

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Old Forest Avenue High School

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Madison, James, High School; Phase IV-East Dallas DAL/DA 49

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 3000 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas

VICINITY: N/A

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Dallas

CODE: 113

ZIP CODE: 75214

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Carlis J. J. J. J.

Signature of certifying official

14 Feb. 1995

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

3-23-95

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of East and South
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION: School

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION: School

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Italian
Renaissance

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Concrete
WALLS Brick
ROOF Asphalt
OTHER Concrete; Glass

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

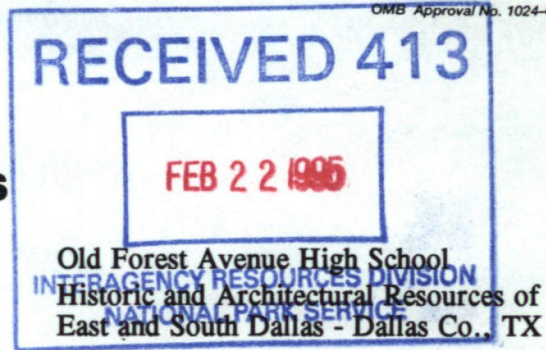
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Description

The Old Forest Avenue High School (1916), at 3000 Martin Luther King Boulevard, is a massive 3-story institutional building that displays Italian Renaissance architectural features. With a rectangular plan, the building has brick exterior walls and a flat roof. The Palladian-like facade is distinguished by a large central bay that rises one-half story above the rest of the building. The school is in a mostly residential neighborhood that includes domestic buildings erected in the 1910s and 1920s, and it encompasses an entire city block in the Winchester Place Addition. The school is in good condition and is still used for educational purposes. The only nonhistoric alterations include 1949-50 rear additions and the installation of tinted-glass windows. The addition is relatively unobtrusive, and uses bricks that are similar in color to those on the original building. The windows, on the other hand, are an obtrusive element and detract from the building's overall historic character and

Like most buildings in South Dallas, the Old Forest Avenue High School is built on relatively level terrain, although the building is on a grade that is slightly higher than that at the street level. This topographical feature was exploited by the original architects who used it to prominently site the building. The two front entrances, with their concrete steps and solid brick balustrade, are an indication of the architect's desire for grandeur. Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly Forest Avenue), which extends in front of the building, is lined with oak trees that are a significant landscaping feature. Concrete lots are to the southwest and southeast of the building. A football and band practice field are behind the building.

According to Sanborn maps, the Old Forest Avenue High School is built of reinforced concrete that is faced with brick. The school has a half basement that, together with the siting and architectural detailing, reinforces a sense of importance and grandness to the building, especially on the facade (northwest elevation). The front of the building, which faces onto Martin Luther King Boulevard, has a 5-part Palladian-like arrangement with slightly projecting bays at the ends and in the center. The focus of the facade is the central bay, which is both larger and detailed more elaborately than the rest of the building. The central bay, which has cast-stone quoins, has two entrances, both of which are framed with attached, cast-stone, Doric columns that support classically inspired entablatures. The second floor has five window openings and each has cast-stone surrounds and decorative balustrades. The outer windows have cast-stone broken pediments. Although the third-floor windows are unadorned, the roof line is distinguished by a cornice and balustrade. The quoins, cornice, and roofline balustrade are echoed on the side bays of the facade. Otherwise, the building is simply detailed.

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Rear additions, built in 1949-50, feature similar scale and materials and, though less than 50 years old, do not adversely detract from the building's overall historic integrity. The additions include more classroom space and gymnasiums.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☐ **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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1916

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1916

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Ittner, W.P. (architect)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-8).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see Section I).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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 #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- ☒ State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Historic and Architectural Resources of
East and South Dallas - Dallas Co., TX

Significance

The Old Forest Avenue High School (1916), constructed to serve the needs of South Dallas' burgeoning suburban communities in the first decades of the 20th century, is an excellent local example of the Italian Renaissance style and is nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level. In addition, it is associated with the historic context, The Development of East and South Dallas: 1872-1945. Built on the site of the Rapid Transit Railway barn, the 3-story brick school building served the growing suburban community fostered by the construction of streetcar line through former South Dallas farmlands. Its impressive presence on Forest Avenue (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.), relatively unaltered exterior and Italian Renaissance architectural features combine to make Forest Avenue High School a notable South Dallas landmark worthy of recognition.

Dallas' tremendous population increase in the post-depression years following the turn of the century so strained the existing school facilities that school officials began to project physical plant needs for the decades to come. In 1914 it was estimated that Dallas' high school population would increase from a projected 2,801 in 1915 to 8,902 by 1925. Suburban settlement patterns prompted the Dallas School Board president to recommend that sites in the Oak Cliff and South Dallas areas be secured for "a high school building of the standard capacity [to] be forthwith constructed, furnished and installed..." (Schiebel, 1966:56). On July 21, 1915, a building permit was issued for the new high school, which opened for classes in 1916 and held its first graduation ceremony the following year (Schiebel, 1966). The school served the established suburban communities of the Colonial Hill and South Park additions, to the west and south, and the new, prestigious Edgewood Addition (1912) that was being developed in the 2300-2700 blocks of Forest Avenue, South Blvd. and Park Row, to the northwest.

Although E. B. Cauthorn was the first principal of Forest High School, Wylie Parker, who headed the school from 1916 to 1941, is best known and well-remembered by the hundreds of students who passed through the first quarter-century at Forest Avenue High School (Dallas Public Library, vertical files). After World War II, school officials and county taxpayers approved a plan to expand the physical plant at Forest Avenue High and in 1949 construction began on a Junior High School addition, which was a new concept for Dallas. Forest Avenue High School was to be improved so that South Dallas would have "practically a new plant," according to Dr. David W. Carter, president of the school board (Dallas Morning News, November 17, 1949). Alterations to the original exterior of the building were minimal and do not compromise the building's integrity.

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While there was a great influx of people to South Dallas during the post-World War II years, it was concentrated in the growing African-American community south of Warren Avenue and eventually it began to have an effect on the surrounding white additions of South Park, lower Colonial Hill, and eventually to the Edgewood Addition. By 1956, Forest Avenue High School was "discontinued as a white high school", as was Silberstein Elementary (now Charles B. Rice School), three years earlier. Some of the Forest Avenue High School alumni and members of the Dad's Club of the Parent Teacher Association petitioned the school board to discontinue the school name, colors, and emblem, as well, so that they would not be associated with a "Negro" school. The school board complied with their wishes and the school was renamed James Madison High School (Dallas Times Herald, June 22, 1956). Board president, Dr. Edwin L. Rippy, said that public opinion in the area was the deciding influence in the matter (Times Herald June, 21, 1956). Ironically, when students and parents requested a second name change in the 1970s to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, the Dallas school trustees refused their request and explained that they didn't rename schools at the pleasure of the public.

The first principal of James Madison High School was Dr. Thomas Tolbert, a man noted for his community involvement who still resides in the area on South Boulevard. Even though Dallas schools officially desegregated in the 1960s, James Madison High School's student body is overwhelmingly of African American descent. The Old Forest Avenue High School, one of Dallas' oldest surviving high school buildings, is an outstanding and well-maintained example of Italian Renaissance architecture, and retains its original features to a remarkable degree. It is a prominent landmark in a predominantly residential neighborhood that is comprised of houses built in the 1910s and 1920s. Further, the school is a testament to Dallas' suburban expansion and changing demographic composition in the first half of the 20th-century.

The Italian Renaissance style was a little-used architectural style in Dallas during the early 20th century, and still fewer examples have survived. The Old Forest Avenue High School is an outstanding local example of the Italian Renaissance style, and it retains its historic integrity to a high degree. While many of Dallas' other historic schools have been changed considerably since their original construction, the Old Forest Avenue High School is noteworthy for its lack of substantial changes. The 1949-50 additions are compatible to the original design and their placement to the rear have helped to preserve the building's overall historic character.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 3.4 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	709380	3627940	3	##	#####
2	##	#####	#####	4	##	#####

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Winchester Place, Block: all of 12/1362, Lot: all

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Nomination includes all property historically associated with the resource.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Dwayne Jones, THC)

NAME/TITLE: Daniel Hardy/Terri Myers

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore **DATE:** 7/91; 9/94

STREET & NUMBER: 2112 Rio Grande Street **TELEPHONE:** (512) 478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78705

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Dallas Independent School District

STREET & NUMBER 3700 Ross Avenue **TELEPHONE** N/A

CITY OR TOWN Dallas **STATE** TX **ZIP CODE** 75204

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Forest Avenue High School, Old
NAME:

MULTIPLE East and South Dallas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 2/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/07/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/23/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/08/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000318

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3.23.95 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



OLD FOREST AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL
3000 MARTIN LUTHER KING
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 12 of 69

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500635