# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

| -   |  |
|---|--|
| This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual propertie<br>for <i>Completing National Register Forms</i> (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by mai<br>the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for | INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION                     |
| This form is for use in normaling or requesting determinations of engineering for individual propertie  | S OF CIGINCIS." See Instructions of Superines      |
| for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by ma  | king a hall of the by entering                     |
| the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for  | not applicable." For functioner styles, materials, |
| and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Fi   | or additional space use continuation sheets        |
| Form 10-900a). Type all entries.  |  |

|   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     | <u>-</u>                          |                                     |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of Property   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
|   | ln School  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| other names/site number   | <u>Lincoln Scho</u>                                  | ol Histor                        | ic Apartment                          | S                                   |                                   |                                     |
|   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| 2. Location   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| street & number 1800  | State Street   |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   | r publication                       |
| city, town Racin  | e  |                                  |                                       |                                     | NA vicinit                        |                                     |
| state Wisconsin   | code WI  | county                           | Racine                                | code                                | 101                               | zip code 53404                      |
|   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| 3. Classification   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| Ownership of Property   | Categor  | y of Property                    |                                       | Number of R                         | esources with                     | nin Property                        |
| X private   | X build  | ding(s)                          |                                       | Contributing                        | Noncor                            | ntributing                          |
| public-local  | distr  | rict                             |                                       | 1                                   | 0                                 | _ buildings                         |
| public-State  | site   |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   | _ sites                             |
| public-Federal  | strue  | cture                            |                                       |                                     |                                   | _ structures                        |
|   | 🛄 obje   | ct                               |                                       |                                     |                                   | _ objects                           |
|   |  |                                  |                                       | 1                                   | 0                                 | _ Total                             |
| Name of related multiple prope  | rty listing:   | 14.                              |                                       | Number of co<br>listed in the N     | -                                 | sources previously<br>ster0         |
| A State/Federal Accord  |  |                                  |                                       | e.                                  |                                   |                                     |
| 4. State/Federal Agency C   | entitication   |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| As the designated authority of<br>X nomination request for<br>National Register of Historic<br>In my opinion, the property<br>Signature of centrying official<br>State flistoric fres<br>State of Federal agency and but  | ervation Off   | of eligibility means the procedu | ets the document<br>ral and professio | tation standards<br>nal requirement | for registerin<br>ts set forth in | g properties in the 36 CFR Part 60. |
| In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| Signature of commenting or other official Date  |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| State or Federal agency and bur   | 198U   |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| 5. National Park Service Co   | ertification   |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |
| <ul> <li>I, hereby, certify that this proper</li> <li>entered in the National Regi</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined eligible for the N<br/>Register.</li> <li>See continuation</li> <li>determined not eligible for the<br/>National Register.</li> </ul> | rty is:<br>ster. (<br>lational<br>sh <del>ee</del> t | a (sa                            | K. P.                                 | cal                                 |                                   | 4-19.94                             |
|   |  |                                  |                                       |                                     |                                   |                                     |

removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

997

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JUL 1 8 1994

1. A. M. M.

| listoric Functions (enter categories from instructions)<br>Education/School | Current Functions (enter categories from instructions<br>Domestic/Multiple Dwelling |           |  |
|---|---|-----------|--|
|   |   |           |  |
| . Description   |   |           |  |
| rchitectural Classification<br>enter categories from instructions)          | Materials (enter categories from instructions)                                      |           |  |
|   | foundation  | Brick     |  |
| Romanesque  | walls   | Limestone |  |
|   |   | Brick     |  |
|   |   | Asphalt   |  |
|   | roof  | nopilate  |  |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

### SECTION 7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The two and one-half story, Romanesque style, brick and stone Lincoln School (1890-91), consisted originally of an eight room building with a large projecting portion on the East side and large recess area on the South side.(1) Each elevation is unique in appearance with variation of brick and stone work patterning. It was built "with a desire to observe more than the ordinary efforts toward beauty and artistic architecture." (2) The Lincoln School is located in the City of Racine, Racine County. From 1890 until its renovation in 1991 several additions were built onto the original school. Additions consist of a classroom addition built in 1908-09, a Chimney Stack structure built in 1932, a Boiler House Addition built in 1936, and a Multi-Use Room Addition built in 1953.(3)

All buildings are located on a triangular city block, approximately 2 acres in size, which is occupied solely by the School buildings. The site is bounded by a major diagonal thoroughfare on the southwest, State Street. State Street is a mixed use area - retail, commercial, industrial and residential, which leads into the downtown area. Carlisle Boulevard is the eastern boundary, which is primarily a residential roadway, with 1 and 2 family dwellings. The north boundary is Hamilton Street, which is a small residential street. On a small triangular city block directly west of the 1909 Addition is the Abraham Lincoln monument, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1991, the Lincoln School went through a major renovation and restoration, along with the construction of a new adjoining 3 story building addition in the northeast portion of the site. After being closed for several years, it was re-opened in the Fall of 1991, on its 100th anniversary as the Lincoln School Historic Apartments, a 64 unit low-income apartment building for the elderly.

X See continuation sheet

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|-------|--------------------------|
|       | JUL 1 8 1994             |
| INTER | GENCY RESOURCES DIVISION |
|       | NATIONAL PARK SERVICE    |

Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

Until its renovation in 1991, the Lincoln School consisted of a series of additions added on to the original building. All structures will be identified, however, only those considered to be architecturally significant and worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be described in detail (the 1890-91 Original Structure and the 1908-09 Addition).

#### Original Lincoln School 1890-91

The original Lincoln School consisted as a 2-1/2 story building, 80' x 56' with a large projecting portion on the East side and large recess area on the South side. Each elevation is unique in appearance. The East facade, or original main facade until the Addition of 1908-09, has a single extended center tower, projecting approximately 2' on one side and 14' on the other side from the building plane. The tower has been truncated from its original 86' spire configuration.

#### former

The Front (East) facade displays a tripartite window pattern which is repeated on the Basement, First Floor and Second Floor, with roof dormer above, and a single window \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the left side of the center entrance tower. The right side of the tower displays \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ paired \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ windows which are repeated on the Basement, First Floor and Second Floor, with roof dormer above, and a mullion window pattern.

The heavy Romanesque voussoir stone arch entry of the tower rests upon rusticated limestone piers, with cream color brick above. Above the arch are two thin windows under a twin arch, with a larger arched tripartite window at the attic level. The original broached spire has been replaced by a hip roof. The original turret-like galvanized metal projections, which were located just above the attic window arch, also no longer exist.

The brick and stone pattern developed on this building elevation is repeated on the other elevations. The combination of rusticated limestone and cream brick is quite handsome as to color, proportion and texture. The structure, heavy and massive as it is, swells from the broad base, and is broken in its upward rise by the varied belt courses. The variation in brickwork is a study in itself, but in spite of the varied patterns, there is no confusion. Particularly interesting is the corbelled prickwork of the upper courses,

| 8. Statement of Significance   | ,   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop<br>nationally | perty in relation to other properties:              |   |
| Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C                                  | 0   |   |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)   | D D E F G   |   |
| Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)<br>Architecture     | Period of Significance<br>1890-1909                 | Significant Dates<br>1890-91<br>1908-09 |
|  | Cultural Affiliation                                |   |
| Significant Person   | <b>Architect/Builder</b><br>Chandler, James Gilbert |   |
|  | Guilbert, Arthur A.                                 | - ·                                     |

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

#### SECTION 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. It is a good example of school Romanesque architecture in Racine, Wisconsin. Constructed in 1890-91, and 1908-09, the Lincoln School is one of the oldest school buildings in Racine. It is a good example of the school building design of local architect James Gilbert Chandler, who was a specialist in designing schools, and designed many schools throughout the Midwest. It also demonstrates a sympathetic architectural treatment of the 1908-09 Classical Revival style addition by the locally prominent architectural firm of Guilbert and Funston. The period of significance dates from the beginning of construction in 1890 to the completion of the addition in 1909.

X See continuation sheet

NPS Form, 10-600-e

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

typical

which replaced the wood brackets of earlier school houses designed by the building's architect, J.G. Chandler.(4) A rusticated stone beltcourse around the building at the First and Second story. in addition to the top of the entry arches and all Second Floor windows, which become arches at the 2 and 3 wide paired windows. Decorative inset brick spandrels define the area between the First and Second Floor windows at all Elevations.

All windows are rectangular 1/1 double hung, with transoms above the First and Second Floor units, except at the attic level of the entrance tower projection, which are quarter circles flanking a center arch top double hung window. The South Elevation also displays a 2' projected entrance from the plane of the building, approximately at the center of this view. The original design indicates that the doors were recessed from the face of the arch.(5) The third entrance and stair, which existed at the West Elevation has been removed as a result of the building addition of 1908-09. South Elevation window treatments, brick detailing, stone sill/banding and foundation stone are similar to that of the East Elevation. The primary distinguishing characteristic is the change of materials of the entrance arch, and its understated appearance. A more modest brick Romanesque arch rises above the stone foundation, which is outlined with a projected stone band. The entrance door is recessed.

The original metal turrets of the center projected gable have been removed, however, the ornamental metal gable face plaque is still intact.

The North Elevation displays the same detailing as the other elevations. A portion of its appearance has been obscurred by the construction of the Boiler Room addition.

A portion of the West Elevation has been concealed by the 1908–09 addition. However, the Southwest and Northwest corner is still exposed.

Dormers exist beside the East tower. Two brick chimneys exist below the roof: on the North and East sides, along the center of the building, however, they have been removed above the roof line. The roof trim consists of closed metal eaves that project slightly over the vertical walls. Two building entrances exist, on the east and south, although the original doors were previously removed, replacement doors were found in the attic of the building and reused

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

as entrance doors. Originally, the building consisted of eight rooms, four on the First and four on the Second Floor. Neither the basement nor the Attic was originally used, although later, the basement was converted to one classroom and the Attic converted into one classroom.

#### Lincoln School Addition 1908-09

In 1908, the Racine architectural firm of Guilbert & Funston, was engaged by the Board of Education to draw plans for an addition to the Lincoln School.(6) The Addition was constructed on the West side of the building via a connecting corridor and entrance, while the main portion of the addition was recessed from the front plane of the original school building.

The Addition is architecturally sympathetic to the original structure, yet displays construction and technological advancements which evolved during the intervening period. Cream color brick was used as the primary building component, with cut limestone accents, which acknowledge the rusticated stone bands of the original building. Projecting entrance towers with gabled pediments, corbelled cornice, complimentary roof and eave lines, similar window patterns, similar building mass and height, all display a sympathy for the original school design, while not overshadowing it.

The Addition is basically rectangular in configuration (82'x70'), plus projecting bays and connecting alcove, 2-1/2 stories in height, and built of the same materials as the original school. It displays a harmony and complimentarity, though it changed the circulation and focus of the original building design.

After the 1909 Addition the primary Elevation became the South Elevation. In 1923 the Abraham Lincoln monument was constructed on a separate small triangular city block which is not connected to the Lincoln School property. Its location is directly west of the West entrance of the 1909 Addition. The monument is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The South Elevation consists of a projecting 2-1/2 story tower, flanking receeding bays which feature a tripartite window and projecting entrance alcove with recessed door set into a cut limestone archway. Cream color brick, laid in a running bond pattern, matches the original building. Stone window

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

lintels and sills are again used, however, now they are smooth, cut ashlar. A brick foundation has supplanted the original building's rusticated limestone watertable base. Denticulation, roof pitch, and eve design are similar to the original building. Window patterns and sizes are similar to the original building, however, the decorative brickspandrel have been eliminated, and the arch stone banding which occurred above the Second Floor windows has been supplanted by horizontal cut stone beltcourse.

The design of the Addition displays centrally positioned gabled towers on all 3 elevations (South, West, North), though only the West towers has entrance doors. Again, roof dormers were introduced on the East and North Elevations. Window wells were created on the North side to allow additional light to enter the basement rooms.

The interior of the addition consisted of 8 large rooms on the first and second floors and a stair tower at the South and West entrances. Though modifications have been made through the years, the addition existed basically intact until its current renovation.

#### Chimney Stack Addition: 1932 Boiler House Addition: 1936

The Chimney Stack, which was located east of the Boiler House and north of the original school building was approximately 12' in diameter at its base, and approximately 55' tall. 20' was previously removed from the top in 1981. This structure lacked architectural noteworthiness.

The Boiler House Addition was built on the North side of the original School building. A small portion, 28'x 20'x 9' high, extends beyond the north building wall. This addition lacks architectural merit, but was retained for reuse as a Mechanical Room for the renovated building.

Building materials of these structures consist of cream color brick which match the 1890 and 1909 buildings.

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#### All Purpose Room Addition: 1953 (demolished)

The All Purpose Room Addition was a one story flat roof 61'x61' adjoining building, connected to the original building's east entrance tower with projecting rectangles and a connecting corridor which acted as the entrance to the All Purpose Room. The corridor connector obscurred the Romanesque arch entrance of the original school building.

A cream color brick, which did not match in color or texture the 1890 or 1909 buildings was used for this addition. The addition was characterized by flat roofs of varying heights and a basically windowless facade.

The addition did not display any unique architectural characteristics, obscured the East elevation of the 1890 building, and was removed during the 1991 renovation.

### Lincoln School - Rehabilitation and Addition: 1991 Lincoln School Apartments: 1991

In 1991, a major renovation was undertaken of the original 1890-91 building, 1908-09 addition and the Boiler Room Addition, demolition of the Chimney Stack and Multi-Use Room Addition, and the construction of a new 3 story connecting building on the northeast portion of the site.

The project, begun in January of 1991, consisted of preserving the historically and architecturally significant features of the Lincoln School as detailed in the Part 1 and Part 2 Historic Preservation Certification Application, previously submitted to the Department of the Interior and demolishing and removing all plumbing, heating and electric equipment in order to create 40 new apartments on 4 floors in the historic building while preserving the historic character of the building. An architecturally compatible 24 unit, 3 story building addition was also constructed on site. The entire project was designed for the elderly, featuring such items as totally barrier free access, elevator, emergency call system, bathroom grab rails, and other geriatrically focused design features.

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

In the Fall of the 1991 the project was completed, Lincoln School a once vacant, blighted, but historically significant building was re-opened on its 100th anniversary as the Lincoln School Historic Apartments, a 64 unit low income apartment complex for the elderly.

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Racine Daily Journal March 20, 1891

<sup>2</sup> The Racine Journal Times, February 22, 1970

<sup>3</sup>Blueprints of buildings and additions. Lincoln School Historic Apartments Limited Partnership.

<sup>4</sup>Patton, Helen Frances. <u>Public School Architecture in</u> <u>Racine, Wisconsin, and Vicinity From the Time of Settlement to</u> <u>1900</u>. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1965. p. 545

<sup>5</sup>Blueprints of buildings and additions. Lincoln School Historic Apartments Limited Partnership.

<sup>6</sup>Proceedings, Board of Education, April 27, 1908

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

Racine for issuance of bonds had been ruled illegal by the City Attorney on the grounds that Charter limitations required that a vote be put to the people.(10)

It was now August, and too late to provide school rooms for the 1889 Fall term. When Superintendent Winslow addressed himself to the Board of Education in September, his plea was desperate and impassioned:

"Gentlemen: ... I desire to present for your consideration the following facts and figures and to once more respectfully call your attention to the very urgent need of extended school accomodations in the Fifth and Seventh Wards. Cannot something be done by this Board, by his Honor, the Mayor, by the City Council, by this prosperous and intelligent city, to furnish the school rooms much needed."(11)

By February, 1890, it was obvious that nothing would be done before the "reorganizing of the board in May ... through lack of funds ..." It was, therefore, decided to return the plans, specifications, and forfeit checks deposited by bidders "... in order that the board may be at full liberty after its reorganization to take such action in the matter as may be deemed for the best interest of the schools and of the city."(12)

A new school board was organized in May, 1890. B.B. Northrop was elected President and H.G. Winslow was reelected Superintendent of Schools and Clerk.(13) A week earlier, in action probably based on the first advertisement for bids, Commissioner Howell moved that: "... it is the sense of this board that the sum of \$15,000 should apply to the erection of the building proper, exclusive of the heating, ventilating, seating, and other furnishings of the same, and that the said ought not to be exceeded, as before stated, which was so ordered."(14)

By now the funds were secure and plans could proceed.

On June 6, 1890, Chandler submitted plans "with changes drawn in red on paper, together with elevations subject to minor changes." The plans were approved and bids were again advertised.(15)

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When opened, seven firms submitted proposals, indicating alternate options:

| J.P. Corse & Son<br>without Joilet ashlar and with white pine & paint finish<br>Holm Brothers | \$14,700<br>14,300<br>14,466 |
|---|------------------------------|
| Joliet stone with Georgia pine finish   | 15,180                       |
| W.A. Bowen & Son  | 15,709                       |
| Hugh R. Edwards   | 15,023                       |
| with Georgia pine finish  | 15,324                       |
| Edgar S. Jenks  | 15,175                       |
| with Georgia pine finish  | 15,425                       |
| without ashlar or Georgia Pine  | 14,475                       |
| without ashlar  | 14,725                       |
| Theodore Kerner   | 15,050                       |
| with Georgia pine finish  | 15,300                       |
| without ashlar  | 14,650                       |
| Josiah Hocking, Jr.   | 15,793                       |
| with Georgia pine finish  | 16,093                       |
| without rock face stone   | 15,393 (16)                  |

Bids for heating and ventilating were referred to the Committee on Heating and Ventilation; bids for "erecting the new school were referred to the Committee on Building and Repairs," as was a proposal for work by Jacob Mohr:

... for all tin, galvanized iron and cornice works, and for a roof of Cartwright system of tin shingles for the new building \$1,600.(17) By a unanimous vote, the contract for the building was awarded to James P. Corse & Son, the lowest bidder at \$14,700.(18) This included Joliet ashlar and varnished wood finish.(19)

The heating and ventilating was separately contracted. There was no provision for indoor toilets.

A.F. Botsford was employed "to superintend the erection of the new building ... at a salary of two and a half dollars per day as long as so employed."(20)

Except for "adding one foot to the height of the masonry under the new 5th Ward school house" there were no records of change from the plans as bid. This

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addition was due to the fact that:

... in making the excavations for the foundations of the new building, according to the plans and specifications of the architect, there was one foot of said gravel and water between the bottom of the footings and the solid clay, they have therefore considered it necessary to excavate one foot deeper, thus placing the footing of the walls one foot lower, and adding one foot in height to the basement walls, the adjustment of the additional expense for the same being provided for in the specifications.(21)

When the first Racine Public School was given a name other than a Ward designation the matter was handled quickly - a name was presented and the decision made.(22) Not so in the case of the Lincoln School, as the following entry in the Official Proceedings states:

... Your committee appointed to act in the naming of the new school house, finding such a diversity of opinion existing among our citizens, as to whether the name should be one of local or national reputation, each plan having a precedent already in the names given to your school buildings, beg to refer the matter to the Board for decision and respectfully ask to be relieved of further action in the matter, being unable to agree.(23)

An article in the <u>Racine Daily Journal</u> a few months later gave an unofficial report of School Board discussion:

Commissioner Smieding thought that the schools in our city should have proper names. Commissioner Gillan said that he favored the idea, but it was opposed by the old Board. The president said that until we had better school buildings, he did not think that anyone would feel honored by having one of the schools named after him. Commissioner Smieding thought that if they were named after dead men they would not object.(24)

Perhaps this is why the following resolution was introduced on February 27, 1890:

On motion of Commissioner Gillan it was unanimously resolved that the new school in the Fifth Ward be named and known as the Lincoln School.(25)

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

The <u>Racine Daily Journal</u> published a drawing of the building and a long article on the "Temple of Education" in March, 1891.(26)

The reporter took the occasion to editorialize on the "rapid strides which civilization has made since 1890":

Various causes led to the rapid advancement of the new world, but of all the causes that have entered into the combination which produced such unparalleled results, the prominent part played by education must be granted first place.(27)

The <u>Journal</u> assumed a role of keeping school affairs before the public, and throughout the difficult years of the last quarter of the century attempted to press the cause of good schools. With the opening of Lincoln School, in the newspaper account, comes a glimmer of the old pride which marked the first achievements in school building when Racine was smaller and more homogeneous:

The little New England school house was where many of our greatest statesmen received their training, and where the lessons of liberty were installed into the minds of the youth. As the empire moved its way westward the progressive element began to pay more attention to the school buildings, making them more commodious and supplying them with every convenience which the ingenuity of man could invent.

The same spirit has manifested itself all over the country ... It seems strange but it is nevertheless true that the finest school buildings can be found in the West, where the cities and towns find the task of raising money more arduous than in the East.

Wisconsin is not at all behind the procession ... and with an over-zealous pride perhaps, we have been accustomed to claim for our commonwealth the best public school system.

As for the Belle City, its schools are well on a par with other cities of the state and under the control of the best and most intelligent men in the community. From the time when the first school house was built .. until the present date there had been a gradual evolution towards better

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schools and better school buildings commenserate with the growth of the city.(28)

The article went on to review the "terrible state of affairs that first prompted the move toward the erection of the beautiful Lincoln School." The controversy over the site was detailed, and the decision by City Attorney Giddings that the first appropriation of \$15,000 could not be used "for the reason that ... the action of the Council in voting school bonds without a vote of the people was illegal."

There was no exaggeration in the statement that "columns might be written on the struggle in securing this elegant new school," but now that it was completed the city could take pride in it:

The new temple of learning, christened "The Lincoln School" ... was named in honor of the lamented President, Abraham Lincoln. The dimensions are  $80 \times 56$  not allowing for projections, 37 feet. It is an eight room building.(29)

The floor plan shows the arrangement to be as described: (30)

Every school room has three exits, one to the hall, one to the girls' cloak room and one to the boys' cloak room. Every school room has two cloak rooms well lighted and warm; also teacher's closets, book case and apparatus closet in every room. Rooms all open into the central hall on both floors. There are two stairways, one at the east and one at the west end of the hall; three entrances, one in the east and two at the south. There are double outside doors, opening out at each entrance and double inside doors, opening both ways. Entrance is made by one step from the outside into the vestibule. All other steps are within the vestibule. The rooms vary a little in size, but the general rule is 24 x 32 except the grammar school which is 32 x46. The recitation room is 22 x 36, large enough to be divided into two room<sup>S</sup>. There is a stairway leading into the attic which could be used for any purpose. It is a two story brick building with basement and attic, the basement divisions being similar to the upper floors. It is heated by Mooers & Co.'s system, with two sectional boilers in the basement, direct and indirect radiation.(31)

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The newspaper account failed to mention certain architectural features which made this school unique in Racine when it was built. The activity center revolved around a diagonal central hall which is commodious yet arranged for maximum economy of space. Another feature was the use of glass in all doors opening off the central hall, so that the principal could observe classroom activity without entering the classroom.

Chandler conceived the interior space as something more than four unbroken planes. The diagonal walls, the flanging walls in the lower corridor entry, and the angular placement of doors gives variety and contrasts markedly with earlier schools.

Winslow described the use of classrooms when the school first opened in April, 1891:

... The Lincoln School has opened with an attendance of over 300 pupils. The five rooms that are opened are seated for 48 pupils each or 240 pupils in all. Each room is overflowing, and pupils are seated around tables, on front seats without desks, and on recitation seats...

The rooms are ready, furnished with furniture and only need to be provided with teachers.

I respectfully recommend, that the principal occupy the Grammar School Room, with grades 4 and 5, about 80 pupils, and that he be provided with an assistant for the recitation room. This arrangement will furnish the relief needed for the three upper grade rooms.

I also recommend that the unoccupied room on the first floor be furnished with a teacher, and opened at once, as there are now more pupils in the two lower grade rooms than ought to be placed in the three rooms ...(32)

The overall impact of the original structure is one of boldness and strength with rhythmic architectural refinements and suggestions of delicacy in the roof line. Comparison with the Howell School (1887) shows that Chandler repeated his earlier motifs but with more control, particularly to be noted in the facade of the building.

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

The fact that the building was "in sight of trains passing" is another reminder of Racine's early city pride and the often expressed belief in the advantages of building school houses which would impress visitors and attract industry.

In 1891, the <u>Racine Daily Journal</u> boasted that
 ... there is not another building equal to it in the state, ... In
 appearance it is a beauty and reflects credit upon Mr. Chandler, the
 architect and also the builders.(33)

The following newspaper account probably summed up the community sentiment:

The citizens should be and are proud of the elegant place and superintendent, president of the board and all of the commissioners who assisted in securing it are deserving of the everlasting thanks of the people.(34)

By Spring of 1907, enrollment at Lincoln School had increased to 530 pupils,(35) and 13 teachers,(36) nearly doubling the opening enrollment of 1891. Two classes had been crowded out of the building and were compelled to cross railroad tracks to attend the Garfield School. One class was held in a makeshift, unsanitary area in the attic, and the Kindergarten class occupied a basement room.(37)

In the Fall of 1907 a special meeting of the Board of Education was convened for the purpose of considering the enlargement of the Lincoln School and the purchase of an addiitional school site.(38)

The expansion of the City was in a northwesterly direction, as predicted by School Superintendent Winslow some 30 years earlier, around the Lincoln School. J.W. Weichers, Chairman of the Board, recommended the expansion of Lincoln School, doubling its size. He argued that enlargement of the building was "recommended by the fact that it will secure cheaper administration than if a building, accomodating the same pupils, were located elsewhere. Also, because the present heating plant is sufficient for the larger building and because no additional ground will be required, and further, because it will make it possible to furnish this district with a public school auditorium."(39) By a vote of 5 to 4, the motion to enlarge Lincoln School was adapted.(40)

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

By January of 1908, all architects in the city were requested to present plans and specifications for an addition to the west side of the building.(41) In April, the Buildings Committee recommended to the Board the acceptance of the plans submitted by the respected local firm of Guilbert & Funston. In deciding in favor of the firm, the Committee took into consideration: "First - The outside appearance of the building. Second - The inside arrangement. Third -The location of the addition on the lot."(42) And apportioned \$30,000 to build the addition.(43)

When bids were received at the July 2, 1908 Board meeting, the list of nine bidders and their proposed building costs were read aloud.

| A.C. Kappel    | \$26,618    |
|----------------|-------------|
| S.C. Anderson  | 26,166      |
| Jas. Holm Co   | 26,146      |
| E.A. Jenks     | 27,760      |
| C.O. Johnson   | 30,620      |
| Hans Larson    | 26,711      |
| James Corse    | 27,900      |
| Josiah Hocking | 28,965      |
| Jensen Bros    | 24,870 (44) |

Heating and Ventilating and Plumbing bids were taken separately, with the low bids adding \$7,169 to the total building costs.(45) By 1909 the additon was completed, which added an auditorium, teachers'rest room, Nurse's room, stock room and eight classrooms.(46) No further documentation has been found to suggest changes to these plans or price of the school.

#### ARCHITECTS' BIOGRAPHIES

#### JAMES GILBERT CHANDLER

Racine's resident school architecture specialist was James Gilbert Chandler. Chandler is architect of record for the original Lincoln School.(47)

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

Chandler was born at Berlin Falls, New Hampshire, August 4, 1856, son of Milton Walker and Sarah (Groves) Chandler. He received his early education in the public schools at Zumbrota, Minnesota, and Madison, Wisconsin. As a youth he learned the carpenter's trade, in which he served a three year's apprenticeship, and then studied architecture at Madison for three years (1875-78) under D.R. Jones. The next year he began independent practice as an architect in Racine, Wisconsin. He subsequently formed the firm of Chandler and Park, which continued in business until 1919. He made a specialty of school architecture, providing plans for many schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa.

In his promotional brochure(48), there are sketches and photographs of schools he built in Racine, Walworth, Cashton, Abelman, Wilton, Beloit, Burlington, Chippewa Falls, Coleman, Delevan, Dodgeville, Evansville, Eau Claire, Hillsboro, Jefferson, Kenosha, Menomonee Falls, Prairie du Chien, Seymour, Shawano, Sparta, Sturgeon Bay, and Wonewoc, Wisconsin; Kankakee, Pecatonica, and Rockford, Illinois; Monticello, Indiana; Fort Dodge and Oxford, Iowa; and Lakefield and Plainfield, Minnesota. He also designed a school in Zumbrota, Minnesota, where he had received his early education.(49)

The <u>Cyclopedia</u> reviewed his community activities in Racine.(50) Chandler died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January 17, 1924.(51)

Chandler's school buildings bear some of the influences of his teacher, D.R. Jones. The design for an eight-room school house published in the 1882 State circular shows some of the interior arrangements and exterior features common to Chandler's early school houses.(52)

Chandler designed not only schools, but many of the fine houses and large commercial buildings in Racine.(53) Chandler is noted as architect for the Racine City Hall (demolished), County Jail (demolished), St. Mary's Hospital (demolished), Universalist Church, Pease Manufacturing Co. and Fish Bros. Wagon Co.

A partial list of buildings designed by Chandler is itemized below:

| Lorenzo Janes School, | 1896-97 | Racine, WI |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| Dania Hall            | 1904–05 | Racine, WI |

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

| James A. Garfield School,      | 1882, 1884          | Racine, | WI    |     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------|-----|
| Fish Bros. Wagon Co.,          | 1889–1900           | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Dr. Shoop Family Medicine Co.  | 1893, 1899, 1902    | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Red Cross Drug Co.,            | 1886–87             | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Unitarian Universalist Church, | 1895, 1896 addition | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Dr. Clarendon I. Shoop House,  | 1903                | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Horatio Gates Winslow School ( | addition), 1897.    | Racine, | WI    |     |
| S.C. Johnson House,            | 1903                | Racine, | WI    |     |
| Stephen Bull house             | date unknown        | Racine, | WI    |     |
| J.I. Case house                | date unknown        | Racine, | WI (5 | 54) |

#### School Buildings

Sixth Ward School Fifth Ward School High School Fourth Ward School Winslow School DeKoeven Avenue School Guilbert Knapp School Beloit School Building Burlington School Building Chippewa Falls School Building Coleman School Building Delavan High School Dodgeville High School Eau Claire High School Annex Evansville School Grand Rapids High School Hillsboro School Jefferson High School Kenosha School Menomonee Falls School New Lisbon High School Prairie du Chien School Seymour School Shawano High School Sparta School

| Racine, WI          |
|---------------------|
| Racine, WI          |
| Beloit, WI          |
| Burlington, WI      |
| Chippewa Falls, WI  |
| Coleman, WI         |
| Delavan. WI         |
| Dodgeville, WI      |
| Eau Claire, WI      |
| Evansville, WI      |
| Grand Rapids, WI    |
| Hillsboro, WI       |
| Jefferson, WI       |
| Kenosha, WI         |
| Menomonee Falls, WI |
| New Lisbon, WI      |
| Prairie du Chien WI |
| Seymour, WI         |
| Shawano, WI         |
| Sparta, WI          |

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

> Sparta High School Sturgeon Bay School Wonewoc School Walworth School Cashton School Ableman School Wilton School. Monticello High School Kankakee School Kankakee High School Pecatonica School Rockford School Streator School Ward School, Fort Dodge Oxford School Albert Lea School Lakefield School Mankato High School Annex Plainview School Zumbrota School

Sparta, WI Sturgeon Bay, WI Wonewoc, WI Walworth, WI Cashton, WI Ableman, WI Wilton, WI Monticello, IL Kankakee, IL Kankakee, IL Pecatonica, IL Rockford, IL Streator, IL Fort Dodge, IA Oxford, IA Albert Lea, MN Lakefield, MN Mankato, MN Plainview, MN Zumbrota, MN (55)

#### EDMUND B. FUNSTON & ALBERT ARTHUR GUILBERT FIRM: GUILBERT & FUNSTON

The firm of Guilbert and Funston was awarded the commission to design the addition to the Lincoln School.

Born in Champagne County, Illinois, Funston (1869 - ?) received his early education in the public schools of Mahomet, Illinois and graduated from the Architecture School of the University of Illinois in 1892. Hethen taught manual training in Colorado for two years, followed by one year of architectural work in New Orleans and Atlanta. Later, he was employed in the Chicago architectural office of Joseph C. Lewellyn for five years, being in charge of significant amount of work in the Midwest including five buildings at the University of Illinois. In 1903 Funston came to Racine where he entered into a partnership with A. Arthur Guilbert from 1905-1915. The successful

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

partnership erected many prominient buildings in Racine. In 1915 the partnership dissolved and each man practiced independently thereafter. After 1915, Funston's firm was known as the Edmund B. Funston Co. Judging from their independent work, Funston was the designer who preferred early modern styles while Guilbert was more traditional in his design approach. By 1927 Funston seems to have retired from architectural practice and moved to Coral Gables, Florida.(56)

A. Arthur Guilbert was born in Racine and educated in the public schools. Guilbert (1869-1922) was trained at the University of Pennsylvannia and Michigan and graduated from the Chicago School of Architecture in 1901. In 1903 Guilbert entered into practice in Racine with Herbert B. Rugh (Guilbert and Rugh). From 1905-1915 he was in partnership with Edmund B. Funston, and from 1915 until his death he practiced alone. In partnership and alone, Guilbert had a very successful practice both in Racine and across the State.(57)

Some of the buildings which were designed either independently or jointly are listed below:

| J.I. Case Administrative and   |         |            |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Factory Buildings,             | 1902–04 | Racine, WI |
| James A. Garfield School       | 1905-15 | Racine, WI |
| (addition)                     |         |            |
| Danish Brotherhood             | 1910-11 | Racine, WI |
| Racine Lodge No. 252 (Elks)    | 1912    | Racine, WI |
| St. Luke's Episcopal Church,   |         |            |
| Chapel, Guild Hall and         |         |            |
| Rectory [Rectory]              | 1905–10 | Racine, WI |
| Office Building of M. Tidyman  | 1915-16 | Racine, WI |
| Masonic Temple                 | 1913    | Racine, WI |
| John H. Palmetter's Old        |         |            |
| Ladies Home                    | 1904-05 | Racine, WI |
| Warren J. Davis House          | 1909    | Racine, WI |
| Horlick Malted Milk Factory    |         |            |
| [Entry Gate; later             |         |            |
| buildings & remodeling]        |         |            |
| Racine Junction Branch Library | 1913-14 | Racine, WI |

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

> Office Building of Mitchell-Lewis Motor Car Co.

Racine, WI (58)

#### ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The Romanesque Revival Style (1880-1900) was based upon a Romanesque prototype architecture but interpreted more robustly and freely, particularly by its most noted American Designer, architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). Wisconsin has no buildings designed by Richardson, though his influence is obvious in the designs of J.D. Chandler and particularly the Lincoln School.

Racine has only four remaining school buildings designed by James G. Chandler, (Janes School, Garfield School, Winslow School, Lincoln School) and of these Garfield and Winslow were designed from the same floor plans originally by Lucas Bradley, an early builder in Racine's history, and added onto by Chandler's designs. Janes School (1897), a later work of Chandler's displays an exuberant amalgam of styles ranging from Romanesque to Queen Anne, to Classical Revival to Chateaesque.

#### Other Romanesque Buildings in Racine

The Lincoln School remains the best example of Romanesque school architecture in Racine, and along with the Unitarian Universalist Church (aka Church of the Good Shepard) and the Dr. Shoop Family Medicine Company buildings are the best remaining examples of Romanesque architecture in the City of Racine.

#### Comparison to Other Racine School Buildings

Of the school buildings constructed prior to Lincoln School, only Garfield School (1855) and Winslow School (1855-56) still remain in Racine. These buildings were designed by Lucas Bradley, a local builder, along with the original Fourth Ward School, utilizing the same footprint. Later the Fourth Ward School would be razed and the current Janes School would be built (1896-97) on the site of the original school.

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

The addition to the Garfield and Winslow schools were designed by James Chandler in a sympathetic manner to the original school buildings, but lack his characteristic exuberant style, both in floor plan and elevations.

Lincoln School is the oldest original school building designed by Chandler in Racine. It is the best example of Romanesque School building architecture in Racine, and along with the Janes School, represents the only remaining original school building designs in Racine by Chandler.

The Lincoln School is significant under Criterion C as a fine example of the Romanesque style. It is the only remaining school building of this style in Racine, and along with the Unitarian Universalist Church, represents the best examples Romanesque architecture in Racine. It also represents the transition of school architecture in Racine from local builder designed utilitarian buildings to consideration of aesthetics in the evolution of culture and urban design in early Racine. It expressed a desire to dignify the icon of education - the school house.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> <u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, July 29, 1892

<sup>2</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, June 1, 1888

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., February 9, 1889

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., June 14, 1889

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, July 2, 1889. He also reported that \$5,000 had been allotted to provide more adequate heating in some of the older buildings.

<sup>7</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, July 16, 1889.
 <sup>8</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, July 26, 1889.
 <sup>9</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, August 16, 1889

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<sup>10</sup><u>Racine Daily Journal</u>, March 20, 1891
<sup>11</sup><u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, September 13, 1889
<sup>12</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, February 28, 1890

<sup>13</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, May 13, 1890. Northrop was elected 11 to 1; Winslow's appointment was unanimious.

<sup>14</sup><u>Ibid</u>, May 6, 1890
<sup>15</sup><u>Ibid</u>, June 6, 1890
<sup>16</sup><u>Ibid</u>, June 24, 1890
<sup>17</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>18</sup><u>Ibid</u>., July 2, 1890
<sup>19</sup><u>Ibid</u>., June 24, 1890
<sup>20</sup><u>Ibid</u>., July 11, 1890
<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

 <sup>22</sup>Patton, Helen Frances. <u>Public School Architecture in</u> <u>Racine, Wisconsin, and Vicinity From the Time of Settlement to</u> <u>1900</u>. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1965, p. 539
 <sup>23</sup><u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, January 30, 1891
 <sup>24</sup><u>Racine Daily Journal</u>, July 3, 1890
 <sup>25</sup><u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, February 27, 1890
 <sup>26</sup>Illustration, Wisconsin State Historical Society

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<sup>27</sup><u>Racine Daily Journal</u>, March 20, 1891

<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Racine Daily Journal, March 20, 1891

 $^{30}\mathrm{Published}$  in 1894 Manual and Report of the Racine Public Schools, Racine. Illustration attached in this Report.

<sup>31</sup><u>Racine Daily Journal</u>, March 20, 1891
<sup>32</sup><u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, April 10, 1891
<sup>33</sup><u>Racine Daily Journal</u>, March 20, 1891
<sup>34</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>34</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>35</sup><u>Proceedings</u>, Board of Education, April 4, 1907
<sup>36</sup><u>Ibid</u>., April 26, 1907
<sup>37</sup><u>Ibid</u>., September 17, 1907
<sup>38</sup><u>Ibid</u>., October 31, 1907
<sup>39</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>40</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>41</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>41</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>42</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>43</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>44</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>44</sup><u>Ibid</u>.
<sup>45</sup><u>Ibid</u>.

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

<sup>46</sup>Christenson, Charles M., Racine County Historian, Untitled Report dated July 18, 1942: Racine County Historical Society, Manuscripts.

<sup>47</sup>Proceedings, Board of Education, July 26, 1889.

<sup>48</sup>Chandler and Park brochure on school house designs, n.d., looseleaf. Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

<sup>49</sup><u>American School Board Journal</u>, vd XVI, No. 1 (January, 1898), P. 11

<sup>50</sup>National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 23 (New York: James T. White & Company, 1933), p. 340.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid., op-cit., p. 340

<sup>52</sup>W.C. Whitford, <u>Circular on Plans and Specifications of</u> <u>School houses for the Country Districts, Villages, and Smaller Cities of</u> <u>Wisconsin</u>, (Madison: David Atwood, State Printer, 1882).

<sup>53</sup>Headlight, Racine, Wisconsin, 1895. Collection of the Racine County Historical Society.

<sup>54</sup>Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission, Susan E. Karr, Architectural President, <u>Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of</u> <u>Racine,</u> (Racine: Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1980)

<sup>55</sup>Chandler and Park brochure on school house designs, n.d. looseleaf, Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

<sup>56</sup> Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission

<sup>57</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

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|   | X See continuation sheet                   |
|---|--|
| Previous documentation on file (NPS):   |  |
| X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)   | Primary location of additional data:       |
| has been requested  | X State historic preservation office       |
| previously listed in the National Register  | Other State agency                         |
| previously determined eligible by the National Register   | Federal agency                             |
| designated a National Historic Landmark   | Local government                           |
| recorded by Historic American Buildings   | University                                 |
| Survey #  | X Other                                    |
| recorded by Historic American Engineering   | Specify repository:                        |
| Record #  | Racine County Historical Museum            |
| 10. Geographical Data   |  |
| Acreage of property2 acres  |  |
|   |  |
| UTM References  |  |
| $ A \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 6 \\ 4 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 7 \\ 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0$ | 8   .       .       .   .                  |
| Zone Easting Northing   | Zone Easting Northing                      |
|   |  |
| ✓ Lake I Lake Lake Land Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake Lake   |  |
|   | See continuation sheet                     |
|   |  |
| Verbal Boundary Description   |  |
| The nominated property consists of Block 10   | ). Clover Hill Addition, in the NE 1/4 of  |
| Sec. 8, T. 3N., R.23E, in the City of Racin   |  |
| Sec. 0, 1. JA., R.251, In the offy of Racin   | c, Racine oo., with                        |
|   |  |
|   |  |
|   | See continuation sheet                     |
|   |  |
| Boundary Justification  |  |
| The boundary includes the entire triangular   | city block, 2 acres in size, that has been |
| historically associated with the property.  |  |
| •   |  |
| -   | ·  |
|   |  |
|   | See continuation sheet                     |
|   |  |
| 11. Form Prepared By  |  |
| name/title Helmut Toldt, President  |  |
| organization Master Builders, Inc.  | date January 25, 1994                      |
| street & number 4040 N. Calhoun Road  | telephone                                  |
| city or town Brookfield   | state Wisconsin zip code 53005             |

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

Photographic Materials - Identification

Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI. Photos by Helmut Toldt, September, 1993. Neg. at WI Historical Society

Photo #1 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation of 1890 school building and 1990 new addition)

- Photo #2 of 21: View looking west (East Elevation entrance of 1890 school building)
- Photo #3 of 21: View looking west (East Elevation of 1890 school building
- Photo #4 of 21: View looking west (East Elevation entrance of 1890 school building)
- Photo #5 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation of 1890 school building and 1910 school building addition to the west)
- Photo #6 of 21: View looking northwest (Southeast Elevation of 1890 school building)
- Photo #7 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation of 1890 school building)
- Photo #8 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation view of decorative gable medallion on 1890 school building )
- Photo #9 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation of 1910 school building addition)
- Photo #10 of 21: View looking north (South Elevation of 1910 school building addition)

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

- Photo #11 of 21: View looking east (West Elevation of 1910 school building addition)
- Photo #12 of 21: View looking southeast (Northwest Elevation 1910 school building addition)
- Photo #13 of 21: View looking south (North Elevation of 1890 school building)
- Photo #14 of 21: View looking west (East Elevation of 1910 school building addition at right and North Elevation of 1890 school building at left)
- Photo #15 of 21: View looking south (North Elevation of 1890 school building and 1990 addition)
- Photo #16 of 21: View looking south (North Elevation of 1890 school building and new connection to 1990 addition)
- Photo #17 of 21: View looking south (North Elevation of 1990 addition)
- Photo #18 of 21: View looking west (East Elevation of 1990 addition)
- Photo #19 of 21: View looking north (2nd floor south corridor of 1910 school building addition showing existing wall moldings and window details as original)
- Photo #20 of 21: View looking north (Interior south original stairway connecting 1890 and 1910 school buildings)
- Photo #21 of 21: View looking west (Eastview of 2nd floor corridor of 1890 school building showing wainscot paneling, doors and trim detail as original)

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Lincoln School Racine, Racine County, WI

### OWNER

Lincoln School Historic Apartments Limited Partnership John Hennessy, President, Hennessy Group, General Partner



