections, sits atop a brick retaining wall. This retaining wall rises from the sidewalk at street level and breaks in three places to allow concrete steps to lead up to the entrances into the main block, the west wing, and the east wing. Along H Street, at the rear of the property, a chain-link fence runs along the north property line. All sides of the complex feature a narrow strip of grassy lawn abutting the sidewalk. The primary entries are located in the original main block and west wing on I Street, S.W., with a secondary vehicular entry at the rear of the property, along H Street, S.W.

The original main block built as Cardozo Elementary School, located on property purchased in 1905 by the District of Columbia, later became one of the areas to be first affected by the Redevelopment Land Agency's Southwest urban redevelopment program of the 1950s and 1960s. As such, the surrounding site retains little of its 19<sup>th</sup>-century-early 20<sup>th</sup>-century fabric. The streets on three sides of the school property have been closed or partially closed as a result of urban redevelopment efforts. The Randall Recreational Center and Playground, an open area containing approximately 87,390-square feet of land and located northeast of the school, is another vestige of Southwest urban renewal initiatives. Once owned by the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency, the Department of the Interior acquired the property in 1961, but jurisdiction over the property was vested in the District for recreational purposes.

In addition to the Randall School, a vacant, late-19<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque Revival church, owned since 1982 by the Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ, survives in the area as one of two historic churches left standing in Southwest Washington.

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### General Description:

### Exterior Description:

#### 1906 Main Block (Cardozo Elementary School):

The Georgian Revival-style main block of Randall Junior High School is a two-story red brick building that was originally constructed as Cardozo Elementary School. The former elementary school stands as the central core of the larger junior high school complex consisting of two hyphenated wings and six additions. Built in 1906, it is the earliest extant construction on the site.<sup>1</sup> Square in plan, the main block is a seven-bay-wide and seven-bay-deep building set upon a low foundation and covered with a low hipped roof with slate shingles. The walls are clad in red brick laid in Flemish bond and feature limestone trim and detailing. Brick quoins at the corners run into brick rustication at the foundation level. The wooden boxed cornice, embellished with modillions and dentils, mark the slight eave overhang of the roof. The roof is pierced by gabled dormers flanked by small segmental-arched dormers on either side. A single, stone-capped interior chimney rises from the roof, offset slightly to the east. The roof features a large ventilating skylight in the center, several gate-iron ventilators, and a metal exhaust hood on the eastern slope. Originally, and as shown in a 1908 photograph of the building, a masonry balustrade encircled the roof with a central insignia on the south elevation.<sup>2</sup>

The primary façade, facing south, is seven bays wide with a Colonial Revival-style central entry reached by a low flight of granite steps. The entry, marked by an engaged pedimented surround, is deeply recessed within the plane of the wall and leads to modern, replacement-glass, double-leaf doors topped by a large transom window. The carved limestone entry surround consists of a dog-eared architrave surround topped by a projecting segmental-arched pediment. The encircling cornice of the enclosed pediment has raked molding and a recessed tympanum. A limestone plaque that reads "Randall Junior High School" sits above the pediment. Flanking the central entry are three equally spaced openings, each of which hold 8/2 double-hung wood-sash windows in various condition. The windows, set slightly within the plane of the wall, have wood surrounds, jack-arched brick lintels, and limestone keystones. The limestone sills are supported by brackets of the same material. Raised rectangular panels of brick are centered between the first- and second-story windows. At the foundation level, on either side of the entry, three 4/4 double-hung wood-

<sup>1</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia. "Report of the Board of Education to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1906-1907." (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 87; "Trying to Embarrass School Management," *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., September 16, 1906, p. 2. Please note that the 1999 Sanborn map included with this application (Sanborn Building and Property Atlas of Washington, D.C., 1999, Book 1, Volume 2, Sheet 240) includes inaccurate construction dates for several of the sections to the Randall Junior High School complex, most notably the 1906 main block and the 1912 addition which was originally constructed as the freestanding Cardozo Vocational School. The Randall School was not built on this square in 1876, nor was the Cardozo Vocational School built in 1904, as the 1999 Sanborn map incorrectly states.

<sup>2</sup> United States Schoolhouse Commission, "Report of Schoolhouse Commission and the Assistant Superintendent in Charge of Colored Schools," (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908).

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sash windows, with limestone sills, illuminate the basement. These windows sit under jack-arched brick lintels and behind wrought-iron grills.

The second story of the façade is pierced by seven window openings, all equally spaced. A wrought-iron balcony is attached to the base of the central window. As on the first story, all the openings have 8/2 double-hung wood-sash windows, with applied wood surrounds, jack-arched brick lintels, and limestone keystones. A molded brick stringcourse that encircles the building extends from the window's bracketed limestone sills.

At the time of the building's construction in 1906, the east and west elevations of the building were similar in massing, fenestration, and ornamentation to the primary façade. Only the central entry and second-story window differed in style. According to original architectural drawings of the building, the central entry openings in these facades were simpler in design, each featuring a prominent flat arch and oversized limestone keystone. In 1927, two hyphenated wings were built to the east and west of the central block.

Today, the east elevation of the original 1906 section features a one-story brick hyphen that leads to the adjoining wing. The hyphen partially covers the central fanlight window, leaving only the top portion visible. Punctuated with north and south entry openings, the hyphen has a recessed six-paneled door on both sides. Concrete steps lead up the hyphen's entries. Both entry openings feature double-leaf metal doors topped with a painted horizontal panel. The painted wood surround is composed of pilasters supporting a simple entablature. The roof of the entablature's cornice is sheathed in sheets of metal. A beltcourse of soldier bricks extends from either side of the entablature's cornice and runs the width of the hyphen.

The building's west elevation currently includes a two-story hyphen, connecting the main block to a shorter, two-story west wing. The altered elevation of the main block no longer features the original fanlight window or central entry. Also constructed in 1927, the brick hyphen is one bay wide with a window at the first and second stories. The window openings have 8/8 double-hung wood-sash windows, with wood surrounds, jack-arch brick lintels, limestone keystones and sills.

The rear elevation, facing north, is also seven bays wide. Originally, the elevation presented a less-adorned façade than the building's other three elevations, although it was stylistically similar. Two rows of seven window openings lined the façade, with a row of smaller window openings at the basement level. At the western portion of the building, concrete steps with a metal handrail lead to the basement. In 1940, a two-story hyphenated addition was constructed in the middle of the elevation, altering its appearance.

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### 1912 Building (Francis L. Cardozo Vocational School):

In 1912, a freestanding structure next to the main block of the building was constructed to house the Francis L. Cardozo Vocational School. It was originally seven bays wide and deep, and stylistically similar to the main block and west wing. In 1927, the freestanding building was abutted on its south side by the 1927 west wing (see below), and in 1936, the building was extended to the north, more than doubling its original size. As a result, the former freestanding building is fully integrated into the larger junior high school complex, leaving only its original west elevation exposed.

### 1927 East Wing:

The 1927 east wing was built to house the school's auditorium. The one-story brick addition, laid in Flemish bond, is set back from the plane of the main block and extends seven bays long, with a shorter three-bay section at the east end. The south elevation has five round-arched window openings, evenly spaced with two smaller, outer window openings at either end bay. These outer windows have jack-arched brick lintels with limestone keystones and sills. Decorative limestone panels accent the plane of the wall above these outer windows. The five window openings in the middle hold 15/15 double-hung wood-sash windows, capped with fanlights and with limestone keystones and impost blocks.

The north elevation is similar in style to the wing's south elevation, but an addition to the eastern portion of the wing disrupts the original fenestration of the facade, leaving only four window openings visible. A limestone stringcourse wraps around the wing just below the cornice line. A brick water table delineates the masonry foundation. The bricks are arranged in a single soldier course for the water table and in stretcher bond for the foundation. At the top of the wing, a boxed cornice marks the slight eave overhang with narrow bedmolding. A painted round cupola rises from the center of the low-pitched hipped roof.

The lower section at the east end of this wing is three bays long and is covered with a flat roof with a parapet wall and boxed cornice below the cap. The south elevation has three window openings, with 6/6 double-hung wood-sash windows, jack-arched brick lintels, and limestone keystones and sills. The east elevation, which faces the neighboring park, has two paired door and window openings with concrete steps leading up to double-leaf metal doors. The windows are similar in style to the three on the extension's south elevation.

A tall, brick cylindrical smokestack stands near the northwest corner of the wing. The tapering smokestack rises prominently from the center of the complex and marks the east interior courtyard, accessible by automobile.

