

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

NRHP

APR 13 2021

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 National Register Bulletin How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" if not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Booker T. Washington High School

other names/site number Exhibit Hall Head Start Center

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

2. Location

street & number 234 Carver Avenue

not for publication

city or town Philadelphia

vicinity

state Mississippi county Neshoba zip code 39350

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: X national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D

Signature of certifying official: Kate Blount Date 4-13-21

Mississippi Department of Archives and History State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

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		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete block, brick

roof: Asphalt shingles, built-up

other:

Booker T. Washington High School

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The former Booker T. Washington High School (now Exhibit Hall Headstart Center) stands on a roughly rectangular parcel of about 7 acres in northwest Philadelphia. Facing east on the east end of the property, the main building, one-story high and built in 1948, was designed by Meridian architect L.L. Brasfield—this originally had a painted concrete block exterior. In 1959, a gymnasium/auditorium and cafeteria addition designed by Meridian architect Robert B. Clopton was added to the south end of the original building, and brick veneer to match this addition was added over the original exposed concrete block exterior at that time.

At the northwest corner of the main building, detached but close to the back wall, stands a square classroom annex built approximately 1980-82 for the Head Start that now occupies the building. A playground and small parking area are in front of the main building, with a larger parking area and driveway at the back. Beyond, at the west end of the complex, the football field is on a slightly lower elevation and is now part of a city park that also includes a walking trail.

The main building has a moderate level of integrity on the exterior, with most of its original steel awning-type windows intact in the 1948 section but smaller replacements in the 1959 addition; the interior has a higher level of integrity, retaining its original floor plan, painted concrete-block walls, and hallway transoms. Overall, the site, which sits within a historically African American neighborhood, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The former Booker T. Washington High School stands in the northwest quadrant of Philadelphia, Mississippi, a railroad town situated in the east central region of the state, an area characterized by abundant pine forests, red clay soils, and gently rolling hills dotted with small farms. Philadelphia is the county seat of Neshoba County, which is home to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, one of three federally recognized Native American Tribes in Mississippi and the only Tribe with residence in the state.

The school campus covers about 7 acres on a roughly rectangular parcel bounded by Carver Avenue on the east, Atkins Street on the north, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on the west, and Rea Street on the south. The main building and later cafeteria stand on the east side of the parcel facing Carver Avenue, with Rea Street actually curving around to accommodate the south end addition of the main building. The ground slopes slightly down to the west, and drops down to the level area of the former school football field and city park, which encompass the western two-thirds of the property. A viewing pavilion overlooks the football field and park from the higher eastern side, and at the southwestern corner of the property stands a concrete-block public restroom building. Single-family detached houses line Rea and Atkins streets and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, facing onto the school property; a few single-family houses also face the property on Carver Avenue, but there are also some vacant lots where in the 1950s and 1960s small commercial buildings once stood.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | C | Booker T. Washington High School | 1948 (L.L. Brasfield)
1959 addition (Robert B. Clopton) |
|----|---|----------------------------------|--|

This building consists of a long gabled original building built in 1948 on the north end and, on the south end, a flat-roof section with a higher auditorium/gymnasium, added in 1959. The original 1948 building of Booker T. Washington High School is rectangular, approximately 225 feet long by about 60 feet wide, and has a low-sloped side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. It was built of concrete blocks, which were originally exposed on the exterior, but this was changed in 1959 when it was veneered with scored red brick to match the new addition to the south. **Eaves are composed of 1" x 4" boards slightly spaced to allow air ventilation, and triangular ventilators in the north and south gables allow further air circulation in the attic.**

Booker T. Washington High School

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The original main entrance is at the center of the original building and consists of double-leaf replacement doors recessed between two pilasters that once extended above the roofline. Original windows are 12-light steel-framed awning types with 3-light awning types flanking the original entrance. As was typical for schools of this period, to capture the best sunlight, the windows march down the east and west facades in groups of five, each large group delineating a classroom; smaller groups of two and three windows light offices and restrooms. The windows on the east front of the building had been partially covered with metal panels approximately in 1980-1982; these covers were removed in August 2020 to expose the entire original windows. On the rear (W) elevation, three window groups are 4-light aluminum replacements in the original openings, also dating to the 1980s, while the rest are original steel-frame types. The north end entrance is centered on the north elevation, which has no other fenestration, and consists of double-leaf 1-light steel doors (replacements). A brick masonry screen dating to the 1959 addition shelters the north entrance, and a sidewalk leads west to the 1980s classroom annex behind the main building.

The interior of the original section is simple but highly intact, with a long hallway double-loaded with classrooms running on a north-south axis and lit by 4-light steel-framed hall transoms. A short entrance hallway leads from the original E entrance at the center of the building. Walls are painted concrete-block, **original acoustical tile ceilings are covered with later dropped tiles, and floors are 12" square linoleum tiles.** On the north end of the hallway, 1-light replacement steel doors lead to the exterior; on the south end, the original doors have been removed, and the hallway continues into what is now the main entrance lobby and the north-south hallway of the 1959 addition.

When the addition was made in 1959, the main entrance was moved to a flat-roofed hyphen between the original building and the new addition, with two pairs of double-leaf, 1-light metal doors leading into a broad entrance lobby, where the main office is semi-transparent through a plate-glass window on the left.

The addition's exterior is painted scored brick, and its flat roof is pierced at the center by a taller gymnasium section clad in metal. Wide eaves feature exposed concrete rafter beams and exposed tectum deck panels on a flat steel grid. Window openings on the E façade and W (rear) elevation have been infilled with wood paneling and smaller residential-style windows and 6-panel doors, while windows on the S elevation are boarded or covered in metal sheets. A double-leaf, 1-light entrance is recessed on the S end of the E façade. This leads to a hallway that runs directly into one of the two entrances to the gymnasium and turns right to form the main north-south hallway that eventually leads to the main entrance lobby and through that to the 1948 building. In addition to girls and boys bathrooms, this hallway is double-loaded with classrooms. Walls are painted stacked concrete blocks, and ceilings are dropped panels.

The gymnasium is **a rectangular space approximately 61' x 100' and** sunken several steps below the level of the hallway. The visitor enters through one of two double-leaf entrances from the north-south hallway and descends the concrete steps. Walls are painted stacked concrete blocks and metal paneling above. The gym floor is tongue-and-groove wood, and original rollout wood bleachers line the north side of the space, facing the playing floor as well as a centered raised stage area on the south side. The playing floor is on an E-W axis, and steel I-beams span the space, which receives artificial light from pendant lights hanging from the exposed decking and natural lighting from plexiglass skylights as well as from a row of ribbon windows raised high on the north wall. The stage is on the S wall, with a concrete floor elevated several feet from the gym floor, and is located in a section of the building with a lower ceiling than the gym. Two rows of stage lights illuminate the space, which has an exposed tectum roof panel ceiling. An opening on the S wall to the right of the stage leads to a narrow concrete-floored hallway with a small locker room adjacent, and the now-boarded doors entered the cafeteria. Paired steel doors on the N wall of the gym lead to a semi-enclosed hallway that enters a larger locker room and two small rooms that operated as shared office spaces for **the coach's office and** band director. The former vocational shop is under a flat lower roof on the W end of the gym wing adjacent to the cafeteria and was later converted to a social club (closed) and appears to have suffered fire damage in the late 1980s.

Booker T. Washington High School

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2. C Classroom annex

c.1968

One-story scored-brick building, roughly square in footprint with a flat-roof and poured concrete foundation. Wide eaves on the N and S elevations and metal canopies on the E and W create a sheltered concrete walkway on the W, S, and E sides. The east and west elevations are identical, and the north and south elevations are identical. Connected with a covered concrete walk to the north end of the 1948 school building, the east elevation has a recessed section at the center that shelters a single-leaf door on the north and the south, each leading into a classroom. Flanking this sheltered entrance area on either side and high on the wall are two groups of four 1/1 replacement metal windows with concrete sills. On the north and south sides, an exposed concrete column at the center is flanked by two groups of eight 1/1 replacement metal windows with continuous concrete sill above a scored brick wall.

3. NC Pavilion #1

c.2010

Standing behind the school buildings and the rear parking area, the shed-roofed pavilion is built on a rise overlooking the football field to the west. It is entered on-grade from the rear parking area but by a metal staircase from the field side. The painted concrete-block foundation supports a concrete deck, and steel I-beams support the metal shed roof that slopes to the east.

4. C Football Field

c.1950

The football field stretches on a north-south axis with steel goal posts at each end zone.

5. NC Concession Stand/Restrooms

c.2010

This front-gabled, one-story, rusticated concrete-block building faces diagonally to the corner at Rea Street and Martin Luther King Jr Drive. Porches supported by square wood posts on the SW and NE elevations are integrated under the asphalt-shingled roof, and combined with the wide eaves on the side elevations, they create a peripteral sheltered concrete walkway. Two concession windows open on the NE side, toward the football field, while single-leaf steel doors on the SW side lead to men's and women's restrooms. Plywood siding covers the gable ends, and metal triangular vents ventilate the attic.

6. NC Pavilion #2

c.1980

This open pavilion has an asphalt-shingled gable roof on a diagonal axis at the corner of Rea Street and Martin Luther King Jr Drive. Square wood posts support the roof and sheltered the concrete pad occupied by picnic tables.

