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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic University City Education District

and/or common Jackson Park Elementary, Hanley Junior High & University City Senior High Schools

2. Location

street & number 7400 & 7401 Balson Ave. & 951 North Hanley Rd. not for publication

city, town University City vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis code 189

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name School District of University City

street & number 8346 Delcrest Drive

city, town University City vicinity of Missouri state 63124

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

street & number 41 South Central Avenue

city, town Clayton state Missouri 63105

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The University City Education District encompasses three school buildings and their setting. University City High School, Hanley Junior High School, and Jackson Park Elementary School are visually related by the mixed beige-orange-brown brick of which they are constructed, by their limestone trim and red tile roofs, by their composition as two- and three-story structures on high basements, and by their massing: long ranges punctuated by towers and tower-like pavilions. The siting of the buildings ties them into a unified civic composition; The high school and elementary school face each other across a circular park, at the intersection of Jackson and Balson Avenue, while the junior high school stands on the axis of Balson Avenue as it runs between the other two buildings.

University City High School

The High School, designed in 1928 by Trueblood and Graf and opened two years later, has somewhat modernistic detailing in what was then coming to be called the Art Deco Style. It is the largest of the three buildings, with a massive octagonal, entry pavilion that rises the equivalent of four stories above a nearby story-high entrance staircase. The entry wing is set at an angle to the long ranges that face Jackson and Balson. Pyramidal-roofed four-bay four-story pavilions mark the changes in direction, while one-bay pavilions of the same height flank the taller central portion. Eight-over-eight double-hung windows paned over ashlar lugsills in the subsidiary portions of the building give way to large casements, some with transoms and sidelights, toward the center. The three largest windows at the top of the central pavilion are topped by semicircular fanlights, while the top windows of the corner pavilions are arched. First floor windows rise from a concrete foundation. A broad ashlar watertable sharply divides the first floor from those above. The center pavilion has much decorative limestone including the doorframes, which are garlands of grapes, pomegranates, and corn leaves, spandrels between second and third floors, and carved panels along the roofline of elongated triglyphs, stylized palms, and other foliate patterns. Flanking the doors are pilasters with convex fluting. The panels over the three main doors are inscribed "Truth Courage Wisdom"; "Letters Arts Sciences"; "Ideals Service Character." Above the second story the center spandrel is inscribed "University City High School."

Of the long wings facing Jackson and Balson, only one third of the projected design was completed in the initial phase of construction. The northeast wing facing Jackson was extended in the 1950's, adding ten double bays to the existing four plus four-bay end pavilion. This wing is also five bays wide and has a fully exposed ground floor on its west side. It continues the original stone stringcourse between first and second floors. Its double-hung windows are 6-over-6. The main entrance to this wing is in the fourth bay, set between first and second floors and framed by an ashlar molding with a corniced lintel.

—The older portion of the southwest wing facing Balson watches Jackson wing. It too was extended in the 1930's, but to a different design of eight bays. The brick is a slightly lighter mix except for the 3-story connecting bay which is reddish brown. Windows are set in banks; they are in threes -- four horizontal panes in the center and two vertical ones on the sides -- and are divided by white panels. In 1961 a second addition was made at this end of the school, at right angles to the first. It faces west to overlook

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the stadium and is four stories high, the lowest corresponding to the ground floor on the east side. Its west elevation is eleven bays long and three wide, with all except the end bays having wide six-pane windows, some underlined by vents. The ground floor has a blind colonnade of concrete piers typing into the flat canopy projecting out from the recessed south entrance bay.

Directly behind the main entrance and on axis to it are four structures: the auditorium, added in 1936, the original gymnasium, a newer double gymnasium, and the natatorium. Adjacent to the older gym is a monumental polygonal smokestack. The auditorium was fitted into the original rear courtyard by William B. Ittner. Its ground floor is occupied by the cafeteria. This wing is visible on the exterior only from the northeast light court. The original gymnasium, by contrast, has gabled ends with four large and impressive multipane fanlighted casement windows, smaller 6-over-6 windows at ground level and basement, exposed by means of light wells. Inside the old gym has locker rooms and an indoor tract at basement level, gym floor at ground level and a three-sided balcony corresponding to the first floor. A hyphen at basement and ground levels connects this with the newer gyms. Externally this section is marked by an ashlar-framed double door. The new gymnasium was built in two parts, the northeast boys gym in 1954 and the southwest girls gym in 1961. Externally, however, the building reads as one. It has a gable roof at the same angle as the older gym and is ten bays long with large 18-pane windows on the north side and shorter nine-pane windows on the south. Bays are divided by projecting brick piers, those at the ends extending above the roofline to form shoulders for the gable. A decorative panel of diagonal bricks marks the center of the gable ends.

The University City Natatorium is the only part of the whole complex to depart from the general tonality of the brickwork. It faces northwest across a circular drive toward Shaftesbury Avenue, where it has the number 7420. It has three stories, each with louvered windows placed high on the wall in five groups of four. The center two of these groups and three-fourths of two others are set in blue-grey brick, and the same material is used for the recessed entry bay at the northeast end of the building. A second entry at the center of the building and a third at the northwest corner are sheltered by a long marquee. The asymmetrical placing of the marquee, the windows and the blue brick gives this elevation a syncopated rhythm. Above the second-story windows are aluminum letters spelling "University City Natatorium."