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### 1927 West Wing:

To the west of the 1906 main block is a two-story hyphenated wing constructed in 1927. Twelve bays long and seven bays wide, the wing has a low-pitched roof and is stylistically similar to the original school building. The primary façade, facing south, has an asymmetrically placed Colonial Revival-style entry opening. The entry, deeply recessed within the plane of the wall and embellished with soffit panels, leads to modern replacement glass double-leaf doors topped by a large transom window. A modern light fixture hangs over the door. A one-story Colonial Revival-style surround marks the central entry. The painted wood surround is composed of pilasters and a keystone architrave trim that support a projecting pediment. The boxed cornice of the enclosed pediment has raked molding and a recessed tympanum. Flanking the entry to the west are three window openings and to the east are eight window openings, all evenly spaced. Each opening holds an 8/8 double-hung, wood-sash window. The windows, set slightly within the plane of the wall, have wood surrounds, jack-arched brick lintels, and limestone keystones. The west elevation has two rows of seven window openings, similar in style those on the south façade. The window openings at the basement level are boarded-up. This west wing abutted the 1912 vocational school building described above.

### Later Additions:

The following sections of Randall Junior High School were added between 1932 and 1973 and are outside the Period of Significance for the property.

1940 Addition: To the north of the 1906 main block extends a hyphenated brick addition, two stories in height. Constructed in 1940, the ten-room addition is fourteen bays long, three bays wide, and covered with a flat roof.

1949 Addition: In 1949, a three-story, sixteen-room brick addition was built to the north of the property. This addition separately connects to both the 1940 and 1936 additions, bridging the two additions at their north ends and forming an enclosed interior courtyard on the western half of the property. Three bays deep and twenty-six bays long, the addition runs along H Street, N.W.. The addition features a flat roof, brick quoining at the corners, and a brick water table.

1932 and 1973 Additions: The east side of the Randall Junior High School complex is composed of two additions that adjoin the 1927 east wing. One story in height and of brick construction with little ornamentation, the additions form a rectangular block along the east border of the property. The addition directly adjoining the 1927 wing was constructed in 1932 to house a gymnasium.

In 1973, a second addition was added to the 1932 wing on the complex's east side. This addition features two closely spaced door openings on the plain east façade.

**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**

1906-1927

**Significant Dates**

1906; 1912; 1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

Marsh &amp; Peter

**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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## Summary Statement of Significance:

Randall Junior High School was originally built in 1906 as the Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School to serve the African-American public school students in southwest Washington, D.C. Named after the celebrated African-American educator (1836-1907), the school adhered to the policy of racial and gender segregation in the District of Columbia school system. The Georgian Revival-style building was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Marsh & Peter as part of a District-wide educational design program that featured the two-story, eight-room, brick schoolhouse model. In 1924, the newly established Randall Junior High School switched buildings with the Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School in a strategic move to accommodate its growing student body; three years later, in 1927, two wings were constructed to the 1906 building. Designed by Municipal Architect L. Harris, the wings added space for classrooms and a combined auditorium and gymnasium. This expansion was part of the nation-wide trend in the 1920s to convert elementary schools to junior high schools. As such, the building serves as a tangible expression of the educational shift in pedagogy and to the establishment of junior high schools.

Randall Junior High School stands as one of the few extant buildings associated with the pre-urban renewal history of southwest Washington. Although no longer functioning as a school, the original building and its 1927 wings illustrate an important aspect of the history of African-American education. The school is an excellent example of a twentieth-century school that continuously served the African-American community of southwest Washington. Randall Junior High School was not the first junior high school to be constructed for black students in the District of Columbia; however, it is the oldest extant junior high school in the southwest section of Washington, D.C.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the building serves as a reminder of the cultural and social role that schools played in the twentieth-century development of African-American communities. The building not only exemplifies early design standards for school buildings, but it also reflects the transition away from K-8 elementary schools to a system of elementary and junior high schools.

Randall Junior High School (1906 main block and 1927 east and west wings) is being nominated under the cover of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Listing: *Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C., 1862-1960*. The original main block of the building is eligible for listing as an example of the associated property sub-type III: "Architects in Private Practice, 1897-1910." Georgian Revival in style, the original 1906 building of the Randall School was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Marsh & Peter, while the attached east and west wings, built in 1927 when the building was converted into the Randall Junior High School, qualify for listing under the associated property sub-type V: "The Office of the Municipal Architect, Albert L. Harris, 1921-1934." The flanking wings, designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris, conform to the design aesthetic of the 1906 central block and complement the original design.

<sup>3</sup> The first junior high schools established in the District of Columbia were the Columbia Junior High School (white) and the Shaw Junior High School (black), both built in 1919. The first purpose-built junior high school buildings were the MacFarland and Langley Junior High Schools (both white) and both designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris and completed in 1923. The first purpose-built junior high school building for black students was the John R. Francis High School, built 1924-1925.

