

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fountain Inn High School
other names/site number Fountain Inn Elementary School; Fountain Inn Civic Center for the Performing Arts

2. Location

street & number 315 North Main Street not for publication
city or town Fountain Inn vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 000 zip code 29644

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

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"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):		

Fountain Inn High School
Name of Property

Greenville County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education

Subcategory: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Government
Education
Recreation and Culture

Subcategory: Government Office
School
Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick Concrete Veneer

roof Asphalt with Gravel Ballast
other Flat Roof

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beacham and LeGrand Architects, Greenville, S.C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: National Archives Bldg #2 (College Park Maryland)
- Name of repository:
Greenville County Public Library
Greenville, S.C.

Fountain Inn High School
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17</u> <u>389733</u> <u>3840006</u>	3 <u>17</u>
2 <u>17</u> _____	4 <u>17</u>

x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
 Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dan Powell / Planner
 organization City of Fountain Inn Planning Commission date November 6, 2008
 street & number 315 N Main Street, Suite1 telephone (864) 467-7287
 city or town Fountain Inn state SC zip code 29644

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Fountain Inn street
 & number 200 North Main Street telephone 864-862-4421 city or
 town Fountain Inn state SC zip code 29644

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Fountain Inn High School
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Fountain Inn High School is located on North Main Street, near the intersection of North Main and Quillen Avenue, within the city limits of Fountain Inn, in Greenville County, South Carolina. The building lies within walking distance of downtown and sits adjacent to the new Fountain Inn/Greenville County Library and historic homes. Adjacent buildings take in a mix of residential and institutional uses including the Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church, its Family Life Center, and the Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce.

The high school is a 19,000-square foot rectangular brick building, constructed in 1939 by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in the Moderne architectural style during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first presidential term. The asymmetrical L-shaped building consists of an original auditorium as well as an original two-story classroom wing. This two-story and basement building features nine classrooms, two offices, a library, and an auditorium. The exterior walls are brick on concrete footings bearing the load. The interior walls and stud partitions are plastered. Floor construction and floors are of wood. The building is covered with an asphalt shingled roof on timber trusses. With the exception of a few modern amenities and ADA accessibility driven renovations, the building remains in excellent condition and is a fine example of both Art Deco design and New Deal-era PWA design.

Exterior

The design of the façade of the former High School exemplifies the Moderne architectural style, specifically the Classical Moderne period (sometimes also called PWA Modern in the United States). Unlike earlier styles, the Classical Moderne was not highly ornamental. Instead, these structures, typically constructed after the Depression, displayed simplified and often stripped down classical elements with an obvious monumentality. This style was a celebration of the "modern" life which celebrated machines, especially of transportation. Architectural elements from this period that were often influenced by ancient art emphasize strong verticality, contrast light and dark materials, and use of metal alloys.

The façade of the Fountain Inn High School exudes all of these Moderne characteristics. The entrance to the facility is off-center on the far right side of the front elevation. A monumental portico of large monolithic concrete pilasters and a simplified cornice highlights the entrance. The double height scale of the portico, as well as the contrast of concrete versus the remainder of the brick façade, further defines this entrance. With a slight recess in the brick from grade to the top of the brick façade and without a decorative cornice, an emphasized verticality is also apparent at the large windows of the auditorium. Flanking these windows near the top of the building, the front façade also contains four small square concrete inserts that display a decorative star shape. Windows are arranged in three groups of two spaced across the façade. Window bays reach to the eave line.

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The front entrance features a 20' grand entrance with FOUNTAIN INN HIGH SCHOOL inscribed over the entry portal. Under the ceiling hangs a decorative lantern-style light. Large 10' windows enhance the scale of the school's exterior. Each main vertical break in the brick exterior wall is projected from the plain (5' wide) accented with concrete markers, similar to a keystone (four-pointed stars). Horizontal breaks are found to the right of the main entrance, then continue along side elevations.

There is a plaque located to the right of the main doors inscribed

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HAROLD L. ICKES
ADMINISTRATOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

FOUNTAIN INN HIGH SCHOOL
1939

The east and west sides of the classroom wing are similar. The east side includes an entrance with large oak doors. There is a set of stairs leading to a foyer and entrance. An exterior original wooden-framed single pane window is located overhead. Around the doors is brick masonry tile, which may have been added later.

The west side elevation is slightly different with the window placement. The exterior window ledges consist of smoothed concrete, unlike the east elevation, which is covered with a bricklayer. Square vents are equally spaced below the upper cornice near the roofline. This is a signature of a large building constructed prior to the invention of air conditioning.

The fenestration pattern reflects the internal use of space. Windows march along the classrooms and offices in the classroom wing but are sparse along the backside of the auditorium

The rear elevation includes smaller windows that follow the internal stairway. One alteration is the elevator that was added to meet modern ADA code.

The auditorium is probably the most distinctive exterior feature of the building. Minor alterations include the closure of a basement entrance on the east elevation. Two windows are located at the

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rear of the auditorium, behind the stage. These windows face the current library facility. The south elevation of the auditorium faces the later with the addition of a courtyard area and the Senior Action Center. Like the front elevation, large tall windows line this elevation and also overlook the courtyard area. Vertical breaks in the plane occur only above these windows.

Interior

The 800-seat auditorium is clearly the most unique interior feature of the building. Large dark curtains grace the tall windows. The stage is constructed with hardwood flooring. The front of the stage consists of a half-moon curve. The original stage lighting is in place with cut-off fixture lamps. Large column like features are located at either side of the stage area. The main auditorium floor is also beautiful hardwood. Five hundred seats fill the auditorium. The ceiling includes period art deco style lighting and patterned panels. Wooden panels cover the sides of the auditorium. Unique theatre insignia are located above the stage. Candle ledges face the stage from the window box seats.

The interior of the school consists of several former classrooms. These rooms have hardwood flooring, some original slate chalkboards, and interior windows for air circulation.

On the second floor the hallway is very much like it was in 1939. The original student lockers, classroom doors, and entryways are still in place. The stairways contain the original handrails. The first floor has a grand hall lined with trophy cases. The exiting side hall embraces a beautiful archway.

Alterations

The original coal-tar pitch built-up roof over the auditorium was replaced in 1954. Since then periodic patching has been done. During 1985 the classroom wing was re-roofed with 3-ply, built-up asphalt with gravel ballast. Windows were replaced with energy efficient windows; other maintenance involved roof work, boiler system duct work, repaired storm drain outside of auditorium, and repaired water damaged ceiling in the auditorium dressing room. Additional alterations included access for the disabled, life safety, toilet fixtures and replacements of some bathroom fixtures. Building code updates all occurred from 1990 to the year 2006; the elevator was installed and a wheelchair ramp was added at the front entrance. Fire and security systems are also brought up to code and operational. The HVAC system has been renovated and an emergency generator, main distribution panel and power distribution system was replaced during the 1990 HVAC renovation. In keeping with the character of the building, energy efficient windows were custom ordered, meeting the specific measurements and appearance of the original wooden sash and glass panes of the windows. The installation of the energy efficient windows was completed in 2006.

The 1960 classroom building and 1960 auditorium have been excluded from the nominated property.

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Fountain Inn High School, constructed in 1939, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent example of New Deal-era Moderne design undertaken by the Public Works Administration (PWA) program of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, and as one of the notable designs of the Greenville, South Carolina, firm of Beacham and LeGrand.

Additional Information

The population of Fountain Inn grew rapidly in the first quarter of the twentieth century, so much so that an 1886 two-room frame school was replaced in 1908 by a ten-room brick school, and the 1908 school was replaced in 1919 by a twenty-room brick school. By 1938 the continuing growth of the area convinced the Fountain Inn Public School District to submit a federal grant application to the Public Works Administration (PWA) for construction of a new high school. The grant, approved late that year, was for \$34,166.25 of the total cost of \$75,925, with the remainder of the total cost funded by a bond issue by the school district. Of the total cost \$65,250 was designated for construction, \$5,000 for land purchase, \$2,500 for engineering costs, \$325 for preliminary review of the site, \$375 for legal and administrative review, and \$2,475 for miscellaneous expenses and contingencies.

The school was designed by Beacham and LeGrand Architects of Greenville, with James "Jas" Douthit Beacham (1891-1956) as the lead architect. Beacham, a native of Greenville, was educated at Furman University, Clemson College, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He entered independent architectural practice in Greenville in 1921, with Leon LeGrand as his partner in the firm of Beacham and LeGrand. The firm's largest project in South Carolina was the ten-story Chamber of Commerce Building in downtown Greenville. The association with LeGrand lasted through 1940. Beacham and his brother Eugene W. Beacham were associated in Greenville from 1946 to 1955; he died in 1956.

