

WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL
Wentworth Avenue and W. 49th Street

1931

Mr. A. E. MacQuarrie, Principal

Originally Erected	1925
Number of Class Rooms	57
Number of Special Rooms	8
Enrollment	2370

WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL

A large three story building of modern fireproof construction. This building was designed for 1500 students and with the present enrollment of 2370, it is obvious that the egress facilities are considerably inadequate.

DETAILED REPORT

OCCUPANCY: Storage rooms, boiler room, building machinery, lunch room, kitchen, laundry, woodworking and painting, metalworking, electric shop and drawing rooms located in basement. Domestic science, boys and girls gymnasiums, chemistry and physics laboratories, printing, auditorium and stage and class rooms, first floor. Ordinary class rooms, second and third floors.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE: Building comparatively new and very well maintained.

EGRESS FACILITIES: Five open stairways from basement to first floor and six from upper floors to first floor. These stairways are well distributed. Building was designed to accomodate 1500 students whereas this entire number is now located on the third floor alone. This overcrowding produces a deficiency of 23% in stairways from the upper floors. Doors to outside are likewise considerably deficient. 55% from basement and 63% from first floor. Clothes lockers in hallways reduce effective width two feet.

COMMON HAZARDS: LIGHT -- Electric, wired in rigid metal conduit. HEAT -- Four low pressure steam boilers in fireproof room with non-standard cut off, but well segregated from sections with combustible material. VENTILATION -- Metal ventilating ducts discharge into a combustible foul air chamber in roof space of main building. Air is then recirculated or discharged through roof.

SPECIAL HAZARDS: Kitchen and laundry, basement, gas heated devices safely installed. Usual hazards found in the industrial shop and domestic science classes, are well safeguarded. Small chemistry and physics laboratories, first floor, slight hazard. Auditorium and stage with one set of scenery. Non-standard transformer vault adjoining boiler room should be made to comply with standard requirements.

EXPOSURES: None.

FIRST AID PROTECTION: Building is fairly well protected with fire standpipe and hose but distribution of first aid extinguishers is decidedly inadequate.

PUBLIC PROTECTION: Full city fire protection from four nearby hydrants. Fire alarm box within 400 feet. Fire station five blocks over paved strees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Protect all openings to roof space with standard fire doors.
2. Provide standard cutoff for boiler room.
3. Construct a standard transformer vault to house all transformers. In the meantime provide a substantial screen for window.
4. Distribute first aid extinguishers in sufficient number.
5. Line entire foul air chamber in roof space of main building with a continuous metal duct.
6. Replace all hammers on inside fire alarm boxes where missing.
7. Replace missing hand rail on stairway at north end of building.
8. Provide additional exit facilities having a minimum total door width of not less than 450 inches from first floor and 150 inches from basement.
9. Provide additional stair width between first and second floors of not less than 110 inches.