

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Listed 12/16/2022

# 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" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Arlington School

Other names/site number: Arlington Heights School, Arlington Heights Primary School, Arlington Heights Elementary School, Arlington Heights Academy and Daycare

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 607 Carthage Avenue

City or town: Arlington Heights State: Ohio County: Hamilton

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	
<b>DSHPO Inventory and Registration</b> <b>10/28/2022</b>	
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Center _____	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE/limestone, METAL, ASPHALT

## Narrative Description

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### Summary Paragraph

Located on Carthage Avenue in a low-scale residential neighborhood of Arlington Heights, the Arlington School is a two-story variegated brick building with limestone trim. Parallel to the street, the building has a southwest-northeast orientation. Stylistically, the school reflects the Early Classical Revival and Adam styles, in the symmetry of the front elevation, its central limestone entrance portico and slightly projecting front-gabled end bays. The hipped roof is topped by a cupola in the center. Adamesque elements include an oval medallion in the tympanum of the portico with the letter "A" draped with swags as well as engaged limestone urns, bas-reliefs of urns with swags, and oculi in the end bays. The building retains a significant degree of its design, materials, and workmanship. It remains in its original location and retains a green lawn and mature pine trees in the front. The rest of the property, however, has been completely paved. Nevertheless, the school retains the feeling and association with the neighborhood.

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### Narrative Description

#### *Setting*

The school is located on a 1.259-acre site on a quiet residential street lined with modest homes. The building faces northwest and the 35-foot setback from the street is occupied by a green lawn and several trees. Driveways on both sides of the building lead to an asphalt-paved parking lot at

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the rear. To the southwest of the school, is a trailer, which was added to the site circa 2005 to provide temporary classrooms. The trailer is a noncontributing structure. The rear (southwest) property line is defined by a railroad line, the former Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis (CCC&I) Railroad, built in 1872.

### *Building Description*

The Arlington School is a two-story variegated brick building with limestone trim with elements of Early Classical Revival and the Adam styles. Oriented parallel to the street, it has an irregular plan, but the front elevation is symmetrical, with an entrance portico in the center and slightly projecting front-gabled end bays (photos 1 and 2). It has a hipped roof, topped by a cupola in the center. The limestone portico (photo 3), raised above grade and approached by six broad steps, dominates the front façade and equals it in height; it consists of a pediment supported by four square columns. The plain frieze contains the name of the school, and the tympanum is embellished with an oval medallion with the letter “A” draped with swags.

The paired front doors have a straight transom with 12 lights. The doorway has a limestone surround topped by an entablature with a broken pediment supported by brackets. Above the pediment is a limestone plaque reading, “The rights of the child are the first rights of citizenship” in incised lettering (photo 4). Other details include an anthemion relief in the frieze and a finial within the pediment. Four bays of paired windows flank the portico. Like the front doors, the windows throughout are all bronze anodized replacements from a 1993 renovation. The end bays, which are edged with brick quoins at the corners, each have a blind window within a limestone surround with an engaged stone urn at the first floor, a limestone plaque with an urn and swags at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and an oculus in the gable (photos 5 and 6). A corner stone on the right reads, “AD 1934” (photo 7).

The southwest (side) elevation (photo 8), which encloses a full-height gymnasium, features large windows and an entrance with flush double doors within a limestone surround with a modest entablature. A square limestone plaque above reads simply, “GYM,” in incised capital letters (photo 9). The southeast (rear) elevation has a flat-roofed two-story addition built of similar brick in the early 1960s to add two classrooms (photos 10 and 11). The northeast (side) elevation features large windows and a gabled entrance porch (photo 11).

On the interior, a small foyer leads to a full-height stairhall with steps leading down in the center flanked by steel stairways to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with simple steel railings and terrazzo treads (photos 12 and 13). The walls are glazed brick, and the ceilings have dropped acoustic tile. The floors throughout the buildings are terrazzo in black, white, and gold aggregate, except for the foyer, which has an “A” embedded in a gold terrazzo diamond (photo 14). A bronze plaque on the wall in the foyer provides the date, and names of the Lockland City Board of Education members, the architects, J.C. Grunkemeyer & C. W. Sullivan, and Leo J. Brielmaier, General Contractor (photo 15).

The ground floor has classrooms and a boiler room on the east end of the building, and a double-height gymnasium (photo 16), which also served as a cafeteria and assembly space. It occupies

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the basement and first floor levels at the west end. The second floor has a double-loaded longitudinal hallway with classrooms (photo 17). The corridors have original high glazed tile wainscoting and solid wood doors with lights at the top. The classrooms have new blackboards and acoustic tile ceilings (photos 18 and 19), but they retain stained wood window trim, built-in shelves and bookcases, and terrazzo floors.

### *Alterations and Historic Integrity*

Over the years, the school building has undergone some minor alterations. The building's location is the same, but the setting has changed somewhat; the front lawn and pine trees remain, but the rear of the property has evolved from green space with a playground to a parking lot, which was paved subsequent to the installation of a driveway around the building in 1992. The site was further altered by the addition of the trailer in 2005, a noncontributing structure.

The roof was replaced with asphalt shingles; bronze anodized aluminum windows and doors were installed by 1993, but the building retains its basic shape, room arrangements, and window and door openings, especially as seen from the street. A sensitive two-story addition was made on the rear to add two classrooms, between 1960 and 1964. That addition has similar, if slightly different, variegated brick and blends well with the original portion.

On the interior, the building largely retains its original floor plan, with its central stairway. The corridors were renovated with new acoustic tile ceilings and lighting, but the tile walls, wood doors and terrazzo floors have been preserved. The classrooms have new blackboards and acoustic tile hung ceilings and some historic wood lockers have been removed from the classrooms, but stained wood window trim, built-in shelves and bookcases, and terrazzo floors remain.

The building retains historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance as an important example of local educational architecture. The school is located on its original site that includes its setback from street of open grassy space and mature trees. The Public Works Administration-funded Georgian Revival style school design, materials, and workmanship are displayed through its overall style, plan, architectural features and details. The building retains its feeling and association as a 1930s era school through the corridors, classrooms, and specifically designed spaces such as the gymnasium/cafeteria and the original materials including terrazzo, tile, wood and exterior brick and limestone trim and stylistic details.

