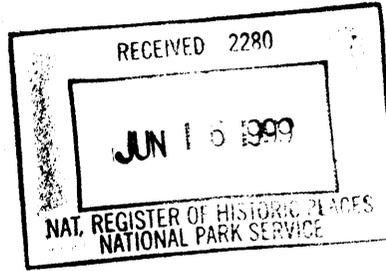


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

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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 LaCrosse State Teachers College Training School Building  
other names/site number Campus School; Thomas Morris Hall

2. Location

street & number 1615 State Street N/A not for publication  
city or town LaCrosse N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county LaCrosse code 063 zip code 54601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Alicia Z Coel 6/4/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

LaCrosse State Teachers College Training School Building LaCrosse Wisconsin  
 Name of Property County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

*Edson H. Beall*

7-15-99

*Edson H. Beall*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**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(s)  
 district  
 structure  
 site  
 object

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

contributing	noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

None

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
 Education: College

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
 Education: College

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
 Late 19th & 20th Century Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)  
 Foundation Concrete  
 walls Brick  
 roof Rubber  
 other Stone

**Narrative Description**

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

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**Description**

The La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building (hereafter "Training School") is located on the current University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus. Dimensions of the building are 230 feet north/south, the main section 63 feet east/west with two ells, one on Vine Street measuring 52' x 47' and the other on State Street measuring 57' x 52 ½'.<sup>1</sup> The Training School project equaled 51,390 gross square feet. The building is surrounded by hardwood trees, and an ample amount of lawn space. On two corners are a set of shrubs, with coniferous trees on the west side. The sidewalks that lead to the building are the same outlines as when first built. However, new sidewalks have been added at the north end, leading to the newer buildings on campus. The south and west sides both feature small driveways. The west side exhibits lawn space that historically was the Training School playground.

The Training School building is of the Collegiate Gothic style, constructed of dark red brick in the common bond style<sup>2</sup> similar to that of Main Hall and Wittich Hall, also on the campus. The Training School building plan is "U" shaped with gymnasium and auditorium wings on the southwest and northwest sides of the building respectively. The building is multi-leveled; the main portion, however, is three-stories in height. Belt courses, eleven inches wide, run on all elevations at the same level. Two main belt courses of stone run horizontally throughout the building, one at ground level and the other approximately a foot and a half from the cornice. Above each entrance are two stone ornaments, one over the entrance and one at the cornice, which is of cut stone. Above each entrance is a stepped roof line. The building also exhibits twenty-six different window variations (many variations on the same style of window), with stone sills and the original wood frames. The windows vary in size, but they are all double hung, and most are multi-paned. Another key feature

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid; From meeting with Vern Graves 28 May 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Common bond style of the Training School building is with five rows of stretchers then one row of headers.

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of the Training School building is the pilaster type<sup>3</sup> vertical projections that straddle the door and windows of the building. This pilaster is present on both the entrance bay and on the main facade. The stone belt course caps these pilasters, and generally has one stone inset similar to a belt course below the top one.

The last renovation of the building in 1995 and 1996 added a heating and cooling penthouse to the roof of the Training School. This penthouse is only visible from the west and east facades. The measurements are eighty-eight feet long, which runs with the front of the building, and is thirty-six feet wide. The penthouse has added approximately ten feet to the height of the building.

The front, east elevation of the building faces Main Hall. Large windows dominate this facade. On both sides of the main entrance, which is in the center of the elevation, there are two-story, three-sided bays. The bays rise from the basement and include the first floor. Between the main entrance and the bays on either side runs a double-railed, metal, barrier fence, attached to the bays. The main entrance is extended from the main facade and is three steps above ground level. Three doors are set back in the arched entrance. Each side of the doorway has a pilaster with two belt courses. The first belt is where the bottom of the arch reaches the building. This belt is one foot four and a half inches wide and two feet three and a half inches between the belts. The top belt course caps the pilasters and is eleven inches wide. Also, on either side of the main doors and pilasters is a set of double hung windows.

Above the main door is a three-sided bay. The sides of the bay arch inward to the base and center over the door. The base and top each have a belt course. The roofline of the main entrance is stepped in three layers. The middle layer is three feet above the main roof line and is the same width as the center door. Laid in the brick is a stone accent in the ornamental image of an open book with a torch and the year 1939 inscribed in it. There are just under seventy windows on the main facade, not counting the entrance.

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<sup>3</sup> They will be referred to as pilasters.

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Within the arch of the main entrance are glazed tiled walls and ceiling. The tile is green and about one inch square. Set inside this tile is a border of a yellowish brown tile decorated with two swirls. The walls and the ceiling have a rectangle made with this border. The floor of the entrance is also covered with two inch, brown, square tiles.

