

**ARLINGTON COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Names: Fort Myer Heights School (original name)
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School (1926 until 1968)

Other names: Wilson Adult Center; Wilson Technical Center; Wilson Building
Mongolian School of Washington, DC (current)

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street and Number: 1601 Wilson Boulevard
County: Arlington County
State, zip code: Virginia, 22209

3. TYPE OF PROPERTY

A. Ownership of Property

- Private
- Public
- Local
- State
- Federal

B. Category of Property

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

C. Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
—	—	sites
—	—	structures
—	—	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Yes No

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions: Public elementary school (1910 to 1968)

Current Functions: Private school (The Mongolian School of Washington, DC; January 2007 through present); community facility; swing space for Arlington Public Schools as needed.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Architectural Classification:

The original Fort Myer Heights School building was designed in the Neoclassical style (see Figures 1 and 4). The two-story main block was T-shaped in plan with a central corridor and front entrance. The prominent base of the building consisted of a tall concrete foundation finished in parged concrete and topped with a continuous concrete water table.¹ At the finished basement level, there were four small arched windows on each side of the central entrance. Above the basement, the building was masonry with brick walls faced in a Flemish-bond pattern. The front facade was punctuated by five distinct and alternating bays of windows and brick. The symmetrical fenestration originally consisted of two sets of paired nine-over-one-light double-hung sash windows on each side of the central two-story entrance portico on both the first and second stories. Between the two stories, the spandrels at the window bays were inset stucco ivory-colored panels. Above the entrance door on the second level was a triple window of six-over-one-light double-hung sash. A wide, plain frieze painted white in color wrapped around the building and scrolled modillions decorated the cornice. A large brick interior end chimney with a corbelled cap pierced the low-pitched hipped roof, one on each side of the central entrance.

The front elevation originally featured a grand full-height central portico that provided a monumental entry into the building. The portico's large paired columns with Corinthian capitals sat upon massive concrete piers supporting a projecting gabled pediment. Near full-height pilasters framed the central entrance bay. The pair of front entrance doors was adorned with an elliptical fanlight with sidelights and a decorative arch with ornamental keystone. A wide frieze continued around the pediment, and by 1926 "Woodrow Wilson School" appeared in block letters along the Wilson Boulevard facade. As in the main block of the building, scrolled modillions accented the cornice of the pediment. The elaborate entrance portico was removed in July 1963.²

Another original architectural element that no longer remains was the hexagonal wood cupola centered above the pedimented main portico. The raised base of the cupola was topped with a frame balustrade. The cupola featured rounded and open arch openings and a domed cap

with a decorative finial. A photograph from circa 1958 shows that the upper tiers of the cupola had already been removed, with only the raised base and balustrade remaining.³ It is unknown when the remainder of the cupola was removed.

The original school building contained six rooms on two floors, plus a basement.⁴ The appearance of the original portion of the Wilson School has had several changes over the last 90 plus years, primarily due to the removal of its two major decorative exterior architectural details. However, the overall massing, shape, and materials of the original T-shaped block are still readily apparent, as is the alternating arrangement of the five symmetrical bays of window openings and brick on the front elevation. The wide frieze and decorative modillions in the cornice also remain. The low-pitched hipped roof is clad in asphalt shingles; it can be assumed the original roofing material was either asphalt shingles or slate. The most drastic alterations to the exterior of the original portion of the school have included the:

- Removal of the front entrance portico and projecting pediment;
- Closing and reorientation of the original front entrance;
- Removal of the decorative cupola;
- Removal of the brick chimneys;
- Replacement of the original wood windows on the first and second stories with modern metal 21-light and 4-light awning windows; and
- Replacement of several of the original arched basement windows with larger modern metal windows.

Since its completion in 1910, there have been two substantial additions made to the original school building. The first addition dates to 1925 and consisted of a two-story (raised basement and first floor), flat-roofed wing along the length of the north (rear) elevation.⁵ It was thoughtfully designed using the same materials as the original building, with a concrete basement level and water table and brick first level. The massing of this early addition was complementary to the massing of the original school; it provided necessary classroom space during a period of new-found increased enrollment without detracting from the formality and prominence of the main block. See Figure 4 for a side view of the addition and its relationship to the main block, as they appeared in 1932.

The second addition was completed in 1957 as part of a significant remodeling of the original school building. The 1925 addition remained intact and was incorporated into the design scheme. The new construction work that occurred as part of the 1957 design program included:

- Building-up of the roof line of the 1925 addition (it still did not reach the full height of the second level, but allowed for additional interior height);
- Construction of a one-story brick addition to the immediate west of the main block fronting Wilson Boulevard;

- Elimination and relocation of the original main entrance and front vestibule; and
- Removal of all of the original windows and much of the original decorative ornamentation. Such changes streamlined the grandiose older building and were in keeping with the school system's building practices of the mid-20th century, when economy of design and function took precedence over unnecessary excess and ornamentation.⁶

Site visits conducted by the Historic Preservation Program staff in March 2007 and August 2008 revealed that little original interior fabric remains. However, despite the loss of the original central entrance and interior stair hall during the 1957 remodeling, one can still understand the layout of the original section of the building -- two large classrooms on each end of the two main levels. Wood door trim remains, as well as some original interior closets. It is not known if original blackboard surfaces were removed or covered up with modern replacements. The most surprising interior feature that remains well intact is the original pressed tin ceiling, visible above the drop ceiling in both original classrooms on the first floor, as well as in the storage closets on both the first and second floors (see Figures 5 and 6). One section of the ceiling also revealed an original flush, ceiling-mounted light fixture still intact (although the shade and bulb have been removed).

Setting:

The 2.6-acre school property fronts Wilson Boulevard on the northern side of the block between North Quinn and North Pierce streets. The school is sited level to Wilson Boulevard in an urban setting with a small front lawn and several mature shade trees on the lot. Its original rural setting has been altered by the addition of high-rise office buildings, sidewalks, street signs, and the general urbanization of the area. The once monumental scale of the Fort Myer Heights School is now relatively small in comparison to the surrounding commercial streetscape.

The original landscape of the west elevation has been replaced by a side service driveway and a parking area, with a gas station at the far southwestern corner of the lot at North Quinn Street. In addition to several temporary classroom trailers still being used, the parcel's rear yard still features several large shade trees and an ample-sized open lawn, one of the few remaining open spaces in the neighborhood. This park-like setting extends to the east with a small playground, open shelter, and a basketball court. Although the overall formality of the setting and landscape has changed over time, it still offers a pleasant neighborhood atmosphere and community gathering space.

Materials:	Foundation:	Parged concrete
	Walls:	Brick
	Roof:	Asphalt shingles
	Chimney:	Brick

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in Section 31A of the Arlington County Zoning Code and adopted Bylaws of the HALRB:

Wilson School meets all three of the designation criteria as listed in Section 31A, Part D1 of the Arlington County Zoning Code – historical significance, suitability for preservation or restoration, and educational value.

B. Areas of Significance:

The Fort Myer Heights School, renamed the Woodrow Wilson School in 1925, is the second oldest extant school building in Arlington County and is historically significant for its association with the development of public education in Arlington during the early-20th century. Completed in 1910, the school was designed by renowned Richmond-based architect Charles Morrison Robinson, who designed several hundred public schools throughout Virginia, as well as some of the most prominent college campuses throughout the state. In Alexandria (now Arlington) County alone, Robinson designed five of the earliest public school buildings, the very first of which was the Fort Myer Heights School. The school officially opened its doors to its first group of students on April 4, 1910. Within two decades after it was completed, a large rear addition was built to meet the demands of the increased student population in the area. Built in 1925, the addition was designed by the prominent Washington, DC, firm of Upman and Adams, Architects.

In its original form, the Fort Myer Heights School was architecturally distinctive as a grand example of the Neoclassical style. Its most prominent features included a formal front entrance portico, ornate rooftop cupola, and overall commanding presence in what was then still a very rural part of the County. The Wilson School, predated only by the historic Hume School built in 1891, remained in continuous use as an elementary school for 58 years. Upon the termination of the elementary school program in 1968, the building remained in continuous operation as an educational and community facility. Now, nearly 100 years after the school originally opened, the building is still viable as an educational facility, currently utilized by the Mongolian School of Washington, DC, and still hosting various community functions and needs. The Wilson School building is the last remaining example of early-20th century institutional architecture in the Rosslyn and Fort Myer Heights area.

C. Period of Significance

1910 to 1968

D. Significant Dates

1910, 1925, 1957, 1968

E. Significant Persons

Designed by *Charles Morrison Robinson* (1867-1932). See Item G for more information.

Historic 1925 addition designed by *Frank Upman* (1872-1948) and *Percy Crowley Adams* (1869-1953), of Upman & Adams Architects, of Washington, DC. See Item G for more information.

In 1926, school renamed in honor of *Woodrow Wilson* (1856-1924): Born in Staunton, Virginia on December 28, 1856. He served as President of Princeton (then called the College of New Jersey) from 1902-1910, as Governor of New Jersey (1911-1913), and as the 28th President of the United States (1913-1921). Wilson died on February 3, 1924, in Washington, DC.⁷

The 1957 addition to and remodeling of the Wilson School are attributed to *Allen Joyner Dickey*, AIA (1914-1993), of Arlington. See Item G for more information.

F. Cultural/Social Affiliation

None

G. Architects/Builders

Original Architect - Charles Morrison Robinson: Born in Hamilton, Loudoun County, Virginia, on March 3, 1867, the son of James T. and Elizabeth Crockett Robinson.⁸ He received his formal architectural training through apprenticeships with D.S. Hopkins in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later from John K. Peebles in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Robinson partnered with G.T. Smith in 1889 and formed the firm of Smith & Robinson in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Here he married Annie Custer in 1891 and their son Charles Custer Robinson was born two years later. In 1901, the family moved to Pittsburgh so Robinson could go into private practice. In 1906, they moved to Virginia and Robinson established a practice in Richmond at Ninth and Main streets.

According to *The Virginia Landmarks Register*, Robinson was “one of the state’s leading designers of educational facilities.”⁹ Among his professional achievements, Robinson designed dozens of building on the campuses of several prominent colleges throughout the Commonwealth, including James Madison University (Harrisonburg), Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg), Radford University (Radford), Virginia State College (Petersburg), the University of Richmond, and culminating with the College of William and Mary (Williamsburg). Beginning in 1918, Robinson also designed buildings for the Virginia State Board of Health and his firm was chosen to build new sanitariums in Catawba, Burkeville, and Charlottesville.

Robinson expanded his practice in the 1920s, moving to a larger Richmond office in the Times-Dispatch Building, with his son Charles, Benjamin A. Ruffin, and J. Banford Wallord as his partners. In addition to more universities and colleges, the firm had many private commissions, ranging from commercial buildings to private residences throughout Richmond. He also partnered with Marcellus Wright, Sr., in the construction of Richmond's Mosque, as well as designed several hospitals, a library, and a Masonic lodge throughout the city of Richmond and the region.

Robinson also led an ambitious career designing more than 400 public schools throughout Virginia. Many of these were done during his tenure as the official school board architect for Henrico, Norfolk County, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Suffolk, and Danville. Of particular importance to local Arlington history, five public schools in Alexandria County are attributed to Robinson. His first commission in what is now Arlington County was for the Fort Myer Heights School (1909), followed by the Clarendon (now known as Maury) School (1909), Cherrydale School (1910), Ballston School (1914) and Barcroft School (1914). Of these early-20th century schools in Arlington designed by Robinson, only the Fort Myer Heights and Clarendon schools still survive.

Although Robinson retired to his farm, Mirebeth, in Hampton, Virginia, in 1926, he remained a partner, continued to design plans, and inspected projects under construction. His firm remained active until early 1932 when the Great Depression peaked. Robinson's health soon began to fail and he died in Norfolk on August 20, 1932, following an operation. Upon his death, the firm Charles M. Robinson, Architects, was terminated.

Original Builder/General Contractor - General Conservation Company, Harrisonburg, Virginia: To date, no historical information has been found about this company.

Architects of 1925 Addition – Upman & Adams Architects, Washington, DC:

Frank Upman was born on December 11, 1872, in Rochester, Minnesota.¹⁰ He received his architectural training at the Chicago School of Architecture and the Art Institute, then came to the Washington, DC, area in 1897 and began working at the local office of Chicago architect Henry Ives Cobb. Upman first established a firm in 1904 with Clarence Harding, with the Central Y.M.C.A Building at 1736 G Street, NW, the Woodward Building at 15th and H Streets, NW, and the Woodward Apartments at 2311 Connecticut Avenue, NW, among their works. During World War I, Upman spent 17 months in France and England serving in the Construction Division of the U.S. Army's Air Service.

Percy C. Adams was born in Randolph, New York, on April 4, 1869.¹¹ Adams graduated from Cornell University in 1893 with a degree in architecture.¹² He began practicing architecture in 1893 in Buffalo, New York.¹³ Like Upman, Adams also moved to the nation's capital in 1897, working in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury.¹⁴ He partnered with

Frank Averill in 1909¹⁵ and by Spring 1915, his business address was 719 Union Trust Building.¹⁶

Both Upman and Adams were members of the American Institute of Architects.¹⁷ Upman and Adams began their partnership in 1923, which lasted until Upman's death in 1948.¹⁸ Although the exact circumstances are unknown, it is believed that Arlington County had some type of relationship with the firm; they were privy to contracts for the design of public schools throughout the County and by 1930, Adams was credited with "designing practically all the schools in Arlington, Virginia."¹⁹ Among their collaborations in Arlington included: the Spanish-influenced commercial Jesse Building at 1423-1427 North Courthouse Road (1927),²⁰ the Washington-Lee High School (1925), and the addition at the Wilson School (1925). Besides their individual commissions throughout Washington, DC, and other DC projects completed with their previous partners, they collaborated on the Chevy Chase Theater (1922), 2424 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 1244-1250 9th Street, NW, and several post offices and hospitals.²¹ In 1925, they created the Allied Architects of Washington with Nathan Wyeth and Gilbert Rodier to submit designs for government architectural projects. Among their most famous submissions selected was their 1929 design for the Longworth House Office Building (New Jersey and Independence Avenues, SE).

Upman practiced architecture in the Washington, DC, area for more than four decades. In addition to being the architect and a founding member of the Washington Golf Club, Upman lived in Arlington for many years.²² Upman died December 8, 1948, at the age of 75, at his summer home in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.²³

Adams remained in practice for 58 years before retiring at age 82.²⁴ Among his professional achievements, he designed the inauguration stands at the White House for President Wilson's second inauguration and collaborated on the design of more than 35 schools in Arlington and Prince George's County, Maryland. Adams died on September 8, 1953, at the age of 84, in Washington, DC.

Builder/General Contractor of 1925 Addition – J.C. Curtis: To date, no historical information has been found about this firm.

Architect of 1957 addition and remodeling – Allen Joyner Dickey, AIA:

Allen J. Dickey was born in Burlington, North Carolina, on November 16, 1914.²⁵ He moved to Northern Virginia as a teenager, graduating from Washington-Lee High School in 1933. He received a B.S. in architecture from George Washington University in 1937. He was a practicing architect in the Washington metropolitan area for more than 50 years, and was involved in approximately 900 projects. Among his most notable projects in his early career was his work on the design of the Pentagon. In addition to designing dozens of schools, churches, banks, and shopping centers throughout the region, Dickey was the architect of record for the Underwood Building in Clarendon (1938), the Lee Shopping Center in Lyon Park (1948-1949), and a shopping center in the 1300 block of North Courthouse Road (1948; demolished 1981). Dickey died in Arlington on April 9, 1993, at the age of 78.

H. Narrative Statement of Significance

Overview of Virginia Public Education System in the Late-19th to Early-20th Centuries

On January 26, 1870, Virginia was readmitted to the Union and the Reconstruction period in the Commonwealth officially ended.²⁶ With the enactment of the Virginia Constitution that same year, Arlington created its own local government and its political identity emerged for the first time separate from that of the City of Alexandria.²⁷ With this new identity came dramatic local changes and improvements as neighborhoods, transportation systems, and public education gradually were established.²⁸

In July 1870, the Virginia General Assembly adopted a statewide education plan for tax-supported public schools for both White and Negro children between five and 21 years of age.²⁹ The plan was to be implemented by all counties in the Commonwealth by 1876, “and as much sooner as possible.”³⁰ Prior to this legislation, education was considered to be a private concern throughout the state, with wealthy children either home tutored or attending private tuition-based schools.³¹ Some publicly-funded schools for poor and orphaned children did exist, though opportunities for education were especially limited for African American and middle-class White children.³² Unlike in other regions of the country, support to establish a public education system in Virginia was a slow process that finally culminated with the General Assembly’s new education plan.³³

Under the plan, a State Board of Education was established to oversee the creation of the free public school system throughout the state.³⁴ The State Board consisted of the Governor, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (elected by the General Assembly), and the Attorney General.³⁵ The State Board had the authority to appoint a county superintendent and three trustees for each of the school districts within the local jurisdictions.³⁶ Within Alexandria County, as present-day Arlington was then still known, there were three school districts that corresponded with the existing magisterial boundaries.³⁷ The Washington District was the northernmost district, with the Arlington District in the central portion of the County and Jefferson District to the south³⁸ [the Fort Myer Heights School was located in the Arlington District]. The Columbia School, which opened in 1870 at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive in the Arlington District, is believed to be the first public school in the County.³⁹

The appointed school board officials were responsible for determining the number and locations of schools, hiring teachers, taking a census of the school-aged population, and promoting “a public sentiment in favor of free schools.”⁴⁰ By 1871, there were five public schools in the Arlington and Jefferson Districts (three for White students and two African American schools), a total student population of 333, and total educational funding of \$1,729.⁴¹ One decade later, the county operated nine schools (four White schools and five for African American students), all of frame construction and equipped with outhouses.⁴²

In the late-19th century, the curriculum of public schools focused on reading, writing,

spelling, arithmetic, and promoting good moral behavior.⁴³ The buildings used to fulfill these goals were simple in design and minimally outfitted with fixed benches for students and a desk for the teacher. The local school board also typically oversaw the design of school buildings. It was common practice for boards to select a generic plan from a contractor's book of plans and then ensure the lowest costs be spent on the school's construction. A telling description of early public school design follows:

The usual unit was, in effect, a box containing two or four classrooms, separated by a corridor. Ceilings were high, and high, narrow windows allowed considerable daylight to enter. No one expected a school building to be used during the dark hours, so artificial illumination was a necessity only for the janitor...Toilets were alfresco and continued to linger outdoors even after sewerage systems had become commonplace.⁴⁴

In Arlington, early school conditions were quite rustic, as described in this personal account:

In winter the rooms were heated by potbellied stoves. Drinking water was ladled out by a common dipper from pails filled once a day. In 1878, R.A. Phillips was moved to complain of the deplorable conditions at the Carne School [first school to be built in the Washington District⁴⁵]. The outhouse was right up against the building and very foul; there was no woodshed nor a stable for the teacher's horse. The windows were broken and there were holes in the plaster. The benches were in bad condition. Generally, throughout the county, plants [schools] were enlarged and upgraded in the decades that followed."⁴⁶

The Beginnings of Public Education in Alexandria County

Alexandria County gradually increased in population, with approximately 6,400 residents in 1900.⁴⁷ The county's transformation from a rural to a suburban community was well underway, as plats for 70 new subdivisions were recorded just in the first decade of the 20th century.⁴⁸ In 1900, there were eleven public schools, seven of which were of frame construction and four of brick; the School Board owned seven of the schools, while the other four were located in rented buildings.⁴⁹ Just nine of the schools had "good furniture," but all had outhouses and "suitable grounds."⁵⁰ As the county's population continued to increase (16,040 residents by 1920), demands on the public school system necessitated that new schools be built, existing facilities be expanded, the curriculum be updated, and secondary education be incorporated into the system.⁵¹

By January 1908, J.D. Eggleston, Jr., the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Richmond, expressed concern about the recent "decrease in student enrollment and average attendance" in Alexandria County schools in the 1906-1907 school year as compared to 1905-1906.⁵² Alexandria County Schools Superintendent James E. Clements responded as follows:

I beg to state that many inducements are offered by the Washington [D.C.] City Public Schools to the citizens of Alexandria County, who work or hold office in Washington. Their children are admitted free and given their school books, and the electric car lines that traverse the County give very cheap commutation tickets to Washington; and this is the reason why many children, who live a mile or more from a school house, and on a car line, go into Washington to school with their parent or some member of the family, who works in the city. I hope to have two new school houses erected during the coming year [including one at Fort Myer Heights] that will prevent in a great measure any of these children from leaving the county to go to school. The indications for the present session are most encouraging for a good increase in enrollment and attendance.