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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.)

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1934-1972  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1934  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Grunkemeyer, J. C. - architect  
Sullivan, Clyde W. - architect  
Brielmaier, Leo J. - general contractor



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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Arlington School is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the building served as the first and only school building in the small residential suburb of Arlington Heights (AH) for 80 years, from 1934 to 2014, and is thus significant in the area of Education, locally representing the community's educational history. It was one of the first school buildings to be completed in Ohio during the Great Depression under the federal Public Works Administration (PWA), which enabled construction of more than 3,000 school buildings throughout the country to provide modern educational facilities. Under Criterion C, it is significant in the area of Architecture as a good example of a public-school building in the Early Classical Revival style with Adam-style ornament, reflecting the legacy and architectural symbolism of federally-funded public educational buildings. Early Classical Revival characteristics include the symmetrical front elevation, central entrance portico and projecting end bays. Adamesque elements include an oval medallion draped with swags in the pediment and engaged limestone urns in the end bays. The design is representative of the Cincinnati architectural firm of Grunkemeyer & Sullivan, who appear to have obtained the commission from J. Wesley Sullivan, President of the Lockland Board of Education and father of architect Clyde W. Sullivan. The Period of Significance is 1934 to 1972, representing the period from its completion to the fifty-year age requirement for the National Register and the primary time period in which the school functioned as a traditional public school for the local student population. Beginning in the 1970s the school experienced a decline in student population resulting in the start of friction between the Lockland district school board and local residents to keep the school viable, eventually leading to changes in the use of the school in keeping with broader changes in public school student needs and local demographics.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### *Criterion A: Education*

The Arlington School is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education as the first and only school building in the small residential suburb of Arlington Heights. Built in 1934, it was one of the first school buildings to be completed in Ohio during the Great Depression under the federal Public Works Administration (PWA). It was also located in one of only three communities in Hamilton County to receive a PWA-funded school. Thus, it is significant for its association with this important federal program, which enabled construction of more than 3,000 school buildings throughout the country to provide modern educational facilities.

#### *Arlington Heights*

Occupying less than a square mile, Arlington Heights started as railroad suburb in the early 1870s with the opening of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railroad (CCC&I) through the eastern part of Lockland, a center of industry along the Miami & Erie

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Canal to the north. The railroad attracted new firms to the Lockland-Reading area and led speculators to start new residential development on the unincorporated land along the CCC&I immediately south of Lockland. This area eventually became Arlington Heights.

By the 1880s, the community, then known as Arlington, had only about fifty residents, some of whom commuted by railroad to Cincinnati and others who worked in Lockland. When a post office was built there, the postal service required that the community to change its name to avoid confusion with another Ohio town called Arlington. It was decided to add “Heights” to the name of this new community.

In 1889, Arlington Heights was incorporated as a hamlet, the smallest form of municipality allowed by Ohio law. All the streets, except for Blanche Avenue, were laid out, platted and the grades established. Electric lights, water pipes, and telephone lines were also installed. In 1895, the Board of Trustees acted on a plan to build a simple barn-like building for public meetings and fire equipment.

By 1900, the hamlet had grown to about 500 residents, and in 1905, Arlington Heights was incorporated as a village. While initially there was some industry—a shoe factory and later a paper goods manufacturer—near the rail line in the northwest corner of the village, Arlington Heights was primarily a residential suburb. Because of its small size, the village did not provide many of the services that other 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburban municipalities offered their residents and instead contracted with Lockland and Reading to provide schools, trash collection, and water for its residents. (Today, police and fire departments are contracted with the City of Reading; water is provided by the Cincinnati Water Works).

The population grew rapidly during the 1920s to 1,214 people by 1930. Discussion of a new Village Hall began in 1926, but it was not until 1930 that a bond levy for it was passed. The new village hall, designed by William S. Sharpe and built by Frank Feldhaus, cost about \$19,000 and was dedicated on May 7, 1932. (In 1989, the year of the Village’s Centennial, the Village Hall was updated with added office space and an elevator).<sup>1</sup>

In the area of public education, residents of Arlington Heights were divided between school districts. “The village, containing 800 persons, adjoins Cincinnati and Lockland and is a part of both school districts. Not having any school of its own. Arlington Heights pupils attended the Lockland School or the Hartwell School, each necessitating a long trip for the younger children.”<sup>2</sup> The choice was either that the Cincinnati board take over the entire district or surrender its rights to part of the district and permit the entire district to be taken over by the Lockland Board of Education.

Parents urged the Board of Education to build a school in Arlington Heights exclusively for the youngest grades so those pupils could attend school nearer to their homes and not be compelled

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ahohio.org/village-history>, accessed 9/17/21.

<sup>2</sup> “School needs placed before Board by Residents of Village of Arlington Heights,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 3/25/1930, 8:1.

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to make the long trips across hazardous railroad tracks and dangerous crossings. It was decided that the Lockland School District would take jurisdiction over all the students of Arlington Heights, and with funding from the Public Works Administration, the Arlington School was completed in 1934. It was one of the first school buildings in Ohio to be completed under the Federal Public Works program.<sup>3</sup>

The dedication of the school was an important local event with plenty of fanfare. Harry H. Baker, former Mayor of Norwood, made the address. Other speakers were William E. Sharpe, Mayor of Arlington Heights; J. U. Dungan, Superintendent of Schools; and John Barton, Mayor of Lockland. The cornerstone was laid by Wyoming Lodge No 186, F. and A. M. Thomas C. Berger, clerk of the Lockland Board of Education, presided. The flagpole was presented by the Arlington Fire Department, and a flag given by Fidelity Council 130 of the DAR was raised to the music of the Lockland School Band.<sup>4</sup>

### *The New Deal*

As mentioned above, the Arlington School was one of the first school buildings to be completed in Ohio during the Great Depression under the federal Public Works Administration (PWA). This agency was one of the components created by the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) passed by Congress on June 13, 1933, as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Roosevelt intended the NIRA to provide employment and help end the economic downturn.

