ENROLLMENT AND CLOSURE
Bronzeville Elementary Schools

Source: Ghosts in the Schoolyard, Eve L. Ewing
CITY OF CHILDREN: age & race of Bronzeville public housing


- City of Chicago
- Ida B. Wells Homes + extension
- Dearborn Homes
- Harold L. Ickes Homes
- Stateway Gardens
- Clarence Darrow Homes
- Robert Taylor Homes
- Madden Park Homes

key:
% black
% under 18

Source: Ghosts in the Schoolyard, Eve L. Ewing
MAP OF BRONZEVILLE
elementary schools & public housing

1. Attucks
2. Donoghue
3. Doolittle Intermediate
4. Doolittle West
5. Douglas
6. Drake
7. Einstein
8. Farren
9. Fuller
10. Mayo
11. McCorkle
12. Mollison
13. Overton
14. Pershing [East]
15. Pershing West
16. Raymond
17. Woodson North
18. Woodson South

A. Ida B. Wells Homes
B. Dearborn Homes
C. Harold L. Ickes Homes
D. Stateway Gardens
E. Clarence Darrow Homes
F. Robert Taylor Homes
G. Madden Park Homes
MID-CENTURY MODERN SCHOOL DESIGN
Ron Dirsmith of Perkins+Will

ANTHONY OVERTON, 1963
Bronzeville
221 E. 49th Street
designed using teacher and staff feedback.

source: Sandra Steinbrecher Photography

LUDWIG VON BEETHOVEN, 1961
Bronzeville
25 W. 47th Street
built to primarily serve the Robert Taylor Housing Projects.

source: Ludwig von Beethoven Elementary, CPS

RICHARD E BYRD, 1960
Near North Side
363 W. Hill Street
built to primarily serve the Cabrini Green Housing Projects.

source: strannik46, Flickr
RISE AND FALL OF OVERTON: 1963 - 2013
Anthony Overton Elementary School

“The building represents a colorful focal point “for the eye as well as for the mind,” which would sit on the edge of a large, high rise housing project of monotonous red brick.”

on the Byrd Elementary School building, a prototype for Overton’s design

“Teachers, professional, they’re giving data over and over again how to improve schooling for our children. Especially children of color... and you’ve not done anything about it.”

Bronzeville resident Trey Barksdale*, public hearing to determine the fate of Overton Elementary
source: Ghosts in the Schoolyard, Eve L. Ewing

Rendering of Anthony Overton Elementary School, 1963
source: Ryerson and Burnham Library Archival Image Collection
WHY REGISTER AS A HISTORIC PLACE?
Anthony Overton Elementary School

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for filing 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.

1. Name
- Anthony Overton Elementary School
- designates a historic place worthy of preservation.
- not a National Historic Landmark
- historic places that hold national significance, that can illustrate US heritage.

2. street & num: 221 East 49th Street
- city:
- benefits:
  - heritage tourism destination
  - might be eligible for 20% tax credit
- does not stop any private, local or federal projects, nor will they require a state review.

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 state local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

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.

Signature of commenting official

4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
GROWING INCREMENTALLY
West Pullman Elementary School

Original:
W. August Fiedler, 1894
Romanesque Revival

Addition #1:
William B. Mundie, 1900
Classical Revival

Addition #2:
John C. Christensen, 1923
Classical Revival
GHOSTS IN THE SCHOOLYARD
West Pullman Elementary School

interior and exterior detail after closing
source: West Pullman Landmark Designation Report
URBANWORKS REDEVELOPMENT
West Pullman Elementary School

The building is privately owned by Celadon Holdings, with the support of non-profit organisations. The $15 million project is currently under construction, and tenants will move in from June.

Celadon Holdings developer Scott Henry's mother was a pupil at West Pullman, and the future tenants include the school's past students.
INVISIBLE DIVIDING LINES OF SAFETY
John Fiske Elementary School

Sexton and Fiske are only 3 min drive apart, but they are located on opposite sides of a dividing line in the neighbourhood - one that is symbolically important to families due to gang presence, and has practical implications for students’ safety. Families and teachers were angry and concerned about the transfer to a less safe location.

source: https://uchicagograde.org/case-study/6to18-action-john-fiske-elementary-school
FUTURE WITH OBAMA LIBRARY
John Fiske Elementary School

“If you want to support all of these local businesses, then you need density. You need people living in the neighborhood that can go and shop at these businesses, which is why you need to develop this vacant land.”

Anthony Simpkins, Chicago Planning Department Managing Deputy Commissioner

Map of the vacant city-owned land, largely along 63rd St., the Request for Proposals would center around.
Chicago Department of Planning & Development
HONORING THE PAST
John Fiske Elementary School

“There are new things happening in this community with the Obama Library and we’re all excited about that, but we also want to respect the institutions that have been here educating kids for hundreds of years, and make sure that there’s a good synergy between the two.”

CPS CEO Janice Jackson
source: https://chalkbeat.org/

source: Cragin Spring, Flickr