


INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1 City, Village or Town: Kaukauna		County: Outagamie	Surveyor: M. Betz	Date: 4/5/83	Eighth Street (East) 109	
Street Address: 109 E. Eighth Street		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: See Continuation Sheet		Acreage: 1.98 Acres		
Current Name & Use: Nicolet Public School		Current Owner: Harry Goetz, Superintendent Kaukauna Area School District				
Film Roll No. 16				Current Owner's Address: 101 Oak Street		
Negative No. 10				Legal Description: All of Block 30, Ledyard Plat		
Facade Orient. E						

2 Original Name & Use: Nicolet Public School	Source A	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
Dates of Construction/Alteration 1891; 1906 two-story addition, SW corner Circa 1960's one-story west addition	Source A				
Architect and/or Builder: Phillip Dean, Appleton, Wisconsin	Source A				

3 <u>Architectural Significance</u> <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input type="radio"/> None	4 <u>Historical Significance</u> <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: <input checked="" type="radio"/> None Period of significance:	City Engineer
Architectural Description and Significance: See Continuation Sheet	Historical Background and Significance: See Continuation Sheet	
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)	6 Representation in Previous Surveys	16/10
A Lion of the Fox Valley, 1891, p. 75, 89.	<input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other:	
B Wisconsin: A Story of Progress, pp. 15-16.	7 Condition <input type="radio"/> excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
C The Stockbridge Story, p. 20.	8 District: <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
D Kaukauna 175th Jubilee Album, p. 31.	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: 4/5/83 Initials: MB	
E Kaukauna Times, January 1, 1892, August 6, 1909.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local	
F		

Architectural Statement:

Description: The original 1891 portion of the Nicolet Public School is a two and a half story brick building with a raised foundation, an irregular roofline (once adorned with metal cresting), triple hung windows, and decorative brick corbelling. Designed by Phillip Dean in the Romanesque Revival style, the school was officially opened on January 1, 1892.^(E) A large tower with pyramidal roof, located at the northeastern corner, dominates the composition. Damaged by a storm on August 6, 1906,^(E) the openings within the tower have been boarded up. The central core of this building is topped with a hip roof with projecting gables on each facade. A 28' x 32' two story addition to the southeast was built of a matching brick and concrete design in 1906. During the 1960's, another addition - a large one story brick and concrete rectangular wing - was erected to the west of the original buildings. The later addition resulted in interior remodeling and alterations to the door and window openings of the 1891 and 1906 sections.

Significance: Designing the Nicolet Public School in 1891, Phillip Dean was an important local architect whose work also included the Heindel Block and Oscar Thilmany's residence in Kaukauna as well as "some of the finest buildings in Madison, Escanaba, Rhinelander, and other places".^(A) The school is the only known building of Deane's still standing today in Kaukauna. Despite changes made to the building including the one-story west addition and alterations made to the fenestration, the school retains its primary symbol, the pyramidal tower, which can be seen at many points throughout the City. The building also still conveys the sense of weight and mass so characteristic of Romanesque Revival architecture.

Historical Statement:

Nicolet School, in a conscious historical reference, was named for Jean Nicolet, believed to be the first European explorer to visit the Kaukauna area in 1634.^(B) Nicolet School was the successor of the 1823 Stockbridge mission school,^(B) probably the first free school in Wisconsin,^(C) and the early southside elementary school which became the first Outagamie County normal school. While earlier southside schools were log cabins or relatively small brick structures, Nicolet School was designed to be imposing as a part of the 1889 mandate to update city boundaries and improve its public facilities.^(A)

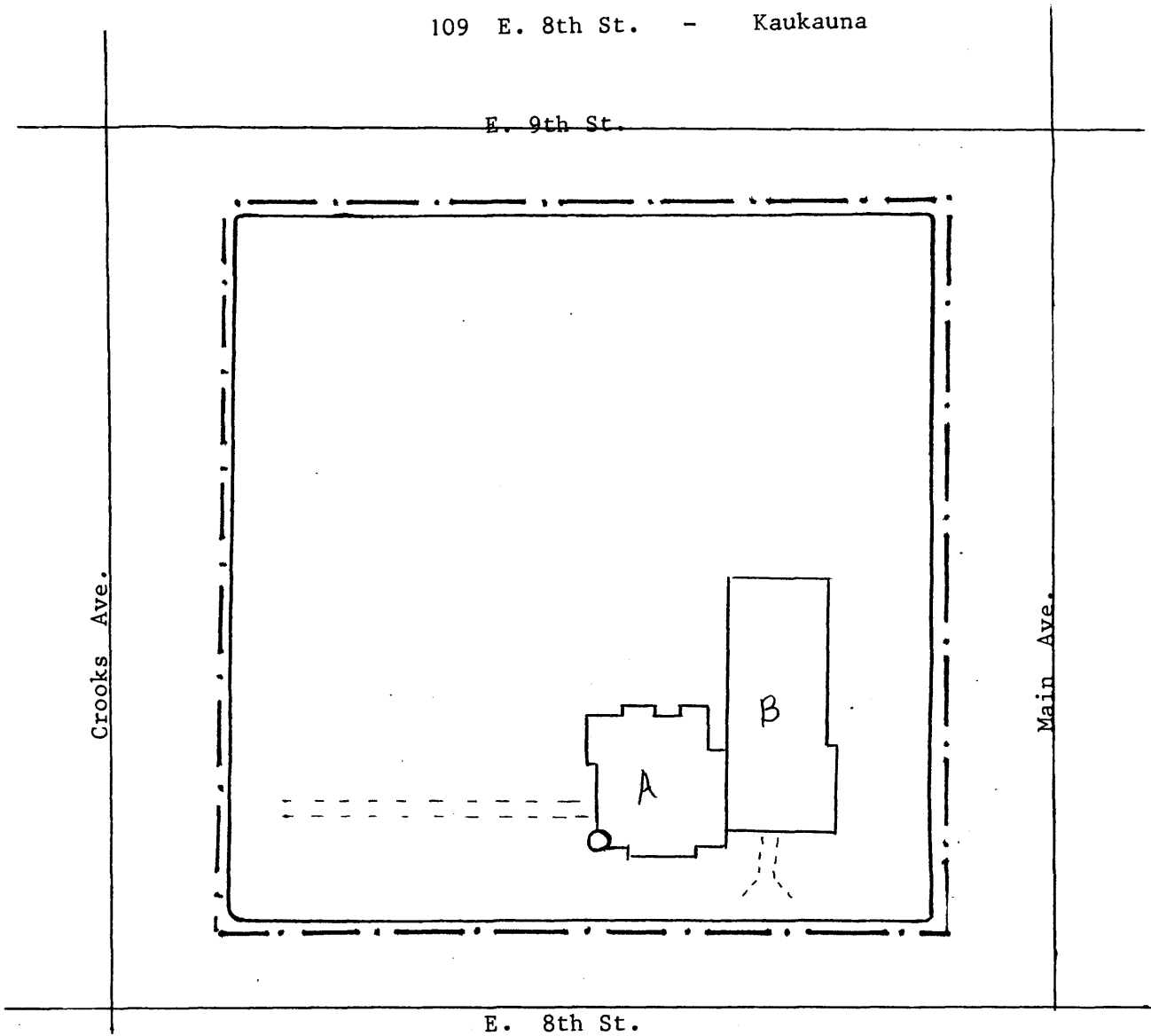
When by 1958 the school's design was inadequate, Nicolet was not razed but remodeled internally and an addition built to increase its usability.^(D) Nicolet School remains as an enduring southside landmark and a link to the late 1800's boom of the City of Kaukauna.

USGS Quad and UTM Reference:

UTM: Zone 16
Easting: 398300
Northing: 4902800
USGS Kaukauna Quadrangle
1:24,000

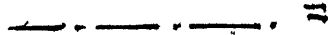
NICOLET SCHOOL

109 E. 8th St. - Kaukauna



A. Original Bldg.

B. Addition has some class rooms & gym.



Boundaries of nominated property