CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE & FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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schoools have historically marked the center of communities - serv-
ing as public spaces where people meet, learn, vote and play. Cur-
cently, Fulton County Schools operates in over 100 buildings—the culmination of a century and a half of construction and con-
solidation.

This month’s Curiosity Corner focuses on a photograph of the North Avenue Element-
ary School building (now the Teaching Museum South) in Hapeville. It is the old-
est Fulton County Schools building still in operation, and was designed in 1928 by Philip Trammell Shutze, architect of the historic Swan House located at the Atlanta History Center.

Built in the clas-
sicist style, the building’s original brick veneer, wood floors and a few Palladian windows remain much as they did when classes be-
gan in September of 1929.

Initially, the building was designed with 13 classrooms to house 10 teachers and 400 students. After the school closed in 1992, it was repurposed as the Teaching Museum South and also houses the Fulton County Schools Archives. The property was nomi-
nated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

City of Hapeville’s Historic District

On October 23, 2009, the North Avenue Elementary School building was officially listed on the National Register of His-
toric Places by virtue of its inclusion with the City of Hapeville’s Historic District. The Department of Natural Resource’s His-
toric Preservation Division held a presenta-
tion on January 21, 2010 along with the City of Hapeville to publicly announce the town’s significance in the region’s transpor-
tation industry, and all contributing build-
ings that drew their origins between the years 1890 and 1967 were thus included.

Click the links below to see related documents and maps.

Curiosity in the Classroom: A Closer Look at Architecture

A Columbus, GA native, Shutze attended Georgia School of Technology (now GA Institute of Technology) and Columbia University. Considered during his career as America’s greatest living classical architect, Shutze’s designs were in demand for many of the elegant homes and prominent buildings in Atlanta.

His most famous work, the Swan House in Buckhead, was build for Edward Inman and combines classical references—ancient Roman and Classical British. (The house was featured in the movie The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. 2013). He drew from many styles for his architectural designs in-
cluding, Classical Tutor, French Provincial, American Colonial, Georgian, and Federal.

Click the links below to see some of his most recognizable buildings in Atlanta, most of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. Ask students to describe the details of the architecture and compare/contracts his designs. Students can compare Shutze’s designs with this PDF.

Rich’s Department Store, 1924; Academy of Medicine, 1940; The Temple, 1930-31; Garden Hills Elementary, 1958; North Fulton School (now Atlanta International), 1925-33; Boys High School (now Grady High), 1922-24; Sisters Chapel, Spelman College, 1924; Glenn Memorial Church, Emory University, 1931; Harris Hall, Emory University, ca. 1920s; Villa Apartments, Atlanta, ca. 1920s.

Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to Standards

For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the Teaching Museum or the FCS Archives, send an email to archives@fultonschools.org.

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Thank you to photographer & architecture enthusiast, Terry E. Kearns for allowing us to link to his photographs.