

James Russell Lowell Elementary School
(East Highland Park School)
4501 Crittenden Drive
Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-229

HABS
KY
56-LOUM,
78-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
KY
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72-

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(East Highland Park School)

HABS No. KY-229

Location: 4501 Crittenden Drive
Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

U.S.G.S. East Louisville Quadrangle (7.5)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
16 609500 4227200

Present Owner: Regional Airport Authority
Louisville and Jefferson County
P.O. Box 9129
Louisville, Kentucky 40209-9129

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: None. Planned for demolition.

Statement of Significance: The James Russell Lowell Elementary School is architecturally significant as an excellent example of both the vernacular, institutional architecture of the period (1916) and of the Art Deco style as it was incorporated into an institutional design. The original section of the building, originally known as the Highland Park School, is reminiscent of the residential styles of this same period. It is intact including the only bell tower on a public school building remaining in Louisville. In 1931, when several new school buildings were constructed in the south end, nearly all used the Art Deco style. Lowell Elementary is the finest example of these, and one of the finest citywide. The unusual entry tower with stone pilasters, panels and cornice with stylized motifs is typical of the style and well adapted here to an institutional use. Combined, these two very different building styles compliment one another and are an integral part of the development of Highland Park as a suburb of Louisville.

Part I HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The oldest section of the Lowell School was built between 1915 and 1916 and was first known as the East Highland Park School. The second building, known as the James Russell Lowell Elementary School was built in 1932. The following information will discuss the historical and architectural information of the 1916 building first, followed by similar information for the 1932 building.

East Highland Park School (1916)

2. Architect: Louisville architect, Henry F. Hawes designed the East Highland Park School in 1915.¹ Little is known of Hawes' work other than a visual record of renderings displayed during the "Exhibition by Architects of Louisville, Kentucky", February 1-15, 1931 at the J.B. Speed Memorial Museum, Louisville. Eleven of Hawes' renderings were shown in the exhibit including several commercial and apartment buildings and residences designed to be built in Louisville, Shelbyville, and Lexington, Kentucky.²

3. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner of the school was the Highland Park Graded Common School Board of Trustees. Following the incorporation of Highland Park into the Louisville city limits, the school became the property of the Louisville City Schools. In turn, the school was transferred to the Jefferson County Public School System when the city and county school systems merged.

4. Builder, contractor and suppliers: In May of 1915, the Highland Park Graded Common School Board of Trustees solicited for sealed bid to erect the East Highland Park School. O.M. Ryster served as general contractor, and performed most of the construction from excavation and concrete to finish plastering. Other specialty contractors included Bywater Brothers, plumbing; Clegg & Co., heating; Max Rinacke, tuckpointing; and Hegan Co., tile floors and bath. All contractors were Louisville firms. The cost of construction totaled \$22,474.50.³

5. Original plans and construction: The brick masonry building as designed by Hawes contained eight classrooms, basement with an auxiliary classroom and auditorium. Original plans were not located during research, although a floor plan was drawn and included with the 1932 building working drawings. This plan and one historic photograph of the building taken shortly after completion (and included with this documentation) are located at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville. As built, the school was constructed with a formed concrete basement, brick masonry walls, wood floor joists and roof framing systems with wood lath and plaster walls and wood floors.

6. Alterations and additions: The basic building has undergone fairly limited alteration since its construction in 1916. When the 1931 school was built, a first floor plan of the existing school building and corridor connecting the two buildings were included in the drawings. Changes made to the interior of the 1916 building at that time included: removal of the "project room" partitions in classrooms of the north wing (the narrow closet-type areas at the ends of classrooms); removal of wood floor in bathrooms and replacement with concrete; rebuilding of the central stair, and addition of a lower level hall/passage area where the connector meets the 1916 building.

In 1954, an acoustical tile ceiling was designed by the Louisville firm, J. Thomas Nolan & Sons, Architects.

James Russell Lowell Elementary School (1932)

2. Architect: Highland Park was incorporated into Louisville city limits in 1922 and three years later, East Highland Park School's name was changed to James Russell Lowell School.⁴ Intense growth in this area of south Louisville following World War I caused much overcrowding in the public schools and, as a result, the city began the construction of several new schools in the south end beginning in 1931.⁵ At that time, architect J. Meyrick Colley designed the James Russell Lowell School. The earliest information concerning Colley's profession appears in the Louisville City Directory of 1922, where he is listed as a Structural Engineer for the Louisville Board of Education. By 1924, Colley no longer boarded, having moved to the new suburb of Audubon Park (between Highland Park and downtown). The listing identified him as an Architect for the Louisville Board of Education, with no mention of his engineering skills. This information suggests that Colley's professional training was in structural engineering, a fact not surprising in view of the successful relationship between the design and structure of the Lowell School.⁶