The south elevation faces State Street and includes a secondary entrance into the auditorium. There are twelve windows, not including the entrance. This elevation also has a stepped roof line. The one-story south entrance extends from the main building and has a stepped false front roof line. Centered in the roof line is a stone detail. The door is double with windows. The tops of the doors are marked with a stone belt course. The roof line of the entrance is also accented with stone. Above the entrance is a multi-paned window, which is in the stairwell going to the second floor. This roof line is stepped, false front and marked with a stone ornament and a cap.

West of the south entrance there are no basement windows; however, there are first and second floor windows. The first floor window is similar to the one above the entrance. At each corner of this facade and on either side of the entrance are pilasters, which extend up to the second floor belt course. At the entrance, pilasters also flank either side of the door and run to the belt course capping the top of the doors.

The roof line between the entrance and the auditorium is twelve feet lower, east of the entrance. There are no basement windows and it is only one-story in height. The windows consist of two sets of paired windows that are the same as the first floor entrance window to the west of the entrance. Between the windows is another brick pilaster, extending less than five feet from the roof line and capped by the belt course.

The auditorium elevation is forty-three feet eight and a half inches, about five feet higher than the entrance facade. There are no windows; however, three brick pilasters extend up about thirty-six feet, capped by a stone belt course and stone accents.

The north elevation of the auditorium wing has three roof heights. The highest elevation has another

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La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building, La Crosse,  
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section, which is a roof line at eleven feet capped with the upper belt course. Centered in the facade is a door, which historically was double but is now a modern solid metal door. This roof line extends upward and meets the south facade of the auditorium. Like the south facade, there is a one-story elevation that attaches to the west facade of the building. The only feature that does not match the south elevation is that there are basement windows, which have been replaced with modern windows.

The west elevation includes the western elevations of both the auditorium and the old gymnasium at the south and north ends respectively. This elevation also has multiple roof lines. On the west facade of the auditorium there are four pilasters and stone accents. Attached is a one-story entrance, where historically the doors were double, but now it is a single metal door.

The west entrance is directly opposite the main entrance. This entrance is similar to that of the south and north entrances. Above the entrance is an extended false front, stepped roof. This facade contains two sets of multi-paned windows that are not aligned with the others. Pilasters are on either side and capped with the stone belt course. The one-story gymnasium wing extends out of this elevation. Visible are the second story windows of the west facade above the gymnasium wing. There is also a one-story entrance on the south side of the wing. Historically a double door, now it is one long window on either side of a single window, metal frame door. This was done when the gymnasium was converted to office space in 1984. The wing historically had a window of four-over-four sash on each end; when the gymnasium was converted, however, these windows were downsized with one-over-one sashes. Even with the alterations, the sills are still the originals. Two windows were also added in the center and are of the same style. However, the sills appear newer than do the other ones. At each end, and between each original window, is a pilaster capped with a stone belt course.

The south elevation of the gymnasium wing has two roof lines. The shorter roof line runs from the west facade to one third of the way into the higher elevation. Centrally located was a two-over-two sash window that extended up from the ground belt course, which was removed in 1984. The higher elevation historically contained three windows. The two between the west facade and the shortened roof line were double four-over-four with a single side by side transom. These were altered in 1984

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to one-over-one sash in the center of the original frame, with the top and bottom covered. The window above the entrance was historically a two-over-two sash with a transom. However, this was removed in 1984.

The north elevation also has a multiple roofline. The entrance is similar to the north and west entrances. Above the entrance is a double four-over-four sash window with a two-over-two light transom. On the west side of the entrance is one set of windows for each floor. On the east side of the entrance at ground level is a fenced area. The fence consists of wooden vertical planks about three feet tall, containing an air conditioner unit. The first floor windows historically were double four-over-four sash, now are one-over-one light with the top and bottom covered. Also, east of the entrance is the lower roof lined section of the old gymnasium. This contains three windows with the pilasters between each and at the far corner. Historically these windows were double four-over-four sash with a transom; however, they also were altered in 1984.

The main entrance is on the east side of the building. The entrance projects out from the main facade of the building. The triple doors going into the building are wood. The floor inside the main entrance is a gray and pink marble with black veins running through. The walls are textured plaster. To reach the first floor one must walk up a flight of stairs, also of marble. There are a total of three doorways, two at the foot of the stairs and one at the top. At the first floor landing one can see all other entrances, one directly in front and one on either side. The floor is terrazzo with a design. The design is similar to that of the front ornament over the main entrance doors, an open book with a torch in the fold of the book. Along the edge the floor is a patterned design that is also terrazzo, exhibiting a geometric design of three lines then a square with a diamond in it.

