



United States Department of 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 an 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 Franklin School

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	1011 South Main Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Rice Lake	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Barron	code 005
			zip code 54868

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Dana J. Tenkunas
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/3/2015
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Franklin School

Barron

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet
determined eligible for the
National Register.
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register.
See continuation sheet
removed from the National
Register.
other, (explain:)

Edward H. Beall

3-24-15

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	1 buildings
	1 sites
	structures
	objects
1	1 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property 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)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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

1936 - 1949

Significant Dates

1936, 1949

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

ALBAN, WILLIAM LINLEY

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Franklin School
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9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.8 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 599041 5037905
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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	Jim Landreth, Director	date	July 11, 2014
organization	Impact Seven	telephone	715-357-1610
street & number	147 Lake Almena Drive	zip code	54805
city or town	Almena, WI	state	WI

Franklin School
Name of Property

Barron
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Wisconsin

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	state

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Summary

The Franklin School is an intact example of a 1930s primary school in a small urban setting. Surrounded by green space and mature trees on Main Street, the brick façade provides a highly visible historical connection and sense of place for the neighborhood and the community.

Site

The Franklin School is located roughly one mile south of the business center of Rice Lake, the largest city in Barron County with a 2010 population of 8,438. Rice Lake is a regional center of commerce, being the largest city in a sixty-mile radius between Eau Claire and Superior. The Franklin School is located on a mixed-use main thoroughfare surrounded by older residences of modest character. The site is 1.8-acres, comprising roughly three-fourths of this city block, with several mature trees along Main Street on the west and a parking lot and playground on the east.

Exterior

Constructed in the late fall and winter of 1936-37, the school is of masonry construction with a variegated medium-brown textured brick veneer in a common bond with raked joints, ornamented with limestone water table, window sills and third floor string course. It is 58' wide by 80' long with two floors above a raised full basement floor, each with 12' ceiling height resulting in a height of roughly 36' with 6' of the lower level below grade.

The primary façade faces west, is five-bays wide and consists of two symmetrical floors above a garden level first floor. Giant pilasters with stack bond brick soldier course center sections topped by machine-grooved limestone finials in a stylized flame pattern define the center block and bracket the building corners. Paired pilasters of a smaller scale separate the side bays and form the center of the middle block. Simple metal letters spell out FRANKLIN SCHOOL on the parapet, which originally stepped up two feet as a crest for the central block, but at some point this embellishment was removed.

The main entry is centered, recessed between brick pilasters with limestone bases and caps below a machine-grooved curvilinear projecting limestone lintel, above which are three two-story windows which encompass the stair landing and a "Teacher's Room" above. Originally the doors were double-leaf 40"x96" wood units with three panel full length glazing. Currently the doors are 36"x80" metal units with single lights in the upper-half surrounded by fixed glazing. The apertures in the flanking bays are divided by a pair of pilasters with a single narrow window between. Originally the eleven foot wide apertures contained divided, three-wide double hung wood window units, with one-over-one sash on the lower floors and three-over-one sash on the top floor. At some point these were replaced with double-wide aluminum single-glazed sliders with storms, probably as an energy-saving measure. The stone window sills extend beyond the windows on both sides. The lintels for the lower and main floors are brick and a limestone string course on the third floor which continues around the north and south sides. This and the front corner pilasters are the only embellishments on the north and south sides

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which are blank except for single windows slightly rear of center. At some point the original parapet was shortened and a metal cap flashing added.

The depth of the building is three bays consisting of a center bay of single windows stacked from the basement to the second floor. On either side of this window stack is a blank brick wall. The window (second) bay reflects the location of the center corridor; the blank brick wall reflects the location of the front classroom (first bay) and rear classroom (third bay). A basement window is located in each of the three bays.

When constructed, the basement and first floor levels of the building were full depth (first, second and third bays) while the second floor consisted of only the front classrooms and single-loaded corridor (the first and second bays). In 1949 the building was expanded to fill out the third bay of the second floor. This expansion filled the need for more space due to growing student enrollment. This created a double-loaded corridor with classrooms to each side on the second floor to match the configuration on the first floor. The 1949 expansion of the second floor is noticeable in the different tones of brick used at that time. A third color of brick on the rear seems to indicate a more modern repair of at least that portion of the parapet.

The fenestration pattern on the east (rear) façade displays a pattern on its south half that is similar to the front (west) façade as the first and second floor classrooms mirror those on the front. This pattern is altered on the north where the girls' restroom was located on the first floor and the library and teacher's room were added on the second floor. Both the original and replacement sash on this side duplicated those on the front. The wood double-leaf rear doors were at some point replaced by a single metal door with sidelights. At an unknown date, the basement windows were covered by metal security grills. The roof is flat, originally tar and gravel sloping to the east with gutters but, at the time of the second floor expansion, a central internal drain was added, toward which the east and west roofs now slope.

There is a 28'x60' non-contributing, one-story modular building on the north with a corridor connection to the lower level of the school. It was added around 1990, when school districts in general considered these units as appropriate solutions to expanded program need. It is of frame construction on a nine block high frost wall with crawlspace. Concrete steps lead down to a landing and steel door into the school basement. The exterior is chipboard lap siding; the building also has wood windows and an asphalt shingle roof. There is a wood ramp on the north for handicap access. The interior is comprised of one large classroom on the west, an office and computer lab on the east, and cloakroom, utility room and storage in between.

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Interior

The Franklin School was originally built as a six-room primary school. Centrally located split-level entrances from the east and west accessed a central north/south running double-loaded corridor. Flanking pairs of classrooms are on the north and south halves of the first floor. The northeast classroom is smaller as there is a girls' bathroom between it and the stairway. Originally there were two identical classrooms stacked above just on the west half of the second floor. The building was expanded in 1949 to fill out the entire second story in a manner similar to the first. This addition added two classrooms: one in the northeast corner and one in the southeast corner; two small bathrooms, a teachers' room and a library located above the girls' bathroom and landing below. The main (west) stair is a 5'-6" wide switchback with a landing between the first and second floors, above which is located a small teacher's room one-half floor up from the second floor corridor on the west. The rear switchback stair is four feet wide. In the basement, the south half of this level is a gymnasium. The north half is a furnace room on the west and a storage room and the boys' restroom on the east.

The basement gymnasium and furnace room are four steps below the landing level. The gymnasium has a kitchen alcove on the northeast. At some point, vinyl composition tiles were added to the floors in the gymnasium and the landing. The boys' restroom and the storage room have dropped acoustical tile ceilings with recessed fluorescent lights. The storage room is currently carpeted and was last used as a classroom. The boy's restroom, the corridor and the furnace room have painted concrete floors. The furnace room has exposed brick walls and an unfinished concrete ceiling.

On the first floor, the stairs going up and down are painted concrete with safety treads. The three larger classrooms and the corridor have dropped acoustical tile ceilings with hung fluorescent fixtures and vinyl composition tile floors. The smaller classroom on the northeast was at some point carpeted and divided into two offices on the east and a larger general use space on the west. The lighting in this space and the girls' bathroom is recessed in the dropped ceilings. The floor in the girls' restroom is painted concrete. The lighting in the corridor is surface mounted fluorescent fixtures served by surface mounted metal conduit.

On the second floor, the stairs are carpeted as are the classrooms, the teachers' room and library. The ceilings are all dropped acoustical tile. The lighting on the older west side is hung fluorescent fixtures and on the east side and the corridor it is recessed fluorescent fixtures. Two bathrooms have sheet vinyl floors and tile wainscoting on the walls. The boys bathroom on the second floor retains its original tile floor as well as its peach and blue glazed tile wainscoting. The teacher's room on the west has the original plaster ceiling.

The interior of the school retains the original circulation pattern, wood doors, storage cabinets, and trim, as well as blackboards. It also has the more recent addition of bulletin boards and continuous plywood cabinets beneath the windows. The walls remain painted plaster on masonry. At some point,

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the wood window casings were covered over with aluminum cladding and the windows were replaced with aluminum slide-by units.

Integrity

The Franklin School retains substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The replacement windows and doors do not correspond with the original design but do not detract from the overall historic appearance. The 1949 addition altered only the rear portion of the massing. The modular appendage is located on the side, connected only by a corridor and does not importantly detract. Interior circulation pattern is unchanged. The only interior space that has been significantly altered from as-built is the northeast first floor classroom which is now three small rooms. Non-historic finishes are limited to carpeting, vinyl composition tile, suspended acoustical tile ceilings and fluorescent light fixtures. Some of the original wood trim has been lost but the interior doors, most of the woodwork and all the built-in cabinets remain.

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Summary

The Franklin School is nominated under Criterion C, in the Area of Architecture for its local significance as an excellent and intact example of a modern grade school in the Art Deco style. The building retains the distinctive characteristics of the Art Deco in the emphasis on verticality; the tall pilasters with capitals projecting above the cornice line and having low-relief, geometric, stylized torch ornament; machine-crafted details such as the projecting curvilinear lintel over the main entry; and the use of metal lettering for the school name.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Franklin School is 1936-1949 which encompasses the original date of construction and the rear second floor addition which completed the school and gave the school its final appearance during its historic period.

Historic Context

Until the latter half of the nineteenth century, the northern third of Wisconsin largely consisted of dense virgin pine forest, as illustrated by the following newspaper account from 1877. Mr. H. W. Drake, who went on to be a logging supervisor in the area, described himself as a 22 year old job-seeker walking over fifty miles to get to the booming Rice Lake area. He recalled that the great tree trunks, three or more feet in diameter, were as close together as they could grow and that no underbrush was able to grow in the darkness. He remembered pulling out his pocket watch and, because of the darkness caused by the dense tree canopy, only with the greatest difficulty being able to discern that it was 3 o'clock in the afternoon.¹

The City of Rice Lake traces its beginnings to a lumber camp established in 1868 at the outlet of a wide spot in the Red Cedar River. At the time, this was part of the landholdings of Knapp, Stout & Co., said in the 1870s to be the greatest lumber corporation in the world. The Company owned 115,000 acres of pinelands along the Chippewa and Red Cedar rivers to supply its mills in Menomonie, which are reported to have cut 55,000,000 board feet of lumber in 1873.² When the Company platted the City in 1875, they optimistically included a one hundred foot wide thoroughfare for the main street. Prior to this development, the site had been a series of rice pools and rush swamps used as a seasonal

¹ "Indians and Logging Camps on Site of Rice Lake in 1877." Rice Lake Chronotype. [Rice Lake, WI] 18 Jan. 1928. Print.

² Gordon, Newton S. (Ed.). *History of Barron County Wisconsin*. Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co. 1922. Print. p. 59.

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settlement of the First Nations Peoples who came to harvest the wild rice and waterfowl that fed upon it. In times past it was home to a race of mound builders believed to be antecedents of the Dakota, but in more modern times it was the territory of the Ojibwa. In 1864, the Company built a dam in order to create a storage area for its logs, ensure an adequate water flow for the spring drive and power a small mill. The resultant lake infuriated the natives as it “pulled the rice out by the roots and spoiled their rice beds.”³ Ironically, the Company named both the manmade lake and settlement after the rice that their development basically destroyed.

It was logging that brought non-native people to settle the area. At this time, nearly all the men worked the woods in the winters, spent the spring on the drives and returned to work their farms only when no other employment could be found. Yet by 1897, just fifty years after logging had begun in Barron County, the forests were virtually stripped bare and the era of agriculture initiated.⁴ The people, railroads and development that came along with the logging boom served to facilitate alternative means of growth. By the 1920s, the city of Rice Lake was the center of the summer resort district and one of the best agricultural districts of the North. It was home to the world’s largest pea canning factory and the largest potato warehouse. It had also matured to the point of having “four ward schools and a magnificent \$140,000 high school.”⁵ Clearly the electorate agreed with the spirit of the Wisconsin Ordinance of 1787, that “knowledge being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged.”

Franklin School was built in 1936 (to replace an existing school from 1886) a time of expanded school populations nationwide as working-class people came to recognize education as a means for social and economic improvement. Although the public generally embraced local schools as social investments and sources of civic pride, this was the era of the Great Depression and financial support in rural communities was difficult to find. Seventy percent of all new school construction during this period was assisted by funds from New Deal programs designed to lift the county out of the Great Depression through jobs.⁶ In 1936, the peak year of public building by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), government employment of construction workers reached some 250,000 persons nationwide. Between 1935 and 1943, WPA construction crews erected 1,456 new public buildings in Wisconsin,

³Bracklin, James. “James Bracklin’s Account of an Occurrence in 1864,” *The Wisconsin Magazine of History Vol. III*. (September 1919): 44.

⁴Gordon, Newton S. (Ed.). p. 49.

⁵Ibid. p. 1057.

⁶“Great Depression and New Deal.” *Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood in History and Society*. Usenet. n.d. Web. 26, May 2014. <http://www.faqs.org/childhood/>.

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Franklin School
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many of them schools such as at Cudahy, East Troy, Greenfield, Milwaukee, and Racine.⁷ City leaders were interested in constructing a new school believing that the existing wood frame school was unsafe. Interestingly, despite the availability of funding assistance, in this instance the city fathers chose not to apply for government assistance. Articles in the *Rice Lake Chronotype* from the period indicate school board members thought the bids totaling \$41,547 represented a bargain. They argued that waiting six months for 45% federal participation was not worth the risk of rising prices and the penalty of up to 15% higher costs that WPA projects normally incurred. In the end the board was unwilling to tolerate the safety risk of the fifty-year-old wood structure and followed through with its referendum-approved authority to issue bonds to replace it.⁸

Local historian Don Carney points out an interesting comparison between the disposition of the antecedent school buildings for the Franklin School and the north side Lincoln School, replaced nine years earlier when the nation was in the height of the pre-depression boom. “In 1936, they saved everything from the old Franklin School building including the nails, but in 1927, when they replaced the Lincoln School, they thought the good times would last forever and they just knocked the old building down and threw everything away. Only the blackboards were reused in the new building.”⁹

School District Context

The first permanent school in Rice Lake was constructed on the site of the present Lincoln School in 1880. This was known as the Brick or Century School and for several years it was served citywide for all grades and high school. After 1890, the upper grades were moved to a new building nearby that had been constructed as a courthouse by Knapp, Stout & Co. in its failed campaign to establish Rice Lake as the County Seat. The Brick School went on to serve primary students on the north side and in 1922, it was renamed the Lincoln School. It was at this same time that the Ward #2 School became Jefferson School and the frame school on the south side was renamed Franklin School.

Classes for primary grade students on Rice Lake’s south side were begun in rented space in 1885. In 1886, a new \$3,000 frame two-room schoolhouse was constructed with 53 children in grades one through four in attendance. Grades five and six continued to go to the north side school. In 1896, enrollment had reached the point where a major addition was necessary, adding two more classrooms.

⁷ “New Deal Archive & Map.” *The Living New Deal*.berkeley.edu. n.d., Web. 26, May, 2014. <http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu/>.

⁸ “School Board Meeting.” *Rice Lake Chronotype*. [Rice Lake, WI] 12 Aug. 1936. Print.

⁹ Carney, Don. Personal interview. 10 June 2014.

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By 1905 there were 76 pupils in five grades including kindergarten. In 1922, enrollment had grown to 94 and when the new building, that is the subject of this nomination, opened in 1936 there were 130 students in kindergarten through fourth grades. Thirteen years later, the decision was made to expand the Franklin School with a \$23,000 addition to also serve grades five and six. At this time enrollment was 201, grades K-3 were on the first floor, 4-6 on the second with the classroom on the northeast used for music and art.¹⁰ By 1999, enrollment had fallen to 115. In 2008, several years after the construction of Tainter Elementary School a mile to the south, the decision was made to close Franklin School and it was listed for sale on August 14th.¹¹ After a period of vacancy, the building was purchased by Impact Seven in 2014 with the intent to rehabilitate it for use as multifamily affordable housing.

Architect

The architect for the Franklin School was William Linley Alban (1873-1961), who was born in Plover, Wisconsin, attended the Stevens Point public schools and graduated from the Chicago School of Architecture in 1897. W.L. Alban practiced in St. Paul from 1899 to the end of his career. He “initially followed Gothic and Neoclassical designs, subsequently became Sullivanesque, and tended to specialize in church, school, and public building design.”¹² The architect listed on the drawings for the 1949 addition is E. F. Klingler and Associates out of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Emil F. Klingler was born in Winona, Minnesota in 1887 and was also a craftsman of stringed instruments.

Fireproof Schools

Construction of the Franklin School is typical of early twentieth century “fireproof” schools. Conventional school design at this time was guided by the recommendations of the Congress of the American School Hygiene Association in reaction to the 1908 Lakeview School fire in Collinwood, Ohio, where 173 children lost their lives in America’s worst school fire to date. Their recommendations included limiting the height to two stories above a basement, masonry outer and inner corridor walls and a stairway constructed to at least two opposite sides of the building with doors of fireproof construction at the head of each stairway. There was also general agreement among schoolhouse architects of this period as to classroom proportions and form. The main consideration in designing interior spaces remained nineteenth century sensibilities regarding natural light. This topic

¹⁰ Henrich, Mary Ann. Personal interview. 10 June 2014.

¹¹ Carney, Don. “History of the Rice Lake Schools: Franklin School.” *Bridges*. (March 1999). Rice Lake School District. Print.

¹² Martin, Lawrence A. “Observations on St. Paul Architects 1859-1903.” *Angelfire*. Web. 26, May, 2014.
<http://www.angelfire.com/mn/thursdaynightthikes/stparctecs.html>.

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had been widely researched and discussed and the accepted conclusion was that, in the interest of protecting students' eyesight, natural light coming from only one direction and falling over the student's left shoulder (the "uniform source rule") was the most important determinant of classroom form. Instruction methods of the time universally involved age-graded classrooms with 40-60 students seated in orderly fashion facing a teacher's desk. Putting these factors together, the standard prescription for a primary school classroom was a depth of 24 feet, determined by the penetration of light, and a length of 32 feet, determined by the required number and spacing of desks, with the long wall being glazed.¹³ The Franklin School generally conforms to these guidelines and is therefore representative of the progressive ideals in school design from that era.

Art Deco

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, edited by Barbara Wyatt, describes Art Deco as "a celebration of the possibilities of advancing technology and industrialization," and attributes it to the period of 1925 to 1945. It is characterized by an emphasis on verticality, futuristic or highly stylized historic references, angular sharp edges and machine precision, low-relief geometric ornament and use of metal, particularly bronze.¹⁴

The structure that the Franklin School building replaced was an 1886 Vernacular Victorian style of wood construction. Though prevalent for schoolhouses of that time, this fanciful style had long been supplanted in popularity by the more respectable Collegiate Gothic style. However fashions change, and well before the 1936 construction of Franklin School, this style's influence was likewise waning. Carla Breeze in her book *American Art Deco* points out that the beginnings of this change can be traced back to a very early twentieth century movements in philosophy and architecture that considered modernity as a "moral mandate" and pushed for the decline of historicism.¹⁵ It was the 1925 *International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts*, which gave this impulse a name and it went on to be known as "Art Deco."

¹³ Earl, Edward C. *The Schoolhouse*. n.p. Washington, D. C. 1919. Print.

¹⁴ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 1986. p. 2-34.

¹⁵ Breeze, Carla. *American Art Deco*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 2003. Print. p. 13.

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Franklin School
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Dale Allen Gyure, author of *The Chicago Schoolhouse*, describes the 1930s as a period when there was a “tension between old and new that was coalescing into a contemporary debate among school architects.”¹⁶

Significance

The “contemporary debate,” referred to above, can be read in W.L. Alban’s forward design for the Franklin School which brings Art Deco design influences to the forefront in its emphasis on verticality, machine-crafted details such as the projecting curvilinear lintel over the main entry, the stylized torch finials for the giant pilasters and the use of metal lettering for the school name. Yet his design also displays an unwillingness to hastily depart from the familiar hallmarks of the Collegiate Gothic style, hints of which are evident in the grounding of the lower level, the craftsman use of brick and the recessed entry. The Art Deco stylistic attributes distinguishes Franklin School from the other two extant Rice Lake schools from this era, Lincoln and Jefferson schools. Those buildings are similar to each other in that their design is a rather inelegant variation of the Collegiate Gothic, lacking in articulation with a coarseness that sits heavily upon the earth and ornament that is primarily limited to a tracery of contrasting-color brick courses. Unlike the harmonious design of Franklin School, the lower level windows at Lincoln unsettlingly do not correspond to the upper floors and Jefferson has an addition that only partially acknowledges the original building. Lacking the thoughtful details of Franklin, such as a coped water table, these other two extant examples of period school design in Rice Lake have not fared as well over time.

Additionally, the Franklin School exemplifies the progressive movement in school design from the period in its emphasis on natural daylighting, fireproof construction, modern amenities such as a large heating plant, multiple toilet rooms and a gymnasium, and dedicated, graded classrooms for kindergarten through sixth grades. The location of a small kitchen in the basement allowed for the gymnasium to double as a cafeteria. The 1949 addition contributes to this significance representing the expansion of school facilities for more grades, and providing dedicated rooms for art and music, a library and teachers’ room.

The interior exhibits high integrity. It retains its original floor plan and circulation patterns, as well as historic finishes including floors, plaster walls, wood trim, wood doors and built-in cabinetry.

¹⁶ Gyure, Dale Allen. *The Chicago Schoolhouse*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 2011. Print. p. 147.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

The Franklin School meets the criterion of the State Register and the National Register in that it meets the test of integrity and significance for Architecture as a fine example of a school in the Art Deco style during an important transitional period in school architecture. It stands apart from the other primary schools in the community, is the best example of progressive school design and the only example of an Art Deco style school building in Rice Lake.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Block 15 of the Village of South Rice (now part of the City of Rice Lake).

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property consists of the entire lot that has been historically associated with the property.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Name of Property: Franklin School

City: Rice Lake

County: Barron

State: Wisconsin

Photographer: Mike Abernathie

Sikes Abernathie Architects

406 S. Boulder Avenue, Suite 700

Tulsa, OK 74103

Date Photographed: June 10, 2014

**Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706**

1 of 21: West Façade of School.

2 of 21: School Entry Doors.

3 of 21: School South Façade.

4 of 21: School East Façade.

5 of 21: School North Facade.

6 of 21: Modular Building East Facade.

7 of 21: Modular Building North Facade.

8 of 21: Modular Building West Facade.

9 of 21: School Front Stairway, Lower Level, West (Main) Stair.

10 of 21: School Corridor, Lower Level.

11 of 21: School Gym, Lower Level.

12 of 21: School Stairway, First Level, West Stair.

13 of 21: School Stairway, First Level, East Stair.

14 of 21: School Corridor, First Level.

15 of 21: School Classroom, First Level, Northwest Corner.

16 of 21: School Corridor, First Level.

17 of 21: School Classroom, First Level, Southwest Corner.

18 of 21: School Corridor, Second Level.

19 of 21: School Classroom, Second Level, Southeast Corner.

20 of 21: School Classroom, Second Level, Southeast Corner.

21 of 21: School Bathroom, Second Level.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

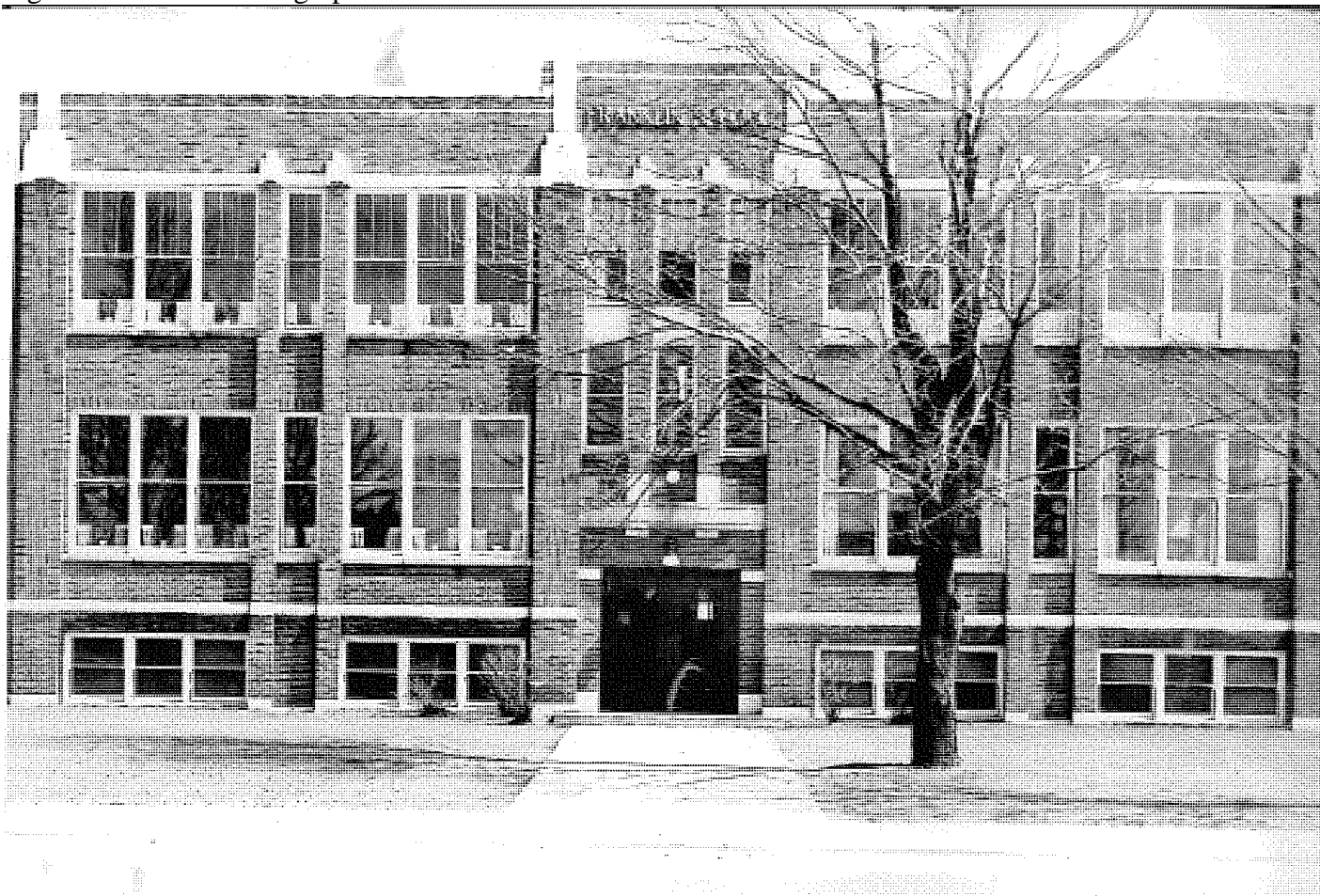
Section figures Page 1

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

List of Figures

1. Historic Photograph c1936
2. Site Plan
3. Lower Level Plan
4. First Level Plan
5. Second Level Plan
6. Roof Plan
7. Modular Building Plan

Figure 1: Historic Photograph c1936



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

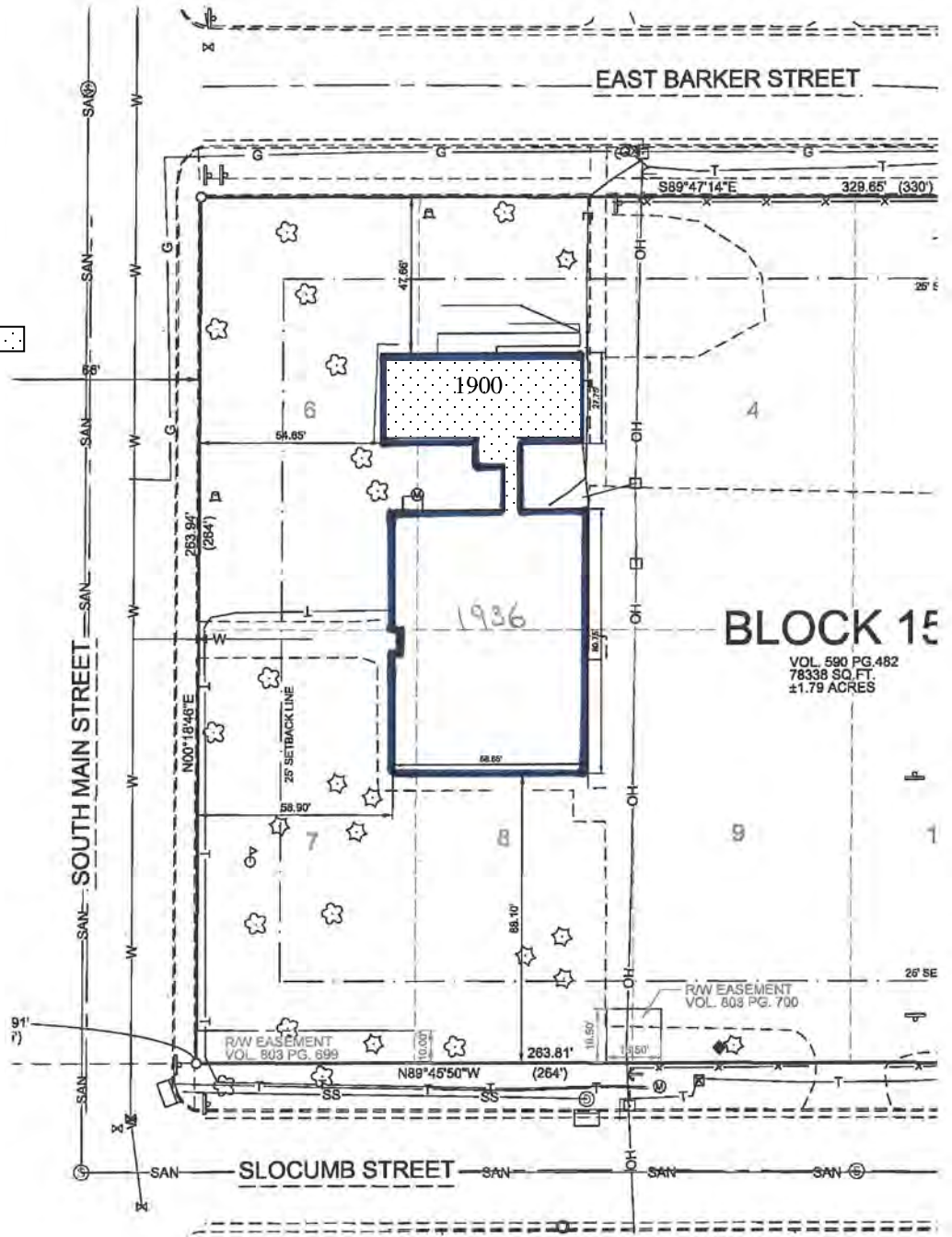
Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Section figures Page 2

Figure 2: Site Plan
Not to Scale



Contributing:
Noncontributing:



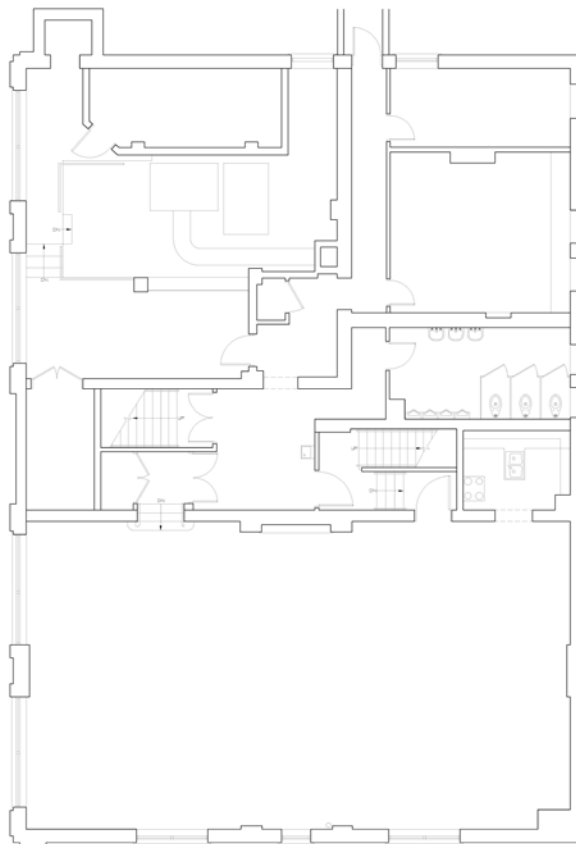
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 3

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Figure 3: Lower Level Plan:



 NORTH
LOWER LEVEL AS-BUILT PLAN
DATE: 11/14/14

 State Architectural Architects 1000 South 7th Street Rice Lake, WI 53085 PH: 920.835.1111

Project Name Franklin School Apartments Rice Lake, Wisconsin
Plan No. AS100
Scale AS-BUILT
Revision None
Sheet No. AS100

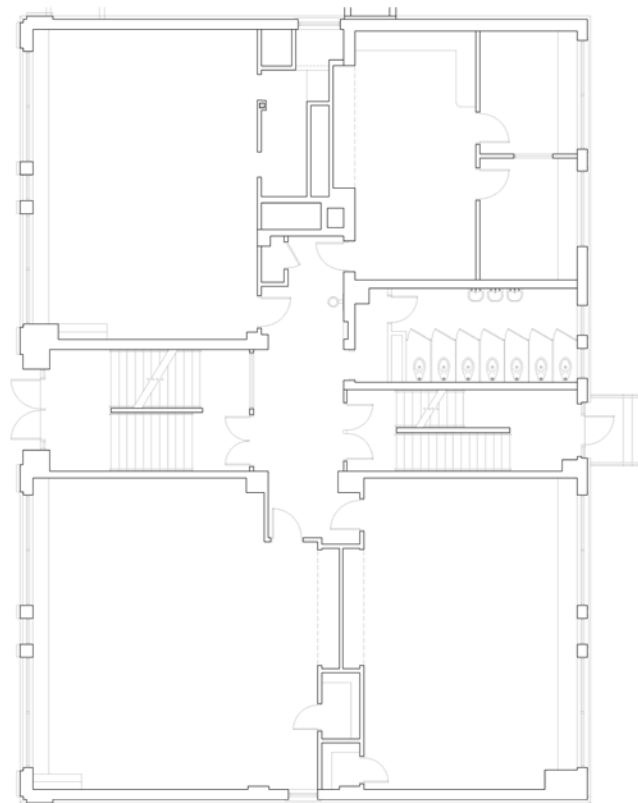
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 4

