

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

other name/site number Step High School, Martin Luther King High School, King Middle School, King Tri-A

2. Location

street & town 1909-1915 North Kingshighway Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town St. Louis N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (Independent City) code 510 zip code 36113

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles DECEMBER 7, 2007
 Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
<hr/>		sites
<hr/>		structures
<hr/>		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Stone

roof Concrete

other

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

Period of Significance

1924- 1952 _____

Significant Dates

1924 _____

1952 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Hess, Henry P. _____

Duffner & Stecker, Builders _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .8244 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 7/3/8/4/2/3 4/2/8/3/0/4/8
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Continuation

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See Continuation

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Wooldridge

organization Lafser & Associates date September 21, 2007

street & number 1028 North Kingshighway Suite 1 telephone 573-339-4625

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63755

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Sam Glasser, 1909 North Kingshighway, LLC

street & number 1509 Washington Ave STE 501 telephone 314-750-1667

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63103

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Summary:

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School, located at 1909 North Kingshighway Boulevard in St. Louis, Missouri, is a three-story school building designed by prominent archdiocesan architect, Henry P. Hess in 1924. Constructed of brick and sheathed in limestone, this Beaux Arts style building is accentuated with columns, balustrades, modillions, pilasters, and a flat roof. The building measures approximately 180' X 101' and is divided into five bays including two projecting ends. The main entrance doors are found below projecting rounded archways and accessed by a grand stairway and wide landing. Six Doric columns rise above the entrance to a decorated cornice and a pediment. The words "MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGH SCHOOL" are engraved in the cornice. The fenestration across the façade is symmetrical, with three twenty-pane wood windows with eighteen-pane transoms found above the entrance on both the second and third floors. Eight sets of paired, twelve-pane, triple-hung windows are found on each level and on either side of the entrance. Circular modillions top the pilasters that rise between these windows from a heavy belt course above the first floor to an understated cornice above the third-story. This detail is repeated on the end projections, which contain triple banded windows and are topped with high stone crests. Balustrades cap the roofline between the wings and the central pediment. The building sits on a corner lot that runs nearly the length of the block, with an alley at the rear. A one-story gymnasium was expanded to a second level at the rear of the building in 1952. The main exterior elevations and interior of the building appear much as they did at construction, however the building was updated to comply with fire code in 1978, and therefore some necessary changes have been made. Despite these alterations, William Cullen McBride Catholic High School is in excellent condition and continues to retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association, and feeling from its period of significance.

Elaboration:

Site:

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School is situated on the southeast corner of City Block 4506, bounded by North Kingshighway Boulevard on the east, Cote Brilliante Avenue on the south, an alley on the west, and the property line on the north. The property measures approximately 161' X 149', bordered by concrete sidewalks on the east and south and tree lines on the north and west. The site includes the school building measuring approximately 180' X 101' and the surrounding yard. (See Figure 1) Sherman Park is situated on the south side of Cote Brilliante Avenue, and there is an empty lot on the north side of the school. North Kingshighway Boulevard is a divided street, with green space and large trees separating north and south traffic. The east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

side of North Kingshighway Boulevard is comprised of a church and its parking lot, as well as multi-family housing. The c. 1930 faculty housing facility previously associated with the school sits across the alley to the west. Divided by a chain link fence and massive tree line, the three-story limestone building mimics the architecture of the high school, with a marble stairwell, Doric columns, a second level balustrade, stone modillions and a crest above the cornice. Though the exterior has changed little the interior has been altered considerably into multi family housing, eliminating the library and chapel on the first level. For this reason the building has not been included in the boundary lines.

Exterior:

The footprint of McBride High School is a modified U-plan; a central block with perpendicular wings on the south and north ends. A one-story gymnasium has been expanded to a second level and is located at the rear of the building between the wings. The exterior walls of the school are brick, with all but the west elevation sheathed in limestone. A beltcourse divides the first level from the upper two stories. The flat roof is hidden by balustrades and crests.

The primary east facing façade is symmetrical, with two projecting end bays (Photo 1). The fenestration of the east elevation consists of eight sets of paired triple hung windows on each floor, with one set of triple banded windows on the wings. Pilasters rising from the first level beltcourse to the third floor cornice separate each set of windows, and are capped with flower modillions. The wings are capped by small parapets and topped with circular crests. The projecting main entrance is centered on the elevation and accessed by a massive stone stairway. The entrance consists of three sets of paired metal and glass doors with three-pane rounded transoms. These doors are accessed by rounded stone arches containing flower modillions. Above the openings are six circular modillions displaying symbols of Christian learning (quill & pen, book, winged hourglass, cross, etc) (Photo 2). A small light fixture is situated on either side of the entrance openings. Six Doric columns rise from a stone beltcourse above the first floor, culminating in a simple cornice containing flower modillions above each column. These columns hide three twenty-pane wood windows with eighteen-pane transoms on both the second and third level. "MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGH SCHOOL" is engraved into a stone name plate just below the simple pediment (Photo 3).

The north and south elevations are identical with exceptions as noted. The design elements of the main façade, including the twelve-pane triple-hung windows, beltcourses, cornice, balustrades, and pilasters are repeated on the north and south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

elevations. The south elevation is divided into six bays, with window ventilation units found in the western bay of the first and third floors (Photo 4). This design is repeated on the north elevation, with a ventilation opening found in the first floor western bay (Photo 5). The southern elevation contains a pair of metal and glass entrance doors in the fourth bay, with a four-pane transom above. This entrance is accessed by a concrete stairwell and sidewalk.

The rear of the building is multicolor brick and consists of the original building (the outer two bays) and the flat roofed 1952 addition (the inner seven bays). The outer bays contain projecting columns at the corners and a triple-banded triple hung window with stone sill and soldier lintel on each level. Beside the first floor windows stands a metal fire door. The second and eighth bays are flush with the original building, and composed of tan brick, with the second level of these bays containing triple banded eight-pane double-hung windows. The first level of the second bay is covered by a brick stair enclosure. Three windows have been bricked on the first floor. The first floor of the eighth bay contains a triple banded triple-hung window and a bricked window opening containing a mechanical unit. The six remaining bays are separated by brick columns and contain 143 twelve inch glass blocks. Many of these have been damaged by vandalism. The fourth and sixth bays of the first floor contain paired metal door entrances accessed by concrete stairs (Photos 6 & 7). The original gymnasium only rose one level above the ground (See Figure 2). When the second level was added in 1952, the first floor fenestration was kept nearly identical.

Interior:

Main Floor:

The main floor consists of a central corridor running north to south, with classrooms on each side (See Figure 3). The main entrance doors open to a wide tan and gray terrazzo foyer. Three rounded archways on the west wall open into the central corridor. Painted wood cross beams support the ceiling. Double doors lead to an office on the south side, with built-in trophy cases located on either side of the entrance. Trophy cases are also found on the north side of the foyer. (Photo # 8).

Directly across the hall from the main entrance are wood entrance doors that lead to the approximately 86' X 48' gymnasium. The room is accented with tan glazed brick and recessed lighting in the asbestos ceiling. A stage is located at the north end of the gym, with closets located on the west and north sides. The kitchen (Photo 9) is located in the northwest corner of the building, connected to the cafeteria by two wood doors and a wood window (Photo 10). The cafeteria fills the remainder of the northern wing (Photo 11). The original north stairwell is located just outside the cafeteria entrance doors on

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

the west side of the building, with two large rooms across from it on the east and the remainder of the north end filled with small offices. The south end of the main floor contains the principal's office, two bathrooms and a small classroom on the east side of the hallway (Photo 12), with a large art room in the south wing. The west side of the south wing contains a large classroom, and a small corridor that leads to a bathroom and the original south stairwell. Additionally, a large room can be found beside the south wall of the gym. When the Archdiocese sold the school to the St. Louis Board of Education the large rooms on the east side of the building were subdivided (See Figure 4). Despite these changes, the terrazzo flooring, wood trims, and original walls have been maintained.

The second floor contains a central hallway with perpendicular corridors on the north and west ends. The north wing of the building contains three small classrooms and two bathrooms. A small stair accesses a large classroom on the west end of the building, sharing a wall with the gymnasium. This room was added in 1958. Three classrooms and the library line the east side of the hallway, as well as a small office. The south wing contains three large classrooms and two bathrooms, mimicking the design of the north wing with a stair leading to a science lab (See Figure 5). Originally, the wings of the second level contained three classrooms and a storage room (See Figure 6), but the east classrooms were divided in 1952 under the design of Henry Hess. The classrooms retain the original hard wood floors and built-in cabinetry, as well as the chalkboard trims, baseboards, and wood windowsills (Photos 13& 14).

The third floor looks almost as it did when it was constructed, with five classrooms lining the east wall and classrooms found in the north and south wings (See Figure 7). Hess also divided the east classrooms on this floor in 1952, and created additional bathrooms in the wings. Windows look out the west side of the corridor over the roof of the gymnasium. This floor also features the same terrazzo hallways and stairwells (Photos 15 & 16) as the first and second floors, as well as the original details and floors found in the second floor classrooms (Photos 17 & 18).

The basement is much smaller than the rest of the building, located only under the gymnasium (see Figure 8). Locker rooms and some small, poorly kept classrooms fill the basement, as well as a storage room for gym equipment (Photos 19 & 20). Originally, the gymnasium occupied the basement and main levels, with locker rooms on either side and the boiler rooms found on the north end (See Figure 9). When the building was renovated in the 1950s the basement level of the gymnasium was converted into classrooms. Though some of the building has been changed and updated (including the installation of carpet and drop ceilings which are now in disrepair) William Cullen McBride Catholic High School still expresses the fine details and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

architectural elements of a 1924 catholic school. Though some vandalism has occurred to the rear addition, the building continues to retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association, and feeling from its period of significance.

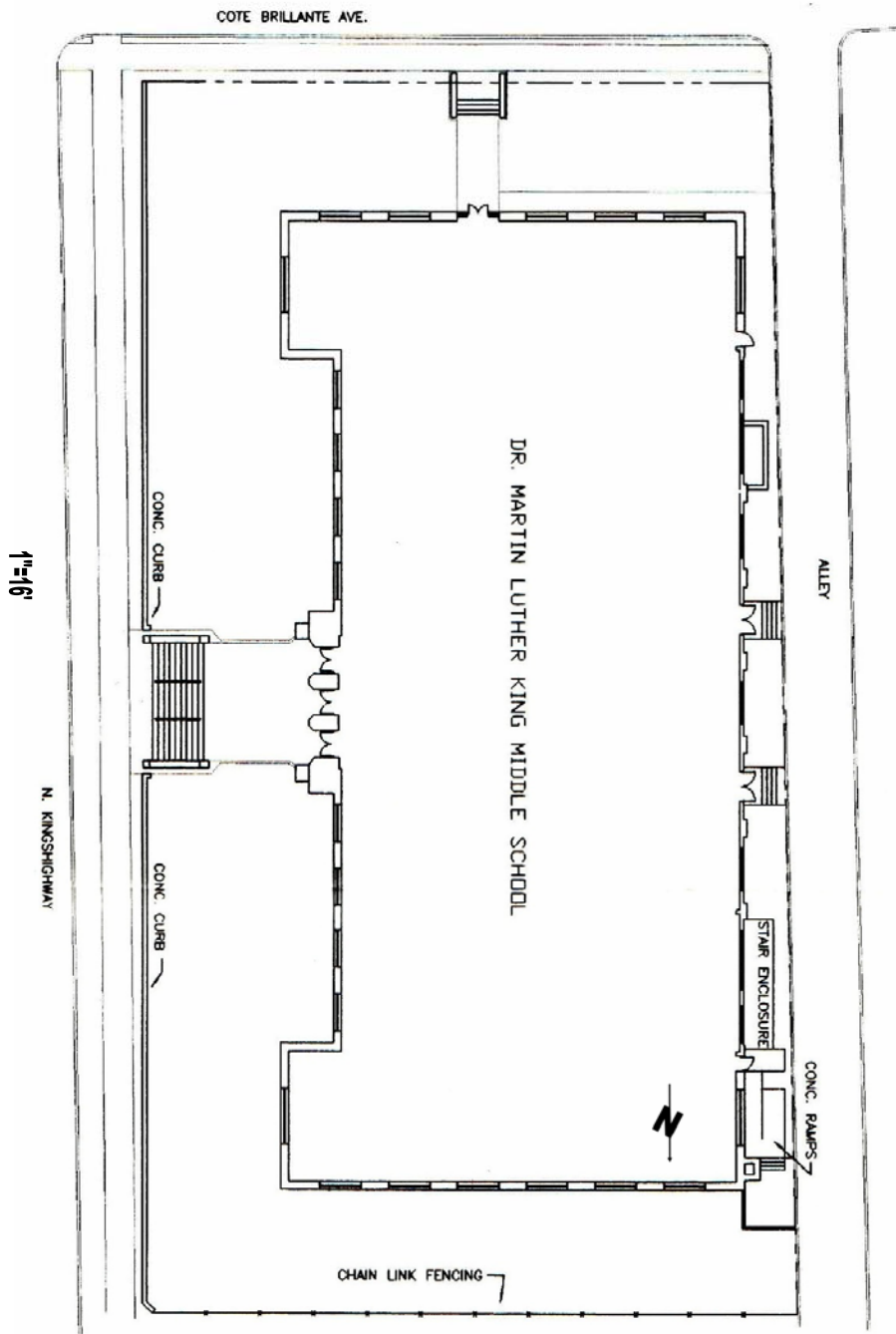
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 1-Site Plan
Manzer, Sanchez & Associates, Inc.
On file with the St. Louis Public Schools Planning Division.