The total Alexandria County school-aged population in 1910 was 1,862, of which 1,442 children were attending schools.⁵³ Of these, there were 1,048 White students and 392 African American students.⁵⁴ During the 1909-1910 academic year, Alexandria County boasted a total of 32 school rooms in 15 school buildings.⁵⁵ Of these facilities, all had outhouses and six of the school buildings were brick and nine were of frame construction. There were 24 class rooms designated for White students and only eight rooms for African American students.

Planning for a School House at Fort Myer Heights

As early as March 1902, and continuing through May 1905, local Fort Myer Heights residents regularly petitioned the Arlington District School Board for a new school building in the area.⁵⁶ Unfortunately, as deliberations about the need for, location of, and the design of the desired new school facility ensued for several years, young students in the area reputedly attended classes in a former saloon in nearby Rosslyn, with furniture provided from an abandoned school building near the Soldier's Home in Washington, DC.⁵⁷

On February 15, 1907, the School Board of Arlington District, Alexandria County, Virginia, purchased a nearly one-acre parcel of land from Colin H. and Anna V. Livingstone of Washington, DC.⁵⁸ The School Board paid \$3,434.08 for the western 120 feet of Lot G of the subdivision of Rosslyn Farm. The parcel fronted the Ballston and Georgetown Road, now known as Wilson Boulevard. Although the deed did not mention any specifics regarding the potential use of the parcel, the School Board had been considering this site "for school purposes," specifically for the proposed school at Fort Myer Heights, since December 1906.⁵⁹

Although the lot had been purchased by the Arlington District School Board several months earlier, Alexandria County Division Superintendent of Schools James E. Clements did not officially approve the site for the proposed Fort Myer Heights School until October 31, 1907.⁶⁰ Interestingly, Clements originally withheld his approval of the site since the Arlington District School Board "under a misapprehension of the Law and upon the advice of the Commonwealth Attorney" decided to purchase the lot for the proposed school without his consent (according to the School Board Minutes, the Board members then approved the proposed building plans on October 9 without his consent). After some consideration, Clements

decided to change his mind given that “land in the vicinity has advanced in price, and other cheaper sites and locations, then available in my judgment, have been sold, and the price paid by said School Board for said lot so selected by them does not now seem so greatly excessive, and in order to make the said selection and purchase effective and legal, I have decided to withdraw my disapproval.”

On the same date that Superintendent Clements changed his vote to approve the site for the proposed school, the School Board members rejected the initial bid for the project submitted by Washington, D.C., architect N.R. Grimm given that his cost estimate was too high.⁶¹ The Board directed Grimm to “make such changes and alterations in plans and specification[s] so as to bring the cost of the Fort Myer Heights school building within the means of the School Board.”⁶² The School Board accepted Grimm’s revised plans on November 30, 1907,⁶³ but did not recognize Arthur J. Porter as the lowest bidder (with a bid of \$14,223) until their meeting on January 25, 1908, when they asked Porter to revise his proposal to reduce costs.⁶⁴ The Board deferred action until February 29, on which date they asked Porter to make additional changes to lower costs even further.⁶⁵ For unknown reasons, according to the School Board Minutes, the School Board took no further action over the next few months to approve Grimm’s plans or Porter’s bid for the school.

It was not until June 2, 1908, that the School Board announced it was opening a new round of bids for the proposed school building.⁶⁶ Only two bids were submitted and reviewed – the \$9,800 high bid for revised plans belonged to Arthur J. Porter, while the low bid of \$8,200 belonged to Schuring and Company.⁶⁷

In early-July 1908, Superintendent Clements informed the Arlington District School Board that J.D. Eggleston, Jr., the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Richmond, declined to approve the plans and specifications for the proposed school house on Fort Myer Heights that they had submitted.⁶⁸ Given the state’s dissatisfaction, Clements felt “constrained to withdraw [his] approval of the said plans and specifications.” Despite their enthusiasm for the submitted proposal, Clements urged the Board members to meet soon to “decide upon a more suitable structure.” He made a compelling argument:

We are building a school house not for a day or a year, but one that will be permanent, and it should be as commodious inside and as attractive outside as our means and resources will permit, in order that the building will be in keeping with and fit the growth and development, which in a few years must come to this section of our county.

The questions of ventilation, ample window room, as well as floor room, and more capacious area for playground, are all important, and are given far more consideration now than they were even ten years ago; in fact, the requirements of law on the subject are compulsory, not merely directory, and the Board of Education is deeply interested in having new school houses in the state made in the best style, and in exact accordance with the Law.

...Acting under the directions of my superior officers in Richmond, I am compelled to see that the law is complied with strictly, and we should feel a natural pride in building for our county school houses that should equal, or if possible surpass those built in any other county of the Commonwealth.

In a subsequent letter to State Superintendent Eggleston written on Independence Day 1908, Superintendent Clements offered detailed insight into the local controversy and deliberations regarding the proposed Fort Myer Heights school building.⁶⁹ He began by recalling his most recent conversation with the School Board Chairman Dr. Charles B. Munson, who now “talked much more rationally about the proposed school building, and expressed himself as anxious to comply with the wishes of the [State] Board of Education and my wishes in regard to same.” Clements continued, claiming that some of the school trustees “seem[ed] inclined to look to Mr. [Crandall] Mackey, our Commonwealth’s attorney, for direction in these matters rather than to me.” This was especially frustrating to Clements since he spent many years studying and participating in the education field, whereas Mr. Mackey “had no information or experience on the subject [and] he is hostile to me and I regret to say has given me a great deal of trouble.” Clements stated that Mackey is “opposed to our state [educational] organization...and he invariably takes an opposite view to mine in all this school work, for his own selfish and personal and political motives.”

On July 21, 1908, Chairman Munson submitted revised plans and specifications for the proposed school to Clements.⁷⁰ Yet, Clements claimed them still to be “...inadequate and inappropriate for a modern up-to-date school house.” Clements further stated that the School Board’s “attempted alterations and amendments [did] not embrace the statutory requirements, and if followed would furnish a building lacking in symmetry and permanence, and both clumsy and unsanitary and unsafe and dangerous.” Clements also claimed that “the figures laid down in the specifications and the scale of measurements in the plans do not agree, but are fatal in their variance.”

Clements attempted to reassure Eggleston that he would succeed in getting “these trustees in line to follow me and my advice in these school matters....”⁷¹ Clements also offered a few suggestions. Regarding the building location, he asked that Eggleston encourage the trustees to purchase an additional 50’ or 100’ adjoining the existing lot in order to “make it a fine lot and furnish ample playground.” He also stressed the importance of remaining firm about the amount of floor space for the school and the requirements for the number of students per classroom. Clements shared that he had learned Chairman Munson felt the trustees could get away with placing fewer students per classroom; Clements “did not like the remark nor the spirit of it, implying clearly their purpose to evade the Law and probably put only 20 pupils in a room when it is understood that the rooms should be large enough for 40 pupils.”

The design process to date for the proposed school also had suspicious undertones. Clements explained how the School Board had been discussing the matter for several months already.⁷² The ordeal continued as:

...a set of new up-to-date plans [had been] made and submitted by a competent architect, and the school house would have been commodious and attractive inside and out, but these plans were rejected suddenly by the trustees about two weeks ago, and the plans sent you substituted and adopted [by the School Board], and as you observed, they are eight or ten years old, and the building would cost about \$2,000 or \$3,000 less than under the new plans.

We have \$8,000 on hand and have made arrangements to borrow \$4,000, necessary to build the school house under the new plan, costing about \$12,500. I would like to have the new plans adopted and the people generally confirm this wish. The old plans cannot be doctored sufficiently to meet present conditions and the result would be a patch-work and I fear, always unsatisfactory.

The proposed school house will be nearer to the National Capitol [sic] than any other school building in the state, and in a very thickly populated section, and in a commanding position in full view of the thousands of people who journey each year to the military post and national cemetery at Arlington, and I am especially anxious that it should be a handsome and attractive structure.

Further, Clements accused Chairman Munson of “hunt[ing] up these old plans and for some reason he seems to dominate the Board,” despite the fact he voted against these exact plans eight years ago and instead voted in favor of “a handsome school house to cost \$12,500” in his own neighborhood (and subsequently built on Columbia Pike).⁷³ Clements charged Munson with “drag[ging] these old rejected plans from a pigeon hole and insist[ing] upon fastening them on this other neighborhood, far more populous and prominent than his own.” In closing, Clements assured Eggleston that he withdrew his approval of the submitted plans and “earnestly desire[d] that new and better ones be adopted. As Superintendent I hate to see a tendency to construct less attractive and cheaper school houses in view of the fine ones we have heretofore erected, and especially as our county is advancing at a tremendous rate each year in material property.”

Several weeks later, an article in the *Alexandria County Monitor* offered a detailed summary of the lengthy and controversial process that occurred to date regarding the planning for the proposed Fort Myer Heights School.⁷⁴ Yet in the mean time, the plans for the Columbia School were resurrected for consideration [the handsome school house as described above in Munson's neighborhood]. The School Board then asked Mr. Porter, who had submitted the lowest bid on the previous plan, to submit a new bid in competition with another firm, Schuring and Morris. Porter, however, did not submit a bid and a private contract was awarded to Schuring and Morris (without first allowing an open and competitive bid process), who began to build a well on the site and was willing to proceed with the contract for the school. Superintendent Clements had yet to approve the plans in writing [as required by state law], the School Board unlawfully entered into a contract without Clements's approval, and then the outdated plans were rejected by the State Board of Education. The author of the article criticized the unfair bid selection process and offered several suggestions for moving forward: 1) the process should be restarted; 2) proper building plans should be drawn; 3) the bid process should be open to all interested parties; and 4) the contract should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Even by the Fall of 1908, the drama was far from being resolved and the construction of the much anticipated school building still not underway. In October 1908, Superintendent Clements wrote a letter to R.C. Stearns, Secretary of the State Board of Education in Richmond, an excerpt of which follows:

Then, you know of the trouble I have had with my Arlington [District] School Board. This Board was advised by the Commonwealth Attorney that they could go ahead regardless of my approval of plans or that of the Board of Education. I had to prepare a long bill in chancery and bring suit and get an injunction at a cost of \$75 out of my own pocket. This case has been fought hard up to last Monday by able attorneys opposing me but I succeeded in having the preliminary injunction made permanent and absolute.⁷⁵

On August 24, 1908, Clements, who represented himself, testified in his law suit against Arlington District School Board members Charles B. Munson, William A.E. McSchea, and Ralph Baldwin, as well as Harm Schuring and John F. Morris of the firm of Schuring and Morris.⁷⁶ The Alexandria County Circuit Court awarded an injunction restraining the aforementioned "...from erecting the proposed new school house on Fort Myer Heights...until the further order of this Court..." with a penalty imposed in the amount of \$500. On October 19, the Circuit Court of Alexandria County officially ruled "that the injunction heretofore granted in this cause is made perpetual and it is further ordered adjudged and decreed that the said defendants pay the costs in this suit."⁷⁷

According to the School Board Minutes, on November 6, 1908, the Arlington District School Board announced yet again its request for architects to submit building plans and specifications for the proposed brick school at Fort Myer Heights.⁷⁸ The advertisement for

posting in the *Alexandria County Monitor* stated the submission deadline was Saturday, December 12, 1908, and summarized the design requirements as follows:

...to provide for two school rooms on first floor. Hall on second floor that may be capable of conversion [sic] into two school rooms. Basement under entire building, 8'6" in clear, concrete. Cost of building not to exceed \$8,000. Plans and specifications to conform to the Virginia state laws and regulations of Board of Education governing the erection of school buildings in the state.

The Arlington District School Board held a special meeting at the Columbia School on December 12 to review the submitted plans and specifications.⁷⁹ Only one bid was received, as submitted by Richmond architect Charles M. Robinson. Superintendent Clements stated that he was willing to approve these plans, and the School Board found them to be "very satisfactory." After three hours of deliberation, Robinson's plans were officially adopted by the School Board. Clements stated that "the Arlington School Board, after hearing Mr. Robinson and examining the plans, were really glad, and I think pleased that the injunction, suggested by you, and sued out by me, to stop them from proceeding under the old and inadequate plans, had been granted and perpetuated; and they will now have a handsome and modern sanitary school house, instead of the antiquated and out-of-date structure, which they then contemplated, and the matter has ended practically in a love feast, and all parties are satisfied."⁸⁰

Upon receiving a formal approval letter from Superintendent Clements, School Board Clerk William A.E. McShea was tasked with placing an advertisement in the *Alexandria County Monitor* requesting "sealed proposals for the construction of a new school building on Fort Myer Heights, Alexandria County, Virginia, according to plans and specification made by architect Charles M. Robinson...."⁸¹ Bids would be received on January 30, 1909.

The School Board received five bids, which were opened at a meeting on February 6, 1909.⁸² Interestingly, A.J. Porter tried his luck again, but submitted the second highest bid. The lowest bid of \$10,190 belonged to Thomas Fravel Sash and Door Company of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Because the architect was absent, the School Board deferred awarding the contract until its next meeting on February 9, 1909.

At a special meeting of the School Board on February 23, 1909, Chairman Munson asked a representative of the Fravel Sash and Door Company whether he was ready to enter into a contract for the construction of the Fort Myer Heights School.⁸³ The response was no. But after a lengthy argument, the School Board asked Charles Robinson to prepare the said contract as quickly as possible for review by the Board. Upon receiving Robinson's draft and after consulting several times with Commonwealth Attorney Crandall Mackey, the School Board ordered Clerk McShea to send a letter to the Harrisonburg firm declaring that for various reasons (including an unspecified limitation in the company's charter) the Board could not legally commit to entering a contract with the company and had reserved the right to reject any and all bids.⁸⁴ The letter further stated "the matter [of having rejected the bid] will receive immediate attention and if further bids are advertised the General Conservation Company [also of

Harrisonburg] will have an opportunity to bid.”⁸⁵

On March 27, 1909, with Superintendent Clements’ endorsement, the School Board passed a resolution to enter into a contract with the General Conservation Company for the construction of the proposed Fort Myer Heights School.⁸⁶ The following month, the School Board awarded a \$950 contract to the American Heating and Ventilating Company of Richmond for the installation of the heating and ventilating apparatus for the proposed school building.⁸⁷ First payments to both contracted firms were authorized in June 1909.⁸⁸

Construction of the Fort Myer Heights School Finally Begins

The land on which the school was to be constructed already had a rich 19th century history. Wilson Boulevard was historically known as “the Road to Washington.”⁸⁹ The Fort Myer Heights area, one of the County’s earliest population centers, was on the edge of Rosslyn, an early judicial, commercial, and transportation hub. During the Civil War, the area surrounding the potential school site was occupied by Fort Corcoran, one of the 68 Circle Forts built by the Union Army as part of the Defenses of Washington to protect the capital city of Washington, DC.⁹⁰ An Arlington County historic marker situated at Key Boulevard and North Ode Street describes the fortification:

Here beside the Georgetown-Falls Church Road [present-day Wilson Boulevard] stood Fort Corcoran, a bastioned earthwork built in May 1861 to command all the approaches to the Aqueduct Bridge [a predecessor of Key Bridge]. It had a perimeter of 576 yards and emplacements for 10 guns. It was dominated by the higher ground to the west and was relegated to a supporting role when the Arlington Line was built 1000 yards farther west in August 1861.⁹¹

The area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed school was part of a large farm owned by William Ross.⁹² “Rosslyn Farm” was sold to developers after the Civil War and subdivided, although the original planned community never materialized.⁹³ By the late-19th century, the Fort Myer Heights School site was located near the first tee of the original golf course affiliated with the Washington Golf and Country Club.⁹⁴ Organized in February 1894 as the Washington Golf Club, the original two-story frame clubhouse and nine-hole golf course were located on 165 acres at Fort Myer Heights north of Rosslyn. The course ran northwest along and also crossed the “Road to Washington” on the property where Colonial Village and its adjacent shopping center are now located.

During the construction of the Fort Myer Heights School, temporary classes were held in the two front rooms of [George A.] Harlow’s Building in Rosslyn.⁹⁵ By the time the School Board approved the final plans for the proposed school in 1909, the detailed statutory requirements and regulations of the State Board of Education for the construction of the Fort Myer Heights School were as follows:

- No contracts could be let or the school house erected until the site, location, plans, and specifications were submitted to and approved in writing by the Division Superintendent of Schools, who then had to report his action to the State Board of Education;
- Public school buildings hereafter erected by school boards throughout the Commonwealth should be properly heated, lighted, and ventilated;
- All plans for the erection of school building or additions thereto should provide at least 15 square feet of floor space and 200 cubic feet of air space per pupil in each study or recitation room;
- All plans should provide at least 30 cubic feet of pure air every minute per pupil;
- The facilities for exhausting foul and vitiated air should be positive and independent of atmospheric changes;
- All ceilings should be at least twelve feet high;
- All halls, doors, stairways, seats, passage-ways, aisles, and lighting and heating appliances and apparatus should be arranged to facilitate egress in case of fire or accidents, as well as provide the required and proper accommodations for public protection in such cases;
- All exit doors in schools of two or more stories should open outwardly;
- Only straight-run staircases could be built, with any changes in direction being made by platforms;
- No doors could open immediately upon a flight of stairs, but a landing at least the size of the door width be provided between such stairs and doors;
- All school houses had to provide for the admission of light from the left, or from the left and rear of the pupils, with the total light area amounting to at least 25 percent of the floor space;
- Each school board had to provide at least two suitable, convenient, and sanitary outhouses or water-closets for each of the school houses under its control, with the facilities being completely separate from each other with separate means of access. Further, the school board had to maintain such facilities “in a clean and wholesome condition.”
- The basement should be 8’ 6” in height and each school room must contain at least 600 square feet of floor space.⁹⁶

George Ware served as the building’s Superintendent of Construction.⁹⁷ At the end of October 1909, the School Board extended the General Conservation Company’s original contract to allow adequate time for the building to be completed. The estimated completion date was November 15, 1909. By the end of November, architect Robinson recommended yet another contract extension, although no specific date was mentioned.⁹⁸

At the December 7, 1909, School Board meeting, Clerk McShea was asked to request bids on chairs, desks, and black boards for both the Fort Myer Heights and Clarendon school buildings.⁹⁹ By the end of the month, McShea was given authorization to procure bids and close contracts for the painting of the school’s interior walls, ceilings, and hallways.¹⁰⁰ The General

Conservation Company's contract was extended once again, with completion of the building expected no later than June 15, 1910.¹⁰¹

On February 1, 1910, the School Board opened bids for school furniture for the new school houses at Fort Myer Heights and Clarendon.¹⁰² Only one bid was received, which was considered to be unsatisfactory and thereby rejected. However, a contract to surface the blackboards with cement was awarded in the amount of \$48 to the Murray Brothers, Plasterers. One month later, the School Board hired Robert L. King as the janitor for the Fort Myer Heights School at the salary of \$20 per month.¹⁰³ His employment would begin upon acceptance of the new building by the Board.¹⁰⁴

On March 11, 1910, earlier than expected, the School Board convened a special meeting for the purpose of having the completed school building officially turned over to them.¹⁰⁵ The Board's resolution stated that architect Charles Robinson certified the new school had been completed by the General Conservation Company according to the approved plans and specifications. The School Board was satisfied with the building and willingly accepted it. The Board then instructed King to assume his duty as janitor as of this date, with the heating and ventilation contractor providing him necessary supplies and instruction for the operation of the systems. Additionally, the Board began the process to have the building insured for \$7,000 and Clerk McShea was directed to have the building and grounds prepared for the transfer of the contents from the temporary school location in Rosslyn. Just two weeks later, the Board ordered that all School Board property be removed from the temporary school into the new Fort Myer Heights School House.¹⁰⁶

The New Fort Myer Heights School House Opens and Expands

The four-room Fort Myer Heights School, built for the total cost of \$12,000, was the only new Alexandria County school facility completed during the 1909-1910 academic term.¹⁰⁷ The Fort Myer Heights School officially opened on Monday, April 4, 1910, with flag raising exercises.¹⁰⁸ Upon its completion, the new Fort Myer Heights School "command[ed] an unobstructed view which sw[ept] the entire surrounding country."¹⁰⁹ See Figures 2 and 3 for historic photographs of some of the school's very first students.

