

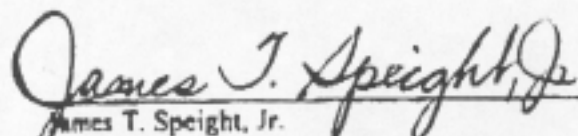
For many years the Military Road School served as the only school available to African-American students in a large area of upper Northwest. Oral testimony also documents that the School served as a symbolic social and community center for residents in the area. With public school desegregation, it was closed in 1954, and it has been used for various public and education activities since that time.

#### *Designation*

The Review Board hereby designates the Military Road School and its site as a historic landmark in the D.C. Inventory, and recommends its nomination to the National Register, for the following reasons:

- Built on the site of one of the city's first public schools built for freedmen, the Military Road School retains its historical connection with the struggle by African-Americans to secure the benefits of public education (HPRB Criteria A1 and A2; National Register Criterion A);
- Situated under the view of Fort Stevens, on the old military transport road, and now adjacent to the greensward of park lands connecting the Civil War forts, the school records the historic presence of Washington's African-American refugee settlements and their interdependence with the military landscape (HPRB Criteria A1 and A2; NR Criterion A);
- Designed by the office of Municipal Architect, and reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts, the school was among the first of Washington's public school buildings to be produced under this newly instituted system of municipal design, thus reflecting the attempts to enhance the quality of public architecture throughout the city during the City Beautiful era (HPRB Criterion A3; NR Criterion C);
- The building is a fine representative example of a small neighborhood public school, which particularly reflects the influence of programmatic requirements on architectural design (HPRB Criterion A3; NR Criterion C);
- The building is a fine representative example the work of locally significant architect Snowden Ashford (HPRB Criterion A4; NR Criterion C); and,
- The property possesses sufficient integrity to convey the values and qualities for which it is judged significant, and sufficient time has passed since it was constructed to permit professional evaluation in its historic context (HPRB Criteria B and C; NR Criteria of Integrity).

In addition, the Review Board notes that the site may contain important archaeological evidence related to the original school occupying the site, although the likelihood of this evidence has not been evaluated; if present, such evidence could constitute an additional reason for designation (HPRB Criterion A5; NR Criterion D).

  
James T. Speight, Jr.  
Chairman

July 23, 1998