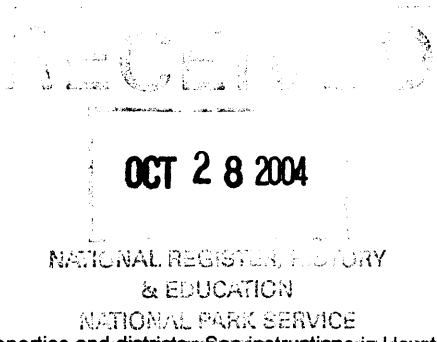


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Ralph Waldo Emerson Indianapolis Public School #58**  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 098-295-02188

**2. Location**

street & number **321 N. Linwood St.** N/A  not for publication  
city or town **Indianapolis** N/A  vicinity  
state **Indiana** code **IN** county **Marion** code **097** zip code **46201-3641**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date **10-26-04**  
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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

for  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
**Edson W. Beall** **12/6/04**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 1            | 0               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public School Buildings in Indianapolis before 1940

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS:

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1907-1953

Significant Dates

1907

1917

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daggett, R.P., and Co.

Dunlap, Elmer E.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

|   |      |         |          |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 16   | 577740  | 4402930  | 3 |      |         |          |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 |      |         |          | 4 |      |         |          |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Rollins Stanis  
organization HLEI date 02-18-2003  
street & number 340 W. Michigan St. telephone 317/639-4534  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

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 City of Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners  
street & number 120 E. Walnut St. telephone  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204

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

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

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Ralph Waldo Emerson Public School 58, 321 Linwood Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana, is a two-story rectangular building with a raised basement constructed in 1907 in a simplified Neo-Classical Revival style, with additions in 1917, 1921, and 1967 (photo 1). It exhibits many original exterior and interior elements. Located on the near-eastside of Indianapolis, just west of the Irvington Historic District, the school lies within a residential neighborhood at the corner of New York Street and Linwood Avenue. The building is just slightly higher than street level, and the main entrance fronts Linwood Avenue with a short series of steps down to the sidewalk. The school building is situated close to the road, with approximately 30 feet from the curb to the building. Due to student needs and expanding population, in 1967 a two-story multipurpose room was built off of the main building's southeast corner to house a gymnasium and stage. Overall, the property remains in excellent condition with very few alterations and the building possesses the majority of its original integrity throughout.

The main, or west, facade of the 1907-1921 school building façade is symmetrical, composed of reddish-brown brick resting on a smooth ashlar base (photo 1). Its decorative features include a limestone stringcourse immediately below the first floor windows, and a limestone stringcourse demarking the parapet, which has a limestone cap. Below the parapet are shallow dentils patterned at the cornice line. This treatment flows around to the north and south facades, but is absent on the east facade. Hidden behind the parapet is a flat roof.

The main (west) façade is composed of fifteen window openings and a limestone-surrounded entrance with Doric pilasters and a segmental arch surmounted by an architrave on which "Ralph Waldo Emerson School" is inscribed (photo 2). Above this is a dentiled frieze and plain cornice. Above the cornice is a limestone stringcourse with "58" inscribed on either end. The recessed entrance is composed of two pairs of textured metal replacement doors. The original wood sash transoms remain and are in a pattern of two narrow vertical panes above two square panes, above each doorway. The building slightly recesses on each side of the center pavilion. Projecting approximately 1 foot beyond the line of the center pavilion are the two flanking wings, which are both sympathetic later additions (1917 north, and 1921 south respectively). All of the windows on the west facade are similar in design: aluminum replacement sash with two blind panels above a double-hung sash of glass (photo 1). Windows on the first and second floors have limestone sills and flat, plain brick headers. The second story windows in the center pavilion have exaggerated limestone label molds that mass the windows into three groups. The windows of the raised basement are aluminum sash with hopper openings and plain limestone surrounds. There are small ventilator openings between the first and second floors and the first and basement floors. These are also found on the remaining facades of the 1907-1921 building. An elevation plan and a historic photography indicate that the original windows were one-over-one double-hung sash with no transoms.

The north facade consists of three openings: groupings of six windows flanking each side of a central door with a four part window above, located at an intermediate landing level. (photo 3). The windows are the same design as those found on the west facade, except for the center bay of the second floor which is three blind panels above two double-hung panes of glass. A photograph from the 1950s indicates that the upper sashes of the central grouping of windows had divided lights. The centrally located entrance is composed of two pairs of metal replacement doors with narrow vertical windows, and limestone surrounds, with a label mold above the header.

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The south bay is nearly identical to the north except that it is interrupted by the two-story nondescript 1967 gymnasium addition (photo 4). The addition has a setback of approximately 30 feet from the front of the historic building. Because the entrance to the addition is at grade level, its roofline intersects the 1921 wing just below the second floor windows. The addition obscures the former central entrance of the south facade. The 1967 addition is constructed of brick, lighter than the historic building, and has a flat roof with wide eaves. The double wood doors, located near the northwest corner of the addition, have a small fixed-sash window to their north side. Other than that, the west side is void of windows. The south facade of the 1967 addition has two sets of double aluminum doors to the left and right of center. There are no windows on this facade. The rear (east facade) of the 1967 addition reveals a one story section to the north. The second story of the 1967 addition has ten paired double-hung aluminum sash windows with two single pane windows and five double-hung windows on the first floor. The first floor section of this addition has two sets of triple double-hung aluminum sash windows on its north facade (photo 5).

The rear (east) façade of the 1907-1921 building has fifteen window openings, with two plain, metal, double door entrances on either side of façade's center (photo 5). Each entry has an aluminum canopy. A brick smokestack rises from the center and extends above the roofline. The windows, which are like those on the other facades, have limestone sills and plain brick headers, except for the narrow windows on the 1907 building that have segmental arched brick headers. The windows of the raised basement on the 1907 building also have segmental arched brick headers. Ten downspouts divide the east facade.

Despite a few modifications, the school's interior also maintains its original integrity. The first floor hallway contains the original two-inch tongue-and-groove hardwood flooring (photo 6). The five stairwells also remain largely intact, complete with original tin ceilings now painted white (photo 7). The stair railings are made of iron with decorative repeated designs of circles and lines (photo 8). Most of the classrooms contain their original blackboards, dark wood trim and crown molding (photo 9). The original wooden doors match the interior trim color, but the glass panels and hardware have been replaced. Every classroom except one houses a cloakroom, which still includes the original ceiling height with tin ceiling panels painted white (photo 10). The appearance of a tin ceiling here and in the stairwell indicates that it was the original ceiling cover throughout the school, but it is currently hidden beneath dropped ceiling panels.

Except for the 1967 addition, the first and second floor classrooms have changed very little. Both floors each contain ten classrooms in the 1907-1921 building. Classroom Eleven in the northwest corner of the north wing contains an original built-in unit with glass panes, but is the only classroom with such detailing. No indication is given on the blueprints how this room functioned other than as a classroom. With the 1967 addition, two additional classrooms were added to the second floor, which included a science classroom, and a gymnasium and stage on the first floor (photo 11). The second floor corridor of the 1907 building was also narrowed at some point, presumably to increase classroom space (photo 12). More classrooms are located in the basement, as well as boys' and girls' lavatories, and cafeteria space (photo 13). The original design called for similar use, except the north wing housed the

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Despite some modifications, such as the 1967 building addition, School 58 retains much of its original appearance with few alterations. Additionally, the building continues its historical association within the community due to its singular function as an elementary school for nearly one hundred years.

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Architect/Builder:

R.P. Daggett and Co., Architects

J.C. Pierson & Son, Builders

Dunlap, Elmer E., Architect, 1921 addition

Schlegel & Roehm, Builders, 1917 and 1921 additions



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Significant under Criterion C for its outstanding architecture, and Criterion A for its association with the history of Indianapolis' educational development, Ralph Waldo Emerson Public School 58 was built in a simplified Neo-Classical Revival style. Representing one of the few remaining Marion County school buildings built in the early 1900s, P.S. 58's interior and exterior integrity makes it an outstanding example of early twentieth-century public architecture, designed by one of the city's leading firms. P.S. 58 is illustrative in Indianapolis' educational history, especially as it relates to the city's rapid expansion at the dawn of the twentieth century. The rectangular, two-story, twenty-room building is symmetrical except for a 1960s addition, and is flanked on each side by two wings, the north wing built in 1917 and the south wing built in 1921, which were both sympathetic to the design of the original building. An L-shaped two-story addition built in 1967 is located in the southeast corner of the school's rear façade, and contains two kindergarten rooms, a kitchenette, and a large multi-purpose room on the first floor; the second floor contains classrooms and the upper section of the multi-purpose room. Today the building is still used for its original intent as an elementary school, and retains much of its architectural integrity.

For a complete record of the development of the Indianapolis public school system, please refer to the multiple property listing. The school meets the registration requirements of the multiple property documentation form, "Public School Buildings in Indianapolis Built Before 1940."

The Indianapolis architectural firm R. P. Daggett and Co. designed the original School 58 building in 1906. Building contractors Schlegel and Roehm built a four-room north wing in 1917, and in 1921 architect Elmer E. Dunlap designed the four-room south wing, with Schlegel and Roehm once again handling construction. Headed by three generations of Daggetts, the Daggett architectural firm spans a century of significant work in Indianapolis, from 1869 to 1966.<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1868 by Robert Platt Daggett, the firm mainly designed residences, and eventually expanded to commercial structures. Notable examples of the latter include the original Lilly laboratory and the Indianapolis High School (later renamed Shortridge High School).<sup>2</sup> R.P. Daggett and Co.'s reputation was enhanced when, at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, they won first prize for their design entry of Indianapolis Public School No. 3.<sup>3</sup> In the early 1900s the city demolished P.S. 3, which was located at Meridian and Ohio streets, to make way for the United States Courthouse and Post Office.

Robert Platt Daggett's son, Robert Frost Daggett, joined the firm in 1875 and remained there until 1955. Trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Robert Frost Daggett's designs were mainly educational and commercial, with

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Latham, "Daggett Architectural Firm Records, 1869-1966," located in the Manuscript Collection of the Indiana Historical Society, M576, OM255.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew R. Seager, compiler, "History of the Daggett Firm," Drawings and Documents Archive, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, p. 2.

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only a few known residential projects. During the period of 1875 to 1912, this father-son team produced an extensive number of significant works in Indiana. After Robert Platt's retirement in 1912, Robert Frost Daggett continued to secure major commissions. Robert Platt Daggett died in 1915. Examples of the firm's work through the decades include buildings for Indiana, Purdue, Butler, and DePauw universities, Indiana University School of Medicine, Long and Riley hospitals, the Chamber of Commerce Building in Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Athletic Club, Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, and several structures for Eli Lilly and Company. Robert Platt Daggett also designed a Carnegie branch library in 1909; it was demolished in the late 1990s. The Daggett firm also designed the J.K. Lilly and Eli Lilly homes in Indianapolis (NR, Town of Crows Nest Historic District, 2000). Additionally, the firm supervised the design and construction of many downtown Indianapolis business blocks. P.S. 58 is important within the Daggetts' works since it is one of the few remaining public commissions in Indianapolis involving significant work by the elder Daggett. It is the oldest surviving school in Indianapolis designed by the firm. The only two remaining Robert Platt Daggett-designed schools in Indianapolis (IPS 34 and 43) are scheduled for demolition in 2005-2006. Replacement buildings are currently being constructed adjacent to both historic buildings.

Indianapolis experienced explosive population growth in the years from 1880 to 1900 due to its expanding economy. Originally platted as a one-mile square unit by Alexander Ralston in 1821, Indianapolis' growth remained largely within the same one-mile boundary until the mid-1850s.<sup>4</sup> Initial suburban development occurred to the city's north, now known as the Old Northside, in which mainly the middle and upper classes settled. It was not until the influx of new residents, who flocked to Indianapolis by the thousands looking for work in the burgeoning industries, that developers began to look beyond the northern suburbs for new housing tracts in the 1880s. Land developers purchased parcels of land in the city's former outposts to accommodate the housing needs of these new residents, who were mostly white and middle-class.<sup>5</sup> Facilitating this movement away from downtown was the extensive building of streetcar lines.<sup>6</sup>

As a result of this population boom, new residents pushed the city's mile-square boundary of 1821 to 27.21 square miles by 1900.<sup>7</sup> One such suburb was Tuxedo, located just west of Irvington. Like Irvington, Tuxedo's citizens were mainly white, middle-to-upper class professionals, some of whom served on the faculty at Butler University, which at that time was located in Irvington. And, like other growing suburbs, in 1892 the city constructed a streetcar line on Washington Street, which enabled residents to move farther east.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Lamont J. Hulse, "Neighborhoods and Communities," in *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, eds. David Bodenhamer and Robert Barrows (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 133.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 135.