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Figure 4: First Level Plan



 FIRST LEVEL AS-BUILT PLAN
K&S ARCHITECTS

 Steve Abrahamson Architect 425 South Main Street Rice Lake, WI 53151 PH: 715/835-5154

Project Name Franklin School Apartments Rice Lake, Wisconsin
Project No. AS101
Drawn By: [] Checked By: [] Scale: [] Revised: []
First Level As-Built Plan
AS101

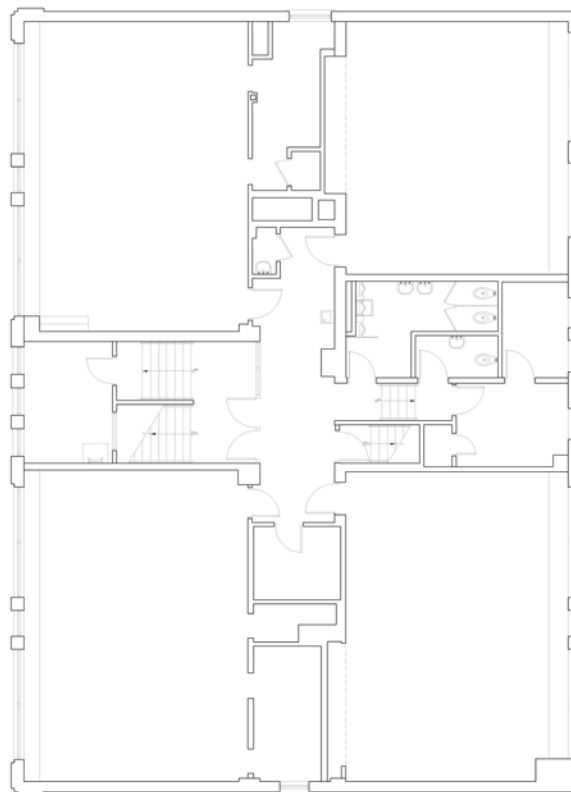
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 5

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Figure 5: Second Level Plan



 SECOND LEVEL AS-BUILT PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

 Steve Abrahamson Architect 425 North Lincoln Suite 717 Rice Lake, WI 53151 PH: 715/735-1100

Project Name Franklin School Apartments Rice Lake, Wisconsin
DATE: 11/13/14 DRAWN BY: JMA CHECKED BY: JMA SCALE: AS-BUILT REVISIONS: NO.
Project Title Second Level As-Built Plan
AS102

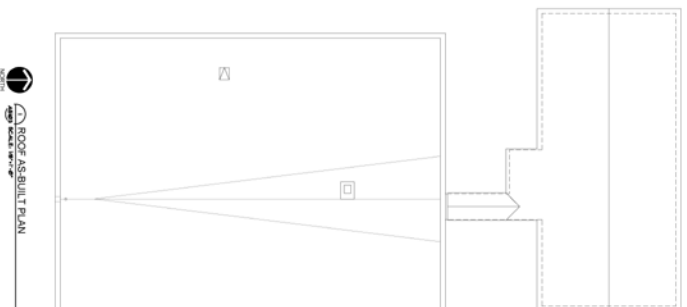
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 6

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Figure 6: Roof Plan



ROOF AS-BUILT PLAN

AS103	PROJECT Roof As-Built Plan	DATE 10/27/2016	Impact Seven Franklin School Apartments Rice Lake, Wisconsin <small>©2016 STATE OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTURE, P.C.</small>	 Sikes Abernethy Architects 400 South Boulder Ave. Suite 700 Tulsa, OK 74102 918.555.0244 
		SCALE AS SHOWN		

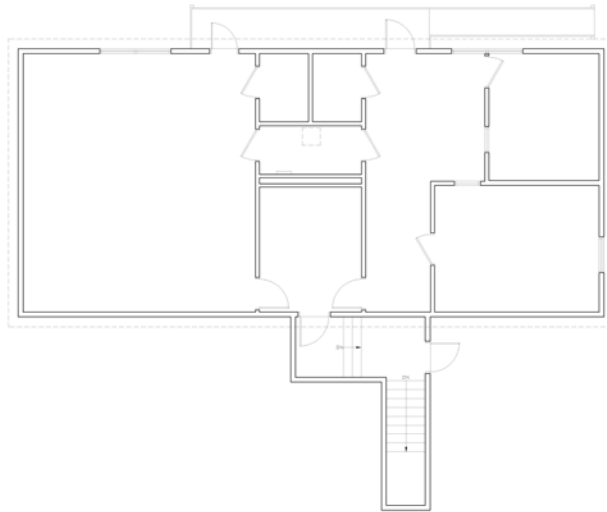
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 7