The ceiling is of acoustic tiling and is at a height of about eight feet. The walls have brown tiles from the floor to the center of the wall, which is painted plaster. Along the walls are wooden and glass display cases, and the doors and their frames consist of steel. The water fountains are set back into the walls with a small arch over them, in which the wall is lined with brown and white one inch tiles. At the north end of the floor on the west side is the computer science office, which is the space that was once the top of the gymnasium. The space was remodeled in 1984, and no longer resembles the

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original gymnasium. At the north and south end there are stairways leading to the second and basement floors. The west side stairway also leads to the other two floors. The flooring in the stairways is terrazzo.

Up the north end staircase to the third floor landing, there is a double metal door for the entrance. The doors and wall look as if they were put in during the 1995-1996 remodeling project. The floor is the same as on the first floor, including the detailed outline. Acoustic tiling covers the ceiling and the ceiling is approximately twelve feet high. Both sides of the hallway are lined with metal lockers that the junior high students who attended the training school once used. The walls are plain, plastered and painted. The drinking fountains on the second floor are the same as on the first floor. The doors and frames are wood and steel respectively. Also, there are wood and glass display cases on this floor.

The library is still functional; however, its scope and purpose have changed. It is now a reading clinic. The library is located above the east entrance. It is centered around the bay window. The doorway into the library is parallel with the bay window and is glass, with stained glass detailing. To the north end of the floor is the other set of stairs; there are stairs on the west side also. At the north stairwell there is a metal door entrance; however, this wall looks new, probably added during the latest renovations.

The west, north and south stairwells give one access to the basement level. The handrails throughout the building, which were historically wood, are now metal. The stairs and floor are terrazzo; however, the decorative border is not present. On the west side of the building is the Little Theater, now the Robert Lee Fredrick Theater, with a seating capacity of 366. The doors going into the theater are the original wood doors, and the facility is still used for live productions. Connecting the stage with the dressing room is a narrow hallway. The dressing rooms, immediately north of the theater, are intact. The room features two-make up counters with mirrors on either side of the wood door. Also, included in this are separate bathrooms for male and female performers. The walls in this room are tiled from the floor to the middle of the wall, approximately five feet high. On one wall the tile has been painted over white, the other side the orange tile can still be seen.

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Most of the rooms on this floor have been converted into offices or have been left as classrooms, same as for the other two floors. However, the altered rooms have carpeted floors. Most of the doors and their frames are wood (some are metal), and some doors have windows, either frosted or clear, while others are solid wood. The mechanical room at the north end of the building on the west side has metal doors. Also at the north end and on the west side is the old gymnasium. The original wood frames for these doors are still intact; however, the doors have been removed. Between the two openings are two-inch tiles that come up five feet from the floor and then the wall recesses a little and goes to the ceiling. This part of the old gymnasium has been made into a computer lab. The ceiling is acoustic tiling with fluorescent lights, and the floor is gray linoleum tile. The walls are plastered and painted white. The area no longer resembles the original gymnasium through this extensive alteration.

The three entrances that the staircases lead to in the north, south, and west are similar. The floors are terrazzo and the walls are covered with green tile from the floor to approximately five feet high. After the main set of double doors there is a small landing before the second set of double doors. The first set of doors is set back inside and have a brick overhang. The exterior doors have two-over-two windows. The interior doors have four-over-four windows, with a four-over-four window above each, also on either side of the doors are four-over-four windows. Between the two doors on either side a small window that is one-over-one, with a wooden frame. The doors are also wood. The north and south entrances are opened all the way to the second floor ceiling.

The La Crosse State Teachers College Training Building retains a level of architectural integrity consistent with other academic buildings of its age. Although the interior has been altered somewhat over the years, the original hallways have been preserved, as have many of the public areas of the building. For example, the Fredrick Theater is still used for plays and such. With the exception of the heating and cooling penthouse, the exterior of the building has had few changes or alterations.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**  
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Education  
Politics/Government  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1939-1948  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1939-1940  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
 (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Brust and Brust, Architects  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

**Introduction**

The La Crosse State Teacher's College Training School Building (hereafter the Training School) is locally significant under Criterion A - Education for its associations with the history of education training and curriculum development and under Criterion A - Government as an example of a Public Works Administration (PWA) New Deal- funded project in La Crosse. The period of significance spans from 1939, when the building was constructed, through 1948, the end of the historic period. This Collegiate Gothic style building has served the community of La Crosse as an educational building since its construction. It was established as a Training School for teachers, as well as a Campus School, housing grades kindergarten through nine and college classes.

