

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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by SHPO

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line 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 FORT DODGE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

other names/site number South Junior High School, Fair Oaks Middle School

2. Location

street & number 416 South 10th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fort Dodge N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Webster code 187 zip code 50501

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historical Society of Iowa

25 AUG 2015
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 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)

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

10-13-15

Fort Dodge Junior High School
Name of Property

Webster County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many lines as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one line)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS/rubber
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Fort Dodge Junior High School
Name of Property

Webster County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931-1965

Significant Dates

1931
 1937
 1965

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Damon, E. O. Jr.

See Continuation Sheet

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

9. Major Bibliography 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):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository

Fort Dodge Junior High School
Name of Property

Webster County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.75 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 4 | 02723 | 4705877 |
Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

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 William C. Page, Public Historian
organization William Colgan Page, Inc. date December 1, 2014
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

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 FB Fair Oaks, L.L.C.
street & number 8201 NW 97th Terrace telephone 816-746-9100
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64153

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Fort Dodge Junior High School features three components: the main block, built in 1931; an addition, built in 1937; and a second addition built in 1965. Materials, massing, and siting unite these components into an integrated architectural design.

The building is located at 416 South 10th Street in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in a mixed-use area of predominately single-family dwellings along with apartment buildings and small offices. The school building is situated between 4th Avenue South on the north, 5th Avenue South (East Kenyon Road/U.S. Highway 20) on the south, South 8th Street on the west, and South 12th Street on the east. U.S. Highway 20 is a major thoroughfare through Fort Dodge.

The site of the school includes grassy areas, trees, and landscaping on all sides of the building. A series of poured concrete pedestrian walks on the east, north, and west sides of the building articulate it with the city pedestrian walks and streets adjacent to the building and to other areas on the school grounds. These include a small parking lot situated on the northeast corner of the site, a large parking lot at the southwest corner of the site, and an athletic field to the west.

This athletic field is situated on a portion of level land within an otherwise steeply sloping hill. This hill slopes from the site of the school building to the athletic field and then descends again into the valley of the Des Moines River. An outdoor track and recreational area occupy most of this athletic field. A chain link fence surrounds the area.

Specimen trees are planted throughout the school grounds. "Fair Oaks Middle School," one among several official names given to this building over the years, reflects the fact that the school grounds are beautifully landscaped, albeit now needing routine maintenance, including some possibly first-growth oak trees. The entire site offers a dramatic view of the Des Moines River valley.

EXTERIOR

The Fort Dodge Junior High School is a concrete and steel frame structure, 3-stories in height with brick walls, simple stone ornamentation, and a flat roof. Due to the site's substantial change in grade, the east portion of the building appears to be 2-stories in height, but, when viewed from the rear, reveals itself to be three stories tall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

The 1931 building features comb-faced brick wall cladding in a random blend of olive yellow, orangish red, brownish purple, and brownish purple colors. This brick is laid in gray-colored mortar with moderately heavy aggregate and cove-raked. The 1937 addition's brick matches this brick exactly. The brick color of the 1965 addition matches extremely well, also using the four-color blend noted above. The existing brick condition is excellent. All façades have limestone belt courses, window sills, ground and second floor headers, and parapet caps. The 1965 addition also features a stone parapet cap.

East Elevation

The east elevation is 2-stories in height and seven bays wide. Projecting brick pilasters separate each of these bays.

The northern-most bay contains the main entrance to the building, canted on the northeast corner of the building. (See Figure 14.) This entrance projects slightly from the main block and features simple, smooth-cut limestone forming implied buttresses, recessed wall panels, and a shallow Tudor-arched entry above double doors. A bay window surmounts the main entrance. Ribbon windows center this bay, flanked by single windows angled back toward the building.

Full height pilasters demark the building's various bays. Narrower pilasters, reaching only to the window lintels on the second floor, demark certain divisions within these bays. The fenestration within these bays varies. The bay immediately to the south of the main entrance features a single window on the first and on the second floors. The third bay through the fifth bay and the seventh bay repeat this design. The sixth bay features the southeast entrance to the building. This entrance is of limestone and resembles the main entrance—Tudor arch above double doors, implied buttresses, and bay window—but it is narrower in size. This bay also projects slightly from the main block.

Fixed letters reading "Fair Oaks/Middle School" are attached above the second floor to the north of the southeast entrance. These letters were installed when the building became a middle school in 1984.

South Façade

The south facade possesses a total of ten bays generally filled with ribbon windows or single

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

windows. Each of these bays is separated by projecting brick pilasters.

1931 Building. This portion of the building is visibly two stories in height and features three bays. The eastern most bay has no windows. Brick pilasters and limestone belt courses form rectangular patterns on it to break up its mass. The other two bays on the south facade are similar to those on the east facade.

Site. A rapid fall in elevation occurs three bays to the west of where the 1937 addition joins the 1931 building. A curved retaining wall, built in 1937, stands at this point to hold back an earth cut in the hill to the south. This retaining wall features the same brick as the building itself, a concrete cap, and a painted metal pipe handrail.

1937 Building. This grade change and earth cut reveal the 3-story height of the 1937 addition. Many of its bays match those on the east facade. The four center bays project forward and upward from the general facade line. The projecting north-south walls contain a single window in width at each floor level.

West Façade

The west façade is eight bays wide. It includes the 1937 addition (three bays on the south) and the 1965 addition (five bays on the north).

The 1937 portion is three stories in height. Its center bay contains the southwest entry, which is similar to the northeast entry but features additional cut limestone elements found in smooth cut tiered frames above the arches. The transom above the double doors of this entrance has been infilled with brick and glass block. This entryway also features a bay window at the second floor and a window at the third floor. The adjacent bays to the south and north have no windows but feature limestone belt courses.

The 1965 portion varies in height. A 1-story section stands at its south end with a 2-story section to the north. The 1-story section has no windows. A door is situated on the south elevation. The 2-story section features four bays with narrow brick pilasters separating each bay. Windows and metal spandrels center these bays and run from grade to the roof parapet. The windows feature single-width glass. The original window openings have been partially infilled.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

North Façade

The north façade is 15 bays wide. It includes the 2-story 1965 addition (four bays on the west) and the 3-story 1931 building (eleven bays on the east). Each of these bays is separated by vertical projecting brick pilasters.

The north elevation of the 1965 addition repeats the design of its west elevation except that the bay abutting the 1931 building lacks the windows and features instead a pair of doors and a transom.

The 1931 portion is symmetrical in bay width and heights. Four bays center the north elevation and project slightly from it. Each of these bay features ribbon windows (three units wide). These four bays are flanked by 3 bays set flush with the façade line. Among these three bays, the center bay is complex and divided in turn into three sections. The center section features ribbon windows (four units wide). Brick pilasters flank it and in turn are flanked by single windows. The two bays adjacent to the central bay each features paired windows.

The window heights at each floor level express the interior 3-story stair it contains. The ground floor windows at this location are the only original windows remaining on the entire building. They feature 3/1 wood, double-hung sash. The pair is only about three feet in height. The first floor windows are taller than those on the ground floor, and the second floor windows even taller, approximately fifteen feet in height.

Doors and Windows

All the original exterior doors have been replaced with metal doors and frames at an unknown date.

All of the original windows, except as noted above, have been replaced with an aluminum window system at an unknown date. The replaced windows fill the original masonry openings in their overall width, height and number of window units per opening. The original windows appear to have been double hung windows in most openings, with some having small single or double transoms. The new windows are double-hung surmounted by fixed metal panels.

The building features seven original skylights above the auditorium-gymnasium. (See Figure 8.) Two sets of three skylights parallel each other above the ceiling of the auditorium.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

Another skylight is situated perpendicular to these sets and parallels the stage. The original framing members of these skylights can be seen in the auditorium-gymnasium, although their window lights have been painted and the roofing material now covers their frames.

One light well, original to the building, is located adjacent to the east side of the auditorium-gymnasium.

Roof

The entire building is covered with a flat roof clad with a membrane of synthetic material.

INTERIOR

First Floor

The 1931 building features an L-shaped footprint with the main entrance situated where the two strokes of this letter meet. This entrance is canted to the northeast while the footprint of the building is (more or less) oriented to the cardinal points of the compass.

A stairway, which articulates all three floors of the building, is situated in a vestibule inside the main entrance.

This entrance leads to two double-loaded corridors, one running east and west and one running north and south. The east-west corridor flanks classrooms on the north and the auditorium-gymnasium on the south.

The north-south corridor flanks three classrooms on the east, one classroom at the end of the hall, and the auditorium-gymnasium on the west. Another main entrance to the building is situated near the south end of this hall along with another stairway to articulate all three floors of the building. Restrooms for boys and girls are situated on the west side of the hallway. The south end of this hallway meets at a right angle another east-west hallway constructed as part of the 1937 addition.

Classrooms and a library abut this 1937 hallway on its south side. The auditorium-gymnasium abuts it on the north. The construction of this hallway required the covering and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

infilling of large arched windows, which previously had lighted the auditorium-gymnasium. A stairway, one restroom (which stacks at each floor level, in alternating boys' and girls' facilities), and one classroom are situated at the west end of this east-west hallway.

The auditorium-gymnasium is the largest space in the building. This space includes the gymnasium floor flanked by spectator seating to the west and an elevated stage to the east.

The 1965 addition is situated a half flight of stairs down from the first floor of the 1931-1937 building. This addition features a band room, vocal music room, individual practice rooms, offices, and storage areas.

Original classroom configurations remain intact.

Second Floor

The second floor of the 1931-1937 building repeats the floor plan of the first floor, except that the west hallway is absent. Original classroom configurations remain intact. The upper seating area of the auditorium-gymnasium occupies this space.

The original exterior window openings on the west wall of the auditorium-gymnasium remain intact (although filled with new windows). The original windows on the south wall of the auditorium-gymnasium were removed, when the 1937 addition was built.

Ground Floor

The ground floor level is very similar to the first floor, but with a few different room configurations and space allocations. (See Figure 13.) The ground floor beneath the auditorium-gymnasium is divided into separate rooms oriented west to east. The northern room houses the girls' locker and shower room. The southern room houses the boy's locker and shower room. Each of these locker rooms has a stairway that leads directly up to auditorium-gymnasium on the first floor. Originally, an indoor pool and spectator seating were situated between these two locker rooms. In 2006, the pool was completely covered over with a new floor and the room is currently being used as a fitness room. The spectator area featured concrete benches serving also as steps. They also have been removed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

A north-south hallway is situated to the east of this fitness room. It connects to the 1931 north hallway and the 1937 south hallway. To the east of this north-south hallway is the mechanical room, located directly under the first floor stage. To the east is an area that is in alignment with the light well court above. The northern one-third portion is an extension of the light well court. The southern two-thirds portion is a mechanical room. To the east of this are offices in what was originally the mechanical fan room.

The farthest eastern area of the ground floor is unexcavated. The southeast corner of the 1931 building contains an unexcavated area, a fitness room (which was originally the fuel room) and the electrical room on the south with its own exterior entry. The north hallway matches, the upper floor with classrooms lining the entire length. The west end of this hallway connects into the 1965 addition, which is also located a half a flight of stairs down.

The ground floor of the 1965 addition contains a north entrance to the building and lobby and a cafeteria, kitchen, set of small restrooms, and a stairway, which connects to the south hallway in the 1937 addition.

Interior Doors and Transoms

Many historic doors and transoms are intact, quite a few with their original hardware intact (hinges, push plates, pulls and locks). These doors are of oak. All of the door openings on the ground floor and some on the first and second floors have had the doors and/or transoms removed and replaced with non-historic doors and infilled transom panels. There are also some new door openings (without transoms) that were created at an unknown date for new entries to classrooms with non-historic doors.

Floors

The flooring in the main hallways is covered with vinyl composition tile and carpet on all floor levels. The condition of the original materials is unknown. A majority of the classrooms have their original stained wood flooring. Some are covered with carpet. The auditorium/gymnasium and stage have their original flooring. The seating area is concrete. The secondary hallways and mechanical and storage rooms are concrete. They are in very good condition. The restroom floors are all covered with vinyl composition tile.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

Classrooms feature tongue and groove wood floors and remain intact and in good condition in a majority of the rooms. A few of these classrooms have floors covered with carpet or vinyl composition tile or have suffered water damage.

Stairways

All historic stairways are intact and retain all of their original materials, details and configurations. Those in the 1931 and 1937 building have a wrought and cast iron stairway, balusters, and railings. The original tread material remains unknown and are currently covered with vinyl composition tile. The risers are painted iron. All of the stairs have decorative wrought iron balusters, painted black, with stained wood handrails. The walls are plaster with a glazed clay tile wainscot. All of the stairways are in excellent condition. The stairways in the 1965 addition also retain their original materials.

Interior Finishes and Amenities

The building retains its original plaster wall and ceiling surfaces in almost all instances, although in many locations the ceilings have been covered with either a new acoustical ceiling tile glued to the plaster or a new lowered acoustical ceiling with modern lighting. Where plaster remains exposed, it has been maintained and is in excellent condition. In some locations there is evidence of water damage on the ceilings and walls.