Construction of the school, by Gallivan Construction Company, began in January 1939 and was completed on August 31, 1939; the school opened for the winter semester of the 1939-40 school year.¹

¹ Mrs. M.J. Garrett to W.F. Stewart, et al, Trustees, Fountain Inn School District 3-B, 1938, in Greenville County Deed Book 205, Page 351, Greenville County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville, S.C.; Public Works Administration Project File S.C. 1287 (Fountain Inn High School), National Archives Record Group 135, Records of the Public Works Administration 1933-1949, National Archives at College Park, Maryland; copies on file at the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; "School Bids Are Due On Thursday," *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 23 October 1938; "School Is Begun At Fountain Inn," *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 1 January 1939; John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 9-11; Caroline S. Coleman and B.C. Givens, *History of Fountain Inn: Fountain Inn, South Carolina* (Fountain Inn: *The Tribune-Times*, 1965); Dan Powell, Greenville County Planning Department, telephone interview with David Thomason, former principal of Fountain Inn High School, Fountain Inn, S.C., 15 August 2008.

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This building served as the town high school for seventeen years, until Hillcrest High School, a new high school just outside the corporate limits of Fountain Inn consolidating the Fountain inn, Mauldin, and Simpsonville high schools, was built in 1957.

Fountain Inn High School became Fountain Inn Elementary School when the new high school was built in 1957, and served as such until a new school was built nearby on Fairview Street in 1997.

In 1960 the school complex was expanded to include two additional buildings that housed classrooms and a new cafeteria. Leon LeGrand of Beacham and LeGrand, designed the 9,400-square foot new classroom building. Freeman Wells and Major Architects designed the cafeteria, now the Civic Center Banquet Hall. These 1960 buildings are not included in the boundary of the nominated property.

In 1999 the City of Fountain Inn purchased the PWA building and the entire school site from the Greenville County School District for \$550,000, exactly 61 years to the date from the final grant approval for the construction of the building.

Since then the City of Fountain Inn has owned and occupied the building, housing its Public Works office, Clerk of Court and Courtrooms, the Sewer Department, the Economic Development Office, and the auditorium serving as the Fountain Inn Civic Center for the Performing Arts, hosting a variety of plays, concerts, and cultural arts programs. The 1960 classroom building currently houses a private school and the cafeteria serves as the Senior Action Community Center.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interviews

David Thomason, former principal of Fountain Inn High School, Fountain Inn, S.C.
Telephone Interview by Dan Powell, Greenville County Planning Department,
August 15, 2008.

Unpublished Sources

Greenville County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Greenville, S.C.

Mrs. M.J. Garrett to W.F. Stewart, et al, Trustees, Fountain Inn School District 3-B, 1938,
Greenville County Deed Book 205

National Archives at College Park, Maryland

Record Group 135, Records of the Public Works Administration, 1933-1949

Public Works Administration Project File S.C. 1287 (Fountain Inn High School),
(copies on file at the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office,
South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.)

Published Sources

Coleman, Caroline S., and B.C. Givens. *History of Fountain Inn: Fountain Inn, South Carolina*.
Fountain Inn: *The Tribune-Times*, 1965.

“School Bids Are Due On Thursday.” *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 23 October 1938.

“School Is Begun At Fountain Inn.” *Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.), 1 January 1939.

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Fountain Inn High School" on the accompanying plat, drawn at a scale of 1" = 50'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is restricted to the historic 1939 school building and its immediate setting.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Fountain Inn High School
Location of Property: 315 North Main Street, Fountain Inn
Greenville County, S.C.

Photograph 1:

Name of Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: 1939
Source: Fountain Inn High School Yearbook, Class of 1940

1. Facade oblique view, facing southwest, 1939

Photographs 2-15:

Name of Photographer: Dan Powell
Date of Photographs: 2007-2008
Location of Digital
Negatives: Greenville County Department of Planning, Greenville, S.C.

2. Oblique view of facade, facing southwest
3. Oblique view of rear elevation, facing northwest
4. Detail view of front entrance
5. Detail view of (west) side entrance
6. View of first floor interior hall, facing northeast
7. View of first floor interior hall, courtyard entrance
8. View of second floor interior hall
9. Detail view of second floor classroom
10. View of auditorium entrance, facing north
11. View of auditorium stage, facing southeast
12. Detail view of auditorium from stage, facing northeast
13. Detail view of exterior auditorium entrance, facing southwest
14. Courtyard view, facing northwest.
15. View of original plaque on left wall by front entrance of school