The PWA provided 3.3 billion dollars to hire Americans to work on public works projects. Between 1933 and 1939, the PWA participated in approximately thirty-four thousand projects ranging from sidewalks to school buildings to dams. During this six-year period, the PWA helped construct seventy percent of new school buildings, one-third of the new hospitals, and two aircraft carriers. The PWA also constructed more than twenty-five thousand housing units to provide shelter for homeless Americans. Many of the new school buildings and other projects were located in Ohio.<sup>5</sup>

By the time the PWA went out of existence on June 20, 1942, it was “the biggest construction agency in history.” Hamilton County received \$9,687,061 toward total construction of \$27,183,437. Projects included \$3 million for the waterworks and street and sewer improvements in Cincinnati. “12,702 schools were built across the nation at a total cost of \$1,182,397,235.”<sup>6</sup> However, just three towns in Hamilton County got new schools— Arlington Heights in 1934 (Lockland School District), Madeira (1937), and Mariemont (1937). Construction of the

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<sup>3</sup> “Dedication is at hand for Arlington School,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 10/20/1934.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> [https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Public\\_Works\\_Administration](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Public_Works_Administration), accessed 4/13/22.

<sup>6</sup> “Cincinnati Got More than Share of Funds WPA Distributed But Even Then, City Passed Up Library and New Schools.” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 4/21/1940, 10:2

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Arlington School initially received \$14,500 in PWA funds, with an additional \$3,000 awarded to cover the cost of interior equipment, bringing the total to \$17,500.<sup>7</sup>

A study of school buildings erected with PWA aid that were completed or substantially completed before 1939 reported that during the four years from 1934 to 1938, the PWA made grants and loans for school buildings “amounting to \$113,155,766 per year. These grants and loans, together with funds supplied by the applicants, made possible an expenditure of \$232,405,061 per year...”<sup>8</sup>

A survey of school districts that received grants and loans from the PWA during the period from September 1933 to October 1938, undertaken by the Office of Education in connection with the Survey of the Committee on Architectural Surveys in May 1939, succeeded in collecting information on 1,965 completed school buildings. They were well distributed in all of the lower 48 States and in all types of communities. Nearly two-thirds of them were erected in school districts outside of cities and 47 percent of the buildings erected in cities were in communities under 25,000 in population. This was important because the “communities outside of the larger cities are the ones which have been severely handicapped for years due to lack of funds in their school-building programs”.<sup>9</sup> One third of the 1,965 school buildings erected with PWA aid were elementary school buildings, like Arlington School. PWA assistance in school construction also provided many improvements. It made possible the elimination of fire-hazardous buildings and expanded opportunities in science, art, music, nature study, shop work, and facilities for play and recreation, dramatics, and motion pictures. Auditoriums, gymnasiums, and libraries were also important additions.<sup>10</sup>

### *Arlington School*

The Arlington School was representative of PWA-funded school buildings in several ways. It was outside of a large city in a small community. It included a gymnasium that could also be used as an auditorium and cafeteria. The building served as a school from 1934 to 2014. During the last few decades, it was known as the Arlington Heights Academy and Daycare.<sup>11</sup>

The community remained fairly robust until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1942, Arlington Heights had an economic and social base of 32 businesses and light industries, a church, and the school. Its main business district of small stores was along the “V” formed by Dexter Avenue and Mills Street.<sup>12</sup> The peak of its population was 1,403 in 1970 but fell to 1,082 in 1980. By 2020, it had

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<sup>7</sup> “Extra \$3,000 Granted by PWA for Completion of Arlington School—Needed for Interior Equipment.” *Cincinnati Enquirer* 8/16/1934, 8:5.

<sup>8</sup> C. W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration*, US Government Printing Office, Washington: 1939, XVIII.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, XIX.

<sup>11</sup> “New School dedicated at Lockland featured by flag presentation, cornerstone laid by Lodge,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 10/21/1934, 26:3.

<sup>12</sup> “Village is Operating on \$19,500 a year,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 5/24/1942, 6:1.

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declined by about half of its peak to 740.<sup>13</sup> In 1978, there was a reckoning as school enrollment fell below 1,000 students. The district had declined 19% in 14 years (since circa 1964). Lockland was the smallest school district in Hamilton County, and possibly the smallest City school district in the State of Ohio.

During the 1970s the continued viability of the Lockland school system was called into question in the face of pressure to consolidate school districts with enrollments of under 1,000 pupils. The student teacher ratio was 12 to 1. Nevertheless, the commitment to maintaining the district was intense. Superintendent Boyd Martin said, "I think the people here in Lockland will increase their taxes in sufficient amounts to keep the school district as long as the industrial base remains the way it is. There is a great deal of pride in the school district, even by the senior citizens."<sup>14</sup>

Another source of pressure against the Lockland school system and 17 other school districts was an anti-segregation lawsuit initiated by the NAACP. Arlington School was not in compliance with desegregation guidelines passed by the state Board of Education in March 1980. The Enquirer reported that "All of the 130 students there, from K[indergarten] thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade, are white. Black residents make up 18% of the district's population. Lockland Primary is 30% black."<sup>15</sup> Under the guidelines, the Lockland School District could lose all state and federal funding. After discussion in closed session, the Lockland School Board decided unanimously to approve a plan to integrate the all-white Arlington Heights Elementary School beginning with the next school year, 1980-81. Under the plan, the school served preschool, K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade."<sup>16</sup>

By 1990, Arlington School served Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grades. The Lockland school board held a 2.6 mill bond issue to bring all its buildings up to code. Passage of the bond issue resulted in the addition of two portable classrooms at Arlington and six at Lockland during the 1991-92 school year. Arlington also received replacement windows, a new fire alarm system with lighting, a new signboard, and repair of drinking fountains.<sup>17</sup>

The Arlington School was rented out to the Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, a charter school, for about 5 years, after which it became the Arlington Academy for 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, also a private school.<sup>18</sup> The school board continued to make improvements. In 1992, the school then known as Arlington Primary, received a new roof, new ceilings and fluorescent lights, sidewalk repairs, improvements to storm sewers and restrooms, new paint, and some carpeting. To alleviate traffic congestion and increase safety, a new U-shaped driveway was installed around the school building "to allow parents to encircle the school rather than crowd the street in front of it."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Census of Population and Housing, Census.gov, accessed June 6, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 3/10/1978, D2:2.

<sup>15</sup> "Arlington School's Fate Awaits Special Meeting," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 5/21/1980, B2:3.

<sup>16</sup> "Arlington Heights Elementary to be integrated next year," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 5/30/1980, C3:1.

<sup>17</sup> *Cincinnati Enquirer* 7/8/1990, E10:7.

<sup>18</sup> "Lockland Schools seek tax to increase space," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 8/28/1990, Extra 4:3.

<sup>19</sup> "School plans easy access with driveway," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 5-15-1992, 5:1.

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In 1994, Phil Fox, principal for the Lockland elementary and Arlington Primary, said the improvements would enable the district to manage growth in enrollment of about 20 to 30 students that year. The primary school, which housed preschool and kindergarten classes, had 170 pupils. The kindergarten class, at 97 pupils, was the largest in the district.<sup>20</sup> The next year brought another reckoning. Declining tax revenue from GE forced Lockland to increase the local property tax levy to keep the school system independent.<sup>21</sup>

In the fall of 2004, the Arlington school building was repurposed as an alternative for high school students who did not thrive in traditional schools. Problems at home, mental health issues, teen pregnancies, and school phobia were all cited as obstacles to a diploma. Known as Arlington Academy, the initial enrollment was 43 students from Lockland, Reading, and the Princeton School District, which included Glendale, Woodlawn, Lincoln Heights, and Sharonville.<sup>22</sup> This program continued for ten years, when the school closed its doors in 2014, ending its 80-year life as a place of education.

### *Criterion C: Architecture*

Arlington Heights School was designed by the firm of Grunkemeyer & Sullivan. According to a *Cincinnati Enquirer* article dated October 21, 1934, architect C. W. Sullivan presented the building to his father, J. Wesley Sullivan, President of the Lockland Board of Education, at the dedication. Federal census data reveals that Clyde W. Sullivan, born in 1901, was the son of John Wesley Sullivan, which likely helped the younger man procure the project.

J. C. (John Clifford) Grunkemeyer (ca. 1895-1954) was a Cincinnati-born architect, engineer, and builder, who headed his own firm, with Clyde W. Sullivan (1901-1983) and others, from 1917 to 1953. He was the architect of the largest church in the city, St. Martin's Church at Cheviot, as well as the similarly styled St. Stephens in the East End and for more than two hundred other buildings.<sup>23</sup>

According to a profile in *Cincinnati, the Queen City*, the firm specialized in church-related work, but also designed a number of important schools, commercial buildings, and residences for prominent clients. Their designs for the 1936 Deer Park Municipal Building at 4250 Matson Avenue, the 1945 Deer Park High School at 8351 Plainfield Road, and the 1952 Silverton Memorial Municipal Building at 6860 Plainfield Road were all Moderne designs and quite different from the Arlington School. The variety of styles reflects the versatility of their design approach.

Over his 60-year-career, Sullivan worked as an architect and developer. He was involved in a number of educational and public buildings throughout Cincinnati and Ohio. At the time of his death in 1983, Sullivan was semi-retired but consulted with the firm of Sullivan Bode Runck &

<sup>20</sup> *Cincinnati Enquirer* 1/27/1994, 1:2.

<sup>21</sup> "Lockland: Parents, students fear merger of schools," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 12/11/1995, A11:1.

<sup>22</sup> "Second-chance school," *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 10/18/2004.

<sup>23</sup> Walter Langsam, "Biographical Dictionary of Cincinnati Architects, 1799-1940."

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Associates. He had recently retired as chairman of the board of Peoples Savings Association in Sharonville and was president of seven housing corporations in Cincinnati, Hamilton, Dayton, and Fort Lauderdale.<sup>24</sup>

### *The Adam Style*

Depression-era New Deal programs created a broad range of public architecture within local communities including federal post offices, public libraries, city halls, and public schools. Federally-funded programs such as the Public Works Administration did not dictate a specific architectural style, but rather provided more practical guidance calling for project designs to address “the elimination of wasted space, economy of cost and property consideration of light, ventilation, and sanitation.”<sup>25</sup> However, the architectural styles displayed in these projects mostly leaned towards a conservative, traditional design approach ranging from streamlined modernism to interpretations of American Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival styles. Architectural examples such as the Arlington School reflect the use of a historically influenced architectural style drawing from America’s colonial past – creating an educational statement of the permanence of education conveyed through traditional architectural imagery.

The Neo-classical Revival and Georgian Revival styles were popular for school buildings in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Adam style, like the preceding Georgian, was characterized by strict symmetry, but more frequently amplified by projecting wings or attached dependencies. Hipped roofs are typical of one variation of the style, while Georgian buildings usually had gabled roofs. Identifying features of the Adam style include a semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over the front door, with or without sidelights; elaborate door surrounds, which may include a decorative crown or small entry porch; a cornice usually emphasized by decorative moldings, most commonly with tooth-like dentils; and windows with double-hung sashes, usually with six-over-six sashes and never in adjacent pairs. A number of decorative details from the Georgian period were used occasionally in the Adam style: quoins, two-story pilasters, belt courses, and dentils. However, the most obvious identifying elements of the Adam style are decorative details such as swags, garlands, urns, and classic geometric patterns (most commonly elliptical, circular, or fan-like shapes formed by fluted radiating lines).<sup>26</sup>

The Arlington School exhibits key characteristics associated with the Adam style, including its symmetrical front elevation with central entrance portico and projecting end bays. The brick quoins that distinguish the end bays are Georgian elements carried over to the Adam style. Further Adamesque details present in the Arlington School include the oval medallion in the pediment of the portico with the letter “A” draped with swags, and elements in the end bays such as engaged limestone urns, bas-relief plaques of urns with swags, and oculi in the gables.

<sup>24</sup> “Clyde Sullivan Succumbs; Local Architect was 82,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 12/28/83, F2:1.

<sup>25</sup> Richard Guy Wilson, Shaun Eyring, Kenny Marotta, editors, *Recreating the American Past, Essays on the Colonial Revival*, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006, p. 101.

<sup>26</sup> Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 153-154.