<sup>6</sup> Paul Diebold, *Greater Irvington: Architecture, People and Places on the Indianapolis Eastside* (Indianapolis: Irvington Historical Society, 1997), 49.

<sup>7</sup> Hulse, "Neighborhoods and Communities," 136.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

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Before the city annexed the far-eastern suburbs, children in the Tuxedo neighborhood attended school in a five-room township school located at Sherman and Vermont streets, called the Tuxedo School. The population growth in that area warranted the city's annexation of Tuxedo and Irvington in early 1902. The Indianapolis school board took over all the inclusive school property of the newly annexed outlying areas, and soon after the Tuxedo School was renamed P.S. 58.

As the student populations continued to grow in the Tuxedo area at the turn of the century, the patrons of P.S. 58 began to clamor for a modern school building. A delegation from Tuxedo presented a petition to the school board on July 26, 1904, to request a building addition to the school that could house more grades.<sup>9</sup> The addition would eliminate the need for older students to attend P.S. 57 in Irvington or P.S. 15 at Michigan Street and Keystone Avenue. In the fall of 1904, Superintendent of Schools Calvin Kendall recommended increased accommodations at P.S. 58 in his annual report of new construction needs, and even called for a new building at Rural Street.<sup>10</sup> In the spring of 1905 the Committee on Buildings and Grounds reported the need for a school between P.S. 57 and P.S. 58 within the next three years.<sup>11</sup> Despite these recommendations, the situation remained static. In his annual report for 1905 written in November, Superintendent Kendall noted once again that "a new building between Irvington and Tuxedo...would relieve the schools in both these district."<sup>12</sup> Fortunately, Kendall's repeated remonstrations over the course of two years finally resulted in action by the school board, as land was acquired with the intent of building a new school building at the northeast corner of New York and Linwood streets, approximately one mile east of the existing Tuxedo School.

Yet, the land acquisition did not spur any further action for four months, and the school board's apparent sluggishness irked local residents. In March 1906 they petitioned again for a modern fifteen-room school building, complete with an assembly hall and manual training facilities.<sup>13</sup> Citing the inadequacies of the three portable schoolrooms already existing on the premises, these residents expressed dissatisfaction with the overcrowding of their school. The board assured them that their request would be taken into advisement.

The spring 1906 pupil population report indicated that the territory encompassing Tuxedo and Irvington showed some of the largest gains in all of the public school districts, with as many as 350 new students enrolled during 1905.<sup>14</sup> This report gave local residents even more fodder for pressuring the school board into action. As in his 1905 annual report, Superintendent Kendall's annual report for 1906 once more included P.S. 58 as among the schools with the

<sup>9</sup> Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, *Minutes, Record M*, June 14, 1903 to December 26, 1905 : July 26, 1904, p. 198.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, October 25, 1904, p. 264.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, March 14, 1905, p. 344.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, November 14, 1905, p. 542.

<sup>13</sup> Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, *Minutes, Record N*, January 9, 1906 to June 26, 1908 : March 13, 1906.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, May 8, 1906, p. 62.

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greatest need for building expansion.<sup>15</sup> In spite of the overwhelming need and public pressure, however, the board still remained inactive on this issue. The problem of explosive student enrollment was endemic to most public schools located in the city's north and west sides where the largest residential growth occurred during this time. In fact, by 1909 the enrollment in public schools was double what it had been in 1880, from roughly 12,000 in the 1880s to over 25,000 by 1910.<sup>16</sup> As a result, the school board faced a crisis of too many building needs and too little funds, and they were forced to rank need by highest priority first.