**Educational Facility**

The need in Wisconsin for an organized system of training teachers brought on the development of state normal schools. The Normal System Board of Regents of Wisconsin in 1865 decided that each of the state's six congressional districts should support a normal school. Cities then put in bids; however, La Crosse did not. When the state gave support for two more institutions in 1893, La Crosse then put in a bid.<sup>1</sup>

New hope was given to the city in its attempt to gain a normal school. Thomas Morris, a local lawyer and member of the Normal School Board of Regents in 1904, had worked hard for the La Crosse Normal School to become a reality. As a member of the State Senate and its education committee, Morris introduced a \$10,000 appropriation bill for the La Crosse Normal School in April 1905. With support of other legislators and La Crosse area business men, Morris accomplished his mission. The eighth normal school in the state was located in La Crosse in 1909. The others were located at

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<sup>1</sup> Susan T. Hessel, *Recollections, 1909-1973: Campus School, University of Wisconsin La Crosse* (La Crosse, WI: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, Inc., 1992) 10, 11.

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Platteville, Whitewater, Oshkosh, River Falls, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Superior, and Eau Claire. Nine State Normal Schools were established between 1865 and 1916.<sup>2</sup> Collectively, in 1925, these nine schools became state teacher's colleges, and in 1951 they became state colleges. Finally, in 1971 they were made part of the University of Wisconsin system.<sup>3</sup>

The La Crosse Normal School was established in 1909 with the construction of Main Hall. A model school was set up in that building, enabling prospective teachers to practice their skills in a working classroom. The idea of a model school evolved into the Training School and then the Campus School. Originally housed on the first floor of Main Hall, the Model School moved to the new Training School building upon its completion in 1939.<sup>4</sup>

The purposes for a training school were expressed in the first *Bulletin of the State Normal School*, and were as follows:

To educate children; To serve as an example of a model school; To give an opportunity to demonstrate and to observe model teaching; To furnish a means for studying, testing, and applying educational theories; To afford student teachers who have given evidence of knowledge of subject matter and of educational theory an opportunity to gain a limited experience in teaching under careful supervision.<sup>5</sup>

Another purpose of the Training School was to develop and test new curriculum on the students.

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<sup>2</sup> Hessel, 10, 11; Gilkey, 4, 5; Barbara Wyatt (ed.), *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Volume III, Education. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986) 4-4.

<sup>3</sup> Wyatt, Volume III, Education, 4-10.

<sup>4</sup> Hessel, 1.

<sup>5</sup> Hessel, 15.

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Along with these purposes the La Crosse Training School was used as a laboratory for the students attending the Normal School. In 1939, construction began on a new Training School building, directly west of Main Hall. The faculty and students moved into the new Training School building January 1940. The college students used this facility in one of three ways: observation, participation, and student teaching.

The Training School on the La Crosse campus housed grades kindergarten through nine. The enrollment of students in each class was kept low to aid in the education of future teachers by observing and practicing the different techniques that they saw used in an actual classroom. This limitation of enrollment was done one of two ways. Children of college employees, with siblings already enrolled, and previously enrolled students had first priority. The second stipulation was that the child could not have any mental or physical handicaps. Enrollment into the school was seen as an advantage for the students, and their parents went to great lengths to get them into the school. Some parents even waited in line all night prior to registration day to enroll their children.<sup>6</sup>

Enrollment in the college and in the training school remained relatively constant from 1933 to 1947. The college enrolled an average of ten percent of the state's total college students, and the training school in La Crosse enrolled nine percent of education students in the state's training school programs.<sup>7</sup>

The Training School building housed more than just the classrooms of kindergarten through nine, it had specialized classrooms as well. On the ground floor or basement level on the east side was a large general purpose room that could be used for public meeting and events. Connected to this was the Home Economics department that consisted of a small dressing room and three other rooms, one

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<sup>6</sup> *Policies Governing Admission to Campus School* Campus School: Budget and PTA File, UW-La Crosse Archives; Hessel, 1-2.

<sup>7</sup> *Proceeding of the Board of Regents Normal Schools, 1934-1934, 1940-1941, 1941-1942, and 1945-1946.* (Madison: State of Wisconsin).

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of which was a demonstration room used for kitchen and dining room instruction. Also on the east side were three rooms that contained the boiler equipment and space for storage.<sup>8</sup> The east side of the ground floor also included a combination art and student teaching room. At the north end of the building there was a gymnasium, and the auditorium with seating for 366 was at the south end. The auditorium was at first called the Little Theater and is now called Fredrick Theater. Also attached to the auditorium stage by a corridor was a separate area for men's and women's dressing rooms. Between the auditorium and gymnasium were boy's and girl's locker rooms, a photography dark room, a health clinic, and office space for the physical education director.<sup>9</sup>

On the first floor were the classrooms for the lower grades. On the east side there was the kindergarten room with its own lavatories and clothing room. First through third grades each had their own room and cloak room also. The fourth grade room was located on the west side along with a suite of rooms for the director of the institution and also for the director of elementary education. The second floor contained two rooms at the north end that housed the fifth and sixth grades. The library was also located on the second floor. The library consisted of one large room that was lined with bookshelves and four smaller rooms. Of the four small rooms, two of them were enclosed, one for parents and the other for teachers. These rooms were also lined with bookshelves. Located at the top of a small flight of stairs was another pair of rooms, these being for the children. The second floor also contained a music room and six rooms used for the junior high school instruction.<sup>10</sup>

Since its creation on the La Crosse campus, the Training School has evolved along with the campus itself; however, its original educational purposes have remained constant. The Training School functioned as a part of the normal school system, the state teacher's college, the state college, and

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<sup>8</sup> The building was supplied with heat from the main college heating plant. This plant was built only two years before the Training School in anticipation of the building and future campus expansion. *La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press* (La Crosse), 1 January 1940.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

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the state university. It adopted the same function and purpose as the others in the state and nation, to offer opportunities for teacher preparation to those who qualified. The Training School served the La Crosse campus and community as a center for the pre-professional students to gain the experience of being in a classroom, as a laboratory for curriculum and teaching technique development and experimentation, and also for community functions. Though the Training School closed in 1973, the building which contained it still serves as an educational facility to the campus, and as a gathering place for the community.<sup>11</sup>

PWA Funding of the Training School

The stock market crash of 1929 triggered the Great Depression in the United States. The Great Depression hit every aspect of the American society. Industry, farming and banking all saw hardships. By 1932 twenty-five percent of workers were unemployed, and the seventy-five percent who retained their jobs saw a cut in wages. When Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932 on promises of doing something about the economy, he implemented several programs he collectively referred to as the New Deal. Within his first one hundred days as president he created many programs to help reestablish the country's economic prosperity. One of these such programs was the Public Works Administration (PWA), which was set up to employ the people and to build needed public works.<sup>12</sup>

The PWA was first created by authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), enacted in 1933 by Congress. The PWA was under the direction of Harold L. Ickes, and was created to diminish unemployment and to augment purchasing power through the construction of public works. The President and Congress wanted to give work relief as opposed to welfare. During its six-year

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<sup>11</sup> *Wisconsin State University-La Crosse Campus Laboratory School, Campus School closing and History file, UW-La Crosse Archives.*

<sup>12</sup> Joseph R. Conlin, *The American Past: A Survey of American History* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1984), 695, 698, 711-713.

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Section 8 Page 6 La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building, La Crosse,  
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existence, from 1933 to 1939, the PWA had many accomplishments, including: construction of more than 70 percent of new educational buildings, 65 percent of new courthouses, city halls and sewage disposal plants, 35 percent of new public health facilities, and 10 percent of all new roads, bridges and subways in the nation. The program also created one and three-fourth billion man hours of on site construction labor and another three billion man hours in the production, fabrication and transportation of materials. This program could accomplish so much because of the authority given to it by Congress. For example, it could start its own projects as a construction agency, make allotments to enable other agencies to build, and offer a combination of loans and grants to public bodies to stimulate non-federal construction. This wide base allowed for many different types of projects. The PWA lasted until 1939 when the United States move into a wartime economy.<sup>13</sup>

The La Crosse State Teacher's College received funds from the New Deal Program entitled the Public Works Administration (PWA) for the construction of the Training School; however, not all of the money came from the PWA. The State and Board of Regents gave the school a budget of \$325,000, and of this 45 percent (\$146,250) came from the PWA for the construction of the Training School. The PWA generally funded 45 percent of costs for the projects it aided. The Board of Regents called upon the state of Wisconsin to provide the remaining 55 percent, roughly \$178,750. The Board of Regents held a special meeting 25 September 1938 to vote on the grant, which they accepted.<sup>14</sup>

The Training School was not the only educational building built by the PWA in the city of La Crosse, Longfellow School was also built by the PWA, with forty-five percent funding from the New Deal program. La Crosse's sewage disposal plant was also a PWA project, as well as the La Crosse

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<sup>13</sup> Britannica Online, *Public Works Administration*; James A. Henretta et al., *America's History*, R. Jackson Wilson ed., (Chicago: The Dorsey Press, 1987), 749; Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., *The Age of Roosevelt: The Coming of the New Deal* vol. II (Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1958), 288, 283-284.

<sup>14</sup> Gilkey, 112-113.

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State Teachers College heating plant, constructed in 1937.<sup>15</sup>

Other New Deal projects undertaken in La Crosse were: the Vocational School was remodeled, the Coleman building was built, also improvements were made to Myrick Park, all funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Onalaska Dam #7 on the Black River along with the nine foot channelization of the Mississippi River was funded by the Civil Works Administration (CWA).<sup>16</sup>

Naming of the Building

When the building was still in its planning stage the naming of the building came to the forefront. The director of the school, Mr. Leamer, wanted the building to be designated as a "laboratory school" instead of as a "training school." This was due to the negative sounding name of training school which was also used for juvenile delinquent facilities. Leamer even wrote to the architects of Brust and Brust to have them consider calling the building a laboratory school, but they refused.<sup>17</sup> On the blueprints the facility is called the Training School building.

In 1943 the issue of the name again arose. The new fifth and sixth grade teacher was sensitive to the name Training School for the same reason as Leamer had been in 1939. However, it was not until 1953 that the name was changed. Due to a suggestion from the student government the name was changed to the Campus School in March of 1953. In 1973 the name was again changed due to the recommendation of Chancellor Kenneth Linder, and the regents authorized the renaming of the Campus School to Thomas Morris Hall after La Crosse's first regent.<sup>18</sup> Today the building is referred

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<sup>15</sup> Rausch and Zeitlin, 226-227; *La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press* (La Crosse), 1 January 1937, 6 December 1936, and 25 August 1937.

<sup>16</sup> Rausch and Zeitlin, 25.

<sup>17</sup> Gilkey, 112.

<sup>18</sup> Hessel, 48; Gilkey, 12.

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to by college students and faculty as Morris Hall.

Construction History

The La Crosse State Teachers College building (a.k.a. Training School) was the third academic building constructed on the La Crosse campus, built with funding by the Public Works Administration (PWA) as project number Wis. 1485 F. The Training School housed grades kindergarten through ninth, sharing some rooms with the college students for training purposes, while others were for observation.<sup>19</sup> The building was first proposed by George Snodgrass and Emery W. Leamer, the President and Director respectively of La Crosse State Teacher's College in 1930. They proposed the expansion because of the increase in enrollment at the college during the 1920s. The Normal School Board of Regents approved the project in 1931. However, it was not until seven years later that the facility received final approval from the Board of Regents to be built, in part because of the federal funding it would receive through the PWA. The total budget given to the project was \$325,000, \$125,000 more than when it was first approved.<sup>20</sup> Ground was broken 12 January 1939 and the building was completed in January of the following year, with moving day on 25 January 1940.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> La Crosse *Tribune* (La Crosse), 6 January 1938.

<sup>20</sup> La Crosse *Tribune* (La Crosse), 1 January 1931; George R. Gilkey, *The First Seventy Years: a History of the University of Wisconsin La Crosse 1909-1979* (The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, Inc., 1981), 111-112; Floor Plan outlay from Campus School File *PTA and Budget*, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Area Research Center.

<sup>21</sup> *Wisconsin State University-La Crosse Campus Laboratory School*, 3, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Area Research Center, file: Campus School Closing and History; Gilkey, 113.

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The architectural firm of Brust and Brust, 135 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, designed the Training School, having submitted the plans 25 November 1938.<sup>22</sup> The Secretary of State Office, on behalf of Normal School Board of Regents, received construction bids for the Training School on 22 December 1938 in Madison, Wisconsin.<sup>23</sup> The specifications of the building included two stories with a basement made of brick face and backer walls, concrete foundation, stone window sills, and window frames of either cedar or redwood. Dimensions of the building that the bids were to follow-230 feet long, the main section 63 feet wide with two ells, one on Vine Street measuring 52' x 47' and the other on State Street measuring 57' x 52 ½'.<sup>24</sup> The training school project equaled 51,390 gross square feet. The contractor who won the bid for general site work, roads and walks was W.M.C. of Winona, Minnesota.<sup>25</sup>

Architects

The architectural firm that designed the Training School building was the firm of Brust and Brust of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Peter Brust was born near Milwaukee in 1869 and received his architectural training from Milwaukee-based offices. For some time he received careful training

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<sup>22</sup> *La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press* (La Crosse), 9 January 1938.

<sup>23</sup> *La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press* (La Crosse), 6 January 1938.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*; From meeting with Vern Graves 28 May 1997.

<sup>25</sup> *University of Wisconsin System* file from Morris Hall Project, La Crosse Campus, thanks to Mike Daniel; Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin, *Historic La Crosse Architectural and Historic Record: A Summary of an Intensive Survey Report* (City Planning Dept., City of La Crosse, WI: 1984); Rausch, Joan, "Historic La Crosse Architectural and Historic Record," 1988 supplement to *Historic La Crosse*; Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin *City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, INTENSIVE SURVEY REPORT Architectural and Historical Survey Project* (City Planning Dept., City of La Crosse WI, 1984) Addendum by Joan Rausch and Carol Lohry Cartwright, 1996, 226.

