

City of Raleigh
P.O. Box 510
H.C. INC 27602

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REGISTRATION

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KENNETH W. HARRIS
REGISTER OF DEEDS
WAKE COUNTY

ORDINANCE NO. (1988) 186

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING MURPHEY SCHOOL, 443 NORTH PERSON STREET IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Properties Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of June, 1988 a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, by the City Council of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1. The property designated as Murphey School, in the planning jurisdiction of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Property. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

Murphey School, 443 North Person Street, and the land comprising former lot number six that the building was historically situated on.

Section 2. Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, architectural, archaeological significance, or any combination thereof are as follows:

Murphey School is the site of the first public school integration in Raleigh, on September 6, 1960 and, as such, it has an important place in the history of the civil rights movement here as well as in North Carolina in general.

BK4320160408

Murphey School is the oldest public school building in Raleigh and the oldest continuously occupied school site in the city.

Murphey School was designed by architect James Matthew Kennedy and built in 1916, and is only one of two public buildings in Raleigh that can be wholly attributed to Kennedy's designs. The school is clearly representative, in its form and finish, of typical school design and building practice of the early 20th century; it is one of but a few of this type remaining in Raleigh.

The school was named for state senator Archibald DeBow Murphey (1812-1818), the State's earliest advocate of public schools and educational reform.

Section 3. No building or structure that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinabove described site may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or its successors.

Section 4. No building or structure which is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinabove described site may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or a period of one hundred eighty (180) days has elapsed following final review by the Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period of time required by N.C.G.S. 160-399.6 as it may be amended hereinafter).

Section 5. That all owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

Section 7. City administration and the Historic Properties Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic property by action of the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Historic Properties Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

BK432060410

Section 8. In the event any building or structure is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

Section 9. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Adopted: 6/21/88

Effective: 6/21/88

Distribution: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Planning Department (2)
Inspections Department (3)
Historic Properties Commission
Wake County Tax Supervisor
Property Owner and/or Occupant
Registrar of Deeds

BK 4320760411



City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF WAKE)

I, Brenda N. Anderson, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of Ordinance No. (1988) 186 adopted by the Raleigh City Council on June 21, 1988.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 15th day of July, 1988.



Brenda N. Anderson
Brenda N. Anderson
Deputy City Clerk

RALEIGH HISTORIC PROPERTIES

APPLICATION

I. General Information

Address of property to be designated as Raleigh Historic Property

Murphey School

443 North Person Street, Raleigh

Name of Applicant and address

Raleigh Historic Properties Commission

Telephone 832-7238

OR

311 S. Blount Street, P. O. Box 829, Century Station 832-1837

Raleigh, N. C. 27602

Owner of property and address

State of North Carolina

Telephone _____

c/o State Property Office, Department of Administration

116 W. Jones Street

Raleigh, N. C. 27611

Classification:

Building Structure Site Object

Ownership:

Public Private Both

Status:

Occupied Unoccupied Work in progress

Accessible:

Yes, restricted Yes, unrestricted No

Present use:

Commercial Museum Residential Other

Location of legal description:

Courthouse Registry of Deeds Other

(Give specific address if outside Wake County)

Map #524 Block #698, Lot #6

Part II. Significance of Property

Period: 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699

1700-1799 1800-1899 1900 to present

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

Part III. Basis for request of site designation (check one)

Historical (attach additional sheets as necessary)
Describe the property as it existed at the time of historical event. How it now exist, if different, and how, if at all, it might have been altered.

See page #6.

— Architectural (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Describe briefly, but fully, in a factual, straight forward fashion. Begin with the overall form, and then describe primary features common throughout the building. Then describe main facade, then other sides, extensions, alterations, and additions. Then go inside, describe the predominant floor plan, and introduce the overall character of interior, general characteristics of interior finish, general alterations. Then as appropriate, describe features of individual rooms or sections. If you have learned the original function of specific rooms, outbuildings, etc. note these as well as the physical appearance.

Murphey School is a classically inspired school building constructed in 1916. The three-story brick building is tripartite in nature with the end blocks projecting from the central core. All fenestration is contained in horizontal bands in the central core. The main entrance projects in a center pavilion with the door recessed and surrounded by an entablature with pilasters and corbels. The whole is surmounted by a shield cartouche framed with simple, heavy mantling featuring two cornucopia. The brick facade is softened by belt courses of concrete at the watertable and yellow brick beneath the cornice of the main block, and by a simple square design of yellow brick on each projecting block.

The brick auditorium wing facing Polk Street, added in 1927, is a simple structure with a three bay facade beneath an elevated pedimented portico of four Tuscan columns.

The building is a good representation of the substantial architecture of the early 20th century growth and improvement period of North Carolina public education and is one of the few examples remaining in Raleigh of this once common academic style.

Part IV. Physical/Geographical description of site

Kindly provide a boundary description with sketch map showing measurements and other landmarks as well as you can. You do not have to get a surveyor to do this. The thing to remember is that the boundaries should be clear, defensible and reasonable. Also, you should try to find out how the people happened to build the place in this way and the influences that shaped the decision and execution.

Description of Surrounding Land Area and Use

Murphey School is located at the southwest corner of Polk Street and North Person Street. It is within the boundaries of the locally designated Blount Street Historic District (1976), and immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Oakwood Historic District (N.R.: 1974; Local Designation: 1975). Fronting Murphey School to the east along North Person Street are residences, generally 2 to 2½ stories, and primarily in single family or apartment use. On the north, across Polk Street, is a state government owned asphalt parking lot. To the west is surface parking located in the rear yards of North Blount Street's Capehart-Crocker and Lee Houses, which are used for state government offices. South of Murphey School is another surface parking lot.

For maps, see pages #8 and #9.

Part V. Documentation

The following items must accompany this request:

Photographs

Citations for Deed Recording

Earliest listing in City Registry

**Evidence of original construction date and original owner, e.g.,
Deeds of Trust, family Bible, Sanborn Insurance Maps, publications,
personal mementoes.**

For further information and/or assistance contact:

**Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, Inc.
1 Mimosa Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604**

Historical Significance:

1. Murphey School was the site of the first public school integration in Raleigh, on September 6, 1960. As the capital of a southern state, this integration episode is enormously significant in the history of the civil rights movement in the state and the South.¹
2. The building is the oldest remaining public school building in Raleigh and the oldest continuously occupied school site in the city. The original building was constructed in 1887 as the second school in Raleigh, preceded only by the Centennial School, now destroyed, which stood on the site now occupied by Memorial Auditorium. The original building burned in late 1915 or early 1916, to be replaced by the current structure.

Murphey School was built by private citizens and later sold to the city of Raleigh. It was built at a time when Raleigh was expanding not only in area but also in population. But it was also a time in which the city lacked the funds to enlarge the physical plant of its educational system. Murphey School may be one of only two schools in Raleigh (the other being in Boylan Heights) which were brought into existence by private citizens and not conceived and constructed by the local school system. The present building on the site was constructed of reinforced concrete and using outside fire escapes as one of the first fire-proof public buildings in city as a direct result of demands by local citizens for safer construction methods.²

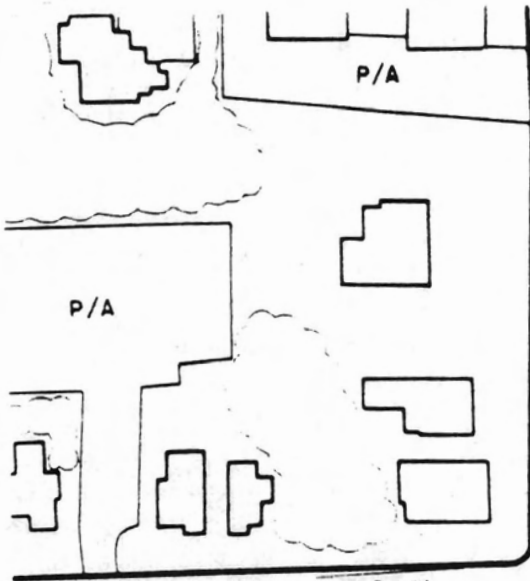
3. Murphey School was designed by architect James Matthew Kennedy (July 21, 1880-July 10, 1948). A Wayne County native, he graduated from N. C. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now N.C.S.U.) in 1903. His early career was centered around the railroad industry. A 1910 Raleigh Chamber of Commerce report entitled "Raleigh Illustrated" states he was the assistant building superintendent of the Atlantic Coast Line from Richmond to Savannah and shortly thereafter the architect for the Norfolk and Southern Line. He maintained a private practice in Raleigh from about 1908 to 1945 and designed a number of private dwellings, particularly in the Mission and Neo-Classical Revival styles. His most notable public buildings were the Mission style Raleigh Womans Club (now destroyed), the City Market, Murphey School and the renovation of Tabernacle Baptist Church on Moore Square. He came to be considered an authority on public school construction and from 1933 until his death, was architectural inspector for the Federal Housing Authority.

