HISTORIC DESIGNATION OVERVIEW
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC LISTINGS

• National Register For Historic Places
  Criteria A - Association with an historic event
  Criteria C - Embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type

• Virginia Landmarks Register

• Currently Nominated For Listing As A Local Historic District
• Opportunity both to preserve a historically important public school building while still allowing APS to meet its educational and programming needs.

• Local historic designation of Stratford should be used as a teaching tool so that all our citizens can understand, reflect upon, and respect what those four brave students experienced and viewed on that monumental day in February 1959 as they entered Stratford for the first time and made local, state, and national history.
MOU OVERVIEW

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION PROCESS

Arlington resident or organization requests the County consider a building or site for historic district designation then:

1. APS and local civic associations notified.
2. HALRB reviews the nomination.
3. APS staff meet with HALRB.
4. HALRB prepares a report that outlines the history, historical context, significance, historic associations, and any important events or persons associated with the subject of the request.
5. HALRB recommends to proceed or not to proceed.
6. Report and recommendation is shared with APS school board for review.
7. APS will analyze the report to determine effects of the local designation on future use of the school.
8. School Board will determine to support, not support or support conditionally the designation.
9. APS meets with HALRB to share School Board action.
10. APS and HALRB work together to develop specific design guidelines for exterior features.
11. HALRB will schedule a meeting to review all material to date.
12. HALRB will vote on whether to recommend for local historic district status.
13. All information will be shared with the Planning Commission.
14. HALRB will consider any Planning Commission modifications.
15. HALRB will provide recommendation to County Board for final decision.
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
SITE OVERVIEW

SITE FEATURES

- Existing Historic School Building
- Bus Loop and Entrance
- Multipurpose Field
- Parking
- DPR Stratford Park property
PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:
1950 (original design & construction)
1959 (integration)

Virginia Landmarks Register (2003)
HISTORIC CHARACTER

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Relationship of building with topography
Massing of flat-roofed rectilinear blocks

Expression of functional elements:
   Media Center / Main Entry
   Auditorium / Events Entry
   Classroom block
   Gymnasium block
   Stone stair towers

Fenestration
   Horizontal window bands
   Repeating window forms
   Glass block elements

Material Palette
   Brick masonry and ashlar stone
   Limestone and limestone trim
   Metal framed windows and glass block
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
FIRST INTEGRATED PUBLIC SCHOOL IN VIRGINIA

• On February 2, 1959 Stratford Junior High was the first public school to integrate in Virginia with the admission of four African American students.

• Despite the landmark decision of Brown v Board of Education passing in 1954, it was not until an order from a federal judge in 1959 that Stratford complied.

Image Credit: Associated Press
ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

- 2005 Music Addition
- 1995 North Addition
- 1995 South Addition
MAKING A SCHOOL
ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING DEFICIENCIES

- Insufficient main entry
- No “heart of School”
- “Underground” spaces
- Size and location of Media Center
- Size of gym
- Size of cafeteria
- Isolated location of arts and music classrooms
ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEW ADDITION

- Retain use of main entry and site features for bus drop-off
- Create “heart of school” in addition
- Find compatible uses for underground spaces (non-classroom, concern over creating more underground spaces in Terrace Option)
- Provide new Media Center and repurpose existing
- Add Auxiliary Gym for 1,000 seats
- Relocate teacher lunchroom(s) to expand cafeteria capacity for students
- Link basement level to addition in both Terrace and Link Options
6/03 HALRB WORK SESSION

Prototype for Link

Prototype for Terrace

HALRB Preferred

Prototype for Hill
7/15 HALRB WORK SESSION
Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, #9:

“New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.”

HALRB Historic District Design Guidelines

“The integrity of the historic building design is dependent upon preserving these intact [original 1950] facades as much as possible.”
“Areas in red is where new construction should not occur. Area in yellow is where design and construction of building additions is particularly sensitive. While site and landscape improvements in these areas is encouraged, additions should be limited to arrangements which don’t completely obscure views between the core of the historic school building and the adjacent streets and playing field.”
BLPC PREFERRED SCHEMES

SITE OPTION C2 / “TERRACE” BUILDING
BLPC PREFERRED SCHEMES
SITE OPTION C3 / “LINK” BUILDING
APS STAFF RECOMMENDATION
DEFER ACTION ON SUPPORT OF LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION