

## Education

### *Elementary and Secondary Education*

As a result of the population boom in the Dayton area that began after World War II and peaked in 1964, a plethora of new public, parochial, and private educational facilities were built in the city and its expanding suburbs. Sixteen schools in six different school districts were surveyed as part of the project, all built between 1950 and 1970. Nine were built as public elementary schools, five as high schools (four public, one parochial), and two as public intermediate/junior high/middle schools. Some are no longer used for the grade levels for which they were built, and one public intermediate school is now privately operated. Two school buildings surveyed were not built for that purpose. Architects involved in designing elementary and secondary educational buildings included Edge & Tinney, Keith L. Dunker, Richard Thomas, Walker, Norwich & Associates, and Wilbur W. Wurst. Several of the schools documented are scheduled to be demolished as part of facilities improvement plans of the Dayton and Huber Heights public school systems.

Most of the elementary schools surveyed were one-story buildings with Modern Movement stylistic influences. There were also two one-story buildings designed with Wrightian and International Style characteristics and two that were one and a half and two stories tall. They all date between 1952 and 1967. For further details on schools, please refer to Section III, C. 3: Non-residential Styles and Building Types.

**Murlin Heights Elementary** (MOT-05312-13) was built in 1952 and expanded in 1963. This school, designed by Walker, Norwich & Associates of Dayton, is the oldest of the Vandalia-Butler School District's elementary schools in service. The Vandalia-Butler Twp. school district was centralized in 1921, and due to the village's WWII population growth, a separate elementary--Vandalia Elementary, 346 Dixie Drive--was built in 1944. Murlin Heights Elementary illustrates the continued suburban expansion of Vandalia and the surrounding township after the war.



Murlin Heights Elementary  
8515 N. Dixie Dr. Dayton

**Kitty Hawk Elementary** (MOT-05518-14) was built in 1959. It was the first elementary school built in Wayne Township in association with the rapid construction of the Huber Homes development, one of several built to accommodate the massive population increase of Huber Heights during the 1950s. Although he did not build the schools, Charles Huber dedicated the land for their construction.



Kitty Hawk Elementary  
5758 Harshmanville Rd., Huber Heights

All five of the schools surveyed that were originally built as high schools were constructed between 1950 and 1965. One was a three-story parochial school with International Style influences built in 1951, and the others were one- or two-story public schools of Modern Movement design. The former **Baker High School** (GRE-01207-10) in Fairborn was built between 1950 and 1955, a two-story design with a Modern portico. It replaced the 1920s central high school, which had become grossly overcrowded due to the population growth of pre- and post-WWII Fairborn. The school's gymnasium/auditorium and stadium were added in 1955. This building was connected to an elementary on site and reorganized as a middle school ca. 2000.



Baker High School  
200 Lincoln Dr., Fairborn

The two surveyed buildings built originally as junior high/middle schools were constructed in 1967 and 1970. They are one-story public school buildings of Modern Movement design. A middle school system for the sixth through eighth grades was begun in the 1960s, and three middle schools were constructed in that decade. One of them, **Tower Heights Middle School** (MOT-05594-03), designed by Dayton architect Thomas J. Henderson, Jr., and built in 1966-67, is an example of an open-plan school. Its most distinctive features are a standing seam copper mansard roof, which projects as a canopy at the ceramic-tiled entry, and its windowless walls. A new gymnasium was built in 1997 with Edge & Tinney of Dayton as architects. Centerville's population exploded in the post-WWII years, and a school expansion program was initiated to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding community.



Tower Heights Middle School  
195 N. Johanna Dr., Centerville

## *Colleges and Universities*

Included in the survey were representative buildings from Dayton's three university and college institutions – the University of Dayton, Wright State University, and Sinclair Community College. An Engineering and Science Institute, consisting of a single building, was also inventoried.

A 19<sup>th</sup>-century college, the private University of Dayton, underwent a large expansion campaign during the 1960s and 1970s. The 500,000 volume **Roesch Library** (MOT-05158-60) was one of twenty buildings constructed between 1959 and 1979. Completed in 1969, the library was designed by Pretzinger & Pretzinger, a Dayton architectural firm. The University of Dayton Arena (MOT-05157-64) was also constructed in 1969.



University of Dayton, Roesch Library  
300 College Park, Dayton

Initially planned as a branch campus, Wright State University opened in 1964 and was accredited in 1967. Included in the survey were the first completed building, **Allyn Hall** (GRE-01182-10), and the Rockafield House (GRE-01209-10), home of the university president. Four structures were completed 1964-67, forming a cluster of new buildings for the campus known as Founders' Quadrangle. Prominent local architects Lorenz & Williams designed three of the four original WSU buildings, including Allyn Hall.



Wright State University, Allyn Hall, 1964  
(Historic Image 13)



Wright State University, Allyn Hall  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Fairborn

The public Sinclair Community College evolved from a two-year private junior college. It was part of the city's plans for urban renewal space on the western edge of downtown. Edward Durell Stone of New York was named the architect of the new campus in 1967, and construction began in 1969. Stone's design included a unified complex of seven attached buildings, arranged around a central plaza (MOT-05203-15) and linked below ground. The **Taylor Administration Center** (MOT-05202-15) was included among the original core campus buildings



Taylor Administration Center  
444 W. Third St., Dayton

Constructed in 1970-71, the **Engineering and Science Institute of Dayton** (MOT-05430-15) was established to complement the mission of the adjacent Engineering & Science Center and Engineers Club. The institute was operated by the Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton, whose charge was to advance engineering and technology in the Miami Valley. By the mid-1990s, the building had become the property of Wright State University. Now known as the WSU Kettering Center, until the late 1990s the building also housed the Engineering and Science Hall of Fame, an international organization founded in Dayton in 1979 to honor engineers and scientists. Due to asbestos concerns, the building currently is used solely for storage.



Engineering and Science Institute of Dayton  
140 E Monument Ave., Dayton  
(Historic Image 14)

## *Libraries*

The main public library, built in 1962, and two of its branches were documented as part of this project. Pretzinger & Pretzinger is the only architectural firm identified involved in library design.

The **Ft. McKinley Branch Library** (MOT-05171-09), a one-story brick building of Modern Movement design, was built in 1955, one of 12 branches of the Dayton Public Library system. Located midway between downtown Dayton and the Salem Mall commercial area, the Ft. McKinley neighborhood, in Harrison Township, experienced suburban growth during the 1950s and 1960s. The Ft. McKinley library branch served the expanding residential neighborhoods of northwest Dayton and the southern portion of the township.



Ft. McKinley Branch Library  
3735 Salem Ave., Dayton

The **Kettering Moraine Branch Library** (MOT-05215-06), also a one-story building of Modern Movement design, was built in 1958. It was constructed as part of the public library system's expansion to meet the demands of the growing suburban population. The branch is located on the main thoroughfare through suburban Oakwood, Kettering, and Centerville.



Kettering Moraine Branch Library  
3496 Far Hills Ave., Kettering

The former **Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library** (MOT-05153-15) was built in 1962. Its Modern Movement two story design is by Dayton architects Pretzinger & Pretzinger. It replaced an 1888 library building located in Cooper Park to the northeast. The building is now known as the Dayton Metro Library.



Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library  
215 E. Third St., Dayton