



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

other names/site number Broadway Village Elementary Community School

name of related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 243 Sears Street [] not for publication

city or town Buffalo [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Ron David Mundy
Signature of certifying official/Title

6.12.2018
Date

DSHPD
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

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

7/27/2018
date of action

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)
Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	TOTAL

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/elementary school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals:
CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone
walls Brick, Stone: Limestone,
Terra Cotta
roof Other: Built-Up Roof
other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County and State

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 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 that 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 boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1913-1914

Significant Dates:

1914

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Architect: Carl G. Schmill

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. **NPS #29,844**
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building 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 repository: _____

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>676784</u>	<u>4751197</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheets.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheets.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title LaLuce D. Mitchell, Preservation Architect, M.S.H.P. [Edited by Jennifer Walkowski, NYSHPO]
organization Flynn Battaglia Architects date 5/18/2018
street & number 617 Main St., Suite 401 telephone (716) 854-2424
city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14203

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the 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, D.C. 20503

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Section 7 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

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Narrative Description:

Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57) is located at 243 Sears Street in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood of Buffalo, Erie County, New York. It sits in the center of a block just south of Broadway, the main east-west street through the neighborhood and a major radial thoroughfare in the city of Buffalo, connecting downtown with the suburbs to the east. A three-story brick former Dom Polski (Polish Home social club) and small commercial buildings fill the north half of the block, whereas small frame homes fill the southern half of the block. The surrounding commercial district along Broadway is made up of a mix of older brick commercial buildings and newer auto-oriented businesses and is anchored by the Broadway Market (the city's last remaining public market) two blocks to the west. The blocks to the south and west are made up of small frame homes interspersed with many vacant lots and anchored by Corpus Christi R.C. Church (NR-listed 2007), historically the social anchor of the neighborhood.

The school property itself is approximately 1.25 acres in size and faces west onto Sears Street and extends through the block to Playter Street. The front elevation of the school is set back from Sears Street by about twenty feet behind a small lawn enclosed by a wrought iron fence. The south half of the property is a large paved yard area, bounded by a chain link fence along Sears Street. Remnants of concrete piers from a former prefabricated classroom structure remains within this yard (too small to count). A paved driveway fills the narrow north end of the property.

Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57) was constructed in 1914 in the Classical Revival style. The school is made up of a three-story classroom block with full basement aligned north-south on the site and facing Sears Street, connected by a one-story hyphen to a one-story with full basement auditorium block to the east along Playter Street. The building is constructed of a red brick masonry envelope over a steel frame. The building known as PS57 was originally constructed as an addition to an older school building, constructed in 1897, which stood south of the 1914 building but which was demolished in 1960. A one-story hyphen remains at the south end of the classroom wing that originally connected the 1914 building to the older school.

Classroom Block - Exterior

The classroom block is three stories tall above a raised basement, seven bays long by three bays deep. The base of the wing consists of a limestone water table approximately two feet tall. The raised basement continues for about four feet above the water table and is composed of brick topped by a limestone belt course. Here, as elsewhere throughout the building, the brick is set in running bond. From the first floor up, the building has a tripartite composition. The first floor is flat brick topped by a glazed terra cotta belt course. At the second and third floors, which make up the "shaft" in the tripartite composition, each bay is recessed slightly behind pilasters that align with the plane of the first floor. The pilasters fronting the second and third floor have an

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unornamented glazed terra cotta base, brick shaft, and ornamented glazed terra cotta capital with frieze and egg-and-dart molding.

Windows fill each bay at the east and west elevations and the center bay at the north and south facades and are aligned from the basement up to the third floor level. Brick spandrel panels between the second and third floor windows at each bay have rowlock brick borders and a diamond brick motif at center. At the top of the third floor level, a simple glazed terra cotta entablature spans the pilasters. Above the entablature, the façade has a brick frieze with rectangular glazed terra cotta accents over the end pilasters and round accents over the intermediate pilasters. Above this element, the original drawings show that a simple cornice was originally present. At some point after 1984, the cornice was removed and replaced with corrugated metal banding. The façade is topped by a shaped brick parapet with glazed terra cotta cap. The classroom wing has a flat built-up roof.

The windows throughout the building were originally wood double-hung assemblies but have been replaced with metal replacement windows in the original openings, likely around 1960. At the basement level, each bay currently contains two double-hung windows with a small infill panel at the top of the opening. Each bay at the first floor and above contains one large window made up of a pair of sliding sash filling the bottom half of the opening and an obscure panel in the top half of the opening. Window sills are typically limestone at the first floor and terra cotta at the upper levels with brick flat arched heads throughout.

The **West (front) Elevation** faces Sears Street and is distinguished by a heavily ornamented one-story entry pavilion that projects approximately four feet from the front plane of the building. The pavilion fills the center bay of the first floor and is made up of an arched opening surrounded by Indiana limestone. At the face of the pavilion, ashlar limestone pilasters flank the arched opening. The pilaster bases are unornamented. The capitals are understated and are ornamented with egg-and-dart molding and floral carvings. An entablature spans between the two pilasters, capped by a dentil band and triglyphs over each capital. Centered between the pilasters is a copper seal of the City of Buffalo depicting the school's association with the city school district. The pavilion is capped with a copper cornice. The parapet is brick with a concrete cap, though drawings show that it was originally a limestone balustrade.

Within the entry pavilion, the entry itself is set five steps above grade and is set within a carved limestone arch with ancone keystone. The paired entry doors were originally wood with glass infill; however, they have been replaced with hollow metal doors. The wood classical surround with glass sidelights remains, though the side lights have been infilled with wood. The transom was also originally glass, but has been filled with a large metal panel displaying the school's number. The front corners of the projecting pavilion are quoined, transitioning to red brick at the sides of the pavilion to join it to the brick school façade beyond.

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

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The **East Elevation** of the classroom wing is identical to the west elevation, with a few exceptions: the boiler room and other mechanical spaces abut the façade at basement level at its north end, so this portion of the façade is not visible; spandrel panels between second and third floors are flat brick with no ornamentation; and small rectangular attic windows are punched into the brick entablature above the third floor at three locations. An unornamented square brick chimney extends up the face of this elevation between the second and third bays from the north end, ending approximately ten feet above the roof with a concrete cap. The connecting hyphen between the classroom block and the auditorium block extends from the center bays of the basement and first floor at this elevation.

The **North and South Elevations** of the classroom wing are nearly identical. Each consists of a tripartite composition similar to the primary facades. At the east and west bays, pilasters consistent in design with those on the primary facades frame the bays at the second and third floors. However, these bays do not contain windows but rather are expressed with recessed blind brick panels framed by expressed brick borders and square terra cotta corner pieces.

At the north elevation, the central bay consists of a pair of doors two steps above grade. Originally these doors were paneled wood and glass with an ornamental transom above, but they have been replaced by hollow metal doors and the transom has been infilled. The opening has an expressed brick frame with stone keystone as well as a brick spandrel panel with rowlock border just above.

At both the north and south elevations, the windows above this center bay are consistent with the levels of stair landings beyond. A set of three windows is present within the opening at each stair landing, as opposed to the two windows typical at the primary elevations. As at the primary elevations, the top half of the openings are infilled with obscure panels whereas at the third floor stair landing this bay contains former clerestory windows which have been completely infilled with obscure panels. The entire bay from the stair landing above the first floor to the clerestory windows at the third floor stair landing is enclosed by an expressed brick surround, capped by a glazed terra cotta keystone above the clerestory.

The **South Hyphen** to the original school building (now demolished) is one story tall with a flat roof and constructed of brick. Its north half dates to the 1914 construction of the classroom wing, while its south half is of more modern construction, likely added when the adjacent school was torn down in 1960. The north (older) half has a glazed terra cotta parapet cap and double doors exiting to both the east and west that are surrounded by rowlock brick frames with limestone keystones. Originally, these doors were wood and glass paneled assemblies with ornamental transoms but they have been replaced with hollow metal doors and the transom infilled. The south half of the connector has a concrete parapet cap and has two windows and transoms on its south elevation that are currently boarded with plywood. A concrete stair and slab from approximately the 1990s remains adjacent to the south and east sides of this south hyphen that formerly provided access to a

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prefabricated metal building to the south of the school that housed overflow classrooms during the 1990s and early 2000s but is no longer present.

Auditorium Block - Exterior

The auditorium block is one story tall over a raised basement, six bays long and three bays deep, set back from the sidewalk line on Playter Street by about four feet. The base of each elevation is a limestone water table approximately two feet tall. The raised basement extends approximately four feet above this, faced in brick and topped by a beveled limestone belt course. Above this first belt course, the center portion of the elevations (the "shaft" of the tripartite composition) are unornamented brick with openings at some bays, as described for each of the elevations below. A simple terra cotta cornice was originally located just above this, but was removed at an unknown date after 1984 and a corrugated metal band is present in its place, as at the classroom block. A low brick parapet with shaped glazed terra cotta coping is located just above the cornice line and originally capped the composition; however, at a later date a ballasted built-up roof was added over the original hipped roof of the auditorium and a second brick parapet (evident as a slightly darker red brick) was added, which extends above the first and is capped with terra cotta coping tiles. The auditorium roof has two large metal ventilators located at its north end.

The **East and West Elevations** are identical in design to each other, though a portion of the West Elevation is obscured as it butts directly into the Boiler Room. The center four bays are recessed slightly from the end bays, for the full height of the elevation. The raised basement level has paired openings at each bay that align with the larger windows above. These basement windows were originally double-hung wood assemblies, but some of them are presently infilled with plywood or brick and those that do remain are metal replacements in inconsistent configurations. The tall first floor has large windows at each bay, each of which is framed by a glazed terra cotta sill, expressed brick surround, and glazed terra cotta keystone. A rowlock brick belt course aligns with each of the sills. The first floor windows were originally wood assemblies made up of a large center double-hung sash, smaller flanking double-hung sash, and a pivoting transom above. However, at a later date (likely 1960), the originals were replaced with metal assemblies in which the bottom third of the opening is a pair of sliding sash and the upper two-thirds is a translucent infill panel.

The North and South Elevations are similar to each other. The **South Elevation** has a series of five window openings at the raised basement but is otherwise entirely unornamented. These five openings contain metal replacement assemblies of inconsistent configuration. The **North Elevation** contains two window openings at the center portion of the raised basement level and two paired doors at third-points of the façade with window openings above each, but is otherwise unornamented brick. The basement windows are presently boarded from both sides, thus their configuration is unknown. Each of the pairs of doors was originally paneled wood and glass with an ornamental transom above, but both have more recently been replaced with hollow metal doors

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and their transoms infilled with brick. Each has an expressed brick surround. The windows above each door have glazed terra cotta sills and flat arch brick heads. These windows were originally double-hung wood sash, but are presently boarded so their current configuration and material is unknown.

The **Central Connector** between the Classroom Wing and the Auditorium Wing is one story tall with basement. The south elevation has two windows at raised basement level, currently boarded, and two windows at the first floor level that were originally double-hung but were replaced with metal assemblies in which the lower half is a sliding sash and the upper half is an obscure panel. At the north elevation, the boiler room is directly adjacent to the connector at the raised basement level and so this portion of the elevation is not exposed to the exterior. Two windows matching those at the south elevation face onto the roof of the boiler room from the first floor. At both elevations, the connector has a flat terra cotta cornice and brick parapet above with flat terra cotta coping. The **Boiler Room** is an unornamented brick building with limestone water table and terra cotta coping that extends a half-level above grade that fills the land between the Classroom Wing and the Auditorium Wing just north of the Central Connector. One window, formerly double-hung but now a metal assembly with sliding sash, and an infilled garage door remain at its north elevation. The connector and boiler rooms have flat roofs. The boiler room roof originally had a skylight, but it has been roofed over.

Interior Description

Classroom Wing

The floor plan of the classroom wing is a simple double-loaded corridor that runs north-south at each of three classroom floors and terminates at stairways at each end. At the first floor, a cross-axial corridor leads to the front entry and to the connector that leads to the Auditorium Wing. Similarly, at the basement a cross-axial corridor leads to the connector to the Auditorium Wing.

As built, the basement held two play rooms, a Manual Training room, and mechanical space. The first floor held three general classrooms, a Domestic Science room, Principal's Office, and Teachers Room. The second and third floors each held six classrooms. Toilet rooms for boys and girls were provided at each floor. The building layout is modular with classrooms filling two bays, smaller rooms such as the Principal's Office and toilet rooms filling one bay, and the cross-axial corridor leading to the connector filling one bay.

At the basement level, corridors and former classrooms and offices have concrete or vinyl tile floors, exposed painted brick walls, and flat plaster ceilings with plaster soffits around steel structural beams at the ceiling. Remnants of acoustical drop ceilings remain in incidental locations. A painted beadboard partition with paneled wood doors provides entry from the classroom wing into the connector at the basement level. Classroom doors are paneled wood.

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At the first through third floors, corridors and classrooms have carpet (generally over original wood floors) and flat plaster walls. In some rooms, the ceiling is flat plaster and in others an applied acoustical ceiling tile has been applied. Plaster soffits surround the structural steel beams at the ceiling. At classrooms, chalkboards with wood chalk trays and a picture rail above line the front and corridor walls whereas a wood chair rail runs along the window wall aligned with the window sills and at the rear wall. Interior doors are paneled wood with frosted glass lights and wood frames. Each corridor door originally had a glass transom above, which has been infilled. The toilet rooms at all levels have concrete floors, orange glazed brick walls, and wood partitions.

