

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Burbank, Luther, School

Other names/site number Fisher, Dorothy, Magnet Middle School

2. Location

street & number 15600 E State Fair St. not for publication

city or town Detroit vicinity

State Michigan code MI county Wayne code 163 zip code 48203

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official	Date
<u>Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	<u>Michigan State Historic Preservation Office</u>
Title	State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official	Date
Title	State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:)	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- building(s)
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Public Schools of Detroit

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Metal

Terra cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Burbank Elementary School is located on the northeast side of Detroit approximately nine miles from downtown near the city's border with Eastpointe, Michigan. It is bounded by East State Fair Avenue, Rex Avenue, Tacoma Avenue, and Crusade Avenue, with its main entrance facing west toward Crusade Avenue. Burbank School is rich in classic Art Deco detailing with the use of molded and patterned brickwork, carved masonry, and ornamental terra cotta. The original, 1931 structure was expanded to the east, in 1943, to form a U-plan. A second floor was added to this single-story addition in 1946, and a one-story addition more than doubling its size was constructed to its east in 1992. This addition created a courtyard, completely enclosing the building's original boiler house (contributing) and thus obscuring it from view from the exterior.

Narrative Description

The first unit of Burbank School, a rectangular building, was completed in 1931. It received a major addition in 1944, resulting in a "U" shaped configuration with an open courtyard in the front. It contained more classrooms, two first floor kindergartens, and rooms for "manual training" and the "practical arts."¹ A third unit containing the gymnasium and auditorium was added to the rear of the second unit in 1948.

The exterior articulation of the front façade of the first unit is Art Deco in style. Designed by the Detroit architectural firm of Van Leyen, Schilling and Keogh in 1930, it belongs in a group of buildings from the same period by different architects with identical massing but different, mostly Art Deco designs. The exception, Bagley School, built in 1930, is in the Classical Revival Style. They are all two-story, U-shaped in footprint with the short end of the first or second units as the main façade. Their front façades are divided into five bays with a central entrance bay.

The brick-faced foundations of Burbank School have a molded, masonry water table that serves as a continuous sill below the first floor windows. Lintels above the first story windows between the pilasters are flat bands of masonry, similar in width to the continuous course of masonry comprising the lower part of the foundations.

Multi-shaded brown brick laid in textural patterns and smooth, light gray masonry provide stark color and texture contrasts. The bays flanking the entrance bay are divided by and recessed between piers of molded and rounded brick that provide a fluted appearance. These piers are capped with terra cotta, stylized Art Deco motifs resembling acanthus leaves and anthemias. On the first floor, the large window openings each contain a pair of multi-paned, steel windows. The second story has no openings but its two bays to each side of the entrance bay are ornamented with diaper patterned brickwork. The stories are separated by brick laid in a herringbone pattern, with a masonry bas-relief of rectangular shape, with clipped corners, decorated with plant-like, stylized, sinuous Art Deco forms centered in each spandrel. Above the piers is an entablature with cornice. Stretcher bond brick lines the bays above the cornice and below the coping.

The entrance bay steps out slightly from the main plane of the front façade. Its entrance arch is surrounded by smooth limestone blocks that step in three times towards the top. Within the stepped area is a nameplate bearing, in relief, the name of the school, "BURBANK SCHOOL," within a long rectangle with clipped corners. Below the name panel and to its sides is additional relief work, consisting of a small owl centered above the doorway, flanked by stylized Art Deco floral patterns. Each end is anchored by a griffin. Recessed over the entrance at second story level is a tall, multi-paned, steel framed window within a brick compound, round archway. Over its lintel of brick stretchers centered in the half-round arch is a colored tile "X" surrounded by diagonally laid bricks. Above the arched opening is brick laid in a herringbone pattern

¹ Detroit Board of Education 1950, 24.

Burbank School

Name of Property

Wayne, MI

County and State

between the flat brick piers that rise up from the stepped masonry surrounds of the arch below. Stone coping finishes the entire façade.

Two stories of eight similar steel-framed windows to those on the front façade are regularly arranged on the side elevation, with a secondary entrance vestibule at its east end. They are divided by flat piers and separated by floors with herringbone brickwork and stone forms, same as the front façade.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 values, 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1931 - 1949

Significant Dates

1931, 1944, 1948, 1949

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

VanLeyen, Schilling & Keogh

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance corresponds with the construction dates of the original unit and all subsequent units prior to 1960.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Burbank School is significant under National Register *Criterion C* at the local level as an excellent example of Art Deco design as applied to a Detroit public school with a "U"-shaped plan built during the Great Depression. Alterations and additions were built with the benefit of the Public Works Administration. Burbank School is also significant for its exterior stone relief work by Corrado Parducci.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Burbank school was established in 1930, in a temporary structure which was replaced by the current building in 1931, at a cost of \$130,253. The school was named for horticulturalist Luther Burbank (born 1849).

By 1938, Burbank was an eight-section platoon with 379 students through the eighth grade. Due to residential development in the surrounding area, a one story addition was opened in 1944, containing six more classrooms, a library, industrial arts and practical arts rooms, and a kindergarten, at a cost of \$85,530. The school was forced to operate half-day sessions prior to the construction of this addition, and again soon thereafter, in order to accommodate a growing population. Completed in 1948, a second story erected atop the earlier single-story addition added eight new classrooms, a music room, a speech room, a staff rest room, and a homemaking room, the latter among the first in the city to contain unit kitchens. In 1949, an auditorium and a health education room were added, costing \$587,184. The health education room contained folding tables built into the walls, enabling it to serve as a gymnasium and lunchroom.

In 1961, a junior high school was added to the formerly K-8 building, relieving Denby High School of its ninth grade. A large, one-story addition, more than doubling its size, was built in 1992, and a middle school, Heilmann, was built across the street to its west in 2002.

The relief work above the building's main entrance is the work of Corrado Parducci, and appears to have been carved *in situ*.² Parducci (1900-1981), an Italian American sculptor, resided and worked in Detroit from 1924 until the end of his career. His work, often combining elements of Classical and Art Deco design, adorns many notable Detroit structures, such as the city's Guardian Building, Penobscot Building, and Fisher Building.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

² Kvaran.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.86
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>338770</u> Easting	<u>4700765</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

S E STATE FAIR ALL THAT PT OF SW 1/4 SEC 6 T 1S R 13E LYG BETW STATE FAIR & TACOMA & BETW REX & CRUSADE 21/--- 596.77 X 277AV

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries described above include the entire parcel historically associated with Ann Arbor Trail School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah M. Goldstein
organization City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board date March 25, 2009
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheet.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Page 1

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Detroit, City of, Buildings and Safety Engineering Department. *Building Permit Card Index*. Permit #76263, December 23, 1930.

Kvaran, Einar. Personal communication. August 19, 2009. [Kvaran holds a private collection of many of Corrado Parducci's notes and other original documents]

Polk, R. L. *Detroit City Directory*. Detroit: R. L. Polk & Company, 1914.

Sanborn Map Company. *Detroit, Mich.* Vol. 24, Sheet 2432. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 2003.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Photographs

Photographer: Timothy Boscarino

Date: November 2008

Paper and Ink: HP Premium Plus Glossy Photo Paper, HP Viverra Ink

1. West and north elevations of original (north) unit.
(MI_Wayne_BurbankSch0001.tif)
2. West elevation of original (north) unit.
(MI_Wayne_BurbankSch0002.tif)
3. South elevation.
(MI_Wayne_BurbankSch0003.tif)