The ground of the High School site drops gradually to the north toward Shaftesbury Avenue and abruptly to the west along Balson forming a natural amphitheatre for the school track and stadium. Along Balson the stadium is screened by a long high brick wall, which steps down in six sections between piers to a gate which is flanked by two block-like ticket booths. This wall was added by William B. Ittner at the same time as the auditorium. The booths are rectangular in plan, with projecting piers and recessed panels above two tellers wickets. Piers and top are capped by stone. The gates are good examples of wrought iron work.

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Jackson Park Elementary School

Jackson Park Elementary School and Hanley Junior High School were designed in 1932 and 1936 respectively by the same architect, William B. Ittner, and they share many design details drawn from the Italian Romanesque.

The Jackson Park Elementary School, which faces the Balson Circle at the southwest corner of the Jackson-Balson intersection, defers to the High School by having no central focal point. Instead it has a long center wing flanked by matching doors and towers. End pavilions form a transition to wings paralleling the streets; only the east wing was ever built. The center elevation has two stories on a high ground floor that is exposed by terracing the front yard. Twelve-over-twelve windows are grouped 4 - 3 - 4. The brickwork of the building is Flemish bond. The front bays are framed by alternating courses of projecting headers, which rise in stacks to semicircular panels set with diagonal-patterned brick. The spandrels between second and third floors have diaperwork (diamond or X-shaped) patterns of raised headers. Basement windows are differently spaced. Ground-floor brickwork is darker than the body of the building. It is crowned by two courses of vertical headers four courses apart, with other such courses spaced farther down. A similar pattern is employed in the stepped walls flanking the entrance stairways. The front doors, in the projecting ends of the central block, are framed by fluted pilasters with cushion capitals in section. Above the four-pane toplights are stone panels inscribed "Jackson Park School," and decorated at the sides by star patterns. Rising from this panel are two tall fanlighted windows joined by a column with a cushion capital. The two arches above the windows are set within a larger arch of radiating bricks in three reveals, with raised headers. In the gable over each entry bay is a stone grill of four loops (or perhaps two figure eights). The towers rise not above the entries but the next outer bays. Their top stories are open, pierced by double arches similar to the entry windows; one pair in front and two on the sides; like the windows, they are joined by cushion-capital columns. They also have latticework stone balustrades. Their hipped roofs rise above corbelled cornices.

The end pavilions are gabled and are detailed much like the center section, including gridded gable openings and arched reveals. The paired windows within these reveals have the centered column, but their arched tops are filled with brickwork in a pattern of alternating projecting headers. The similarly detailed southwest wing, which stretches along Jackson Avenue south of this elevation, has twelve bays. Its main feature is a 5-faced, tile-roofed bay window, rising from the basement to the first floor between the third and sixth bays from the south end of the building. It is fitted with double casements of six-pane leaves and eight-pane transoms. Rising between the windows are cushion-capital columns supporting a plain frieze. This bay window opens into an art room on the ground floor and a library upstairs. The ground along the east side of the building is level, held by a rock-faced stone retaining wall while Jackson Avenue drops about ten feet toward the south. The stonework is laid in a pattern of alternating long and square blocks, with piers at the ends.

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The west elevation, visible in the distant view from heavily traveled Hanley Road, is designed and detailed with exceptional care. It centers on the six-bay one-story gymnasium wing, which stands forward under a shed roof from two-story five-bay gabled wings. The wings have four bays of windows detailed like those in front, plus a fifth bay of smaller 4-over-4 staircase windows. The gymnasium is lighted by large fanlighted multipane casements. The door occupies the sixth bay. The door surround and the panels under the windows are brick laid in a zig-zag pattern. A chimney at the southeast end of the gym is detailed with Lombard bands and a corbelled top. An addition was made on the west side of the southeast wing in 1952. It has two stories, eight bays with 12-over-12 windows. The brickwork is more simple than the original building but matches it in color. Another addition, only one story high, was added at the south end of the southeast wing.

About a third of the west side of the school ground is paved for parking, with broad playing fields beyond. At the southwest part of the property a gate gives access to the west end of Tulane Avenue, while a grassy slope ascends to the properties along the north side of Amherst.

Hanley Junior High School

The gabled roof of Hanley Junior High School is covered with mixed red, orange, black ceramic tiles. It is underlined by a cornice composed of three courses of brick set on a diagonal. Other brick decorations include vertical brick lintels and diamond patterned spandrels between first and second floors. The basement, of darker brick, stands out from the upper floors under an ashlar water table. The top and fourth-from-top courses of the basement brick are headers, while farther down are two courses of vertical stretchers.

Windows are typically set in recessed wooden moldings, are paired, and are double-hung, 9-over-9. On the east front, however, windows are placed singly grouped in two banks of four on either side of the main entrance and the second floor ones have semicircular tops. The main entrance breaks forward under a front-facing gable. Three round-headed windows open onto a balcony over the ashlar porch, in which two interlaced arches spring from cushion capitals. An inscription in vaguely medieval-looking letters, "Hanley Junior High School" fills the area above arches. Copper lanterns on brick piers flank the arches. A brick and concrete staircase leads to the porch. Framing this central facade are two three-story towers, with entries at a level between basement and first floor, both framed by patterned brickwork matching the dark basement color. Two tall round-topped staircase windows rise above the doors, and three arched openings on each side of the top stages, divided by brick piers that extend down the face of the towers as Lombard bands. Tower roofs are low pyramids underlined by corbelled cornices.

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The south wing is a large auditorium, planned at the same time as the main building but built a few years later. At presents a broad gable to the street above a one-story, shed-roofed lobby. The lobby is entered by three fanlighted double doors. Smaller windows flank the doors, while six 6-pane windows punctuate the second floor. At the southeast corner, a two-story semioctagonal stair tower has narrow windows to the street with a recessed diamond-patterned spandrel between them. The south side of the auditorium has three large multipaned whitewashed windows; the stage house is revealed at the west end.