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Randall Junior High School meets National Register Criteria A and C with architecture and education as the areas of significance. Randall Junior High School serves as an intact example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century African American urban school designed by the architectural firm of Marsh and Peter with 1927 wings designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris. Even though the original 1906 building and its 1927 wings have been added onto by a series of later additions, the three-part main section forms the centerpiece of the complex and is a significant element of Washington's architectural and cultural heritage.

The Period of Significance for the building extends from 1906 when the building was first constructed until 1927 when the side wings were built to accommodate the expanded junior high school.

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## Resource History and Historic Context:

### Early History of Randall School and Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School:

The original building known as Randall School stood at the intersection of Delaware Avenue, and H and First streets, S.W. in southwest Washington, D.C. The one-story frame building, formerly a barrack, was enlarged and improved in 1869. The school building had five small schoolrooms and seating capacity for 280 students.<sup>4</sup> First known as the Delaware Avenue School, the school served "colored" children in southwest Washington. In 1874, the school was renamed the "Randall School" in honor of the school's principal Eliza G. Randall who died that same year. Eliza G. Randall, a white woman from Vermont dedicated to the education of African Americans, served as the principal of the Delaware Avenue School from 1867 until her death. Through her efforts and dedication, the school expanded to include four rooms in addition to the "original shanty."<sup>5</sup> An 1876 Report of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools for the District of Columbia called Miss Randall one of that "noble band of pioneers...who should be honored especially by those of us who in the past were deprived of every educational advantage."<sup>6</sup> In 1876, the Randall School was demolished and a new Randall School was built on the square.

In 1905, the District of Columbia purchased 40 lots in neighboring Square S643 for the construction of the Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School.<sup>7</sup> Designed by architects March & Peter, this building forms the original core of the current Randall Junior High School complex. When completed in 1907 at a cost of \$46,328.67 dollars, the building demonstrated the most "advanced ideas in heating and ventilation."<sup>8</sup> The new school building was named by the District Commissioners after the prominent Washington scholar and advocate for the education of African Americans. Francis L. Cardozo (1836-1907) was the first African American to hold an

<sup>4</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia, "Report of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools of the District of Columbia to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1875-1876," Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1876), p. 300.

<sup>5</sup> Report of the Board of Trustees, 1876, p. 143.

<sup>6</sup> Report of the Board of Trustees, 1876, p. 143.

<sup>7</sup> According to the 1906-1907 "Report of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools of the District of Columbia to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia," the size of the lot was 43,375 square feet and originally valued at \$13,500.00.

<sup>8</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia, "Report of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools of the District of Columbia to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1906-1907," Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 87, 229.

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administrative office in the state of South Carolina, first as the Secretary of State (1868-1871) and then as Secretary of Treasury. Later in 1891, Cardozo served as the principal of the “colored” M Street School in Washington, D.C.

The two-story, brick school building served the African-American children in southwest Washington, D.C. and featured attached playgrounds and land reserved for school gardening. Designed in what was known as the “eight-room cartwheel plan,” the Francis L. Cardozo School exemplified the eight-room school building type. In this type, the building plan organized separate play rooms and bathrooms for girls and boys at the basement level, including mechanical (heating and ventilating) and storage (wood and fuel) rooms. Both the first and second floors of the building had four classrooms, symmetrically arranged around a central hall. Each room had “bilateral light and a cloakroom opening into the classrooms and into the corridor.”<sup>9</sup> On the first floor, a principal’s office was located to the north of the building, opposite the main south entrance. Directly above the principal’s office and the main entrance, respectfully, were located the teacher’s lounge and a small library. Two stairwells located to the east and west of the building provided access between the floors.

According to a 1908 Report of the United States Schoolhouse Commission, the cartwheel type of school building was used in design plans where there was no intention of enlarging the building, except by the possible erection of a second eight-room building on the same site. In addition, the report recommended “the abandonment of the eight-room school building as a type, except as the first half of an ultimate sixteen-room building.”<sup>10</sup> Following these recommendations, the Cardozo Manual Training School was constructed to the west of the Francis L. Cardozo School building in 1912. Also designed by March & Peter, the vocational school opened on January 18, 1912, offering two trades: carpentry for boys and sewing for girls. Gradually, courses in metal work, cookery, housework management, brick masonry, plastering, and ladies’ tailoring were added, ultimately offering enough coursework to cover two years of education.<sup>11</sup>

