

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Third Ward School

and/or common (formerly, Sheboygan Health Department)

**2. Location**

street & number 1208 S. Eighth Street not for publication

city, town Sheboygan vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sheboygan code 117

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Sheboygan Area School District (City of Sheboygan); Jerald W. Schoenike, Director of Administrative Services

street & number 830 Virginia Avenue

city, town Sheboygan vicinity of state Wisconsin 53081

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sheboygan County Courthouse

street & number 615 N. Sixth Street

city, town Sheboygan state Wisconsin 53081

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sheboygan's old Third Ward is a neighborhood of mixed character, composed of modest-sized residences and a variety of small businesses and factories. South of the Sheboygan River, South Eighth Street runs parallel to Lake Michigan, two to three blocks from the shore. Facing the Lake to the east, the Third Ward School is located in the center of a tree-shaded site with a small gravel parking lot in the southwest corner.

The building's coursed cut-stone foundation is barely visible above the ground line. Originally T-shaped, the one-story building of locally-manufactured cream brick took on a cross-shaped plan with the addition of a small boiler room extension to the rear. The regularly-spaced round-headed windows and door are covered by flat brick semi-circular arches with stone keystones. The projecting gabled foyer, once entered through separate boys' and girls' entrances, now contains a single panelled front door paired with a window. An oculus lights the front gable end. Jigsaw-cut wood brackets punctuate the overhanging eaves on all sides of the building. The cross-gable roof, once covered in wood shingles, is now covered with asphalt. Although the open belfry originally in the center of the roof has been lost, the molded brick interior end chimneys (less their gabled chimney caps) remain. Windows have been recently covered with plywood panels to discourage vandalism. The exterior structure is in good repair, requiring only minor repointing.

Altered at several points in the twentieth century, the interior is of little note. Restrooms were first installed in the north half of the foyer in 1904. Interior walls were added to the former two-room school when the conversion was made to health department use in 1931. Steam radiators (to serve the boiler installed in the small rear addition) and electrical wiring were added early in the century. Lighting and plumbing systems were renewed in recent years.

Efforts are underway to gain citizen support for restoration and period furnishing of the school for use as a museum. If sufficient funds for the project cannot be raised within a five-year period, the Board of Education will be forced to seek an alternative use of the building and/or site.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1876–77<sup>1</sup>

**Builder/Architect** A. L. Weeks<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Testifying in form to its association with early education in the city of Sheboygan, the Third Ward School is architecturally significant as representative of a period of construction. Retention of the identifying features of Italianate Style make the small building a neighborhood landmark and an asset to Wisconsin's list of extant historical school buildings.

Architect Alvin Luce Weeks (1810–1888), a native of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, is credited with the design of several of Sheboygan's early schools, including the Third Ward School. After working with his father, a carpenter-builder, in his boyhood, Weeks worked for a time in Lynn, Massachusetts, and then in Charleston and Atlanta. Returning to New England, he spent several years in Manchester, New Hampshire and "other New England towns" building churches "and other structures."<sup>3</sup> Weeks and his family moved to Sheboygan in 1848, from which he operated several sawmills in Manitowoc before returning to the practice of architecture full-time in 1875. Weeks's works include Sheboygan's first schoolhouse (1856), first county courthouse, the Second and Eighth Ward Schools, the Zschetzsche Block, King Block, Townsend Block, Sheboygan Manufacturing Company, Dillingham Manufacturing Company, and the "Friendship House," (NRHP 1975), originally the residence of John Pfeiler. Alvin Luce Weeks was reputed to be a man of "unimpeachable character" as well as "good taste and mechanical skill."<sup>4</sup>

The Sheboygan Board of School Commissions voted to approve construction of the Third Ward School in 1876 to supplement service of the Fifth Ward School on the south side of the city. The building retained that function until 1904 when it was converted to use as the fourth ward kindergarten. In 1918 the Board of Education financed and staffed the operation of the Fresh Air School for tuberculosis patients at the school, aided by the Tuberculosis Association in the provision of noon meals and warm clothing. When the Fresh Air School moved to the larger Longfellow School in 1931, the Sheboygan Board of Health opened its offices in the Third Ward School. The building was designated as a Sheboygan County Landmark in 1975 for its architectural distinction, association with the early history of education in the city, and for its continuing record of community service.

<sup>1</sup> Sheboygan Board of Education Proceedings, Vol. 2, 1870–1885, p. 67; Gustav Wm. Buchen, Historic Sheboygan, p. 222; Sheboygan Times, October 28, 1876.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid; Portrait and Biographical Record of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, Excelsior Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894.

<sup>3</sup> Portrait and Biographical Record of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, 1894.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portrait and Biographical Record of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, Excelsior Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894.  
 Sheboygan Board of Education Proceedings, Vol. 2, 1870-1885.  
 Sheboygan County Landmarks Ltd., "Third Ward Schoolhouse," program brochure, May, 1975.

# 10. Geographical Data ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Sheboygan South, Wis. UTM NOT VERIFIED Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A	<u>16</u>	<u>442600</u>	<u>4843220</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lots 1 and 2, Block 268, Original Plat, City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date May, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608)262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 7/27/81

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>John Byron</u>	date <u>9/3/81</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

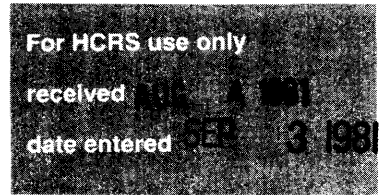
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

THIRD WARD SCHOOL, Sheboygan, Sheboygan co., Wisc.

Continuation sheet

Item number 11.

Page 1.



FORM PREPARED BY

Research Assistance By: Jerald W. Schoenike, Ed.D.  
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Sheboygan Area School District  
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Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081