Franklin School
Rice Lake, Barron County, WI

Figure 7: Modular Building Plan

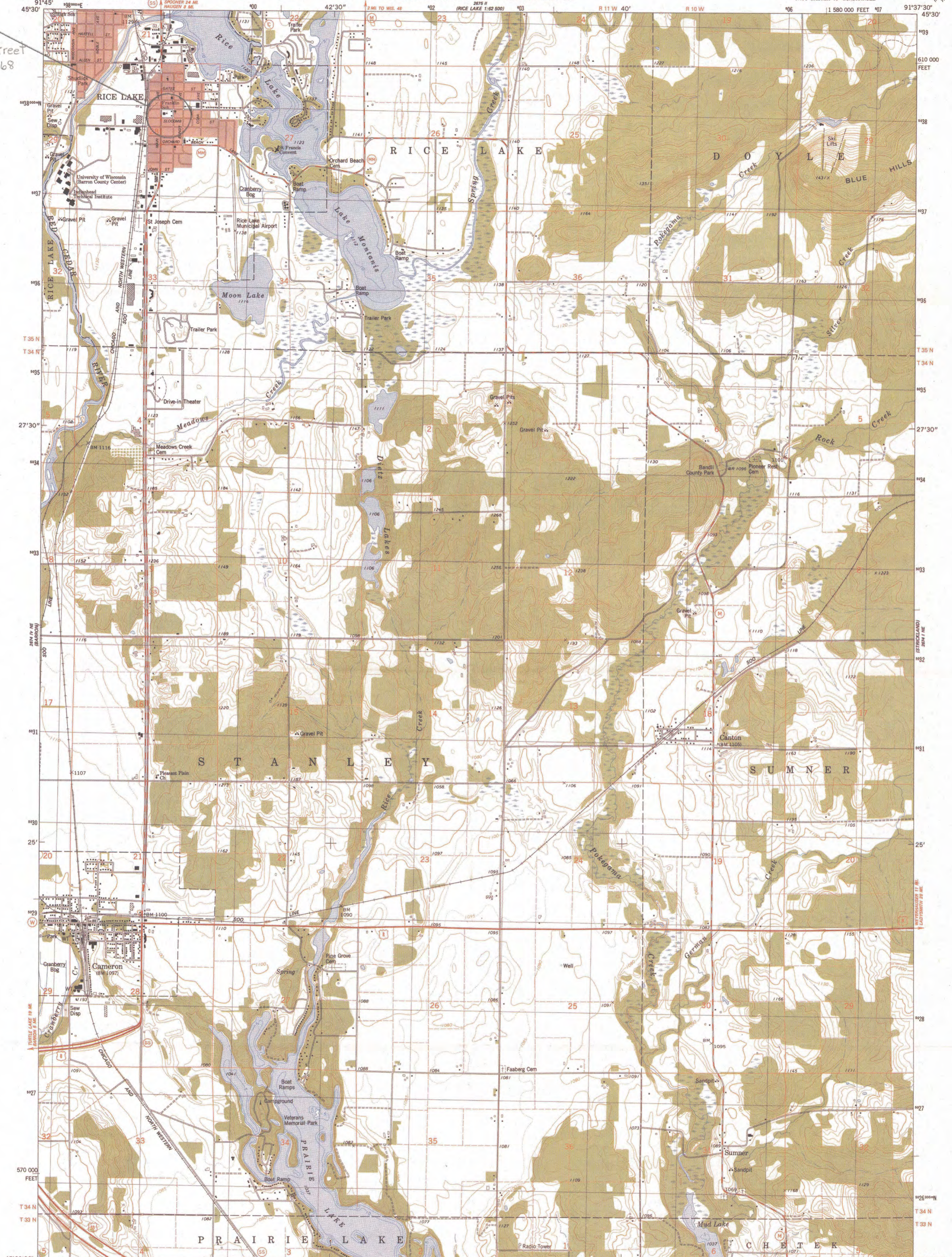


 COMMUNITY BUILDING AS-BUILT PLAN
AS-BUILT SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

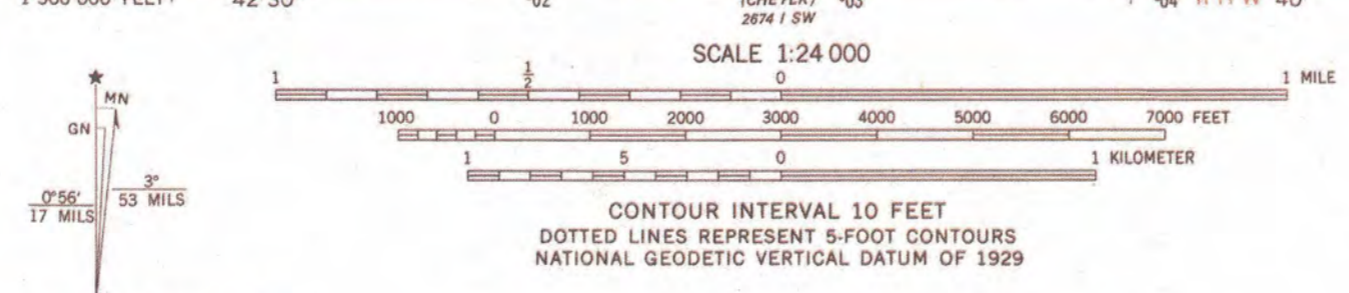
 Steve Abrahamson Architect 425 South Main Street Rice Lake, WI 53151 920.837.5254

Project Name Franklin School Apartments Rice Lake, Wisconsin
DATE: 12/15/16 DRAWN BY: JMA CHECKED BY: JMA SCALE: AS-BUILT REVISIONS:
Project Title Community As-Built Plan
AS104

Franklin School
1011 South Main Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868
Barron County
Zone: 15
Easting: 599041
Northing: 5637905



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1975. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1978
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American datum
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface. Light-duty road, hard or improved surface.
Secondary highway, hard surface. Unimproved road.
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



RICE LAKE SOUTH, WIS.
NW4 CHETEK 15' QUADRANGLE
N4522.5-W9137.5/7.5
1978
AMS 2874 1 NW-SERIES V881

MAP AND AIR PHOTO LIBRARY

SEP 17 1979
University of Wisconsin
Madison

1978
copy
1-1



FRANKLIN SCHOOL

W1

FRANKLIN SCHOOL

W1

1011







E2





52

OFFICE



OFFICE
→



N2

N1







005

EXIT



EXIT







EXIT



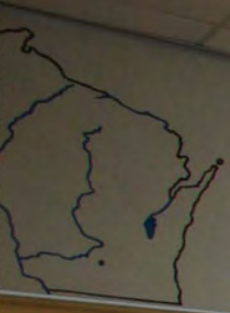












WISCONSIN
1848





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Franklin School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Barron

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/24/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000107

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3-24-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 5th day of February 2015,
for the nomination of the Franklin School to the National Register of Historic
Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

 Multiple Property Nomination form

21 Photograph(s)

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

7 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)/historic photograph(s)

 Piece(s) of correspondence

 Other _____

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

X This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____