The original gymnasium at the northend of the building also has a gabled front, but it has two 24-pane windows with integral fanlights beneath the gable, and six more along the side. All these windows are recessed in double brick reveals, and the panels beneath are decorated with a zig-zag brick frieze and vertical stretchers. A brick vent rising from the north side of this complex has arched openings containing louvers on its sides and a tiled gable roof. A door placed at the north end of the east basement front has a pointed recess above it, the only pointed detail in the complex. A one-story hyphen detailed like the basement connects the original building with the north wing, which is one story on a composition stone base that becomes a full story on the north where it faces the playing field. It has 3 bays to the east in which large-pane windows in metal sash are set in reveals, with stacks of horizontal stretchers above and below. The north elevation projects over eight concrete piers creating a ground-floor loggia. The brick-clad upper floor has only one center opening.

The northwest wing, added in 1947, closely follows the original design conception of the building. It is visually divided into a north gabled portion and a flat-roofed south part. The south elevation has four bays, grouped two and two, of paired windows, plus a fifth bay of shorter 6-over-6 windows. Projecting from the west end is a vestibule detailed as an extension of the basement, its doorway has brick quoining and an exaggerated brick lintel with outlined keystone. Two round-headed windows rise above the vestibule through two stories; they are filled with glass brick patterned in three sizes. Both the west gable of this wing and the north gable of the main building have chimney-like vents similar to the gymnasium one but with straight-topped openings.

The 1957 southwest wing, a lighter brick, especially at basement level, has an ashlar water table forming the lintel of the basement windows. Spandrels between first and second floors are recessed and composed of vertical headers. Lugsills are dark brick. Windows are two horizontal panes over two in metal sash and are paired in the eight original bays. The end three bays, which were added in 1961, are set back an inch or two and have windows grouped 1-3-1. This arrangement is repeated throughout the north elevation of the wing.

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The front yard at Hanley Junior High is terraced to expose more of the basement windows. An entry drive loops off of Hanley Road. Along the road north of the school is a parking lot, which is supported above the playing field to the west by a fieldstone wall. A branch of the River Des Peres flows past the north edge of the Junior High School property and cuts off the northwestern tip of the High School grounds.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1930, 1933, 1937 **Builder/Architect** Trueblood & Graf, W.B. Ittner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The University City Education District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a work of high artistic value. The three schools encompassed in the district were designed by noted local architectural firms. University City High School by Trueblood & Graf, and both Jackson Park Elementary School and Hanley Junior High School by William B. Ittner & Assoc. The latter firm was the foremost designer of schools in the midwest during this period. More important than the design of the individual buildings, however, is the overall plan of the complex, a late example of City Beautiful civic design. The high school and the elementary school sit at right angles to each other, diagonally oriented to Balson Avenue, which runs between them, and facing the circular park at the intersection of Balson and Jackson. Hanley Junior High School stands on axis to Balson, closing the western vista from the circle. The ensemble as ultimately achieved was the result of incremental decisionmaking rather than a fully developed long-range plan, but it was encouraged by Harland Bartholomew and Associates, at the time the leading planning firm in the nation.

Trueblood and Graf

Wilbur Tyson Trueblood was a native of St. Louis, born in 1874.¹ His lengthy training as an architect included a year at Columbia University and another at the Atelier Duquesne in Paris as well as time in the offices of McKim, Mead & White in New York and of Isaac Taylor, Mauran, Russell & Garden, and William B. Ittner in St. Louis. After two years as an instructor at Washington University, he became a partner of Theodore C. Link in 1911. Link was already celebrated as the designer of St. Louis's Union Station, one of the largest and grandest in this country, and Trueblood collaborated with him in his later works, most notably the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Following Link's death in 1923, Trueblood formed a new partnership with Hugo K. Graf, a graduate of Washington University who had been in the office for the three preceding years. While Trueblood & Graf never attracted such large commissions as had Link, they nevertheless had a respectable practice. Their design included, among others, several buildings for Barnes Hospital, the Carpenter Branch Library, the Webster Groves City Hall, the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Kirkwood, and the stage of the Municipal Opera in Forest Park.²

They probably received the commission for the new high school in University City on the strength of the additions, including an auditorium, for the earlier high school, the former Fine Arts Building originally built by Eames & Young in 1909.³

They considered the new high school one of their best products and highlighted it in a 1930 publication of their work, giving credit to Murch Bros. Construction Co., Builders; face brick by Hydraulic-Press Brick Co.; lighting fixtures by Chapline Electric Co.; Ferrand & Fitch, Associated Architects; and Pre-Cast Marcrome Concrete Marble,

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which was used for the stairs.⁴ The partnership did not survive the Depression, however, and after 1934 Trueblood was employed as an inspector for the FHA and as director of the Historic American Buildings Survey in Missouri. He died in 1937. Graf, born in 1888, continued to practice architecture independently until his death in 1953.⁵

