



HERITAGE OHIO

Vital Places. Vibrant Communities.

846 1/2 East Main Street
Columbus, OH 43205

Office 614.258.6200

heritageohio.org

SUCCESS STORIES

HISTORIC SCHOOLS

JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL UPPER ARLINGTON, OHIO

Jones is one of two middle schools currently serving the community of Upper Arlington, a suburb of Columbus. Built in 1924, Jones had originally served as Upper Arlington's lone school, housing grades K-12. The building, which is at the core of the community's historic district, was designed by celebrated Ohio architect, Howard Dwight Smith. Smith is the creator of numerous buildings throughout the state including the well-known Ohio Stadium.

Debate considering demolition and replacement emerged in the 1970's. In 1991, a citizen's committee considering the issue and advising the Upper Arlington School Board split in recommending renovation vs. replacement. Two of three initial architectural studies submitted to the board proposed replacement. Though with increasing public support and a favorable financial analysis for renovation, 1995 saw approval of a \$44.4 million district bond issue with \$12.6 million allocated for the complete renovation of Jones.

Post renovation, the building has gained overwhelming acceptance from the community, including those who had initially opposed the renovation. The rejuvenated building has enhanced the community's historic district while providing a state-of-the-art educational facility for nearly \$2 million less than the cost of a new building.



CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROJECT DETAILS

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Gunner Riley

McDonald, Cassell and Bassett, Inc.

600 West Spring Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

P 614.628.0630

F 614.628.0633

jriley@mcb-inc.com

mcb-inc.com

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Doug Kantner

Director of Business Services

Upper Arlington City School District

1950 N. Mallway

Upper Arlington, OH 43221

P 614.487.5000

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

School: Jones Middle School

Address: 2100 Arlington Avenue, Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221

Size: 107,428 square feet (existing structure); 16,900 square feet (1997 addition)

Enrollment: 643

Average Classroom Size: 22

HISTORIC/RENOVATION RECORD

Original architect: Howard Dwight Smith

Date of construction: 1924

Date of previous additions: 1930's; 1958

Date of renovation: Spring 1996 through Summer 1997

Previous renovations/additions: As the architect anticipated expansion, north and south wing additions were included in original architectural plans and were eventually constructed in the 1930's. Moreover, the building has undergone various renovations and additions through its years. As a result, minor changes in the building are present.

LOCATION

Historic District: The Historic District of Upper Arlington

Position within Community: Jones is at the core of the historic district. It neighbors a community plaza and historic retail structures.

Busing: District offers busing for all students.

COST

Total Cost: \$12.6 million (1997 Dollars)

Estimate for New School: \$14.3 million (1992 Dollars)

Funding: 100% local

RENOVATION DESCRIPTION

State of school prior to renovation: Since its 1924 construction, Jones had not been extensively renovated. The school had sinking floors, crumbling plaster, peeling paint, poor ventilation, leaking plumbing, cramped classrooms, asbestos filled walls and a consistently leaky roof. Furthermore, it held an inadequate heating system, no cooling system, and a dangerously outdated electric system characterized by a norm of one two-prong outlet per classroom.

Description of renovation process: A committee of parents and teachers worked with the architect and contractor to supervise renovation and assure preservation of the building's historic value. School remained in-session throughout construction as the architect completed the renovation in sections. As a learning experience, students toured sections with hard-hats.

Strategies or state/local policies utilized in renovation: The alternative compliance section of the Ohio Building Code (OBC 3410), as well as now standardized State legislation concerning alterations to existing buildings were applied to the renovation of Jones. By doing so, the architect avoided the cost of enclosing existing stairways.

RENOVATION SUCCESSES

Mechanical/HVAC: The most expensive aspect of the renovation, \$4.4 million was used to install new heating and cooling systems.

Electrical: The school's outdated electrical system was totally replaced allowing teachers safe usage of modern technology and educational equipment.

Disabilities Act compliance: Classroom doors and lockers were fitted with ADA compliant hardware. An elevator was installed within an existing chimney shaft.

Technology integration: Every classroom has a minimum of one 25" television capable of projecting computer images and a minimum of three computers with Internet access. Additionally, the school provides four computer labs offering both Macintosh and Windows formatted technology with Internet access.

Adaptation to educational needs: Classroom size was increased substantially, which had been a frequent criticism of the building. Furthermore, to satisfy the innovative educational philosophy of the school, the architect created separate educational communities within the school, one informal and one traditional.

Safety compliance: As the school's plaster walls contained asbestos, all such walls were replaced. Of note however, efforts were made to reproduce archways throughout the building. New sprinkler and fire alarm systems were added, as well.

Other/unique renovation successes: The renovation architect created a new cafeteria and multipurpose room where previously there had been an open courtyard. The room is built 6' below ground level to allow for 20' ceilings. Also, previously separated third floor spaces were connected and upgraded to provide optimal areas for the school's music program.