The Teachers Room on the first floor just south of the front entrance contains a double-row of original paneled wood lockers with metal grilles at top and bottom, each with a wood drawer below. Various wood storage cabinets also remain in select classrooms throughout the building.

Throughout the classroom wing, corridors are typically 13 feet 4 inches wide and interior ceilings are 13 feet high. The levels are connected at north and south ends with an open staircase. The stairs have steel structural members, balusters, and newel posts, with a wood banister. The stringers are finished with ornamental metalwork at top and bottom and are prominently stamped "Lackawanna," referring to their creation by the Lackawanna Steel Company, the original owner of what was to become the Bethlehem Steel plant along the Lake Erie shoreline. At the basement level, cast iron radiators are present at the ceiling whereas at the upper floors, more recent fin tube radiators line the window wall. Lighting is mostly by linear fluorescent pendant fixtures with some incandescent "schoolhouse" type fixtures.

Auditorium Wing

The auditorium wing has one story above grade and one at basement level. At the basement level, the southern half is a gymnasium and the northern half is a swimming pool with small adjacent shower and toilet rooms. The gymnasium has a carpeted sprung floor, exposed painted brick walls, and textured acoustical ceiling panels applied to the ceiling, with plaster wrapping the expressed structural beams. The swimming pool room is raised five to six feet above the level of the gymnasium such that it has a very low ceiling. The pool room has a concrete deck surrounding the pool and the walls of the room have a concrete base and are glazed brick interrupted by pairs of glass block windows into the adjacent corridor. A built-in bench lines the north wall of the room. The floor and walls of the pool itself are orange glazed tile, similar to but larger than those on the walls, and recent stainless steel ladders provide entry into the pool at each corner. The ceiling is flat plaster and is open to the plaster-wrapped beams above.

At the first floor, the entire double-height space serves as the auditorium. At its northern end is an elevated stage with paneled wood base and topped by an elaborate plaster cartouche centered above the proscenium. The stage is fronted by a curtain and has ante rooms at either side to its rear, accessed through stair halls at either

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)
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side, which in turn lead to the basement and to grade. Wood double doors with entablature and infilled transom above lead from the main auditorium space into the stair halls. The auditorium floor is linoleum over the original wood. The walls are plaster, with tripartite pilasters between each window bay at the north and south elevations, ending at an interior cornice line above the window heads. Above the cornice line, two thinner pilasters spring from the top of each lower pilaster, in turn leading to plaster-wrapped beams above with paneled edges, forming the appearance of a coffered ceiling. The field within has received applied ceiling panels, presumably for acoustics. The auditorium wing is heated by cast iron radiators, mounted at the gymnasium ceiling and the walls of the swimming pool and auditorium. Lighting in the gymnasium and auditorium is by fluorescent pendant fixtures and at the pool by ceiling-mounted fluorescent fixtures. At the auditorium, the pendants are hung from each beam intersection in the coffers.

Integrity

Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57) retains a good level of architectural integrity, as most significant character-defining features remain extant and the alterations made are typical to those made at many public schools. The building's massing remains largely as constructed as does its interior configuration, with classroom and corridor demising walls remaining in place. Character-defining features at the exterior include the original materials and pattern of window openings and ornamental details such as the arched limestone entry surround with wood door frame and side light and the terra cotta column capitals making up the pilasters between bays. Features at the interior include wood doors, frames and plaster details at classroom corridors and at the auditorium. The major architectural elements that have been lost are the cornice at all elevations, exterior wood doors, and the ornamental limestone balustrade at the parapet of the front entry pavilion. While windows throughout the building have been replaced, the original fenestration pattern and sizes of openings remain.

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Statement of Significance:

Buffalo Public School #57 (PS 57) is locally significant as a good representative example of an enlargement of an older school to incorporate an updated, early twentieth century educational program in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood of Buffalo, New York. Located at 243 Sears Street, the school was constructed in 1914 as an addition to an older school, no longer extant, to address overcrowding resulting from a growing Polish immigrant population in the neighborhood but also allowed for an opportunity to provide a modern school facility. The building embodies the full realization of standardized school design at the start of the twentieth century, at a time when New York state and federal guidelines regarding educational architecture began influencing school construction across the state. PS 57 represents how a smaller outdated school could be enlarged to incorporate an updated educational program by including specialized spaces for vocational studies then in vogue such as manual training and incorporating functions such as a swimming pool, gymnasium, and auditorium to provide for expanded physical training opportunities for students while also allowing the school to serve a more active role as a community center for the surrounding neighborhood. Physically, PS 57 represents up-to-date school construction standards of the 1910s, incorporating strict standards of lighting and fireproof construction. PS 57 is locally significant under Criterion C in Architecture for embodying the design principles of early twentieth century school standardization in Buffalo, New York. The period of significance for Buffalo Public School #57 is 1913 - 1914, which encompasses the original period of construction. Carl G. Schmill's design for the building reflects national trends of school design in the early twentieth century, and the building retains nearly all of the original features that demonstrate these standards.

Buffalo Public Schools

The Village of Buffalo completed its first schoolhouse in 1808, which was subsequently destroyed during the War of 1812. It was rebuilt in 1815 with the creation of Buffalo's first school district. In 1838, six years after the city was incorporated, the district was taken over by the municipal government and it became the first city in New York to support its own schools entirely through taxation.¹ The creation of a municipally controlled system led to the steady development of new school buildings, which paralleled the city's population growth.

A 1951 report, *Buffalo Public Schools in the Mid-Twentieth Century*, describes the Buffalo Public Schools as having "two heavy building periods...The first extended over a 30 year period from 1881 through 1910..." and the second "from 1921 to 1930." During the first period, schools were designed by Howard Beck, the city architect, and during the second, they were designed through a coalition of local architects guided by an expert national consultant on school design, William B. Ittner. Interestingly, the construction of the portion of PS57 that this nomination concerns fell between these two periods of heavy construction during a relative lull in

¹ Henry J. Wood, *Schools of Buffalo: A Souvenir History and Description of the Public Schools of Buffalo* (Buffalo: Mrs. Ida C. Wood, 1899)

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school construction in Buffalo but a time when explosive growth in Buffalo's East Side was demanding expanded facilities. As a result, PS57 is unusual as one of the few Buffalo school buildings constructed during the early twentieth century that were commissioned directly from an architect. Nonetheless, it adheres strongly to the school design standards common to the period.

The Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood

PS57 is located between Sears and Playter Streets half a block south of Broadway and four blocks east of the intersection of Broadway Street and Fillmore Avenue, an intersection that serves as the center of the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood, historically the vibrant center of Buffalo's Polish community. The Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood is located on the east side of Buffalo approximately two miles northeast of downtown. Broadway Street was originally laid out in 1821 to the eastern edge of the village of Buffalo and then was extended east to Fillmore Avenue as a plank road in 1848; it was paved east of Fillmore in the 1870s. Fillmore Avenue was surveyed in the early 1830s and was extended through the neighborhood in the late 1840s. Beginning in the 1850s, settlement of the east side spread east and south from downtown along the city's railroad network. The area was annexed into the city of Buffalo in 1854, a year in which the city's land area expanded from 4½ to 42 square miles.²

The east side was the first portion of the city to become industrialized, and with the factories came large populations of immigrant workers who settled nearby. By 1855, Buffalo had a large German community which first settled in the Fruit Belt neighborhood northeast of downtown and then moved east to settle in the northwest portion of the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. In the early 1870s, there were only thirty Polish families in Buffalo, but a major wave of Polish immigrants arrived in the city beginning in the late 1870s, peaking in the mid-1880s, and continuing somewhat slower until ending with the passage of the Johnson immigration law of 1924. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Broadway-Fillmore was known as the "Polish Colony" of Buffalo and grew to about 100,000 people by the early twentieth century. By 1910, the neighborhood was over 90 percent Polish and was the sixth-largest Polish community in the United States. The development and evolution of the neighborhood's physical form is largely intertwined with the rise and fall of this community.

Before 1890, most Polish immigrants came from German Poland. After that, more came from the Austrian and Russian sectors of Poland. Most of the immigrants came from a peasant existence and had little education, but those from German Poland came with the equivalent of a fifth or sixth grade American education. As such,

² Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood context statement is largely adapted from "Historical and Architectural Overview" within: Clinton Brown Company Architecture, pc, *Historic Resources Intensive Level Survey: Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood, City of Buffalo* (Buffalo: Buffalo Preservation Board, 2004), Section 3.

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some came to America with skills and nest eggs, but especially during the largest rush of immigration during the 1880s, some of the new arrivals were quite destitute and there was a need for social services. For a time, the city put up a wooden shelter, but the conditions within bred dirt and disease. Many of the Poles worked as street laborers or in sewing for dealers of ready-made clothing, filling the need for inexpensive labor in the post-Civil War economy.

The early physical development of the neighborhood is largely attributed to two individuals: Joseph Bork and Jan Pitass. Joseph Bork was a land speculator who, in 1885, bought the land bounded by Broadway, Sycamore and Fillmore Streets and the Belt Line Railway. Within two years, he had laid out streets, sidewalks and 1100 houses along them. Bork had been developing more slowly in the neighborhood since the 1870s, at first constructing simple one-story residences that he sold for a modest down payment of \$25 to \$50. Beginning in the 1880s, he started erecting two-story frame dwellings in which the occupants could rent out part of the building to help pay the mortgage, as many new homeowners chose to do. Polish immigrants were generally very interested in home ownership, when their means allowed it, and Bork enforced this trend through a policy of never renting out homes, only selling them. Nonetheless, most houses held multiple families in addition to the owners, which resulted in an extremely densely populated urban neighborhood. Other investors invested in the development of the neighborhood to a lesser extent, and land development was also undertaken by land associations composed primarily of Polish immigrant shareholders. Examples of these were the Home Land Association, the Queen City and Sobieski Land Company and the Pulaski Land Association. Jan Pitass was a young Polish priest who came to be known as the godfather of the "polish colony" and worked for decades to facilitate and encourage its development. As a result, he also became very wealthy through the land associations. The dense neighborhood that developed through these Polish homesteading organizations led to an intense need for new and enlarged school facilities such as PS57 during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Daily life in Broadway-Fillmore largely revolved around two institutions: the Broadway Market and the neighborhood parishes. The physical form of the neighborhood was a striking contrast between side streets lined with a dense modest collection of clapboard workers' cottages and the massive highly ornamented edifices of the parishes alongside. The first Polish parish in the neighborhood was St. Stanislaus, located at Peckham and Townsend Streets, originally established in 1873, for which a two-story wood frame church was erected in 1874. In 1882, construction began on a traditional-style cathedral designed by architect T.O. Sullivan, completed 1886. The second parish in the neighborhood was Saint Adalbert's Basilica, built 1890. Finally, in 1909, Corpus Christi Church was completed as the third parish in the immediate neighborhood, located at the corner of Clark and Kent Streets, just two blocks from PS57. The Broadway Market was established in 1888 and eventually grew to a full city block and provided for all the daily shopping needs of the neighborhood. It continues to operate, the last remaining public market in Buffalo.

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About the time the building described in this nomination was completed in 1914, annual reports of the Buffalo City Schools show that while this neighborhood remained overwhelmingly Polish, it was less of an immigrant community. In 1917, of the 1,349 total students registered at PS57, 1,248 were from Buffalo and only 71 were from outside the United States. However, of the total, 1,331 were reported as of Polish heritage.³

Broadway-Fillmore was never a wealthy neighborhood, but its high population density and its heritage as an immigrant center of arrival made it a vibrant place throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, as with many urban neighborhoods throughout the United States, disinvestment began to set in post-World War II as suburbanization accelerated and the factories closed that had provided jobs to generations of residents. As a result, the former hub of commerce at Broadway and Fillmore faded into obscurity. Many families with Polish roots left the neighborhood for suburban areas, most often Cheektowaga, a few miles to the east. In their place, the neighborhood became largely African American, though it remains quite culturally diverse. For example, a growing Bangladeshi immigrant population is clustered in a portion of the neighborhood as well. As major revitalization has not occurred in this neighborhood since it was built around the turn of the twentieth century, most of the homes that remain today are the original ones built during this Polish immigration period.

Public School #57 (PS57)

Ongoing rapid Polish immigration into the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood during the 1880s through 1910s seems to have been the impetus for the original PS57 in 1897 (no longer extant) as well as the 1913 addition described in this nomination. In his 1895-1896 annual report, the school superintendent stated in regard to the district's school facilities that "the worst condition of things at present is found as usual on the East Side. Two buildings are now in the process of construction and another will soon be begun which will afford a great relief. The first is a building on Sears street, a short distance south of the Polish Market, which will take a considerable number of children from No. 31, on Emslie Street; No. 24, on Fillmore avenue, near Best street, and No. 44, at the corner of Broadway and Person street. ... Both of these buildings will be completed by the first of April."⁴ The next year, during PS57's second year of operation and the first in which it appeared in the school district's statistics, PS57 had an average registration of 1,004 students, 554 of which attended on an average day. These students were accommodated in a school building that contained seventeen classrooms, but no recreation facilities nor assembly space.⁵

³ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1916-1917* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1917).