William B. Ittner

By the time William B. Ittner (1864-1936) received the Commission for the Jackson Park Elementary School, he already enjoyed "an international reputation as a designer of school buildings."⁶ A graduate of Cornell, he had opened his own office in 1889.⁷ In 1897 he became Commissioner of School Buildings to the St. Louis Board of Education, a title changed in 1910 to consulting architect. In this capacity, Ittner embarked on a program of building that resulted in five new high schools in the city, as well as many other school buildings. Most of these were in the Jacobethan style that he helped to popularize, partly because it afforded a design precedent for the large expanses of glass he favored.⁸ They were dark red brick, richly patterned (Ittner was the son of a brick manufacturer) and ornamented with quoins, stone panels, towers, and parapets. More than for their style, however, these buildings were admired for their functionality: their light, spaciousness, good ventilation, and convenience. After 1910, and especially after 1916, Ittner applied these principles to school commissions all over the country, ultimately compiling a record of over 500 school in 28 states including whole school systems in Buffalo, Dayton, Knoxville, and Birmingham, Alabama. His practice was not limited to schools and included such St. Louis landmarks as the Missouri Athletic Club, the Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Central Institute for the Deaf. His association with University City began in 1913, when he designed the Delmar Elementary School. He seems to have consciously selected materials and styles that would differentiate his University City schools from his earlier St. Louis ones. At the time he designed these two buildings, he had located his offices in his only high-rise, the Art Deco masterpiece Continental Building at 3615 Olive.⁹ There he was assisted by his son William, Junior, who later took over the firm. William B. Ittner and Associates is still an active firm, which has facilitated the upgrading and enlargement of these buildings.

Planning

The origin of the University City Education District was the purchase by the School Board in September, 1923, of the 26-acre Hezel Tract at what was then the west end of the city.¹⁰ This tract was supplemented the following February by an adjacent strip, and in June the whole was platted as the Wilson School Park.¹¹ The intention, as suggested by the name, was to establish a site for a new elementary school to be named for President Woodrow Wilson, who had just died, and to serve the newly developing

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northwest part of the city. Because of the steep drop in the terrain from east to west, where a branch of the River Des Peres crossed the site, that portion of the subdivision was left as one large parcel. Peripheral streets were laid out - Shaftesbury on the north, Balson on the south and Jackson on the east. The streets were placed far enough inside the borders of the subdivision so that the School Board controlled both sides of the street. The block fronts were subdivided into a total of 48 lots, but only the 13 lots on the north side of Shaftesbury were ever offered for sale.

The school that was ultimately constructed on the Wilson School Park was not an elementary school but a new high school, designed to separate the combined senior and junior high then being conducted in the Fine Arts Building. Not only was the city's population rapidly growing during this period, but the city's area nearly doubled through annexations in 1923, 1927, 1928, and 1929. Wilson School Park marked the geographical center of the newly enlarged city.¹² A bond issue of \$550,000 was approved by the voters on May 25, 1928, and construction of the new high school began the next year. Cost had risen to \$700,00 by the time the building opened in the fall of 1930.¹³

A series of events in 1929 laid the groundwork for the development of the rest of the education district.¹⁴ The Public Service Company announced plans to run a streetcar line out Balson Avenue. The University City Plan Commission, which had been established in 1920, recommended formation of a Civic Arts Committee and hired Harland Bartholomew to prepare of new master plan for the city (the first one dated May, 1922, had been one of the earliest of its kind in this part of the country). The School Board, under the direction of President Alfred Fairbank, took steps to acquire some of the land immediately south of Wilson School Park to accommodate a new elementary school.

This property, Lot 24 of Central Suburbs, had been acquired by John Lanigan as far back as 1866. A series of family partitions had resulted in three parcels, one of five acres facing Hanley Road, another of about five acres in the center and a relatively narrow strip of 2.6 acres along what should have been the right-of-way of Jackson Avenue. This strip, held successively by Joseph Lanigan and his widow Nora, was too small to subdivide economically, so it remained a barrier between the already opened sections of Jackson in front of the high school to the north and paralleling Jackson Park (acquired in 1923) to the south.¹⁵ The Civic Arts Committee recommended that the Lanigan Tract be acquired and beautified as part of a parkway system that would include sculptural monuments of various sorts culminating in a massive fountain in the Balson Circle.¹⁶ These ideas were illustrated in the Comprehensive Plan published by Bartholomew and Associates in 1931.¹⁷ While neither the fountain nor the other monuments ever came to fruition, the street itself was opened and landscaped as planned.

According to the Bartholomew plan "certain considerations should receive special attention, such as the grouping of public buildings at strategic locations..the city must recognize the advantages of attractiveness and devote some attention to this phase of its development."¹⁸ As a practical example of this admonition, the plan advocated

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grouping three buildings in addition to the high school around Balson Circle. To the southwest was the new elementary school, to the southeast a public library, and to the northeast an administration building for the Board of Education. This idea came from Alfred Fairbank, president of the Board of Education, who wrote in 1929, "The Board is unanimous in its decision to... locate the new grade school in conjunction with the high school and make the corner of Jackson and Balson Avenues an educational center second to none in this section of the country."¹⁹

The emphasis of the Bartholomew plan on civic design was something of a reversal from the usual thrust of the firm. Born in 1889 (and still living in Clayton, Missouri), Harland Bartholomew had spent only two years at Rutgers but had risen to prominence in the planning profession as early as 1912 with his comprehensive plan for Newark, New Jersey.²⁰ In 1916 he came to St. Louis, where he served as "planning engineer" for the city until 1950. At the same time, he developed with several associates a private practice as planning consultant, a business that within a few years was the largest of its kind in the country. He was a leader in the shift from civic centers, parks, and boulevards to sanitation, housing, transportation, and municipal efficiency. This plan for University City was in a sense a valedictory salute to the principles of the City Beautiful movement which had sprung from the Chicago World Fair of 1893.

The orientation and ensemble character of the Jackson Park Elementary School (as it was ultimately named) were established by the Bartholomew plan. The School Board acquired additional land for it in 1930 (the north part of the center tract of Lot 24; the south part became Tulane Avenue). On October 7, 1932, voters approved a \$225,000 bond issue. The building designed by William B. Ittner, was completed for the fall school opening of 1933, when teachers and students from Flynn Park Elementary School moved in. The school grounds were enlarged in 1947 by the acquisition of the western five acres of Lot 24.²¹

The big empty lot on the west side of Hanley Boulevard, fifteen acres of Lot 52 of Central Suburbs, was not seen as a school site by the Bartholomew plan. In fact, the plan recommended that Balson Avenue be extended through the site, with a bus or trolley line and commercial development around the intersection of Balson and Hanley. The School Board, however preempted these plans by acquiring the site, for \$35,000, at the end of 1932.²² The orientation of Hanley Junior High School on axis with the west end of Balson Avenue seems to have been the contribution of Ittner, who prepared detailed designs for the facility prior to the passage of a \$425,000 bond issue on October 22, 1935.²³ A new Junior High had become necessary due to crowding at the Ward Building, but the passage of this second bond issue in the midst of the depression was perhaps more due to the incentive provided by a grant of \$342,000 from the Public Works Administration. Together the funds were sufficient also to build a new wing for Jackson Park Elementary School and two for the High School, including an auditorium and a cafeteria. All this work was designed by Ittner and it, along with the brick wall and ticket booths added along Balson at this time, reinforces the overall visual unity of the district.²⁴

Hanley Junior High School began to go up in March of 1936, and it opened in September,

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1937. Its auditorium, envisioned in the the original designs, did not start construction until after a supplemental bond issue was approved in October, 1936.²⁵

University City prided itself on the high quality of its school system, as epitomized by this education district. When World War II ended, the School Board took immediate steps to prepare for increased demand. In the next two decades many additions were made to these three buildings, but always with deference to their original character, and usually designed by William B. Ittner and Associates.²⁶ Jackson Park Elementary School had small additions in 1952 and 1955. Hanley Junior High School had a new wing to the northwest in 1947 and a second to the southeast in 1958, extended in 1961. In the latter two years the central courtyard was also filled by a new cafeteria, and a new gymnasium was added to the north. The high school acquired the extended wings originally envisioned for it in 1955 and 1957-58. The southwest wing facing the track was added in 1961. The original gymnasium was augmented by new ones in 1953-54 and 1961, while the Natatorium, intended to serve the whole community as well as the school, went up in 1957-59. Finally, in 1966, Ittner built a spacious resource center in the court between the 1936 and 1961 wings.

The decline in school enrollment that has recently been experienced throughout the country resulted in the closure of Hanley Junior High School in 1981. Loss of this building would diminish the whole ensemble, and it is hoped that a purchaser can be found who will respect the character of the building.

NOTES

1. Sources on Trueblood's life include the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Wilbur T. Trueblood Dies After Operation," May 24, 1937; John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution To American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), pp. 51,123, 223, 253; Walter B. Stevens Centennial History of Missouri (St. Louis & Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1921).
2. Their house for Fred Hume at 11 Carrswold in Clayton is listed in the National Register.
3. Listed in the National Register as part of the University City Civic Plaza Historic District.
4. The Recent Work of Trueblood & Graf (St. Louis: 1930).
5. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Hugo Graf, Architect Dies," March 23, 1953.
6. Stevens p. 308.

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7. ibid; other biographical sources on Ittner include Harry J. Boswell, ed., St. Louisans with Records (St. Louis: Harry J. Boswell, 1911), p. 31; Cecil Morrison Baskett, Men of Affairs in St. Louis (St. Louis: Press Club of St. Louis, 1915), p.67; M.W. Childs, "Interesting St. Louisans: William B. Ittner," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 27, 1930, Sunday Magazine, p. 5; Margaret Mosinger Freedman, "William B. Ittner: The Man and His Work" (Washington University, 1972). This last contains a good bibliography.
8. Ittner's contribution to the Jacobethan style is mentioned by Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1969), p. 182.
9. Illustrated in George McCue, The Building Art in St. Louis (St. Louis: St. Louis Chapter AIA Foundation, 1981), p. 68. The Continental Building and Scottish Rite Cathedral are included in the Midtown Historic District, a National Register listing.
10. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 627, page 345.
11. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 648, page 9; Plat Book 19, page 15.
12. A good general history of University City is NiNi Harris, Legacy of Lions: A History of University City (University City, Mo.: Historical Society of University City, 1981).
13. \$550,00 Bond Issue for Proposed New Senior High School Building, "To be voted Friday, May 25, 1928" (flyer in archives of University City Library); Hugh C. Sexton, "\$700,00 High School to Be Open Tomorrow in University City" (unidentified clipping in archives of University City Library); Edith Bodenhafer & Erwin J. Urich, eds. The Romance of a Quarter-Century of Public Education in University City (University City: 1936).
14. These were outlined by Lewis E. Balson in a letter to Alfred Fairbank, dated July 12, 1929, in the files of the School District of University City.
15. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 58, page 507; 129, 316; 221, 343; 1070, 123. St. Louis County Probate Court, estates of John, Patrick and William Lanigan.
16. The Committee was chaired by Dr. Francis M. Barnes, Jr., and included Gabriel Ferrand, Wilbur Trueblood, and E.O. Mills, who was the representative of Bartholomew and Associates for the University City plan.
17. Bartholomew and Associates, Comprehensive City Plan (University City, Mo.: City Plan Commission, 1931).
18. ibid, p. 18.

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19. Letter from Alfred Fairbank to Mr. C.C. Miles (E.O. Mills?), August 16, 1929, files of the School District of University City. Fairbank (1888-1945) was a founder of Taussig, Day & Co., an investment firm; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 6, 1945.
20. Norman J. Johnston, "Harland Bartholomew: precedent for the profession," The American Planner, Donald A. Kruecheberg, ed. (New York: Methuen, 1983), pp. 279-300.
21. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 1068, page 155; 1189, 229; 2316, 66; Nini Harris, op. cit., p. 117; Clayton Citizen, "Jackson Park Celebrates 50 Years," May 9, 1984; Grade Five Extended Program, "That's My School: Jackson Park 1933-1961" (University City, Mo.: Jackson Park Elementary School, 1961); University City Schools (Apublication of the Board of Education of University City), Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, Vol. XVII, No. 7 (Feb. 21, 1961).
22. St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 1223, page 414.
23. American School Board Journal, "New Hanley Junior High School, University City, Missouri," April 1938; The Next Step in University City School District Development Program, "to be voted Tuesday, October 22, 1935" (flyer in archives of University City Library).
24. Information from the office of William B. Ittner, Inc., 317 N. Eleventh St., St. Louis, Mo.
25. Bodenhafer & Ulrich, op. cit.; building permits 6490 and 6860, University City Building Department.
26. Records of William B. Ittner, Inc.; University City Schools; building permits.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. American School Board Journal, "New Hanley Junior High School, University City, Missouri," April 1938. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 53

Quadrangle name "Clayton, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	3	2	5	4	0	4	2	8	2	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

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

C

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

D

1	5	7	3	1	9	4	0	4	2	8	2	6	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	5	7	3	1	9	6	0	4	2	8	2	9	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

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

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning on Hanley Road at the southeast corner of its intersection with Shaftesbury Avenue; thence east following the south line of Shaftesbury Avenue to the east boundary of Wilson School Park, which is also the east boundary of Central Suburbs Subdivision; thence south along this boundary and its prolongation to the (cont.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis code 189

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Esley Hamilton

organization St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation date _____

street & number 41 South Central Avenue telephone (314)889-3357

city or town Clayton state Missouri 63105

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John Karel

title John Karel, Deputy S.H.P.O., and Director of the Division of Parks and Historic Preservation

date 11-29-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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2. Bartholomew and Associates. Comprehensive City Plan. University City, Missouri: City Plan Commission, 1931.
3. Baskett, Cecil Morrison. Men of Affairs in St. Louis. St. Louis: Press Club of St. Louis, 1915.
4. Bodenhafer, Edith, and Urich, Erwin J., eds. The Romance of a Quarter-Century of Public Education in University City. University City, Mo.: 1936.
5. Boswell, Harry J., ed. St. Louisans with Records. St. Louis: Harry J. Boswell, 1911.
6. Childs, M.W., "Interesting St. Louisans: William B. Ittner," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 27, 1930, Sunday Magazine, p.5.
7. Clayton Citizen, "Jackson Park Celebrates 50 Years," May 9, 1984.
8. \$550,000 Bond Issue for Proposed New Senior High School Building, "To be voted Friday, May 25, 1928." (flyer in archives of University City Library).
9. Freedman, Margaret Mosinger. "William B. Ittner: The Man and His Work." Washington University, 1972.
10. Grade Five Extended Program. "That's My School: Jackson Park 1933-1961." University City, Mo.: Jackson Park Elementary School, 1961).
11. Harris, NiNi. Legacy of Lions, A History of University City. University City, Mo.: The Historical Society of University City, 1981.
12. Hoffman Partnership. "University City Facilities Analysis" University City, Mo.: Board of Education, 1976.
13. Johnston, Norman J., "Harland Bartholomew: precedent for the profession," The American Planner, ed. by Donald A. Krueckeberg. New York, Methuen, 1983, pp. 279-300.
14. The Next Step in University City School District Development Program, "to be voted Tuesday, October 22, 1935." (flyer in archives of University City Library.)
15. The Recent Work of Trueblood and Graf. St. Louis: 1930.
16. Stevens, Walter B. Centennial History of Missouri. St. Louis and Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1921.

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17. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Hugo Graf, Architect, Dies," March 23, 1953.
18. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Wilbur T. Trueblood Dies After Operation," May 24, 1937.
19. University City Schools (A publication of the Board of Education of University City), Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, Vol. XVII, No. 7 (Feb. 21, 1961).

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north line of Tulane Avenue, thence west across the intersection of Jackson Avenue to the west line of Jackson Avenue; thence north along the west line of Jackson Avenue (which is the east line of University Place Subdivision) to the south line of the Jackson Park Elementary School grounds (which is the north line of University Place Subdivision); thence west 443.67 feet along this line to the west line of University Place Subdivision, thence south along this line to the north line of University Terrace Subdivision (which is the south line of Lot 24, Central Suburbs); thence 483.85 feet along this line to Hanley Road; thence north on Hanley Road to a point opposite the northwest corner of Hanley Road and Blackberry Lane; thence west along the north line of Blackberry Lane 702.73 feet; thence northeast along the line between Hanley Junior High School and Shereth Israel Cemetery 1060.62 feet to the northwest corner of the Hanley Junior High School Property (part of Lot 52, Central Suburbs); thence east along the north line of this property 493.51 feet to Hanley Road; thence north on Hanley Road to the place of beginning.

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2. James M. Denny, Chief of Survey and
Registration Section and State
Contact Person

Historic Preservation Program
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
1915 Southridge Drive
Jefferson City

November 15, 1984
(314) 751-4096
Missouri 65201

4286
1.3 MI. TO MO. 140
7961 III NW
(CREVE COEUR)

U.S.G.S. 7.5'
"Clayton, Mo." Quadrangle (1954-rev.1974)

UNIVERSITY CITY EDUCATION DISTRICT
University City, Missouri

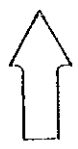
UTM REFERENCES:

T. 46 N.
12 MI. TO U.S. 40 & 51
CREVE COEUR 4 MI.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. 732540/4282900 | B. 732510/4282530 |
| C. 732280/4282510 | D. 731940/4282640 |
| E. 731960/4282960 | F. 732120/4283010 |

340

T. 45 N.



4283
40'

1:030,000
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4282

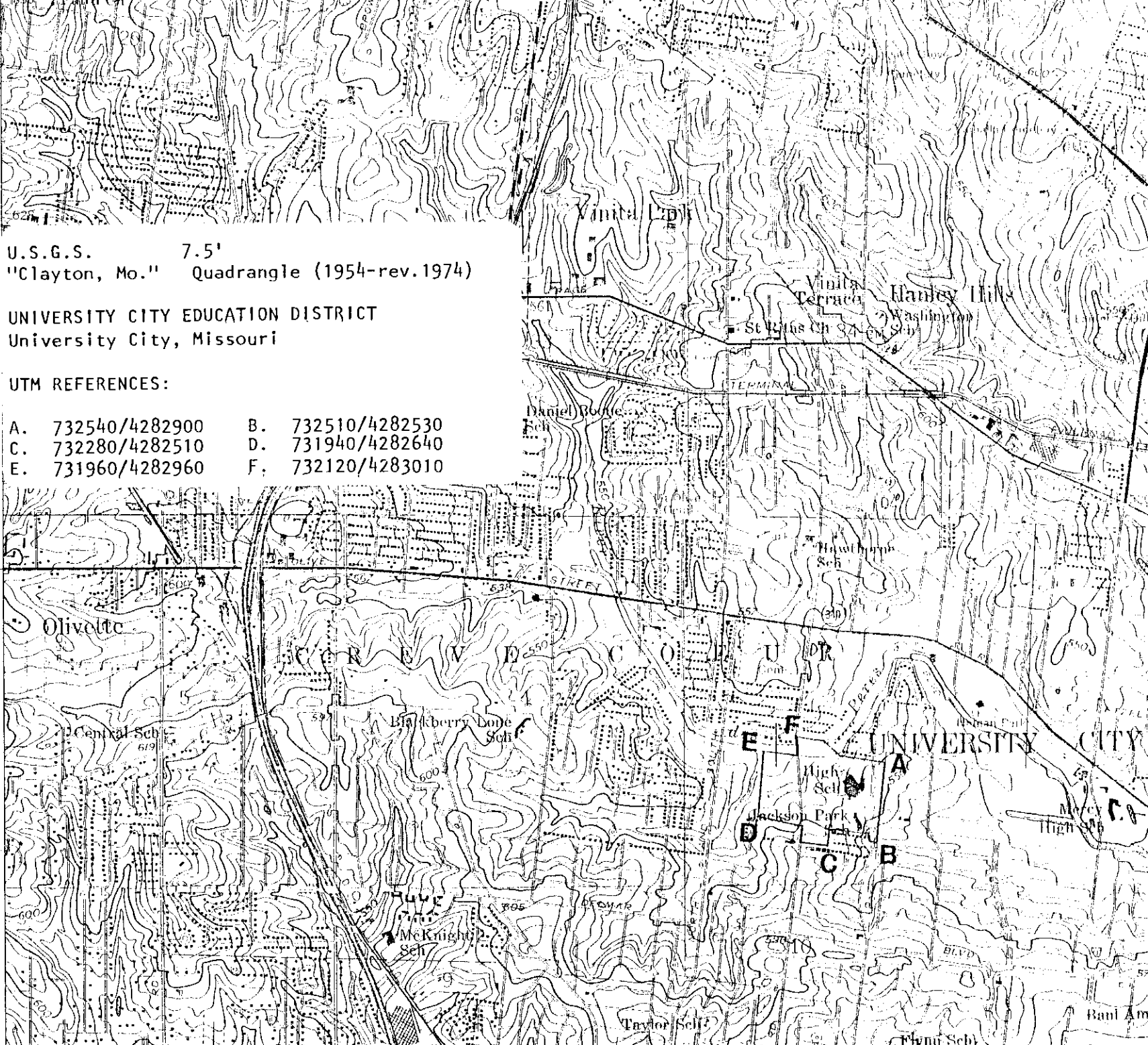


Photo Log:

Name of Property: University City Education District

City or Vicinity: University City

County: St. Louis County State: MO

Photographer: Esley Hamilton (unless otherwise stated)