## Establishment of Randall Junior High School:

In 1923, the Randall Junior High School was initially established in the Randall School building on the adjacent square E590. The African-American junior high school opened with approximately 260 students under the supervision of Principal G. Smith Wormley. Four years later in 1927, the Randall Junior High School traded locations with the neighboring Francis L. Cardozo School to the east, in a strategic move to maximize space. The conversion of the Francis L. Cardozo Elementary School into the new Randall Junior High School included plans to connect the original 1906 school with the 1912 Cardozo Manual Training School, located slightly to the northwest. The plans included designs for eight new classrooms, corridors, a gymnasium, and an assembly hall. The winning bid, submitted by the King Lumber Company of Charlottesville, Virginia, estimated the cost of the

<sup>9</sup> United States Schoolhouse Commission, “Report of the Schoolhouse Commission upon a General Plan for the Consolidation of Public Schools in the District of Columbia,” (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 38.

<sup>10</sup> United States Schoolhouse Commission, “Report of the Schoolhouse Commission upon a General Plan for the Consolidation of Public Schools in the District of Columbia,” (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), p. 39.

<sup>11</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia, “Report of the Board of Education to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1913-1914,” (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1915), p. 257.

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school conversion to be \$192,000.<sup>12</sup> These plans were part of the five-year school building plan enacted by Congress for the District in February 1925 authorizing appropriations for school building through 1930. Funding of \$225,000 for Randall Junior High was included in the second deficiency act, fiscal 1925, approved March 4, 1925.<sup>13</sup>

In 1927, an east and west wing were constructed to the original 1906 school building. Designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris in 1925, the wings allowed for new classroom space and a "combination auditorium and gymnasium and all modern equipment."<sup>14</sup> The west wing integrated the freestanding 1912 Cardozo Manual Training School into the 1906 elementary school. The wings' construction also illustrated the national movement to create junior high schools in the 1920s, combining the last two years of elementary school and the first year of high school. The five-year school building program included four new junior high school additions and eight new junior high schools in Washington, D.C., of which Randall Junior High School was the only African American junior high school in southwest Washington.<sup>15</sup>

In 1930, the Board of Education requested the addition of two gymnasiums for the Randall Junior High School. The Bureau of the Budget reduced the estimate to provide for only one. Congress appropriated \$40,000 which became available February 23, 1931 for its construction. The Report of the Board of Education, 1931-1932, which described the construction timetable, noted that a contract for a total of \$45,777 was executed on September 1, 1931, and that the addition was occupied on April 11, 1932.<sup>16</sup> This addition was constructed to the north of the original school's east wing.

In 1936, an addition to the west wing of the 1906 school building continued the school's expansion. Four years later, in 1940, another addition was built to the north of the school's central main block. That same year, the Cardozo School on Square E590 was demolished and replaced by the Southwest Health Center.

In the 1940s, Randall Junior High School entered a period plagued by inadequate and dilapidating facilities. An influx of war workers in the Southwest led to overcrowded conditions. Having facilities to accommodate only 1,010 students, the school operated with the enrollment of 1,680 students. The overcrowded conditions of the school, heightened by the fact that it was the only junior high school serving the students of the southwest and southeast sections of Washington, D.C., eventually led to the handling of the student body in two shifts. In this arrangement, the students experienced an abbreviated school day, with only half-days of instruction. The

<sup>12</sup> "Bids for New High School Are Opened," *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., January 13, 1926, p. 8.

<sup>13</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia, "Report of the Board of Education to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1925-1926," (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1926), p. 47.

<sup>14</sup> "Negro History Week Observed at Randall," *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., February 13, 1927, p. F7.

<sup>15</sup> Beauchamp, p. 20. The present Jefferson Junior High School located at 801 Seventh Street, S.W. at the corner of Seventh Street and Maine Avenue was built in 1940. It was constructed on the site of a previously existing school built in 1872. According to the 2004 Historic American Buildings Survey of the Southwest Urban Renewal Area, the 1940 Jefferson Junior High School was a "replacement for the previous Jefferson Junior High School." National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, "Southwest Washington, D.C., Urban Renewal Area, Historic American Buildings Survey, Washington, D.C. 2004, p.71.

<sup>16</sup> Board of Education of the District of Columbia, "Report of the Board of Education to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 1931-1932," (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), p. 55.

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Randall Junior High School

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school operated for two years in shifts, in addition to having the ratio of one teacher for each thirty-three and a half students.<sup>17</sup> In an effort to help the school's overcrowded and congested facilities, another addition was built in 1949 to the northwest of the property.

## Southwest Urban Renewal:

In the 1950s, mass removal of Southwest families in preparation for urban renewal left the population so depleted that the need for a junior high school in the area was in doubt. Eventually, the urban renewal program displaced and relocated 1,050 of the 1,300 families living in southwest Washington from about 1953 to 1955.<sup>18</sup> Yet, throughout this time, the Randall Junior High School remained a defining element to the Southwest neighborhood and an integral part to the community. Although urban renewal legislation and efforts by the Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA) to redevelop the Southwest threatened the traditional social and community structure of the African-American neighborhood, the Randall Junior High School was always recognized as an important and essential contributor to the area. In an article of the *Washington Afro-American*, this role was outlined. The article quoted the Reverend Benjamin H. Whiting of nearby Friendship Baptist Church as saying: "Friendship is one corner of the triangle that serves the people of Southwest. Randall Junior High School and the Southwest Health Center make up the other two corners, one serves the mind, one serves the body, and we serve the soul."<sup>19</sup> With the Friendship Baptist Church originally located at First and H streets, S.W. and the Southwest Health Center at the northwest intersection of First and I streets, S.W. (on Square E590), the Randall Junior High School completed the triangle to the east.

Although legislation was enacted in 1954 to desegregate District of Columbia schools, the Randall Junior High School remained primarily African American. Four years later, in 1958, the Boys' Junior-Senior High School was established in one wing of the complex. Authorized by the Board of Education, the purpose of this program was to prepare boys with severe disciplinary problems for a "return to the regular classroom or for employment."<sup>20</sup>

This additional civic role of the school added to the school's defining mark upon the cultural and social fabric of the neighborhood. At the fiftieth celebration of the Randall Junior High School in 1973, the alumni reminisced about the "good old days" and the strong influence that the school had on the surrounding community. One former teacher remarked that it "became not only a school, but a foster home and parents for the students. The parents worked all day and were not home to prepare dinner, so the school lunch often was the only hot meal they had for the day."<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup>"Junior High Conditions Hit," *The Washington Afro-American*, Washington, D.C., March 16, 1946, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup>"13 Churches To Be Demolished," *Washington Afro-American*, October 15, 1955, p.1-2.

<sup>19</sup> Charles S. Taylor, "Efficient Social Programs Helpful," *Washington Afro-American*, undated clipping. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Division, vertical file, "Churches, Baptist Friendship."

<sup>20</sup> John M. McKelway, "Special School Asked for Incurable Boys," *The Evening Star*, July 25, 1958.

<sup>21</sup> Alice Bonner, "The Golden Years," *The Washington Post, Times Herald*, Washington, D.C., October 1, 1973, p. C1.

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In 1982, the Department of Human Resources Commission on Social Services moved into the Randall Junior High School complex where it operated a men's shelter in a section of the complex until November 2004.<sup>22</sup> In addition to the shelter, the complex also housed local artists who leased studio space, arts education programs and various community organizations. In November 2006, the Corcoran Gallery of Art purchased the property from the District for \$6.2 million dollars, as part of their expansion plan.<sup>23</sup> The property is now vacant.

## Marsh & Peter

Marsh & Peter designed both the original 1906 Cardozo Elementary School and the 1912 Cardozo Manual Training School, both part of the Randall Junior High School. William Johnston Marsh (1863-1926) and Walter Gibson Peter (1869-1945) established the architectural firm of Marsh & Peter in 1898. Both architects were born in Washington, D.C. and most likely met while working at the prominent architectural firm Hornblower & Marshall. The firm remained in business until the death of Marsh in 1926, although Peter continued to practice architecture.

William J. Marsh attended D.C. public schools and, subsequently, studied under private instructors in Boston, as well as with the artist E.C. Messer in Washington, D.C. Marsh gained experience in architecture and construction in the offices of Hornblower & Marshall where he served as the heads draftsman for eight years. Walter G. Peter was a descendent of Thomas Peter, a Scottish tobacco merchant, and Martha Parke Custis (1777-1854), granddaughter of Martha Washington (1732-1802).<sup>24</sup> After he graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1890 where he studied architecture, Peter worked in the offices of Smithmeyer & Pelz, A.B. Bibb and, later, Hornblower & Marshall. Peter formed a brief partnership with Edward W. Donn, Jr. during the years of 1892-1895.<sup>25</sup>

One of Marsh & Peter's earliest commissions, The Evening Star building (1899) at 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., was also one of its most notable commissions. In addition to the original block of Randall Junior High School, the pair also designed numerous school buildings in the District of Columbia between 1900 and 1910, including the William Syphax School (1901), the Edmonds School (1903), the Mount Pleasant School (1908),<sup>26</sup> the Henry D. Cooke School (1909), the Strong John Thomson School (1910), and the Georgetown Preparatory School (1916).<sup>27</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Theola S. Labbe and Allan Lengel, "D.C. Homeless Protest Reaches City Hall," *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., December 10, 2004, p. B01.

<sup>23</sup> Jacqueline Trescott, "Corcoran Seals \$6.2 Million for Randall School," *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., November 30, 2006, C01.

<sup>24</sup> Tudor Place Foundation, Inc., *Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, Georgetown, Washington, DC*, pamphlet.

<sup>25</sup> Pamela Scott, *A Directory of District of Columbia Architects, 1822-1960*, Washington, D.C., 2001.

<sup>26</sup> "Schools Near Completion," *Washington Post*, October 4, 1908, p. R2.

<sup>27</sup> EHT Traceries, *1618 21<sup>st</sup> Street, N.W. History*, EHT Traceries, 1999.

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## Albert L. Harris

In 1927, Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris designed the hyphenated east and west wings to the original 1906 school building. These wings allowed the school to expand by adding classroom space and a combined gymnasium and auditorium, effectively transforming the school from an eight-room school building fit for an elementary school into a large, technologically-advanced junior high school.

Albert L. Harris had a career that did not follow the usual line of artistic development. A native of Wales, he accompanied his family to Pittsburgh in 1893. He served an architectural apprenticeship in Chicago with the office of Henry Ives Cobb, a designer of national significance. Harris may have returned to the Washington area to set up an architectural practice as early as 1897. It is known that he went to work for the Washington architectural firm of Hornblower and Marshall in 1900, becoming first the chief draftsman and then a partner of the firm. In 1912, at the age of 43, he received his bachelor of architecture degree from George Washington University and left Hornblower and Marshall to enter private practice. Also in that year, he was appointed to the faculty of George Washington's School of Architecture, a position he held until his death in 1933. From 1914 through 1921, Harris took on similar academic responsibilities at Catholic University, as well. Throughout the 1920s, he worked with Arthur B. Heaton on the design of new buildings for George Washington University.

In 1921, Harris was named Municipal Architect for the District of Columbia and in that position he was responsible for supervising a five year building program for the district's public schools.

As part of this plan, Harris abandoned the eight-room pinwheel-type of school building, popular since the 1880s, in favor of schools with sixteen to twenty classrooms. As Municipal Architect, Harris preferred the Renaissance and Colonial Revival styles for public school buildings.<sup>28</sup> He designed several schools in the district, most notably the McKinley High School and the McFarland and Langley Stuart Junior High Schools.

## Conclusion

The Randall Junior High School (1906 main block and 1927 wings) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because of its architectural, historical, and cultural significance. Although part of a series of building phases that enlarged the school, the original 1906 building and its 1927 wings remain remarkably intact and retain a high degree of integrity. The Georgian Revival-style main building is a strong representation of an elementary school designed in a style that exemplifies the two-story, eight-room brick school building type that was adopted by the District of Columbia school system. Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Marsh & Peter, the 1906 main block illustrates the federal government's movement during the years 1897 to 1910 to institute an architectural program that placed greater involvement in the design process by architects in private practice. The 1927 east and west wings, designed by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris in a complementary design displaying his commitment to Colonial Revival architecture, represent the shift in the school system away from elementary schools towards junior high schools and

<sup>28</sup> Beauchamp, p. 19.

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effectively illustrate the national educational program and building campaigns of the 1920s. Further, the Randall Junior High School is an important site that recognizes the African-American community that lived in southwest Washington, D.C. and that celebrates the educational history of African Americans. The building and adjoining wings stand as one of the few remaining pre-urban renewal community structures in the southwest quadrant of the city.

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Randall Junior High School

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 115,723 square feet

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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☐ 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 EHT Tracerics

Organization

date 11/08

street & number 1121 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

telephone 202 393-1199

city or town Washington, DC

state

zip code 20001

**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 The Corcoran Gallery of Art

street & number 500 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

telephone

city or town Washington, DC

state

zip code 20006

**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:

Randall Junior High School occupies Lot 801 in Square S643.+

## Boundary Justification:

The school has stood on this site since it was first constructed in 1906, and later expanded.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

*The following information is common to all photographs:*

Randall Junior High School  
65 I Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
EHT Traceries, photographer  
November 2008  
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) South elevation showing main 1906 block; view looking north from I Street, SW  
1 of 7
- 2) South and West elevations of the 1927 west wing; view looking northwest from I Street, SW  
2 of 7
- 3) South elevation of 1927 east wing; view looking northwest from I Street, SW  
3 of 7
- 4) Detail of South elevation showing annex to 1927 east wing; view looking north  
4 of 7
- 5) West elevation of Randall Junior High School showing west elevations of the 1912 Manual Training School, the 1927 west wing, and the 1936 extension; view looking southeast from 1<sup>st</sup> Street, SW  
5 of 7
- 6) North elevation of 1949 addition; view looking SE from H Street, SW  
6 of 7
- 7) North elevation of the 1949 addition; view looking SW  
7 of 7

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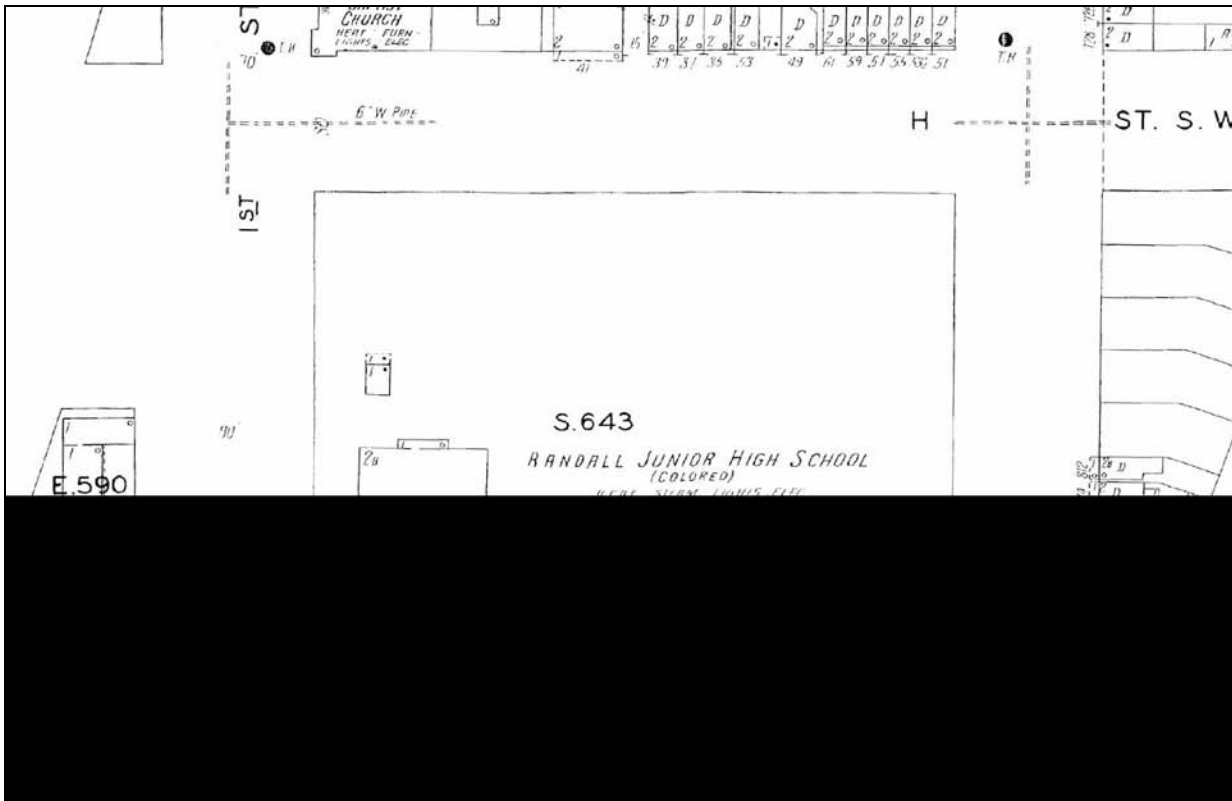
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## SITE PLAN



*1928 Sanborn Insurance Map of Washington, D.C.; Book 1, Volume 2, Sheet 239*

Detail of the Randall Junior High School showing the original 1906 main block (highlighted red) and the 1927 east and west wings (highlighted yellow). The 1927 west wing connected to the 1912 Cardozo Manual Training School (not highlighted). The once freestanding structure is now incorporated into the Randall Junior High School by later additions not shown on this map.