The corridor walls of the 1931 and 1937 building feature a glazed clay tile wainscoting in rich butterscotch colors laid in gray-colored mortar. This wainscoting rises up to the lintel level of the classroom doors, which flank the corridors. Trimwork of heavy oak caps this wainscoting. This trim retains its original natural finish. Plaster clads the upper portions of the corridor walls. This treatment of the corridor walls provides at one and the same time a warm and inviting feeling to them and surfaces easy to keep clean. A glazed tile base stands at the foot of these corridor walls. The wainscot and base are well maintained and in excellent condition. In some hallways, the wall base has been covered with rubber base. Classrooms generally retain their original chalkboards and oak wood surrounds. Many of the classrooms retain their original wood cabinets used for the storage of school supplies. These cabinets are of oak construction and retain their original natural finishes.

The auditorium-gymnasium, stage, and all decorative plaster and wood molding are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

completely intact and in very good condition. The walls on the lower level of this 2-story space are clad with the same glazed clay tile wainscoting as the corridors. The original spectator seats, situated in serried rank against the west wall, remain intact and in working order. Artificial lighting in this room is new. The original skylights remain intact but are now painted over. The stage features a classically influenced proscenium. Paired plaster columns with simple bases and capitals flank the deep and elevated stage. A stylized entablature surmounts these columns. This proscenium is now painted dark blue, light blue, and white.

Numerous ground floor walls in the 1931 building, including classrooms and mechanical rooms, have exposed brick walls. These classrooms provided vocational training for students. Most of these walls are now painted.

Walls in the 1965 addition feature concrete block in the cafeteria above a wainscot of glazed concrete block. The music room and band room feature gypsum drywall painted gray with acoustical blocks applied in orderly patterns to reduce noise.

Other

All areas of the building have new, modern light fixtures with exposed electrical conduit mounted on the surface of walls and ceilings. None of the lockers in the entire building are original to it, but they are located in the original locker locations, which are recessed into the hallway walls.

All of the original restrooms remain in their original locations. In many instances they have been altered with new plumbing fixtures and toilet partitions. The girls' restrooms retain their original metal toilet partitions and door hardware.

ATHLETIC TRACK AND FIELD

A facility for athletic track and field physical education is situated on level land at the base of the slope extending downward from the west side of the building. The development of the school grounds graded this area to level it out for the construction of this facility. To its west, the land continues to slope downward into the Des Moines River valley.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 10

CPN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

The athletic field features a baseball diamond in the northwest corner of the site, a hard-surfaced track centered on it, and a series of four basketball hoops and backboards mounted on steel poles situated adjacent to the track on its east side. The land within the track's circumference is landscaped in lawn without further improvement and can be used for various field sports. The land outside the track is also landscaped in lawn without further improvement. There is neither spectator seating nor lighting for the grounds at night. A high chain link fence with several gates surrounds this track and field.

SELECTION OF HISTORIC NAME

This school has borne several names over the years, including Fort Dodge Junior High School, South Junior High School, and Fair Oaks Middle School. These names reflect changes in the building's educational function. The most appropriate historic name remains "Fort Dodge Junior High School," the original name given to the building.

PRESENT CONDITION AND INTEGRITY

Condition

The condition of the Fort Dodge Junior High School remains fine with a few exceptions, as mentioned above.

Integrity Considerations

The Fort Dodge Junior High School retains character-defining features that embody the distinctive characteristics of its design, site, environment, and seven aspects of its integrity.

Because the Fort Dodge Junior High School remains on its original site, its level of integrity as it relates to *location* is excellent.

The integrity of the building, as it relates to its *design* is very good. All elevations of the building retain their mid-20th century brick and stone surfaces. Although most of the original exterior windows have been replaced with aluminum windows, these replacements feature double-hung configurations similar

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

with the original configurations and fit within the original window openings. The interior of the building retains its original floor plan arrangement with very few exceptions.

The integrity of the Fort Dodge Junior High School's *setting* is excellent. The school grounds, as originally purchased for the erection of this building, remain intact and without noticeable encroachment. The surrounding neighborhood remains largely residential, as at the time of the building's construction. Although South 10th Street likely has been widened over the years to facilitate the heavy traffic it bears, the school grounds abutting this corridor on the north have suffered minimal impact.

The integrity of Fort Dodge Junior High School as it relates to *materials* is very good. Highly durable and quality materials were used at every stage of the building's construction both for its exterior and interior. The conscientious maintenance of these materials over the years has preserved them in good condition. While most of the building's windows and exterior doors have been replaced, their original openings remain intact. Most of the classrooms in the building retain their original oak cabinetry with natural finishes.

The integrity of the building's *workmanship* is fine. The masonry work, both exterior and interior, is of a high standard. The interior woodwork and cabinetry reflects careful regard to quality.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School retains an excellent *feeling* of its historic function. Viewers today immediately perceive the originally intended purpose of this building and its grounds as that of an educational institution.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School retains a high level of integrity as it relates to *association*. Visitors from the building's period of significance would readily recognize this property today.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2014, the Fort Dodge Independent Community School District sold the former Fort Dodge Junior High School to a private developer, who is presently planning an adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of the school. Federal and state historic preservation tax credits will play an important role in this rehabilitation, which must adhere to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

(continued)

Griffith, Frank W.
The Griffith Company

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1931 with additions built in 1937 and 1965, the Fort Dodge Junior High School is significant, locally and under Criterion A, because it calls attention to the emergence of the junior high school during the early 20th century as a new tool to promote comprehensive public education in Iowa cities. The design of the Fort Dodge Junior High School included facilities for manual training (later known as industrial arts), domestic science (later known as home economics), specialized music instruction, and physical education, including swimming. The teaching of these subjects in addition to traditional academics at the Fort Dodge Junior High School sought to transition school children from basic education in elementary schools into that of comprehensive education as taught at the Fort Dodge Senior High School.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School is significant, locally and under Criterion C, because it calls attention to Fort Dodge architects E. O. Damon, Jr., and Frank W. Griffith and their architectural styling of the building. The main block, which includes the 1931 and 1937 components, shows the influence of the modern movement coupled with late 19th and 20th century revival styling. The 1965 addition by architect Griffith conforms in massing, materials, and siting to the main block and attests to his desire for compatibility with it. These three architectural components work harmoniously together to create an edifice of utilitarian function and institutional dignity. This massive building stands on a site of commanding presence in Fort Dodge and powerfully expresses the community's respect for education and the importance it has historically attached to youth.

The period of significance under Criteria A and C for the Fort Dodge Junior High School is 1931 to 1965, the time when the building was originally constructed and evolved. Significant dates include 1931, 1937, and 1965, the years the components of the building were placed in service. The nomination contains two contributing resources—the edifice itself, which is classified as a building, and the school grounds and athletic field, which are classified as a site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

BACKGROUND

Public Education in Fort Dodge

Writing in 1939, professor of political science John Ely Briggs concluded:

If the high school buildings measure public approval, then people of Iowa hold education in high esteem, for in many towns the schoolhouse is the finest structure of all. (Briggs: 407)

The same can be said of the public schools in Fort Dodge, although, given its city and county seat status, the city's commercial and governmental buildings provide notable counterparts.

Public education in Fort Dodge experienced a period of great expansion in the early 20th century, as the population of the city increased and the local economy prospered from industrial might.

In 1911, the General Assembly of the State of Iowa had enacted legislation to provide public high school education to every child in the state. If the local school district did not provide a high school, the district was required to pay for student education in a nearby district. This enabled rural families to enroll their children in city high schools. In 1910, enrollment in Iowa high schools numbered about 45,000. By 1930, that enrollment had increased to more than 150,000. (Briggs: 406)

A new educational institution, known as the Fort Dodge Junior High School, was organized in 1922 and located in the old Fort Dodge Senior High School, the former Lincoln School. This occurred in conjunction with the transfer of the district's four upper grades from that building to the new Fort Dodge Senior High School at 1015 5th Avenue North. (Taft: 48)

Then, in 1929, the school district purchased land for a new junior high school and planned the construction of a new building for that purpose. The site was said to be the exact center of the school population at that time. (*Ibid.*) Demographics notwithstanding, the site was located on the southwest side of Fort Dodge's downtown and adjacent to South 10th Street and enjoyed a picturesque setting on the bluff above the Des Moines River valley. It was a large site and containing mature oak trees. The plans for the new junior high provided accommodation for seventh and eight grade students.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

In 1929, Fort Dodge residents approved a bond issue of \$225,000 for the construction of a new junior high school. Excavation for the new building began on August 1, 1930 and was completed—one year to the day—on August 1, 1931. This sense of timely accomplishment appealed to Fort Dodge's entrepreneurial spirit, and everyone was pleased when construction costs came in under budget at \$173,987. The Fort Dodge Junior High School served as the city's sole junior high from 1931 to 1958.

In 1937, the school district decided to transfer its 9th grade students from the Fort Dodge Senior High School to the Fort Dodge Junior High School. This decision was prompted by the desire to educate children of comparable age in the same building. Also by this time, the student population at the senior high school had increased and needed all its building to accommodate the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

In 1958, the Fort Dodge Community School District built a new high school and reorganized the functions of some of its existing facilities. When the new high school opened at the end of 1958, the city's former high school (Fort Dodge Senior High School at 1015 5th Avenue North) was converted into a junior high school and renamed "North Junior High School" to reflect the fact. Since the Fort Dodge Junior High School at 416 South 10th Street no longer served as the sole such institution in the city, the district renamed it "South Junior High School" to distinguish it from its sister institution on the north side of the city.

Again in 1984, the school district made restructuring changes and adopted the middle school philosophy. As a result, South Junior High School at 416 South 10th Street was converted into a middle school for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and its name was changed again, this time to "Fair Oaks Middle School."

In the fall of 2013, the Fort Dodge district relocated all middle school education to a new school building, leaving the Fort Dodge Junior High School (Fair Oaks Middle School) vacant. It has remained unoccupied to the present day.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION FOR JUNIOR HIGH

The Fort Dodge Junior High School calls attention to pedagogical tenets emerging in the United States during the early 20th century and embodied in the "junior high school," a facility designed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 15

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

to promote a new approach to public education. This philosophy advocated the teaching and training of specialized subjects in addition to traditional academic subjects. The new Fort Dodge Junior High School included facilities for industrial (or manual) arts and home economics and introduced pupils to the more advanced curriculum of comprehensive education already in place in the Fort Dodge Senior High School. In this function, the Fort Dodge Junior High School, as other junior high schools across the nation, sought to ease elementary school children into their transition to high school education. (Urban and Waggoner referenced in Deiber and Beedle: 11)

The phrase “junior high school”—universally used in the names of these new buildings—nicely encapsulated this function because it intimated that an eighth grade education (the final year of public education for many school children in Iowa at the time) was no longer the norm but only preparatory for advancement to “senior high school.” By then, this name had replaced the simpler “high school” name for such an institution. Taken in tandem with the junior high school moniker, both names signaled an expanded approach to education.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School features numerous spaces designed to house the specialized instruction commensurate with comprehensive education. The ground floor includes a wood shop, drawing room (for mechanical drawing), print shop, a large storage room and lumber room for supplies, and two other storage rooms. The second floor includes a large “cooking room” with an adjacent dining room and pantry and a large sewing room with an adjacent fitting room. These specialized classrooms were, of course, in addition to classrooms for academic subjects such as arithmetic, English, and history located throughout the rest of the building.

Fort Dodge Junior High School’s commitment to specialized education is evident on its exterior, as well as in its floorplan. Classrooms for industrial arts and home economics generally require larger spaces for instruction than classrooms for academics. This was certainly true for the Fort Dodge Junior High School. To accommodate extra space for these subjects, the architects extended a portion of the north elevation outward from the main block. The industrial arts and home economics spaces mentioned above are situated where the wall projects outward. Smaller academic classrooms are situated adjacent to them along the main façade line of the north elevation. Internally, this enabled a uniformly straight corridor to access all of these the rooms. On the exterior, this design broke up the massing of the north elevation and rendered it more visually interesting.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School also includes a combination auditorium-gymnasium with spectator seating and a stage flanking the gymnasium floor. A dressing room for stage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 16

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

productions is situated adjacent to the stage. Separate boys' and girls' lockers rooms flank the gymnasium. An indoor swimming pool with separate boys' and girls' locker rooms is situated on the ground floor. An indoor swimming pool for a junior high school in Iowa in 1931 was a great luxury. To round off these athletic facilities, a track for outdoor sports is situated on the site to the west of the school building.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School's mechanical systems support this modern educational concept by providing heating, ventilation, abundant natural light, and all of the necessary requirements for a sanitary and fireproof building.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School expanded yet again its concept of comprehensive education with the construction of an addition in 1965. (By this time, the name of the building had changed to South Junior High School.) Designed by The Griffith Company, a Fort Dodge-based architectural firm, this addition featured, on the first floor, a large classroom for instrumental music, five rooms for small instrument storage, and one room for large instrument storage. The addition also included a large classroom room for vocal music, seven small rooms for individual practice, offices, and storage rooms for both band uniforms and choir robes. Each of the classrooms featured a serried rank of floor risers laid out in a half-circle for students to sit or stand upon so they could see the teacher-conductor. Other facilities in the addition included a cafeteria and kitchen on the ground floor. This addition's commitment to music instruction on the junior high level reflected and continued Fort Dodge's long tradition of musical excellence, as exemplified by Karl L. King (1891-1971), bandmaster of the Fort Dodge Municipal Band, nationally known for his band compositions, and instrumental in the passage in 1921 of the Iowa Band Law allowing cities to levy a local tax for maintenance of a band.

