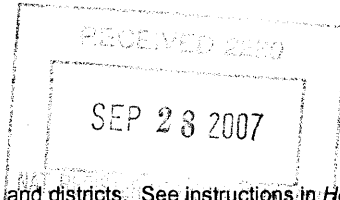


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1150

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 Lisbon Falls High School

other names/site number Lisbon High School

2. Location

street & number 4 Campus Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Lisbon Falls N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Androscoggin code 001 zip code 04250

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] Date 9/27/07
Signature of certifying official/Title

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

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 this 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 the Keeper

Date of Action
11-7-07

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904-05

Significant Dates

1904-05

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Miller, William. R. (1866-1929), architect
Joseph Philbrook & Son, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.37 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9 4 1 5 0 3 1 4 8 7 2 3 6 9

Zone Easting Northing

2 1 9

3 1 9

Zone Easting Northing

4 1 9

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 11 July 2007

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

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

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

Erected in 1904 - 1905, from plans by the Lewiston architect William R. Miller, the Romanesque Revival Lisbon Falls High School is an imposing two and a half story brick edifice in the Androscoggin County town of Lisbon. Located on the north side of Campus Avenue, a quiet side street several blocks north and west of the business district, the Lisbon Falls High School faces south-southwest, (for ease of description in this nomination the building will be considered to be south facing). It is set on the southernmost quarter of a long narrow lot that runs the entire length of the block between Campus and South Streets. A parking lot is located immediately behind the school and the remainder of the level lot is planted with grass. A single maple tree is centered in the back of the yard nearly adjacent to South Street, and grass and weeds line the chain link fence down the east and west edges of the property. The front yard of the school is also enclosed with a chain link fence, save for a driveway on the east side of the lot, and the walk that approaches the front door from Campus Avenue. A flag pole is positioned in the southwest quadrant of the front lawn, and two mature maple tree flank either side of the front walk. Across Campus Avenue, to the south, the building looks over the playing fields and yard associated with the 1955 Marion T. Morse School. As originally built the school grounds sat alone on the block bounded by Campus, South, Berry and Addison streets. Since that time modest single family homes have been built along the side streets.

The brick building sits on a raised foundation, and measures fifty by seventy-two feet, with the long axis running east to west. A two story brick tower, with an open wooden belfry under a decorative copper finial, is positioned off the southeast corner of the building. The main mass of the building is unified under a hipped roof. The asphalt roof is punctuated with two gable roof dormers; one on each of the side elevations. In contrast to the rest of the building the side dormers are clad in wood shingles. On the front elevation a gabled entrance bay is offset to the east of the center of the roof. This bay extends beyond the plane of the front wall, creating a wide, projecting entrance bay, or pavilion. Due to this design, when viewed from the south the building reads as being composed of a side gabled central pavilion with main entrance bay, a projecting tower to the east and a recessed three bay 'wing' to the west. The bricks are laid in seven courses of running bond to one course of Flemish bond, and are set in a salmon tinted mortar with raked joints.

Due to the complexity of the facade design it will be described in terms of its component parts. At first floor level, the central pavilion consists of a wide, round-arched entry, (originally recessed but now filled with two-leaf wooden doors) fronted by a flared set of granite steps. At the level of the floor of the entry is a rock-face quarried granite stringcourse that defines the top of the basement level. This stringcourse continues around the entire building and forms the sills of the first floor windows. (On the tower the string course is positioned at a higher level). Inside the recessed entry is a tile floor, paneled ceiling, and double oak doors. A single, asymmetrically-divided, nine-light sash on each of the east and west walls of the entry provide light to interior stairwells. On the facade, the entry is surrounded by a brick pattern, consisting of elongated rows of recessed brick, emanating outward from the sides of the entry and the top of the arch, and forming a square-shaped field at the center of the bay. This

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

brick pattern replicates rusticated masonry in its feel, and helps to emphasize the entrance arch. The arch itself is formed by three stepped layers, each one with thick, leading into the recess. The innermost layers are run continuously to the floor of the entry, while the outermost and widest layer is set on imposts, which in turn appear to be supported by the rusticated lateral lines of recessed brick. Both the upper moldings of the imposts and the outer edges of the arch feature protruding egg and dart moldings executed in terra cotta. At the upper corners of the brickwork, just below the level of the second floor windows, are a pair of stylized, shield-shaped, granite inserts, which visually act as supports for the second floor sills.

On the second floor are five adjoining, double-hung, round-top arch windows. The lower sash of these windows contain a single pane and the upper sash are divided into four vertical panes that intersect with round-topped tracery. Each of these windows is ornamented by brick arches edged with terra cotta egg and dart molding, and they share an attenuated granite sill. Centered in the attic gable are four more windows, consisting of tall lower sash under square, small-pane, nine-light sash. The windows at this level sit on a thin granite stringcourse that runs from eave to eave, and are topped with a thick granite course decorated at its center with a stylized and elongated keystone. At the eaves, the projecting pavilion is marked with built up copper rake trim. The western terminus of this trim is finished with a decorative, vertically oriented scrolled bracket. (The eastern terminus dies into the wall of the tower.) It is important to note that the attic level windows and the upper half of the second floor windows are currently obscured by plywood panels, although the sash remain in place.

The tower is octagonal in shape and, as noted above, the string course is positioned not at the top of the foundation but under the first floor windows. The foundation windows are one-over-one wood sash topped with a keystone-lintel and set on granite sills. Each of the six exposed facets of the tower contain a single window bay. The first and second floor windows are lined in a continuous recess and topped by another egg and dart molded arch. Each window contains a one-over-one sash. Between the two window levels are recessed panels of brick, and over the upper windows are diaper-patterned brick panels. A copper cornice caps the brick portion of this structure and provides the base from which the belfry builds. The eight wooden supports are connected by a low railing decorated with tombstone shaped panels, and linked at the top by a wide frieze. Stylized and oversized modillions link the frieze to the cornice of the tower roof. All of these elements are executed in wood, however they are painted to match the patina of the copper rake trim and the finial.

The western half of the facade, which appears to be a wing but actually represents the front wall of the main mass, is simpler in ornamentation than the central pavilion or the tower. This section contains three, equally spaced window bays on each floor. The foundation level two-over-two wood sash windows are sandwiched between the string course and granite sills at grade. The first and second floor windows, each tall four-over-four wood sash, have granite sills and keystone lintels. Under the wide, overhanging eaves are oversized, ornamental modillions which continue around the periphery of the building, except as already described. As with the windows on the central pavilion,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

the top sash are covered with plywood panels, painted currently in primary and secondary colors. However, the sash remain in place under these protective coverings. (This treatment is consistent on all sides of the building.)

The west elevation is five bays wide. Four windows with keystone lintels are grouped together just north of the center of the wall, and unified by a continuous granite sill. Located just to the south of these windows is a solitary bay containing a matching four-over-four window on the first floor, and an elliptical window, set in a rectangular brick panel and ornamented at the compass points with brick keystones. Ground level foundation windows, with two-over-two sash, are set in each bay. Above the eaves of the hip roof, the wood shingle-clad dormer contains an additional, closely spaced bank of five twelve-over-one windows.

The east elevation contains six window bays on the foundation level and first floor, filled with two-over-two and four-over-four window sash respectively. The second floor features five, more closely grouped, round-top windows, with tracery sash and egg and dart molded arches, set between a pair of oculus windows with keystones. The dormer on this elevation matches that on the opposite side, however here the window sash are completely obscured by a plywood covering.

The north elevation is the most straightforward of the four, although the fenestration is asymmetrical. The first floor is divided into eight bays, while the second floor contains only seven openings. The building's only chimney rises from the edge of the roof, between the first and second bays from the east. On both floors, the first and last bays were windows that have been converted to emergency exits. The second floor exits are accessed by cast iron staircases splayed along the wall towards the center of the building. The westernmost first floor door is located under a small, modern entry porch and has a handicapped access ramp extending north then east. The easternmost door is accessed by a straight-run staircase with metal treads and rails. The middle bay on the first floor contains a plywood covered window over a low, basement level, mechanical room accessed by a small basement door. All of the remaining windows on this elevation are four-over-four wooden sash, and they, and the converted window bays, have granite sills and keystone lintels.

As originally designed the interior of the Lisbon Falls High School had a transverse, east-to-west hallway off of which three large classrooms opened to the north. The front entry doors open directly onto this hallway. On either side of the doors are two-run staircases, ornamented by hollow-pillar newel posts, that hug the exterior wall and lead to the second floor hallway. A small rectangular room is located at the western end of each hallway, and the tower rooms are accessed from the eastern end of the hall. There is also a small corner room, located north of the tower room and carved out of the southeast corner of the most eastern room on the second floor. Original finishes in these rooms include beaded board wainscot, chair rail, and mop boards; plaster walls, heavily molded window and door trim; and four panel classroom doors with large glass panes at the center. Most of the classrooms retain long lines of blackboards on the interior walls, however in several cases these have been covered over with masonite panels. Ceilings treatments include board and batten, acoustic tile, or dropped tiles. The floors are all carpeted.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

Stairs also lead to the basement level, which contain restrooms in each southern corner and mechanical, service, and storage rooms to the north. The westernmost room in the basement is the only finished space at this level; its walls are lined with painted wooden shelving and cabinets and it has a drop ceiling and badly deteriorated hardwood flooring over a cement slab.

The original plan has been subdivided with the addition of partition walls in the eastern and western rooms on each floor. On the first floor these rooms have been divided side to side, creating two additional, small classrooms. The same layout occurs on the second floor, but the northern half of the spaces have been further divided, creating three additional new classrooms and one emergency exit hall. The center rooms on each floor retain their original configuration, although on the second floor a small vestibule has been added at the south end of the room to create a new passage into the middle western room. The new partition walls are clearly evident and differ from the original in their materials (wallboard), trim, and doors. The walls above the wainscot and blackboards in several of the rooms on the second floor have been clad with a faux wood paneling. It is not known whether these changes were instituted when the building became an elementary school (after 1952) or while it was utilized as offices for the Superintendent of Schools, between 1985 and 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lisbon Falls High School is a notable example of Romanesque Revival architecture, located in the relatively small industrial town of Lisbon, Maine. The brick school, with finial topped tower, arched windows and doors, and terra cotta and granite accents, was the work of William R. Miller, a prolific Maine architect known for designing lavishly detailed public buildings. Opened in the spring of 1906, this school served the students of Lisbon Falls until 1952. The Lisbon Falls High School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its architectural significance as a good example of Romanesque Revival architecture in the local context, and as a representative example of the schools designed by Miller in the early twentieth century.

Although unified under one municipal name, Lisbon consists of three villages. On the Sabbattus River are Lisbon Center, at the town's geographical center near the former Farnsworth Mill; and Lisbon, located about one mile northwesterly of Lisbon Center (also known as Lisbon Factory for its association with Farwell Mill). The third village, Lisbon Falls, lies about three miles south of the Center, on the Androscoggin River. Of the three, Lisbon Center is the smallest settlement. The other two villages maintain their own business districts, cultural identity, and until the middle of the twentieth century, their own separate sets of schools. The town was incorporated in 1799, under the name Thompsonborough, which was then changed to Lisbon in 1802.

Prior to the middle of the nineteenth century, Lisbon was noted for its fertile intervalles and fine agricultural lands, as well as a multitude of water powers. In 1861, however, the town's economy, population, and demographic were altered with the introduction of the Androscoggin Railroad Company (later Maine Central Railroad). Within three years the Worumbo (woolen) Mill was established in Lisbon Falls, followed shortly by the Farwell (cotton) Mill in Lisbon (also known as Lisbon Factory). The town became a secondary, but important industrial center (two of the state's industrial giants, Lewiston and Auburn, are 10 mile to the northwest), and over the next five decades the population almost tripled from just under 1,400 to 4,116 residents. Between 1875 and 1914 the mills at Lisbon Falls attracted a large number of immigrants from Hungary, Poland, Germany and what was later named Czechoslovakia, while Lisbon Factory became home to French Canadian workers. A significant fire in 1901 leveled much of Lisbon Falls' business district, yet the village rebuilt quickly and its economy continued to prosper. As a result of the town's general success and increasing demographics, the school Superintendent found it compelling to report in 1904 that "a new school building at Lisbon Falls before the beginning of another fall term seems to be an absolute necessity. Our present buildings, are crowded to their utmost capacity and we can hardly find room for another pupil." (Town Report, 1904, p. 72).

Although the town abolished the district system in 1871, and had placed the schools under control of a School Committee, the two major villages of Lisbon supported their own, separate schools well into the 20th century. The first high school in Lisbon Village [Factory] was built prior to 1884; its replacement, which was used until 1941, was constructed in 1893. In addition, there were several elementary schools. The pattern was similar at the other end of town. According to the 1905

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

Lisbon Town Register: "There are now three school buildings at Lisbon Falls, all built [except] for the high school. The oldest of these is now occupied by the intermediate grades; this was built in 1866. The building now occupied by the high and the grammar schools was built in 1892. The third is the new high school building, now nearing completion, which is being constructed at a cost of \$20,000." (Mitchell and Campbell, p. 35.)

The town chose the Lewiston architect William R. Miller to design the new structure. Within a few years previous, Miller had designed notable and imposing schools in Lewiston, Bath, South Portland and Wilton. The following summary of William R. Miller's early career is extracted from "A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine: William R. Miller (1866-1929)."

Few architects in Maine produced designs as flamboyant and picturesque as William Robinson Miller. With a state-wide practice, based first in Lewiston and later, with Raymond J. Mayo, in Portland, Miller specialized in schools, libraries, hotels, and other structures intended for public use. The firm of William R. Miller lasted from 1896 until 1907, when it became Miller & Mayo.

Born in Durham on September 20, 1886, William was the son of Simon and Josephine Robinson Miller. He attended Bates College in the mid-1880s before working as a draftsman in the Lewiston office of George M. Coombs, the leading architect in western Maine. After two or three years in Coombs' office, Miller attended the School of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1891-92.

By the early 1900s William R. Miller's reputation was established throughout much of southern and western Maine. Although he had designed large buildings in Lewiston, such as the Jordan High School of 1901-02 and the Universalist Church of 1903, major projects were scattered throughout the region.

Miller's reluctance to embrace changing stylistic trends in architecture is evident in his later work, of which the Lawrence High School in Fairfield is a good example. The national trends in school design during the early 1900s encouraged the construction of two story Neo-Classical buildings with high basements and flat roofs. An emphasis on fire-proof materials and a consequent discouragement of heavy ornamentation was common. Like all of his school buildings, Miller's Lawrence High School of 1906-07 [and the subject school, Lisbon Falls High School] ran counter to this approach. The Fairfield school featured a French Renaissance design with multiple hipped roofs, "Chateausque" dormers and heavy sculptured brackets supporting wide overhanging eaves... A similar, larger design had been used for his Morse High School in Bath in 1903. Both of these buildings, as well as several other schools by Miller, eventually suffered serious fires.

The Romanesque Revival style school that Miller designed for the students of Lisbon Falls was not short on picturesque details. With its ornate tower, copper trim, commanding Romanesque

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

entry arch, heavy, arched windows, and contrasting granite details, the High School remains the most 'exuberantly' designed building of the early twentieth-century in the village. That the school was executed in brick also made it noteworthy in a town generally characterized by wood frame structures (except the mill), and which had recently suffered a large fire. For the town, it was both a source of pride, and a 'modern' school. In the 1906 Town Report the Superintendent of School's wrote "since our last report our new High School building at Lisbon Falls has been completed and the grounds graded and grassed over. This is a building well worthy the pride of every citizen in our Town. We were able to move into it at the beginning of the spring term and our High School work has taken on a great impetus since that time. On account of having a Laboratory and some apparatus with which to work, we have been able to introduce a course in Physics which should be followed up another year with a course in Chemistry." (Town Report, 1906, p. 108).

In the years before his partnership with Raymond J. Mayo (and between 1926 and 1929, with Lester I. Beal) Miller received ten commission for schools or educational buildings. Besides the Lisbon Falls High School, only four of these schools are extant: the National Register listed Jordan High School, Lewiston, 1901-02; the altered Lawrence High School in Fairfield, 1906-07; and two buildings in the National Register listed Hinckley Good Will Home Historic District, the Manual Training Building, 1903 (now a museum); and the Charles R. Moody School (1905-06). While the Lisbon Falls High School shares some design elements with these other buildings (deeply recessed arched entries, round topped tracery windows, as well as oculus windows, decorative brackets, prominent dormers or projecting pavilions, and contrasting materials such as bricks and granite), the example in Lisbon Falls derives additional significance for its compact scale, asymmetrical facade, and tower.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are defined by the Town of Lisbon Tax Map U04, Lot 26.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries reflect the entire parcel of land that is currently associated with the Lisbon Falls High School. The northern half of this parcel is maintained as a grassy yard, and does not currently exhibit any cultural features to suggest that it was ever developed as formal playing fields or play ground. However, historic photographs and written descriptions suggest that the school was carefully sited on an undeveloped lot that was later graded and seeded. Thus to retain the greatest degree of integrity of setting, the entire 1.37 acre lot is included with the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LISBON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
10 July 2007
South elevation; facing north.

Photograph 2 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
10 July 2007
Interior, first floor hall; facing southeast.

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
10 July 2007
Interior, middle classroom, first floor; facing southeast.