



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 128-6480

1. General Property Information

Property name: Lucy Addison High School (now the Booker T. Washington Community Empowerment & Education Center)

Property address: 40 Douglass Ave. NW

City or Town: Roanoke

Zip code: 24012

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: City of Roanoke

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 1.32 Acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property’s overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The property includes three buildings laid out in linear fashion:

- The original Lucy Addison High School, built in 1928, currently serves as Roanoke City Public Schools’ Central Administration Offices and will be renamed the Booker T. Washington Community Empowerment & Education Center in 2025
- A smaller auxiliary building 20 feet to the east, which was built in 1937 as a Career & Technical Education trades building
- A circa-1960s annex gymnasium 56 feet to the west, across a courtyard commons from the main building

The driveway to the building begins on Douglass Avenue, to the west of the gym, and continues around the south side of the main building through two small parking lots. A row of parking spaces on Douglass Avenue is also located along the north sides of the buildings. South of the buildings is a wedge-shaped grassy lawn with a few trees. The property is located in Northwest Roanoke. The local neighborhood bounds the property to the north; an offramp of Interstate 581 is located at east and southeast; Orange Avenue (US 11/460), which is a major thoroughfare, is located to the south; and Burrell Street NW is located to the west.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Georgian Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Edward Frye of Frye & Stone

If the builder is known, please list here: T. J. Davis Building Construction

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1928, 1937, ca. 1960s

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The original Lucy Addison High School is a three-story rectangle with slightly projecting end pavilions, and a well-matched roughly square-plan (63 x 72-foot) two-story gymnasium projecting off the rear, north corner.

The main block footprint measures 142 feet on its north-south axis, and 58 feet deep at its center. The overall building's foundation is parged with concrete, the exterior walls are brick laid in Flemish variant bond, and the roof is flat with a surrounding parapet. Encircling the building at the base of the parapet is a molded stone cornice. The facade is highly symmetrical as per the Georgian Revival style.

Between the two end pavilions is a flat wall with six banks of four windows, two banks per floor. The pavilions are decorated in identical fashion with corner quoins and round-arch and pilaster reliefs at the center, all of brick, although cast-stone belt courses are at the base of the pilasters. Centered on each pavilion above the cornice are rectangular cast-stone relief panels featuring classical motifs set within a molded frame. Each pavilion has a slightly inset wall surface on the inside flank that incorporates a formal entrance with three windows above, all surrounded by a projecting stone post-and-beam motif topped by a classical cornice and pent roof. Surmounting each entrance are triple-hung windows with 15 panes per sash, surrounded by a brick border with stone corner blocks. Several feet above these two windows are three-dimensional cast-stone panels with swags and other symbolic motifs in relief.

The interior of the old Lucy Addison High School still contains its original floors within the hallways, though there is now carpeting in most of the offices. Most of the interior doors appear to be original to the building: thick, heavy wood doors, many with traditional windowpanes. The main staircase floors and stairwell railing appear to be original, too. The building is in overall good condition.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- An auxiliary structure that once served as a Career & Technical Education (trades/industrial arts) building is located 20 feet east of the main school building. It was constructed in 1937-1938 and includes a brick exterior laid in a five-course Flemish variant bond, a flat roof with a parapet, large steel-

frame windows, and without any notable decorative embellishments. The building footprint measures 60 feet (east-west) by 40 feet. The building is in “okay” condition.

- An annex gymnasium that includes classrooms on the first (ground level) floor. This was estimated to have been built in the 1960s. It is located an estimated 55 feet west of the high school building. It is a two-story modernist building with a brick veneer, banks of narrow hopper windows set within curtain walls, and a flat roof. The main entrance, on the east elevation in a lower, one-story section of the building, has a projecting surround of concrete and several steel and glass doors. The building footprint measures 150 feet (east-west) by 78 feet, including the lower sections on the east and west ends of the central main block. The building is in good condition.

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Lucy Addison High School was built in 1928 as an all-Black high school and was the City of Roanoke's very first public building to be named after a citizen. The school's namesake, Lucy Addison, was a pioneering Black educator who served 41 years in Roanoke City Public Schools and is credited with opening the Harrison School, which was Roanoke's first Black high school. It is believed that Ms. Addison was one of the school division's longest-serving teachers, if not the longest, by the time she retired in 1927.

An auxiliary industrial arts building opened on the property in 1937-1938 for students taking trades-related classes. These types of classes are now known as Career & Technical Education (CTE). The auxiliary building was constructed by these students, who learned as they worked. The project was estimated to cost \$7,000 and included a machine shop and garage. Later, likely in the 1960s, a separate annex gymnasium was constructed. When Lucy Addison High School was originally built, the main building included a gym, which was later removed/renovated into a Media Center.

A new Lucy Addison High School was built in the 1950s on 5th Street NW, and the original Lucy Addison High School reopened as Booker T. Washington Junior High School in 1952. Both schools remained all-Black schools. Following integration, Booker T. Washington Junior High School closed, and the building was repurposed into a Central Administration Building in 1971. The new Lucy Addison High School integrated and later turned into Lucy Addison Middle School, which still operates today. The original Lucy Addison High School has remained Roanoke City Public Schools' Central Administration building. RCPS' Central Administration is in the process of moving to downtown Roanoke, and the building will re-open as the Booker T. Washington Community Empowerment & Education Center (CEEC) in 2025. The CEEC will serve as a welcome center for students new to Roanoke City Public Schools, including adult education classes and family empowerment and education workshops, and will host community services and resources. It will also honor the building's rich history and include a dedicated gallery for historical artifacts and information.

When Lucy Addison High School officially opened in 1929, it was large enough to house 570+ students in grades 6-12. It cost \$181,878 to construct. The building included classrooms for home economics, manual arts, and general sciences, and included a combined gymnasium/auditorium. It was a significant investment by the City of Roanoke's leaders, who recognized that education was vital to the city's growth and that high-quality education was something that all of the city's youngest citizens should receive. At the school's opening, The Roanoke World-News wrote that "we have set a standard of construction and arrangement that places Roanoke among the leading cities of the State in the provision made for the high school training of its Negro youth."

Now, 96 years later, Roanoke City Public Schools has not only integrated its schools but celebrates its beautifully rich diversity. The core values of the school system — providing students with what they need to succeed — remain remarkably similar across the decades. The World-News story from 1929 went on to state that "in building the city of the future, the right training of our young people is perhaps the most important single factor." In 2024, RCPS' current Superintendent, Dr. Verletta White, regularly says that we must graduate students with "both a diploma and a resume of rich skills and experiences that will benefit them a lifetime."

As we approach the school's 100th anniversary, the building is now about to embark on its fourth life: as a Community Empowerment & Education Center, which will act as a welcome center for families new to Roanoke, including immigrants and refugees; provide a space for community partners to provide services, such

as medical and mental health services, financial empowerment classes, and more; and include adult education and family empowerment classes. As RCPS prepares to launch this new center, the entire premise of which is based upon honoring the contributions of the community and working together to build a stronger future, it is vital to preserve the building's original history. By placing Lucy Addison High School on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, we are honoring the contributions of the educators and leaders who came before us to pave the way for the future.

Sources:

- City of Roanoke GIS and Tax records
- Pulice, Michael. Reconnaissance-level architectural survey, June 2023.
- Historical records found in Roanoke Library's Virginia Room, including:
 - Barnes, Raymond P. *A History of the City of Roanoke*. Commonwealth Press, 1968.
 - *Roanoke World News*

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: _____ Public\Local X Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: City of Roanoke/Roanoke City School Board
organization: City of Roanoke/Roanoke City School Board
street & number: 40 Douglass Ave. NW
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24179
e-mail: info@rcps.info telephone: (540) 853-2816

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 11/12/2024

• • *Signature required for processing all applications.* • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: N/A
Daytime Telephone: N/A

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)


name/title: Claire Mitzel, Director of Communications & Public Relations
organization: Roanoke City Public Schools
street & number: 40 Douglass Ave. NW
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24179
e-mail: cmitzel@rcps.info telephone: (540) 853-6164
Date: Nov. 12, 2024

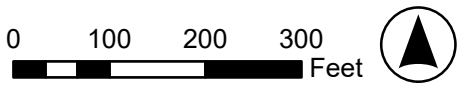
PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



LOCATION MAP

Lucy Addison High School
City of Roanoke, VA
DHR ID# 128-6480


 Proposed Boundary

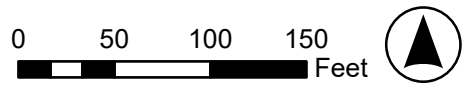




LOCATION MAP

Lucy Addison High School
City of Roanoke, VA
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 Proposed Boundary









DRUIS











MAIN ENTRANCE

ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS A





DING

2



SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION BUILDING

2































AIRBORNE
EXPRESS
DROP OFF /
PICK UP

↓ Mail Room ↓



























NO FOOD
OR
DRINK
ALLOWED
IN
GYM!

NO FOOD
OR
DRINK
ALLOWED
IN
GYM!

DEFIBRILLATOR



PHILIPS



TRAINED RESPONDERS ONLY

ALARM WILL SOUND