Murphey School is thus one of only two public buildings in Raleigh which can be wholly attributed to Kennedy's designs.³

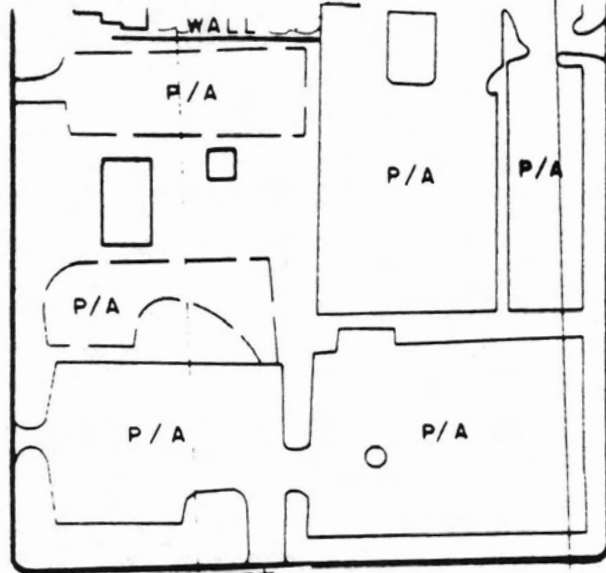
4. The school was named for Archibald DeBow Murphey (1777-1832), of Caswell County, who has been called the "genius, leader and mouthpiece of the progressive reform movement in North Carolina after 1815 . . ." As State Senator from Orange County from 1812 to 1818, he proposed a series of broad programs for the improvement of the state which included a state system of public education. He thus became the State's earliest advocate of public schools and educational reform.⁴

Notes:

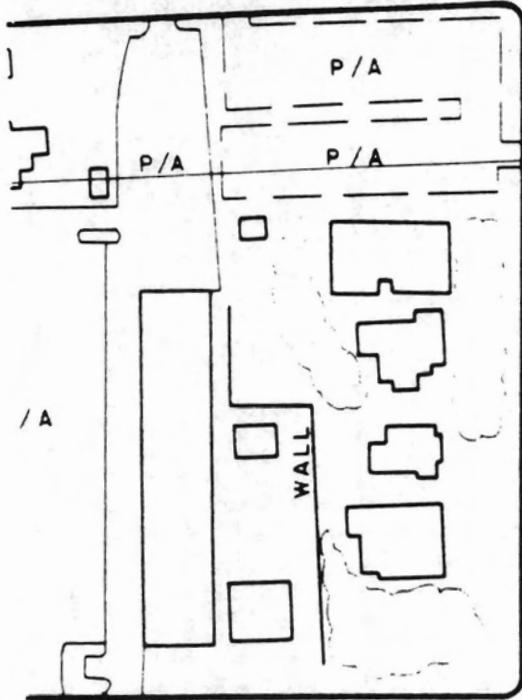
1. Raleigh News and Observer: Sept. 10, 1960, p. 18; Sept. 13, 1960, p. 15; Sept. 28, 1960, p. 22; Nov. 9, 1960, p. 3; Dec. 7, 1960, p. 26.
2. Raleigh Times: July 31, 1916, p. 8, Olds, Fred, "A Close Look at Raleigh;" Sept. 2, 1916, p. 8, Olds, Fred, "Raleigh's Building Activities for Year Total More Than \$1,000,000.00."
Raleigh News and Observer: Aug. 13, 1905, p. 24, Moses, Edward P., "Raleigh Schools;" Aug. 9, 1914, "Education Supplement."
Brown, Dr. Charlotte V., "Early Twentieth Century Raleigh Neighborhoods." National Register of Historic Places, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Cultural Resources, State of North Carolina, Item number 8 continuation sheet, p. 5.
Harris, Linda L. and Lee, Mary Ann, Raleigh Architectural Inventory. Raleigh City Planning Department and the Division of Archives and History, State of North Carolina, 1978.
3. Harris, Linda L. and Lee, Mary Ann, Raleigh Architectural Inventory. Raleigh City Planning Department and the Division of Archives and History, State of North Carolina, 1978.
Raleigh News and Observer: Obituary, July 11, 1948, p. 2.
4. Lefler, Hugh Talmadge, and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina, the History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill, 1973. The University of North Carolina Press.
Ashe, Samuel A. (ed.). Biographical History of North Carolina, Vol. IV. Greensboro, 1906. Charles L. Van Noppen. "Archibald De Bow Murphey", pp. 339-348.



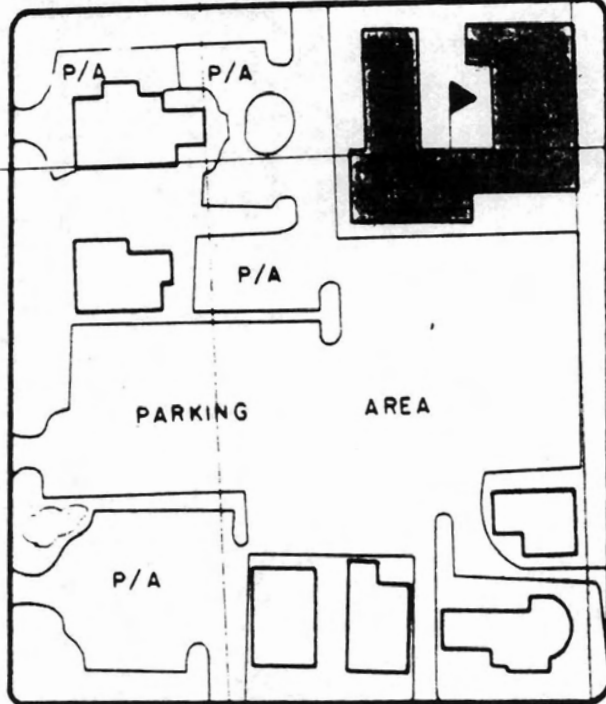
POLK



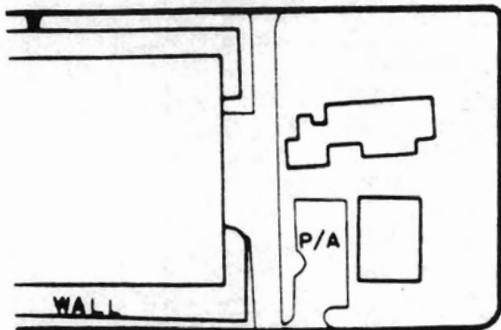
STREET



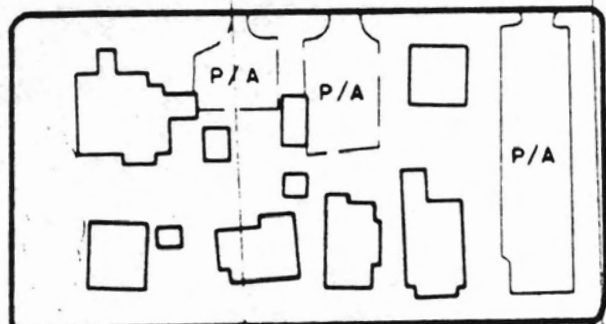
NORTH



STREET



SR 2299

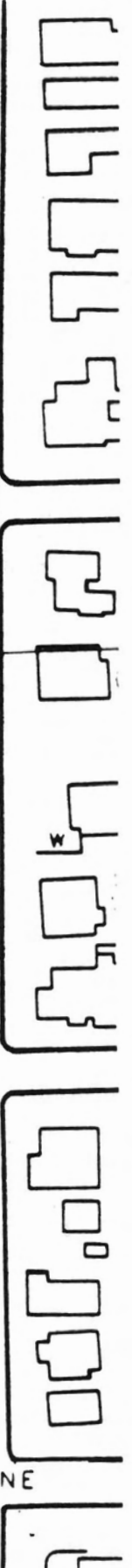


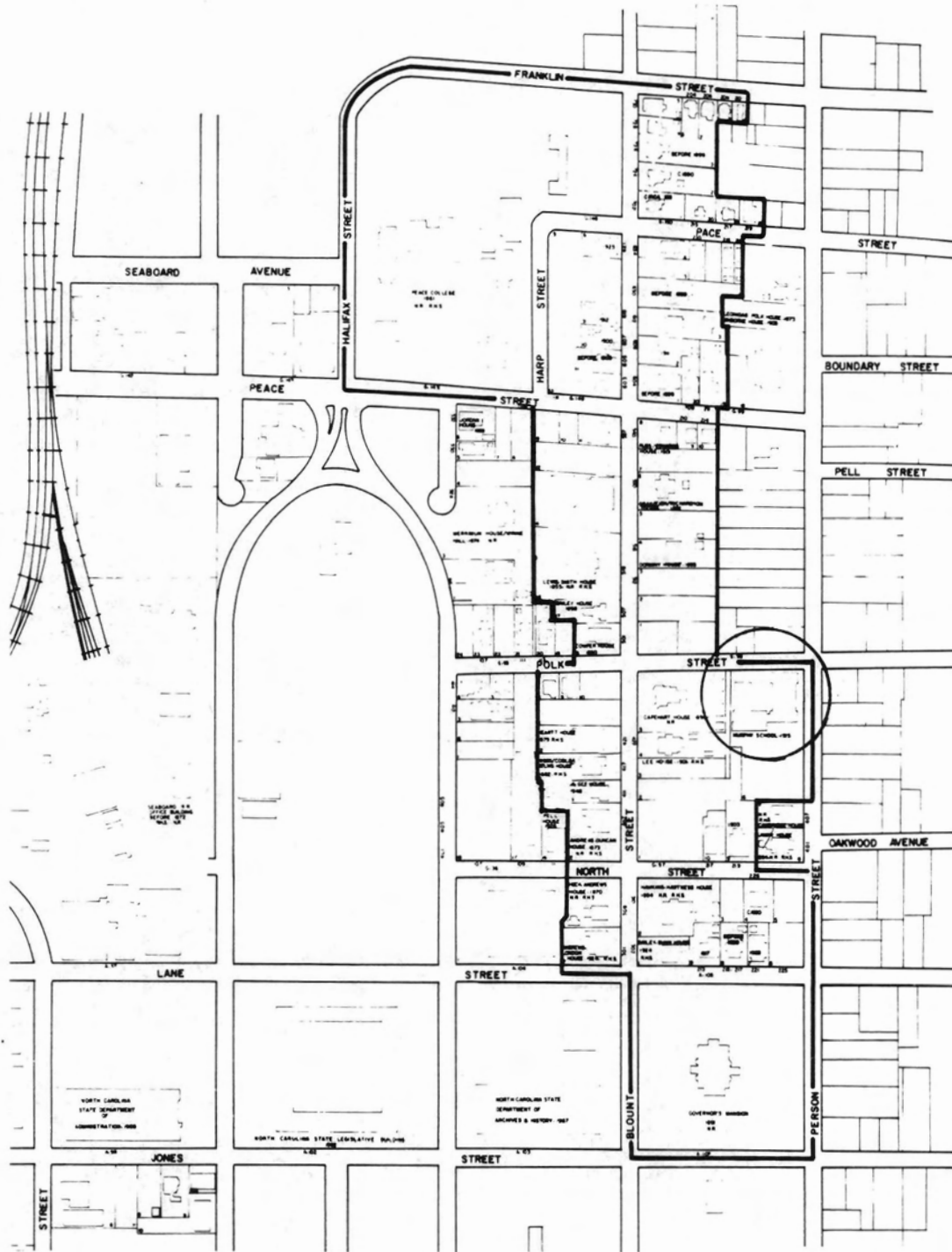