7. NC Walking Track

c.2005

An asphalt-paved walking trail winds around the football field, mostly hugging the edge of the large green space that is now a city park on the western half of the school property.

Booker T. Washington High School

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

LAW

Period of Significance

EDUCATION and ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK:
1948-1969

LAW: 1964-1966

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Luther Lee Brasfield

Robert Bradford Clopton

Booker T. Washington High School

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Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The former Booker T. Washington High School campus is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local significance in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black as the only high school for black students in the city of Philadelphia, Mississippi from its construction in 1948 to its closure in late 1969 during the era of desegregation. It is of national significance in the area of Law as the site of a legal dispute between parents and school officials in 1964 about students choosing to wear buttons that proclaimed the civil rights message, "One Man, One Vote." A lawsuit brought by the parents ended at the Fifth U.S. Court of Appeals as *Burnside vs. Byars*, and the court's decision affirmed the First Amendment right of students to free expression at school. *Burnside vs. Byars* was cited multiple times by the U.S. Supreme Court in its definitive 1969 decision *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, which is recognized by legal scholars as "the most important Supreme Court case in history protecting the constitutional rights of students."¹

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Background

Philadelphia, the county seat of Neshoba County, is situated in the east central region of the state, an area with relatively poor soil for growing cotton, which was historically Mississippi's biggest cash crop. Neshoba County is home to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the only federally recognized Native American Tribe with reservation lands in Mississippi. The region's early settlers were small and subsistence farmers, and it never had an influx of plantation-scale planters, who were instead attracted to the rich bottomlands of the riverine regions on the west side of the state; consequently there was never a large enslaved population here. Although Philadelphia was founded as the seat of Neshoba County in 1838, the county's slow agricultural development, scattered settlement, and lack of good roads meant the town mainly served only a governmental purpose, not an economic one, until the arrival of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City Railroad in 1905.² At this time, the county's yellow pine forests began to be harvested and shipped to ports such as Gulfport, Pascagoula, and Mobile, Alabama, and Philadelphia's population began to grow, from 175 people in 1905 to 2000 in 1926.

In the 1930s, Philadelphia began to benefit from the state's growing paved highway system, which was supplanting the old notoriously difficult farm-to-market roads. State Highway 19 was paved from Meridian, a much larger city to the southeast, and around the same time, State Highway 15—roughly following the same north-south route as the railroad—was cut through eastern Mississippi. The two highways intersected just off the courthouse square, the center of government and commerce for the whole county. Concurrently, Mississippi's state government began a program called Balance Agriculture With Industry (BAWI) to attract

¹ Erwin Chemerinsky, "Students Do Leave Their First Amendment Rights at the Schoolhouse Gates: What's Left of *Tinker*?" *Drake Law Review* 48 (2000): 527.

² Running almost due north along the eastern side of the state of Mississippi, the MJ&KC Railroad connected Mobile, Alabama with Jackson, Tennessee, and later Paducah, Kentucky; it became the New Orleans, Mobile & Chicago Railroad in 1909, and in 1917 became part of the larger Gulf, Mobile & Northern system, which also included east-west links to Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi and to New Orleans, LA.

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industry to the state. The program allowed municipalities to pass bond measures to subsidize the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings to lure industries from unionized, high-cost locations in northern states. An early success in the BAWI program was the construction of the Wells Lamont Glove Factory in 1946. This Art Moderne one-story building on West Myrtle Street, west of the railroad tracks and south of Philadelphia's largest African American neighborhood, was expected to bring about 250 new jobs to the city. In the period between 1930 and 1960, the town's population grew to 5,017, showing its new status as a governmental and economic center for a region with a newly diversified economy.

In 1960, the U.S. Census classified 32.1% of Philadelphia's population classified as "non-white."³ Although Philadelphia's black community was not concentrated in only one area, its largest neighborhood was west of the railroad tracks in the northwestern quadrant of the city. By the mid-20th century, Independence Quarters, as the neighborhood was called, had a mixture of small shotgun houses, modest bungalows, and Ranch houses facing onto gridded but unpaved streets.⁴ Important African American institutions such as churches and masonic lodges anchored the community along Carver Avenue, a north-south thoroughfare that also hosted a mix of small commercial buildings and single-family residences.

In June 1964, Philadelphia and Neshoba County gained unexpected national and international notoriety when three Civil Rights workers—Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman—were jailed on a minor traffic violation in the Neshoba County Jail in Philadelphia and then, on their way back to Meridian, were ambushed, brutally murdered, and buried in an earthen dam in southeastern Neshoba County. Schwerner, a Jewish New York resident, and Chaney, a black Mississippian, worked for the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) office in Meridian. Andrew Goodman had only recently come to Mississippi as a volunteer in Freedom Summer, in which civil rights workers from Mississippi and all over the nation aimed to educate black Mississippians in their constitutional rights and to encourage voter registration in the black community. The Downtown Philadelphia Historic District was listed in April 2005 for its national significance in the clash that played out after the murders between civil rights activists and white officials and their allies in the Ku Klux Klan.

This clash was dramatically illustrated by two marches in June 1966 led by Martin Luther King, Jr. that called for justice for the murderers, several of whom were leaders in local government. Both marches, June 21, and June 24, 1966, began on Philadelphia's Carver Avenue, at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church (257 Carver, building replaced with later building). Marchers assembled at the church, walked south along Carver, past the COFO office and past the Booker T. Washington High School, turning east in front of the school on Rea Street. Crossing the railroad tracks, marchers turned south along Railroad Avenue and then Front Street, still in a relatively safe neutral ground, but as Florence Mars recalled in her memoir *Witness in Philadelphia*, they began to encounter resistance at the bottom of Depot Hill, at the corner of Main and Front streets, where they turned east again on Main Street. Moving toward the courthouse square and county jail, marchers met with white crowds who heckled them, threw objects, and even ran a car into the line.⁵ Martin Luther King, who led prayers at the jail and then addressed the crowd from the steps of the courthouse, told the national press covering the march that "there is a complete reign of terror here," and he resolved to lead a second march to

³ 1960 U.S. Census, Census of Population: Vol I. Characteristics of the Population:

<http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/37745223v1p26.zip>

⁴ Florence Mars, *Witness in Philadelphia*, p. 207.

⁵ Mars, p. 207.

Booker T. Washington High School

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force the issue. White state officials agreed that the vicious lawlessness of the first march reflected badly on Philadelphia and Mississippi, and for the second march, which took much the same route, highway patrolmen and local police were out in force to maintain order.⁶

While Booker T. Washington High School played a supporting role in those marches, it was at the center of an important lawsuit, *Burnside vs. Byars*, which resulted in a federal appellate court's decision in favor of free expression by students, a precedent still recognized today. After the disappearance of the three civil rights workers, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) established an office north of the school on Carver Avenue, and when the new school year began in September 1964, some students wore "freedom buttons" with the slogan, "One Man, One Vote."⁷ Principal Montgomery Moore suspended the students who refused to remove their buttons, and three parents opposed to the punishment filed suit against school officials for infringing on the First Amendment right to free expression. After losing in federal court, the school district appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where in 1966 a three-judge panel "unanimously affirmed the district court's decision and ruled in favor of the students," noting that "school officials cannot infringe on their students' right to free and unrestricted expression." This landmark First Amendment case is still cited today.

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black and Education

The Booker T. Washington School (BTW) is named after the celebrated African American educator, Booker Taliaferro Washington. Booker T. Washington himself was highly educated; therefore the school, so befittingly named, became a symbol of education in the African American community in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

The school opened in the early 1900s under the sponsorships of the late Edward and Julia Stevens, it was then known as the Neshoba County School (NCS). During the 1900's, there were very few schools in Mississippi for African Americans that were clearly identifiable as schoolhouses; "the remainder held classes in one-room shacks or even sawmill sheds."⁸ Therefore, it was not uncommon that NCS began in one small room of the African American, Prince-Hall affiliated masonic lodge on Wilson Street in Philadelphia. It was the first independent school established for African Americans students in the city, with Mrs. Julia Stevens as one of the first teachers.⁹ Mrs. Stevens required much of her students and did not accept mediocrity. This persuasive leadership style had an incredible influence on the students, so much so that state agents began to praise the excellent work being done at NCS.¹⁰

In 1917, in recognition of a job well done, the State Board of Education endorsed NCS and the local board passed an act which provided the first public school for African American students in the history of Philadelphia. The program provided a basic curriculum for African American students grades 1-7.¹¹

⁶ Mars, p. 211.

⁷ COFO was established in 1961 as an umbrella organization to coordinate the efforts of the NAACP, CORE, SCLC, and SNCC in Mississippi with an emphasis on community organizing and direct action in the civil rights struggle. COFO's efforts led directly to the formation of the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party (MDFP) in 1964 as a protest vote against the Mississippi Democratic Party.

⁸ Charles C. Bolton. "Mississippi's School Equalization Program, 1945-1954: 'A Last Gasp to Try to Maintain a Segregated Educational System,'" *The Journal of Southern History* 66:4 (Nov. 2000)

⁹ "Roots of struggles, rewards of sacrifice." [Brochure] Philadelphia, MS, 2010.

¹⁰ "Praise to Negro School," *Neshoba County Democrat* (Philadelphia, MS), December 16, 1939, pp. A1.

¹¹ "Praise to Negro School," 1939.