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from one of the city's most prominent architects, George Ferry. In 1909 Peter Brust and Richard Phillip opened their own office, Brust & Phillip. Between 1909 and 1927 it was the largest architectural office in the state of Wisconsin. They maintained this office for twenty years. In 1911 Peter Brust was elected to the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) and would later serve two terms as its president. In 1923 he became a Fellow of the Institute and from 1940 to 1943 was the Regional Director for the Illinois and Wisconsin districts. The firm of Brust and Brust was established in 1933 when Peter Brust combined forces with his two sons John and Paul. Peter Brust died 20 June 1946, and his two sons then maintained the office.<sup>26</sup>

Other buildings that were commissioned to the architectural firm of Brust and Brust were mostly religious buildings. Two such buildings designed and built in Milwaukee are the Christ King Congregation at 260 North Swan Boulevard (1955), and the St. Gregory the Great Roman Church at 3128 South 63rd Street (1956).<sup>27</sup>

Conclusion

The La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building is eligible under Criterion A in the fields of Education and Government. The building is significant for its associations with the history of education training and as an example of New Deal funded construction in the city of La Crosse. The training school was built as an integral part of the La Crosse State Teacher's College. The primary missions of the training schools were to train and prepare school teachers and to conduct research in the field of education. As noted above, the limited number of pupils attending the Training School allowed future teachers to observe and practice pedagogical techniques in an actual classroom. Summer school sessions at the La Crosse Training School often focused on an activity unit or a specific project; for example, in the summer of 1940 a typical remedial program for

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<sup>26</sup> *Brust, Peter*. File from the Wisconsin State Historical Society Preservation Department.

<sup>27</sup> *Brust and Brust*. File from the Wisconsin State Historical Society Preservation Department.

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Progressive schools was demonstrated. As a result, the La Crosse training school, like other training schools in the state, had an impact on education theory and curriculum by developing and testing programs that could then be applied throughout Wisconsin.

The La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building is representative of the types of buildings funded by the PWA. The PWA provided 45% of the funding for the construction of the Training School building. This was the typical level of funding for these projects, with the state or local municipalities providing the remaining funds. In addition to the Training School, the PWA provided construction funds for the heating plant at the La Crosse Teachers College. Other PWA projects in La Crosse include the local sewage disposal plant and the Longfellow School. The Longfellow School is a fine, local example of the Art Deco; however, the original doors and windows of the school have been replaced. The two other buildings are utilitarian in nature. Other New Deal projects in the area included the Coleman Building of the Vocational School. This industrial style building with classical detailing has also been modified through the replacement for original buildings. The Training School building retains the highest level of integrity of the federally funded educational facilities in La Crosse. It is significant in the area of government as it represents the result of the intervention of the federal government in providing relief to communities suffering from the adverse economic effects of the Great Depression.

LaCrosse State Teachers College Training School Building LaCrosse Wisconsin  
Name of Property 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.)

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
UW-LaCrosse

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property 2 acres

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

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/4/2/2/4/0</u>	<u>4/8/5/2/5/2/0</u>	3	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/4/2/1/5/5</u>	<u>4/8/5/2/3/8/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/4/2/2/4/0</u>	<u>4/8/5/2/3/8/5</u>	4	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/4/2/1/5/5</u>	<u>4/8/5/2/5/0/5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sara S. Gilles (c/o Barbara Kooiman)  
organization Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center date 2/1998  
street & number 1725 State St. telephone 608 785-6783  
city or town LaCrosse state Wisconsin zip code 54601

LaCrosse State Teachers College Training School Building      LaCrosse      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.)

<b>name/title</b>	University of Wisconsin Board of Regents		
<b>organization</b>	c/o Lawrence L. Lebiecki, Administrative Services, 233 Main Hall	<b>date</b>	Feb. 1998
<b>street&amp;number</b>	1725 State Street	<b>telephone</b>	608 785-8028
<b>city or town</b>	LaCrosse	<b>state</b>	Wisconsin
		<b>zip code</b>	54601

**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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- Brust, Peter.* File located at Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.
- Conlin, Joseph R. *The American Past: A Survey of American History.* San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1984.
- Graves, Vern. Grounds maintenance. Interview with Sara Gilles, 28 May 1997.
- Gilkey, George R. *The First Seventy Years: a History of the University of Wisconsin La Crosse 1909-1979.* The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, Inc., 1981.
- Henretta, James A., W. Elliot Brownlee, David Brody, and Susan Ware. R. Jackson Wilson and Micheal P. Conzen, eds, *America's History*, R. Jackson Wilson ed. Chicago: The Dorsey Press, 1987.
- Hessel, Susan T. *Recollection 1909-1973: Campus School University of Wisconsin La Crosse.* La Crosse, WI: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, Inc., 1992.
- La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press* (La Crosse), various, from 1 January 1931 to 1 January 1940.
- Morris Hall Project, University of Wisconsin System.* File located in office of Mike Daniel, Campus Planning, Main Hall, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
- Policies Governing Admission to Campus School* Campus School: Budget and PTA File, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Area Research Center.
- Proceeding of the Board of Regents Normal Schools.* 1934-1934, 1940-1941, 1941-1942, and 1945-1946. Madison: State of Wisconsin.
- "Public Works Administration." [[http://www.eb.com:/cgibin/g?DocF=micr.%20in%20la%20crosse%20wisconsin#first\\_hit](http://www.eb.com:/cgibin/g?DocF=micr.%20in%20la%20crosse%20wisconsin#first_hit).] Britanica Online, copyright, 1996.
- Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin, *Historic La Crosse Architectural and Historic Record: A Summary of an Intensive Survey Report.* City Planning Dept., City of La Crosse, WI: 1984; Rausch, Joan, "Historic La Crosse Architectural and Historic Record," 1988 supplement to *Historic La Crosse*; Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin *City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Intensive Survey Report Architectural and Historical Survey Project.* City Planning Dept., City of La Crosse WI, 1984; Addendum by Joan Rausch and Carol Lohry Cartwright, 1996.
- Schlesinger Jr., Arthur M., *The Age of Roosevelt: The Coming of the New Deal* vol.II. Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1958.

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Training School Building Sketch drawing, floor plan of, nd. Located in box labeled: *PTA and Budget*, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Area Research Center.

*Wisconsin State University-La Crosse Campus Laboratory School*, file: Campus School Closing and History. University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Area Research Center.

Wyatt, Barbara (ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* Volume III, Education. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986.

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### **Section 10-Geographical Data**

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building is located in the center of the city of La Crosse, Wisconsin on the southwest corner of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse campus. The building is located in the Metzger and Funk's Addition on Block 14, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The campus is located to the north of the Cass and King Street Historic District, and approximately one mile east of the downtown.

#### **Boundary Justification**

When the Training School was originally built the building and the grounds took up the entire Block 14 of Metzger and Funk's Addition. The block was bounded by Vine Street to the north, 17th Street to the east, State Street to the south, and 16th Street to the west. However, since the expansion of the campus and the addition of the Wing Communications Building, the boundaries have been altered. Wing Communications Building now rests on Lots 1, 2, 11, and 12 of Block 14. Also due to expansion, Vine and 17th streets have been removed, so they are no longer bounding the lot. Therefore the boundaries for the Training School are given as: the city of La Crosse, Metzger and Funk's Addition, Block 14, Lots 3 through 10.

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**Photographs**

La Crosse State Teachers College Training School Building

La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

Photographs by Barbara Kooiman, Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC)

November 1997

Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

The above information applies to all of the following photographs:

Photo #1 of 21:

East and north elevations, showing multiple roof levels, facing south west

Photo #2 of 21:

East elevation, main entrance, facing west

Photo #3 of 21:

East elevation with detail of the main entrance, the bay window is where the library is, facing west

Photo #4 of 21:

East elevation detail of date plate - an open book with a torch and the year 1939 in it, facing west

Photo#5 of 21:

East elevation, facing north west

Photo #6 of 21:

East and south elevations, showing multiple roof levels, the theater wing and the extended entrance,  
facing north west

Photo #7 of 21:

South and west elevations, showing multiple roof levels, facing north east

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Photo #18 of 21:  
Dressing room foyer, original light fixtures, facing north

Photo #19 of 21:  
Old gymnasium doorway, basement level

Photo #20 of 21:  
Little Theater Stage

Photo #21 of 21  
Historic Photo, circa 1940, LaCrosse State Teachers College Training School Building, exterior,  
facing northwest (negative located at Area Research Center, Murphy Library, University of  
Wisconsin-LaCrosse).

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Photo #8 of 21:  
West elevation, facing east

Photo #9 of 21:  
West elevation showing the theater wing, facing south east

Photo #10 of 21:  
North elevation showing the gymnasium wing and multiple roof levels, facing south east

Photo #11 of 21:  
Inside the east entrance these doors lead into the first floor hallway, facing west

Photo #12 of 21:  
First floor hallway showing detail on the floor, facing south

Photo #13 of 21:  
Detail in floor, similar to date plate above the main entrance minus the date

Photo #14 of 21:  
Detail of water fountain alcove, water fountains are new, structure is original, facing south west

Photo #15 of 21:  
Second floor lockers once used by the Campus School Junior High School Students, facing south  
east

Photo #16 of 21:  
Library entrance, second floor, stain glass window detail, facing south east

Photo #17 of 21:  
Basement hallway, facing north