NPS Form 10-900

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places **Registration Form**

OMB No. 10024-0018

RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 3 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

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

Berlin High School historic name other names/site number

2. Location

street	& number	289 East Hur	on Stre	eet			N/A	not for p	ublication
city or	r town	Berlin					N/A	vicinity	
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Green Lake	code	047	zip code	54923

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

enpuna Signature of certifying official/Title

125/2016

Deputy State Historic Preservation Office - 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

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Berlin High School		Berlin	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and St	ate
4. National Park Service	Certification		- 1
hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register.	Els	on A. Beal	7-18-16
See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. removed from the National	_		
Register. other, (explain:)	1 pre		
	Signature of th	е Кеерег	Date of Action
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as	Category of Property (Check only one box)		rces within Property eviously listed resources
as apply) x private	x building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
public-local	district	1	buildings
public-State	structure		sites
public-Federal	site		structures
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(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.)

- \underline{X} 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.
- \underline{X} 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)

EDUCATION (A) ARCHITECTURE (C)

Period of Significance

1918-1966 (A) 1918 (C)

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

PARKINSON & DOCKINDORFF Suplice, Robert W.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Wisconsin

County and State

Berlin

Berlin

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Pre X	revious 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: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
10.	Geogra	phical Data		
	eage of Pr VI Referen		5.4 acres onal UTM references on a contir	nuation sheet.)
1	16	344484	4870279	3
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone Easting Northing See Continuation Sheet
		• •	(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 organization street & number city or town	Danielle Euer MacRostie Historic Advisors 53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 1142 Chicago	state	IL	date telephone zip code	January 5, 2016 312-786-1700 60604-3606		

Wisconsin

Berlin High School	Berlin	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

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	Kevin McDonald				
organization	Commonwealth Development			date	October 15, 2015
street & number	9 Sheboygan Street			telephone	920-922-8170
city or town	Fond du Lac	state	WI	zip code	54935

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 <u>et seq</u>.).

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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

Summary

The Berlin High School is a two story brick building located at 289 East Huron Street on Berlin's east side, east of the Fox River. The school was constructed in 1918 to replace the high school that had previously stood on the same site which had been destroyed by fire in 1916. The high school was designed by the La Crosse firm of Parkinson & Dockendorff. A one-story shop building was completed in 1947. A gymnasium addition was completed in 1955, which joined the shop building to the main school building. A classroom addition to the north side of the building was completed in 1986. The exterior of the building retains a high level of integrity. While renovations have been made, the interior retains its general layout and spatial orientation. Historic details include classroom doors, transoms, flooring, and trim in the main building; concrete floors and exposed roof structure in the shop addition; original wood floors in the gymnasium addition; exposed brick walls and terrazzo floors in the west gymnasium entrance vestibule; and exposed concrete block walls, wall-anchored benches, and wood cabinetry in the mid-century classroom block.

Site and Setting

The Berlin High School is located in a residential neighborhood at the east side of the City of Berlin. The building sits on a sloped site that is bounded by Huron Street to the south, Swetting Street to the west and partially bounded by Johnson Street to the east. The remainder of the east edge of the lot is bounded by adjacent residential lots. The rear, northern edge of the lot also abuts residential lots as well as a baseball field. Berlin High School is centered on its lot, with its primary façade facing Huron Street, and is composed of the original building built in 1918 and a series of rear additions completed in 1947, 1955 and 1986. The front portion of the site, extending between the school's primary façade and Huron Street, is landscaped with a lawn and trees and has two diagonal, concrete sidewalks that lead from the public sidewalk to the school building's main entrance. The remainder of the lot is composed primarily of paved parking lots, a paved playground and limited areas of lawn and plantings surrounding the rear additions. Concrete sidewalks provide access to side entrances off of each Swetting and Johnson Street.

Original Building (1918)

Exterior

Completed in 1918, the original section of the high school building is two stories tall, set on a raised basement. The building is of brick, has a concrete foundation and a flat roof surrounded by a raised parapet. The building is roughly T-shaped in plan, with a long façade facing Huron Street and a narrow ell extending to the north. A basement level boiler room is set within the northwest recess of the T and projects slightly beyond the west façade. A chimney is located between the boiler room and the main section of the

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	Bernin rigit School
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Dorlin Lich School

building and extends above the line of the parapet.

The exterior façades are of red brick masonry detailed with Bedford limestone that is used for beltcourses, parapet coping, window sills, door surrounds and ornament. Designed in the Collegiate Gothic style, the building features tower-like bays that mark the building entrances, a shaped parapet line that includes projecting ornament, Tudor-arched entry surrounds, shield designs and sculptural relief detailing composed of tracery-like ornament and arches that frame recessed stone panels.

The building's primary façade faces south and is five bays wide, with a central entrance bay that projects above the adjacent parapet line. The entrance bay is extensively detailed in limestone, including a Tudorarched and paneled surround at the main entrance. The main entry doors have been replaced with flush metal doors separated by a central glazed panel. Transoms above the doors have been filled in with opaque panels. Above the main entrance are three relief panels featuring shields and the words "BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL" inscribed in limestone. Three, tall, narrow window openings are located at the second floor level. These have been filled in with opaque panels but the original masonry openings remain. Projecting brick mullions extend from the stone entry surround toward the top of the parapet and the upper portion of the entry bay is detailed with paneled limestone ornament.

At the flanking bays, the south façade is detailed with a flat limestone belt course at the level of the basement window lintels and a projecting belt course above the second floor windows. The parapets at the end bays have a shaped profile and feature paneled limestone ornament. Windows at the flanking bays of the south façade consist of large rectangular openings that are regularly spaced and each contains a grouping of five windows. Historically the windows were wood, double-hung units with transoms at the first and second floors. The windows have been replaced with smaller aluminum windows or filled in with opaque panels. Despite these changes, the original mullion and transom patterns remain at each window opening.

The design and ornament at the primary façade is carried around to the side and rear façades, but in a more restrained manner. This includes the belt courses, which are carried around all sides of the building, as well as grouped window openings and shaped parapet lines. Side entrances at the east and west façades are each marked with a central, tower-like bay that features a lesser degree of limestone ornament as compared to the main entrance bay at the south façade. The entries at each of the west and east sides of the building are accessed by a stair with a brick knee wall. Each entry is framed with an arched stone surround with stone ornament above. Like the main entrance, the entry doors have been replaced with flush metal doors separated by central glazed panels. The transoms have been filled in with opaque panels. Above each side entrance are two, narrow window openings with stone surrounds and with transoms. The upper portion of each entrance bay is detailed with a shaped parapet and stone ornament.