Booker T. Washington High School

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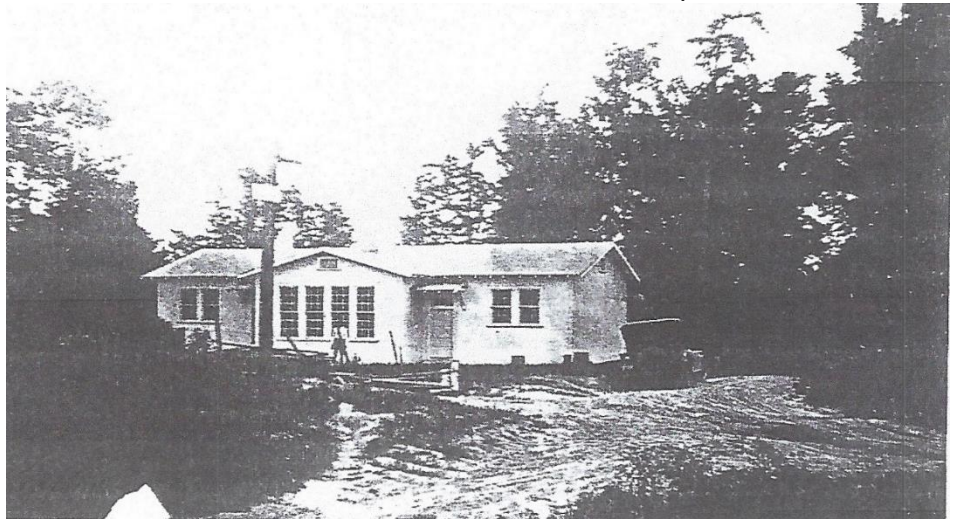
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The education system in Mississippi faced many challenges during the earliest years of the twentieth century. The educational status of blacks in most southern states remained appallingly low, plummeting far below the level of whites. At the other end of the educational gamut, almost all whites had attended and graduated high school; while only a few African Americans had graduated high school.¹² During this era, it was no longer acceptable to hire teachers who were barely more educated than their students.¹³ Therefore, in the beginning of the 1917-18 school year, Mrs. Stevens stepped down and was replaced with Ms. Wheeden, who was elected for a two-year term (Department of Education: Philadelphia Separate School District, 1955). The educational system in Mississippi faced many challenges during the earliest years of the twentieth century. By 1922, NCS saw dramatic increases both physically and academically. In keeping with its own pace, the Rosenwald School-Building Program aided NCS in the construction of a new three-room (2-teacher) schoolhouse on Rea Street on the east side of the railroad tracks. Rosenwald Fund records, preserved at Fisk University, report that the wood-frame school building cost \$2,850, broken out in the following contributions:

Negro: \$350
White: \$200
Public: \$1600
Rosenwald Fund: \$700¹⁴

NCS operated on Rea Street for several years as the only public school in Philadelphia that allowed students of color to attend.¹⁵ In 1933, eighth-grade courses were added to the curriculum; this was the first year that the eighth grade was taught at NCS. The staff at this point consisted of Mrs. Bonnie Payne, Mr. Lawrence Payne, and Ms. Pearl McLain (Department of Education: Philadelphia Separate School District, 1955).



Source: Julius Rosenwald Fund records. Fisk University Archives, Nashville, Tenn.

A State Department of Education report, "Significant Data for Mississippi Negro Schools, 1938-39," included Philadelphia's school under the heading "Unapproved High Schools," noting that it had an enrollment of 239 elementary students and 21 high school students.¹⁶ But very soon thereafter, the continuous growth of NCS under the direction of Mr. Lawrence Payne forced the school board to expand the school's campus in 1939. The expansions consisted of a Home Economics Department, and an Industrial Shop.¹⁷ The school was

¹² Bolton, "Mississippi's School Equalization Program, 1945-1954," *The Journal of Southern History*, Nov. 2000.

¹³

¹⁴ Julius Rosenwald Fund records, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

¹⁵ *Roots of struggles. Rewards of sacrifices*, 2010. By the 1940s, the Neshoba County school district operated three campuses for African American students outside of Philadelphia that offered at least some high school courses: Hopewell, Longdale, and Beashie. Hopewell, located east of Philadelphia off of Highway 16, was a Rosenwald campus founded in the 1920s and was the most established of the three. During the Equalization period of the 1950s, the county reorganized and consolidated all black students to these three campuses and built one new consolidated high school at the Hopewell campus, renamed George Washington Carver High School, which opened in 1963. See "Study, Neshoba County, 1955," State Dept. of Education records, RG 50, Series 1653: School Building Surveys from the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

¹⁶ General Education Board Archives. File Miss 69: Supervisor of Rural Schools—Negro (1914-1952).

¹⁷ School Building Service Record Cards (State Dept of Education records, Series 1500), Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

Booker T. Washington High School

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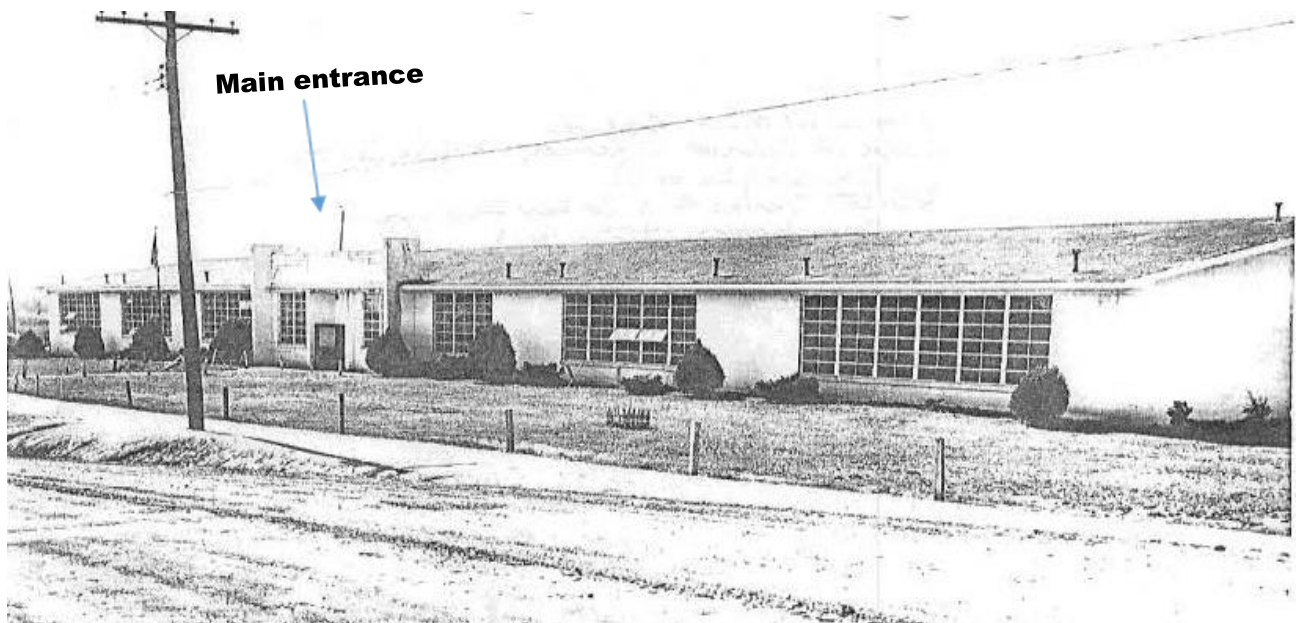
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renamed The Neshoba County Training School (NCTS) at this time,¹⁸ Formal designation as a county training school by the State Department of Education indicated that at least one year of high school classes had been approved.

NTCS received good reviews for its work from state officials, albeit couched in the racial views common in the Jim Crow South. According to a letter from P.H. Easom, a State Agent, directed to the (white) Superintendent of Schools, Mr. J.R. Saunders and published in the Neshoba County *Democrat*:

I visited your colored school at Philadelphia last week and I doubt if there is a single school in the State that has made more progress than yours has made. You have trades for the boys and home economics work for the girls. This program is going to be a credit to you, your school board, and the city of Philadelphia. You will find that it not only helps the colored people, but it helps the white people as well. It will help reduce criminality and idleness. The Trades man is doing some good work. I am anxious for the home economics teacher, as soon as she can, to do something to improve the maid service.”¹⁹

NCTS continued to be successful and remained on Rea Street until 1948. Both the original Rosenwald school and the later home economics and shop building were demolished after the new school building opened in 1948.



Original Booker T. School 1948, architect: L.L. Brasfield, Jan. 1950. The exterior is unprotected concrete block with the front entrance is a piece extending above the roofline. Source: Mississippi Department of Education records. MDAH RG 50, Series 1513.

In the fall of 1948, the principal Mr. Watts, and other staff, welcomed the student body to a beautiful new modern one-story, concrete-block, school building designed by Meridian architect L.L. Brasfield. The large

¹⁸ Roots of struggles, Rewards of sacrifices, 2010.

¹⁹ "Praise Negro School," *Neshoba County Democrat* (Philadelphia, MS), December 16, 1939.

Booker T. Washington High School

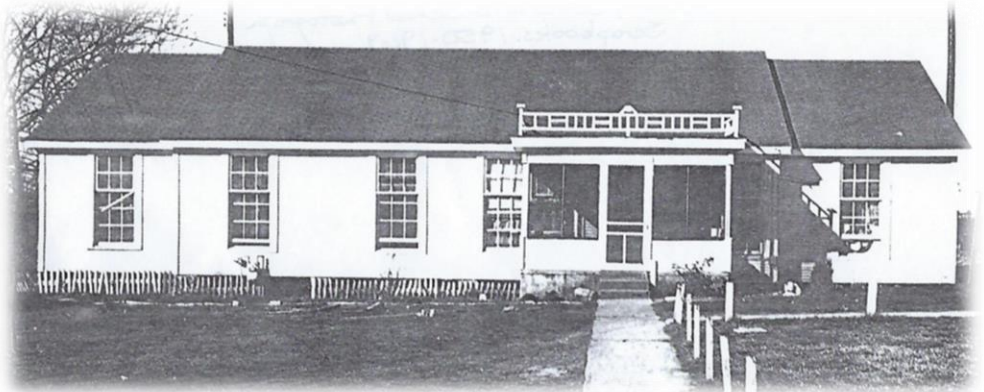
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school building clearly dominated its environment, standing in northwestern Philadelphia on the southern end of what is now Carver Avenue, once the most marketable and recognized part of Philadelphia's largest African American community. The name was changed to Booker T. Washington School (BTW).²⁰ The school offered a complete secondary education to African American students in Philadelphia, presenting a curriculum for students grades 1-12 inclusive during segregation. A report for the State Department of Education in 1955 noted that the high school curriculum consisted of four years of English, four years of math including Algebra I and II and Geometry, 3 years of Home Economics for girls and "Trade and Industry" classes for boys, three years of science including Chemistry, and four years of social sciences including Civics, World and American History, Sociology, and Government.²¹

BTW consisted of 12 classrooms, a library off the main corridor, and an office for the principal. The long, one-story concrete block, rectangular-form building was constructed on a poured concrete foundation with a low-sloped roof of asphalt shingles. A teacher's home was adjacent to the building but is no longer standing.



Teacher's House, Booker T. Washington School. Demolished. Source: Mississippi Dept. of Education records, MDAH RG 50, Series 1513.

²⁰ Roots of struggles, Rewards of sacrifices, 2010.

²¹ "Study, Philadelphia Separate School District, 1955," p. 12. (RG 50, Series 1653, MDAH). The same report (p. 11) notes that the Philadelphia High School for white students had similar English, math, science (adding a fourth year for Advanced Science), and home economics classes with the inclusion of business classes such as typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping, and a semester credit for band and piano.

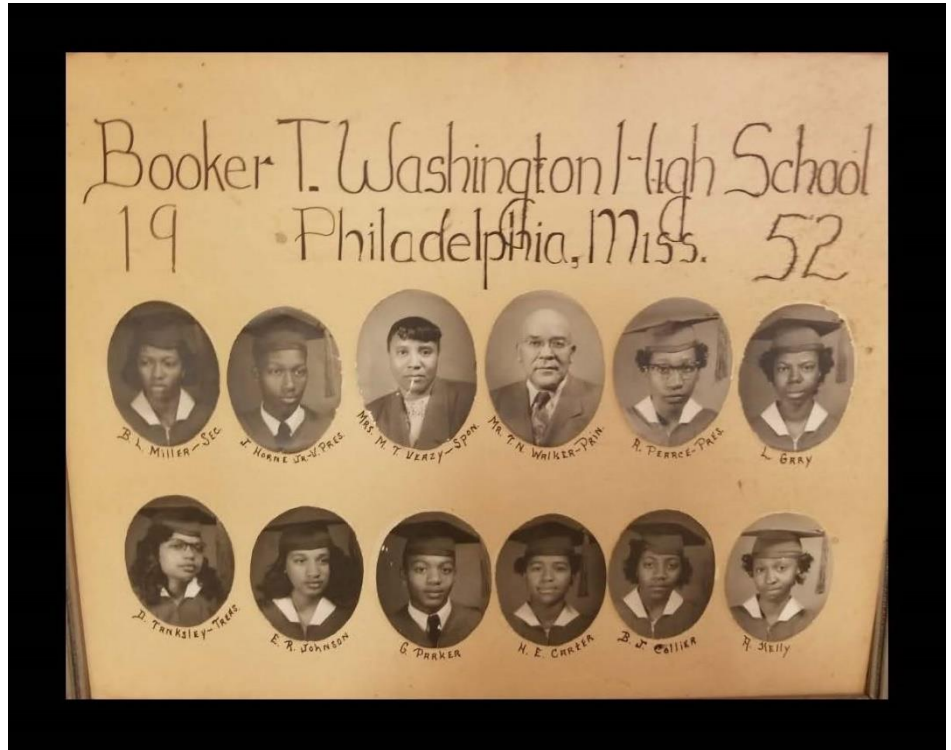
Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

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BTW was a part of the State of Mississippi's Equalization Program, a program designed with a strategic plan of massive resistance to racial integration in Mississippi public schools. Under the program, the state built modern schools to appease the African American communities and to demonstrate that the city of Philadelphia, among other cities in Mississippi, could operate a racially separate and equal public school system.²² BTW was the first school for African American students constructed under the program in Philadelphia. The building was partially funded by the state's first Equalization program, and the other half raised privately in Philadelphia's African American community.²³ According to State Department of Education records, the state approved a "state aid" grant to the local school district \$24,000 for the 12-room school building, receiving the working drawings from Meridian architect L.L. Brasfield on August 4, 1947.²⁴ The new, larger school building consolidated Popular Springs, Mt. Zion, and Longdale schools for black students to Philadelphia.²⁵



²² Bolton, "Mississippi's School Equalization Program, 1945-1954," *The Journal of Southern History*, Nov. 2000.

²³ "Negroes Raise Money for Neshoba School," *Neshoba Democrat*, March 6, 1949, p. 10.

²⁴ Department of Education Records. RG 50, Series 1500: School Building Service Record Cards, MDAH.

²⁵ "Negroes Raise Money for Neshoba School," *Neshoba Democrat*, March 6, 1949, p. 10.

Booker T. Washington High School

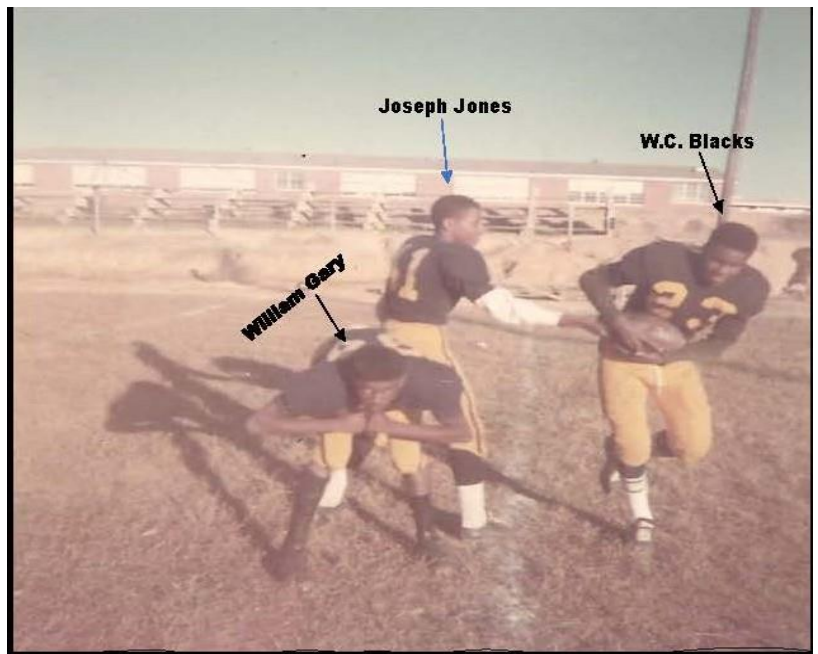
Neshoba County, Mississippi

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The second phase of the Equalization Program began in Dec 1953, when the state legislature, seeing a noticeable threat to segregation in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, mandated a complete overhaul of every school district in the state and the consolidation of African American schools into larger, centralized facilities that would offer more high school amenities.²⁶ The consensus was if African Americans were given modern facilities, equipment, and resources, their desire to attend school with whites would diminish. Nevertheless, the effort to maintain a dual school system continued to surge. Despite the State's effort to maintain segregation with the modern school, BTW thrived and the students excelled with the competent guidance of the school's devoted teachers.

In 1959 under the leadership of principal Mr. Thomas Walker, the school district enhanced the school's curriculum and proposed a massive renovation to include a large science laboratory, a gymnasium/auditorium with a stage, a cafeteria, and a band room. BTW received funding for the requested renovations and more from the later Equalization phase. The State Educational Finance Commission authorized \$108,000.00 for a new wing containing one regular classroom, a combination gymnasium/auditorium seating approximately 200 people, cafeteria, science laboratory, commercial (business) department, home economics department, an industrial shop, and two restrooms for students. The new addition was designed by architect Robert B. Clopton of Meridian, Mississippi.²⁷ It was added to the south end of the original building, while adding red veneer brick that covered the concrete block exterior of the original building. In addition, a lighted athletic field was developed immediately adjacent on the seven-acre campus.²⁸ The band and the athletic programs were called the Hornets, the school colors were black and gold.²⁹



**Booker T. Washington High School Football Team 1964-65
At Practice**

Team members: W.C. Blacks, Charles Brown, Ronnie Brown, Leonard Brantley, Charles Gary, William Gary, Charles Grady, Harvey Hardy, Jimmy Haynes, Booker T. Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Jerome Miller, Howard Overstreet, L. J. Pace, Charles Judon, and John Washington.

Figure 1: Photograph courtesy of Mujahid Sabree, Dec, 3, 2020.

²⁶ Bolton, "Mississippi's School Equalization Program, 1945-1954," *The Journal of Southern History*, Nov. 2000.

²⁷ Department of Education Records. RG 50, Series 1500: School Building Service Record Cards. MDAH.

²⁸ "Study, Philadelphia Separate School District, 1955.

²⁹ *Roots of struggles, Rewards of sacrifices*, 2010.

Booker T. Washington High School

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BTW First Girls Basketball Team – 1959

Source: Photograph courtesy of Purvie Henson., Philadelphia, MS

Front Row: From Left to right: Coach and Principal, Mr. Montgomery Moore, Maxine Johnson, Annie Lois Norman-Payton, Shirley Walker, Purvey Hardy, and Betty Horn. **Second row left to right:** Junita (Last Name unknown), Mary L. Davis, Charlotte Houston. Charlsie Fay Stribling, Mary Ruth Horn, Dorothy Clark, and Bobbie J. Seals.



BTW Girls Basketball Team 1964-65

Front Row: From left to right, Arutha Shannon, Patricia F. Graham, Teresa Croon, Ajatha Morris, Ruby J. Rodgers, Shirley J. Foster and Louise Davis.

Back Row: from left to right Patsy Cole, Magdalean Peeples, Helen Fox, Katherine Davis, Canzater Burnside and Shirley Houston.

Source: Photograph courtesy of Ruby J. Rodgers, July 2020

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The Booker T. Washington High School Hornets closed the 1964-65 basketball season by displaying the nine trophies won in tournament competition, eight of which are championship and one being a runner-up.

Front row left to right; trainer, Kenneth Mack; Curlee Conner; Jerome Miller; James Willie Tisdale; Ivell Henson; Hayes McClendon, Jr. Back row left to right; Booker T. Johnson; Johnny Henson; Glenn Brown;

Johnny Day; Leonard Brantley; Jimmy Pickens and Coach P. Payne.

High point men and their averages are James W. Tisdale, 890 points, with a 20.5 average; Jerome Miller, 843 points and an 18.1 average; Curlee Conner, 777 points with a 17.6 average; and Ivell Henson, 600 with a 13.6 average. James Willie Tisdale has been playing basketball since he was eleven.

BTW Boys Basketball Team – 1964-1965

Source: Neshoba County *Democrat*, March 1965

Booker T. Washington High School

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The Music Department consisted of a marching band and chorus, directed by Mr. J. Moore and Mr. E. Stewart.

Booker T. Washington High School Marching Band 1959

Band Director: Mr. E. Stewart

Band members: John E. Baxstrum, Willie B. Brown, Teresa Croon, Billy Earnest, Henry Graham, Harvey Hardy, Pervey Hardy, Johnnie Hudson, Maxine Johnson., Joe H. Latimer, Ertis McKay, and Peter Riddle.



Source: Photograph courtesy of Purvie Henson. Philadelphia, MS October, 2020.

Booker T. Washington High School

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The Booker T. Washington High School Chorus will participate in the State Song Festival in Jackson, April 23. J. E. Moore is the director. Voice, tone, quality, individualism, cooperation, initiative and rehearsal are the factors stressed by the leader and he says that the students as well as he put forth all efforts to meet these goals.

The chorus, appearing in tan dresses and tan blazers are front row: Annie McBeath, Barbara Reid, Maxine McGowan, Della R. Dupree, Bettye R. Rush, Edna Haynes, Sara Hathorne, Carrie L. Haskins, Lucy Carter, Carrie Lue Haskins and Martha Morris.

Second row: Josephine Moore, Mariann Rush, Gloria Hudson, Louise Davis, Jacqueline Henderson, Ruby Rogers, Gwendolyn Morris, Shirley Foster, Gladys Slaughter, Betty Black and Ernestine Clemons.

Third row: J. E. Moore, director, Mariann Brison, Fred Scott, Joseph Jones, Willie Seals, Charles Grady, Reo Carathors, Thesora Croons and Helen Fox.

Fourth row: Billy Joe Moore, McArthur Slaughter, W. C. Black, Larry Horne, Frank Spivey, Harvey Hardey, Albert Ernest, David McAfee and James H. Moore.

Source: Neshoba County *Democrat*, Philadelphia, MS., April 1965

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Shortly after the completion of the renovation, in the early 1960s, Mr. Walker retired, and Mr. Montgomery Moore became principal. Mr. Moore took control and guided BTW through many major social, economic, and educational changes with unaltered determination.

Mississippi public schools withstood a gripping change in 1970. After sixteen years of deferrals, token desegregation, a constant stream of legal action by African American parents, and federal interventions, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Mississippi and other Southern states to disassemble their dual school systems. The state's ninety-five-year-old "separate but equal" educational system where white students attended one school system and African Americans students attended another one crashed.³⁰

After the change to a singular school district that would allow both whites and African American students to attend the same schools, BTW closed its doors October 1970.³¹ After more than four decades as a segregated school, it merged with Philadelphia High and Philadelphia Elementary Schools. The last BTW senior class graduated in May, 1969.

Since the closing, the alumni of the BTW have continued to renew their bonds with each other and the BTW experience through school/class reunions and other social events. For these alumni, as well as for the city of Philadelphia, BTW was more than a school, it was a great stride forward for African American students, a place where hopes and dreams were nurtured, a place where achievement was paramount, and new possibilities brought hope and excitement into lives on the brink of full participation in American society, and a place that remains a symbol of confidence in the future.

Today, the former Booker T. Washington High School continues to serve educational purposes, and provides an important African American educational and cultural institution for the city of Philadelphia. It is now utilized as a Head Start Center and for city park and recreation programs.³²

Criterion A: Law

The former Booker T. Washington High School is nationally significant in the area of Law as the site of controversy that culminated in the opinion *Burnside vs. Byars* (1966), a case recognized by legal scholars as among the most important dealing with the right of students to free expression on school property. The U.S. Supreme Court cited *Burnside* multiple times in *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969), which legal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky calls "the most important Supreme Court case in history protecting the constitutional rights of students."³³ While typically, courthouses are the buildings with the closest associations with important legal cases (and are therefore most often significant in the National Register area of Law), *Burnside vs. Byars* was heard in a variety of federal



Figure 2: One man one vote expresses the principle that individuals should have equal representation in voting,

³⁰ Charles C. Bolton. "The Last Stand of Massive Resistance: Mississippi Public School Integration, 1970." Posted February 2009. <http://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/articles/305/the-last-stand-of-massive-resistance-1970>.

³¹ Roots of struggles, Rewards of sacrifices, 2010.

³² Roots of struggles, Rewards of sacrifices, 2010.

³³ Erwin Chemerinsky, "Students Do Leave Their First Amendment Rights at the Schoolhouse Gates: What's Left of *Tinker*?" Drake Law Review 48 (2000), 527.

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venues, and it is not entirely clear where in Houston, Texas the appellate arguments on the case were held. Thus, Booker T. Washington High School, the site where the events played out and where the students and school officials confronted each other, is the site with the closest associations with *Burnside v. Byars*.

During the summer of 1964, Carver Avenue became a hub of civil rights activity after the disappearance of three Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers, Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman. The Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) set up an office on Carver Avenue as a base for voter registration initiatives.

Soon thereafter, Booker T. Washington High School found itself at the center of events. According to a later summary by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, in early September 1964, Principal Montgomery Moore found that several students were wearing "freedom buttons" distributed by COFO. Moore announced to the student body that such buttons were not allowed at school because they "didn't have any bearing on [students'] education." The Fifth Circuit summary continues:

Despite Mr. Moore's announcement, on September 21, 1964, three or four children appeared at school wearing the buttons. All were given an opportunity to remove the buttons and remain in school but three of the children elected to keep them and return home. The following day all the children returned to school without their buttons. On the morning of September 24, 1964, Mr. Moore was summoned to the school by one of the teachers who reported that 30 or 40 children were displaying the buttons and that it was causing a commotion. Mr. Moore then assembled the children in his office, reminded them of his previous announcement, and gave them the choice of removing their buttons or being sent home. The great majority elected to return home and Mr. Moore thereupon suspended them for a period of one week. Mr. Moore then delivered a letter to each parent concerning the suspension, and all parents agreed to cooperate in the matter except Mrs. [Margret] Burnside, Mrs. [Pearl] English, and Mrs. [Ola B.] Morris, whereupon injunctive proceedings were instituted against the school officials to enjoin them from enforcing the regulation.³⁷



ABANDONED — A couple stands in front of a building in Philadelphia, Miss., that was a target for nightriders in the 1960s when it was the office of an amalgamation of civil rights groups called the Council of Federated Organizations. Ten years ago this summer, three civil rights workers were slain near Philadelphia. - AP Wirephoto.

Figure 4: COFO building on Carver Avenue, photo published in *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), June 16, 1974. Building no longer standing.

³⁷ *Burnside v. Byars*, 363 F. 2d 744 (5th Cir. 1966): <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/363/744/264045/>

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The suit was filed on October 1, 1964 in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, on behalf of minor children, Canzater and Martha Burnside, Ajatha Morris and Neva English. The plaintiffs sought certification of a class that contained other students.³⁸ The defendants were Superintendent J.E. Hurdle, members of the Philadelphia school board, and Principal Montgomery Moore.

The case was assigned to District Judge Sidney Carr Mize (1888-1965), who held a hearing on October 8, 1964, in the fourth floor courtroom in the federal courthouse in Jackson (former Eastland Federal Courthouse, 245 E. Capitol St, listed on the NRHP 1976). According to the *Clarion-Ledger*, Judge Mize “refused to grant an injunction which would have restrained Philadelphia Negro School officials from dealing with students wearing ‘freedom buttons’ to class . . . leaving school officials free to suspend or take other disciplinary measures.” Mize’s decision called Moore’s actions “reasonable and proper,” and Mize further stated, “The wearing of buttons is unable to aid in education, but, I can see where it would be a detriment to discipline.”³⁹

The plaintiffs appealed Judge Mize’s decision to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and on August 10, 1965, the case was consolidated with a similar “freedom button” case from the Mississippi Delta, *Blackwell v. Issaquena County Board of Education* (363F.2d 749 (5th Cir. 1966)). On March 8, 1966, a three-judge panel in Houston, Texas, probably meeting in the federal courthouse at 515 Rusk Street (built 1962), heard arguments in the consolidated case.⁴⁰

The U.S. Court of Appeals published separate opinions for *Burnside* and *Blackwell* on July 21, 1966. In the case of *Burnside*, the Fifth Circuit reversed Judge Mize’s District Court decision and remanded it with directions, maintaining that the school rule forbidding students to wear “freedom buttons” on school property was unreasonable and deprived the students of their “liberty of expression guaranteed by the First Amendment.”⁴¹ The court “held that high school officials may not prohibit expressive conduct by students unless it ‘materially and substantially interfere(s) with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school.’” This became known as the *Burnside* standard.⁴²

Regarding *Blackwell*, the case involving students wearing freedom buttons to the all-black Henry Weathers High School in Issaquena County, Mississippi, the Court of Appeals found “quite a different picture from the record in *Burnside*” because students “conducted themselves in a disorderly manner, disrupted classroom procedure, interfered with the proper decorum and discipline of the school and disturbed other students who did not wish to participate in the wearing of the buttons.” In this case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court’s original refusal to grant an injunction.⁴³

³⁸ Ban on ‘Freedom’ Buttons Upheld,” *Nashville Southern School News*, Nov. 1, 1964, p. 7.

³⁹ Chaze, *Clarion-Ledger*, October 9, 1964, p. 1. Although federal court docket records indicate that a hearing was set for Judge Mize’s Biloxi federal courthouse chambers, it appears from other evidence that this hearing was in fact held in Jackson.

⁴⁰ Due to COVID-19 closures of federal records centers to even court researchers, the full records of the case and where arguments were held have been pieced together from the case docket by Leslie Southwick, Circuit Judge, U.S. Fifth Court of Appeals with assistance from Alexandra Rosenblatt and Professor Anne Emanuel of Georgia Institute of Technology.

⁴¹ *Burnside v. Byars*, 363 F.2d 744 (5th Cir. 1966): [Justia](https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/363/749/264063/).

⁴² Leslie H. Southwick, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, “Federal litigation over 1964 student protest at Booker T. Washington High School, Philadelphia, Mississippi,” June 18, 2021, p. 1.

⁴³ *Blackwell v. Issaquena County Board of Education*, 363 F. 2d 749 (5th Cir. 1966): <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/363/749/264063/>. [The Henry Weathers High School had begun as a Rosenwald-funded campus in the 1920s and later became Issaquena County Training School. A brick, 9-classroom building was added to the campus with Equalization-funding in 1954, and this building is still standing and operates as the Ripley-Blackwell Head Start Center \(MDAH Inv. No. 055-MAR-5012\).](https://www.mda.gov/press-releases/2019/05/2019-05-20-issaquena-county-training-school)

Booker T. Washington High School

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Mississippi newspapers such as the *Neshoba Democrat* (Philadelphia, MS), the *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), and the Greenwood *Commonwealth* had noted with approval Judge Mize's original refusal to grant an injunction against school officials in 1964, but the later Court of Appeals verdict overturning that decision on free speech grounds received little or no newspaper coverage.⁴⁴

The plaintiffs in *Burnside v. Byars* did not seek further review by the Supreme Court. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' standard for student speech announced in *Burnside* was binding on all federal courts within the six states of that circuit. It was not controlling precedent in the rest of the country, but it would have been applied by other courts to the extent it persuaded them. Just three years later, though, the *Burnside* articulation of the speech rights of students became the national standard when the U.S. Supreme Court adopted it as its standard in *Tinker*.⁴⁵ As Circuit Judge Leslie H. Southwick (5th Circuit) has noted in his review of the impact of *Burnside*, when the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969 heard a similar case regarding student expression in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (393 U.S. 503, 509 (1969)), the "court adopted the *Burnside* standard, explicitly crediting the Fifth Circuit's opinion for the standard and discussing that opinion in detail."⁴⁶ In the briefs for *Tinker*, both the Petitioners and the Respondents cited *Burnside*, the former attempting to convince the Supreme Court to use the *Burnside* standard and the latter attempting to have court reject that reasoning.⁴⁷ Judge Southwick's analysis continues:

Then, in the Supreme Court majority opinion in *Tinker*, *Burnside* was referenced four times. One justice wrote separately, agreeing with the outcome but saying he was not willing to go as far as *Burnside* in evaluating free speech claims. Thus, even that justice felt obligated to wrestle with the *Burnside* reasoning.

In summary, by articulating a clear and compelling standard, the Fifth Circuit in its *Burnside* opinion provided the Supreme Court a clear path among competing possible approaches to defining the free speech rights of students. The standard announced in *Tinker* could well have been different if not for *Burnside*.⁴⁸

Since 1969, legal scholars have recognized *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* decision as "the most important Supreme Court case in history protecting the constitutional rights of

⁴⁴ This tone of coverage held true in the editorials of the prominent African American paper, the Jackson *Advocate* by publisher Percy Green, who called the lawsuit "petty" and "provocative" and "confusing the issue of Negro rights" and opined that the plaintiffs were "demanding that the principal of a Negro school be restrained from exercising discipline over its students." "Petty Lawsuits Keep Racial Pot Boiling in State," Jackson *Advocate*, Oct. 17, 1964, p. 1, 8.

⁴⁵ In fact, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, in its review of *Tinker*, "considered the *Burnside* standard but rejected it," stating that "actions of school officials in this realm should not be limited to those instances where there is a material or substantial interference with school discipline. School officials must be given a wide discretion and if, under the circumstances, a disturbance in school discipline is reasonably anticipated, actions which are reasonably calculated to prevent such a disruption must be upheld by the Court." See Southwick, "Federal litigation over 1964 student protest" and *Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Community School Dist.*, 258 F. Supp. 971, 973 (S.D. Iowa 1966): <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/258/971/1510754/>

⁴⁶ Southwick, "Federal litigation over 1964 student protest," June 18, 2021, p. 1. In the case of *Tinker*, students in Des Moines, Iowa, had decided to wear black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War.

⁴⁷ *Tinker* involved three students from three different schools in Des Moines, Iowa: [North High School](#) (501 Holcomb Ave., built 1957, renovated 2010); [Warren Harding Junior High](#) (203 E. Euclid Ave., built 1926, renovated 1990s); and [Theodore Roosevelt High School](#) (4419 Center St., built 1924, listed NRHP Oct 24, 2002 under "Public Schools for Iowa MPS" for its local significance in the areas of Education and Architecture.

⁴⁸ Southwick, "Federal litigation over 1964 student protest," June 18, 2021, p. 3.

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students.”⁴⁹ Southwick notes that “*Tinker* has been relied on in 2,500 published court opinions and probably at least that many unpublished rulings, . . . [and] *Burnside* itself has been cited 1,000 times in other court opinions, briefs, law review articles, and legal treatises.”⁵⁰ *Tinker*'s continuing importance is highlighted by the United States Supreme Court's reliance on it in *Mahanoy Area School District v. B. L., a minor, by and through her father, Levy, et al.*, decided June 23, 2021.

Although the legal path of *Burnside v. Byars* was circuitous and did not always receive local or statewide attention, the *Burnside* standard was and remains of national import. The property most closely associated with that standard is the Booker T. Washington High School in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where students peacefully wore freedom buttons to express their solidarity with the goals of the Civil Rights movement.

⁴⁹ Erwin Chemerinsky, “Students Do Leave Their First Amendment Rights at the Schoolhouse Gates: What’s Left of *Tinker*?” *Drake Law Review* 48 (2000): 527.

⁵⁰ Southwick, “Federal litigation over 1964 student protest,” June 18, 2021, p. 2.

Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

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Booker T. Washington High School

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<https://silo.tips/search/Partnership.+%282010%29.+Roots+of+struggles%2C+rewards+of+sacrifice+%5BBrochure%5D+Philadelphia%2C+MS.+>

Southwick, Leslie H. "Federal litigation over 1964 student protest at Booker T. Washington High School, Philadelphia, Mississippi," June 18, 2021. Memo from U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to Jennifer Baughn, on file at Historic Preservation Division, MDAH (Jackson, MS).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local Government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 099-PHL-0063

Booker T. Washington High School

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 7.3 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>32.779725</u> Latitude	<u>-89.120145</u> Longitude	4	<u>32.778327</u> Latitude	<u>-89.118882</u> Longitude
2	<u>32.779724</u> Latitude	<u>-89.117692</u> Longitude	5	<u>32.778581</u> Latitude	<u>-89.118916</u> Longitude
3	<u>32.778313</u> Latitude	<u>-89.117701</u> Longitude	6	<u>32.778566</u> Latitude	<u>-89.120149</u> Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 11, RANGE 11. BLKS 7 & 8 & PT BLKS 4 5 6 & 9 DONALD ADD PB 1 PG 10

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the historic parcel containing the Booker T. Washington High School buildings, parking, and football field.

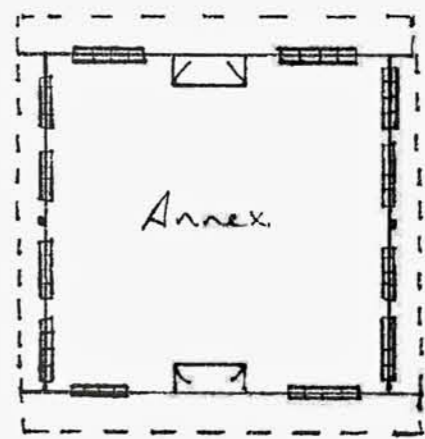
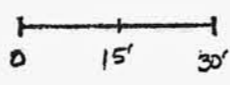
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bettye C. Blacks, with Jennifer Baughn (MDAH) date 12-7-2020
organization Booker T. Washington High School, Class of 1965 telephone _____
street & number _____ email _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

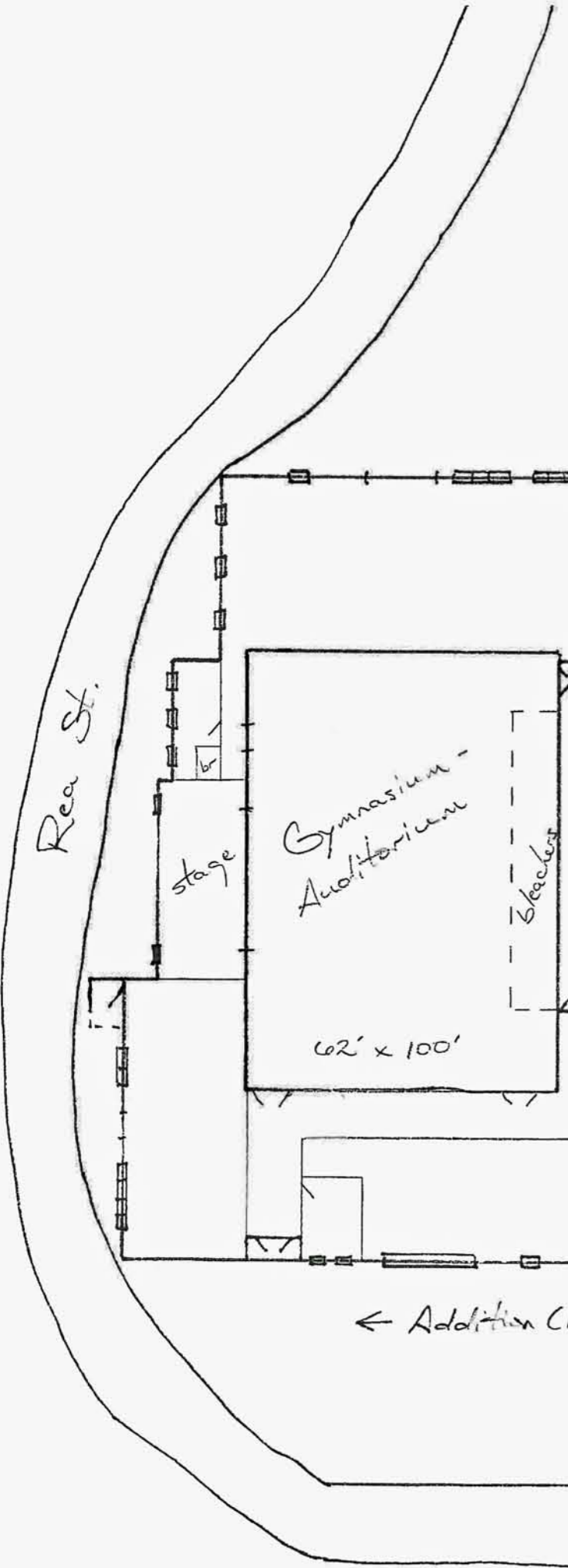


drive

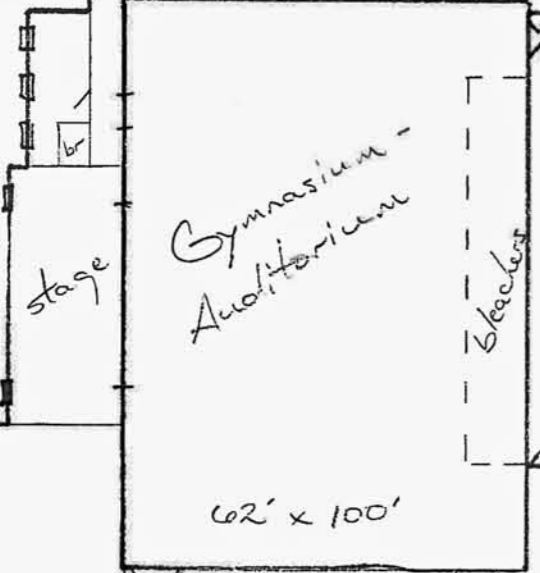
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL
234 Carver Avenue
Philadelphia, Deshoba Co.



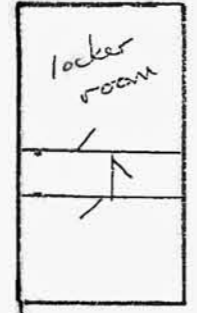
Atkins St.



Rea St.

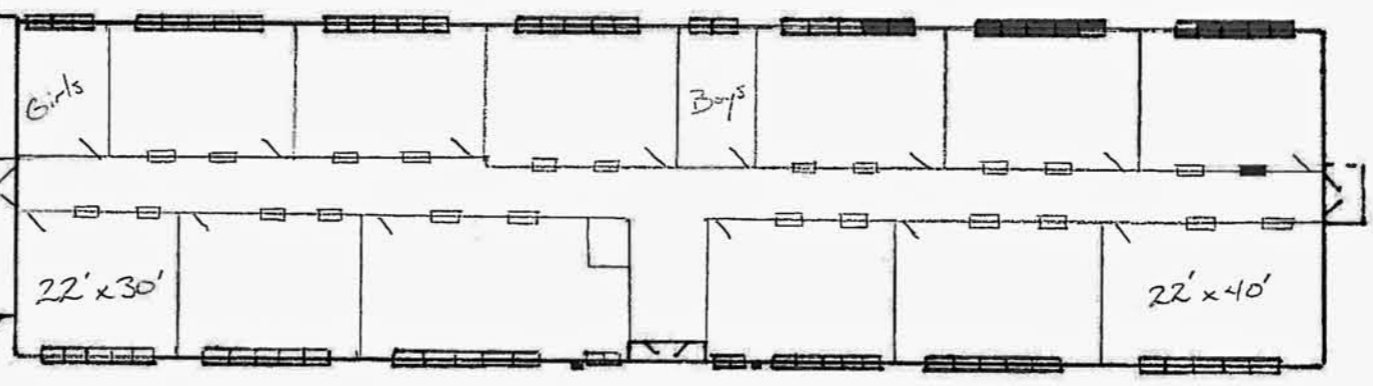


62' x 100'



locker room

bleachers



Girls

Boys

22' x 30'

22' x 40'

← Addition (1959) →

← Original Building (1948) →

Carver Ave.

Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

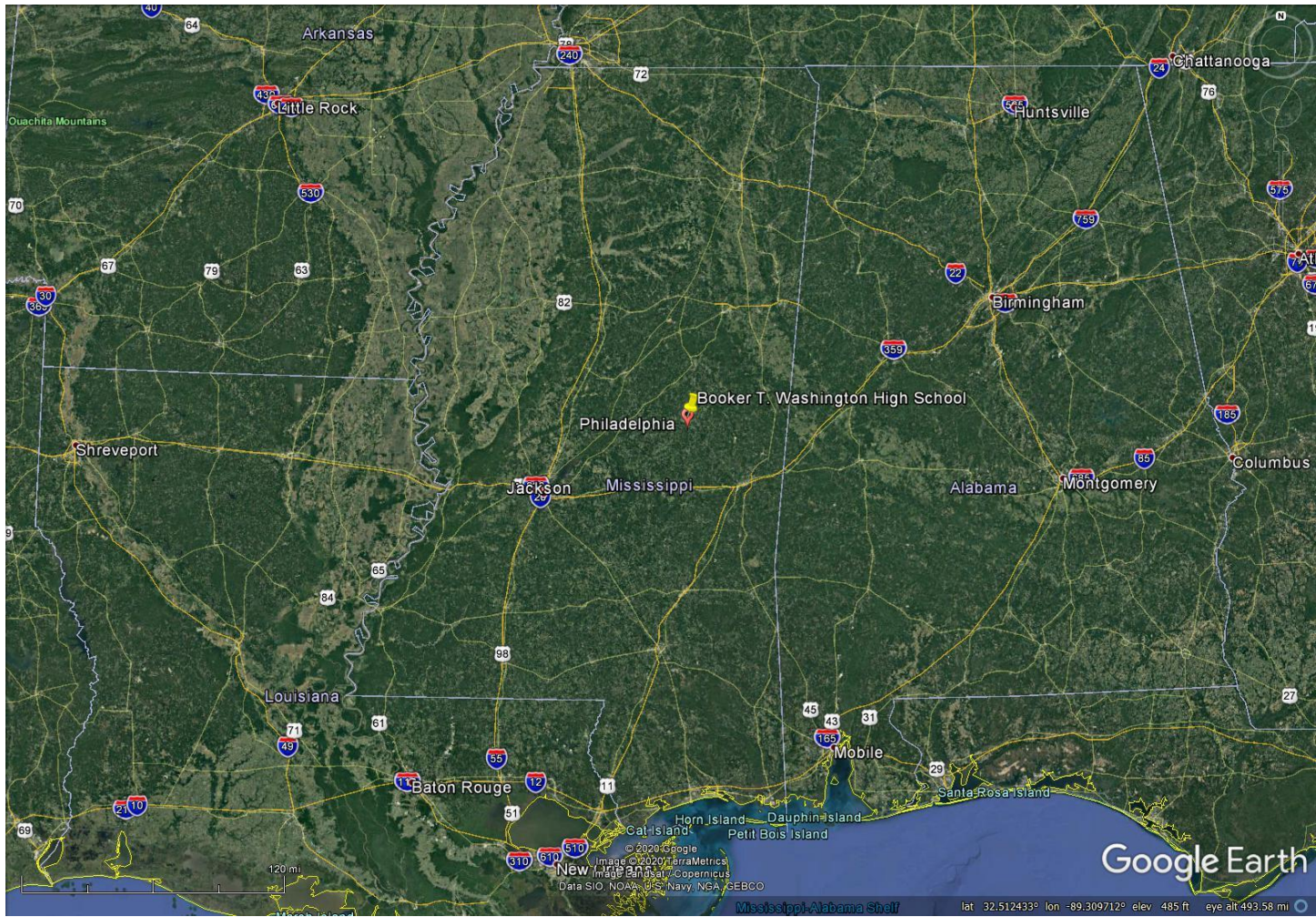
Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**



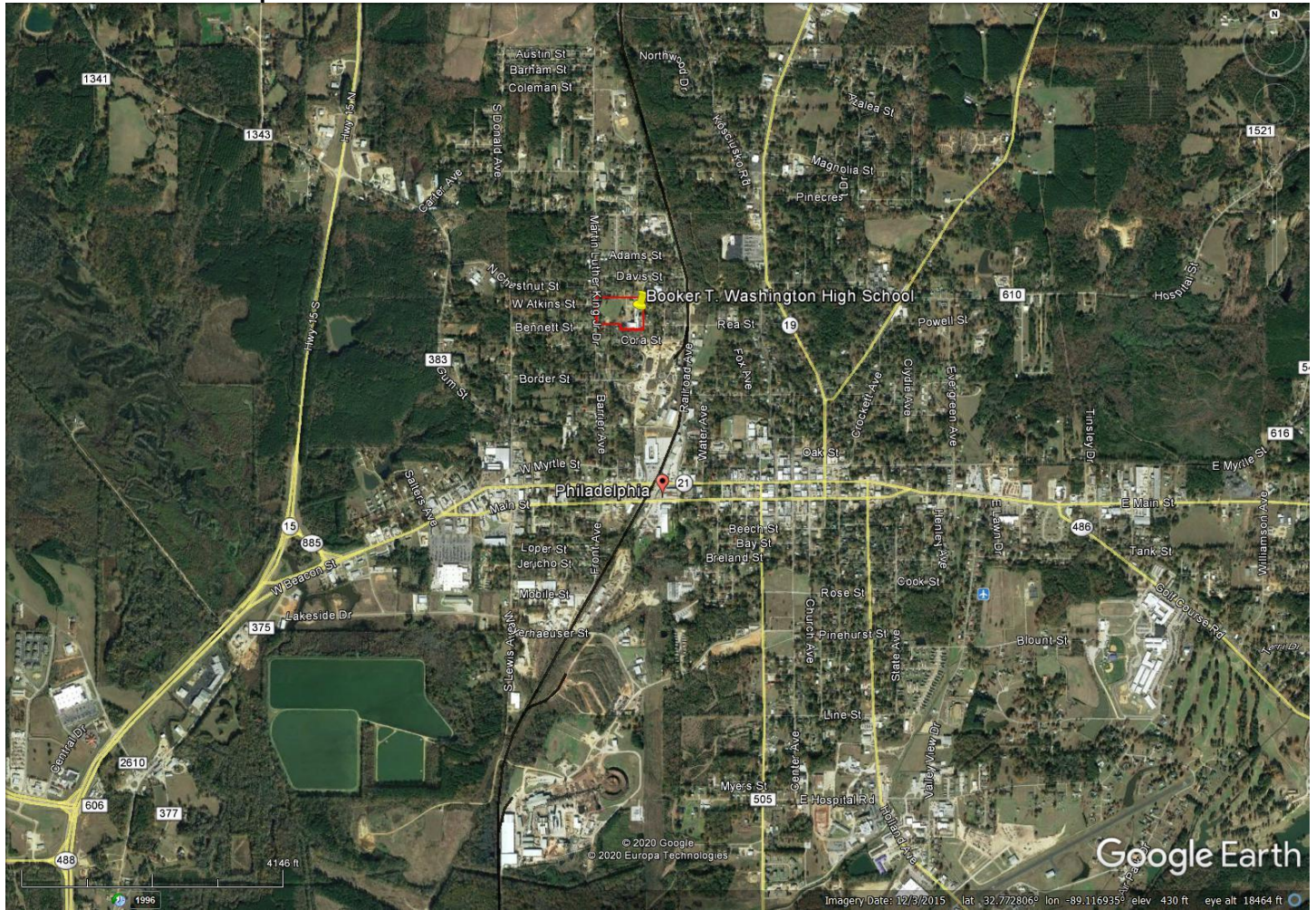
Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

• Local Location Map



Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

• **Site Plan**



- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Booker T. Washington High School

Neshoba County, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Booker T. Washington High School

City or Vicinity: Philadelphia

County: Neshoba **State:** Mississippi

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 14: Original building (1948), E façade with original entrance at center. View to WSW.
Date Jan 20, 2021
- Photo 2 of 14: Original building (1948), E façade and N elevation. View to SW.
Date Oct 12, 2020
- Photo 3 of 14: Original building (1948), typical vented eave and original steel windows.
Date: Oct. 12, 2020
- Photo 4 of 14: Main entrance (hyphen between original building [R] and 1959 addition [L]). View to NW.
Date Jan. 20, 2021
- Photo 5 of 14: 1959 gymnasium/cafeteria addition, E façade and S elevation, Rea Street in foreground.
View to NW. Date: Oct. 12, 2021
- Photo 6 of 14: 1959 gymnasium-cafeteria addition, rear elevation (W and N elevations). View to SE.
Date: Oct. 12, 2021
- Photo 7 of 14: Original building (1948), rear (W) elevation, view to NE.
Date: Oct. 12, 2021
- Photo 8 of 14: Original building (1948), interior, main hallway, view to N.
Date: Dec. 6, 2016
- Photo 9 of 14: Original building (1948), typical classroom with replacement door, original transom, chalkboards, dropped ceiling.
Date: Dec. 6, 2016
- Photo 10 of 14: 1959 gymnasium/cafeteria addition, gymnasium, with original rollout wood bleachers to R and partially enclosed stage to far L. View to W.
Date Jan. 20, 2021
- Photo 11 of 14: 1959 gymnasium/cafeteria addition, gymnasium stage ceiling showing original lighting.
Date: Jan. 20, 2021
- Photo 12 of 14: 1980-82 classroom annex, S and W elevations, view to NE.
Date: Oct. 12, 2020
- Photo 13 of 14: Football field on W section of school parcel, with goal post to R, Pavilion #1 beyond, and school building in background. View to ENE.
Date: Jan. 20, 2021
- Photo 14 of 14: Concession stand/restrooms and Pavilion #2, view to SW
Date: Jan. 20, 2021

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0001



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0002



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0003

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL
In 1908 Edward and Julia Thomas founded a school for Philadelphia African American children in the Black Community Center near Union Street. In 1923, the Booker Center School moved into a new building on Dec Street funded by the Pennsylvania Education Authority. The school was renamed in 1950. The school was renamed Booker T. Washington School in 1964. The school was built in 1964. The school was built in 1964. The school was built in 1964.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL
234 CARVER

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL
234 CARVER

HANDICAPPED PARKING



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0004



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0005



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0006



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0007



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0008



Table
Toys

Blocks

MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0009



Dr Pepper
Bev
Dr Pepper
HOME GUEST
PERIOD
BONUS BONUS

MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0010



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0011



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0012



MS_Neshoba County_Booker T. Washington
High School_0013



MS_Neshoba County_ Booker T. Washington
High School _0014