⁴ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1895-1896* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1896)

⁵ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1898-1899* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1899), 90, 132

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Approximately ten years later, in 1905-1906, PS57 had grown to a registration of 1,300 students, of which 742 attended on an average day. The school district's 1908-1909 annual report reports show growing overcrowding, stating that "School No. 57 on Sears street is badly in need of more room. The School Committee has had the matter under consideration for a long time. Something should be done in that locality without further delay."⁶ The 1909-1910 annual report reiterates the point, stating that "At PS40, additional land should be purchased. This is also true of PS55 and 57, where more room is needed for playground purposes, for additional classrooms and assembly rooms."⁷ Each of these schools was located in or near Broadway-Fillmore. The problem finally began to be addressed during the 1910-1911 school year, when the school system reports that it had made a purchase of land "between Sears and Playter Streets for an addition to School No. 57."⁸ Design for an expanded facility did not begin immediately, however, and by 1912 the superintendent recommended "the erection of a new building here as soon as possible. The condition of the school is a badly overcrowded one, and the school is scattered around in very undesirable annexes." The student registration that year was 1,537, of which 899 attended on an average day.⁹ At the time, it was reported that PS57 was "located...in the heart of the most thickly populated school district in the city...the school census shows that this district has a population of 6000 children from the age of four to 18 years old."¹⁰

Finally, in 1912, architect Carl G. Schmill was retained to draw up an addition for PS57; however, when bid, construction came in well above the expected cost. As a result, the Buffalo Common Council issued a resolution for a redesign and re-bid of the addition in the attempt to save \$25,000 from the approximately \$150,000 construction cost, questioning whether "swimming pools...and kindred luxuries" should be constructed in schools. However, the council felt that "it would be well to retain the swimming pool feature [at this school] in view of the large and growing Polish population, the understanding that this is to be the last of its line for many years to come." The council also questioned why prices had risen to twice what they had been a few years before for sixteen room schools, suggesting part of the reason was that they had hired an outside architect instead of using the city architect for design of this building. Nonetheless, the council authorized the additional fee for the architect to redesign the addition.¹² No record has been found of what changes were made to the design to lower costs.

⁶ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1908-1909* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1909)

⁷ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1909-1910* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1910).

⁸ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1910-1911* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1911).

⁹ Buffalo Schools Department of Public Instruction, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo, 1911-1912* (Buffalo: Buffalo City Schools, 1912), 162

¹⁰ *Buffalo Evening News*, "Annex to School No. 57 in Sears Street."

¹² *The Buffalo Courier*, "Halt in Luxuries for City Schools: Report Favors Alteration of Plans for Proposed New Building With View to Possible Saving of \$25,000," December 1912.

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By the end of 1913, the addition was under construction. It was reported that “at a cost of about \$130,000 the city is erecting this 16-room addition to PS57. The class room building is to be three stories in height and faces on Sears street. This is to be connected by a corridor with the assembly room building in Playter street, which is to be two stories high. When completed the school will be one of the most modern in the state. It is to be ready for occupancy next September.” It was noted that the addition included “assemblyroom, gymnasium, shower and swimming pool building being erected as part of the addition.”¹³ This was one of the first swimming pools in an elementary school.¹⁴

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1914 show, in addition to the school, the lot included a small frame building marked as a dwelling along Playter Street, located between the “old” building and the addition, then under construction. This building (no longer extant) was an Engineers’ Cottage. Buffalo, like most urban areas of its time, passed a boiler pressure license law that required steam boilers in highly populated areas to be operated by licensed personnel in order to decrease risk of explosions. During the winter months, the boiler needed almost constant attention, so the school district opted to provide cottages for engineers to live on-site. The engineers also doubled as janitorial staff and provided a level of on-site security while also shoveling snow and providing other as-needed duties. As the engineer’s wife and children often lived with him in the cottage, they often performed some of the cleaning duties associated with the job. The last engineers’ cottage in Buffalo was decommissioned in 1974.¹⁶

During the 1950s, the school district undertook a concerted effort to replace the oldest remaining schools throughout the city and several that dated from the 1860s through the 1890s were demolished during this decade. Among them was the “old building” at PS57, which was demolished in 1960, leaving only the 1914 addition.¹⁷ Unlike many other schools, at PS57 a new building was not constructed to replace the portion that was removed, likely due to decreased enrollment that no longer necessitated such extensive facilities. At the time that the older building was demolished, it is noted that “exterior repairs and construction on the existing building” also occurred. The scope of this work is not known, but this is likely when the south half of the South Hyphen was added and may also have been when the original wood windows were replaced with the current aluminum assemblies.

At the time that the old building was demolished, the 1914 addition (the current PS57 building) was reassigned from being an independent school to being an annex to PS58, which is no longer standing but was located at 309 Sobieski Street. When PS58 shut down in 1961, the addition became an annex to PS44 (still standing at

¹³ *Buffalo Evening News*, “Annex to School No. 57 in Sears Street,” December 20, 1913.

¹⁴ G. Morton Weed, *School Days of Yesterday: The Story of the Buffalo Public Schools* (Buffalo: Buffalo Board of Education, 2000), 63.

¹⁶ G. Morton Weed, *From the Boiler Room: The Buffalo Public Schools, 1807-1984* (Buffalo: Buffalo Board of Education, 1984), 7-8.

¹⁷ Board of Education of Buffalo, New York. *The Buffalo Public Schools: A Progress Report for 1959-1960* (Buffalo: Board of Education, 1960).

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1379 Broadway, NR eligible) until 1973, when it was once again assigned its own principal. PS57 was renamed Broadway Community School in 1995 and Broadway Village Elementary Community School in 1998 before finally closing its doors in 2003. From approximately the early 1990s to the time of the school's closing, the yard south of the school contained a one-story prefabricated metal building housing approximately six classrooms that was linked to the South Hyphen with an enclosed metal corridor. This prefabricated building was removed from the site around 2005 but its concrete block foundation remains. The main building has remained vacant since closing as a school.¹⁸ PS57 is planned to be rehabilitated into affordable housing beginning in the summer of 2018.

Early Twentieth Century Standardized School Design

PS57 is a good example of the standardized form of elementary school building architecture well established by the time of its erection in 1914. Standardization of public school design had its roots as early as the 1840s:

As cities and towns became more populous and greater attention was focused on establishing the proper infrastructure for a growing society, school buildings became a new project for societal reformers. One early scholar described early school buildings as "almost universally, badly located, exposed to the noise, dust and danger of the highway, unattractive, if not positively repulsive in their external and internal experience." An early model for the standardized classroom was drawn up by Horace Mann, an early educational reformer, which called for standard rows of desks, windows on two sides of the room, and a variety of other necessary amenities.¹⁹

These early attempts at standard school design may have helped address the problem of standardizing buildings, but ultimately this became a necessity as cities and towns were faced with increasing enrollment as more children were expected to attend schools as child labor laws became more commonplace and the nation was thrust into the Industrial Revolution. Thus, even more so than before, "schools built during the last decades of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century were therefore largely standardized utilitarian spaces that were designed to house as many students as possible, maximizing classroom space."²⁰

Around the turn of the century, several books were written codifying these "appropriate" design and construction standards for school buildings. In one of them penned just three years prior to the construction of the PS57 addition, its author A.D.F. Hamlin, in an essay entitled "Consideration in School House Design" declared, "The data for the designing of public school buildings have been more completely standardized than

¹⁸ Weed, *School Days of Yesterday*, 63.

¹⁹ Lindsay Baker, *A History of School Design and its Indoor Environmental Standards, 1900 to Today* (Washington, DC: National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, 2012), 4.

²⁰ Ibid.

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for any other type of structure, except the American public library.” He further said that since this “makes the problem of school design comparatively easy for the architect ... does this give him the opportunity, and thereby impose upon him the duty of devoting abundant time and careful study to the details and execution of the design...”²¹ The standards Hamlin described encompassed many aspects of school design – sanitation, heating, cloakrooms, but perhaps none so much as classroom orientation and daylighting provisions.

Daylighting was a fundamentally important aspect of nineteenth and early twentieth century school buildings, due to the lack of electric light available for illumination. During this time, artificial lighting was provided entirely in the form of incandescent light and in 1918 the Illuminating Engineering Society published the *Code of Lighting School Buildings*, which called for 3 footcandles minimum of artificial light in classrooms, noting that “ordinary practice” was more in the range of 3.5-6.0 footcandles.²² (Contemporary accepted practice is at least 30, often 50-60 footcandles.)

In a related topic, Hamlin also outlined classroom orientation standards, calling for classrooms to be “slightly oblong”, ideally 32 by 25 feet (other contemporary standards stated 27 to 30 feet in length and 20 to 24 feet in width) and ceiling heights of 13 to 14 feet.²³ Both of these spatial prescriptions are intended to allow for “total floor area not less than 18 square feet per pupil with at least 216 cubic feet as the minimum cubic volume per pupil,” in six or seven rows of desks, one per pupil. Classrooms were to be lighted from one side only. “The best light for a classroom is that which comes from the left side and slightly in front of the pupil.” (apparently this view was based on the assumption that students should write with their right hand, and thus light coming over their right shoulder would be blocked by their arm.) Hamlin had even more detailed specifications for windows:

*The total window area should equal 40 to 50 per cent of the total wall area of the long side of the room, and in general, one-quarter the floor area of the classroom. The windows should equal up to within 6 inches of the ceiling; the windows stools should be from 3 to 3½ feet from the floor. Light from below that level is useless; it is the height to the top of the window that determines its lighting efficiency. The sill should, however, not be higher than 3½ feet from the floor, as it is desirable that the pupils should be able to rest their eyes at times by looking out at more or less distant objects...*²⁵

The influence of these standards is clearly evident in the form of PS57 as it was built and as it largely remains. PS57 meets these standards in nearly every aspect – for example the standards state that windows should take

²¹ A.D.F. Hamlin, *Modern School Houses: Being a Series of Authoritative Articles on Planning, Sanitation, Heating and Ventilation* (New York: Swetland Publishing Co., 1910), “Consideration in School House Design” p. 3.

²² Baker, *A History of School Design and Its Indoor Environmental Standards*, 7.

²³ Claire Ross, “Niagara Falls High School,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2001, Section 8, pages 3-4.

²⁵ Hamlin, *Modern School Houses*, 8.

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up between 40-50 percent of the wall area of a typical classroom and be equal in area to approximately 25 percent of the floor area of a classroom. At PS57, for the typical classroom, these figures are 44 percent and 25.6 percent, respectively. (Note that while many of the windows have been partially infilled by opaque panels, the rough openings remain generally as constructed.)

Along with evolving ideas for school design, PS57 is representative of early 20th century changes to school curriculum changes and evolving ideas on a public school's place in the community. This evolution is described well in a 1918 article describing the need for an addition to PS60 in the Riverside neighborhood. Similar to PS57, the PS60 campus included an older school (in that case, opened in 1898) that was to receive an addition.

The school was erected to take care of the fast-growing population of the Riverside district and 20 years ago was considered an up-to-date building. However, in these days when education has been extended to include so many practical vocational subjects and the state is requiring so much physical training, it is sadly deficient in its facilities for manual training, domestic art, cooking, physical training, and recreational education...[it is] without an assembly room, without a domestic science room, without a gym, without a playground, without a domestic art room, without a lunch or recreation room, without sanitary drinking fountains.²⁸

While floor plans of the original PS57 constructed in 1897 have not been found, school district reports state that it had seventeen classrooms but no other spaces such as an assembly room or gymnasium. This seems to have been common practice at the time, as authors describing school design present the 1890s school as a collection of classrooms (one-room schoolhouses) under a single roof, with no other functional division of space, but for circulation and storage. Classrooms were arranged around corridors running the width or length of the building with either a central stair or stairs at the ends of the building.²⁹ During this time, schools continued to be treated as an extension of the domestic sphere (as shown by the common use of the term *schoolhouse* during this period.)³⁰

During the first two decades of the twentieth century, school design underwent a profound change in the expectations of the physical form of a school and the reorientation of the school in the public imagination as a civic institution to serve as a center of the community. Guiding this change, between 1910 and 1920 New York State implemented twenty-five new requirements pertaining to school building construction for a total of 42 mandated standards. Some of these standards included: ideal lighting conditions (as described above); building

²⁸ "School 60 Edition," *Buffalo Evening News*, Saturday, April 20, 1918.

²⁹ Roysin Bennet Younkin and Albert Rex, "Public School #60 (PS60)," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2014, Section 8, page 9

³⁰ Matthew Shoen, Kelsie Hoke, and Caitlin Moriarty, "Public School #77 (PS77)," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2017, Section 8, page 8

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materials, requiring fireproof materials for halls, stairs, and basements; adequate space for physical education; and provision for assembly rooms for community gatherings.³¹

The early twentieth century also saw safety standards that imposed design elements upon school buildings. There had been legislated requirements in the nineteenth century, but a fire in an elementary school in Collingwood, Ohio, in 1908 led to a movement for standardized safety elements in the design of schools. Nearly 170 children and two teachers were killed in the Ohio fire, partly due to the inward opening doors that blocked the exit of the students as well as the presence of incendiary building materials.³³ By the time that this portion of PS57 was built, the standards included dual staircases, fireproof materials, and isolated heating equipment.³⁴

While its construction was necessitated by extreme growth in its surrounding neighborhood, the design of the PS57 addition appears to have been heavily informed by the evolution in school building standards between 1897 and 1914. New design standards regarding daylighting and fireproofing are strictly adhered to in its design and it included specialized rooms for “domestic science” and “manual training.” It also included a gymnasium, swimming pool, and a large auditorium, spaces that had become expected for every early twentieth century school and were augmentations to inadequate or nonexistent spaces in the older 1897 school building.³⁵ The positioning of the school as a community center is evident in the PS57 addition through the inclusion of separate exterior entrances to the auditorium, gymnasium, and swimming pool at the north end of the auditorium wing that could have allowed that wing of the school to be accessible to the community when the rest of the building was not.

Carl Schmill, Architect

Architect Carl Schmill was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany and graduated from architectural college there before being employed by the Krupp Armory Works in Essen. After a few years, he opened an architectural office in Oberhausen, Cologne, in 1877. Three years later, he emigrated to the United States and settled in the fast-growing city of Buffalo. For the next nine years, he was employed in the architectural office of H.H. Little, a firm known for the design of prominent residences along Buffalo’s more fashionable streets.³⁶ The firm also designed several civic buildings during Schmill’s tenure there, including an addition to PS15 (addition constructed 1884, school demolished 1965), PS46 (constructed 1888, still in use as an Adult Education Center), and the Medical College for Niagara University (formerly at 295 Ellicott Street,

³¹ Younkin and Rex, “Public School #60, Section 8, page 10

³³ “Collingwood, Ohio Terrible School Fire, Mar 1908.” *GenDisasters.com: Events That Touched Our Ancestors’ Lives*. <http://www3.gendisasters.com/ohio/2520/collinwood,-oh-terrible-school-fire,-mar-1908>.

³⁴ Hamlin, *Modern School Houses*, 11.

³⁵ Hamlin, *Modern School Houses*, 4.

³⁶ *Buffalo Evening News*, “Schmill Funeral Will be Held Tomorrow,” January 14, 1914.

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demolished.) Late in his tenure there, the firm also received the commission for the 1889 building for the Broadway Market in Broadway-Fillmore (demolished 1950s).³⁷

Involvement in these civic commissions likely helped Schmill gain the experience and connections to engage in civic work and the Broadway Market commission may have given him connections in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. In 1889, Schmill opened his own office in the Fuch Building on Main Street and later moved to the Prudential (Guaranty) Building. From 1906 to his death in 1914, he worked with partner George C. Gould and the firm was known as Schmill & Gould. From the 1890s onward, he became one of Buffalo's most sought-after architects for the design of churches, convents, rectories, and schools, primarily religious but also some secular. His commissions are primarily found in former German and Polish immigrant neighborhoods. His most prominent church designs are Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church (NR-listed 2007, located one block southwest of PS57), St. Gerard's Roman Catholic Church (extant), and St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church (extant), each in Broadway-Fillmore, and the Church of the Assumption (extant) in Black Rock. In addition to the churches themselves, Schmill was often commissioned to design convents, rectories and parochial schools within these and other parish complexes. Schmill's body of public school work is smaller, but in addition to PS57, Schmill is known to have designed PS60 in the Riverside neighborhood of Buffalo as well as public schools in Lockport and Niagara Falls.

Of interesting note is a letter that Schmill contributed to the *Buffalo Evening News* in 1895 that stated that architects should be licensed and receive a certificate, so that everyone who wants to be architect would require a college education and go through an examination "before a board of men who possess the qualifications and knowledge of all branches required to make a well-learned and educated architect." He stated his motive being the elevation of architects to a position of higher respect in society.³⁸ Carl passed away in his home at 57 East Utica Street on January 13, 1914 after a short illness, which makes the PS57 addition one of his last built commissions. In addition to his two sons, he was also survived by his wife and two daughters, Elsie K. and Paula.³⁹

Two of Mr. Schmill's children, Karl G. and William W., also became architects. Karl was educated in the Buffalo Public Schools at Masten Park High School and then studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania under Paul Cret, receiving his degree in 1910.⁴⁰ Karl became part of his father's practice soon after graduating from architecture school and by 1922 he was leading the firm, then named Karl Schmill and

³⁷ Chuck LaChiusa, "H.H. Little – A Short Biography," Buffalo as an Architectural Museum, accessed May 1, 2018, <http://www.buffaloah.com/a/archs/little/index.html>.

³⁸ Carl Schmill, "They Should be Licensed: More Letters for Architects in Which 'The News' Suggestion is Heartily Endorsed," *Buffalo Evening News*, September 16, 1895.

³⁹ *Buffalo Evening News*, "Schmill Funeral Will Be Held Tomorrow."

⁴⁰ Laris Meloy, "Old World Beauty Put in New Buffalo Churches," *Buffalo Courier*, November 5, 1922.

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Son.⁴² In 1914, after his father's death, William also joined the firm. During World War II, Karl served as chairman of the region's Bomb Shelter Committee. William died in 1952 and Karl continued to practice with a new partner, Casper. J. Hoffmeyer, until his death in 1967.⁴³ Records show that Karl was involved in the region's architectural community throughout his professional life. He served as treasurer for the American Institute of Architects Buffalo and Western New York Chapter in 1923 and 1924, president in 1930 and 1931 and vice president from 1942-1944.⁴⁴

Conclusion

Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57) is significant as a good example of standardized school design, built to augment and update an older existing school to bring it up to modern educational standards in the early twentieth century. The building was built to incorporate specialized classrooms for vocational disciplines such as manual training that had become valued aspects of the curriculum in the twenty years since the original school had been built, and incorporated a gymnasium and swimming pool, as well as an auditorium, facilities that could be used for an extension of school's curricular offerings but also allowed the school to serve as a community center for its surrounding neighborhood. Finally, the physical layout and construction of the school incorporates strict standards for school construction during this era dictating aspects such as daylighting and fireproof construction. PS 57 is locally significant under Criterion C for embodying the design principles of early twentieth century school standardization in Buffalo, New York and has high integrity, as it retains nearly all of the original features that demonstrate these standards.

⁴² Meloy, "Old World Beauty Put in New Buffalo Churches."

⁴³ *Buffalo Courier-Express*, "K.G. Schmill, Architect, Dies at 81," Saturday, May 13, 1967.

⁴⁴ AIA Buffalo/WNY, "AIA Buffalo/WNY History," accessed 2013, http://aiabuffalowny.org/about_us/history/.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section 9 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)
Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the property is indicated with a heavy line on the attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nomination has been drawn to include all property historically and currently associated with Buffalo Public School #57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

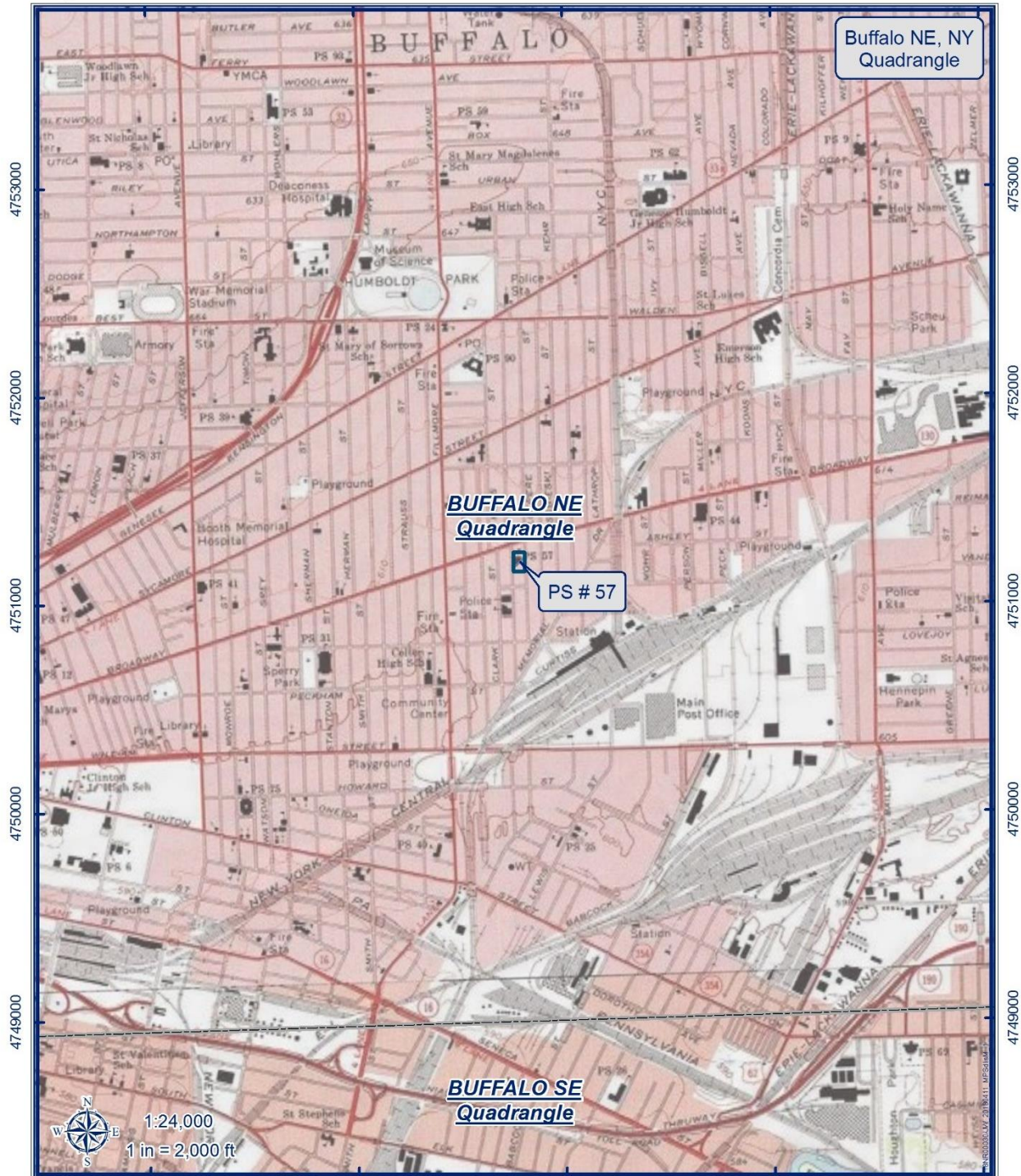
Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School # 57 (PS 57)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

243 Sears Street
Buffalo, NY 14212



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Buffalo Public School #57

Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

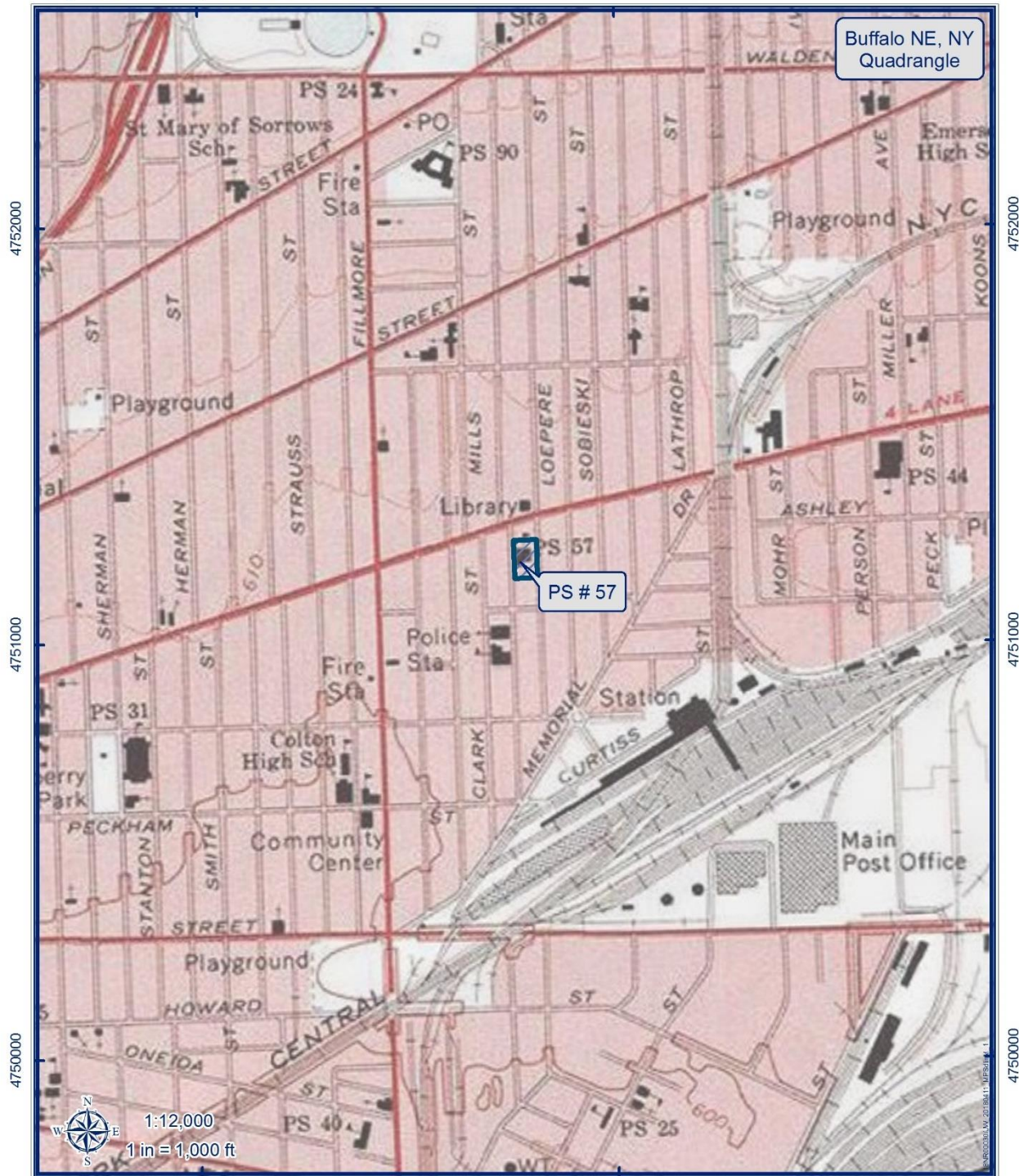
Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 3