Flanking the side entry at each of the west and east façades, is a plain brick bay to the south and a

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fenestrated bay to the north. The fenestrated bay at each side is composed of large rectangular window openings each with five windows, similar to the openings at the primary façade. The original wood windows have been replaced with smaller aluminum windows or filled in with opaque panels, but generally the original mullion and transom patterns remain. At the west façade, a large, opaque panel has been installed over the first floor windows immediately north of the main entrance.

The rear ell of the building is deeply recessed from the east and west façades and extends three bays north. From the exterior, the first floor of this section of the building is obscured by the original boiler room and the 1955 addition. The second floor remains exposed and features a plain brick wall facing north and large rectangular window openings at the east and west façades. These openings are taller than those at the south portion of the building, marking the historic assembly room use within. Each opening contains a grouping of three windows with transoms. While original wood windows have been replaced with smaller aluminum windows and filled in with opaque panels, original mullion and transom patterns remain.

Interior

The interior of the original building is laid out with classrooms in the south portion of the building and a gymnasium and assembly space in the north ell. Rooms are accessed from a central corridor oriented in an east-west direction at each floor. On the first floor, this corridor is connected to the south, east and west entrances. Each entrance has a stair that brings visitors up to the raised first floor. The east and west entrances include stairs down to the basement and the west entry stair also serves the second floor. A central, bifurcated stair is located across from the main entrance and provides access to the second floor. Large landings just below the second floor level provide access to the assembly room which occupies the north end of the second floor. An enclosed stair at the far north end of the building serves all floors. Corridor floors and stairs throughout are of terrazzo and the walls are finished in marble wainscoting with plaster above. Decorative features include beamed plaster ceilings, arched corridor openings and plaster medallions near the ceilings. Wood doors, trim, handrails and window surrounds remain throughout. The main entrance includes a wood paneled surround with a leaded-glass transom. Original finishes and features also remain within the classrooms and include wood floors, blackboards, wood trim and built-in cabinetry. The volume of the second floor assembly room remains intact. Below, the original gymnasium is now used as a cafeteria.

An open mezzanine that surrounded the gymnasium has been enclosed. However, the gymnasium space still retains its spatial volume and wood floor. Other changes throughout include newer finishes such as suspended acoustical tile ceilings in classrooms and new lockers in the corridors. When the 1955 addition was added at the back of the building, a new corridor was cut through former locker room spaces at the east side of the original building.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

Shop Building (1947)

Exterior

The shop building was historically built as a free-standing building located northeast of the main school building. It was joined to the main building with construction of the gymnasium addition in 1955. Completed in 1947, the shop building is one story tall and measures approximately 60' by 100'. The building has a concrete foundation, no basement, and a flat roof surrounded by a raised parapet. The façades are of red brick and are unornamented. A large overhead door opening is located at the east façade flanked by a pedestrian door with transom to the south and a small window opening to the north. The south façade has a large rectangular window opening. The original doors have been replaced and window openings have been filled in with opaque panels.

Interior

The interior of the shop building is a large, open space with concrete floors, an exposed roof structure and drywall partitions.

Gymnasium Addition (1955)

Exterior

Built to provide space for a new gymnasium as well as a library and additional classrooms and offices, the 1955 addition is irregular in plan and extends from the rear (north) of the original building, west of the 1947 shop addition, and south of the 1986 classroom addition. The addition is two stories tall, set on a concrete foundation and raised basement. The exterior façades of the Gymnasium Addition are composed of red brick with a combination of tile, stone and metal coping. At the north façade, the building's concrete base is exposed at the basement level, which is completely above grade here due to the slope of the site. The building has a combination of flat and gabled roofs. The gymnasium entrance is located at the west façade, facing Park Street, and consists of four, double-door openings framed with a limestone surround. The entrance has a projecting canopy and is flanked by small window openings also with limestone surrounds. The north and south façades of the gymnasium portion of the addition have long bands of rectangular window openings located near the roof line. Large rectangular window openings are regularly spaced across the remaining façades of this addition. Windows throughout originally had aluminum, divided-light, awning sash. All windows have been replaced or filled in with opaque panels; however, the original masonry openings remain intact.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

Interior

The 1955 addition to the building is largely occupied by the gymnasium, with a west gymnasium entrance vestibule, two stories of class rooms, a library, and office space at the east side of the addition. A corridor runs north-south through the irregularly shaped east section of this addition to connect with the main building to the south. The corridor then extends north to connect to the 1986 addition. Stairs serving all floors of the addition are located at the north end of the corridor and toward the south end of the corridor where the addition joins with the shop building. Nearly all offices and shared work space, including guidance office, counselor office, principal office, staff workroom, conference room, nurse's office, and library, in addition to general storage and mechanical space is located within the 1955 addition. The historic layout remains largely intact, including the corridors, the gymnasium, and library. Corridors and classrooms remain fairly unornamented with vinyl or carpet flooring, exposed brick or painted cement block walls, and simple vinyl trim. Original wood slab doors with single-pane glass are still intact. The gymnasium retains its original wood floor.

Classroom Addition (1986)

Exterior

Completed in 1986, the classroom addition is roughly rectangular in plan and is located at the north side of the building. The addition is connected to the rest of the building through a canted section at the southwest corner of the addition. The addition is two stories tall with a concrete foundation and gabled roof. The façades are composed of a red brick base with metal cladding above and are largely windowless. Openings are limited to doors and selective, small windows at the east and west façades.

Interior

The 1986 classroom addition is laid out with a central, double-loaded corridor serving classroom spaces at each floor. This corridor connects with the main corridor of the 1955 addition, adjacent to its north stair. A large entrance vestibule is located at the first floor near where the 1986 addition joins the 1955 portion of the building. A smaller entry is located at the east side of the first floor. Stairs serving both levels of the addition are located adjacent to this east entrance. The interior of the 1986 addition is simple and unornamented with painted concrete block walls, and vinyl floors and trim in the corridors. The classrooms are similar, with painted concrete block walls, vinyl trim, and carpet. Drop ceilings have recessed lighting.

Integrity

Overall, the Berlin High School displays the architectural integrity that makes it a significant local example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture and early twentieth century free-standing high school building with

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historic period additions that reflect the school's growth and the evolution and change of academic standards. Though the building's original windows have been replaced and filled in, the original 1918 building and its 1947 and 1955 additions retain their characteristic massing, roof lines, and brick and stone ornament remain intact. Inside, the 1918, 1947, and 1955 buildings retain their original spatial layouts and historic finishes including terrazzo floors, decorative stairs, wood classroom doors, and classroom built-ins.

The non-contributing 1986 addition is located north of Berlin High School's contributing historic structures. This structure is only minimally visible from Huron Street and does not negatively affect the contributing buildings' historic character.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

Summary

The Berlin High School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education as a free-standing public high school, representing the history of public education in the community. It is the oldest extant public high school building in the city. The original building is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a well-preserved example of a Collegiate Gothic style school building and the best example of the style in Berlin.

The original portion of the building was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Parkinson & Dockendorff of La Crosse, a firm well known throughout the state for school design. Completed in 1918, the original building was designed in the firm's favored Collegiate Gothic style. Over time, the building was expanded, reflecting changes in educational needs and the growth of the community. The additions included a (formerly) free-standing shop building and a gymnasium addition, both designed by Robert W. Surplice of Green Bay and completed in 1947 and 1955 respectively; and a 1986 classroom addition by the Platteville-based engineering firm of Southwest Engineering Inc.

The period of significance for the Berlin High School under Criterion A extends from 1918 to 1966, reflecting the school's growth and continuing relevance to the community from the year the school opened through 1966, the 50-year threshold for National Register listing. The building's period of significance for Criterion C is 1918, the year the original Parkinson & Dockendorff-designed Collegiate Gothic style high school building was completed. The building is in good condition, with the original building and all additions remaining largely as originally designed. The additions are located at the rear of the building, leaving the front and side façades of the original portion of the school intact. The building retains a high level of integrity, with exterior alterations limited to the replacement of windows and doors.

History of the Berlin High School

Opened in the fall of 1918, the original portion of the existing school building was the third high school building to be built at this site. Both earlier buildings, completed in 1869 and 1902 respectively, were destroyed by fire, the latter in 1916. The present Berlin High School was designed by Parkinson & Dockendorff, the contractor was A.J. Kramp, and the building was completed at a cost of \$120,000.

The earlies part of the subject building was dedicated May 13, 1918 with an open house and a program that included music by the high school chorus and a teacher's quartet and remarks delivered by Governor Emanuel L. Phillip, Berlin Mayor C.W. Hitchcock, and various school officials. The program was held in the building's auditorium, which was reportedly filled to capacity, with additional crowds waiting in the halls outside. An estimated 800 attendees were present and included residents of Berlin as well as those

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

who traveled from the surrounding area.¹ The building and dedication program was described the following day in the *Berlin Evening Journal*. Local pride in the building is summed up in the paper's reporting that "There is no better school building anywhere in the state and few can compare with it."²

Berlin High School was designed to offer the most modern school amenities. The basement housed spaces for gender-specific activities. The east end of the basement originally had a girl's locker room, domestic science kitchen and dining room, and sewing room, all separated by mechanical spaces from the basement's west end boy's locker room, mechanical drawing and finishing rooms, and a manual training room with a space for lumber storage. The remainder of the basement was occupied by a large two-story gymnasium with an upper level balcony. At the first floor were six classrooms, toilet rooms and cloak rooms. The second floor contained a large assembly room above the gymnasium, with the rest of the floor used for administrative offices, a library, additional toilet rooms, and classrooms originally dedicated to instruction in typewriting, business, recitation, and chemistry. Interior finishes were of high quality and included terrazzo floors in circulation spaces, maple flooring in classrooms, plaster wall and ceiling finishes, with marble wainscoting in the corridors and oak trim throughout.

A free-standing, brick, shop building was built on the site in 1947 to increase manual training facilities. Measuring approximately 60' by 100' the building was located northeast of the main school building. Designed by Green Bay-based architect Robert W. Surplice, this one-story building contained a metal shop, drafting studio, wood shop, paint room, and a small teacher's room.

As in many Wisconsin communities in the 1950s, mid-century economic growth boosted a need in Berlin for expanded high school facilities to serve growing numbers of students. By 1953, Berlin High School reached a record enrollment of 542 students, an increase of 47 students over the previous year's enrollment.³ In the early 1950s, an addition to the high school was planned to accommodate this increasing enrollment. The addition was reportedly designed to meet future enrollment needs of up to 750 students.⁴ Berlin High School's 1950s expansion reflected the increasingly diverse curriculum of Wisconsin's public high schools and the need for additional specialized spaces to accommodate developing classroom and physical education programs.

The Berlin High School's 1950s addition was again designed by architect Robert W. Surplice, a prolific designer of schools and churches throughout the region who earlier design the school's 1947 shop addition. The addition was begun in the spring of 1954 and dedicated December 4, 1955. Completed at a cost of \$400,000, the addition extended back from the original building, and included a new gymnasium with a

¹ Berlin Evening Journal, 14 May 1918.

² Berlin Evening Journal, 14 May 1918.

³ Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, 9 September 1953.

⁴ Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, 9 December 1953.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

seating capacity of 2,000, a library, six new classrooms, and offices for the city superintendent and school officials.⁵ The addition also connected the previously free-standing shop building to the main building. Improvements to the shop building included the addition of a drafting room, a storage space for wood, and an adjacent classroom. The basement of the new addition opened directly on to the athletic field and was used to store sports equipment and janitorial supplies. An estimated 500 residents of Berlin and the surrounding area attended the building dedication and the new addition was reportedly a source of pride for Berlin residents.⁶

The Berlin High School was expanded again with a north wing completed in 1986. Designed by Southwest Engineering Inc. of Platteville, the two-story addition included approximately 25,190 square feet of new space that included general classrooms, rooms for vocal and band instruction and practice, home economics kitchen and sewing areas, a television classroom, and a publications room.

In 1996, a new high school was constructed approximately a mile north, at 222 Memorial Drive. The subject building was renovated in the summer of that year and was converted for use as the Berlin Middle School. A new middle school is currently under construction.

History of Berlin, Wisconsin

The City of Berlin is located at the narrowest point of the channel of the upper Fox River for several miles in either direction. For this reason, the site was chosen in January 1846 as the crossing point for a road being surveyed to connect the city of Fond du Lac, located on Lake Winnebago, and the village of Plover, located on the Wisconsin River. This siting adjacent to water and land transportation would be important to the development of Berlin. Nathan H. Strong, Hugh G. Martin, Hiram Barnes, and William Dickey, the road surveyors who first saw the site on the Fox River, claimed the land and established the first settlement. Nathan Strong built on his claim in 1847 and platted "Strongsville" in 1848.⁷⁷ The settlement grew rapidly, with a population of 250 by 1850 and the following year, the village voted to rename itself Berlin. In 1857, a railroad link was built through Berlin, which assured the city's growth as water transport became obsolete. By the 1860s, Berlin had become a thriving commercial center, attracting business pertaining to the agricultural, wholesale, and retail trades.⁸ It was only in the late nineteenth century that significant industrial development occurred in Berlin, which included flouring mills, tanneries, saw mills, foundries,

⁵ Berlin High School Alumni Association, comp, *Berlin High School Graduates: A Century of Education, 1865-1965,* Berlin, WI: Miracle Printing Co., Inc., 1965.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Nathan Strong Park Historic District, Green Lake County, Wisconsin. National Register #05000423.

⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Huron Street Historic District, Green Lake County, Wisconsin. National Register #92001140.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

and other manufacturing necessary for any growing city. The early twentieth century saw a continued expansion in Berlin's local economy and population.

Education in Berlin and the Development of the Modern Educational System

The design and construction of the Berlin High School exemplified a statewide trend in the expansion and specialization of educational facilities during the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth century, most community schools combined primary and secondary grades into a single building. By the turn of the century however, there was a growing recognition that younger children and older children had distinctly different educational and developmental needs that could be best served through separate, specialized facilities. The push for secondary education led first to a proliferation of separate public high schools. The Free High School Law, which provided state aid to fund public high schools in Wisconsin, was passed in 1875, and by 1923 over 400 school districts operated high schools.⁹ Junior high schools also gained favor in the early twentieth century, particularly in larger urban areas, as a way to bridge the gap between primary and secondary education.¹⁰

The twentieth century education reform movement ushered in the era of the modern school building. Beginning in the early 1900s, the State of Wisconsin began to actively encourage communities to replace their older primary schools with modern "state graded" schools. As discussed in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, "The term 'graded' school was generally used to refer to any school that had more than one room and therefore contained more than one grade of pupil." A 1901 act of the state legislature provided special funding for the construction of new graded schools, and a second act passed in 1905 required schools with more than 65 pupils to provide at least two rooms and two teachers.¹¹ These legislative acts thus had a direct impact on the form and design of schools across the state. As noted in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, "the state even provided sample plans to guide districts in their remodeling projects."¹²

In marked contrast to the single-room schoolhouse, these schools were large, solidly-built buildings, typically architect-designed of fireproof construction with modern amenities such as central heating, electricity, and indoor plumbing. Spacious classrooms were well-lighted and ventilated with large windows. The interior reflected the programming needs of the students it was built to serve, with secondary schools generally featuring more specialized spaces to accommodate a diverse curriculum. Primary schools

⁹ Barbara Wyatt, editor. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, p. 3-5.

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Peckham Junior High School, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register #09000124.

¹¹ Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin.

¹² Ibid.

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

typically featured a kindergarten space and some type of open assembly space that could serve multiple functions.

Prior to 1848, schools in Wisconsin were, with few exceptions, elementary schools, usually one room, with a single teacher who taught children aged five to eighteen. Students were not graded, and the coursework was limited to reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and arithmetic. Individual schools taught by graduates of Eastern colleges may have included Latin or algebra for some students, but the practice of recitation required by the other subjects left inadequate time to devote to advanced subjects.

In the period following Wisconsin achieving statehood, educators primarily focused on establishing a state system of primary education and a state university. While educators recognized the need for college-bound students to receive additional education beyond that offered in elementary schools, emphasis, it was not considered an urgent matter. The first institutions in Wisconsin to offer advanced education beyond elementary school were known as "academies." The earliest example of academy schools were privately funded and varied widely in their organizational structure. Coursework emphasized mathematics, modern languages, literature, and modern history.

The first free public high school in Wisconsin was established in Kenosha in 1849, and this example was followed by other cities in Wisconsin. In 1865, Berlin's local high school was so popular that citizens boasted that they did not need to "send [a] son or daughter away to be educated." A groundswell of support for education in general and for high schools in particular, emerged in the late 1860s and 1870s. This resulted in the passage of the Free High School law of 1875, the first law to provide state aid to fund high schools. Three curriculums were developed, a three-year course for communities numbering less than 6,000, and four-year English or Classical courses for larger cities, which would prepare students for college or university studies. With monetary incentives and curriculums ready to implement, high school education grew rapidly throughout Wisconsin. By 1900, 209 districts operated high schools, and by the 1922-1923 school year, this number had nearly doubled to 407.

The development of educational institutions in Berlin paralleled that of the State of Wisconsin's. Nathan Strong, founder of the City of Berlin, built a log cabin (demolished) in 1849 near what is today the intersection of Huron and State streets that housed both Berlin's first church and first school. As the town grew over the last half of the nineteenth century, several school buildings grew with it: an 1852 school building east of the Fox River, called "The Long Schoolhouse" and the first Berlin high school; the Sand Hill School (demolished) on Broadway Street west of the Fox River; and another West Side school constructed in 1854 (demolished); a four-room frame school built in 1866 and demolished for the Washington School (completed 1924, extant). A more permanent three-story Second Empire style high school building was completed in 1869 along Huron Street east of the Fox River, and served both East and West Side children until it was struck by lightning and burned in 1901. To replace it, a three-story brick

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

high school was completed in 1902; this second high school burned in 1916. A primary school called the "Lincoln School" (demolished) was constructed after 1902 adjacent to the 1902 high school and housed kindergarten, first, second, and third grade classes on the first floor, and the County Normal School on the second floor.

Post-World War I Berlin saw two new schools constructed – Berlin High School (completed 1918), and Washington School at 344 Broadway (completed in 1924, designed by Ashby, Ashby & Schultz). These two schools are the oldest extant public schools in Berlin.

Collegiate Gothic Style Architecture

The Berlin High School's original 1918 building is an excellent intact example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture. As described in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, the Collegiate Gothic style in Wisconsin dates from approximately 1915 through 1940. The style was an American derivation of the broader Gothic Revival style dating from the mid-eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Inspired by medieval buildings of prominent English universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, the Collegiate Gothic style was a popular aesthetic choice for American primary and high school buildings and university campuses, particularly during the late 1910s and 1920s. Often, elementary and high schools displayed a loose interpretation of the style, typically featuring brick exterior walls accented with stone and a central, towered, "keep-like" entrance. Details including battlements, finials, parapets, crenellated parapets, Gothic building. Typical of Collegiate Gothic school buildings from the 1920s, the Berlin High School features tower-like bays that mark the building entrances, a shaped parapet line that includes projecting ornament, Tudor-arched entry surrounds, shield designs and sculptural relief detailing composed of tracery-like ornament and arches that frame recessed stone panels.

Though a number of early twentieth century Gothic Revival style structures can be found in Berlin, most notably the Griffith Memorial Chapel at 455 East Huron in Oakwood Cemetery (completed 1925), the Berlin High School is one of only two buildings in Berlin that are distinctly Collegiate Gothic in style, the other example being the Washington School at 344 Broadway (completed in 1924, designed by Ashby, Ashby & Schultz). Much like the Berlin School, the Washington School's masonry exterior is detailed with Bedford limestone used for beltcourses, parapet coping, window sills, door surrounds and ornament. Tower-like bays mark the building entrances with Tudor-arched entry surrounds.

The Washington School, originally housing students from grades K through 8, included typical rooms of the period such as a gymnasium with large auditorium stage, dressing rooms, and a projection booth. The Washington School functioned as a school until the 1990s and was later converted to a Boys and Girls Club. Details including terrazzo floors once adorned the interior; however, many alterations have since

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

been made leaving the interior with little historic integrity. It has been determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Architects Parkinson & Dockendorff (Original 1918 Building)

The main block of the Berlin High School exemplifies the Collegiate Gothic style and is the work of a prominent architectural firm in Wisconsin, Parkinson & Dockendorff of La Crosse, who were specifically known for their school designs. Albert E. Parkinson emigrated from England and received his training as an architect from both his father as well as the public schools of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Parkinson began his career as a contractor and engineer in Sparta, Wisconsin by 1897 before transitioning into architectural work. He sold plans for houses, barns, and sheds. Between 1902 and 1904 Parkinson designed residences, a bank, a German Lutheran Church, several schools, and commercial buildings in Sparta, Westby, Viola, and Bloomer.

Bernard J. Dockendorff first apprenticed with the architectural firm of Stolze & Schick in La Crosse before studying architecture in Europe for more than six years. Dockendorff's European studies included two years (1897-1899) at the Technicum in Darmstadt, Germany. Dockendorff returned to La Crosse and set up a solo practice. In 1905, after one year as a solo practitioner, Dockendorff joined with Parkinson to establish a firm in La Crosse.

The architectural firm of Parkinson & Dockendorff went on to become one of the most successful firms in the western half of Wisconsin, best known for their design of modern school buildings throughout the state. The two architects practiced together for almost fifty years, and during that time, produced drawings for roughly 800 building projects in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, and North Dakota. Both men died in September 1952.

In 1927, Parkinson & Dockendorff published *Twenty-five Years of School House Planning*, discussing the essential elements of school design and planning. As part of Parkinson & Dockendorff's educational services, a former educator was kept on staff to survey school district needs, develop school building programs, and review all school plans for details essential to a complete school plant. The thoroughness of Parkinson & Dockendorff's educational planning services coupled with the high level of architectural design and construction oversight elevated the firm to specialists in the field.

Architect Robert W. Surplice (1947 Shop Building and 1955 Gymnasium Addition)

The Shop Building and Gymnasium additions were designed by the Green Bay-based architect Robert W. Surplice. Surplice attended the University of Illinois where he received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1935 and completed graduate work in structural engineering in 1939-1940. After early

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

employment in the offices of various Wisconsin and Michigan-based firms, Surplice established his own architectural practice in 1940. He was registered to practice in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Robert Surplice was the designer of numerous school and church buildings throughout Wisconsin in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Conclusion

The Berlin High School, an early twentieth century, free-standing public high school, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education. It is significant for its association with the history of public education in Berlin, built and expanded to provide the best educational facility for local high school students. It is now the oldest extant public high school building in Berlin, having served as the community's sole high school building for nearly eight decades. The building is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent local example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture in the city of Berlin. The Berlin High School with all of its additions, expresses the progressive movements that shaped Wisconsin education in the early 1900s and is an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style, a popular design aesthetic among early twentieth century American school buildings.

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Section <u>9</u> Page <u>1</u>

Insert References

Berlin High School Alumni Association, comp. Berlin High School Graduates: A Century of Education, 1865-1965. Berlin, WI: Miracle Printing Co., Inc., 1965.

Berlin High School

Berlin, Green Lake County

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Berlin Area School District website, www.berlin.k12.wi.us, accessed 13 November 2014.

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- National Register of Historic Places, Huron Street Historic District, Berlin, Green Lake County, Wisconsin, National Register #92001140.
- National Register of Historic Places, Nathan Strong Park Historic District, Berlin, Green Lake County, Wisconsin, National Register #5000423.
- Parkinson & Dockendorff. Twenty-five Years of School House Planning. La Crosse: Parkinson & Dockendorff, 1927.

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Wisconsin CRMP statement on public secondary education, 1986.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Division. Collection: Superintendent of Public Instruction, Field Services – School Buildings, School Building Data Card File: 1922-1948. Series No. 691, Box No. 2.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database.

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Newspapers

Berlin Evening Journal, 14 May, 1918

Oshkosh Daily Northwestern, 9 September, 1953.

End of References

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section <u>10</u> Page <u>1</u>

Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Berlin School sits on a sloped site that is bounded by Huron Street to the south, Swetting Street to the west and partially bounded by Johnson Street to the east. The remainder of the east edge of the lot is bounded by adjacent residential lots. The rear, northern edge of the lot also abuts residential lots as well as a baseball field. Berlin High School is centered on its lot, with its primary façade facing Huron Street.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land associated with the Berlin School building in Berlin, Wisconsin.

End of Boundary Descriptions

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National Park Service

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Section	Photos	Page	1

Name of Property: Berlin School	
City or Vicinity: Berlin	
County: Green Lake State: Wisconsin	
Photographer: John Cramer, MacRostie Historic Advisors	
Date Photographed: April 2015	
Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division, Madison, WI	
Description of Photograph(s) and Number:	
1 of 21: South facade, looking north	
2 of 21: South facade entry bay, looking north	
3 of 21: West facade, looking east	
4 of 21: West facade, looking east	
5 of 21: West facade entry detail, looking east	
6 of 21: North facade, looking south	
7 of 21: West facade of 1986 addition, looking southeast	
8 of 21: East facade, looking northwest	
9 of 21: East facade, looking west	
10 of 21: Main entrance of 1918 building viewed from first floor corridor	
11 of 21: First floor corridor in 1918 building, looking east	
12 of 21: Cafeteria (former gymnasium) in 1918 building	
13 of 21: Second floor assembly room in 1918 building	
14 of 21: Central stair of 1918 building looking down toward the first floor	
15 of 21: Second floor classroom in 1918 building	
16 of 21: Detail of built-in cabinetry in second floor classroom of 1918 building	
17 of 21: Library in 1955 addition	
18 of 21: Corridor in 1955 addition	
19 of 21: Gymnasium in 1955 addition	
20 of 21: Interior view of shop building	
21 of 21: Corridor in 1986 addition	

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

_Insert Figures

List of Figures: Figure 1: First Floor Plan Figure 2: South Second Floor Plan Figure 3: North Second Floor Plan Figure 4: Third Floor Plan Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1926 Figure 6: Post-1955 Aerial Photograph Figure 7: Historic Photographic View of Original High School Figure 8: Historic View of East Façade Figure 9: View of Gymnasium Entrance, 1956 Figure 10: View of Addition, 1956 Figure 11: Historic Photograph of Main Entrance to the 1918 School Figure 12: Historic Photograph, First Floor Corridor Figure 13: Historic Photograph, Second Floor Corridor Figure 14: Historic Photograph, Assembly Room Figure 15: Historic Photograph, Assembly Room Figure 16: Historic Photograph, Gymnasium Balcony

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

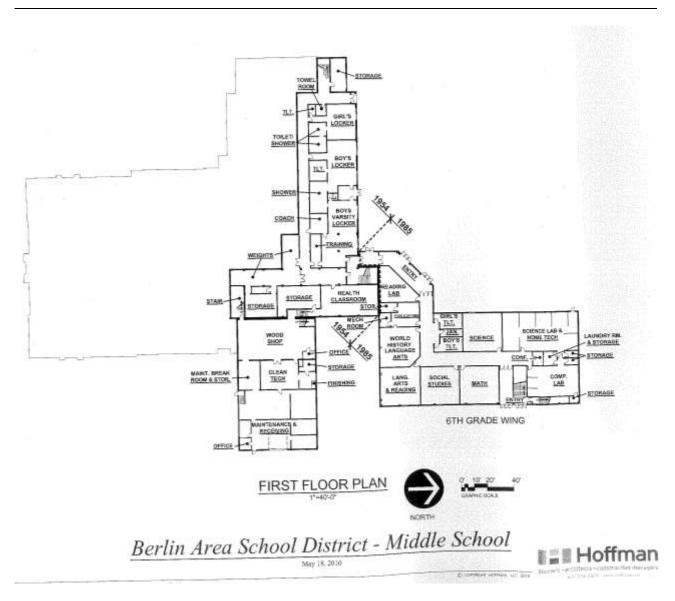


Figure 1: First Floor Plan

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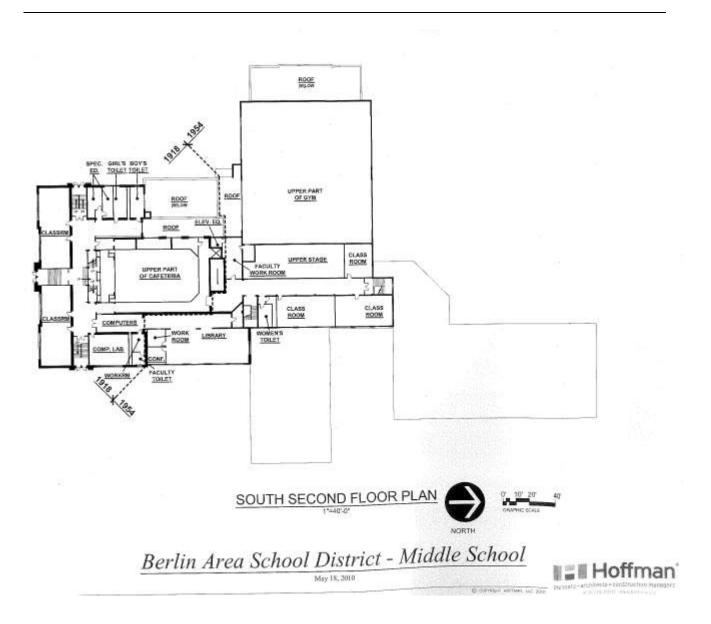


Figure 2: South Second Floor Plan

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National Park Service

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

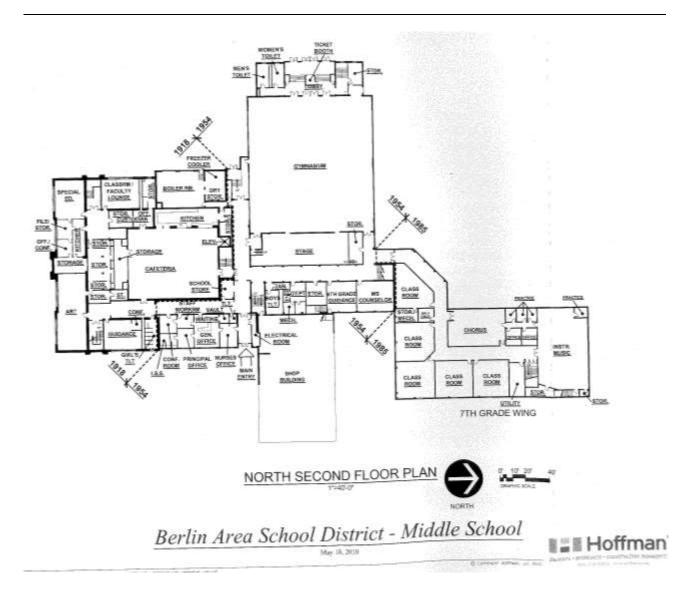


Figure 3: North Second Floor Plan

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County

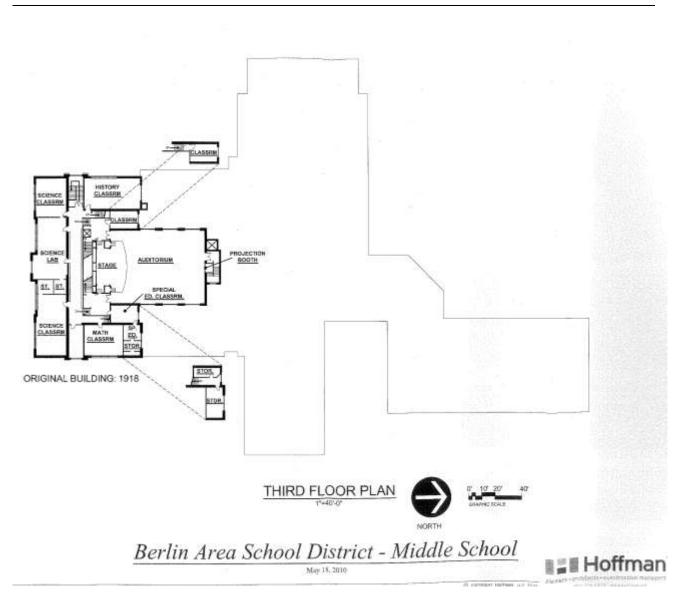


Figure 4: Third Floor Plan

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National Park Service

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Section **Figures** Page <u>6</u>

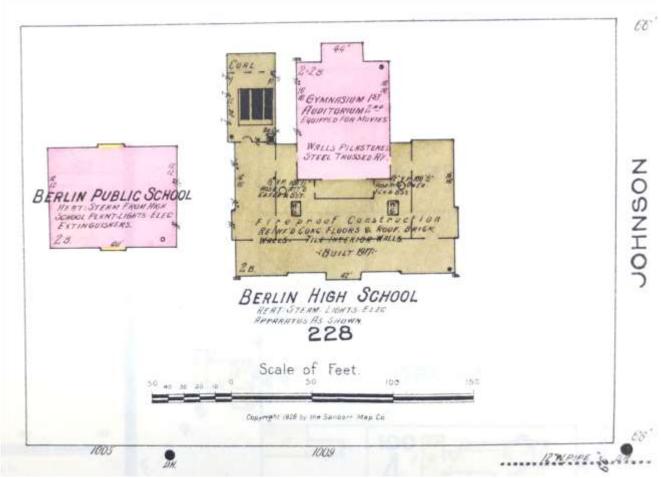


Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1926

Form 10-900-a

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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Figure 6: Aerial photograph showing the original building and 1955 addition (date unknown)

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Figure 7: Historic view showing south and west façades (date known; Berlin Historical Society)



Figure 8: View of east façade, including the 1955 addition (date known; Berlin Historical Society)

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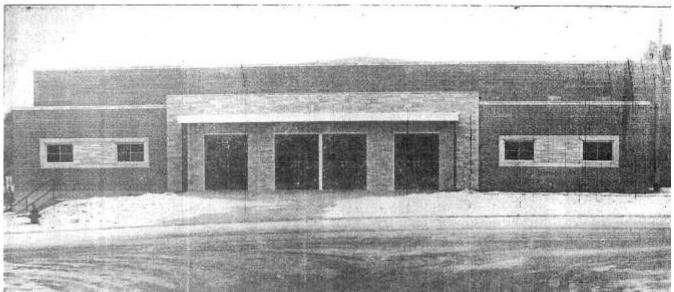


Figure 9: View showing the gymnasium entrance on the west side of the 1955 addition (Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1956)

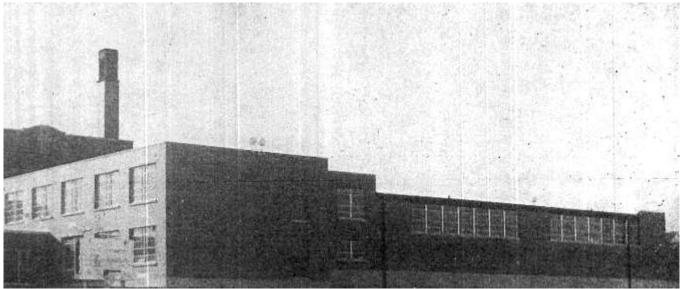


Figure 10: View showing the north and east façades of the 1955 addition (*Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin,*' 1956)

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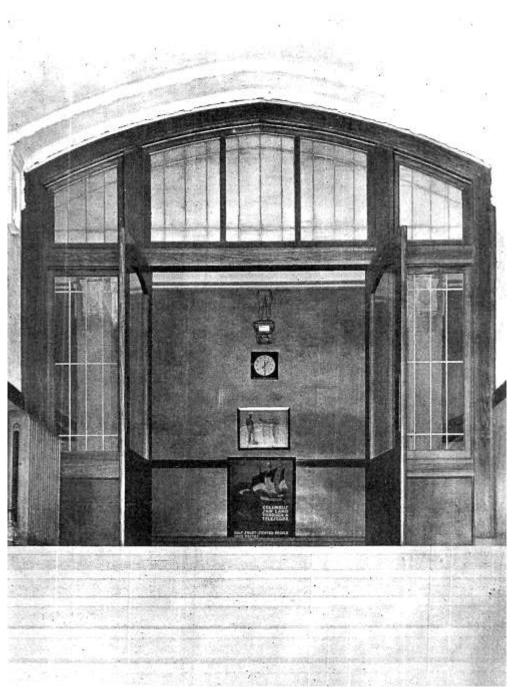


Figure 11: Main entrance vestibule of original 1918 building (Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1928)

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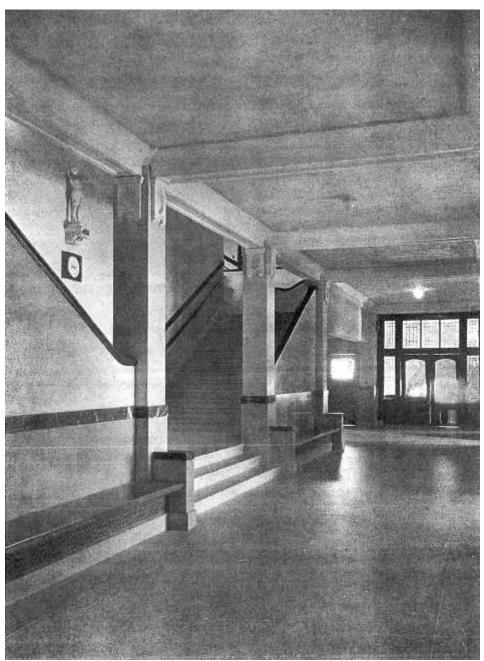