Date

Photographed: Nov. 1983

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

- 1 of 23. University City High School, main entrance from S.
- 2 of 23. University City High School, perspective of proposed building from SE. Drawing by Hugo K. Graf (1928).
- 3 of 23. University City High School, aerial view from SE at time of opening. Bartholomew and Assoc. (1931).
- 4 of 23. University City High School, NE wing from SE.
- 5 of 23. University City High School, SW wings from SE.
- 6 of 23. University City High School, gymnasium and smokestack from NE.
- 7 of 23. University City High School, W wing and stadium from W.
- 8 of 23. University City High School, University City Natatorium from N.
- 9 of 23. Jackson Avenue with Jackson Park Elementary, school on left, University City High School in rear.
- 10 of 23. Jackson Park Elementary School, front elevation from E.
- 11 of 23. Jackson Park Elementary School, W main entrance from NE.
- 12 of 23. Jackson Park Elementary School, SE wing from SE.
- 13 of 23. Jackson Park Elementary School, W side from W.
- 14 of 23. Plan of Balson Circle with high school upper right; elementary school upper left; other proposed improvements. Drawing, "General Plan, Illustrating the Public Park Development . . ." (1932).
- 15 of 23. Comprehensive City Plan (1931), fountain proposed for Balson Circle. Drawing by Gabriel Ferrand, arch. (1932).
- 16 of 23. University City High School, track entrance from SE.
- 17 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, seen from Balson Ave., track entrance on right.
- 18 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, front elevation from SE.
- 19 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, front entrance from SE.
- 20 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, front elevation from NE.
- 21 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, NW wing from SW.
- 22 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, N addition from NE.
- 23 of 23. Hanley Junior High School, SW addition from S.













RANDY
'83 &
KIM J

DONALD
WETCOURT
WARREN





UNIVERSITY CITY NATATORIUM

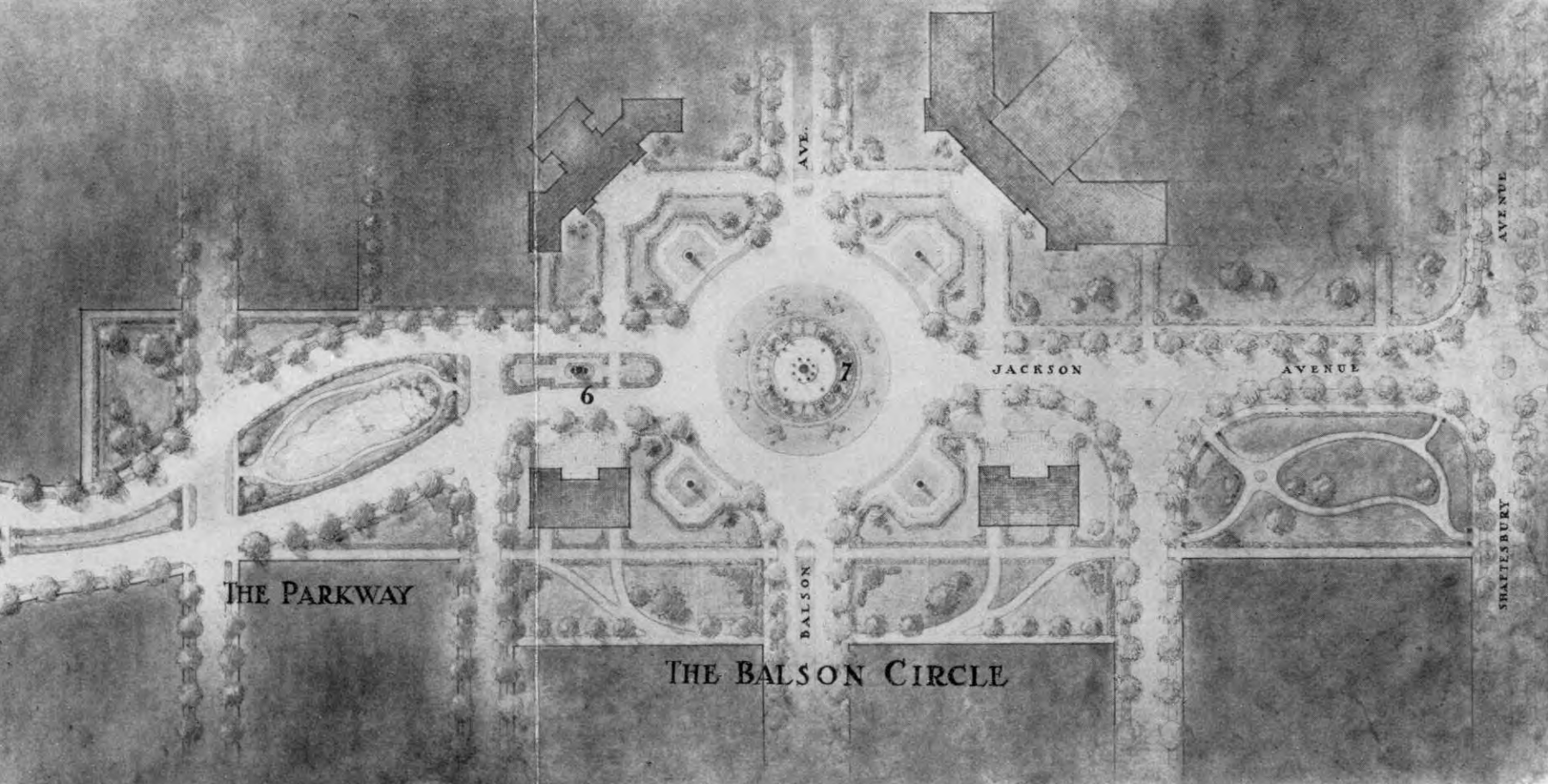












THE PARKWAY

6

7

THE BALSON CIRCLE

AVE.

BALSON

JACKSON

AVENUE

AVENUE

SHAPESBURY



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF
THE FOUNTAIN
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
JACKSON & BALSON AVES.

PROPOSED BY
THE CIVIC ART COMMITTEE
SPONSORED BY
THE CITY PLAN COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY MO.









HANLEY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