3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Mechanical Engineers were Warren & Ronald and George H. Rommel Co. served as general contractor while sub-contractors included, H. Netherton & Co., heating and ventilation; Gray & Trompert Co., plumbing; Utilities Appliance Co., electrical; and Marine Electric Co., electrical fixtures. Excavation work started on February 5, 1931 with the building completed and occupied on September 6, 1932 with a total site, building and equipment cost of \$343,089.38.⁷

4. Original plans and construction: As built, the school was designed with a reinforced concrete skeleton with brick masonry exterior, glazed brick and plaster interior walls, terrazzo corridor floors, maple over reinforced concrete classroom floors and linoleum in office, library, cafeteria and other specialized rooms. Working drawings from Colley's office were photographically documented as part of this project. The originals are held at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville. The original drawings of Warren & Ronald, mechanical

engineers for the project are also at the Archives. A description of the school taken from the Dedication Program reads:

It contains twenty-six class room (seven being in the original building) and kindergarten suite which is composed of two class rooms, shop, project room, storage room, kitchen, coat room, and toilets, and play room. Educational activity spaces include Library, Gymnasium, Boys' and Girls' Shower Rooms, Cafeteria, and Auditorium with Stage.

Administration space consists of general and private offices, medical suite and teacher's rooms. The building is equipped with electric clock and bell system, telephones in all rooms, and electric fire alarm systems. The heating and ventilating system is of the very latest type of equipment, The air is washed, and by forced ventilation conditioned air introduced into all rooms.

The site upon which this building is erected is approximately 981 x 358 feet. The athletic field is so situated that the gymnasium and showers are entered from the field level.⁸

5. Alterations and additions: Since its completion in 1932, the James Russell Lowell School has remained very much unchanged. Alterations have focused on mechanical improvements and fire suppression. Original plans for the following changes, all prepared by Louisville architectural and engineering firms, are held at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1960, a new sprinkler system was designed by E.R. Ronald & Associates, Consulting Engineers. The work did not alter interior spaces nor materials but designed a new pipe and sprinkler system to be installed in all rooms of both buildings.

In 1962, T.D. Luckett A.I.A. specified a new maple floor for the gymnasium of the 1932 building.

In 1977, H. Carleton Godsey Associates, A.I.A. Architects designed plans for "Miscellaneous Renovation of Various Schools" for the Jefferson County Board of Education. Limited renovation for Russell School called for the removal of original built-in wood cabinets in many of the second floor classrooms and removal of some banks of second floor corridor lockers. As part of this renovation, hinged partition doors with 2' by 3' viewing windows were installed in east and west wing stairwells and near the central stairwell at the main corridor.

B. Historical Context

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the suburbanization of Louisville focused on the southern section of the city, radiating from the principal new transportation belt, the Southern Parkway. As town expanded southward, suburban neighborhoods such as South Louisville and Oakdale, where historic Churchill Downs Racetrack is located, were incorporated into the city limits.⁹

The town of Highland Park began to develop about the turn-of-the-century, a predominantly working class neighborhood with small-scaled, frame, vernacular residences for working class families. The first school in Highland Park School was "District School 45".

Built about 1898 at the intersection of Louisville Avenue and Almond Avenue (see Figure 1, Map copy of "Southern Section of Louisville", 1918). The three-story, brick masonry school, with cut limestone basement, contained six classrooms and two cloakrooms on the first and second floors and two rooms used as an auditorium on the third floor (Figure 2, photostat copy of District School 45).¹⁰

Overcrowding of the existing Highland Park School (No. 45) and Oakdale School (both part of the Highland Park Graded Common School system) prompted the School Board to hire Louisville architect, Henry F. Hawes to design a new school to be located on Ashbottom Road (now Crittenden Drive) in 1915. Request for bid proposals to construct the school as per Hawes' plans were advertised in May of 1915, the school was built during the summer, and occupied in the fall. Figure 3 is a photograph of the school, assumed to have been taken soon after its completion.¹¹

Despite the building of the new school, ever growing numbers of students attending Highland Park schools caused the Highland Park Graded Common School District to contract with the Board of Education of Louisville for third (3rd) and fourth (4th) year high school pupils (juniors and seniors) to attend Louisville girls and boys academic or manual high schools beginning in 1916.¹²

Highland Park was annexed into the Louisville city limits in 1922 and Highland Park schools became part of the Louisville City School District. For reasons not documented, the Parent-Teacher Association of the East Highland Park School petitioned the Louisville Board of Education to change the school name to James Russell Lowell. The Board granted the request and, since December 1, 1925, the school has been known by that name.¹³

In 1932, the construction of a new building on the James Russell Lowell School grounds designed by engineer/architect J. Meyrick Colley, oriented the new front north, to Phillips Lane. The construction of the four lane, limited access Watterson Expressway in the late 1950s placed an on-ramp immediately north and parallel to Phillips Lane. This road construction significantly affected the residential character of the neighborhood and changed dramatically the school's physical setting. The Watterson right-of-way crossed and terminated Phillips Lane at the east end of the school grounds.

With the growing industrialization of the neighborhood and the expansion of the airport and associated facilities, the character of Highland Park underwent continuous transformation. Yet, until it closed in 1991, Lowell School served as both the educational facility for children of the Highland Park area and a strong nucleus for the neighborhood. The Lowell Elementary School PTA was recognized as one of the most active associations in the city. When the school system established junior high schools, Lowell Elementary became a feeder school to Southern and Henry B. Manly Junior High Schools.¹⁴

Lowell Elementary closed following the 1991 school year. Outmigration of elementary aged school children from the area supported the Jefferson County Public School System decision to close the facility. However, the Louisville-Jefferson County Regional Airport expansion project prompted the final plan to demolish the buildings. This HABS documentation resulted from the Memorandum of Agreement between the Airport Authority and the National Park Service.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The James Russell Lowell Elementary School contains two major buildings constructed during two separate building campaigns in 1916 and 1932. Although quite different in overall appearance, design and scale, certain similarities make the association architecturally interesting.

The design of the original East Highland Park School responded, for the most part, to the Craftsman bungalow influences displayed by many neighborhood residences built during the early 20th century. It also, however, displays an ornate bell tower and arch-topped windows, Victorian details that contribute to the somewhat unusual appearance of the building. This mixture of period design details is not apparent in Hawes' later designs shown at the 1931 Speed Museum exhibit.

J. Meyrick Colley, engineer and architect for the Louisville Public School system designed the second segment of the James Russell Lowell Elementary School in 1931. Colley's design is an excellent interpretation of the Art Deco style in an institutional building, yet it also reflects and interprets some of Hawes' best ideas of the earlier building. Colley's school remains a sixty year old example of successful design relationship between the old and new. In plan, the new school was also organized on a three block division, with multi-bay front enlivened by projecting and receding planes. Hawes' entry arch motif is repeated in Colley's design as are the decorative brick patterns of belt course and basketweave. Although Colley definitely reached beyond Highland Park for design inspiration, he gave considerable attention to the design of the building to which he added.

2. Condition of fabric: Both buildings were well maintained and in generally good to excellent condition at the school's closing in 1991. Durable original finishes such as brick masonry, cut stone and formed concrete, with wood confined to trim and sash, has required limited exterior maintenance. Interior surfaces including floors of wood, terrazzo, and linoleum squares; walls of glazed brick and plaster; metal lockers built into hallway walls and simply-molded, varnished or painted wood trim at openings and baseboards likewise assured limited repair and painting of interior surfaces and fixtures. Although the school has been secured since its closing, vandals have entered the buildings, damaging windows, light fixtures, clocks, cabinetry, plumbing fixtures and other built-in components.

B. Description of Exterior:

1916 Building

1. Overall dimensions: The oldest section is a brick masonry building, roughly rectangular in shape with overall exterior dimensions of 224'8" by 112'8", divided into three main blocks. The central projecting entry bay is flanked by wings, each with a projecting bay. The building is a raised, single story with full, daylight basement and unused, lighted attic in the central block.

2. Foundation: The foundation is of formed concrete with a slightly projecting water table. The sills of windows that allow daylight into the basement rooms rest on the water table.

3. Walls: Exterior walls are load-bearing brick masonry finished with running bond. Decorative masonry details include triple header segmental arches above basement windows and entries; raised, double stretcher belt course joining sills of rear elevation windows; raised soldier and running belt course connecting half-round, soldier and header arches above half-circle topped entry and sash windows in the central three bays; and, in east and west ends, two-story, arch-topped, recessed, double door entries surrounded by triple soldier bands and flanked by blind panels with segmental arch tops and diamond-shaped basket-weave medallions. All windows are supported by flat, concrete sills.

4. Structural systems, framing: The school is of load bearing brick masonry construction with dimensional, sawn wood floor joists and roof structure.

5. Porches, stoops and balconies: The building has no actual porches, but shade and some shelter are offered by the wide, extended eaves - decoratively supported by wood knee brackets - and by the deep recesses of the entries. The central block with main entry features a rectangular, concrete stoop reached by wide concrete stairs and shouldered by brick piers with concrete caps.

6. Chimneys: One major chimney with corbelled top is located near the meeting of the north side of the auditorium in the central block with the north wing. A secondary chimney is to the north.

7. Openings: Fenestration, although regular, is varied. The majority of original windows are paired, six-over-one divided light sash and are located on the main floor. All basement windows are three-over-three sash. The exception to this regular fenestration appears in the central block, where pairs of arch-topped windows flank the double entry, also topped by a fixed, arched window. Doors are wood with half lights. Plain brass hardware is found at locksets, doors and windows.

8. Roof: The roof is a multi-hip, clad with asphalt shingles, with knee-braced, gable pediments over entries and front projecting bays. The wide eave is surfaced with narrow tongue-and-groove wood with metal gutters and downspouts. The only remaining bell tower on a public school in Louisville perches at the peak of the hip of the central block and gives the school a somewhat Victorian appearance. The tower and the arch-topped windows of the central block are Victorian details that keep the school from being read as a strictly 20th century building. The tower features classical columns supporting four arches, all surmounted by a dome.

1932 Building

1. Overall dimensions: The 1932 portion of the school, when built, became the dominant feature of the campus. Oriented north to Phillips Lane, the building connected to the rear of the 1916 school via a one-story, connecting corridor. Like the earlier building, the 1932 school plan is divided into three major blocks with administration and gymnasium facilities and major stairwell in the center block, flanked by almost identical wings. Overall, the greatest dimensions of the building measure 284' 6" by 162'. The front elevation is divided into seven major bays (in this case, wall planes) with subdivisions articulated by projecting piers, windows and doors. It is a full two stories with basement boiler room, and an additional, unoccupied story in the central tower (used for storage). The tower is a dominant feature of the building and its third story polygonal roof, topped with red clay tiles, is visible throughout the area. Interestingly, the design of the large skylights of the new Regional Airport terminal adjacent to the Lowell School resemble in profile, the rather squat conical dome of the Lowell School tower. The tower front is divided by four massive, stone piers into a three-sided, polygonal bay, each side with a double door opening. Above the transomed doors are pairs of sash windows and, above these, are circular windows with radiating mullions framed by courses of radiating brick.

2. Foundation: The foundation is of formed concrete, 1'2" thick with a 1' water table that projects beyond the brick wall face. Smooth dressed stone faces the front elevation foundation. The majority of the building rests above a crawl space with 2' clearance. A plenum chamber is located in the crawl space beneath the main corridor as part of the building's passive ventilation system that feeds additional air to the vertical air shaft in the center of the building.

3. Walls: The exterior walls, of richly variegated red brick, display a number of textural and design details that enliven the flat planes of the facade and include: wall piers topped by carved stone capitols with deeply incised designs; projecting belts of soldier courses between header and/or stretcher courses; soldier coursed lintels; slightly recessed blind panels with triple header arches springing from rectangular stones; flat wall planes animated by large, paired brick arches, each surmounting two lesser brick arches, all with basketweave infill; and secondary entries placed in projecting bays with gabled parapets, belt courses and stepped arches surrounding the double doors. The exterior details of the school are truly exceptional, and each of the front wall planes displays some interesting variation within the realm of brick, stone, and fenestration.

Giving a polychrome appearance to the building are full, two-story dividing piers of smooth dressed stone, topped by carved capitals with decorative shield designs both curvilinear and pictorial (depicting corn). Above the secondary front entries, arc semi-circular stone relief panels depicting vines and acorns, placed on wide bases of fluted stone.

4. Structural system, framing: The building structure is of concrete frame with hollow, structural clay tile walls faced with brick bonded every sixth course (American common bond) into the clay tiles. The brick belt courses that encircle the building near the first and second floor levels and beneath the parapet appear as decorative header courses, but actually are structurally tied to the concrete frame of the building at these elevations. Interior walls are of metal lathe with plaster finish, for a finished wall thickness of 1'1". The floor, ceiling and roof framing are of concrete and the roof framing of the gymnasium is metal truss.

5. Chimneys: The dominant chimney is a 91'6" tall (above grade), circular masonry structure, attached to the east side of the boiler room area. The interior diameter of the chimney is 4'6". A second, lesser chimney vent is located along the west wall of the gymnasium.

6. Openings: All exterior doors are paired, eight-light entries of oak. Those of the front tower are topped with multi-light transoms. Windows throughout are original, wood sash, multi-divided lights placed singly and in pairs (six-over-six) in many instances and (four-over-four) in the tower. The original kindergarten rooms, located in the rear (south) of the east wing, feature triple banks of nine-over-nine sash in the projecting,

two-story bay. Likewise, the south facing gymnasium, located in the central block, also features paired, nine-over-nine sash with six-light transoms. All windows have concrete lintels and stone sills.

7. Roof: The roof covering all but the tower is slightly sloped and built up to a parapet which projects 1' 5" above the roof deck and is topped by a slightly-projecting stone coping. A brick course beneath the coping is patterned to give a crenelated appearance. Copper scuppers with paneled faces and gutters of both original copper and replacement metal convey water from the roof.

C. Description of Interior

1916 Building

1. Floor plans: The interior of the 1916 building is divided into administrative and assembly areas in the center block flanked by classroom wings. The included sketch plan identifies the building as it exists. The central auditorium holds 326 seats and has a raised stage area. Cafeteria and kitchen are located on the lower level, north.

2. Flooring: The flooring is a combination of original wood flooring, vinyl tile, concrete and, in the basement, smooth finished concrete scored into 4' x 5' blocks.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of wood lathe with plaster finish, painted a light beige. Original plaster ceilings have been covered with dropped, acoustical ceiling tiles.