Little information is known about the early enrollment statistics. According to the School Board meeting minutes, Miss E. Lee Dowdell and Miss Hattie M. George were the only two teachers at the school when the new building opened.¹¹⁰ By the start of the 1910-1911 school year, three teachers were employed at the school: Miss Dowdell, Miss Jen Wheat, and Miss Beulah Jones.¹¹¹ By the Fall of 1911, Miss Dowdell was the school principal, with Miss Bessie McKenzie and Miss Viola Lusby as the teaching staff.¹¹² According to the September 20, 1922, School Board meeting minutes, five teachers were employed at the Fort Myer Heights School during the 1922-1923 academic year.¹¹³

On July 31, 1925, the School Board adopted an official resolution to change the name of the Fort Myer Heights School to the Woodrow Wilson School, as recommended by the patron league of the school community.¹¹⁴ An eloquent account of the name change can be found in a

letter from Arlington School Board Trustee William A. E. McShea to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, widow of the former President:

It has been the policy of the School Board of our County to name the various schools as a memorial to men and women of historical prominence, who were interested in the advancement of education, and as an inspiration to the youth of the land. The children who will attend this school had learned to know and to recognise [sic] you and your late lamented husband on your many drives through the territory, and now honor and revere the memory of our greatest President. When I proposed the name of Woodrow Wilson School, it was received with loud and enthusiastic acclaim, and accordingly was unanimously [sic] adopted. As trustee of the School Board, therefore, it becomes my great pleasure to inform you of this action, and to ask you if you will kindly concur in the adoption of this name.¹¹⁵

In response, Mrs. Wilson's secretary, John Randolph Bolling, replied that she was "deeply gratified...to learn of the naming of the new school for Mr. Wilson."¹¹⁶

By the 1920s, increased population growth in the Fort Myer Heights area resulted in the need for additional classrooms and instructional space at the Wilson School. According to Arlington School Superintendent Fletcher Kemp, "the school board is doing everything possible to meet conditions" caused by the marked increase in student enrollment.¹¹⁷ In fact, since 1924, nine new elementary schools and two new high schools were built in the County.¹¹⁸ In 1925, Arlington County school census statistics revealed that the total population of White children aged six to 19 years old had risen to 5,440, an increase of 855 students since the 1920 Census.¹¹⁹ Yet the African American school-aged population was 976 students in 1925, which actually was a decrease in 314 students compared to the 1920 Census data.¹²⁰

At the January 30, 1925, School Board meeting, the Board instructed Clerk Fletcher Kemp to notify Upman & Adams Architects "to immediately begin preparation of plans for the addition to the Fort Myer Heights School," as well as for the construction of a new school in Aurora Heights.¹²¹ Almost four months later on April 24, the School Board received and reviewed bids for both projects.¹²² The addition was to contain four additional classrooms and playrooms. Six bids were received for the addition, with the lowest bid of \$37,532.20 submitted by J.C. Curtis. At this same meeting, bids for heating, ventilation, and sanitation for both proposed projects also were reviewed. Only one company submitted a bid for both projects. The American Heating and Ventilation Company, the same firm that installed the original heating and ventilation systems in the Fort Myer Heights School, submitted a bid for \$7,185 to equip the addition. However, the School Board deferred action on any of the proposals until their next meeting.

On May 11, 1925, the School Board again reviewed the plans and specifications for the addition to the Fort Myer Heights School, with architects Upman & Adams and contractor J.C. Curtis in attendance.¹²³ Since Curtis was the lowest bidder, the Board voted unanimously to

award him the contract, but at a slightly lesser price of \$36,030.20. The Board also awarded the heating, ventilation, and sanitation contract to the American Heating and Ventilation Company at their full bid amount. Chairman C.C. Lamond and Clerk Kemp were instructed to draw up and sign contracts for both firms.

In September 1925, Barton Rees submitted a proposal to the School Board to furnish and install a 1,000-gallon septic tank with a 700-foot drainage field at the Wilson School (though still referred to as the Fort Myer Heights School in the meeting minutes) for the cost of \$800.¹²⁴ Rees received the contract and Clerk Kemp instructed him to begin the installation immediately. W.E. Croson was selected to dig a well at the school site at the cost of \$3.25 per foot, with galvanized pipe casing.

Almost one month later, Rees submitted another proposal to furnish and install an automatic pump and sewer and to build a cement pump house at the Wilson School for \$525.¹²⁵ The School Board approved the contract and advised Rees to begin work immediately.¹²⁶ Just a few days later, the School Board took action on yet another Wilson School item, this one pertaining to the omission of a metal cornice in order to reduce project costs by \$275.¹²⁷

On December 28, 1925, the School Board, accompanied by architect Frank Upman and contractor J.C. Curtis, visited both the new Washington-Lee High School and the new addition at the Fort Myer Heights School.¹²⁸ The School Board formally accepted the buildings upon inspecting them and receiving Upman's recommendation that the buildings had been completed according to the plans and specifications.¹²⁹ On February 1, 1926, the new [rear] addition at the Wilson School that was built to replace the portable building used by the third grade was officially ready for use.¹³⁰

In 1926, Miss Mary Carey was the principal of Woodrow Wilson School, with students enrolled in grades one through three.¹³¹

A sampling of historic newspaper articles reveals that the Wilson School building was used for various community purposes beyond that of the educational instruction of its enrolled students. In the Spring of 1926, the building served as the location for meetings of both the Fort Myer Heights Citizens Association and the school's Parent-Teacher Association.¹³² During the late-1920s construction of a new building for the Arlington District's Health Center in Clarendon, the facility temporarily was moved to the Wilson School.¹³³ In August 1930, the Arlington-Fairfax Volunteer Firemen's Association hosted its annual carnival, parade, and supper on the lot adjoining the school.¹³⁴ The building also was used for a range of community meetings, including one of the Northern Arlington County Memorial Bridge Approach Association to discuss if Washington Street should be adopted as the first completed approach to the Memorial Bridge.¹³⁵

According to the County's historic building permit records, the Wilson School underwent a remodeling beginning in the Summer of 1957.¹³⁶ Also at this time a one-story addition with a clerestory was built to the west of the original school building along Wilson Boulevard. The architect for the remodeling and the addition was Allen Joyner Dickey, AIA, with Beall &

Lemay as structural engineers, Lee Kendrick & Associates as mechanical engineers, and John J. Doe as contractor.¹³⁷

The design program of the 1957 renovation included the remodeling of nine classrooms, the library, the boiler room, offices, clinic, and bathrooms.¹³⁸ The alterations affected 15,966 square feet of the building, with a total contract price of \$174,589. The new addition contained a multi-purpose room and stage, a kitchen, teacher's room, a conference room, bathrooms, and general and custodial storage. A total of 7,313 square feet was added for a contract price of \$124,281. A promotional brochure from Dickey's firm summarized the scope of the project:

The 1957 addition remodeled the old building within the limits of the bearing walls, enlarging and modernizing all classrooms. Together with the new facilities housed in a one-story addition, a complete school plant exists for the first time.

According to a ground level floor plan drafted by Dickey's office, the main entrance to the school was shifted from its original location in the center of the front facade to a new hyphen built to connect the main building to the new one-story addition.¹³⁹ Upon completion of the remodeling project, the original central stairwell and entrance vestibule were removed, with the hallway reoriented to the east-west axis with new steel stair wells on each opposite end. Original windows and doors were replaced throughout, new hung plaster ceilings installed, and new lockers added. The updated ground floor of the original portion of the school now contained administrative offices, a health clinic (in the former center passage/stair hall), and a boiler room along the front elevation, with two first grade class rooms and one second grade class room in the 1925 addition to the rear. The modified first floor consisted of a third grade classroom, a girls' and boys' restroom (in the former main entrance vestibule), and a fourth grade class room along the front elevation, with a second grade class room, library, and a third grade class room to the rear in the 1925 addition. The second level was altered to allow for a girls' and boys' restroom in the original central stairhall, with one class room for each the fifth and sixth grades, all along the front portion of the building. The new addition built in 1957, constructed of red brick to coordinate with the original building, featured a new stage, multi-purpose room, kitchen, and restrooms for students and faculty.

According to the County's historic building permit records, the formal original front entrance portico was removed in the summer of 1963.¹⁴⁰

During the 1950s and 1960s, as the Fort Myer Heights and Rosslyn areas transformed to a more commercial focus, school enrollments declined. The student enrollment at the Wilson School during the 1961-1962 school year was just 256 students in grades one through six.¹⁴¹ Lionel Seitzer was hired as the new principal of Wilson School in 1966.¹⁴² The 1968 construction of the Francis Scott Key Elementary School at 2300 Key Boulevard replaced not only the historic James Monroe School built on the site in 1926, but also the academic program at the Wilson School.¹⁴³ According to enrollment records maintained by Arlington Public Schools, the Wilson School remained in operation as an elementary school through the 1967-1968 school year.¹⁴⁴ Interestingly, in 1968, its program was consolidated with that of the

Woodmont School (located at 2422 North Fillmore Street); from 1966 to 1968, the facility is described as “Woodmont (Wilson)” on the enrollment charts. There are no further references to the Wilson School and no instructional programs listed at the site.

Modern History of the Wilson School

From 1973 to 1980, the Wilson School housed the Manpower Training Program, which was operated by Arlington Public Schools with federal funding.¹⁴⁵ This program offered adult education and job training, including General Educational Development (GED) and citizenship courses.¹⁴⁶ Beginning in the late-1970s through September 1998, Wilson School served as the location for the Congregate Meal Program, sponsored by Arlington’s Agency on Aging.¹⁴⁷ The lunch program, available daily to Arlington residents aged 60 years or older, served two main purposes – offering enrollees a nutritious meal that met suggested daily nutritional requirements and offering a welcoming atmosphere for socialization. Transportation was provided for enrollees, who were asked in turn to give a suggested monetary contribution towards the meal. Approximately 40 residents attended the meal program on a daily basis, with as many as upwards of 100 residents at times throughout the program’s nearly 20 years at the Wilson facility. Since there was no formal cafeteria space, the menu was provided by APS, the food warmed in the on-site kitchen, and dining tables set up in the multi-purpose room. In addition to the meal program, the Agency on Aging sponsored numerous other programs at Wilson School over the years, including guest speakers, flu shots, bilingual bingo games, a quilting club, food preparation for area homeless shelters, and adult educational sessions.

By the early-1980s, the Manpower program became the Arlington Education and Employment Program (now known as REEP or the Refugee Education and Employment Program).¹⁴⁸ The Wilson School site was occupied by REEP from approximately 1981 until 1994-1995. In the Fall of 1995, the next occupant was the Arlington High School Continuation Program, which remained until September 1997.

According to budget-related documents maintained by Arlington Public Schools, between Fiscal Years (FY) 1992 to 1997, the Wilson School is listed as an active site with two to two-and-one-half custodians assigned to oversee the facility.¹⁴⁹ In FY 1998, the building was vacant with only a part-time custodian assigned. Beginning in FY 1999, the Wilson School building was used as swing space for other schools when it housed the Francis Scott Key Elementary School’s program during the renovation of its facility on Key Boulevard. Eighteen temporary classrooms were added on the site in Summer 1998 in preparation for the relocation. The Key program returned to its renovated facility in Fall 1999, which made room for the arrival of the Drew Model School’s program on Christmas Eve of 1999. The Drew program remained at the Wilson site until September 2001. The Langston Continuation program next used the Wilson School from September 2002 until Summer 2003. The Glebe Elementary School program was the next tenant, occupying the Wilson building from September 2003 until the program returned to its renovated school building in November 2004. The Wilson building remained vacant until the Nottingham Elementary School’s program occupied the facility from Summer 2005 until September 2006. Since January 2007, the facility is currently used by the Mongolian School of Washington, DC, with approximately 70 students and eight teachers. The

building also hosts various community events throughout the year. The temporary classroom trailers situated behind the school building are still being used as needed.

I. Significant Features

The most significant features of the property include the remaining historical elements of the original 1910 school building, including its massing, materials (concrete and brick primarily), the alternating brick and window bays along the front facade, the wide frieze band, and the decorative cornice with scrolled modillions. Also of note is the historic 1925 addition, designed to complement the original school building, especially in terms of massing and materials. Although the 1957 addition to and remodeling of the Wilson School resulted in substantial alterations to the historic portions of the building, these changes serve as testament to the design philosophies of that era and illustrate how the property evolved over time as dictated by changing programmatic and functional needs and priorities. While it is not as sympathetic to the original building as the 1925 addition, the 1957 addition and remodeling now technically can be considered historic (as defined by the minimum 50-year age requirement used by the National Park Service). Beyond the actual building footprint, the surrounding yards and open space are also of historic significance to the site since they have been used continuously by the occupants of the building and by the neighboring community. Therefore, the priority for preservation of the Wilson School site should involve maintaining the historic and architectural integrity and character of the entire Wilson School building and its grounds, with particular emphasis placed on the retention of the original 1910 portion of the building and its original frontage along Wilson Boulevard.

Although substantial in extent, it is important to note that the exterior alterations that have been made to the original Wilson School building over time are reversible, though one could debate how practical or cost effective it would be to restore the building to its original appearance. However, if such an extensive restoration is desired, or if only certain exterior elements were to be restored, sufficient historic documentation does exist that could assist in such an effort. Historic photographs and detailed construction drawings from the 1957 remodeling show the original windows, front entrance portico and pediment, rooftop cupola, and chimneys. It remains unclear at this time whether or not it is feasible, cost effective, or desirable to return the interior of the school to its original center-hall arrangement or to restore the original and existing pressed tin ceilings.

J. Areas exempt from Designation

The entire 2.6-acre parcel is eligible for designation given that is the current legal school property boundary. The most significant area of the site is the original 1910 portion of the Wilson School and its frontage along Wilson Boulevard. The 1925 and 1957 additions to the building, as well as the subsequent changes to the landscape surrounding the school, illustrate the evolution of the property over time and should be included within the Wilson School Historic District boundary. The placement and siting of any temporary classroom trailers is recommended to be exempt from HALRB review.

K. Designation Criteria

The Wilson School building meets criteria one, ten, eleven, and twelve as listed in the adopted Bylaws of the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board.

- One: Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation:** Historical association with the development of public education in Alexandria County in the early-20th century.
- Ten: Its suitability for preservation or restoration:** The original 1910 main block remains, and much of the original form, massing, and materials are still evident. Sufficient historic documentation exists that could aid in an accurate restoration of the building.
- Eleven: Its educational value:** Worthy of recognition as the second-oldest extant school building in Arlington, as well as the first Alexandria County commission of renowned regional architect Charles Morrison Robinson. Also the oldest school facility in the County that is still owned and maintained by Arlington Public Schools.
- Twelve: Its historical significance:** Contributions to the development of public education in Alexandria County and the growth of the Fort Myer Heights/Rosslyn area in the early-20th century. Its association with architect Charles M. Robinson, who designed several hundred public schools throughout the Commonwealth and some of the most prestigious college campus architecture in Virginia. Its importance as the second-oldest extant school building in Arlington County, which was used continuously as an elementary school for 58 years and used continuously for assorted community functions for 98 years.

L. Conclusion

The Wilson School, originally named the Fort Myer Heights School upon its formal opening in April 1910, is worthy of being recommended for local historic district designation by Arlington County. The Wilson School survives as the oldest extant school building in Arlington County that is still owned and maintained by Arlington Public Schools. It is also the first public school in Arlington that was designed by prominent Richmond architect Charles Morrison Robinson. Additionally, the Wilson School is the second oldest school building in Arlington County overall, second only to the historic Hume School built in 1891 (now home to the museum of the Arlington Historical Society). Also of note is the fact that the Wilson School building is the last remaining example of early-20th century institutional architecture in the Rosslyn and Fort Myer Heights neighborhoods and still retains its integrity of location despite the surrounding urban highrise and modern development.

What is most compelling about the Wilson School -- when compared to other historic schools in the County, as well as to the most recent local designation of the historic Swanson Middle School in Westover -- is the overall significance of the building's contextual history rather than its current tangible physical appearance. The Wilson School is a testament to how community and educational facilities can be altered and modified over time as needs and priorities change -- and still remain viable resources. There are several constants in the nearly 100-year history of this building:

1. Since its construction in 1910, the building has served continuously as a community institution. It was first used as an elementary school and community gathering place for 58 years, then served a variety of roles, including an adult education center, temporary swing space for other County schools and educational programs, a private school, and a location for community meetings and events.
2. Although it has had two major additions and undergone one extensive remodeling, the bones of the historic building remain intact. The massing, materials, and remaining ornamentation of the original 1910 block and the 1925 addition appear to not only be in sound condition, but are readily discernable from the newest appendage built in 1957. Although major exterior alterations in the late-1950s and the 1960s resulted in the loss of the original double-hung sash windows, main central entrance, grand entrance portico, and chimneys, these modifications can be reversed, given the amount of available historic documentation and if public interest and funding warrant such a restoration. The simplicity of the original massing, materials, and ornamentation is still representative of early-20th century school architecture, even with the removal of several original architectural and stylistic details. Despite such changes over time, the physical qualities of the original 1910 block and the school's frontage along Wilson Boulevard, continue to dominate the overall character of the building.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Personal Papers of Allen J. Dickey, Record Group 92 . Located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

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Correspondence from John Randolph Bolling to William A.E. McShea. 19 February 1926. Copy on file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

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Letters consulted from the following dates:

31 October 1907, Memo from Clements

7 January 1908, Clements to Eggleston, Jr.

2 July 1908, Clements to Arlington District School Board

4 July 1908, Clements to Eggleston, Jr.

14 September 1908, Clements to McShea

24 October 1908, Clements to Stearns

12 December 1908, Clements to Stearns

Correspondence from William A.E. McShea to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. 10 February 1926. Copy on file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

“Extracts for Alexandria County from Virginia Superintendent of Public Education Annual Reports.” Undated (with data from 1909-1910 and 1910-1911). Available at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910. Ledger located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

Minutes consulted from the following School Board meetings:

8 December 1906
26 October 1907
31 October 1907
30 November 1907
25 January 1908
29 February 1908
2 June 1908
6 November 1908
12 December 1908
13 January 1909
6 February 1909
23 February 1909
10 March 1909
27 March 1909
24 April 1909
26 June 1909
30 October 1909
27 November 1909
7 December 1909
21 December 1909
1 February 1910
1 March 1910
11 March 1910
23 March 1910
5 April 1910
4 October 1910
15 September 1911

Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932. Ledger located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

Minutes consulted from the following School Board meetings:

30 January 1925
24 April 1925
11 May 1925
30 June 1925
31 July 1925
25 September 1925
20 October 1925
30 October 1925
28 December 1925

Minute Book #9 of the Arlington County School Board, 1963-1968. Ledger located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

“Superintendent’s Annual Report 1953, Arlington Virginia, Classrooms for Arlington’s Children.” Record Group 7-1-2-5, Building Information. On file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

Wilson School renovation, microfiche of construction plans. May 1957. Courtesy of the APS Facilities staff.

Internet Sources

Biographical information on architect Charles Morrison Robinson. Available online at www.charlesmrobinson.com/history.html and www.charlesmrobinson.com/public.html.

Biographical information on Woodrow Wilson. Available online at www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/ww28.html.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, VA. Prepared by Frazier Associates, March 2004. Available online at www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Williamsburg/NR_Williamsburg_MatthewWhaley_School_137-0302_text.pdf

Text of Arlington County’s historic marker at the site of Fort Corcoran. Available online at www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/learn/sites_properties/military_use.asp#ftcorcoran

Maps

“1900 Map of Alexandria County, Virginia.” Made for the Virginia Title Company by Howell & Taylor, civil and topographical engineers, Washington, D.C., and drawn by G.P. Strum.

“Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Arlington, Virginia.” Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1936, sheet 11.

“Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Arlington, Virginia.” Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1959, sheet 11.

Newspaper Articles

“Allen J. Dickey, Architect.” *The Washington Post*. 14 April 1993, p. C6.

“Arlington Church Will Be Enlarged; Architect Nearing Completion of Plans for \$20,000 Structure; Firemen Hold Parade.” *The Washington Post*. 17 August 1930, p. M2.

“Arlington County to Handle Water Work, Saffel Says.” *The Washington Post*. 4 April 1926, p. 12.

“Arlington Indicts Real Estate Firm.” *The Washington Post*. 22 April 1931, p. 20.

“Arlington’s Schools – The Second of a Series of Articles.” *The Northern Virginia Sun*. 31 December 1936, page unknown.

“Arlington’s Schools – The Third of a Series of Articles.” *The Northern Virginia Sun*. 8 January 1937, page unknown.

“Frank Upman, Noted District Architect, Dies.” *The Washington Post*. 10 December 1948, page B2.

“House-Warming Set for Health Center; Clarendon Building Nears Completion; Plans Are Made for Celebration.” *The Washington Post*. 6 July 1929, p. 3.

“New Schoolhouses in Aurora Heights and Ft. Myer Ready.” *The Washington Post*. 31 January 1926, p. 8.

“Percy C. Adams, 84, Schools Architect 58 Years, Dies.” *The Washington Star*. 9 September 1953, page unknown.

“The School Tangle.” *Alexandria County Monitor*. 1 August 1908, page unknown. Copy of article in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, pp. 166-167.

“Then and Now.” *The Northern Virginia Sun*. 21 August 1984, p. 5.

Personal Communication

Personal communication via electronic mail between Steve Larson (APS staff) and Cynthia Liccese-Torres (DCPHD staff), 8 August 2007 and 20 March 2008.

Personal communication via telephone between Terri Lynch (DHS staff) and Cynthia Liccese-Torres (DCPHD staff), 28 April 2008.

Published Works

American Art Annual. “Who’s Who in Architecture.” 1924.

Barron, James Turman. “Arlington – Then and Now.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 4, No. 3, October 1971.

Bushong, William, et al. “A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter.” Washington Architectural Foundation, 1987.

E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc. “National Register Nomination for the Clarendon School.” 1999.

Leach, Sara Amy. “Arlington’s Lawyer’s Row: The People and the Place of a Lost Courthouse Tradition.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 9, No. 4, October 1992.

Rose, Jr., C.B. “Public Schools in Arlington District of Alexandria County, Virginia, 1870-1905.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 1, October 1965.

Shepherd, H. Lewis. “History of the Washington Golf and Country Club.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 4, October 1968.

Stiss, Seymour B. “School Buildings in Arlington: 1922-1979.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 6, No. 3, October 1979.

Thorson, Julia Taylor. *A Regional Architect and His Work: Allen J. Dickey, Arlington, Virginia*. 1995.

Tracerics, Inc. *First Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia – Final Report*. September 1996.

Tracerics, Inc. “National Register Nomination for the Chevy Chase Theater (5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC). 1996.

Who’s Who in the Nation’s Capital, 1938-1939.

8. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Total Acreage of Entire Property	2.6 acres (113,256 square feet)
RPC Number	16032001

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal property boundary of the Wilson School site extends between Wilson Boulevard and 18th Street North, with North Quinn Street to the west and the Rosslyn Highlands Park at North Pierce Street to the east.

Boundary Justification

The proposed Wilson School Historic District boundary includes the entire 2.6-acre legal property boundary or approximately 113,256 square feet.

9. FORM PREPARED BY

Names/titles	Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Arlington County Historic Preservation Planner; Laura Bobeczko, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, Survey Committee Chairman
Organization	Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
Date	September 2008, revised December 2008, finalized January 2009
Address	2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201
Telephone	703.228.3830

10. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Six photographs of the school are included (four historic and two current images).

11. PROPERTY OWNER

Name	Arlington County School Board
Address	1426 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22207



Fort Myer Heights School under
construction, around
1909-10

Figure 1: Construction of Fort Myer Heights School, ca. 1909-10
Image courtesy of the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library



Group in front of Fort Myer Heights School, taken around the years 1910-11. Teachers in the rear are Miss Wheat and Miss Jones.

Figure 2: Students of Fort Myer Heights School, ca. 1910-11
Image courtesy of the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library



Figure 3: Students of Fort Myer Heights School, undated (likely ca. 1910-11)
Image courtesy of the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library



Figure 4: Woodrow Wilson School, October 1932 (image taken as part of a fire insurance survey)

Image courtesy of the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library



Figure 5: Detail of original pressed tin ceiling visible above modern drop ceiling in first floor classroom.

Image courtesy of the Arlington County Historic Preservation Program, August 2008.



Figure 6: Detail of original pressed tin ceiling visible in second floor hall closet. Image courtesy of the Arlington County Historic Preservation Program, August 2008.

ENDNOTES

¹ The use of concrete as a decorative building material was quite progressive in 1910, especially since concrete was introduced just five years earlier. By 1910, there were only 1,500 concrete manufacturers in the U.S. It soon became a popular material for its cost, availability, and structural strength, but its use as a dominant material for exterior decoration was still considered rare by the time the Fort Myer Heights School was built. See Lois Snyderman and the Couture/Denig Partnership, "Historic Resources Survey: 18 Early-Mid Twentieth Century School Buildings in Arlington County, Virginia," Chapter 20 (Wilson School), p. 435. Prepared for the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development (DCPHD), December 1991.

² Arlington County historic building permit record for 1601 Wilson Boulevard (alteration permit #23179, approved July 26, 1963). Permit card on file in the Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

³ Snyderman, photocopy of a photograph of the front of Wilson School (ca. 1958) included in Chapter 20 (Wilson School). The caption states the photograph was from the files of the Teaching Materials Center, Arlington County Public Schools.

⁴ School Board Minutes, 26 October 1907, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 93. Ledger located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

⁵ Snyderman, p. 436. See also May 1957 microfiche of construction plans for Wilson School (Sheet A7), courtesy of APS Facilities staff.

⁶ "Superintendent's Annual Report 1953, Arlington Virginia, Classrooms for Arlington's Children." Record Group 7-1-2-5, Building Information. On file with the Arlington School Board Records located at the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library. On page 10 under Planning for Economy, it is noted that "no cupolas or other useless decorations are put on buildings. This decreases both initial cost and the cost of maintenance."

⁷ Biography of Woodrow Wilson. Available online at www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/ww28.html. Accessed May 2007.

⁸ All biographical information on Charles Morrison Robinson in this section available online from www.charlesmrobinson.com/history.html and www.charlesmrobinson.com/public.html, except as noted. Accessed March 2008.

⁹ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, VA. Prepared by Frazier Associates, March 2004. Available online at www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Williamsburg/NR_Williamsburg_MatthewWhaley_School_137-0302_text.pdf. Accessed March 2008.

¹⁰ Bushong, William, et al., "A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, 1887-1987," American Institute of Architects, p. 170. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹¹ Listing for Percy C. Adams in "Who's Who in Architecture," *American Art Annual*, 1924, p. 360.

¹² Cornell Alumni News, 1 April 1915, Available online at:

ecommons.library.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/3532/14/017_27.pdf. Accessed May 2008.

¹³ “Percy C. Adams, 84, Schools Architect 58 Years, Dies,” *The Washington Star*, 9 September 1953, page unknown.

¹⁴ Traceries, “National Register Nomination for the Chevy Chase Theater (5612 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC), 1996, section 8.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Cornell Alumni News.

¹⁷ “Percy C. Adams, 84.” See also “Frank Upman, Noted District Architect, Dies.”

¹⁸ “National Register Nomination for the Chevy Chase Theater.” But according to Adams’ obituary, his partnership with Upman began as early as 1917 and lasted until 1945.

¹⁹ Sara Amy Leach, “Arlington’s Lawyer’s Row: The People and the Place of a Lost Courthouse Tradition,” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 9, No. 4, October 1992, p. 42. Leach asserts that the Upman and Adams partnership began as early as 1917.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ “National Register Nomination for the Chevy Chase Theater.” All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

²² “Frank Upman, Noted District Architect, Dies,” *The Washington Post*, 10 December 1948, p. B2. His address of record at the time of his death was 2049 North Glebe Road. In 1938, he resided at 2125 North Glebe Road [see *Who’s Who in the Nation’s Capital, 1938-1939*, p. 850].

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ “Percy C. Adams, 84.” All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

²⁵ Thorson, Julia Taylor, “A Regional Architect and His Work: Allen J. Dickey, Arlington, Virginia,” 1995. See also “Finding Aid for Record Group 92, Personal Papers of Allen J. Dickey,” located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library and “Allen J. Dickey, Architect,” *The Washington Post*, 14 April 1993, p. C6. All information in this paragraph is from these sources.

²⁶ Traceries, Inc., “First Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia – Final Report,” September 1996, p. 24.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Snyderman, p. 3-9.

³⁰ C.B. Rose, Jr., “Public Schools in Arlington District of Alexandria County, Virginia, 1870-1905.” *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 1, October 1965, p. 17.

³¹ Snyderman, p. 3-10.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid., p. 3-11.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Rose, Jr., p. 17.

³⁶ Snyderman, p. 3-11. After 1877, members of district school boards were selected by the School Trustee Electoral Board, comprised of the county superintendent of schools, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the judge of the county court (or a freeholder he selected) (see Rose, Jr., p. 22).

³⁷ Ibid. Arlington's three separate school boards and school districts remained in effect until September 9, 1922, when they were replaced by a single school board as mandated by an act of the Virginia General Assembly (See Seymour B. Stiss, "School Buildings in Arlington: 1922-1979," *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 6, No. 3, October 1979, p. 3).

³⁸ Snyderman, p. 3-11.

³⁹ Traceries, p. 27. The Columbia School House originally was opened by a private organization; in early-January 1871, the Arlington District School Board worked out an arrangement with the school's trustees to allow a public school to be opened at their facility. The school was opened for public use on January 25, 1871, and the county rented the school until 1892 when the School Board bought it for \$1,000 (Rose, Jr., pp. 18-19; 25). The existing school eventually was replaced with a new building.

⁴⁰ Snyderman, p. 3-11.

⁴¹ Ibid., p. 3-12.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid., p. 3-13. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 3-17.

⁴⁵ Rose, Jr., p. 24.

⁴⁶ Snyderman, p. 3-17.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 3-18.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 3-22.

⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 3-18.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 3-26.

⁵² Letter dated 7 January 1908 from James E. Clements to J.D. Eggleston, Jr., in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 126. Ledger located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁵³ "Arlington's Schools – The Second of a Series of Articles," *The Northern Virginia Sun*, 31 December 1936, page unknown.

⁵⁴ Ibid. Note that the totals of White and African American students reported in the article only add up to 1,440 students, not 1,442. However the third article in the series (dated 8 January 1937) reports that the 1910 school-aged population was higher at 2,855, with 1,755 students enrolled.

⁵⁵ “Extracts for Alexandria County from Virginia Superintendent of Public Education Annual Reports,” undated (data from 1909-1910 and 1910-11). Copy on file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁵⁶ Rose, Jr., pp. 32-33.

⁵⁷ “Then and Now” feature, *Northern Virginia Sun*, 21 August 1984, p. 5.

⁵⁸ Arlington County Deed Book 115, pp. 217-218. Located in the Land Records Division, Arlington County Circuit Court. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁵⁹ School Board Minutes, 8 December 1906, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 55.

⁶⁰ Memo dated 31 October 1907 by James E. Clements, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 129. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁶¹ School Board Minutes, 31 October 1907, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, pp. 95-96.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ School Board Minutes, 30 November 1907, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 100.

⁶⁴ School Board Minutes, 25 January 1908, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 109.

⁶⁵ School Board Minutes, 29 February 1908, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 114.

⁶⁶ School Board Minutes, 2 June 1908, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 123. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁶⁷ Shuring and Company was comprised of partners Harm Schuring and John F. Morris, who was a school trustee in the Washington District of Alexandria County. All school trustees were prohibited by law to enter into any contracts (directly or indirectly) for the construction of public school houses (see Bill for Injunction, as prepared by James E. Clements for Chancery Case #270, filed on 19 August 1908, pp. 6; 8).

⁶⁸ Letter dated 2 July 1908 from James E. Clements to C.B. Munson, William A.E. McShea, and Ralph Baldwin, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 154. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁶⁹ Letter dated 4 July 1908 from James E. Clements to J.D. Eggleston, Jr., in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 146. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁷⁰ Bill for Injunction, as prepared by James E. Clements for Chancery Case #270, filed on 19 August 1908, pp. 3-4. Document located in the Arlington County Circuit Court. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁷¹ Letter dated 4 July 1908 from James E. Clements to J.D. Eggleston, Jr. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁷² Ibid. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁷³ Ibid. All information in this paragraph is from this source. Note: the plans were for the proposed Columbia School House.

⁷⁴ “The School Tangle,” *Alexandria County Monitor*, 1 August 1908. Copy of article found in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, pp. 166-167. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁷⁵ Letter dated 24 October 1908 from James E. Clements to R.C. Stearns, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 171.

⁷⁶ Court document dated 1 September 1908 and signed by Judge of the Circuit Court of Alexandria County, Honorable J.B.T. Thornton, of Manassas, VA. Document located in the files of Chancery Case #270, Arlington County Circuit Court. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁷⁷ Handwritten Circuit Court ruling dated 19 October 1908. Document located in the files of Chancery Case #270, Arlington County Circuit Court.

⁷⁸ School Board Minutes, 6 November 1908, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 155. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁷⁹ School Board Minutes, 12 December 1908, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, pp. 161-162. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁸⁰ Photocopy of letter dated 12 December 1908 from James E. Clements to R.C. Stearns, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, no page number. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁸¹ School Board Minutes, 13 January 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 168. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁸² School Board Minutes, 6 February 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 173. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁸³ School Board Minutes, 23 February 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 177. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁸⁴ School Board Minutes, 10 March 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 180.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ School Board Minutes, 27 March 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 181. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁸⁷ School Board Minutes, 24 April 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 185.

⁸⁸ School Board Minutes, 26 June 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 193.

⁸⁹ Snyderman, p. 432. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁹⁰ James Turman Barron, "Arlington – Then and Now," *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 4, No. 3, October 1971, p. 45.

⁹¹ Text of Arlington County's historic marker at the site of Fort Corcoran. Available online at www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/learn/sites_properties/military_use.asp#ftcorcoran. Accessed March 2008.

⁹² Snyderman, p. 432.

⁹³ Ibid. A plat of Rosslyn Farm in Arlington County Deed Book H4, page 70, describes the lots as "villa sites."

⁹⁴ H. Lewis Shepherd, "History of the Washington Golf and Country Club," *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 4, October 1968, pp. 21-22 (includes sketch of course and tee locations). All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁹⁵ Letter dated 14 September 1908 from James E. Clements to W.A.E. McShea regarding the locations of temporary schools, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, p. 161. The letter also stated that the parlor of Mrs. Welby Ashby's home in Clarendon would be used as a temporary location for classes while the Clarendon School was under construction.

⁹⁶ Photocopy of typed list of statutory requirements and regulations for the proposed school building, dated 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County Public Schools Correspondence, 1898-1909, no page number. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

⁹⁷ School Board Minutes, 30 October 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 214. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

⁹⁸ School Board Minutes, 27 November 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 217.

⁹⁹ School Board Minutes, 7 December 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 218.

¹⁰⁰ School Board Minutes, 21 December 1909, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 221.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² School Board Minutes, 1 February 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 225. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

¹⁰³ School Board Minutes, 1 March 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 230.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ School Board Minutes, 11 March 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 232. All information in this paragraph is from this source, except as noted.

¹⁰⁶ School Board Minutes, 23 March 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 235.

¹⁰⁷ “Extracts for Alexandria County.”

¹⁰⁸ School Board Minutes, 5 April 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 237. Interestingly, the new Wilson School opened just five months earlier than the Clarendon School, another Alexandria County school designed by Charles M. Robinson and that opened to 298 students on September 20, 1910. The Clarendon School had seven teachers employed during the 1910-1911 academic year [see Traceries, “National Register Nomination for the Clarendon School (3550 Wilson Boulevard), 1999, section 8].

¹⁰⁹ Letter dated 10 February 1926 from Arlington School Board Trustee William A. E. McShea to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. Copy on file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

¹¹⁰ School Board Minutes, 5 April 1910.

¹¹¹ School Board Minutes, 4 October 1910, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 271.

¹¹² School Board Minutes, 15 September 1911, in Ledger of Alexandria County, VA School Board Minutes, 1905-1910, p. 309.

¹¹³ Stiss, p. 3.

¹¹⁴ School Board Minutes, 31 July 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 159. The Board’s resolution also called for the renaming of the new Columbia School (replacing the original Columbia School) to Patrick Henry School.

¹¹⁵ Letter from McShea to Mrs. Wilson, 10 February 1926.

¹¹⁶ Correspondence from John Randolph Bolling, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson’s secretary, to Arlington School Board Trustee William A.E. McShea, 19 February 1926. Copy on file at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

¹¹⁷ “New Schoolhouses in Aurora Heights and Ft. Myer Ready,” *The Washington Post*, 31 January 1926, p. 8.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ School Board Minutes, 30 June 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 154.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ School Board Minutes, 30 January 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 125. At this time, the School Board consisted of Chairman C.C. Lamond, W.A.E. McShea, and E.M. Shreve. Apparently, according to payroll notations included in the Minute Book, Fletcher Kemp was both the Clerk and Superintendent.

¹²² School Board Minutes, 24 April 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, pp. 141-142. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹²³ School Board Minutes, 11 May 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 143. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹²⁴ School Board Minutes, 25 September 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 171. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹²⁵ School Board Minutes, 20 October 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p.

173.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ School Board Minutes, 30 October 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 177. Although not stated in the meeting minutes, it can be assumed the metal cornice was to be installed on the new addition only.

¹²⁸ School Board Minutes, 28 December 1925, in Minute Book of the Arlington County School Board, 1922-1932, p. 189. Curtis was also the contractor for the new Washington-Lee High School. Again, the school was mistakenly described in the minutes as the Fort Myer Heights School rather than Wilson School.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ "New Schoolhouses in Aurora Heights and Ft. Myer Ready."

¹³¹ "Arlington County to Handle Water Work, Saffel Says," *The Washington Post*, 4 April 1926, p. 12.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ "House-Warming Set for Health Center – Clarendon Building Nears Completion; Plans Are Made for Celebration," *The Washington Post*, 6 July 1929, p. 3.

¹³⁴ "Arlington Church Will Be Enlarged; Architect Nearing Completion of Plans for \$20,000 Structure; Firemen Hold Parade," *The Washington Post*, 17 August 1930, p. M2.

¹³⁵ "Arlington Indicts Real Estate Firm," *The Washington Post*, 22 April 1931, p. 20.

¹³⁶ House Card for 1601 Wilson Boulevard; permit #15247, dated 6/19/57. Available on CD in the Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

¹³⁷ May 1957 microfiche of construction plans for Wilson School, courtesy of APS Facilities staff.

¹³⁸ Promotional pamphlet describing the completed projects of the firm of Allen J. Dickey, Architect, undated. Several pages described the alterations and addition to the Wilson Elementary School. Copy on file in Record Group 92, Personal Papers of Allen J. Dickey, located at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹³⁹ Ibid. All information in this paragraph is from this source. See also May 1957 microfiche of construction plans for Wilson School, courtesy of APS Facilities staff.

¹⁴⁰ House Card for 1601 Wilson Boulevard; permit #23179, dated 7/26/63.

¹⁴¹ "The Arlington Story, 1962," Arlington County School Board, p. 89.

¹⁴² School Board Minutes, 26 May 1966, in Minute Book #9 of the Arlington County School Board, 1963-1968, p. 398.

¹⁴³ Stiss, pp. 6; 10.

¹⁴⁴ Personal communication via electronic mail between Steve Larson, APS staff, and Cynthia Liccese-Torres, DCPHD staff, 8 August 2007. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹⁴⁵ Personal communication via electronic mail between Steve Larson, APS staff, and Cynthia Liccese-Torres, DCPHD staff, 20 March 2008. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Personal communication via telephone between Terri Lynch, DHS staff, and Cynthia Liccese-Torres, DCPHD staff, 28 April 2008. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹⁴⁸ Larson/Liccese-Torres, 8 August 2007. All information in this paragraph is from this source.

¹⁴⁹ Electronic mail with Steve Larson, 8 August 2007. All information in this paragraph is from this source.