Finally, out of desperation, residents petitioned the school board once more in March 1907. The delegation from Tuxedo Park demanded a new school building, and informed the board that if no action would be taken, parents would refuse to allow their children to attend P.S. #58 next September due to the building's unfit condition.<sup>17</sup> This time the delegation was not disappointed. After hearing their petition, the board members immediately adjourned and went into an executive session to discuss the matter privately. When they emerged, the board agreed to act. They appointed R.P. Daggett and Co. architects of the new ten room Tuxedo School, which was to cost an estimated \$50,000. Contractors J.C. Pierson & Son won the construction bid for \$40,600.<sup>18</sup> Located at its new location on New York Street, the school was essentially completed by the end of 1907. Its patrons petitioned that it be named for Ralph Waldo Emerson, the renowned 19<sup>th</sup> century American essayist.

By 1915 conditions had grown crowded again, so a portable was erected to give additional room to P.S. 58 before the fall term began.<sup>19</sup> Predictably, the portable soon proved inadequate for the increasingly overcrowded school. That November a delegation from the district asked for an addition of preferably more than four rooms to provide sufficient space over the next three terms.<sup>20</sup> The board did not respond to this request, so the following February (1916) a committee made up of local residents formed to initiate construction. This tactic may have spurred action, since the board quickly resumed interest in expanding P.S. 58. In March 1916, the board issued a report listing P.S. 58, among other schools, as needing additional accommodations before the fall term. The motion was conferred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for further evaluation.<sup>21</sup> The 1915 pupil population report showed another population gain

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., December 19, 1906, p. 194.

<sup>16</sup> William J. Reese, "Education," in *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, David Bodenhamer and Robert Barrows, eds., (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 77.

<sup>17</sup> Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, *Minutes, Record N*, January 9, 1906 to June 26, 1908 : March 26, 1907, p. 234.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 237.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., September 28, 1915, p. 408.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., November 9, 1915, p. 439.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., March 14, 1916, p. 555.

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for P.S. 58, indicating that the assembly hall, one portable, and two cottages on the premises were being used as temporary schoolrooms, once again strengthening the parents' case for an addition.<sup>22</sup>

In April 1916, out of several new construction needs, only P.S. 58 was agreed upon by the board to move forward.<sup>23</sup> A resolution was passed to have R.P. Daggett & Co. draw up plans for a four-room addition, at an estimated cost of \$25,000. Due to the huge resource demands of World War I, however, material and labor shortages prohibited further work on the school. As a result, construction was postponed.

In December 1916 the school board noted another increase in the pupil population at P.S. 58, with the total student body listed at approximately 700, and an average classroom size of 43.8 students. To temporarily deal with the overcrowding, two grade levels operated on half time schedules.<sup>24</sup> Finally in March 1917, the school board awarded a contract to Schlegel and Roehm for the construction of a four-room north wing at the price of \$22,693, the lowest offered; the records do not mention hiring an architect for the project.<sup>25</sup> The new wing was completed that November.

After the war the school board faced the formidable task of trying to catch up with delayed school construction projects designed to alleviate a number of overcrowded schools. The board drew up a long list of recommended building improvements in April 1919, including another four-room addition to P.S. #58 that was estimated to cost \$34,000.<sup>26</sup> Nearly one year later the board selected Elmer E. Dunlap as the architect to design the school's south wing. An Ohio native, Dunlap graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1897.<sup>27</sup> In 1903 he came to Indianapolis to work and by 1912 he established his own architectural firm.<sup>28</sup> In July 1920, the board once again awarded the building contract to Schlegel and Roehm for \$59,454.<sup>29</sup> The addition was completed by the spring of 1921.

The 1920 addition marked the last major building change until 1967, when a featureless "multi-purpose room" designed by Indianapolis architect Donald D. Dick was added to the school's south wing.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., March 28, 1916, p. 567.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., April 4, 1916, p. 573.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., December 12, 1916, p. 194.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., March 27, 1917, p. 268.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., April 1, 1919, p. 203.

<sup>27</sup> Rabb, Kate Milner and William Herschell, eds., *History of Marion County, Volume IV* (Dayton, OH: Dayton Historical Publishing Company, 1924), 461-62.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis, *Minutes, Record U*, May 11, 1920 to January 25, 1921 : July 29, 1920, p. 121.