4. Openings: Window and door frames are of painted oak (red and brown) with 4" side trim, 6" header trim and wood sills.

5. Decorative features and trim: The interior details are quite utilitarian. The interiors of the rooms reveal the age of the students as all bulletin and chalk boards are mounted low on classroom walls. Each room has at least one bank of slate black boards framed by painted wood trim with chalk and eraser ledges beneath. Because the facility is a school, it is probable that decorations applied to interior room and hallway surfaces were generated by the teachers and students and changed with the seasons.

6. Hardware: Throughout the building are plain brass door knobs with simple back plates and brass window lock sets.

7. Mechanical equipment: The building was heated by a steam boiler system located in the basement beneath the auditorium, with hot water circulated through cast iron radiators. The boy's and girl's restrooms flank the auditorium on the first floor and include porcelain wash basins with double handle/spouts, ten stalls with porcelain toilets

in the girl's room, and five stalls with porcelain toilets and a bank of porcelain urinals in the boy's room. Light fixtures throughout the building are suspended fluorescent-type with metal cases and baffles.

1932 Building

1. Floor plan: The interior of the building focuses on functional capabilities rather than decorative embellishments. The general layout is keyed to the sketch floor plans. The first floor of the central block contains administrative offices, circulation corridors and stair, ventilation shaft and the gymnasium. To the rear of the gym is the mechanical / boiler room and coal room. The second floor central block contains the library in the bay, four classrooms and the upper staircase. As in the flanking wings, wide corridors feature built-in metal doored lockers.

The east wing, first floor contains two kindergarten classrooms that can be joined or separated by folding wood doors that extend from floor to ceiling. Tall sash windows, a polygonal bay with built-in cupboards beneath and pale yellow and medium green glazed bricks from floor to about 4' up distinguish the kindergarten space from other rooms of the school. The wing also includes two classrooms (21'10" by 29'10"), shop, boys toilet, secondary entry to Phillips Lane (front) with vestibule opposite and entry with stairwell to the west end. The second floor of the east wing contains, above the kindergarten rooms, additional kindergarten play rooms, four classrooms (same size as floor below) boy's toilet, corridors and stair.

The west wing, first floor is similar to the east wing with the exception of the polygonal bay that contains the kindergarten rooms. This block contains four classrooms (three at 21'10" by 29'10" and one at 21' 10" by 18' 2"), janitor's room, girl's toilet, secondary entry to Phillips Lane (front) with vestibule opposite and rear entry with stair. The second floor of the west wing contains five equally sized classrooms, storage room, rear stair, girl's toilet and corridors with lockers.

2. Stairways: All stairways have solid steps finished with terrazzo tile and wood railings attached with cast iron brackets to solid walls faced with glazed brick. The main, central stair ascends on either side of a wide hall that gains access to the gymnasium. The two stair wells land and rise together over the wide hall to the second floor.

3. Flooring: The majority of corridor floors are of terrazzo tile, with a dark grey-black random chip pattern bordering the corridor walls a distance of about 8". This border is joined via narrow metal strips to a body color of lighter grey random chip terrazzo laid in 4' x 5' blocks. All standard sized classroom floors have narrow strip maple flooring applied to sleepers over reinforced concrete. More recently, commercial grade carpet was applied over the maple flooring in some rooms. Floors in the kindergarten rooms are of vinyl tile and carpet.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Throughout the school, corridor walls are covered with wainscotting of glazed brick in medium sandy gold tones to a height of 5'1". Molded brick detailing includes cove bricks that curve to meet the terrazzo floor and a slightly projecting shelf forming a top ledge. Above this surface are plaster walls painted light beige. The beige color terminates at a oak picture molding placed 18" below the ceiling. The plaster ceiling is affixed to metal lathe suspended by cables from the concrete frame. Ceiling heights in corridors are 12' and 11' in classrooms. Classroom walls are plaster.

5. Openings: Doors, window sash and window trim are of varnished oak with unadorned brass pulls and handles. Brass hydraulic closers are attached to all exterior and vestibule doors.

6. Hardware: Hardware is of brass and cast iron, with flat surfaces and slight decorative detail.

7. Mechanical equipment: The heating plant for the school is in a very large, one-story, rectangular area, half below ground, located immediately behind (south) of the gymnasium. A coal fired boiler system heated the building and the exceptionally tall brick stack is attached to the east end of the heating plant. A large ventilating shaft located next to the central stairwell and sub-floor plenum chamber help circulate air through the building. The building does not have central air conditioning but all windows are operable. Cast iron radiators located in each room and hallway were painted beige.

Institutional plumbing fixtures include at least two porcelain sinks with formed backsplashes and nickel-plated double water spouts in each bathroom; banks of porcelain urinals in the boys bathrooms; and at least five toilets separated by metal partitions in each bathroom. Some original metal partition doors have been replaced with wood finished laminate doors. Many plumbing pipes are exposed.

Very few decorative lighting or other fixtures were observed. Fluorescent fixtures located in corridors and all rooms are suspended below the ceiling with metal pipe. The lights do not feature a continuous shield, but have metal baffles that give an "egg carton" effect. All classrooms originally had round, electric wall clocks, although vandals have broken or removed some of these fixtures.

8. Decorative features and trim: The interiors of the rooms reveal the age of the students as all bulletin and chalk boards are mounted low on classroom walls. Each room has one complete bank of slate black boards framed by painted wood trim with chalk and eraser ledges beneath. Above the black boards are painted cork bulletin boards. Each room also has a smaller, secondary black board and bulletin board on the entry wall. Each classroom is equipped with a telephone and a built-in, natural finished oak cupboard with glass door and adjustable shelving above four narrow, deep drawers with curved brass pulls. When documentation began, these

cabinets were mostly intact, but vandals have since broken the glass and drawers of most units.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The James Russell Lowell Elementary School campus is a roughly rectangular plot bordered on the west by Crittenden Drive, the north by Phillips Lane and the south by the Regional Airport property. The immediate surroundings have a decidedly industrial character. The Watterson Expressway to the north, the Louisville Jefferson County Regional Airport (Standiford Field) to the south and east, and Crittenden Drive to the west, effectively isolate the school from its original residential surroundings. Outmigration of neighborhood residents and growing industrialization of the area have further changed the character of the area.

2. Historic landscape design: From present vegetation, it appears that no designed landscape planting plan was undertaken for Lowell School. The historic photo of the 1916 building shows no plantings around the school. Today, two large pine trees are symmetrically placed in front of the extended wings. Grass grows to the foundation and probably for maintenance purposes, a very limited number of deciduous shrubs are placed next to the building. Likewise, landscaping of the 1931 building is limited to a large evergreen shrub, pruned in a rounded shape in front of the entry tower. Some medium sized deciduous trees and a pine are also planted in the front (north) yard. In 1967, Miller, Wihry & Lantz, Landscape Architects and Engineers of Louisville designed site improvements for the campus. Until that time, the rear (south) area was mostly turf, with a crushed rock drive extended from Phillips Lane along the east side of the building to access the rear, boiler room. The plans called for applying asphalt from the rear of the 1932 building foundation and from the south side of the 1916 building for parking. A cinder drive that was located on the north side of the connecting corridor to give access to the dumpster was removed as part of the 1967 plan. (Like other original drawings, these are held at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center.

One yard feature is the brass flagpole, the design of which is included in Colley's drawings. The flagpole is located in the front yard to the west of the tower. A formed concrete, covered bicycle rack (also designed with the 1932 building) is located in the south asphalted area. A grassy play area extends from the rear asphalt to the original property boundary and a football field with goal posts but no bleachers is located in the southeast corner of the property.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings:

H.F. Hawes original drawings for the East Highland Park School were not located. J. Meyrick Colley's plans for the 1932 Lowell School were photographed as part of this documentation. Drawings for special renovation projects including site work, electrical, speaker and sprinkler installations were also reviewed. All original drawings are now located at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville. The majority of additional written documentation concerning the history of these buildings was obtained from files of the James Russell Lowell Elementary School at the Archives. Additional research concerning architects H.F. Hawes and J. Meyrick Colley was performed at the Louisville Landmarks Commission and the Jefferson County Office of Preservation. Neither office had additional written information on either architect. However, the information contained in city directories was obtained from the Louisville Landmarks Commission staff.

B. Historic views:

The two photographic copies and one photostatic copy of historic photographs included with this documentation are part of the records files of the Lowell Elementary School at the Jefferson County Public Schools Archives.

D. Bibliography:

Allgeier, M.A. "Historic Resources of South Louisville", National Register Multiple Property Nomination, Louisville: 1983.

Cooley, J. Meyrick. "James Russell Lowell School". Architectural plans, 1931.

Louisville Board of Education. "Minutes". Louisville, Kentucky, Book 7, 1916.

Jefferson County Public Schools, Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky. James Russell Lowell Elementary School Records.

Oberwarth, C. Julian. A History of the Profession of Architecture in Kentucky, ed. William B. Scott, Jr., Louisville, Kentucky: Gateway Press, 1987.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Only limited information on architect, J. Meyrick Cooley was discovered during research. Two local preservation offices, The Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and the Louisville Landmarks Commission were consulted for information concerning both architects but no information on either Cooley or Hawes was contained in their files. Additional biographical material may be available on either architect from the American Institute of Architects.

F. Supplemental Material:

Supplemental material including copies of historic photographs and maps are included following the Projection Information section.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This recording project was undertaken by Burry & Amos, Inc. of Shelbyville, Kentucky as mitigative recording required by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Regional Airport Authority of Louisville and Jefferson County and the National Park Service. Robert A. Burry, A.I.A., served as project architect, Christine Amos was architectural historian and Jayne Fiegel was photographer. The project was completed during the fall and winter of 1992-3. Demolition of the buildings, which are within the boundaries of the airport expansion project, is scheduled upon approved completion of documentation.

Architectural information:

Prepared by: Robert A. Burry, A.I.A.
Title: Project Architect
Affiliation: Burry & Amos, Inc.
Date: December, 1992

Historical information:

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Affiliation: Burry & Amos, Inc.
Date: December, 1992

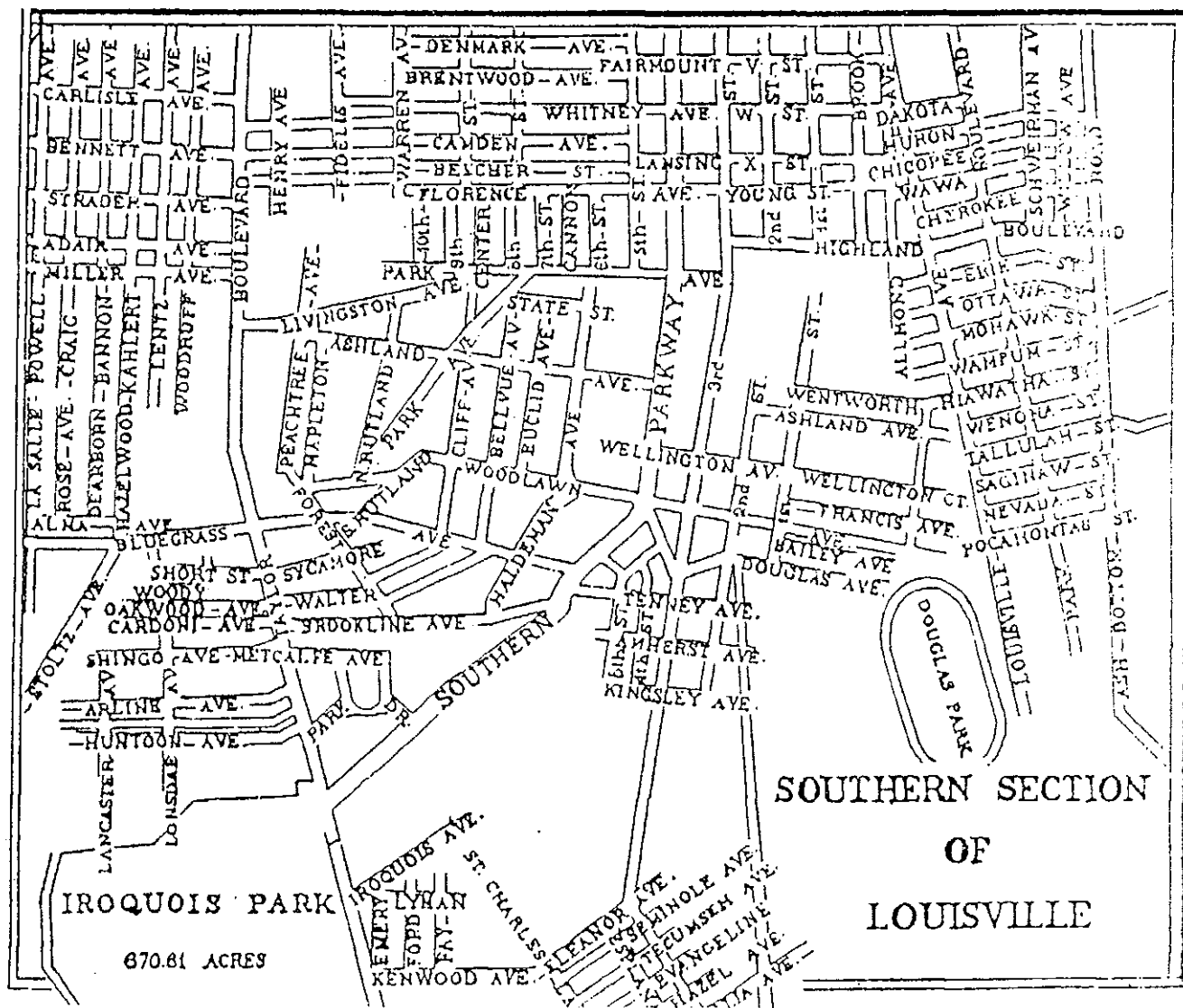
Photographic documentation:

Prepared by: Nathan Pritchard and Jayne Fiegel
Title: Photographers
Affiliation: South Winter Research
Date: December, 1992

Endnotes

1. Highland Park Graded Common Schools, miscellaneous papers, contained in James Russell Lowell Elementary School Records, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
2. C. Julian Oberwarth, A History of the Profession of Architecture in Kentucky, ed. . William B. Scott, Jr. (Louisville, Kentucky: Gateway Press, 1987), p. 177.
3. Highland Park Graded Common Schools, miscellaneous papers, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
4. Ibid.
5. M.A. Allgeier, "Historic Resources of South Louisville" National Register Multiple Property Nomination, (Louisville Landmarks Commission, Louisville, Kentucky, April, 1983).
6. "Dedication Program of James Russell Lowell Elementary School, Louisville, Kentucky" 12-16-1932, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
7. James Russell Lowell Elementary School Records, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
8. "Dedication Program of James Russell Lowell Elementary School", Louisville, Kentucky, 12-16-1932.
9. M.A. Allgeier, 1983.
10. James Russell Lowell Elementary School Records, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
11. Ibid.
12. Minutes, Board of Education, Louisville, Kentucky, Book No. 7, pp. 380-381, September 5, 1916. Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
13. Minutes, Board of Education, Louisville Kentucky, Book No. 14, p. 352. Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.
14. "History of James Russell Lowell Elementary School", n.d., Lowell Elementary School Records, Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, Kentucky.

FIGURE 1. "Southern Section of Louisville" 1918. (Map original at Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, KY.)



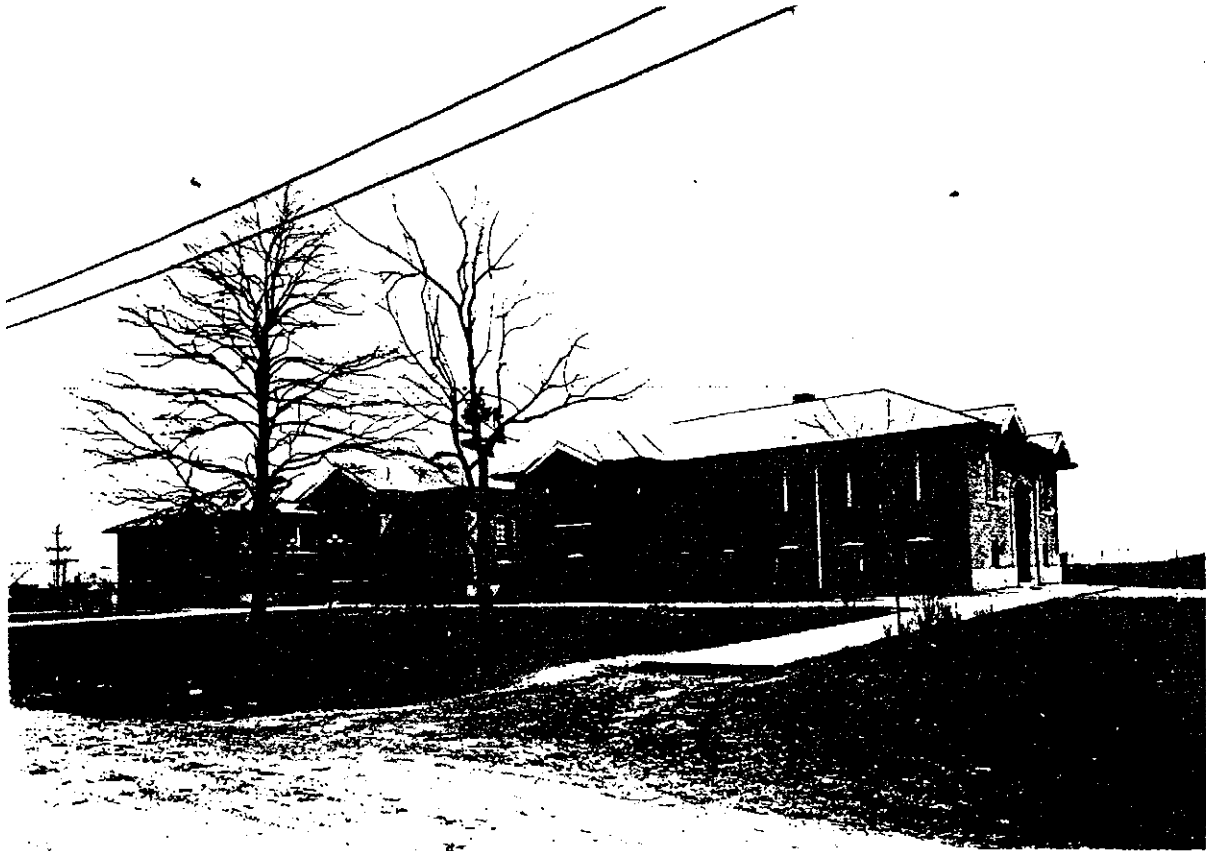
James Russell Lowell Elementary School
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FIGURE 2. Highland Park District School #45. (Copy of photograph, Highland Park School District Files: Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, KY.)



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FIGURE 3. East Highland Park School, (later names James Russell Lowell Elementary School), c. 1916. (Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, KY.)



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FIGURE 4. Rendering of James Russell Lowell Elementary School, J. Meyrick Colley, architect, c. 1931. (Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, KY.)



JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CRITTENDEN DRIVE & PHILLIPS LANE LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
J. MEYRICK COLLEY A.I.A. ARCHITECT

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FIGURE 5. Interior classroom of 1932 building, c. early 1950s. (Jefferson County Public Schools Archives and Records Retention Center, Louisville, KY.)