Buffalo Public School # 57 (PS 57)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

243 Sears Street
Buffalo, NY 14212



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Buffalo Public School #57

 Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 4

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School # 57 (PS 57)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

243 Sears Street
Buffalo, NY 14212



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Buffalo Public School #57

NEW YORK STATE OF NEW YORK
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 5

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School # 57 (PS 57)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

243 Sears Street
Buffalo, NY 14212



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Buffalo Public School #57

 NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information:

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)
City or Vicinity: Buffalo
County: Erie
State: NY
Photographer: LaLuce D. Mitchell
Date Photographed: May 25, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Flynn Battaglia Architects
617 Main St., Suite 401, Buffalo, NY 14203
Number of Photos: 20

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0001
Looking southeast from Sears Street toward north and west (front) elevations

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0002
Entry pavilion on front (Sears Street) elevation

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0003
Looking northeast. Connector to former school visible at right side.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0004
Looking north from former schoolyard toward classroom wing (left side) and auditorium wing (right side) connected by a hyphen

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0005
Looking northwest toward classroom wing from former schoolyard

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0006
Looking northwest from Player Street

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0007
Looking west toward east elevation of auditorium wing

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0008
Looking southwest from Playter Street

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0009
Looking southwest toward classroom wing and boiler room (at left side, in front of hyphen)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 2

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0010
Typical basement corridor within classroom wing

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0011
Looking east within first floor cross-axial corridor through hyphen to entry doors into auditorium

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0012
Typical classroom wing corridor at first through third floors

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0013
Typical classroom, looking toward front of room

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0014
Typical classroom, looking toward rear of room

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0015
Typical view of open stairs at north and south ends of the classroom wing

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0016
Detail view of stair stringer ornament at open stair within classroom wing

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0017
Typical toilet room within classroom wing

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0018
Auditorium, looking northwest toward stage and proscenium

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0019
Gymnasium, looking northeast

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57)_0020
Swimming pool, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

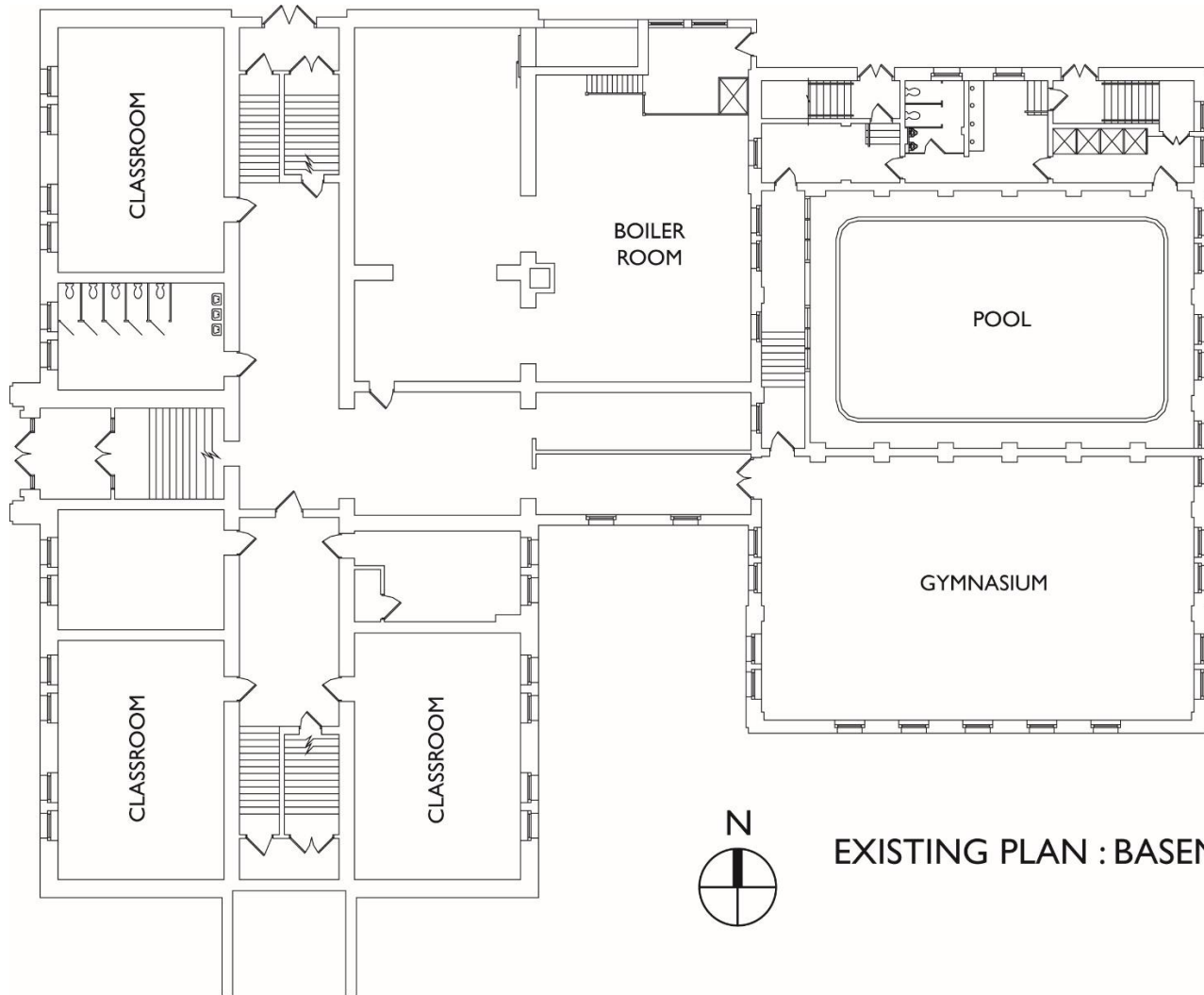
Section 11 Page 3

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



EXISTING PLAN : BASEMENT

PS57, Current Basement Plan
Not to Scale

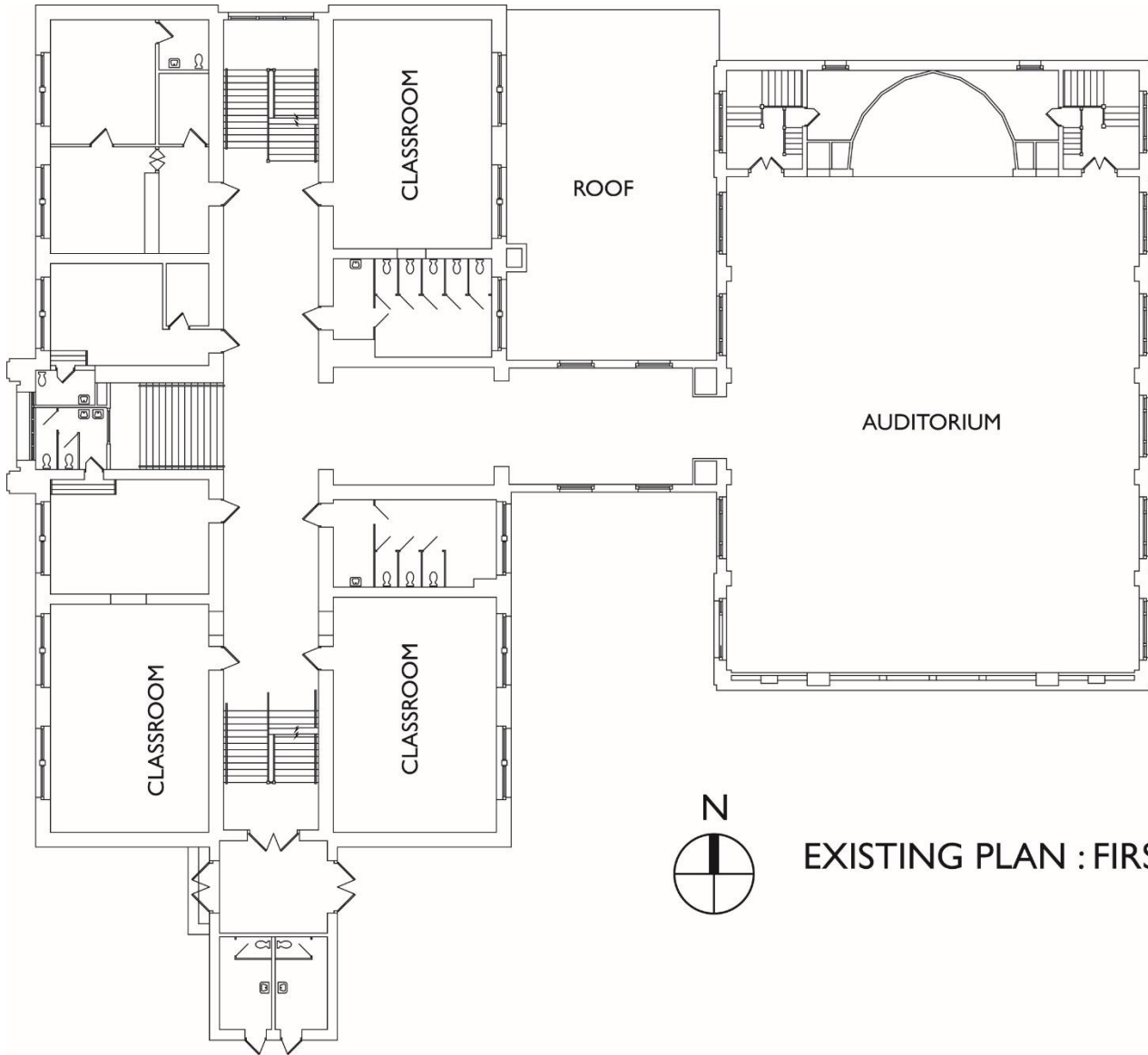
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 4

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



PS57, Current First Floor Plan
Not to Scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

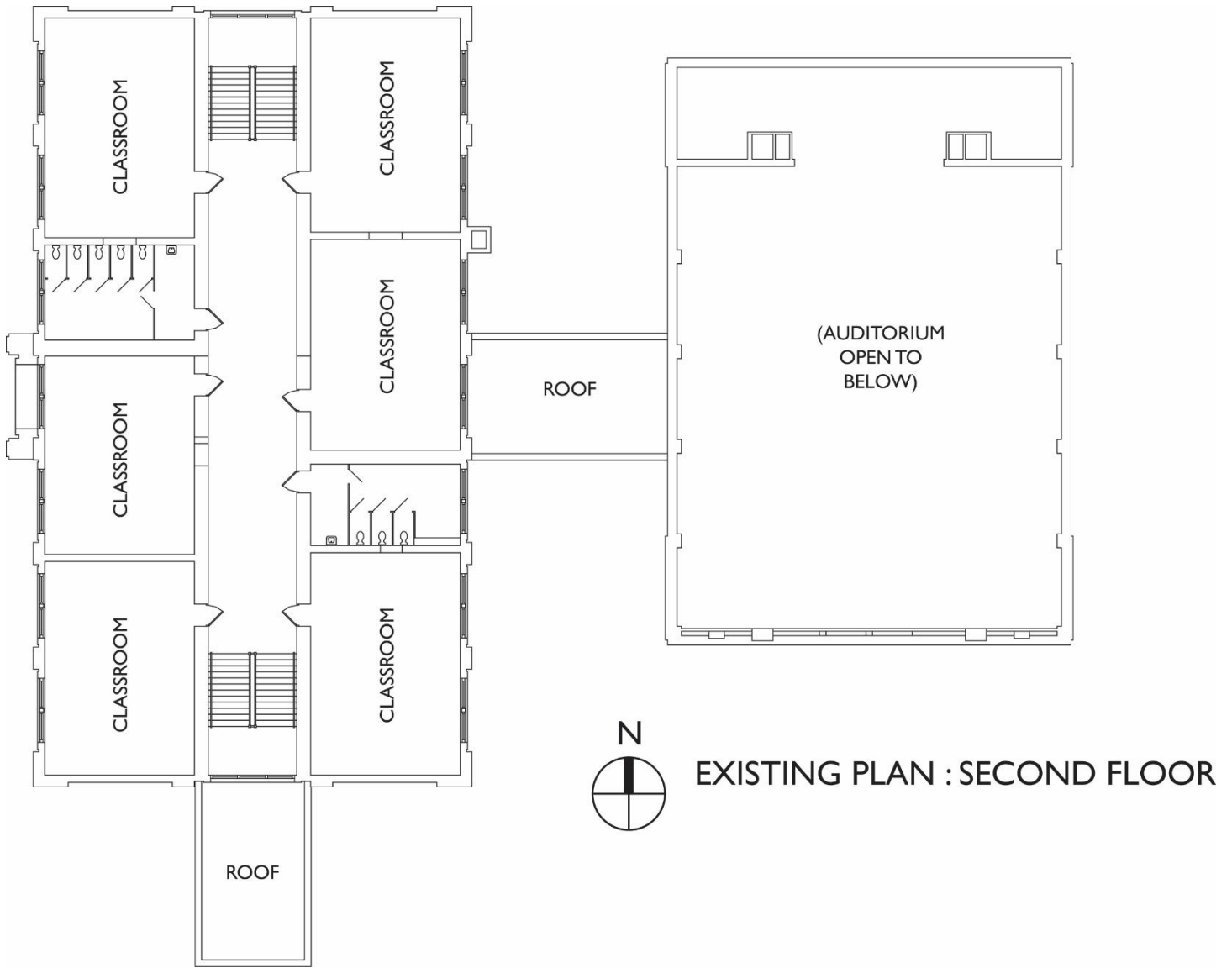
Section 11 Page 5

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



PS57, Current Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

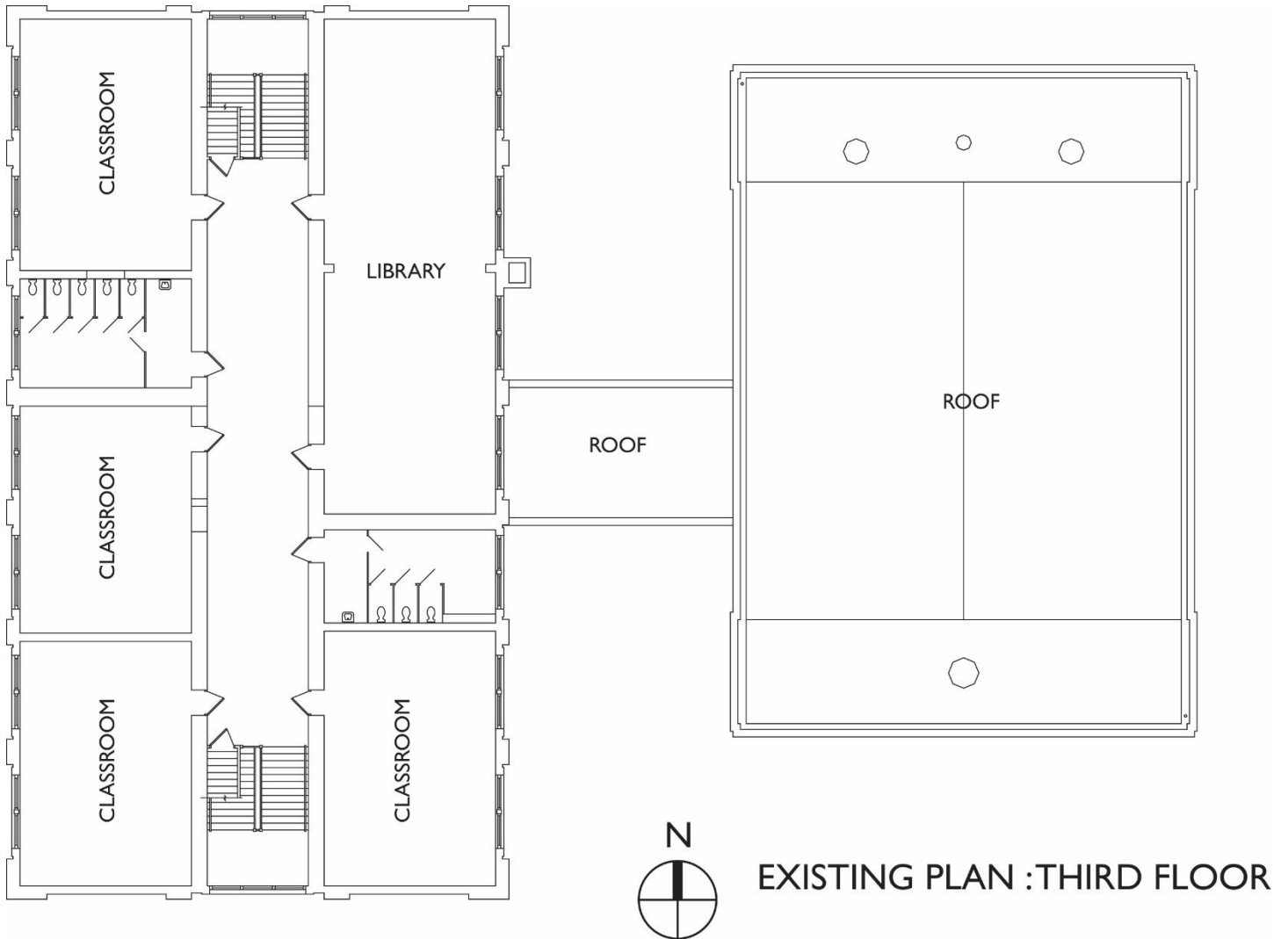
Section 11 Page 6

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



PS57, Current Third Floor Plan

Not to Scale

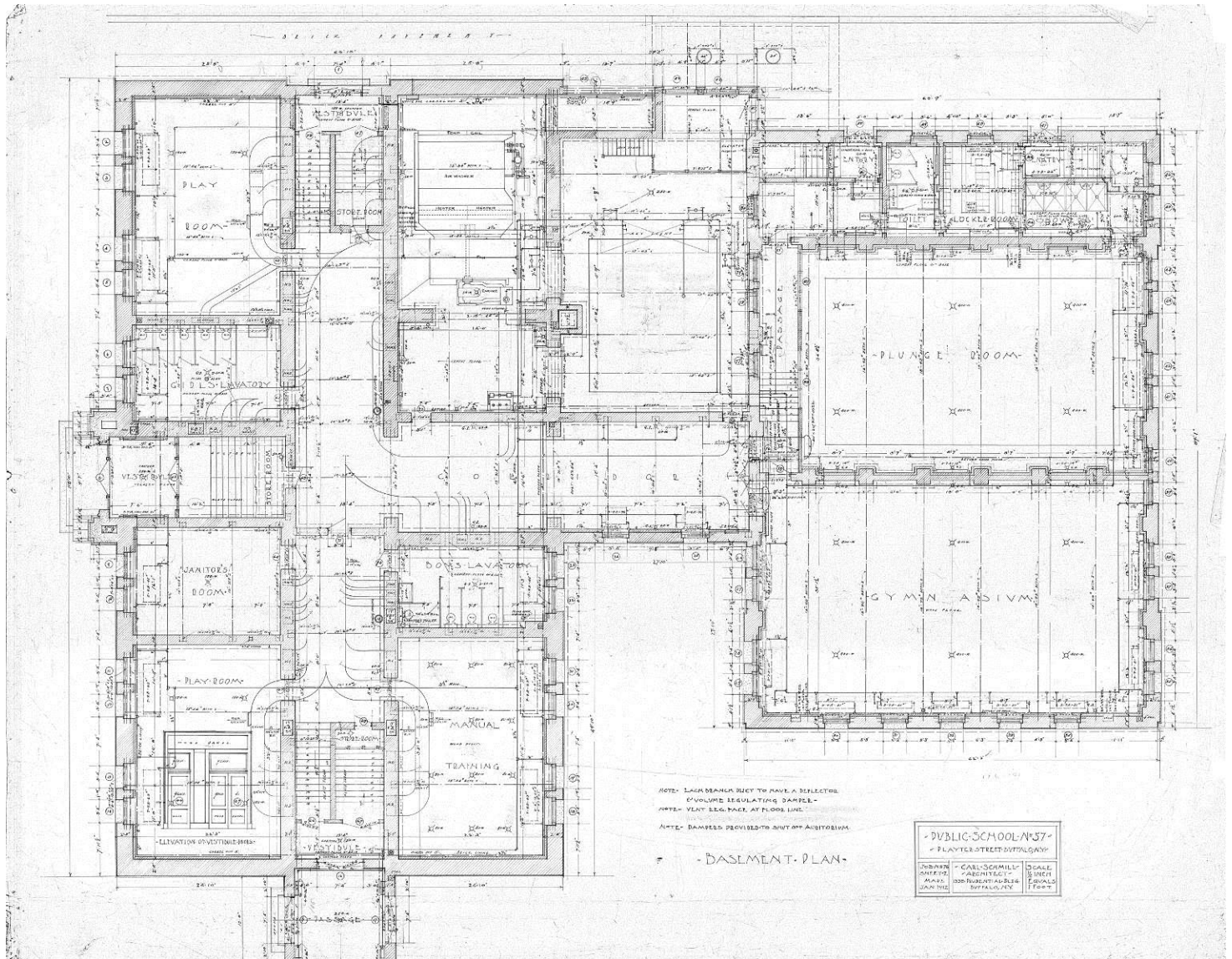
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



PS57 Basement Plan (1912, architect Carl Schmill)

Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

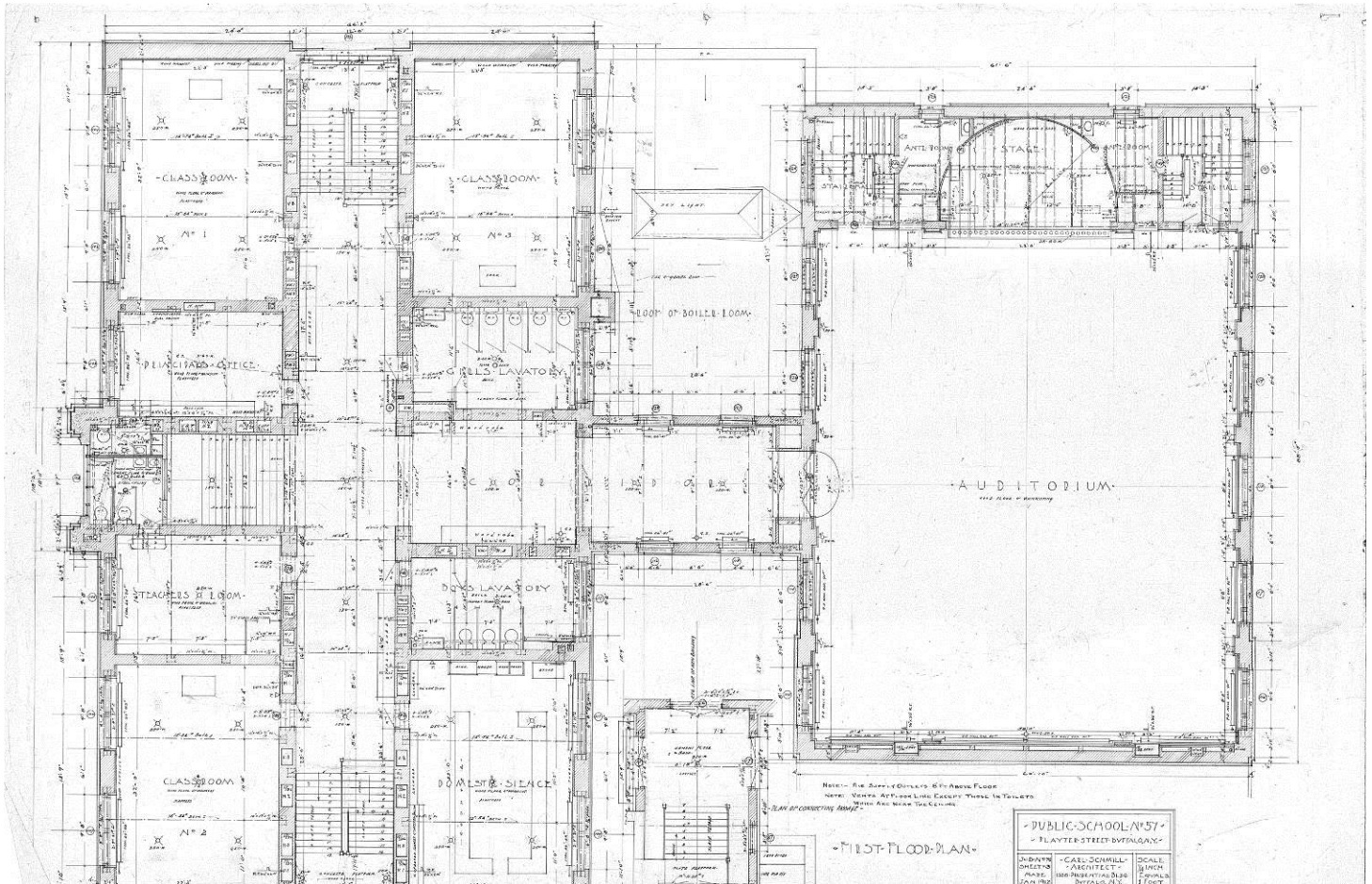
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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



PS57 First Floor Plan (1912, architect Carl Schmill)

Not to scale

Note the historic, cross-axial floor plan with a corridor terminating in access to the auditorium.

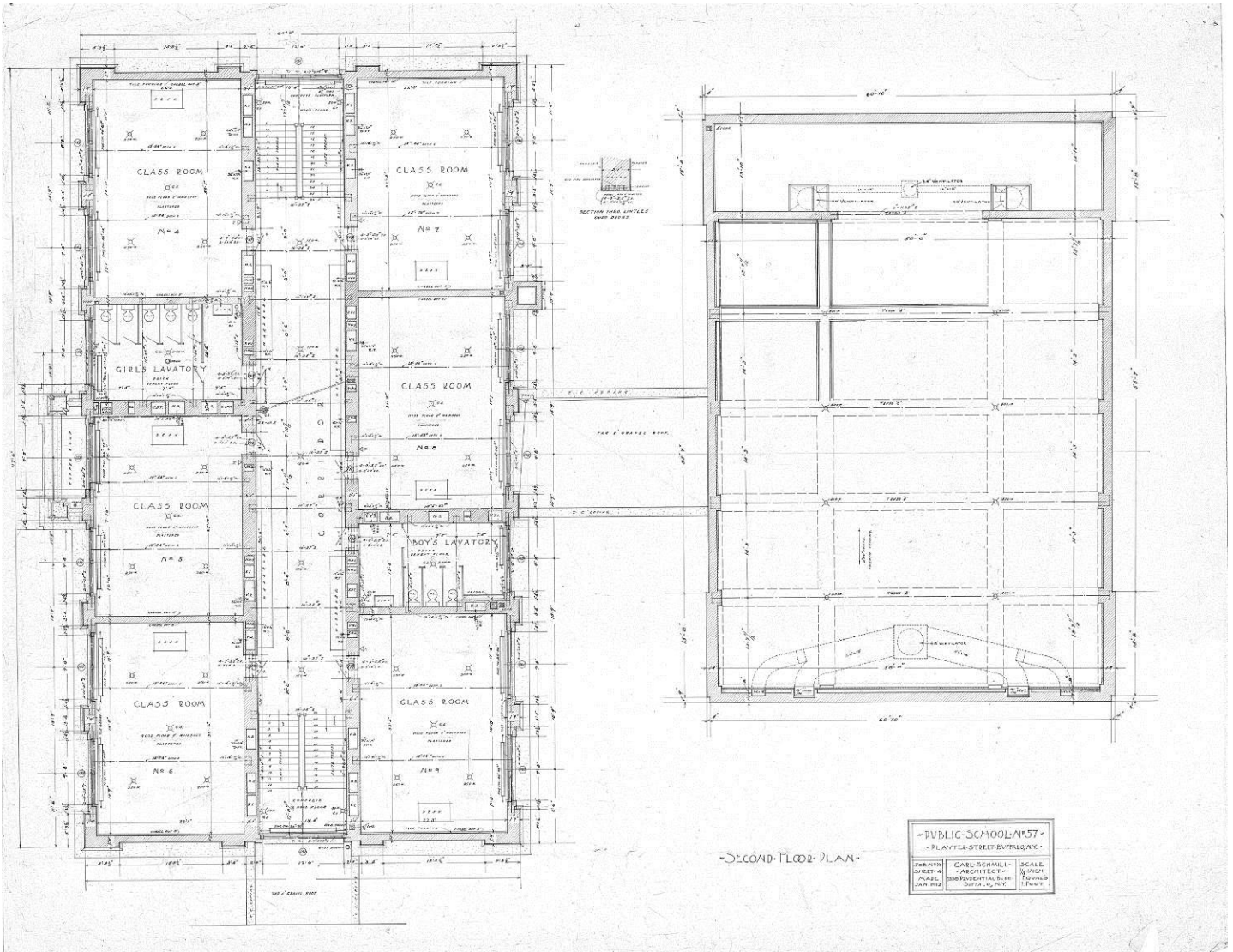
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



PS57 Second Floor Plan (1912, architect Carl Schmill)
Not to scale

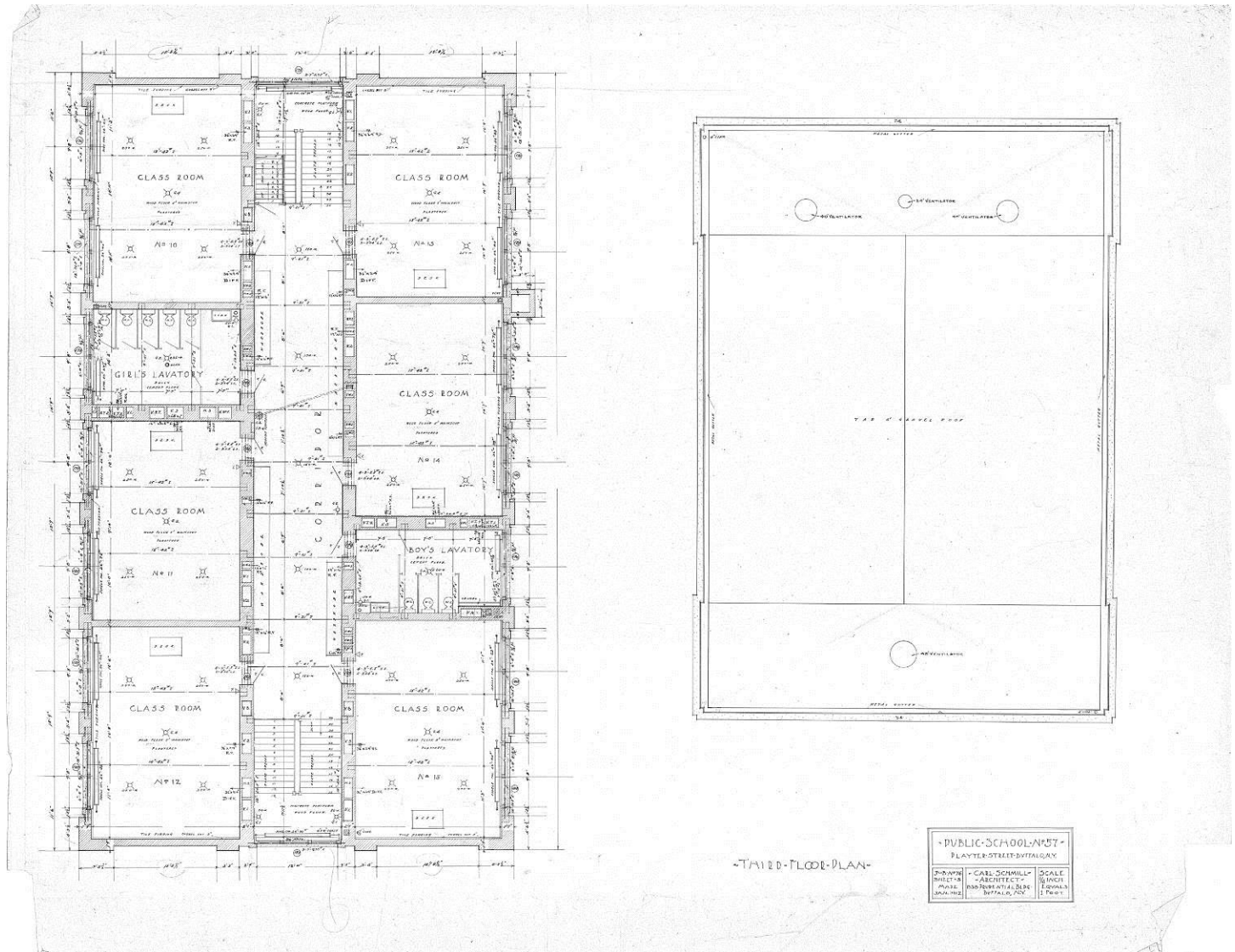
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



PS57 Third Floor Plan (1912, architect Carl Schmill)

Not to scale

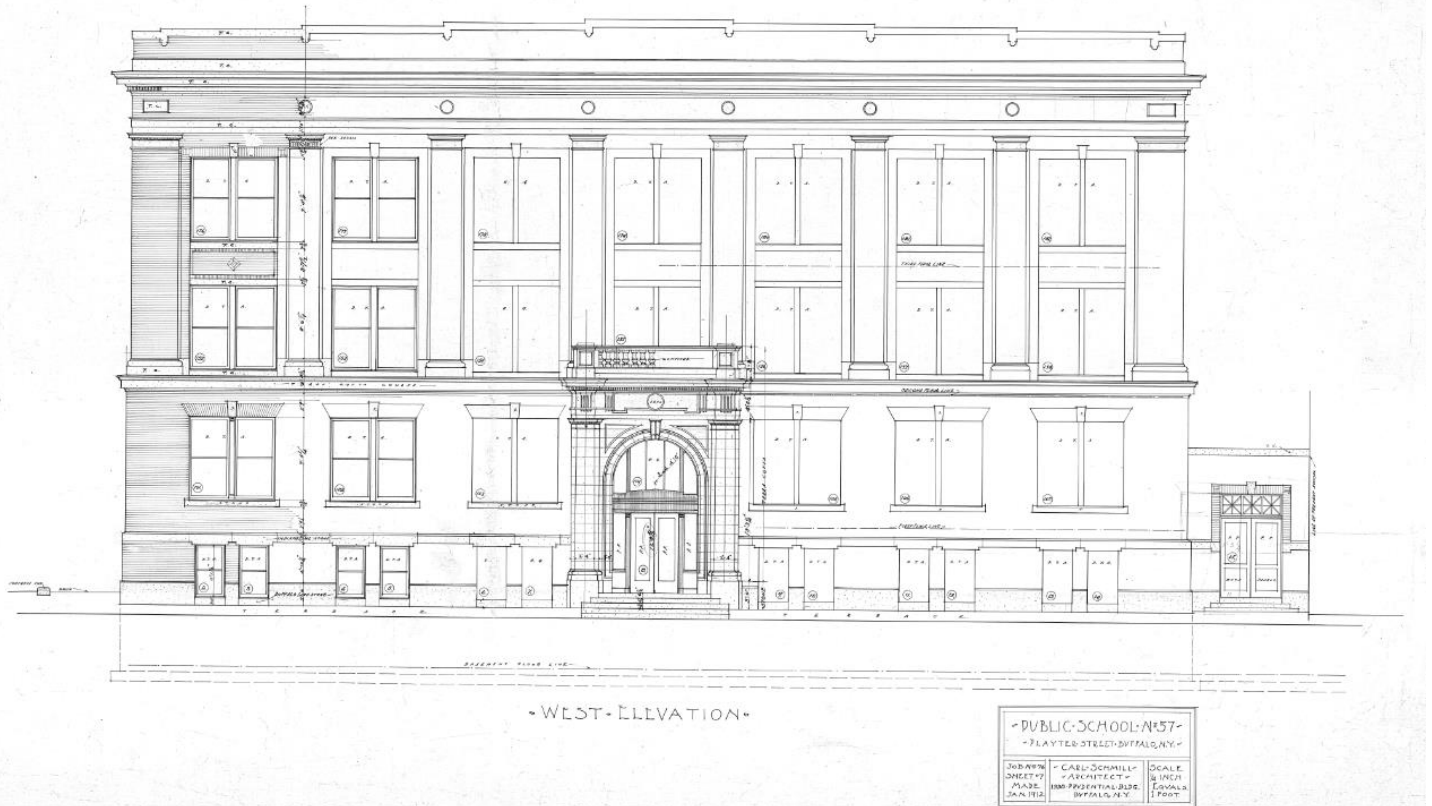
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



PS57 West Elevation (1912, architect Carl Schmill)
Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 12

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



Buffalo Public School #57 (PS 57) in 1908
Original school building, built 1897 and demolished in 1960.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 13

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State



Buffalo Public School #57 in 1984

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 14

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57) in 2002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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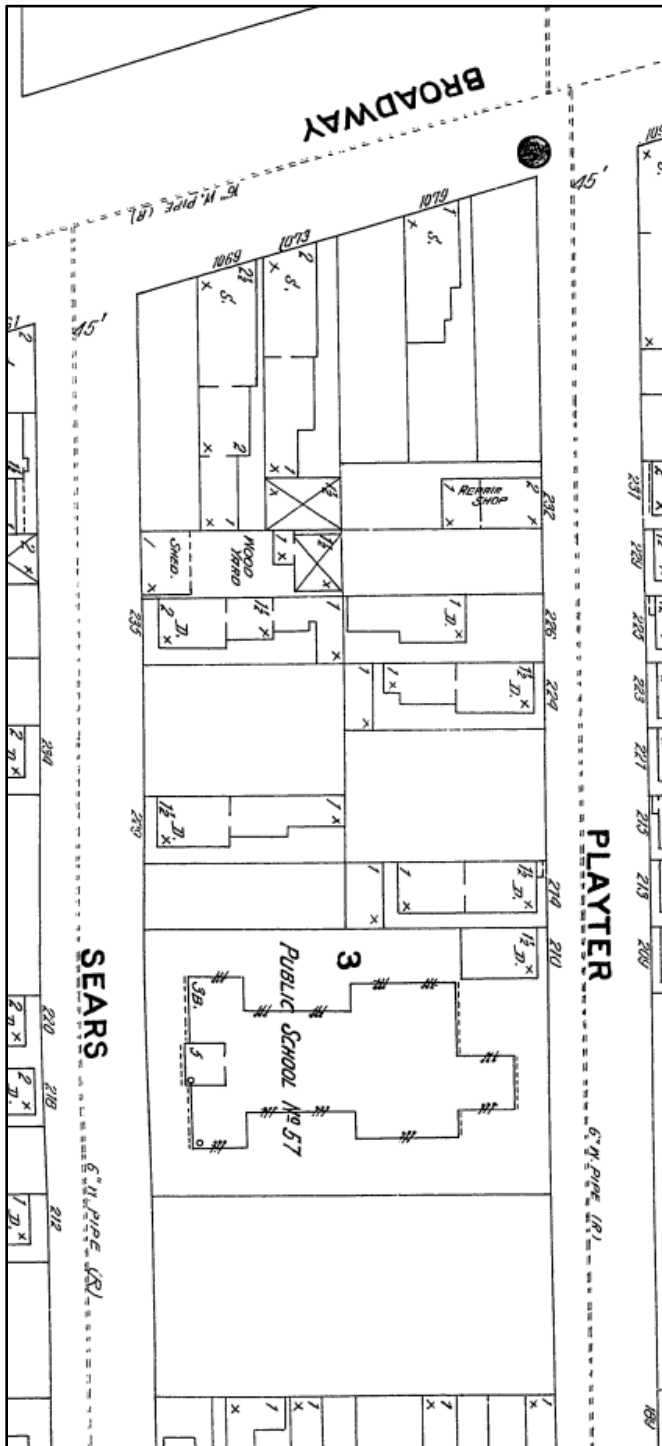
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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Detail, Sanborn map (1899)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

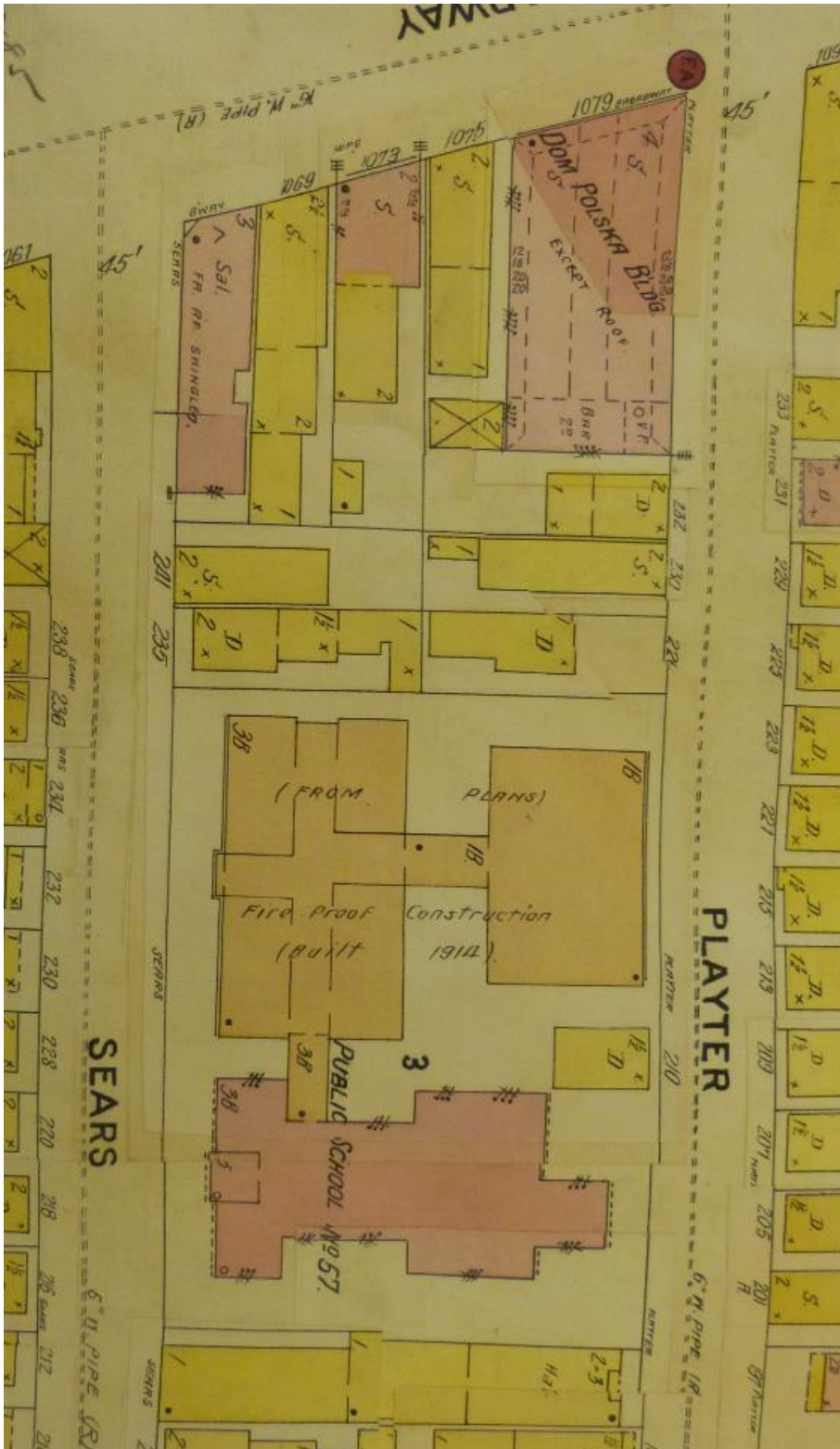
Section 11 Page 16

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Detail, Sanborn map
(1899, updated to 1914)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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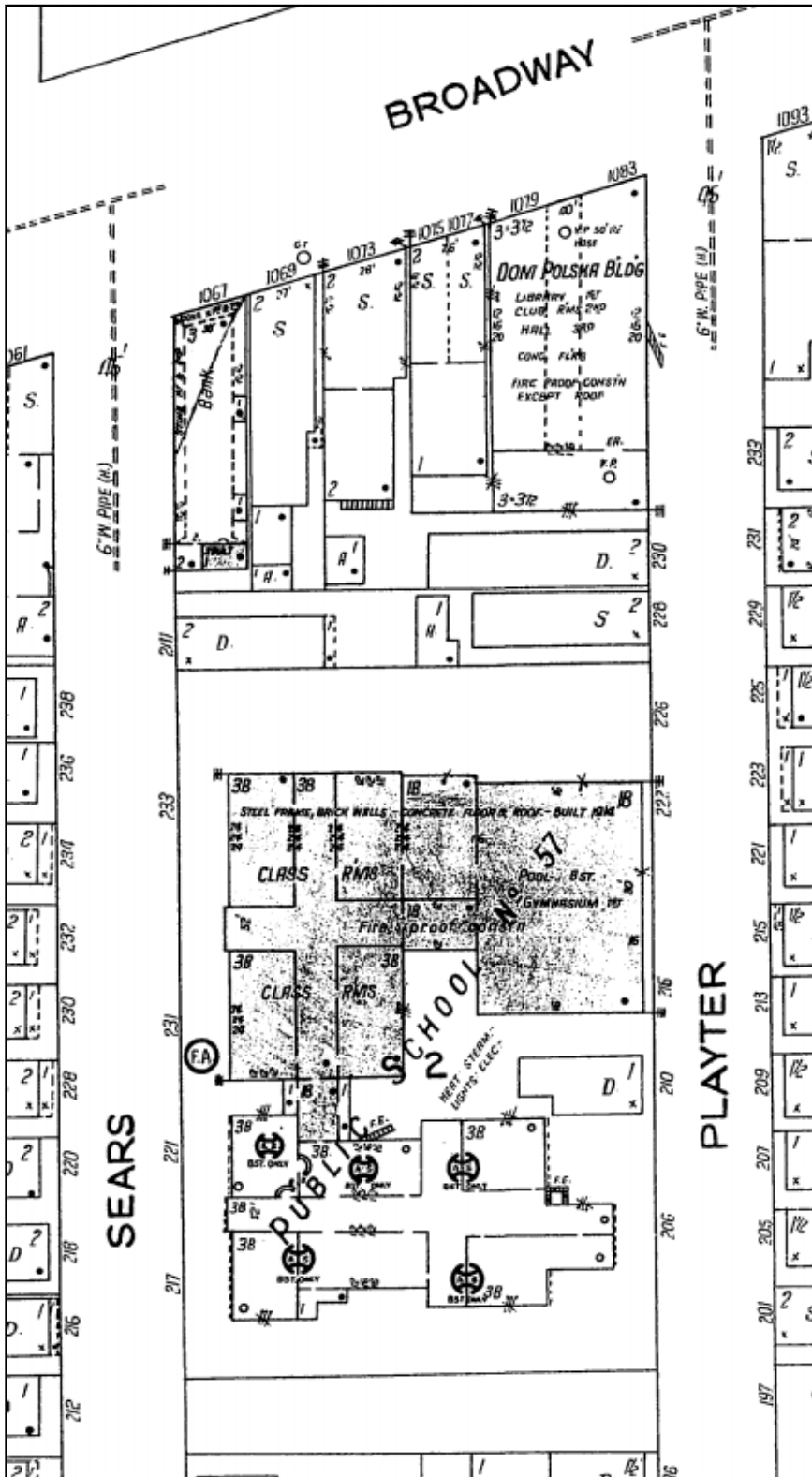
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BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Detail, Sanborn map
(1916, corrected to 1925)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

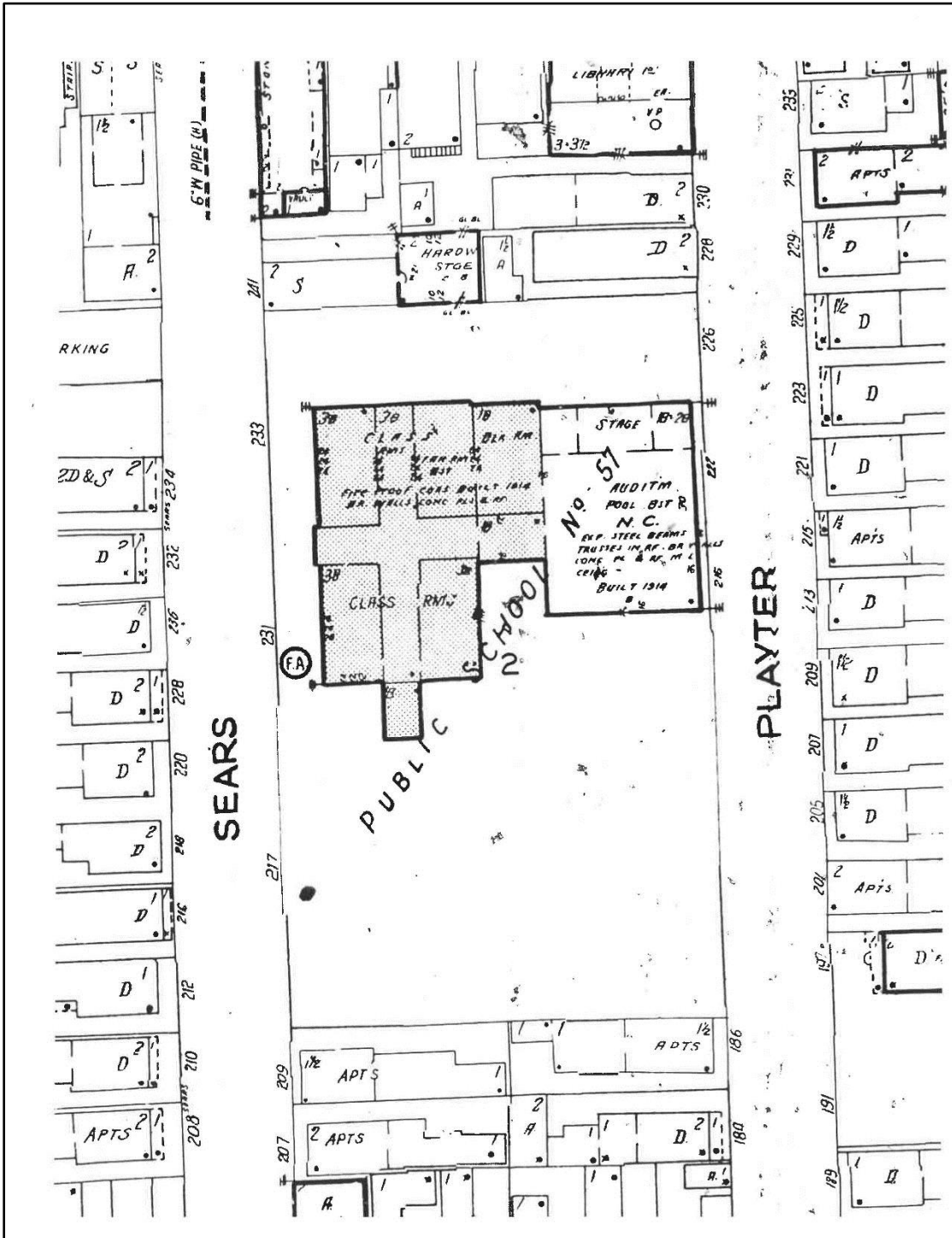
Section 11 Page 18

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #57 (PS57)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Detail, Sanborn map
(1981)



FOR SALE
By Order of Seller
Call: 851-5277

57



57

CITY OF BEEFALO
NEW YORK
NOTICE
[Illegible text]



57









NO PARKING















EXIT



LACISAWA MINER.











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/19/2018 Date of Pending List: 7/9/2018 Date of 16th Day: 7/24/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/3/2018 Date of Weekly List: 7/27/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 7/27/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

15 June 2018



Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following ten nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Amagansett U.S. Life-Saving and Coast Guard Station, Suffolk County (U.S. Government Lifeboat Stations, Houses of Refuge, and pre-1950 U.S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Stations)

St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Erie County [note: no longer owned or used as a religious institution]

Fuller Shirt Company Factory, Ulster County
Immanuel Union Church, Richmond County
Buffalo Public School #57 (PS57), Erie County
Buffalo Public School #44 (PS 44), Erie County
Pine Hollow Cemetery, Nassau County
Wollensack Optical Company, Monroe Company
Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Erie County

Wardenclyffe Laboratory, Suffolk [note, while Wardenclyffe is technically a district, there is only one owner, who supports the nomination; please see the file of supporting documentation, which contains more than 9,500 expressions of support for this nomination]

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office