E. O. DAMON, JR.

Background

E[ward] O. Damon (1876-1948) was the most prominent architect in Fort Dodge, Iowa, during the first half of the 20th century.

Damon was born in Northampton, Massachusetts. After education at Amherst College, in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he received a B.S. degree (Shank: 50), Damon studied in Scotland (see below). Damon later worked for the federal government—in 1911 as

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 17

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

superintendent in the Office of the Supervising Architect at Large in Troy, Alabama. (*Official Register of the United States*) In 1912, Damon relocated to Fort Dodge, where he established his own practice. Damon's career during World War I remains unknown.

According to a local biographical sketch:

Damon, a native of Northhampton [*sic*], Mass. Took his naval architecture training in Scotland, returned to the U.S. and practiced for a time in the south before coming to Fort Dodge in 1912. He was married to Georgia Mason and after Snell Place [an automobile suburb in Fort Dodge, *ed.*] was platted they built their Northwood Ave. home. Damon was well known for this architectural work that included the addition to Mercy Hospital (now Trinity East), the City Hall and Wahkonsa School.

The Damons were parents of two sons, Mason Damon, Buffalo, N.Y.; and Kent Damon, Rochester N.Y. Following the death of his first wife, Damon was married to Edna Wheeler Dougherty. (Loomis and Haugen)

In 1921, Damon joined forces with two other architects based in St. Paul, Minnesota. According to the firm's published notice:

E. O. Damon, Jr., P. M. O'Meara and J. B. Hills announce that they have formed a co-partnership for the practice of architecture under the firm name of Damon, O'Meara & Hills, with offices in Suite 1123-23 Merchants National Bank Bldg., St. Paul, Minn., and at 19 E. Mason Bldg., Ft. Dodge, Ia. They will specialize in churches, schools, convents, hospitals, and institutional buildings. (*American Contractor*: 37)

Damon remained in Fort Dodge, and O'Meara later relocated to St. Louis, MO. Damon later joined forces with Frank W. Griffith, as drawings for the Fort Dodge Junior High School, signed by the two men working under the title "Associated Architects," attest. (Historic Drawings: 1931) A name plaque, affixed to an interior wall of the school, credits both Damon and Frank W. Griffith with its design.

Fort Dodge Junior High School

The Fort Dodge Junior High School is a good example of E. O. Damon, Jr.'s, architectural design for an educational facility. As William B. Ittner's assistant in the 1921 design of the Fort Dodge

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 18

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

Senior High School (Page 2014), Damon gained first-hand experience with this nationally recognized architect.

Damon paid this experience forward in his design for the Fort Dodge Junior High School. The main entrances to the building on the east and northeast elevations are set as close to grade as possible. The large space of the auditorium-gymnasium posed a challenge to illuminate. Damon solved this problem by introducing a series of seven large skylights above the space, following Ittner's recommendation to flood interior spaces with natural light. Although now painted over on the interior, these skylight frames and their glass panes remain extant to the present day.

The Fort Dodge Junior High School also contains numerous architectural features to promote efficiency, health, and convenience—other key tenets of the era underlying its design. These features include mechanical systems, abundance of natural light, wide hallway corridors, spacious classrooms, and built-in conveniences such as bookcases, slate blackboards with chalk trays, and storage units to promote utility. Plain and simple surfaces and finishes—walls, ceilings, and woodwork—all feature smooth surfaces to facilitate cleanliness.

For Damon, Ittner, and others of their generations interested in architectural design, a European tour was considered essential for a well-rounded education. Damon's study in Scotland as a "naval architect" provides another clue to his design principles. Unmentioned in other published sources, this fact is revealed in a locally written biographical sketch of Damon. (Loomis and Haugen) Long noted for engineering prowess, the University of Glasgow and its Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering enjoyed a worldwide reputation for ship design at the time of Damon's sojourn in Scotland. Perhaps further research will document his study there. No doubt Damon visited other British and likely Continental cities during his study abroad.

Although Damon's interest in naval architecture obviously waned as his career progressed, he continued an interest in mechanics. One of his earliest assignments in Fort Dodge (1914) was a boiler room addition for the Lehigh Sewer Pipe & Tile Co., in Leigh, Iowa. (E. O. Damon, "Iowa Architect Files") Various devices in the Fort Dodge Junior High School call attention to this same interest, including Damon's use of skylights and the steel truss system used to support the ceiling of the building's auditorium-gymnasium.

In 2010, Alexa McDowell prepared a nomination of the Fort Dodge Downtown Historic District to the National Register. In that nomination, she acknowledges Damon's importance to the upbuilding of Fort Dodge and notes:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 19

CFN-259-1110

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

the district includes multiple examples of works by architects significant locally and statewide. Of particular note is local architect E.O. Damon, Jr. who is responsible for the design of the district's tallest resource, the Prusia Hardware Co. building on Central Avenue, and the Physicians Building, and Rehder Cadillac, both of which are located on First Avenue North, and the Knights of Columbus building on First Avenue South (among others). (McDowell)

Published accounts of Damon's designs include the following:

PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF E. O. DAMON

Name	Location	Date of Construction	Notes
Perry C. Holdoegel House	Rockwell City, IA	1915 (or later)	w/Patrick M. O'Meara (?)
Rehder Cadillac Garage	Fort Dodge, IA	1918	w/Patrick M. O'Meara
Blandon Memorial Art Gallery	Fort Dodge, IA	1931-1932	NRHP
Fort Dodge City Hall	Fort Dodge, IA		Contributing resource in Downtown F. D. Historic District

Source: Shank: 50.

The archives of the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office in Des Moines contain an extensive list of designs prepared by Damon. (E. O. Damon File, "Iowa Architect Files") This list makes clear that Damon engaged in all sorts of work throughout his career, including commercial, ecclesiastical, educational, residential, and other assignments. Many of these assignments were residential. Most of these residential designs were based in Fort Dodge, but others from Webster and other nearby counties in Iowa appear on the list. Damon also designed additions to commercial and residential properties ("Pfaff Baking Co., Fort Dodge," "Alteration, Rev. M. Darcey, Res., Clare, Iowa"). Apparently nothing was too small for Damon's consideration: garages, residential "betterments" (porches, entrances, etc.), "Interior Wall & Ceiling Treatment for St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa," "Front Entrance Steps, Residence Walter Merryman, Fort Dodge." The list contains dozens of Damon's commissions both large and small.

In addition to Damon's association with P. M. O'Meara and William B. Ittner, Damon also associated with other architects on assignments. In her nomination of the Downtown Fort Dodge Historic District to the National Register, architecture historian Alexa McDowell notes:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 20

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

the Snell Building was designed by Liebke, Nourse & Rasmussen, in this case, with local architect, E.O. Damon, Jr. as an associate. (McDowell)

Assignments such as these make clear that Damon enjoyed the respect of his peers, who sought his collaboration. Still, all the documentary evidence points to Damon as a solo-practitioner throughout most of his career.

FRANK W. GRIFFITH & THE GRIFFITH COMPANY

Frank W. Griffith was a local architect in Fort Dodge closely associated with the construction of the Fort Dodge Junior High School. He served as the associate architect to E. O. Damon in 1931 in the design of this building and as the principal of The Griffith Company, the firm that designed its 1965 addition.

Griffith's name does not appear in Wesley I. Shank's *Iowa's Historic Architects*, the most complete biographical dictionary of this state's professional architects published to date. The State Historical Society of Iowa's "Iowa Architect Files" likewise lacks information about him.

The preparer of this nomination conducted an oral informant interview with Stanford F. Griffith, grandson of Frank W. Griffith, and obtained information about Griffith family. While living in Lake George, New York, early in his career, Frank W. Griffith prepared designs for the U. S. Gypsum plant in Fort Dodge. He subsequently moved to that city to supervise the construction of the plant and afterwards remained in Fort Dodge to manage it for a while. Frank then established an architectural practice in the city. He died in the early 1950s. (Stanford F. Griffith)

Stanford W. Griffith (d. 1984), son of Frank W. Griffith, also practiced architect in Fort Dodge. He specialized in churches and schools. Stanford F. Griffith (b. 1940), son of Stanford W. Griffith, likewise practiced architecture in Fort Dodge, sometimes working for his father. Sometimes his father worked for him. Stanford F. Griffith specialized in designs for laboratories and pharmaceutical research facilities. He is now retired. (*Ibid.*)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 21

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

STYLE

The architectural design of the Fort Dodge Junior High School is essential conservative in nature, showing the influence of the modern movement in architecture to create a framework on which to apply late 19th and 20th century revival styling. E. O. Damon, Jr., and Frank W. Griffith successfully manipulated these influences to create an institutional building of conservative mien yet contemporary feel.

The most striking architectural element of the Fort Dodge Junior High School is the canted placement of its main entrance on the northeast corner of the building. The north elevation of the school flares to one side of this entrance, and the east elevation of the school flares from the other side of it. In the curvilinear line form by the merging of these planes, one discerns the streamlined corner of Art Moderne styling. (See Figures 7 and 8.)

The tectonics of the building's three primary facades—north, east, and west—show other influences of the modern movement. These elevations abandon flat wall surfaces, as Ittner and Damon used at the Fort Dodge Senior High School, and employ instead layered depths. Wide, full height pilasters demark the building's various bays. Narrower pilasters, reaching only to the window lintels on the second floor, demark certain divisions within these bays. These pilasters and the parapet of the building form the exterior's visual skeleton. The rest of the exterior surfaces, including inset walls and windows, are set back from this skeleton. Each of these surface layers features hard edges and subtle geometric patterns where they intersect.

This treatment resembles Frank Lloyd Wright's design for the Larkin Company Administration Building in Buffalo, New York, and his later design for Unity Temple. (Gowans: 263) By the 1930s, this treatment had become part of the standard vocabulary of American architectural design—hence the conservative look of the Fort Dodge Junior High School. At the same time, Damons use of light brown-colored brick—instead of the traditional red for schools—lent a contemporary feeling to the building.

Onto this framework, architect E. O. Damon set primary entrances to the building with designs reflecting late 19th and 20th century revival styling. The two entrances on the east elevation are clad with limestone and feature paired doors and transoms surmounted by broad Tudor-styled arches and flanked by limestone surrounds with pseudo-flying buttresses. A bay window surmounts these entrances. These architectural elements obtain visual distinction because of their monolithic massing and gray color set against the light brown colors of the main block, rather

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 22

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

than from any intricate detailing. To call this design late Collegiate Gothic Revival or Tudor Revival seems moot, given its reduction of style.

The west entrance to the 1937 addition shows the influence of 20th century revivalism in more developed fashion than the two east entrances. Similarly faced with limestone, this entrance rises three stories and as a result enjoys a greater vertical line than those on the east. The west entrance features a series of projecting bays. A narrow band of limestone frames the top floor bay on three sides. This thin band of color features a subtle suggestion of a flying buttress and ties all three stories of the entrance together through line and color.

Other masonry patterns further enrich the building's design. All elevations of the 1931-1937 building feature X-shaped patterns in their parapets, worked in purplish-colored brick set against the prevailing brown color of the building. The parapet of the 1937 addition includes limestone trimwork running vertically up the pilasters between some of its bays. This method to create surface texture continued a long-standing conceit employed in commercial design from early in the 20th century.

SITE

The Fort Dodge Junior High School is of interest because of its site. The school and its grounds form a large, park-like tract of land distinctive in and of itself but also because of the prominent vista the site forms for motorists approaching Fort Dodge from the west.

This site is arguably the most prominent in the City of Fort Dodge. The east elevation of the Fort Dodge Junior High School stands 1,109 feet above mean sea level on a bluff some 133 feet above the Des Moines River. The rise in grade from the river to the school is steep, and nothing blocks the view of the school when seen from the far side of the river.

The school's site projects even greater visual force because it terminates the vista towards Fort Dodge as seen by motorists entering the city along U.S. Highway 20/69 from the west. For more than one-half mile, this vista stands in direct line with the motorist's eye, announcing the approach of town center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 23

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

Architectural historian Alan Gowans has written:

In medieval towns, eminences were normally occupied by a cathedral or church, emblematic of the community's authority, laws, and cohesion. In early-nineteenth-century America, town halls or courthouses normally occupied such sites and fulfilled a similar role; in the early twentieth, schools. (Gowans: 227)

The site of the Fort Dodge Junior High School perfectly fits this description.

According to one local historian, however, the story behind the selection of this site was more practical:

The site for Junior High was chosen because the location was found to be the exact center of the school population at that time. (Taft: 49)

Notwithstanding this reasoning, is it not possible to create coincidental majesty? Indeed, the Fort Dodge Junior High School—proclaimed by its siting and massing—stands as an unshakable symbol of the community's belief that public education is the key to a brighter future for Fort Dodge and its youth.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

In 2002, architectural historian Camilla Deiber of The Berger Group, Inc., prepared a Multiple Property Listing (MLP) entitled "Public Education for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966." This draft MLP served as a cover document for a draft nomination of the Fort Dodge Junior High School to the National Register of Historic Places, submitted to the National Park Service. The nomination contained only one paragraph justifying the building's historical significance. The National Park Service returned this nomination—reference number 02001240—to the State Historical Society of Iowa for technical reasons.

Deiber and colleague Peggy Beedle subsequently prepared a booklet entitled "City Schools for Iowa." (Deiber and Beedle) This booklet explicates the historical significance of this type of public school and its presence in Iowa cities like Fort Dodge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 24

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

POTENTIAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological significance is, as yet, unevaluated. Historical archaeological investigations appear to have limited potential for discovery, given the fact the land remained substantially undeveloped historically prior to the school building's construction. A 1916 Sanborn fire insurance map, for example, pictures only two single-family dwellings standing on this multi-acre site. The potential for the site's pre-historic archaeological significance also remains unassessed, but, given its proximity to and commanding position above the Des Moines River valley, the site might well yield pre-historic archaeological data.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND SURVEY

The career of E. O. Damon deserves further survey and research to place his contributions to Iowa architecture in historical perspective. Practicing over a long period of time, Damon concentrated his attention on commissions in Northwest Iowa but accepted assignments as far away as Des Moines. The list of Damon's commissions, as referenced above, makes clear that Damon's professional expertise gained him a wide following in Fort Dodge. During Damon's life, that city enjoyed the status as an industrial powerhouse, and the wealth stemming from it propelled Damon's practice throughout the rest of his career.

The architectural practices of the Griffith family of architects in Fort Dodge, Iowa, deserve more research. This family included Frank W[itcomb] Griffith, Stanford W[ells] Griffith, and Stanford F. Griffith (b. 1940).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 25

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

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HISTORIC DRAWINGS

(All drawings property of Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., Kansas City, Missouri)

1931 Building:

Property Plat
Ground Floor Plan
First Floor Plan
Roof Plan
Sections
East and West Elevations
South and North Elevations

1937 Addition:

Ground Floor Plan
First Floor Plan
Second Floor Plan
Roof Plan
Sections
East and West Elevations
South and North Elevations

1965 Addition:

Ground Floor Plan
First Floor Plan
Second Floor Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 26

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 27

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Fort Dodge, Iowa: 1916, 1925, 1947 (1925 update).

ORAL HISTORY

Griffith, Stanford F., with William C. Page, December 12, 2014. Griffith is the grandson of Frank W. Griffith and son of Stanford W. Griffith. Griffith shared information about his family with Page.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 28

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Northeast (Main) Entrance looking SW
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
2. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
East elevation & East (Main) Entrance looking E
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
3. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
South elevation looking NW
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
4. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
South elevation looking NE
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
5. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Rear Entrance (1937 Addition) looking E
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
6. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
1965 Addition looking NE
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
7. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
North elevation (1931 Main Block at left; 1965 Addition at right) looking SE
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 29

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

8. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Athletic Field looking NW
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
9. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Typical stairway looking E
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
10. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Typical corridor looking W
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
11. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Typical classroom looking W
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
12. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Auditorium-Gymnasium looking E
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
13. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Auditorium-Gymnasium skylights looking E
William C. Page, Photographer
October 7, 2014
14. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Home Economic Classroom looking SW
Julie Cawby, Photographer
December 12, 2013
15. Fort Dodge Junior High School
416 South 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Band Room looking E
Julie Cawby, Photographer
December 12, 2013

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

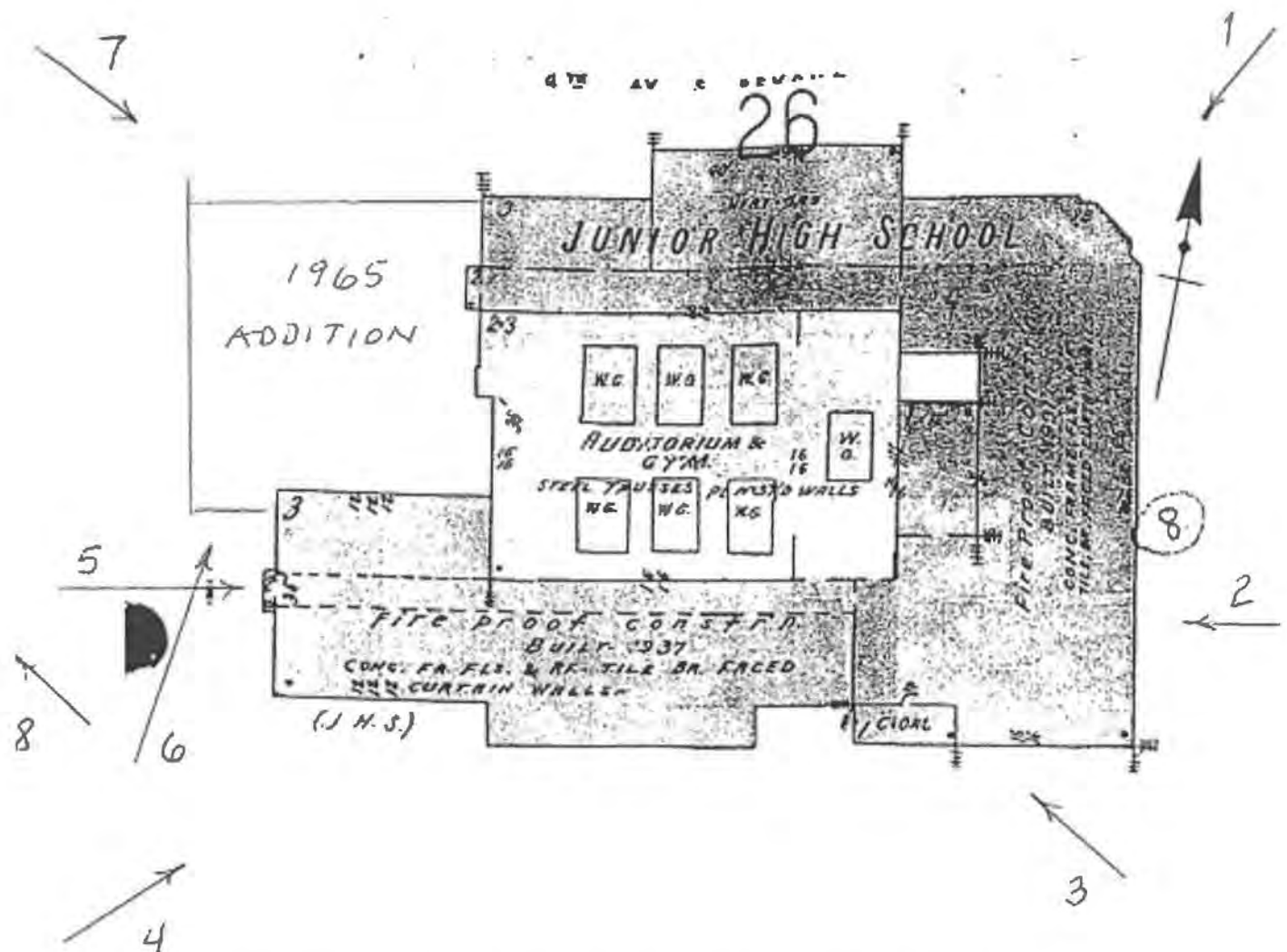
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 30

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

PHOTO KEY PLAN—EXTERIOR



Source: Sanborn Map Company, Fort Dodge, Iowa, April 1925, updated March 1947, Sheet 35.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

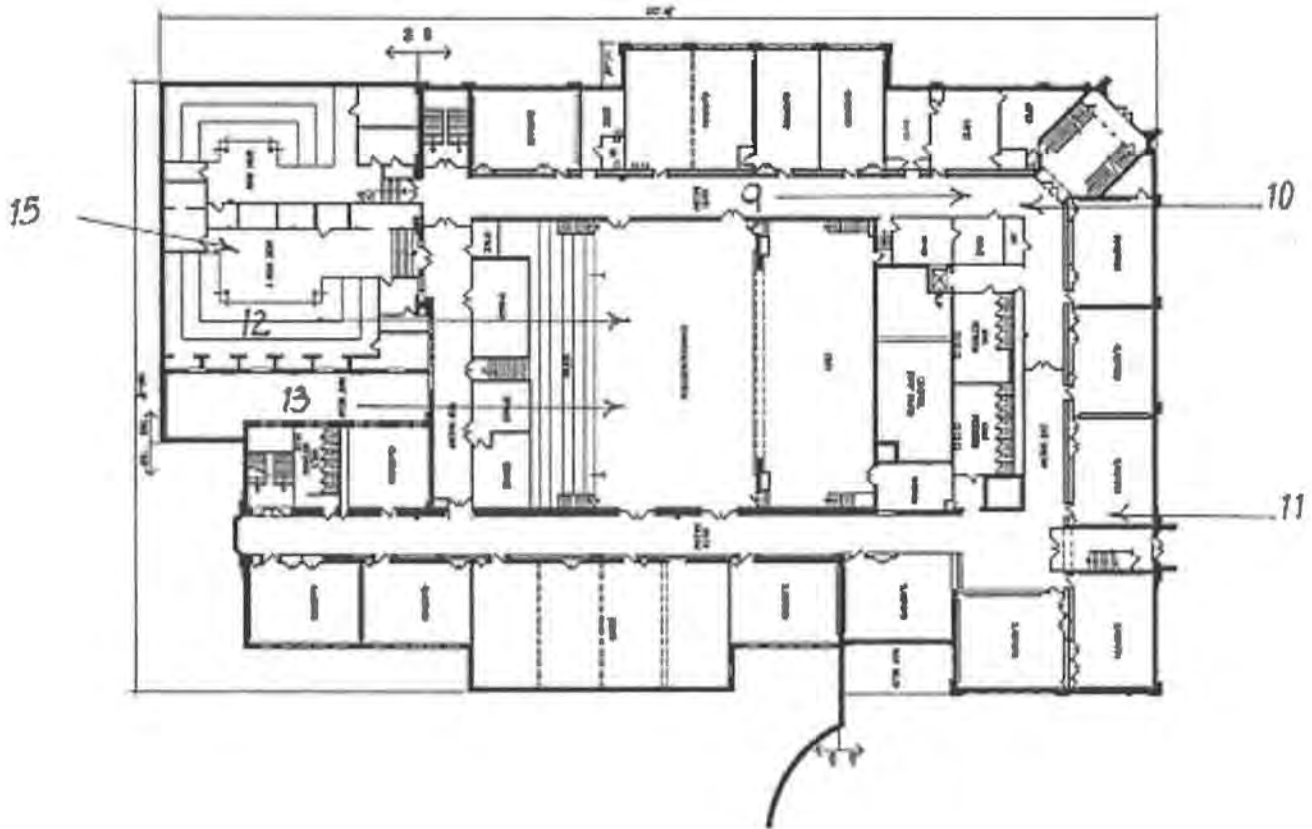
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 31

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

PHOTO KEY — FIRST FLOOR



Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., 2014



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

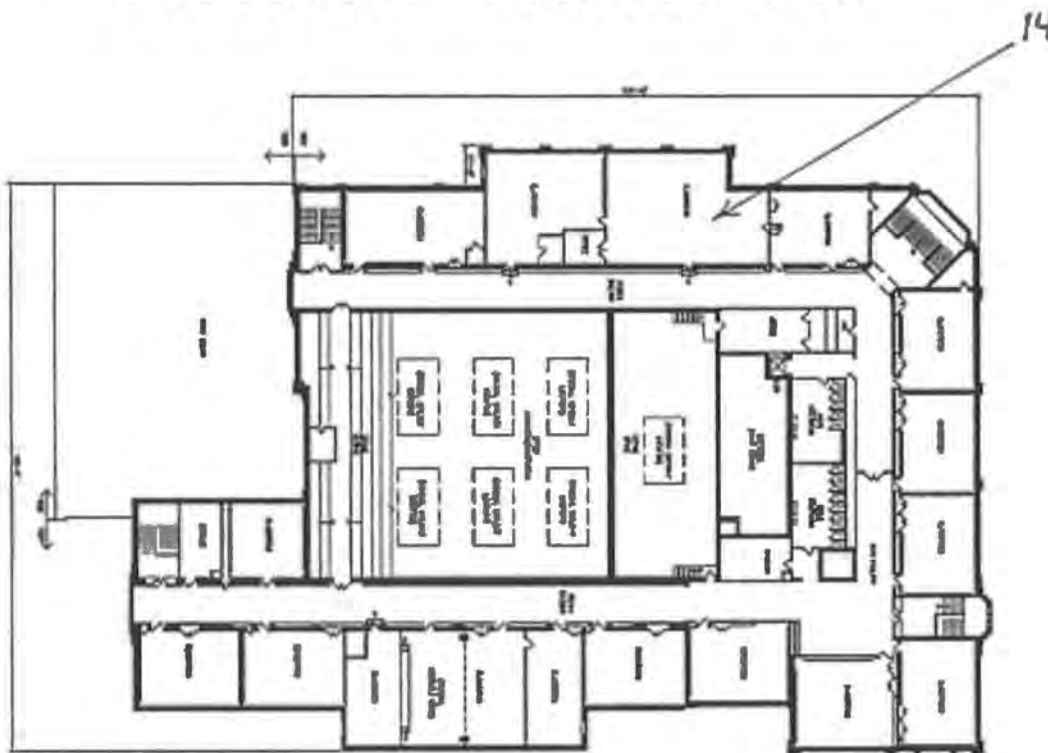
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 32

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

PHOTO KEY — SECOND FLOOR



Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., 2014



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 33

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots Nos. One (1); Two (2); Three (3); Four (4); Five (5); Six (6); Seven (7); Eight (8); Nine (9); Ten (10); Eleven (11); Twelve (12); Thirteen (13); Fourteen (14); Fifteen (15); part of Sixteen (16) and part of Lots Seventeen (17) and Nineteen (19); all in Fair Oaks Subdivision of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land historically associated with the Fort Dodge Junior High School including its athletic fields.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 34

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

SITE LOCATION

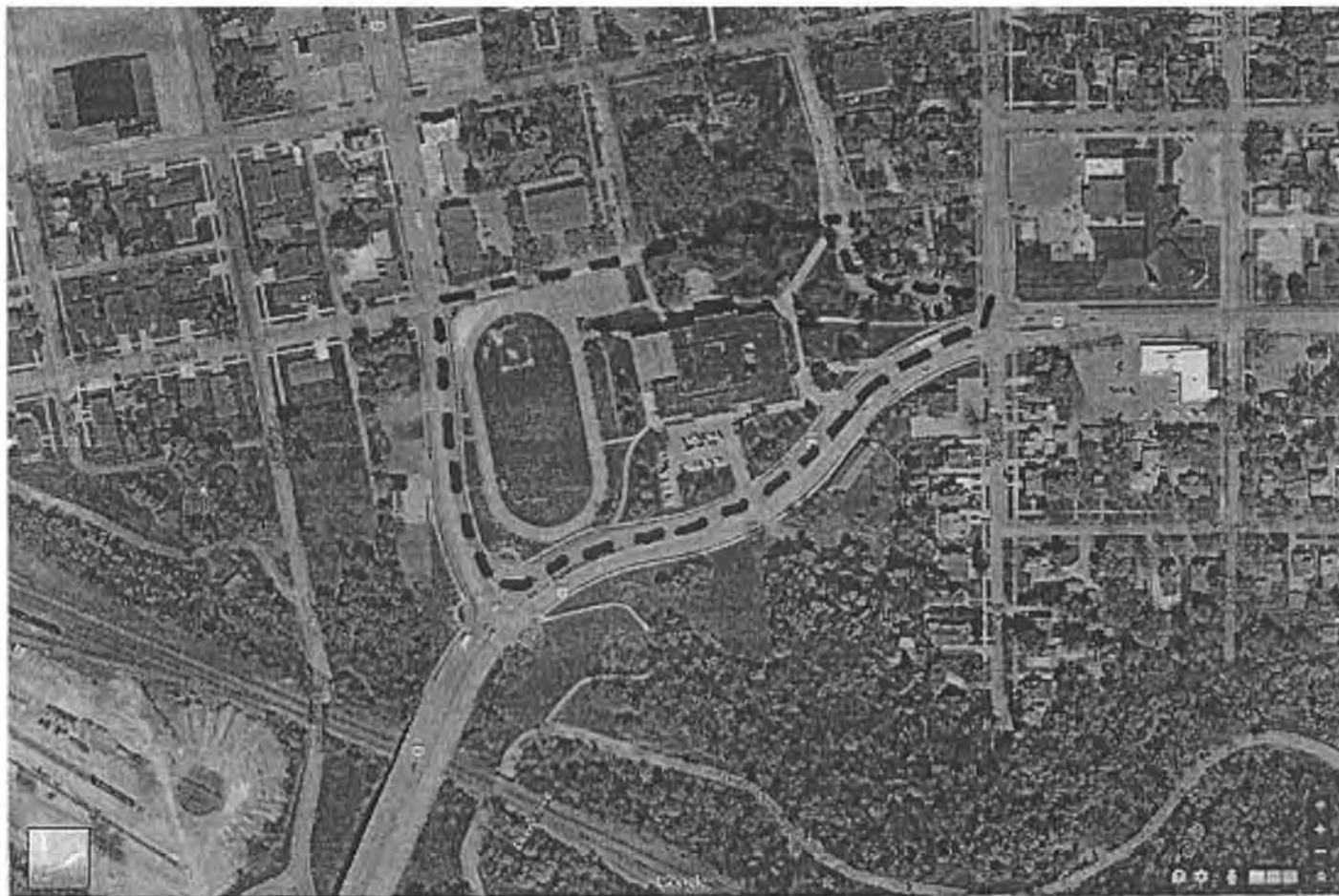


Figure #1

Heavy dashed lines locate boundaries of the Fort Dodge Junior High School.

Source: Google Earth, 2014.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 35

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

FIRE INSURANCE MAP 1916

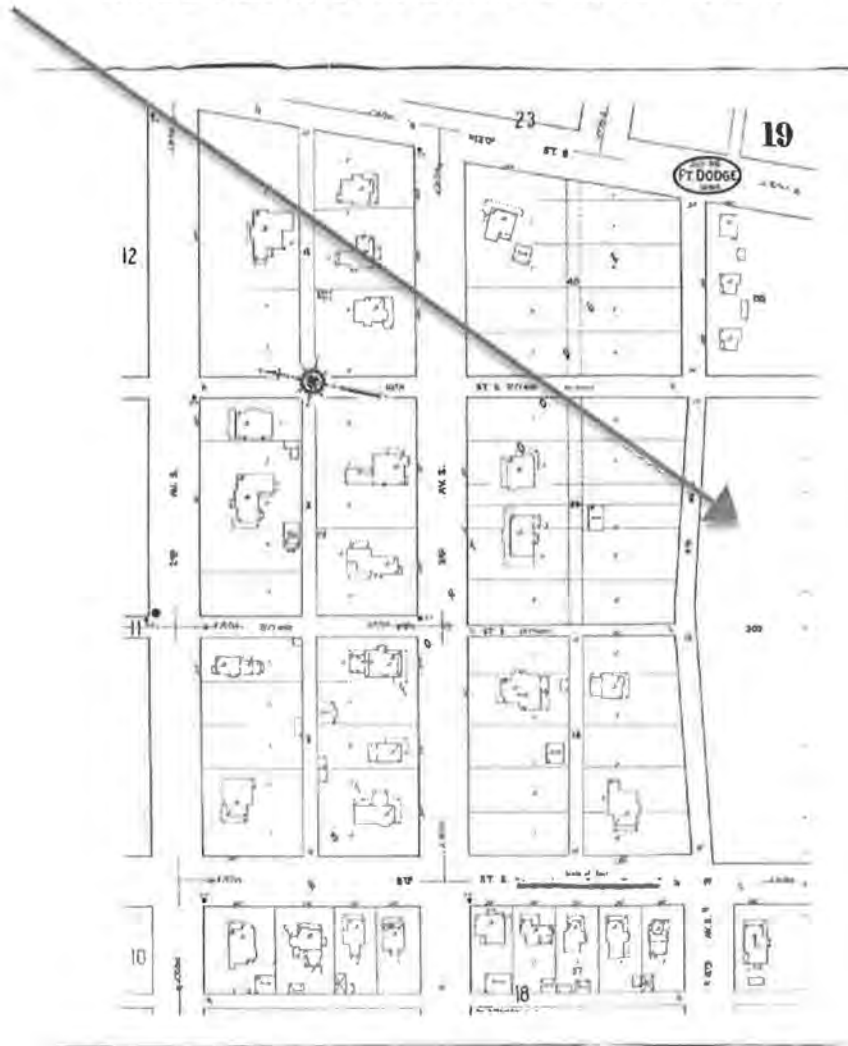


Figure #2

Arrow locates the unimproved property subsequently the site for the Fort Dodge Junior High School.
Note that the compass direction on the map indicates north towards the left on the map.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, Fort Dodge, Iowa, July 1916, Sheet 19.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 36

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

“PROPERTY PLAT” CIRCA 1930

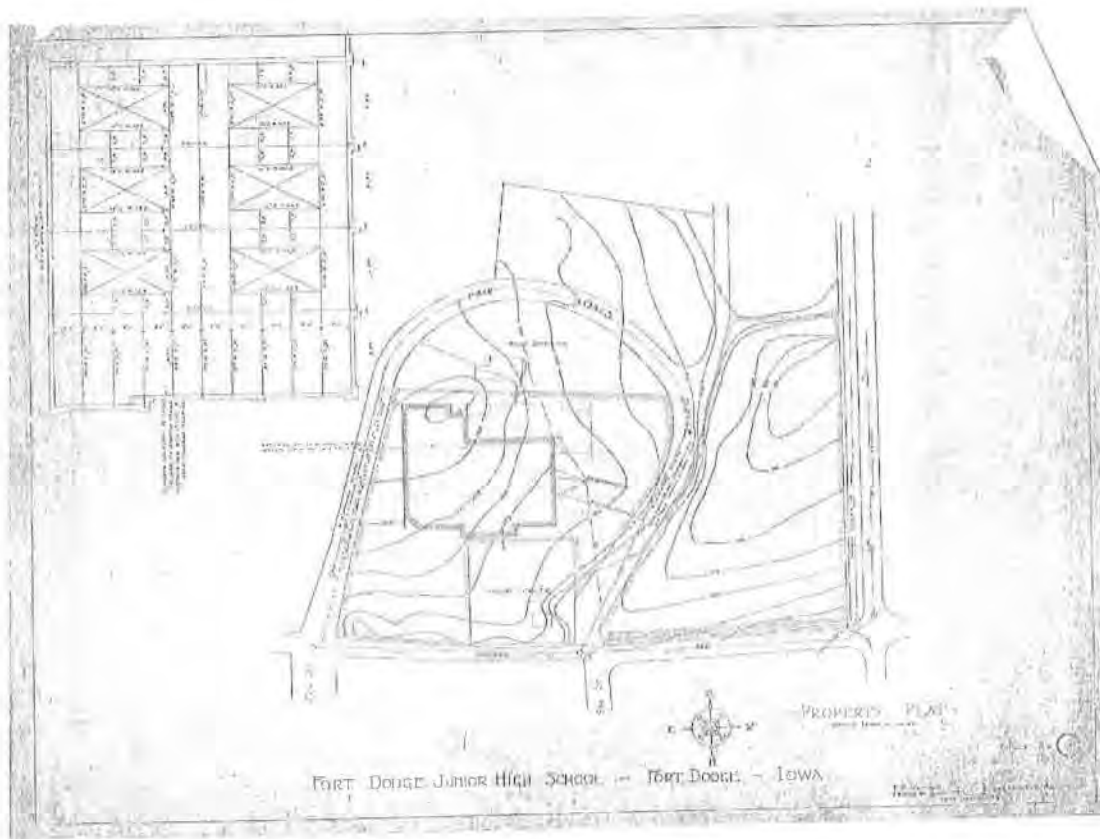


Figure #3

This circa 1930 concept plan for the Fort Dodge Junior High School, prepared by associated architects Damon and Griffith, pictures the proposed footprint of the new building, the homes of Louis M. Fidler (north of school) and [illegible] Dawson (south of school), and a vehicular corridor (“Fair Oaks Drive”) encircling the campus on three sides. The homes were demolished for construction of the campus, and the vehicular corridor was never implemented. Prominent on the drawing is a framing plan for the roof of the auditorium and gymnasium (upper left). It shows six of the seven skylights the architects eventually included in their design for the building and the importance they placed on these architectural elements. The proposed name for the vehicular corridor, Fair Oaks Drive, signaled the presence of ancient oaks on the property and presaged the adoption of this name, when the building was converted into a middle school in 1984.

Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 37

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

1931 BUILDING — GROUND FLOOR PLAN

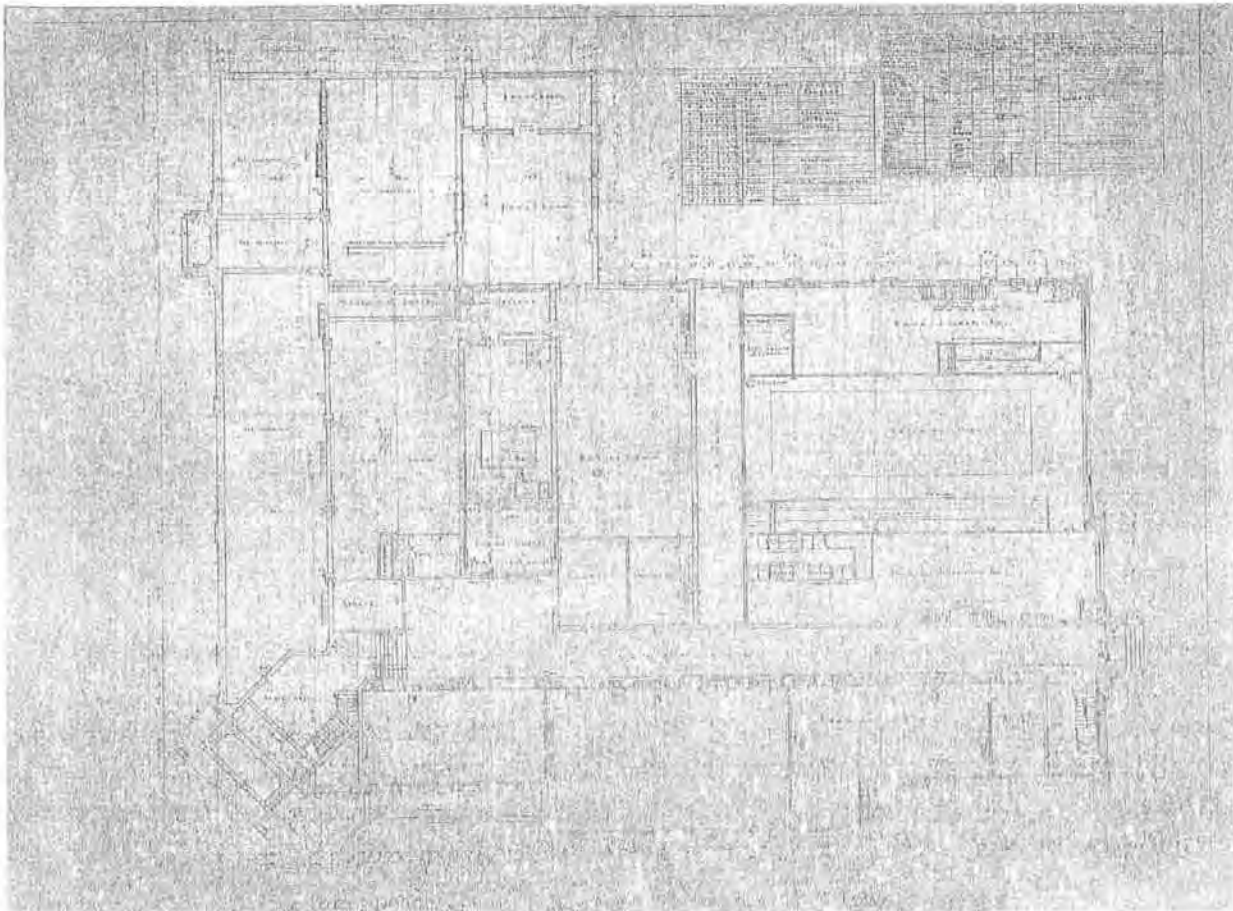


Figure #4

This figure reproduces an original architect floor plan of the building. Drawings of the first and second floors also remain extant. Although difficult to read, this drawing identifies the original uses of the building's various spaces.

Source: Fouch Brothers, LLC.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 38

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

1937 ADDITION — FIRST FLOOR PLAN

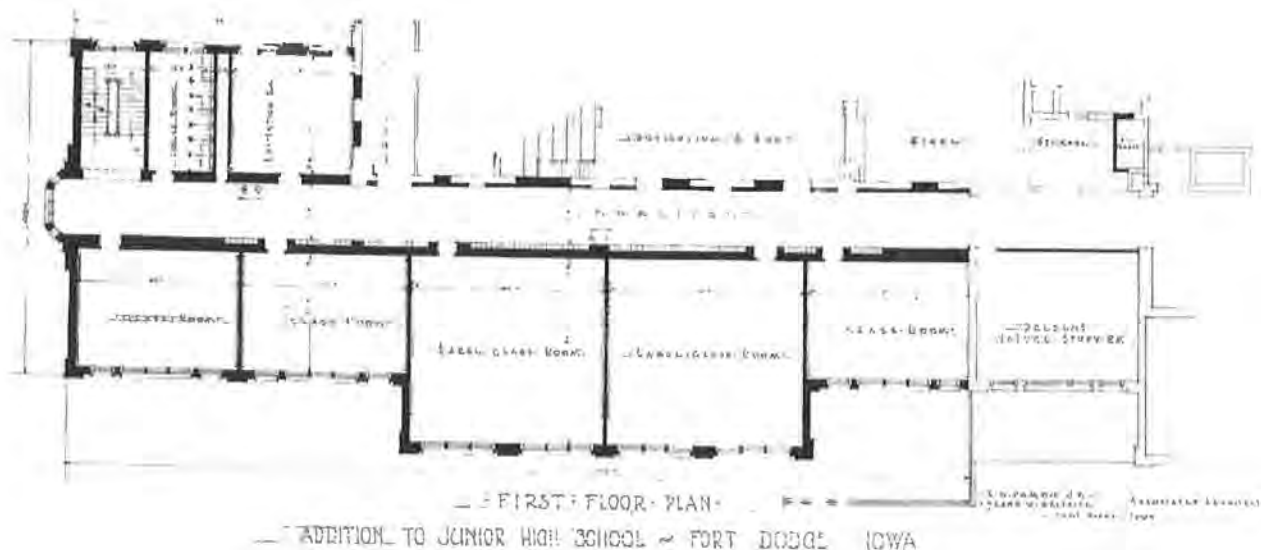


Figure #5

As shown on this drawing, the 1937 addition to the Fort Dodge Junior High School provided classrooms to provide for the increased number of the city's school children. E. O. Damon, Jr., and Frank W. Griffith, the architects associated with the design of this addition, planned it so compatible with the original block that the observer discerns no distinction.

Source: Foutch Brothers, LLC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 39

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH CIRCA 1937



Figure #6

Looking to the northwest, this circa 1937 photograph clearly pictures the 1937 addition to the school (upper left) and the seven skylights illuminating the original building's auditorium and gymnasium. The campus remains undeveloped. The photo also suggests the site's rapid topographical fall in grade from the east (right) to the west (left). South 10th Street is the curvilinear traffic corridor shown below the school.

Source: Foutch Brothers, LLC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 40

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPH CIRCA 1939



Figure #7

This postcard pictures the school as a new building along with its grounds landscaped with pedestrian walks, shrubs, and trees. The tall brick chimney and flagpole with grassy platform are nonextant. While some of the plantings also are nonextant, the curvilinear pedestrian walks remain intact. They conform to the site's rolling topography, nicely articulate the site for access to the building, compliment its organic feeling, and lend aesthetic appeal to the property.

Source: Foutch Brothers, LLC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 41

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

FIRE INSURANCE MAP 1945

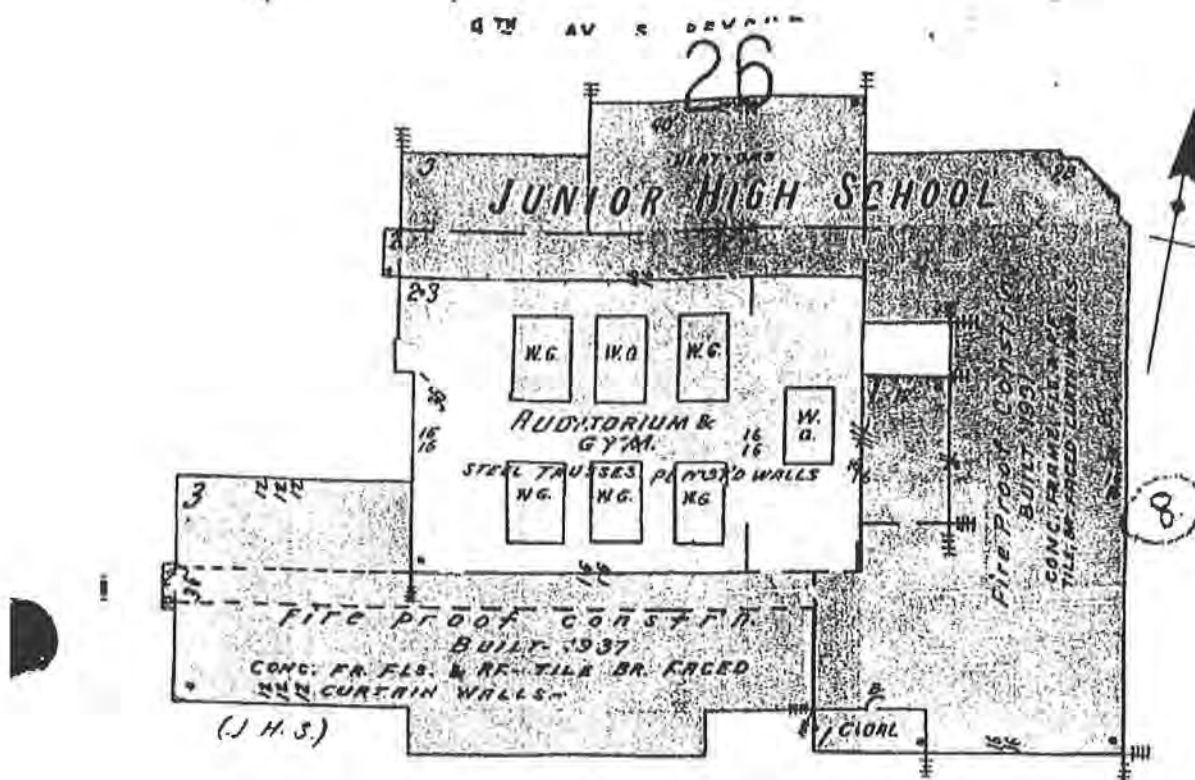


Figure #8

This drawing pictures the evolution of the Fort Dodge Junior High School. The original block, built in 1931—an L-shaped building at the right and top—edges the auditorium and gymnasium on two sides. The 1937 addition is situated to the southwest and is denoted as such. Later, in 1965, a second addition (not pictured here) was constructed, attached to the northwest corner of the building.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, Fort Dodge, Iowa, April 1925, updated March 1947, Sheet 35.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 42

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH CIRCA 1952

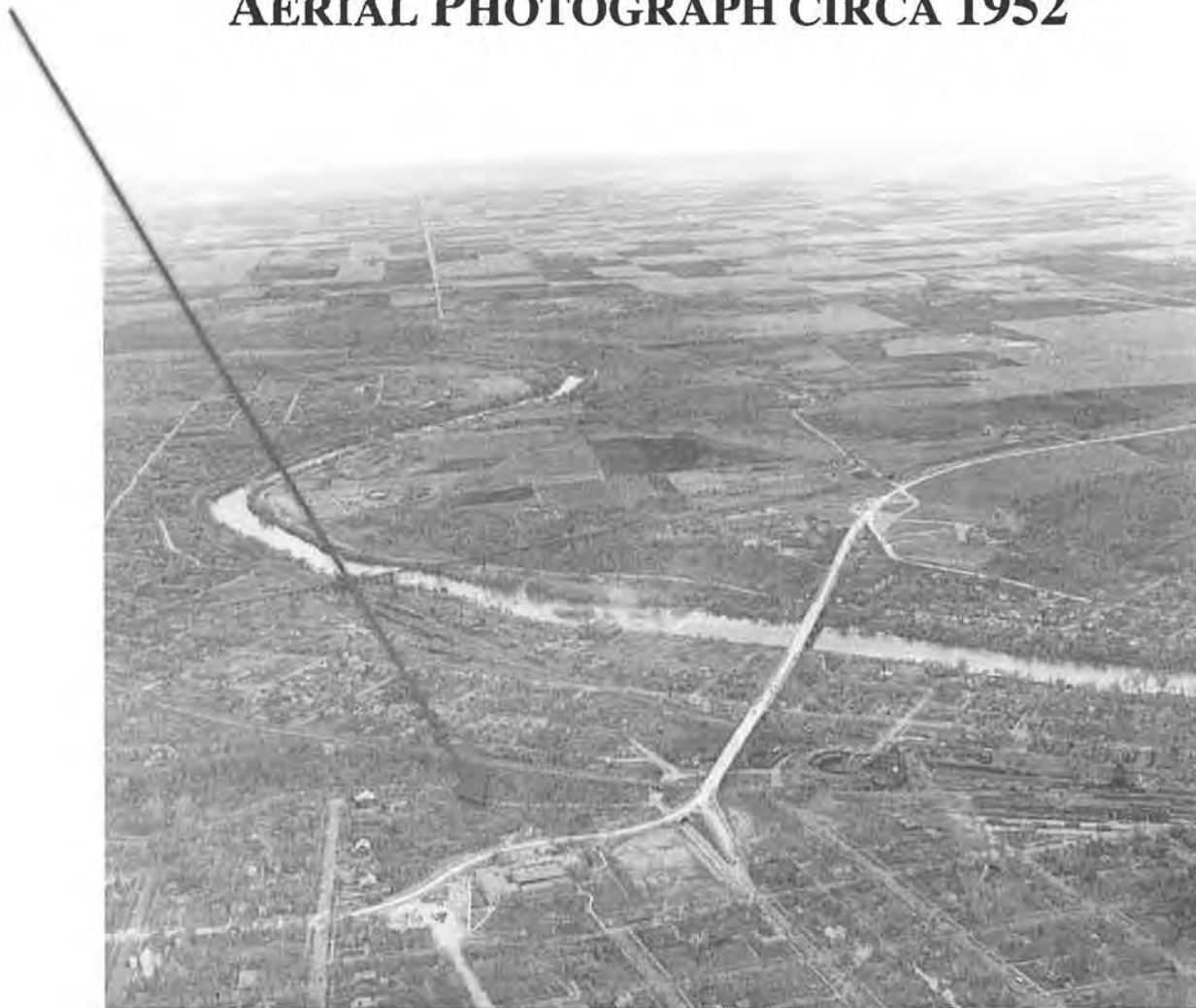


Figure #9

Looking to the southwest, this spectacular panorama shows the curving loop of the Des Moines River and U.S. Highway 20 bridging it. The Fort Dodge Junior High School and campus (arrow) are situated on a bluff above the river and dominate the motorist's view when approaching from the west.

Source: Foutch Brothers, LLC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 43

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

1965 ADDITION — GROUND FLOOR PLAN

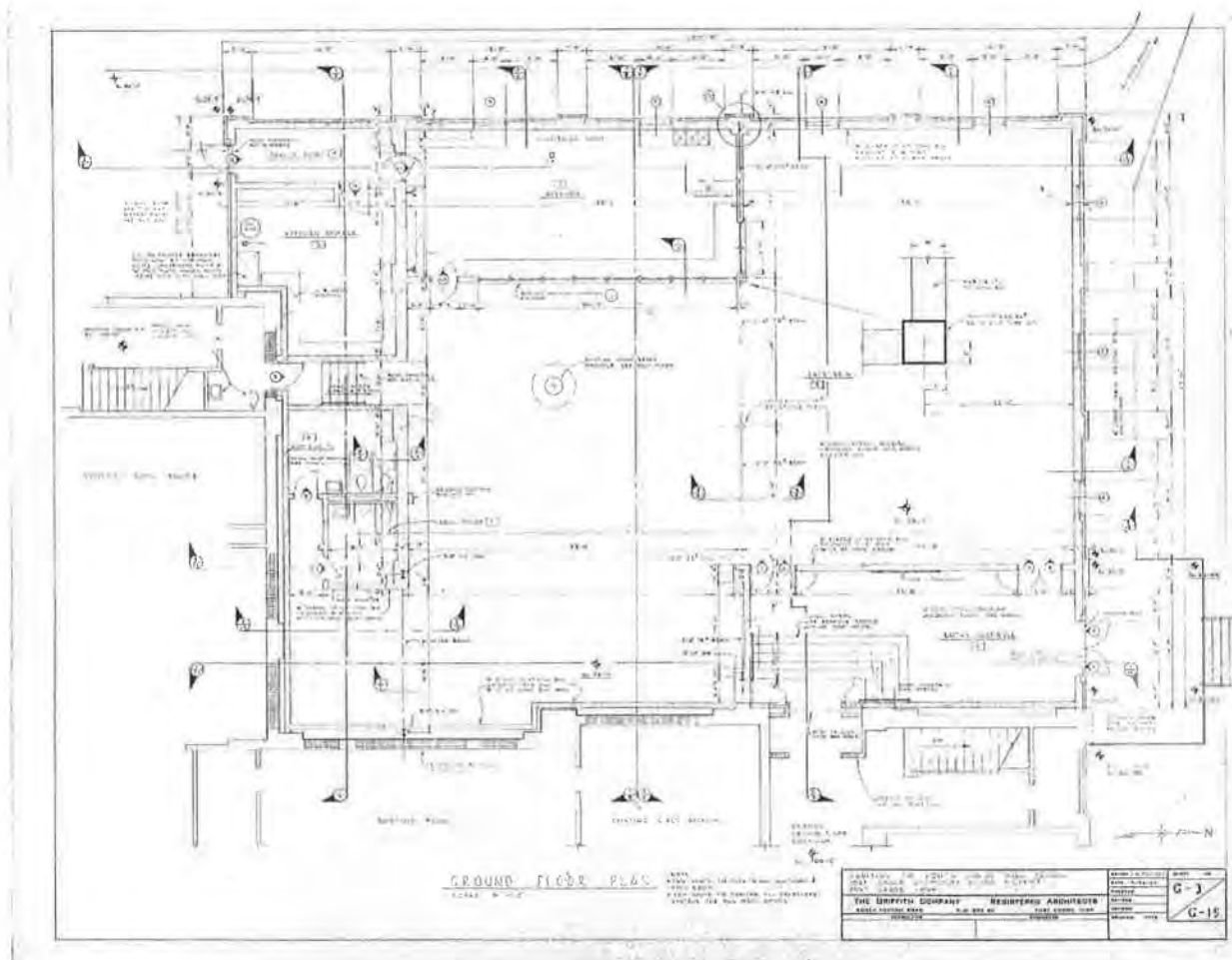


Figure #10

As shown on this drawing, the ground floor of the 1965 addition to the Fort Dodge Junior High School provided a kitchen (upper left) and cafeteria (center) for the building.

Source: Foutch Brothers, LLC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 44

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1965 ADDITION

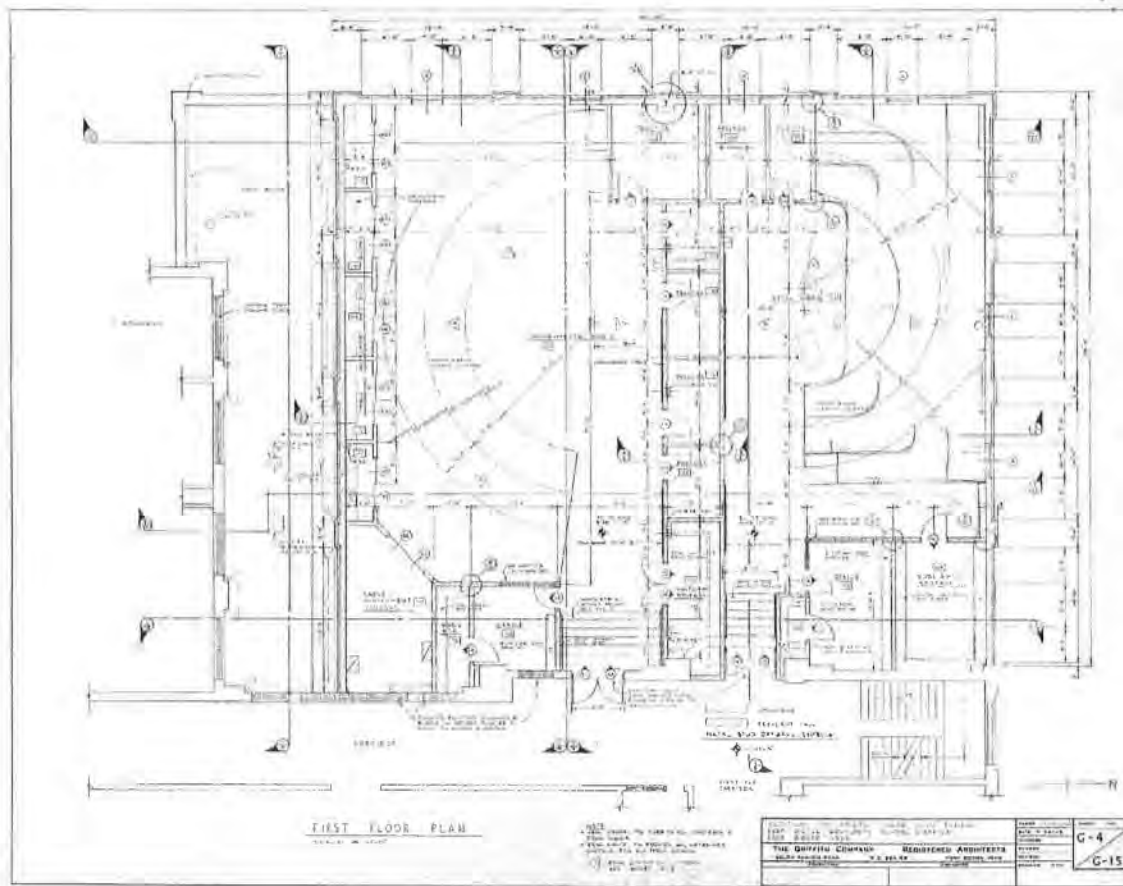


Figure #11

Designed by The Griffith Company, this floor plan pictures the instrumental music room (left) and vocal music room (room) and other spaces for specific purposes. Specialized classrooms like these stemmed from the tenets of comprehensive public education, which held that pupils and students should be equipped to meet a wide-range of life experiences, not just academic subjects, and that junior high schools should introduce such training to students in anticipation of more intense such study high school.

Source: Fouch Brothers, LLC.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 45

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

MAIN ENTRANCE 2002



Figure #12

The main entrance to the Fort Dodge Junior High School as seen in 2002 and looking southwest. This entrance faces a residential neighborhood to the north and east of the building. The north side of the building (right) originally housed vocational classrooms, while the east side (left) housed academic subjects. The 1965 addition is visible at the far right. The flagpole is nonextant. This photograph captures the monolithic appearance of this main entrance and how its canted placement suggests streamline styling.

Source: Camilla Deiber, 2002b.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 46

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN — CURRENT

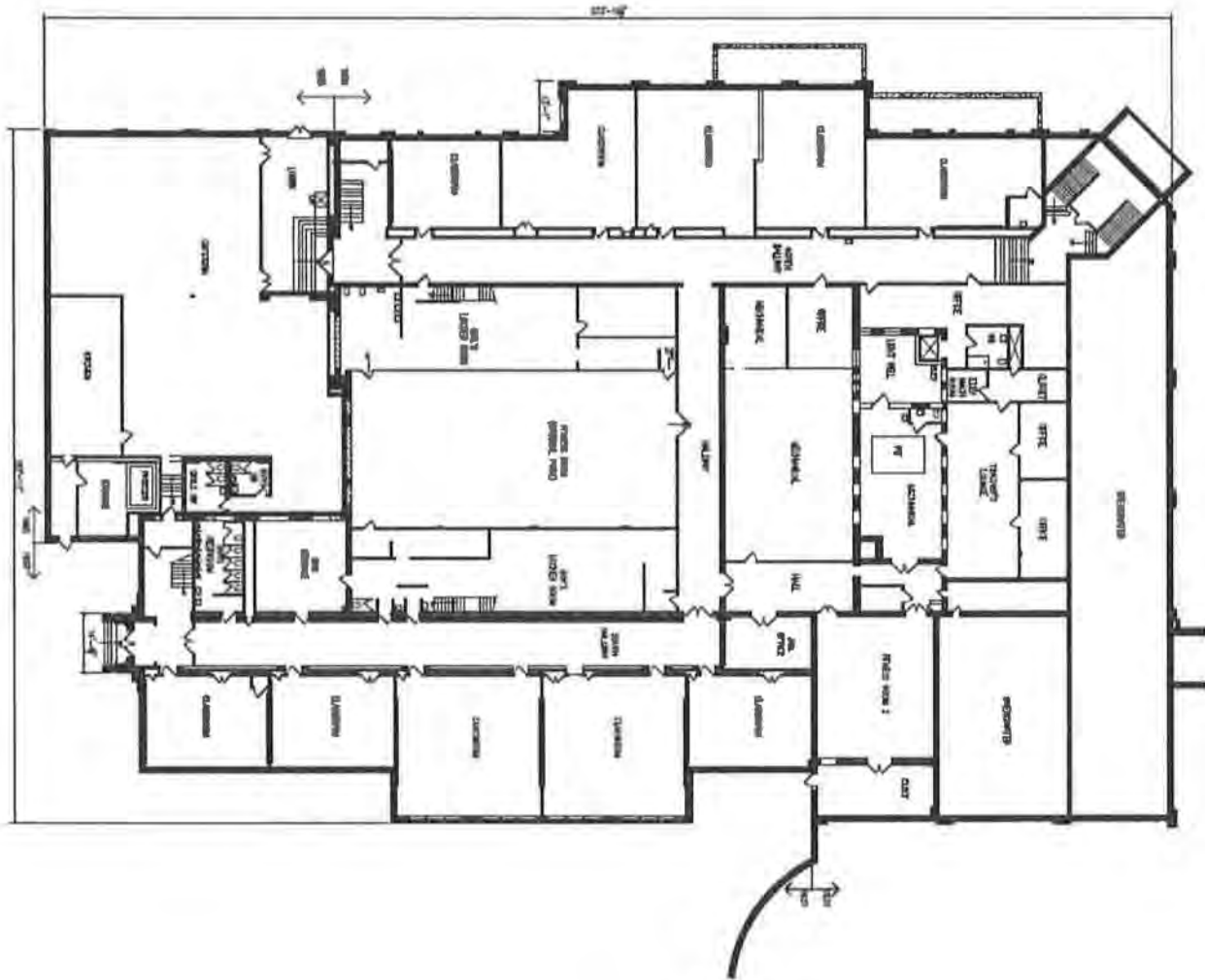


Figure #13

Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., 2014



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 47

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN — CURRENT

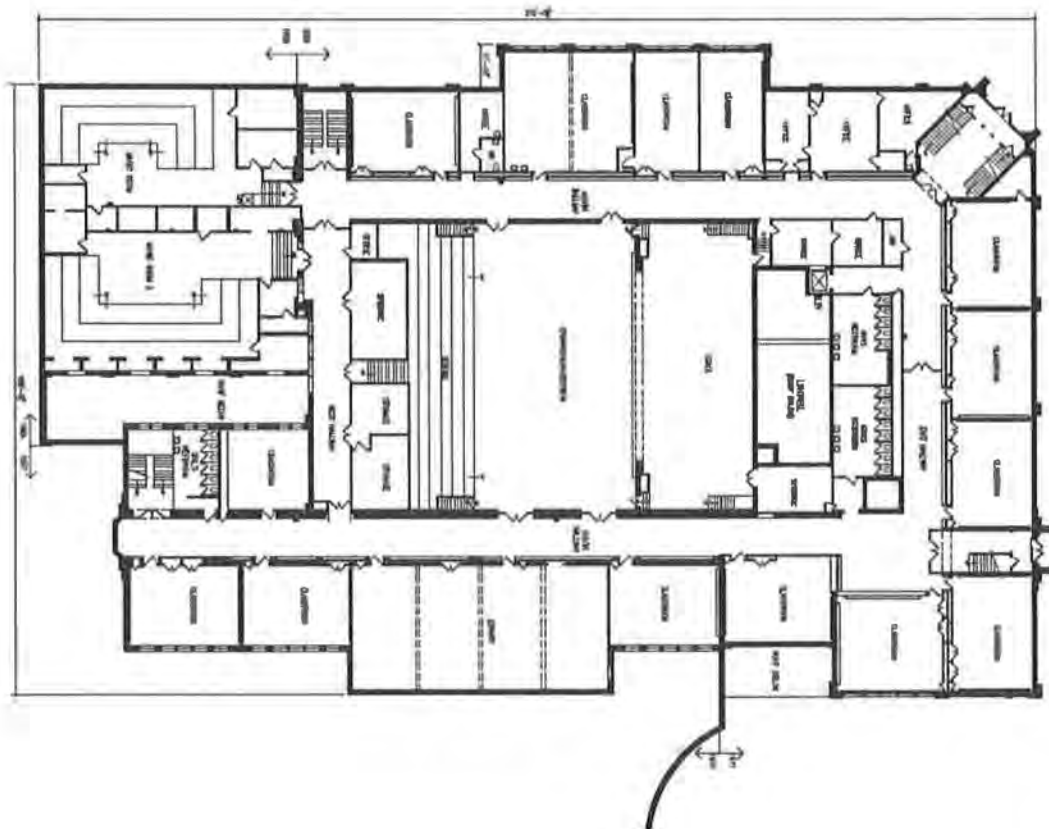


Figure #14

Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., 2014



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Embedded Images Page 48

CFN-259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN—CURRENT

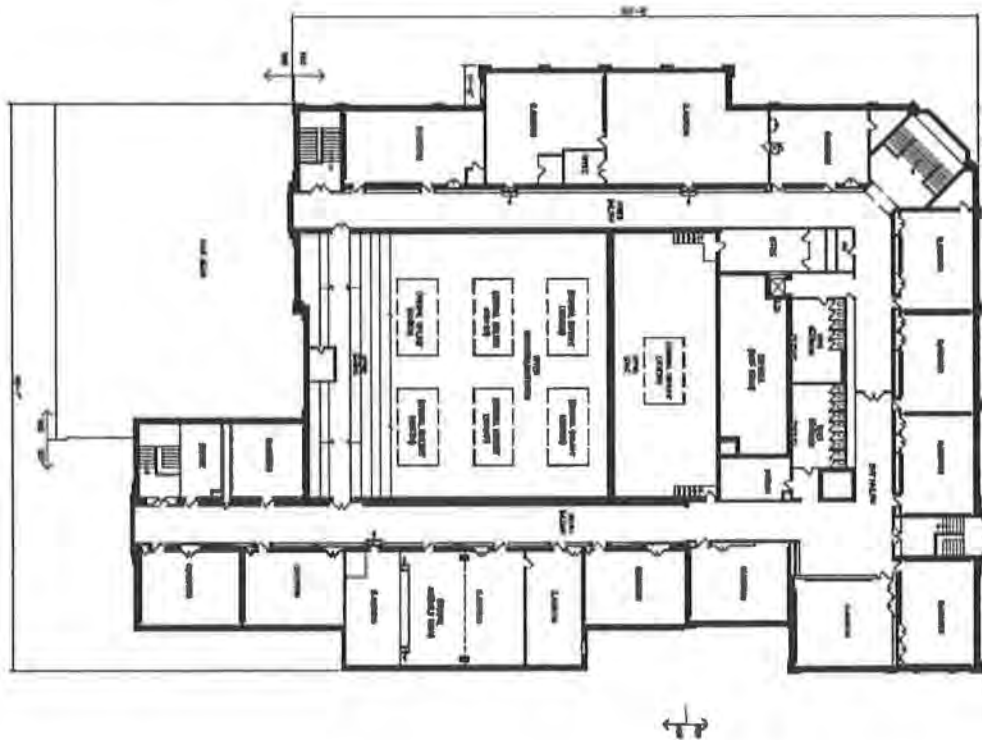
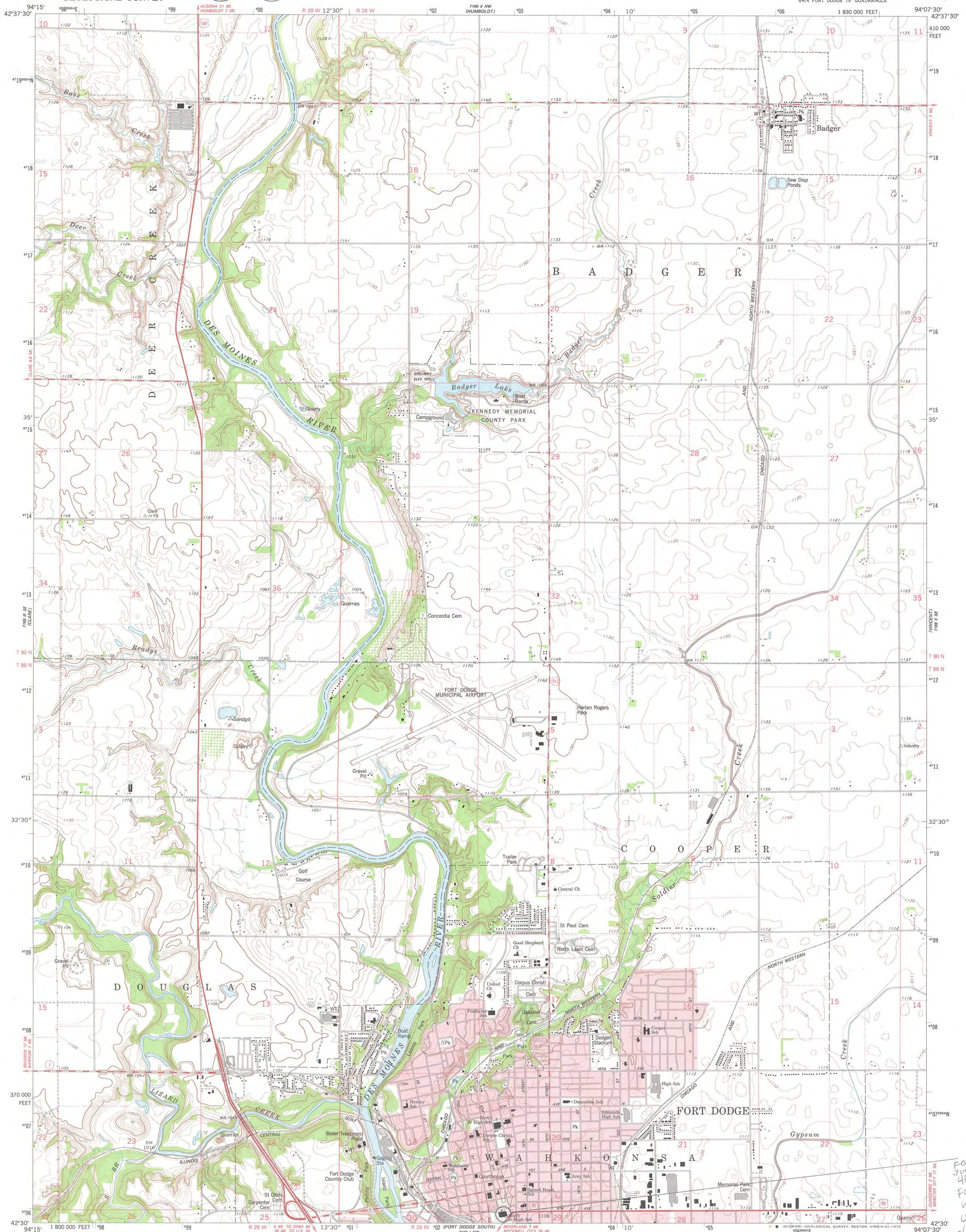


Figure #15

Source: Foutch Brothers, L.L.C., 2014





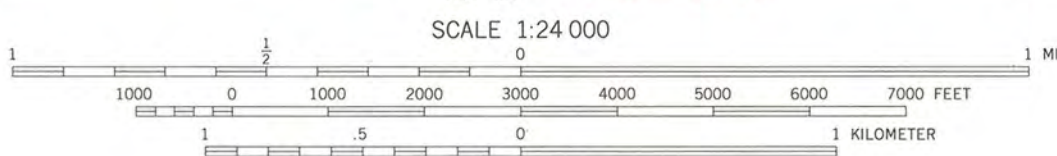
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974. Map edited 1979

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



FORT DODGE NORTH, IOWA
SW/4 FORT DODGE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4230-W9407.5/7.5

1979

AMS 7169 II SW-SERIES V876

FORT DODGE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
416 S. 10th St.
FORT DODGE, IOWA
UTM: 15/462723/4705877

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number _____ Embedded Images _____ Page 49

CFN 259-1116

Fort Dodge Junior High School, Webster County, Iowa.

E. O. AND GEORGIA DAMON HOUSE



Figure #16

Designed by E. O. Damon and built in 1916, this Colonial Revival-styled house is located at 710 Northwood Avenue in Fort Dodge. Damon “and his family resided in the home for many years while he was busy designing many houses and buildings.” Built within a few years of Damon’s arrival in Fort Dodge, the scale of the house and its detailing provided an advertisement for Damon’s architectural practice as well as for his family’s comfort.

Source: Allen R. Loomis and Karl F. Haugen, n.p.











4









WALLS AND CEILING
OF
STAIRWAY
AND HALLWAY
ARE TO BE
PAINTED
A
MEDIUM
BLUE
COLOR
AS
SHOWN
ON
THE
COLOR
CHART
ATTACHED
TO
THIS
SPECIFICATION
AND
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WOOD
WORK
IS
TO
BE
STAINED
A
MEDIUM
BROWN
COLOR
AS
SHOWN
ON
THE
COLOR
CHART
ATTACHED
TO
THIS
SPECIFICATION






Tornado
This Room To
Be Used As
Shelter

FIRE
EXIT











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Dodge Junior High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Webster

DATE RECEIVED: 8/28/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/17/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/02/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/13/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000730

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.13.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF

RECEIVED 2280
AUG 28 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

August 25, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmarks
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

- Fort Dodge Junior High School, 416 South 10th Street, Fort Dodge, Webster County
- Fort Dodge Senior High School, 1015 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Webster County
- Miller, Alex and Ola (Viola) Babcock, House, 429 S. Marion Ave., Washington, Washington County
- Washington Junior High School and Jefferson Grade School, 751 2nd Avenue South, Clinton, Clinton County
- Grant Vocational High School, 346 2nd Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Linn County
- Bloomfield Public Library, 107 N. Columbia, Bloomfield, Davis County
- Gobble & Heer/Spurgeons Building, 51 East Broadway, Fairfield, Jefferson County
- St. Joseph Hospital Historic District, 312 E. Alta Vista Ave. & 317 Vanness Ave., Ottumwa, Wapello County
- St. John's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church Historic District, 1207 Indigo Ave., Hampton, Franklin County
- Old Main Street Historic District Boundary Increase and Amendment, Main Street between West 1st and 4th Streets, Dubuque, Dubuque County
- Seminary Hill residential Historic District, Clarke Drive, North Main, Madison streets, and Madison Park, Dubuque, Dubuque County
- Upper Iowa Street Historic District, Iowa Street between West 11th and 12th streets, Dubuque, Dubuque County
- Washington Residential Historic District, 1100's - 1900's blocks, White, Jackson and Washington streets, Dubuque, Dubuque County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster Hill

Elizabeth Foster Hill
National Register