EAST

PERSON

NORTH

LANE

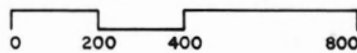




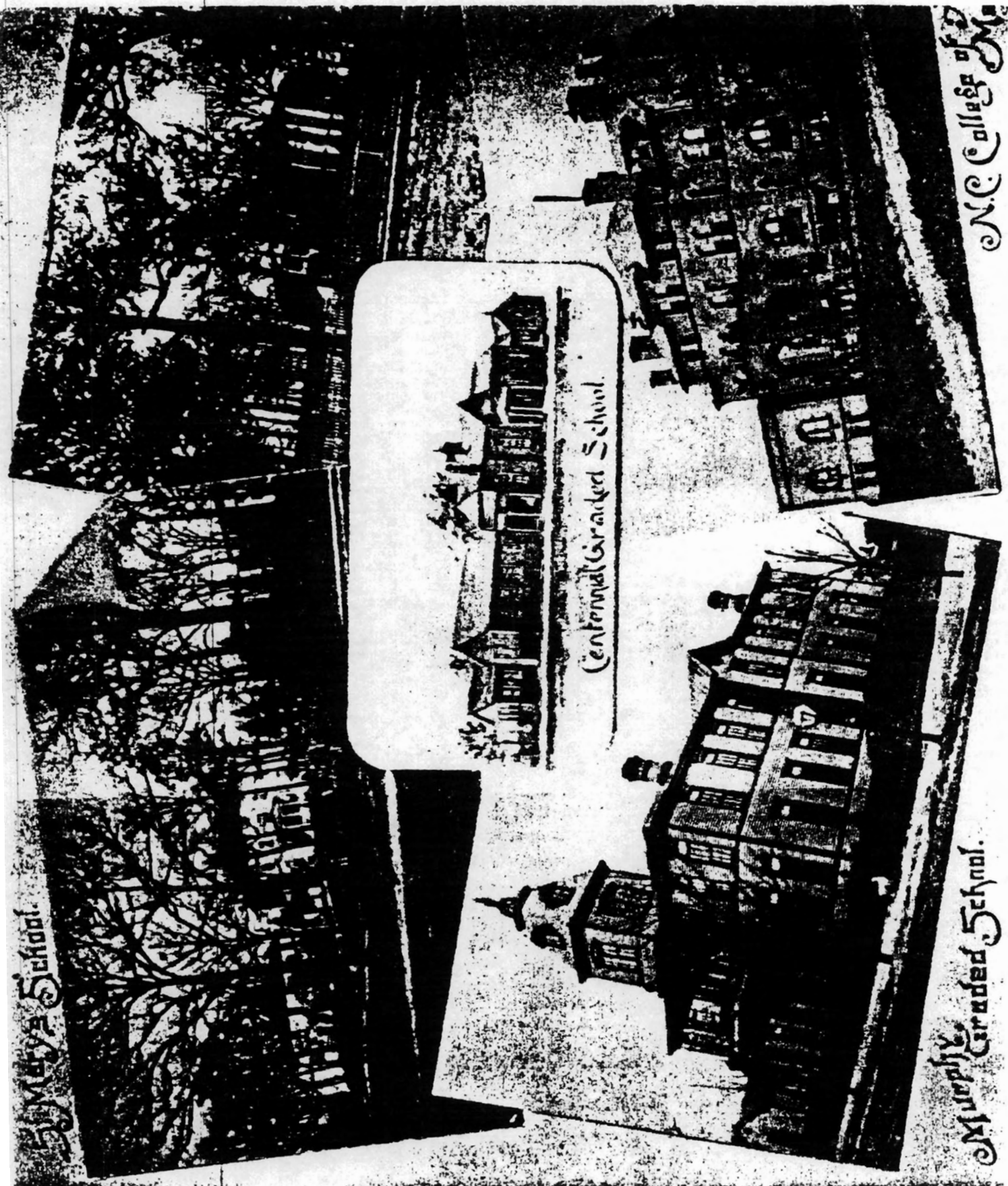
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BLOUNT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
 ESTABLISHED 1976



View of the original Murphey School
From: Raleigh, N. C. Photographs in Black, 1792-1892
Centennial Souvenir
printed 1891 (Edwards & Broughton?)



Murphey School.

Central Graded School.

Murphy Graded School.

N.C. College of M.

