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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hume School at 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road is a story-and-a-half brick structure designed by the Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons. Erected in 1891, the Queen Anne-style building is covered by a full hip roof with large dormers. The original roofing has been replaced with asphalt shingles. The brick walls were once painted and have been stripped.

The main (west) elevation is dominated by a projecting entrance tower, visually divided into four stages. The tower's first stage consists of a large brick arch, which comprises the school's principal entry. The arch is composed of courses of gauged brick voussoirs randomly alternating with rough-faced brick. The recessed entry consists of a transom-light double doorway framed by a tongue-and-groove wood surround. A wroughtiron gate serves to enclose the entrance. The second stage, defined by a corbeled brick belt course, is composed of bricks laid in a basket weave pattern. The third stage, defined by corbeledbands, is comprised of a row of four small hung-sash windows. The tower's fourth stage consists of a belvedere, covered by a pyramidal roof, topped by a cupola. The cupola, housing the school's bell, is topped by a weather vane. The tower is flanked on the first story by three bays of 6/6 hung-sash windows. Above a corbeled belt course, the second story is marked by bricks laid in a basket weave pattern. Gabled dormers, containing pairs of 6/6 hung-sash windows, break the eaves line on the second story. Decorative medallions are contained within the gable. At each side of the dormers are decorative pinnacles.

Both the north and south elevations consist of four bays of 6/6 hung-sash windows with gauged-brick flat arches. The second story is marked by bricks laid in a basket weave pattern, similar in execution to that found on the west elevation. Large gabled dormers containing four 6/6 hung-sash windows break the eaves line.

The rear (east) elevation contains an elongated transom-light entry in a projecting pavilion which also contains a pair of small 6/6 hung-sash windows and a large 6/6 hung-sash window, all with gauged-brick flat arches. The treatment of the second story is similar to that found on the north and south elevations.

The plan of the school is a simple one. An entry passage runs north-south across the western front of the building and contains a stair that ascends to the second floor. The first and second floors have been partitioned into individual museum display areas, with a small classroom preserved on the second floor. There is no significant interior decoration in the building. All the principal windows are framed by molded wood trim with molded wooden corner blocks.

The school presently serves as a museum for the Arlington Historical Society.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property of the Hume School is the original school site, plus 5,750 sq. ft. at the rear of the school building which was acquired by the Arlington Historical Society to prevent its development. The land behind the school has always remained open, the intention of its present owners. The property comprises about one acre. The Hume School is bounded on the west by South Arlington Ridge Road, on the east by South Lynn Street, and on the north and south by adjacent property boundaries.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	Al	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
-PREHISTORIC		COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
160 0-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	X_EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	-ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY .	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		·
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1891	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT B. Stanley Sir	nmons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hume School, an imaginative Queen Anne-style building at 1805S. Arlington Ridge Rd. in Arlington, is a notable example of the community pride shown in the erection of public schools during the last decades of the 19th century. Prompted by reforms in education and heightened by municipal support for more sophisticated and often monumental structures, the small schoolhouses of the early 19th century were replaced by commodious and frequently stylish structures. The Hume School was designed by the Washington architect B. Stanley Simmons and was built in 1891. It stands as a reminder of Arlington's pride and achievement in schoolhouse reform and construction.

In 1846 the Virginia General Assembly passed an act providing for a system of primary schools. Compliance was not compulsory, and few counties adopted such a plan. By 1848 public schools were under construction within the city limits of Alexandria, but prior to 1870 no records exist of public schools outside of the city limits in what is now Arlington County (name changed from Alexandria County in 1920). In that year, Richard L. Carne was named by the Board of Education to be superintendent of the Alexandria City and County Schools. Under his direction, county schools were finally brought into operation. In 1891 the Hume School Was built on South Arlington Ridge Road, "on a small piece of land bought by the Jefferson School Board for \$250." The school was named for Frank Hume, an early civic and educational leader in Arlington.

Hume was a Confederate veteran, wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. After the war he settled in Arlington where he was elected to the House of Delegates for two terms. He also served as chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria County and as a member of the commission to choose a site for the county courthouse. Also known for his philanthropic work, Hume donated the land adjacent to the school building for use as a playground.

The architect, B. Stanley Simmons (b. 1872), was an early graduate of M.I.T. His best-known works are in Washington and include the Lafayette and Fairfax Hotels, the Barr Office Building, the Elks Club, and the Jewish Community Center Building. While at M.I.T., Simmons would have seen Henry Hobson Richardson's Romanesque Revival works and the fashionable Queen Anne Style of Boston firsthand. The influence of both styles can be seen in the Hume School.

The school was closed in 1956 and was deeded in 1960 to the Arlington Historical Society for use as a museum. The Hume School Historical Museum was opened to the public on May 11, 1963, with exhibits on Arlington and Virginia history.

VDS/RCC

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haadler, Susan J. "A Brief Survey of the Hume School". George Mason University, Thesis, August, 1973.
"Historic Arlington Day, 1976". Printed Program. Arlington Historical Society, Arlington,

Va., October 16, 1976.

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