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School 58 was built to accommodate the growing needs of the burgeoning suburbs of Indianapolis' eastside in the early 1900s. As such, the building represents a historic period of rapid expansion for the city, in which suburban residents demanded modern educational facilities for their children where none had previously existed. School 58 also remains as an example of an intact turn-of-the-century school building whose architecture contributes to the setting of the surrounding historic Tuxedo neighborhood. P.S. 58's historic significance and architectural integrity continue to enhance its role in the community, where it has served as an elementary school since 1907.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Starting at the northeast corner curb of Linwood Avenue and New York Street, travel approximately 136 feet east to the west side of the alleyway. From the alleyway, proceed approximately 500 feet to property's northeast corner. From this corner, travel 136 feet to the northwest corner of the property to the curb on the east side of Linwood Avenue. Turn south and follow the eastern curb of Linwood Avenue for approximately 500 feet to the point of origin. This route completes a rectangular-shaped boundary.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This description comprises the boundaries of the land acquired to build School 58. The school building is the only contributing resource.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information is common to photographs 1-14:

Photographer: Suzanne Stanis

Photos taken on March 1, 2004

Negatives on file at Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indianapolis, Indiana

1. Front (west) façade of school; camera facing southeast.
2. Main entryway detail; camera facing east.
3. Side (north) façade; camera facing south.
4. 1967 addition, front (west) façade; camera facing northeast.
5. Rear (west) façade; camera facing southwest.
6. First floor hallway; camera facing north.
7. Tin ceiling in stairwell, painted white; camera facing east.
8. Stairwell to second floor; camera facing east.
9. Typical classroom, Room 4 on first floor; camera facing northeast.
10. Typical cloakroom, Room 4; camera facing east.
11. Gymnasium and stage in 1967 addition; camera facing east.
12. Second floor hallway; camera facing north.
13. Typical cafeteria room in basement; camera facing west.
14. Industrial Arts doorway; camera facing west.

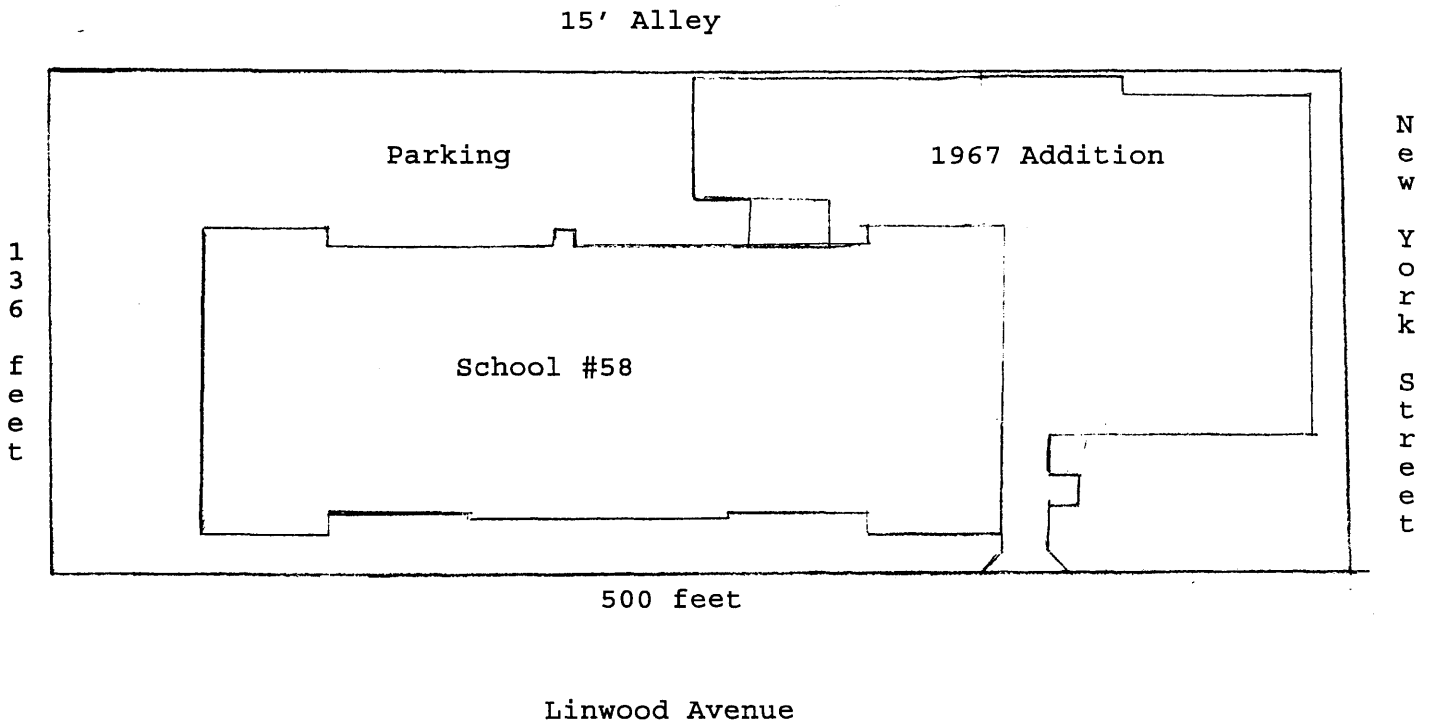


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Ralph Waldo Emerson School 58  
Site Map

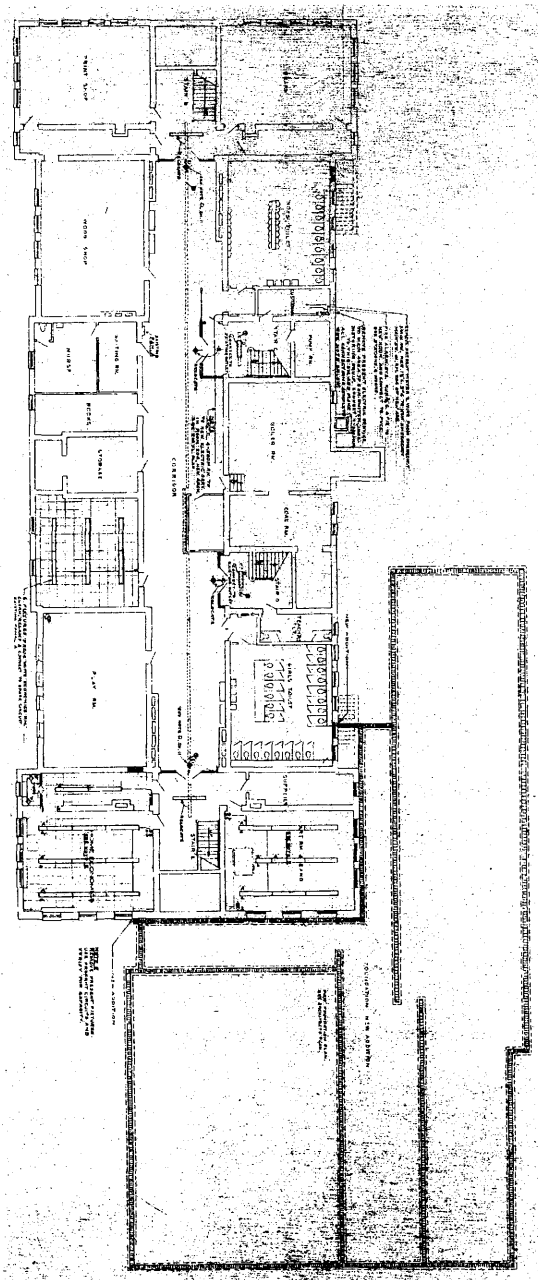


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Ralph Waldo Emerson School 58  
Basement floor plan