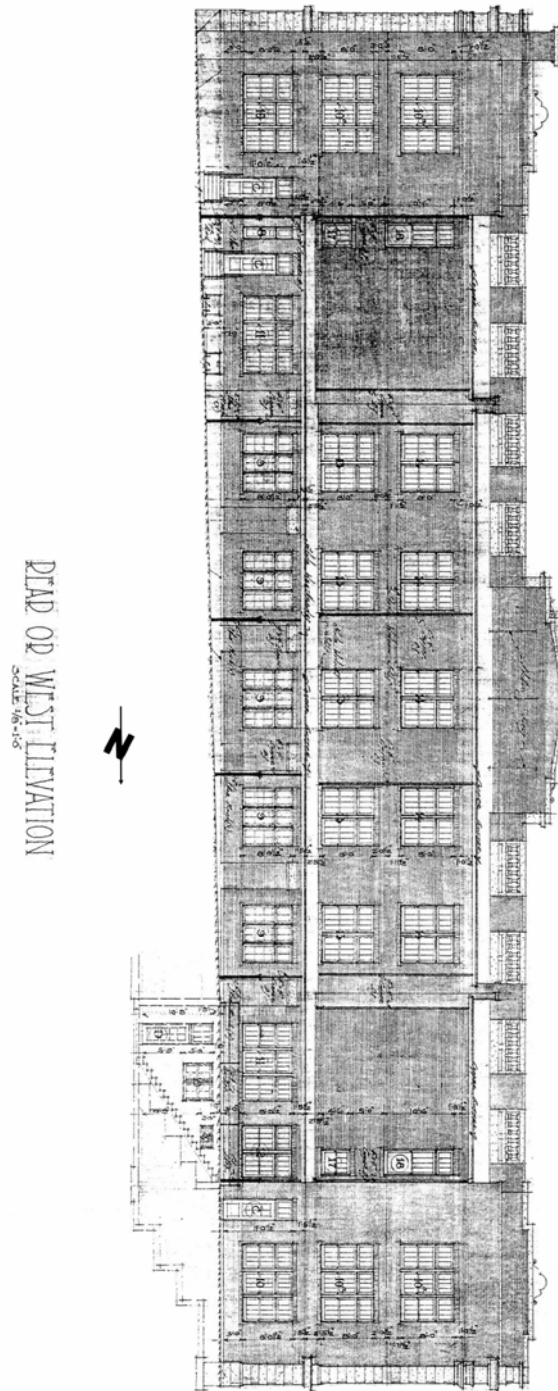
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

Figure 2- *Rear or West Elevation*
Henry P. Hess, 1923.
On File with LePique and Orne Architects, INC.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 3- Ground Floor Plan
Henry P. Hess, 1923.
On File with LePique and Orne Architects, INC.