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Only two other communities in Hamilton County received schools built with PWA funds – Madeira and Mariemont – and the Arlington School predates both. The Madeira High School, a Moderne-style building completed in 1937, has been demolished.<sup>27</sup> Mariemont retains a handsome two-story red-brick Georgian Revival school building at 6750 Wooster Pike. Now used as an elementary school, it was designed by E. C. Landberg as a high school. Construction began in late 1937, and the building was dedicated on November 4, 1939, towards the end of the PWA program. Though larger, the Mariemont School is similar to the Arlington School in its symmetrical massing with front-gabled end bays, a central pedimented portico, and cupola. It also has an oculus window with swags in the gable of the portico and a broken pediment over the main entrance.<sup>28</sup>

### *Summary*

The Arlington School is locally significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the building was the first and only school building in the small residential suburb of Arlington Heights, from 1934 to 2014. It was one of the first school buildings in the state of Ohio to be built under the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) and is one of only three communities in Hamilton County to build PWA-funded schools. Under Criterion C, the Arlington School is representative of the Cincinnati architectural firm of Grunkemeyer & Sullivan, and a good example of a public-school building in the Early Classical Revival style with Adam-style ornament. Stylistic elements found in the Arlington School include its symmetrical front elevation, central entrance portico, and projecting end bays. Adamesque elements include an oculus draped with swags in the pediment and engaged limestone urns in the end bays. The Period of Significance is 1934 to 1972, representing the period from its completion to the fifty-year age requirement for the National Register.

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<sup>27</sup> Carol Heck, "Reading, 'Ritin' & 'Rithmetic in Early Madeira Public Schools," Madeira Historical Society. n.d.

<sup>28</sup> Millard F. Rogers, Jr., Village of Mariemont, National Historic Landmark nomination, 2006.



Arlington School  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS). Cagisonline.hamilton-co.org. Web, accessed November 11, 2021, and June 8, 2022.

*Cincinnati Enquirer*, various articles, 1934, 1940, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995, 2004, accessed online, September 9, 2021, and April 13, 2022.

Giglierano, Geoffrey J., & Deborah A. Overmyer. *The Bicentennial Guide to Greater Cincinnati: A Portrait of Two Hundred Years*. Cincinnati, Ohio: The Cincinnati Historical Society, 1988.

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"Public Works Administration,"

[https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Public\\_Works\\_Administration](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Public_Works_Administration), accessed April 13, 2022

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Arlington School  
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**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):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.259

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.218244 | Longitude: -84.454118 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 719789 | Northing: 4343869 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |

Arlington School  
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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property coincide with a single parcel comprising 10 consolidated lots, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 in the John G. Olden Subdivision. Parcel #601-0002-0003-90, as recorded by the Hamilton County Auditor, State of Ohio. Site <https://www.hamiltoncountyauditor.org/> accessed June 22, 2022. See Figure 2 for parcel map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include all of the property historically associated with the Arlington School.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Beth Sullebarger, Principal  
organization: Sullebarger Associates  
street & number: 1080 Morse Avenue  
city or town: Glendale state: OH zip code: 45246-3830  
e-mail sullebarger@fuse.net  
telephone: (513)703-0877  
date: July 1, 2022

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** and photo keys.
- **Additional items:** NA

**Photographs**

Name of Property: Arlington School  
City or Vicinity: Arlington Heights  
County: Hamilton State: OH

Arlington School

Name of Property

Hamilton County, Ohio

County and State

Photographer: Beth Sullebarger

Date Photographed: July 15, 2021

### Description of Photographs

- 1 of 19. Front elevation, looking southeast
- 2 of 19. Front elevation, looking east
- 3 of 19. Front entrance, looking southeast
- 4 of 19. Front entrance detail, looking southeast
- 5 of 19. Front elevation, urn detail, looking southeast
- 6 of 19. Front elevation, detail, looking southeast
- 7 of 19. Cornerstone, looking east
- 8 of 19. Side elevation, looking northeast
- 9 of 19. Side entrance detail, looking northeast
- 10 of 19. Rear and side elevations, looking northwest
- 11 of 19. Side elevation, looking west
- 12 of 19. Stairway, looking southeast
- 13 of 19. Stairway, looking northwest
- 14 of 19. Entrance foyer, terrazzo floor detail, looking southeast
- 15 of 19. Dedication plaque, looking southwest
- 16 of 19. Gymnasium, looking southwest
- 17 of 19. Corridor, looking northeast
- 18 of 19. Classroom, looking north
- 19 of 19. Classroom, looking east

**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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information

Page 20

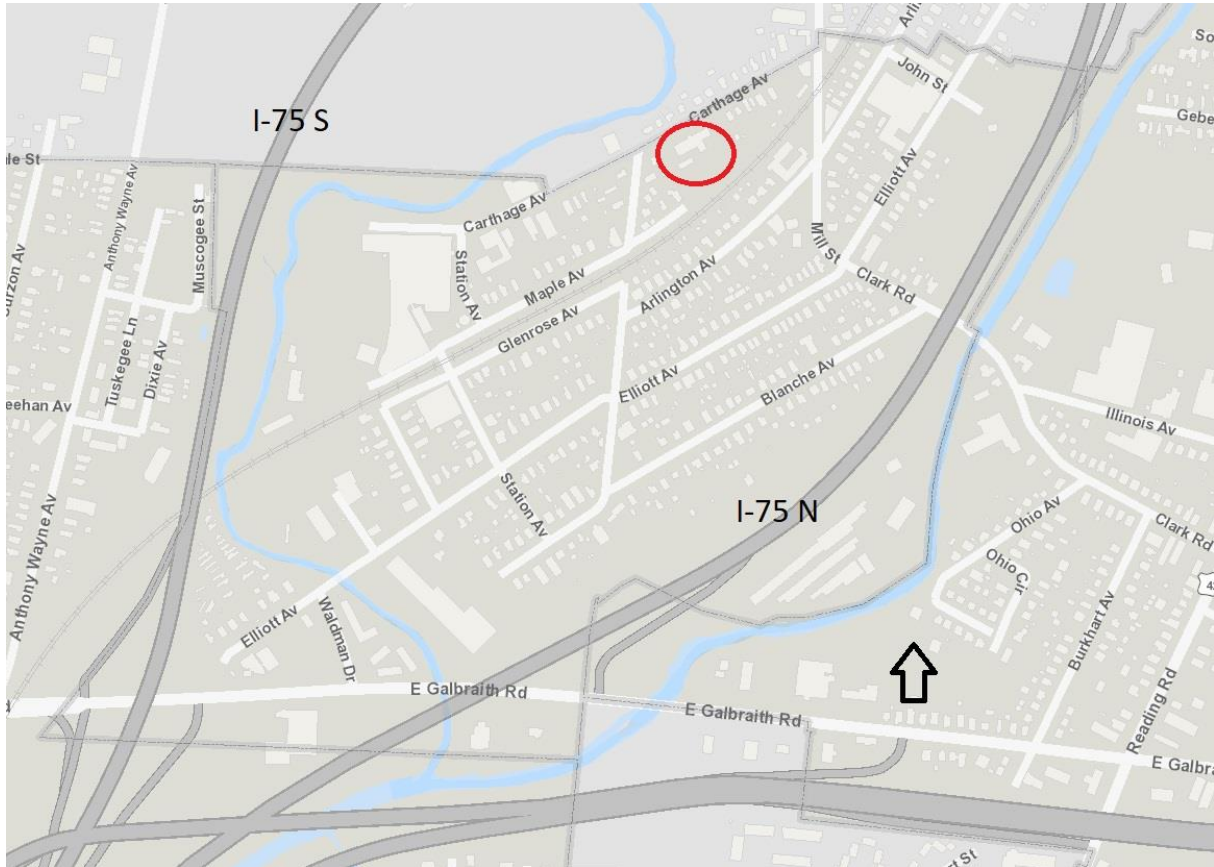


Figure 1: Location map

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Section number Additional Information Page 20