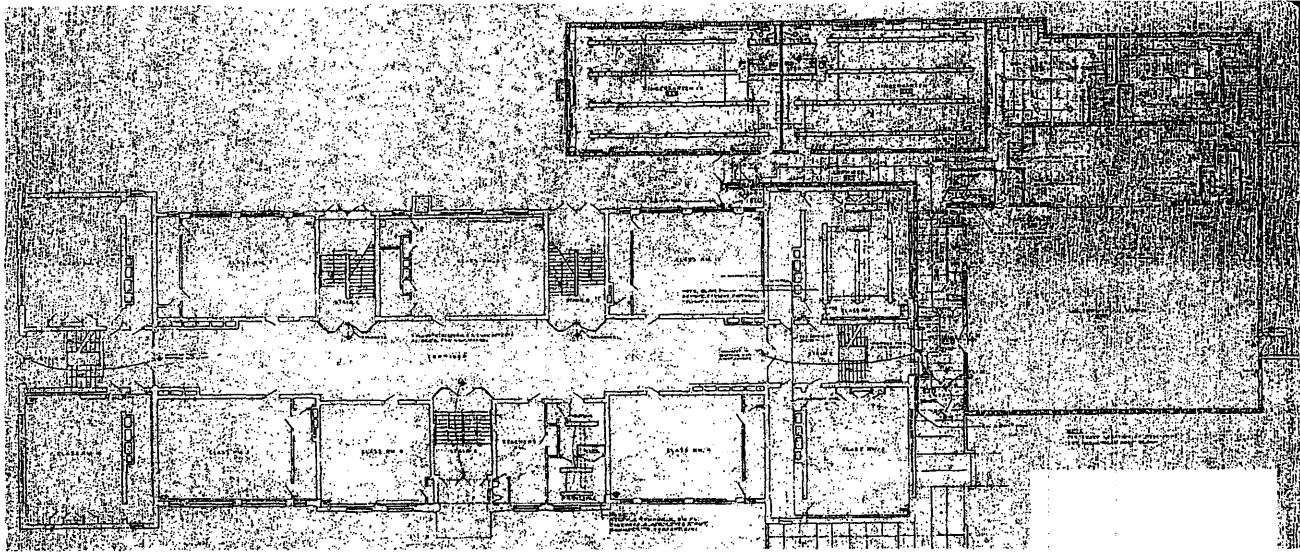
New York Street

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Waldo Emerson School 58  
first floor plan



Linwood Ave.

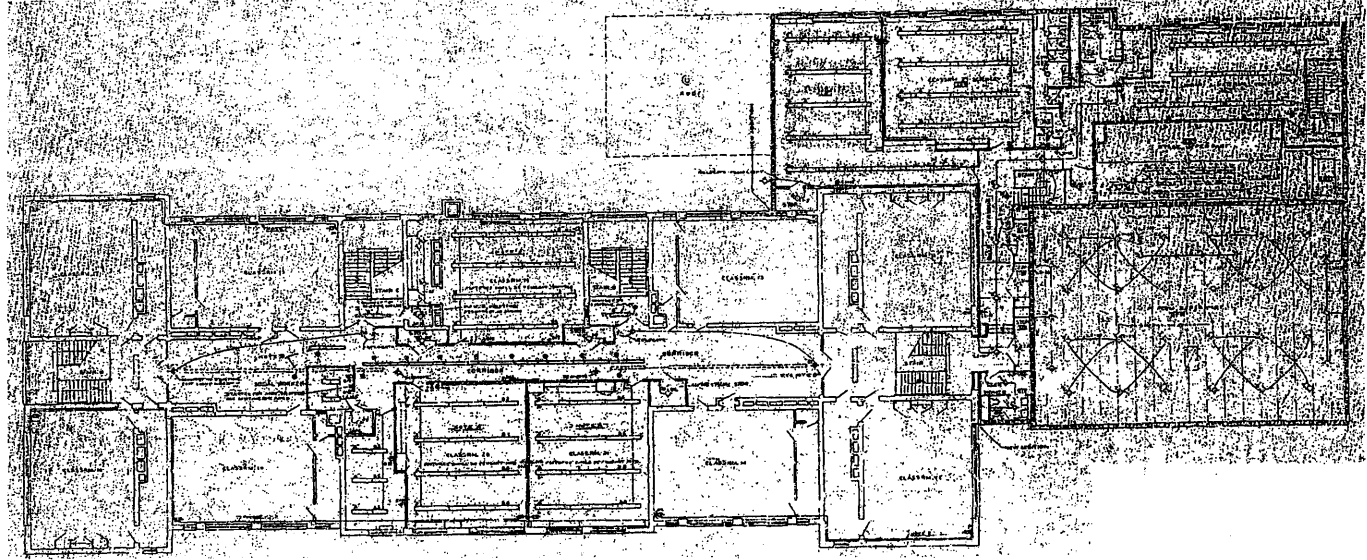
New York St.

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Ralph Waldo Emerson School 58  
Second floor plan



Linwood Ave.

New York St.