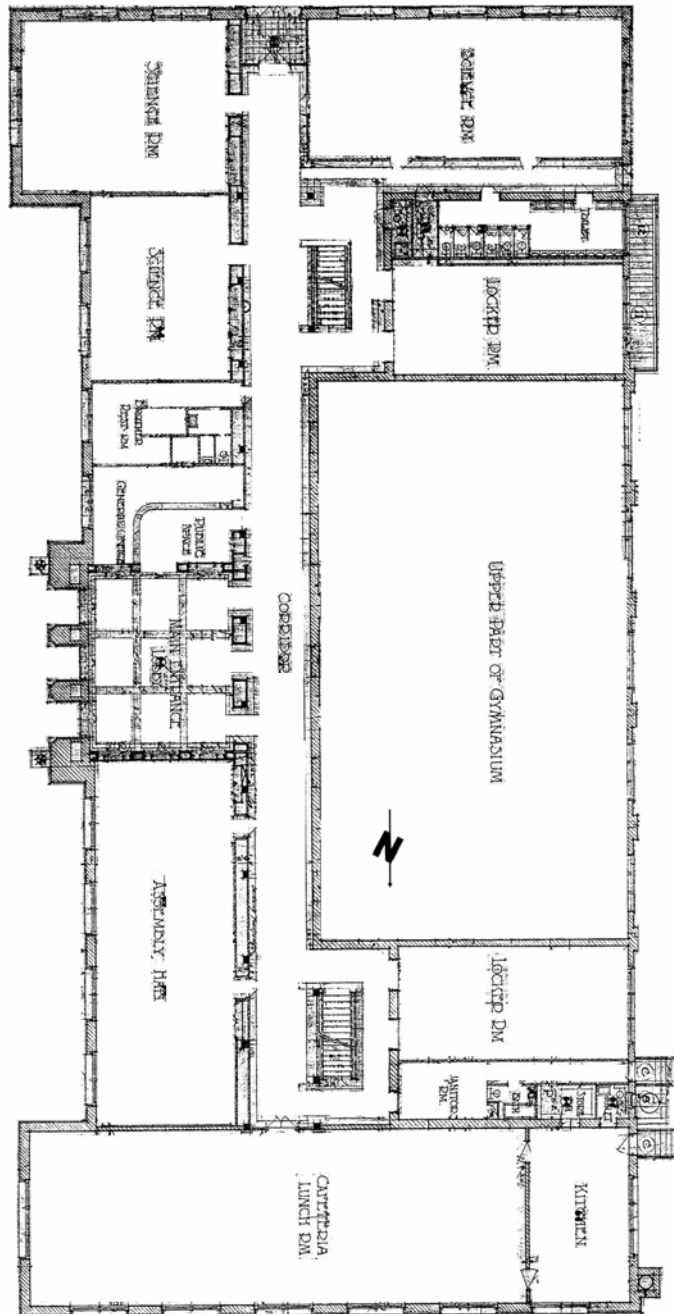


Figure 4- First Floor Plan

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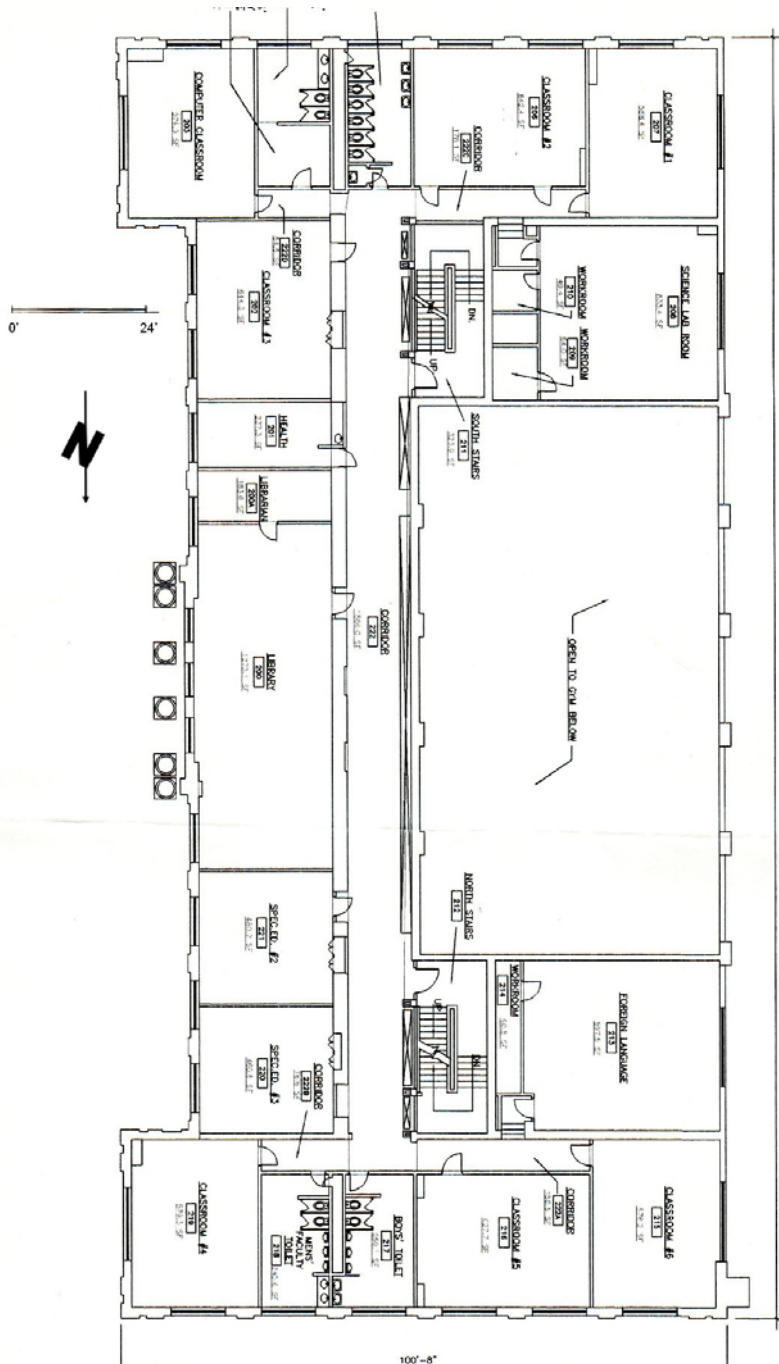
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 5: *Second Floor Plan*
Manzer, Sanchez & Associates, Inc.
On file with the St. Louis Public Schools Planning Division.



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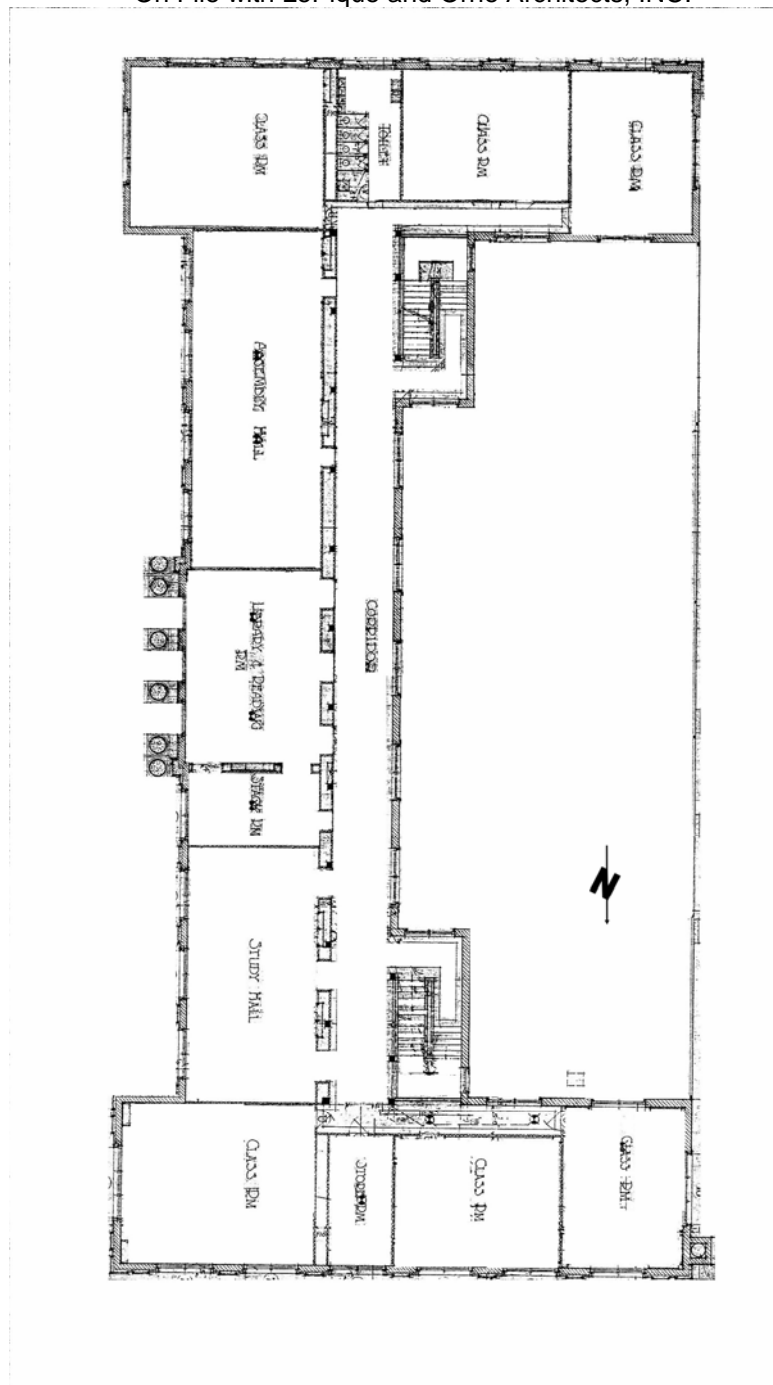
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 6-Second Floor Plan
Henry P. Hess, 1923.
On File with LePique and Orne Architects, INC.



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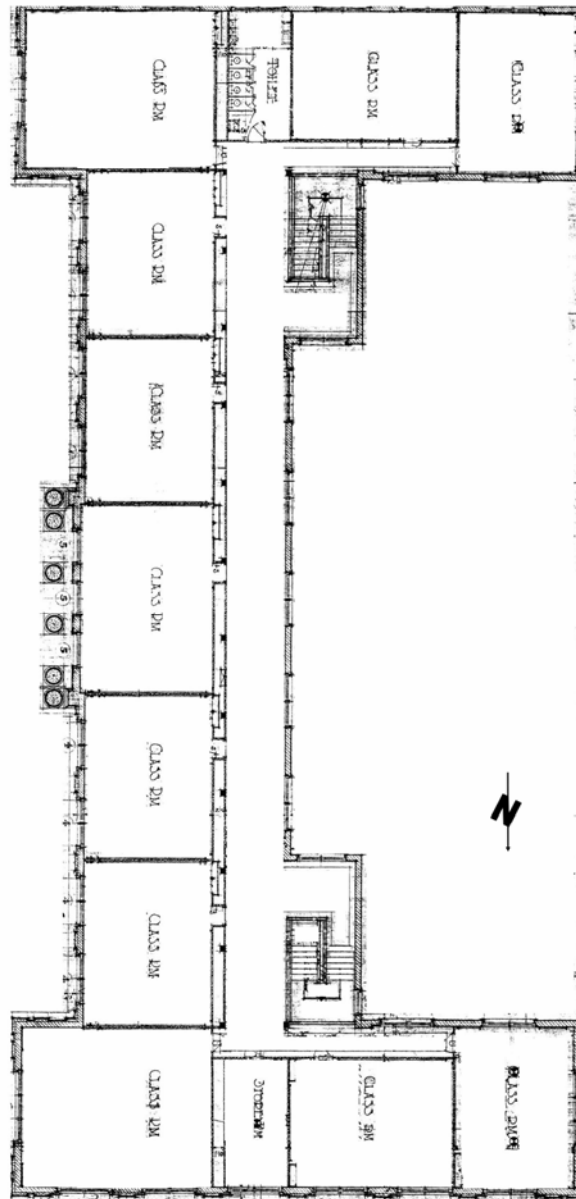
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 7- *Third Floor Plan*
Henry P. Hess, 1923.
On File with LePique and Orne Architects, INC.



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National Park Service

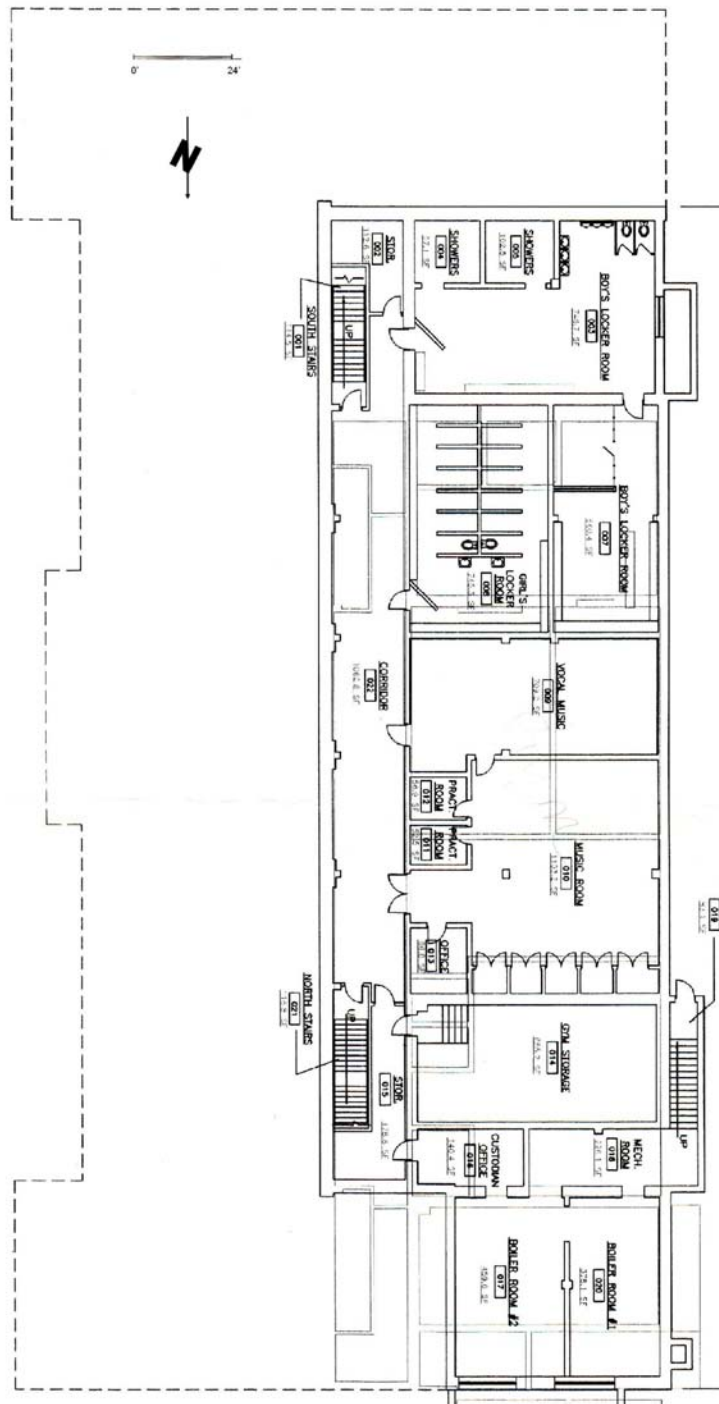
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 8: *Basement Floor Plan*
Manzer, Sanchez & Associates, Inc.
On file with the St. Louis Public Schools Planning Division.



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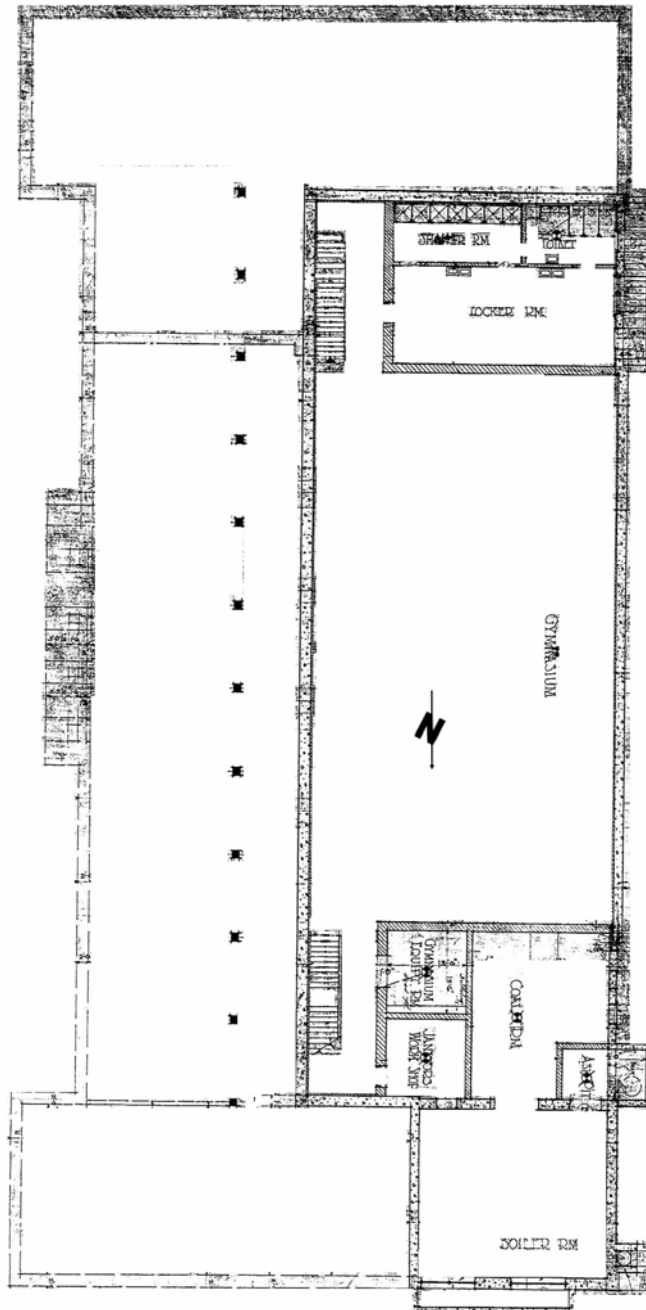
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Figure 9- *Basement Floor Plan*
Henry P. Hess, 1923.
On File with LePique and Orne Architects, INC.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Summary:

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School, located at 1909 North Kingshighway in St. Louis, Missouri is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of EDUCATION and Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Under Architecture, McBride High School is a representative example of the Beaux Arts style. Contextually, this relates to architect Henry P. Hess's design philosophy for Catholic school architecture during the second decade of the 20th century. For Education, McBride High School is significant as the only high school in the Arlington neighborhood and the first Archdiocesan high school for boys built in the city. Maintained as an archdiocesan school until it closed in 1971, McBride was supported by the entire St. Louis Archdiocese Catholic population. The complex meets the requirements for Criteria Consideration A for properties owned by a religious institution or used for a religious purpose because its primary significance derives from architectural and educational associations rather than religion. The 1924-1952 period of significance represents the building's architectural and educational significance from its construction until the complete expansion of the building to accommodate archdiocesan educational instruction. William Cullen McBride Catholic High School retains most of the historical attributes it possessed during the period of significance and continues to reflect its important place in the history of alternative education in St. Louis, maintaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

History:

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the area known today as the Arlington neighborhood was a vast expanse of open land transversed by a twelve mile road that connected St. Louis City to St. Charles City, two of the oldest settlements in eastern Missouri. Expanding east to west, and crossing St. Louis County, the road granted access to the Santa Fe and Oregon trails, with a ferry crossing the Missouri River established in 1805. When parts of the road were paved with stone, the highway was designated the "Rock Road". Residential expansion into the Arlington neighborhood began in the second half of the nineteenth century, with small towns growing up near the Rock Road around taverns, road houses, and large family estates. The remainder of the area filled with small farms.

Subdivisions slowly crept north from the Cabbanne neighborhood, with the Lucas and Hunt Addition of the Cote Brilliante subdivision established along North Kingshighway at the southeastern edge of Arlington neighborhood in the 1890s.¹ Substantial growth in the neighborhood occurred at the beginning of the third decade of the twentieth century

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

as the St. Charles Rock Road was paved in 1921 and became one of the first concrete highways in the country. Kingshighway became a wide north-south thoroughfare that granted access to the Rock Road from much of the city. Though the area was primarily Jewish at the turn-of-the-century, the additional subdivision of land increased the number of Catholic families in the Arlington neighborhood. A devastating fire burned the only Catholic secondary school in the neighborhood, Christian Brothers College, to the ground in 1916. The Brothers moved out of the city, and the land was sold to the city and designated Sherman Park.²

Five years later, Mrs. William Cullen McBride donated a quarter of a million dollars to the Archdiocese of St. Louis for a boys' high school in honor of her late husband. Archbishop John Glennon recognized a need for a Catholic high school in the Arlington neighborhood, and resolved to build the new school one block north of Sherman Park, acquiring a building permit in December of 1923. Faced with overcrowding at Kenrick Archdiocesan high school at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Archbishop Glennon moved the Brothers of Mary and their pupils into the \$200,000 building constructed by Duffner & Stecker at the corner of Kingshighway and Cote Brillante in the fall of 1925.³ In February of 1929, the faculty moved into their new residence behind the school after a tornado destroyed their previous home on Stoddard Street.⁴ The ten dollar tuition encouraged enrollment, with most of the school funding coming from a three percent assessment from the Catholic parishes.⁵ By 1952, enough funding had been raised to construct a \$60,000 addition to the gymnasium, and six years later additional classrooms were added to hold the overflow of students.⁶

When the Second Vatican Council made changes to Catholic doctrine in the mid 1960s a sharp drop occurred in Catholic religious vocations. With fewer priests, sisters, and brothers to run Catholic schools, more lay teachers were incorporated into the staff.⁷ This trend, as well as the changing demographics in the Arlington neighborhood in the late 1960s, led to enrollment problems at William Cullen McBride Catholic High School, as well as other Catholic schools in the area. Resisting tuition increases, McBride High School closed its doors after the 1970-1971 school year.⁸ The St. Louis Public School system purchased the building on June 25, 1971 for \$377,000 and the school opened with 676 students in September of 1971. The school remained in use as a public school until July of 2003, when it was closed due to consolidation.⁹

Though properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not ordinarily considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance may qualify. William Cullen McBride Catholic High School is an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

intact representative example of Beaux Arts style architecture, and played a major role in the education of the children in not only the Arlington neighborhood, but also St. Louis City.

Architectural Significance

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School was designed by local architect Henry P. Hess in 1923. Hess's father worked in a planning mill and his brothers became contractors, but Henry used his artistic talents as a draftsman. Beginning his training in 1900, the fourteen-year-old Henry studied under the direction Henry Weise. Working as a draftsman, he made his way into the offices of Eams & Young, Issac S. Taylor, and even prominent Commissioner of School Buildings, William B. Ittner. The most influential to Hess's work was Ittner, from whom Hess adopted theories on light, ventilation, and ornamentation.¹⁰ When Ittner resigned from the school board in 1915, Hess looked to other architectural firms for employment.

Joining Imes and Pruess in 1916, Hess began designs for the new Kenrick Seminary. Inner office scuffles put the project in a quagmire, and resulted in the loss of the commission. When an architectural firm from Philadelphia replaced the quarrelling local company, Hess was hired to complete the Seminary project. Impressed with Hess's designs and drafting skill, Archbishop Glennon adopted Hess as a favorite architect. This marked a long relationship between the two men, resulting in Hess's selection for over 700 projects for the Archdiocese.¹¹ Historical revival styles were a signature of Hess's work through the 1930s, but more contemporary styles influenced his later work until his death in 1957.¹²

Some of Hess's most recognized work includes Kenrick Seminary (now the Cardinal Regalli Center, 1916, Figure 10), Kenrick-Glennon College (previously St. Louis Preparatory Seminary, 1931, Figure 11), DeAndreis High School (1946, Figure 12), , Christian Brothers College High School (1921, Figure 13), Rosati-Kain High School (1921, Figure 14), and William Cullen McBride Catholic High School (1924).¹³

Hess's designs for these buildings were symmetrical with large massing, though ornamentation was kept to a minimum, focused primarily on the main entrance. Kenrick Seminary and Kenrick-Glennon College share a large central tower. Like much of his educational architecture these buildings are in a U-Shape plan, with a central corridor terminating in wings at either end. These buildings typify Jacobethan Revival or Collegiate Gothic styles, featuring brick walls with stone ornamentation, steeply pitched roofs, and lancet arched openings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

For secondary school architecture Hess kept his symmetrical designs and U-shaped plan, but scrapped the immense central tower. His building for the Christian Brothers College High School maintained the Collegiate Gothic architecture, with castellated entrance, multi colored brick facing, and stone ornamentations. However, Hess's designs for the Archdiocesan high schools were set apart from the typical schools of the time with some unique elements.

When Archbishop Glennon received funding to build two new Archdiocesan Catholic high schools, he placed Henry Hess in charge of design. Beginning in 1921, Hess proposed that the new all girls' school, Rosatti-Kain, be light colored brick and constructed in the Beaux Arts style. Using columns, modillions, beltcourses, and crests, Hess created a high style building that distinguished it from other parochial and public schools built at the time. Two years later Hess began drafting a counterpart to the Rosatti-Kain High School, which would be an all boys' Archdiocesan school. Mimicking the design of Rosatti-Kain, Hess created a larger and more elaborate plan for the William Cullen McBride Catholic High School. Sharing many of Rosatti-Kain's elements, the building typifies Beaux Arts style while remaining true to Hess's contention that schools possess large open spaces to allow sufficient light and ventilation.¹⁴



William Cullen McBride Catholic High School c.1930.
On file with the Missouri Historical Society.

Recognized by the light-colored stone walls, decorative shields, pilasters, paired columns, flat roof, and symmetry,¹⁵ the Beaux Arts style was used primarily for public buildings between 1880 and 1930.¹⁶ As an illustration of Beaux Arts architecture, McBride exemplifies the American implementation of the style. From its smooth limestone walls to the flat roof McBride retains in good condition the ornate elements associated with the Beaux Arts design. Stone shields and crests can be found nestled between roof balustrades and paired columns.

Modillions top stone pilasters and accentuate the cornice lines. The large central pavilion is capped by a tall pediment. Grand stairs lead to elaborately carved stone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

arched entrances. Thick stone lintels and sills announce the rectangular windows and reinforce the monumental massing associated with Beaux Arts architecture. The building has been maintained in excellent condition, though some changes have occurred to the building since its construction in 1924.

With a steadily rising enrollment McBride High School became overcrowded, and in 1952 it became necessary to make some alterations to account for the increasing student body. The basement level, which had been occupied by the lower level of the gymnasium, was divided into several classrooms. Adding another story to the rear of the building, the gymnasium was moved to the main level with the second level left open to the gym below. The east classrooms in the wings were divided and the first level east rooms were subdivided as well. Six years later a single classroom was built on the roof at either end of the gym. Though these changes were made, Mr. Hess designed the alterations to ensure maximum capacity with the same light and ventilation requirements.¹⁷ When the building was sold to the St. Louis Board of Education in 1971 some additional alterations were made to bring the building up to fire code. Despite these changes, the building still exhibits the outstanding Beaux Arts architectural elements it possessed at construction. The north, south, and east elevations look as they did in 1924, and the rear building maintains the historical alterations.

Educational Significance

By the first decades of the 20th century education was a well established institution in St. Louis. Beginning in 1774 the first one-room school house opened,¹⁸ with parochial instruction as the most common form of education. Schooling in the United States had been parochial since its inception, with individual churches taking responsibility for the education of the children in the parish. Predominantly Protestant, the churches taught children lessons vital to the community, which were essentially reading, writing, arithmetic, and the King James Bible. Financial support for parochial schools came from all levels of the government, and as the "public school" movement grew across the nation, many Protestant clergymen became the leaders of the new government funded schools. Because most Protestants shared the same Bible and basic beliefs, these "public" schools continued to teach Christian religion. Public schools allowed all students to attend for free, but those who were not Protestant protested against the implementation of Protestant religious ideas in the schools. Many pushed for a purely secular education to separate the church and state in the educational realm, and others gathered money to open their own schools.¹⁹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

This feeling of Protestant domination in public schools continued to the end of the 19th century, and even after religious education was taken out of the public schools. The animosity between the Catholic and Protestant community led to an archdiocesan synod in 1896, after which Archbishop John J. Kain of St. Louis insisted that a parochial school be established by every parish, and that every member of the congregation support the education of all the parish's children.²⁰

Though the religious spheres were toiling to build an adequate educational system that incorporated both the fundamentals of learning and the morals aspects of the chosen faith, the public school was relentless in establishing a system that would include all children. In 1905 Governor Joseph Folk signed compulsory education into law,²¹ and forced the St. Louis public school system to expand their facilities for the education of the additional 2,629 students. This mandate placed the parochial institutions in competition with the public schools for enrollment. The decision of sending children to a public school or a private school was often determined by the price of tuition at the religious institution, and more often than not resulted in the choice of free public school instruction.²²

Though present in the elementary schools, the problems of religious education became more prominent at the secondary level. Parochial schools in the St. Louis Archdiocese required a significant amount of tuition to be paid by the pupils, and many of these parish schools could not take students to an accredited graduation. Furthermore, private schools did not share the same guidelines and benchmarks as the public schools, and children who attended private elementary school had to take a series of tests in order to enroll in the public high schools.²³ In light of the problem, the Archdiocesan Education Association's Joint Committee on High Schools was formed by the Catholic schools, colleges, and seminaries in 1904. Headed by Archbishop John Glennon, the Committee recommended the establishment of archdiocesan high schools. Supported by a contribution of each parish, the accredited archdiocesan schools would be free to all parishioners wishing to attend.²⁴

Though some felt that students would not value that for which they did not pay, Archbishop Glennon had many supporters for the new free high school program. Appointed as archdiocesan superintendent of schools, Father Aloysius Garthoeffner studied the enrollment in St. Louis public and Catholic schools, and determined that one sixth of all public high school students were Catholic. There were approximately fifteen parochial high schools in St. Louis at the time, which either required students to pay tuition, or were funded by the individual parishes that ran them. Looking to those parishes with previously established high school departments, Father Garthoeffner

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

found homes for the first three archdiocesan high schools in parish facilities. In the fall of 1911 the Kain Center for girls' opened in the building at St. Theresa's School at Grand and Market. Rosati Center for girls' opened in the St. Francis de Sales School on Iowa near Gravois. Kenrick Center for boy's opened at Saints Peter and Paul Church on South Seventh Street.²⁵ Enrollment in these schools grew rapidly, and the need for buildings designed to house the archdiocesan schools became clear within only a few years.²⁶

Money was limited for the new schools, and the faculty worked without pay for the first decade. By 1913, the archdiocese requested a 2 percent assessment from each parish to support the schools. Organized in 1921, a fundraising drive finally acquired a quarter of a million dollars for new high school buildings. That same year Mrs. William Cullen McBride donated the same amount for an all boys school in honor of her late husband. The girls' high school building was completed quickly, and a freshman class started in the fall, with Rosati and Kain High Schools consolidated into the building.²⁷ Four years later Archbishop Glennon transferred the Brothers of Mary and their 520 pupils from the Kenrick high school to the new William Cullen McBride Catholic High School.²⁸

Placed in the Arlington neighborhood, William Cullen McBride Catholic High School was one block from the former Christian Brothers College that had burned in 1916 and fifteen blocks from the closest public secondary school, Soldan High School. The only secondary school in the neighborhood, McBride was quickly filled to capacity with students. As the Brothers of Mary had been faculty at the former Kenrick Center, McBride implemented the same four-year academic (liberal arts) and three-year commercial (technical/ trade) programs used at the Kenrick Center under Brother Julius Kreshel.²⁹ Though the school offered religion and Latin classes, a specific tract was not offered for vocational study. Instead, students in the commercial program trained to join the work force immediately following graduation, and those in the academic program completed coursework to prepare for post-secondary education in college or at a seminary. The course load at McBride met all the requirements for a public school, including English, math, science, and foreign language classes, as well as requiring Latin and religion courses.³⁰

McBride became synonymous with outstanding programs, both extracurricular and traditional. In the first five years students at McBride won awards at the Federal School of Commercial Designing national art contest, the statewide chemical essay contest, the state national essay contest "American Constitution and the National Republic", the Interscholastic meet in German essay writing, and the Missouri Debate League. The outstanding performance of the students in the liberal arts fields led the administration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

to drop the commercial program after the 1928-29 school year in order to focus the attention on the academic program. Devoting extra time and money to the science program, Brother Fred Weisbruch employed the semi-micro method in his chemistry classes, which was then published by D.C. Health Company. This program consisted of several student run experiments resulting in the reaction of 18 different chemicals.³¹

The faculty housing facility was constructed at the rear of McBride in 1929 after a fire destroyed the previous Brothers' home. With the new building in place the students were able to attend mass in the first floor chapel, and the Brothers were able to instruct in both the high school and the housing facility when necessary. As the Great Depression set in the National Youth Administration project was introduced to by McBride to allow students to work in the library, office, and laboratory in order to pay the tuition that had been implemented in 1926.³²

The requisite tuition of ten dollars was considered exceptionally reasonable for private education, and did not deter many families from choosing archdiocesan instruction. Over enrollment problems began to plague the school in the early 1940s, and to accommodate all the students the freshman class was divided into morning and afternoon shifts, and later a third shift was added. The need to increase capacity led to alterations of the building in 1952, which created additional classrooms and incorporated a main floor gymnasium for the exceptional athletic programs. The new gymnasium was used for the state championship, five time district championship, and five time Prep League championship basketball team. The four time Prep League championship football team also practiced in the new gym on occasion, and the built-in stage was used for the operetta and theater productions.³³

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School opened at a time when religious vocations were growing, and the Arlington neighborhood contained the Rock Road, the main western causeway in the city. But suburbanization caused many of the families in the neighborhood to migrate west, and the area attracted a different demographic that caused, "a consequent change in the life-style of the area's people and relocation of commercial and social activities within it."³⁴ In addition to the changing income level of the neighborhood, attitudes in the Catholic Church also caused some problems for McBride High School.

The religious climate changed after the Second Vatican Council, and the number of new religious men and women began to drop in the 1960s. As fewer people chose religious vocations more lay teachers began to take over the education in Catholic schools. Suburban migration caused many St. Louis churches to close, with too few members of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

the congregation to remain open. Inner city parochial schools and churches were consolidated in order to share resources and continue to support the religious needs of the community.³⁵ As the number of inner city Catholics dwindled, so did the financial support that came from each parish. By 1971 McBride was struggling to maintain a substantial enrollment, and lacked sufficient funding from the Archdiocese to continue to charge a reasonable tuition.³⁶



King School, March 1972. On File with the St. Louis Public School record Center and Archive.

The school closed after the 1970-71 school year, and was immediately acquired by the St. Louis Public Schools. It opened in September of 1971 as the "Step School." Over the next thirty years the building was used for many different educational strategies in the public school system, acting as a special school, a secondary school, a middle school, and an alternative school. The school was renamed Martin Luther King High School in 1975, and retained the "King" name until it closed after the 2002-2003 school year.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

McBride provided an education with varied post-graduate options for the boys of not only the Arlington neighborhood, but students throughout St. Louis. The congregations of the St. Louis Archdiocese supported the Brothers who taught at the school by providing for them a home on the campus. The building supported constant learning of one sort or another, and continues to represent the educational role it held during the period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Figure 10- *Kenrick Seminary*



Figure 11- *Kenrick-Glennon College*



Figure 12- *DeAndreis High School*



Figure 14- *Rosati-Kain High School*



Figure 13- *Christian Brothers College High School*



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

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- ⁶ Building Permits on file with the St. Louis City Assessors Office.
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- ⁸ Wayman.
- ⁹ "King Tri-A Academy Information Sheet." On file with the St. Louis Public Schools Records Center and Archives.
- ¹⁰ Janice R. Cameron. Immaculate Conception School National Register Nomination. Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, 21 March 1985, Section 8.
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- ¹² Cameron, Section 8, page 1.
- ¹³ *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. "Henry P. Hess Obituary," October 23, 1957.
- ¹⁴ Cameron, Section 8.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 27 **McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 28 **McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 29

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

Verbal Boundary Description:

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School is located at 1909 North Kingshighway Boulevard on a southeastern portion of city block 4506 as follows: at the intersection of North Kingshighway Boulevard and Cote Brilliante Avenue proceed west on Cote Brilliante approximately 129 feet to the alley; then proceed approximately 264 feet north up the alley; proceed approximately 129 feet east to North Kingshighway Boulevard; proceed south on North Kingshighway to the intersection of Cote Brilliante, the point of origin (See Figure 1- Page 6.).

Boundary Justification:

The selected boundaries are those historically associated with William Cullen McBride Catholic High School, including the school and the yard but excluding the former faculty residence. Extensive changes to the faculty facility have altered the interior design in such a way that the building no longer exhibits the religious space and communal configuration previously associated with the facility. Particularly detrimental was the subdivision of the first level chapel. Besides failing to retain a significant quantity of the interior design elements, the school and former living space are now physically separated by a large tree line and fence, and the land parcel divided down the alley between the school and the Brother's home.

Photo Log:

The following is true for all photos:

William Cullen McBride Catholic High School

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Photographer: Julie Wooldridge

Date: June 20, 2007

Negatives on file with: Lafser & Associates
2711 Thomas Drive STE 209
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Photo #	View
1	East elevation of school from N. Kingshighway
2	Example of medallions on façade
3	Main Entrance
4	South Elevation
5	North Elevation
6	Rear Elevation from Cote Brilliante
7	Rear Elevation from alley
8	Foyer from front doors
9	Kitchen
10	Cafeteria window
11	Cafeteria looking west
12	First floor classroom
13	Second floor classroom
14	Second floor classroom
15	Third floor hallway
16	Third floor stairwell
17	Third floor classroom
18	Third floor classroom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 30

**McBride, William Cullen, Catholic High School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO**

19 Basement hallway
20 Basement classroom



KINGS HIGHWAY
LOTUS AV.









WELCOME HOME













AUGIE'S
NEWS
WORMS

361-0433
King Tui-A

Mr William Baldwin
723-1122

Barce K. Kinnear's Art
April 11th 1988
CAMP-ER

43x88
43x88 →
43x59

