Figure 12: First floor corridor of original 1918 building, looking east (*Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1931*)

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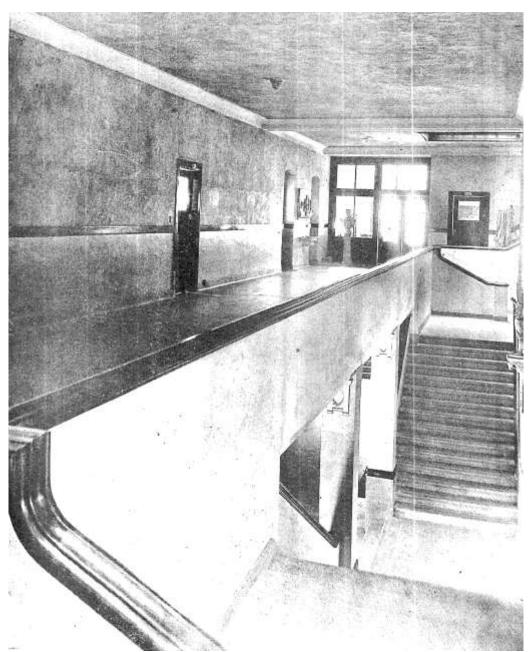


Figure 13: Second floor corridor of original 1918 building, looking southwest (*Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1926*)

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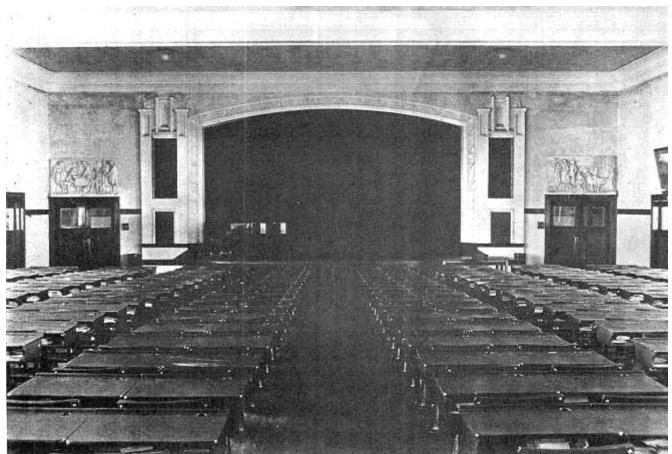


Figure 14: Assembly room in original 1918 building (Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1925)

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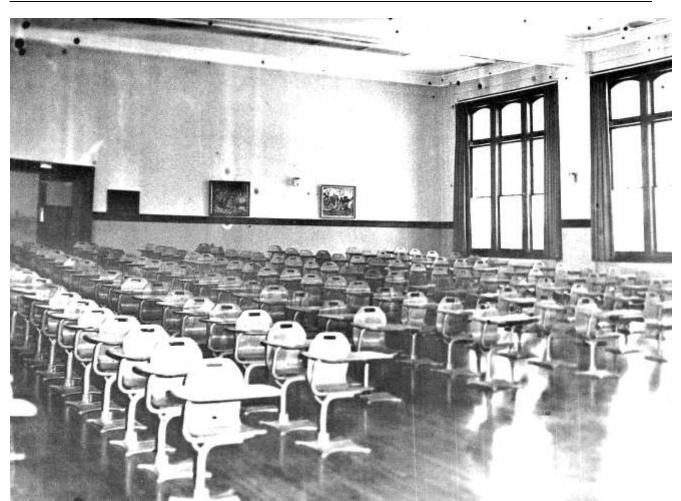


Figure 15: Assembly room in original 1918 building (Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1972)

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Berlin High School Berlin, Green Lake County



Figure 16: View of the balcony above the gymnasium in the original 1918 building (*Berlin High School Yearbook – "Mascoutin," 1971*)

_End Figures











































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Berlin High School NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Green Lake

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/27/16 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/12/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/16 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000465

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 _	7.18.16	DATE
			- L	

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National **Register** of Historic **Places**

RECOM./C	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.



41 ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

May 18, 2016

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board c/o Peggy Veregin Wisconsin Historical Society 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Veregin,

I write to support the nomination of the old Berlin High School building to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places.

The old Berlin High School building is located at 289 East Huron St in Berlin, WI, and is part of the 41st Assembly District. As the state representative for that area, I'm happy to speak to the merit of granting the old Berlin High School the status of a historically registered building. I had the opportunity to visit the opening of the new high school in Berlin and while I know the community is proud of the new building, they are losing a comfortable friend in moving the middle school out of 289 East Huron St.

Dedicated on May 13th 1918, with then Wisconsin Governor E. L. Philipp in attendance, the old Berlin High School served the students of Berlin for 93 years as both a high school and middle school. Six generations of Berliners have grown up within its halls, preparing for the ever changing world ahead. The building's collegiate gothic style, seen at the front entrance and throughout the school is a testament to its time and a familiar landmark on a heavily traveled corridor into the city.

I encourage you to add the old Berlin High School building to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan Ballweg

Joan Ballweg State Representative 41st Assembly District

GLENN GROTHMAN 6TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 20, 2016



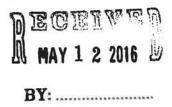
UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1020 South Main Street Suite B Fond du Lac, WI 54935 (920) 907-0624

501 CANNON BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-2476

GROTHMAN HOUSE GOV



Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board c/o Peggy Veregin Wisconsin Historical Society 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing in support of the Berlin High School nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The school, located in Berlin, is part of the Sixth Congressional District which I represent.

The Berlin High School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of education. It is the oldest existing public high school building in Berlin, having served as the community's sole high school building for nearly eight decades. The building is an excellent example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture, a popular design aesthetic among early twentieth century American school buildings.

Please give all due and fair consideration consistent with current federal law and agency regulations, keeping me apprised of your efforts and findings by contacting Alan Ott, District Director, at 1020 S. Main Street, Suite B, Fond du Lac, WI 54935 or by calling (920) 907-0624. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hern Gethum

Glenn Grothman Member of Congress



RECEIVED 2280

JUN - 3 2016

TO: Keeper National Register of Historic Places

storic Places

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

- FROM: Peggy Veregin National Register Coordinator
- SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this <u>Twenty-fifth</u> day of <u>May 2016</u>, for the nomination of the <u>Berlin High School</u> to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 21 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- _____1 Map(s)
- 16 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 2 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- X This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
 - The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- _____ Other: