Stratford School: Historical Highlights
Historic Overview of Stratford

Historical & Cultural Significance:

- Designated an Arlington Historic District (June 2016).
- Nationally significant as the first integrated public school in Virginia. Integration occurred on February 2, 1959, ending Virginia’s policy of “massive resistance.”

Architectural Significance:

- Locally significant as the County’s finest example of International Style architecture as applied to a school.
  - Built in 1950.
  - Designed by Architect Rhees Burket, Sr., architect for 4 schools in Arlington.
  - Burket was a highly regarded expert in modern school construction and was a prolific architect in our region. Stratford is the purest and best example of his work.
8 of 11 criteria met for Stratford Historic District Designation

- Highlights local history, architecture, individuals, as well as broader historical and cultural events.
Designation Criterion A

The property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
Designation Criterion A
Designation Criterion B

The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the country, state, or nation.
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African American Population in comparison to Overall Population

- **Overall Population**
- **African American Population**
Designation Criterion B

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African American Population

- African American Population

[Graph showing African American population growth from 1890 to 1960]
Designation Criterion C

The property was the site of a significant local, state, or national event.
1957 Stratford Integration Attempt
1959 Integration
1959 Integration of Stratford
Ruby Bridges, 1960
Designation Criterion D

The property is associated with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state, or nation.

To integrate ... M. Jones, G. Thompson, L. Newman, R. Deskins.
Designation Criterion D
The property embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, or method of construction.
Designation Criterion E

New modern science labs, gymnasiums, and library facilities.
Designation Criterion G

The property embodies the elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that renders it structurally or architecturally significant.
Designation Criterion H

The property has a distinctive location, or singular physical characteristic that makes it an established or familiar visual feature.
Designation Criterion K

The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.
Discussion