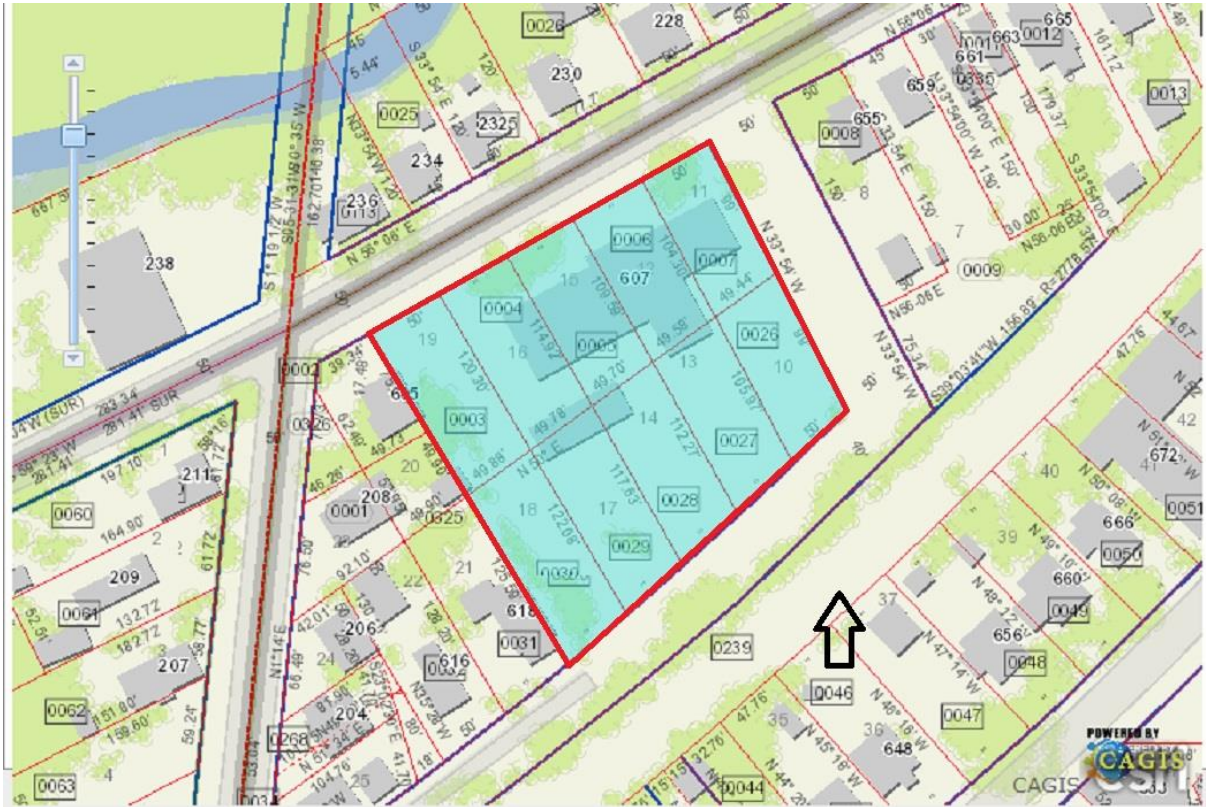


Figure 2. Boundary map

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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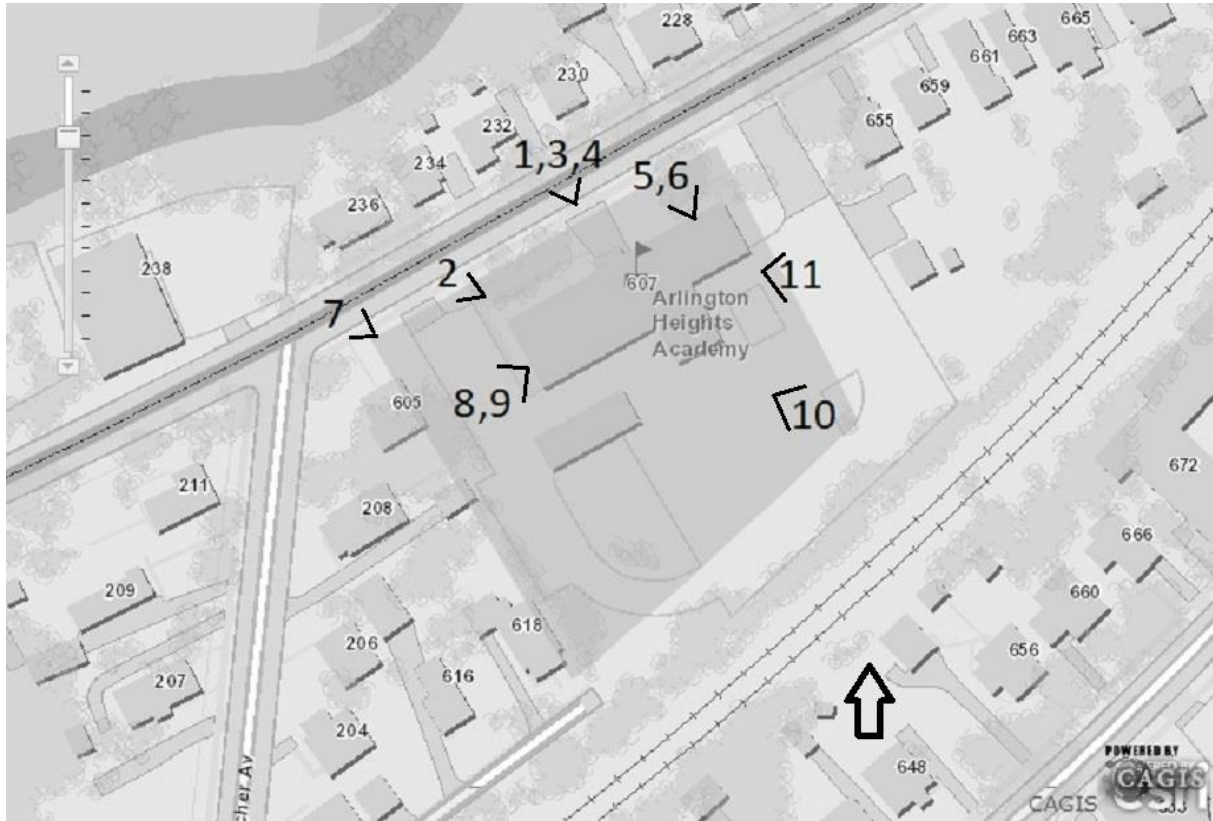


Figure 3. Exterior photo key

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Section number Additional Information Page 20

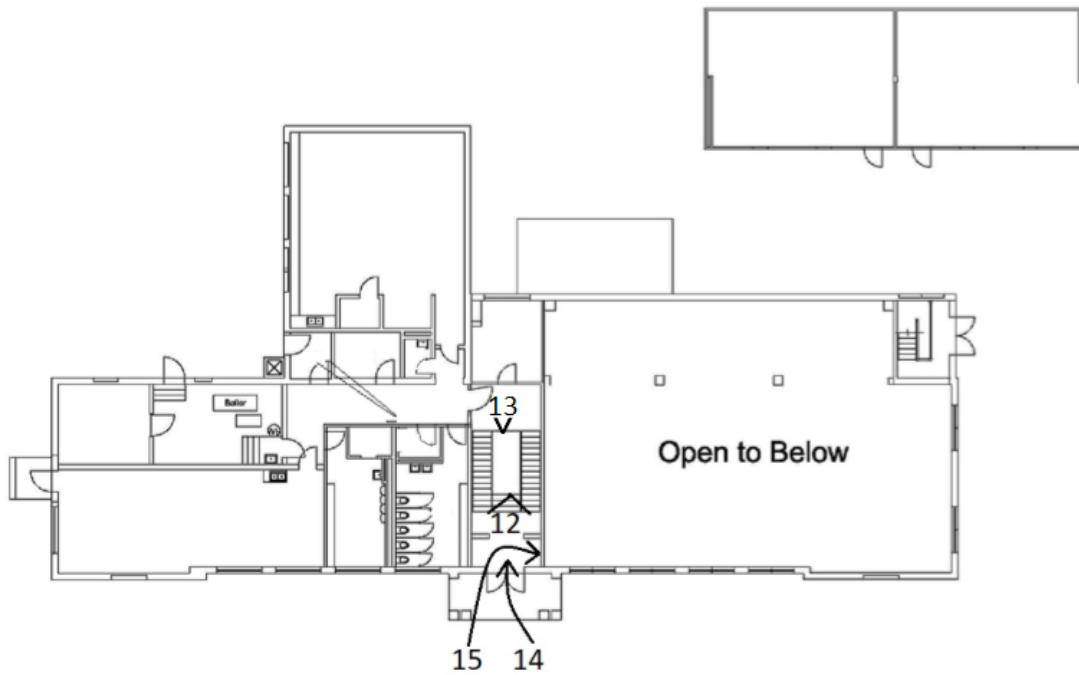


Figure 4. First floor plan and photo key



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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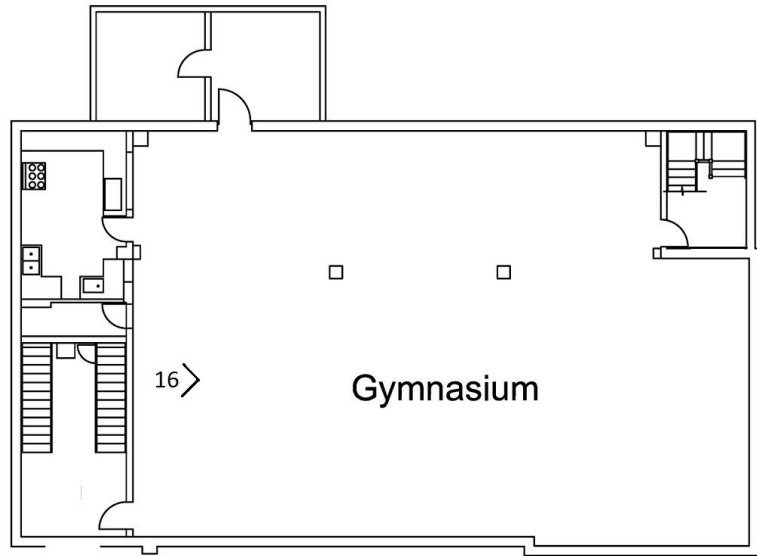


Figure 5. Basement floor plan and photo key

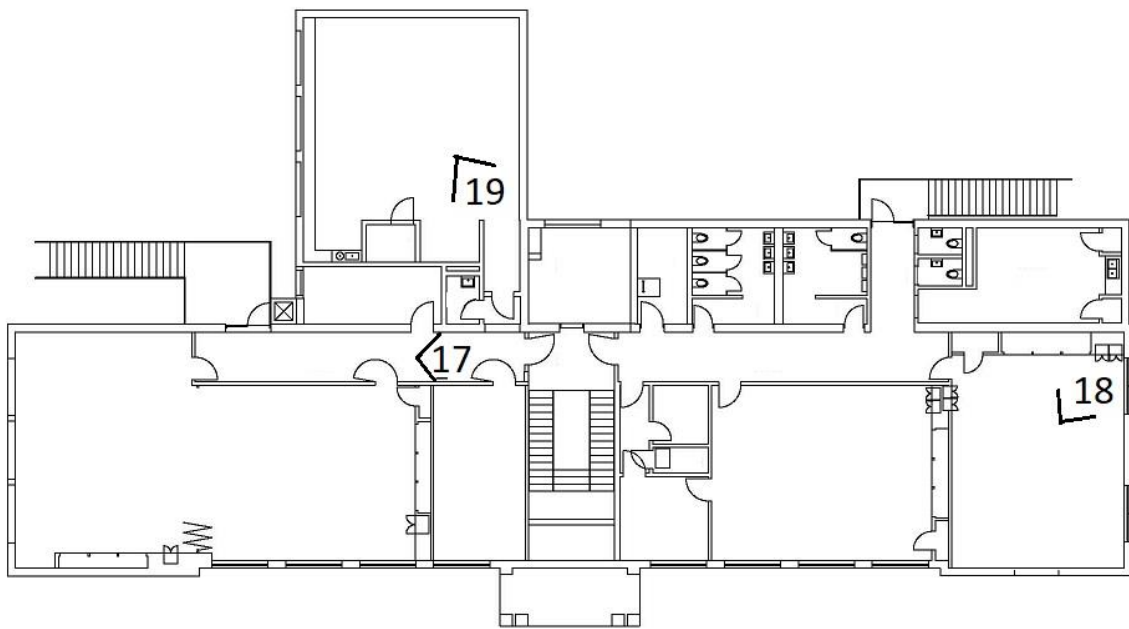
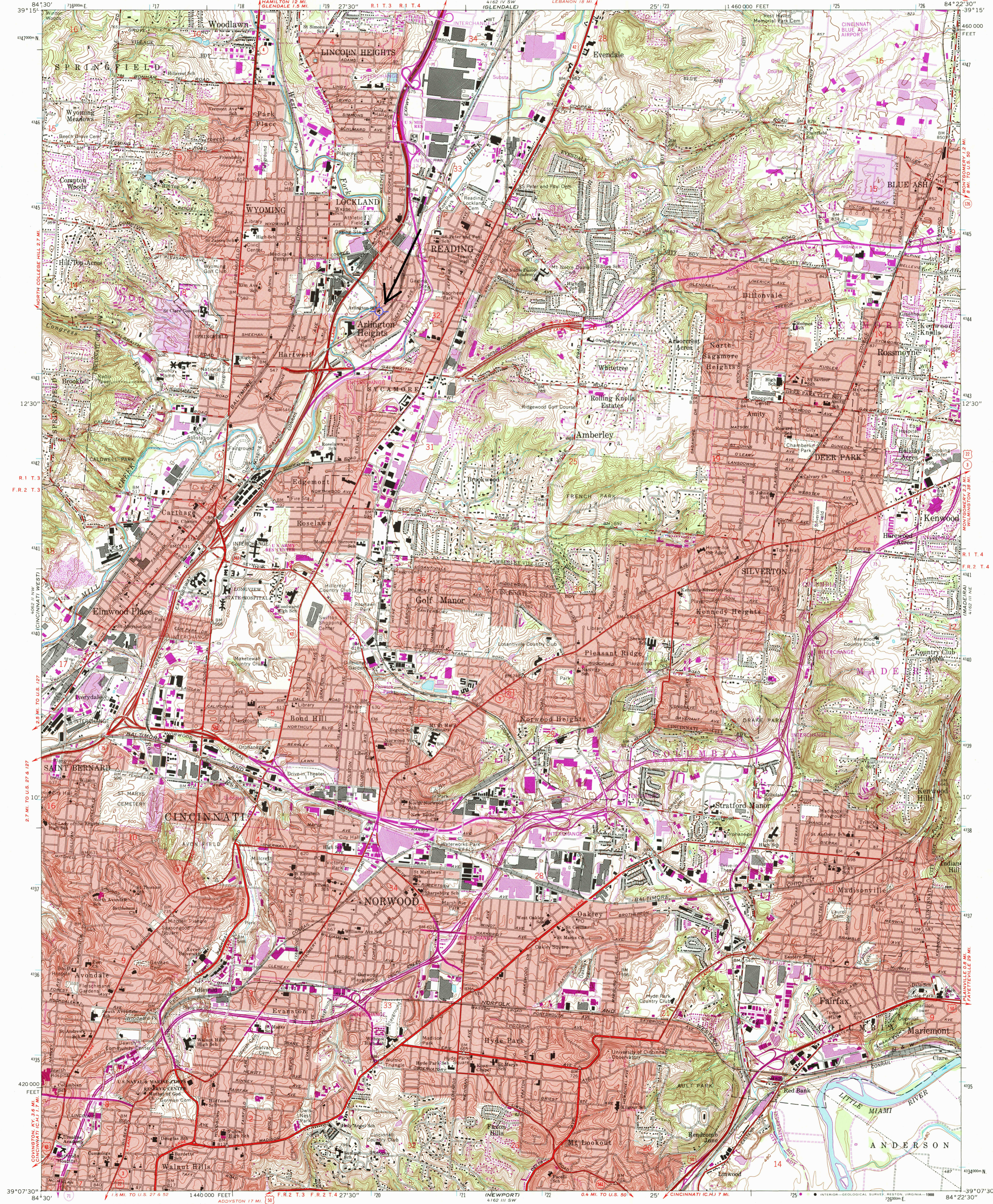


Figure 6. Second floor plan and photo key



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and City of Cincinnati  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1949 and in part by City of Cincinnati. Field checked  
1953. Revised 1961  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio  
coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse  
Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North  
American Datum. To place on the predicted North American  
Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and  
6 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Area east of the Little Miami River lies within the Virginia Military  
District. Area west of the Little Miami River lies within the Between  
the Miamis. Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted  
land lines established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

SCALE 1:24 000  
1 0000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route —

CINCINNATI EAST, OHIO  
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