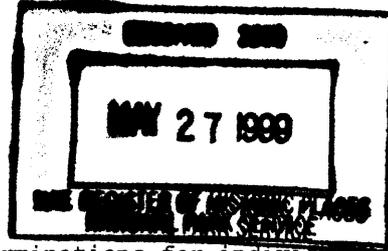


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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



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 Janesville High School
other names Marshall Junior High; Marshall Middle School

2. Location

street & number 408 South Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town City of Janesville N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Rock code 105 zip code 53545

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 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 for additional comments.)

Alicia J. Coel
Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

5/4/99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Janesville High School
Name of Property

Rock County, Wisconsin
County and State

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.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ removed from the National
Register.
___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 6/25/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)
 private
___ public-local
___ public-state
___ public-federal
 building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other LIMESTONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on continuation sheet(s).)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Janesville High School was begun in 1919 and completed in 1923.¹ It was designed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke,² in the Collegiate Gothic style. The Janesville High School is three stories tall, set on a raised basement. The school is of steel-reinforced concrete and load-bearing brick construction. Above ground, it is finished with brown brick, and accented with Indiana Bedford limestone. There are two, small, one-story, noncontributing additions, one on the north-facing facade and the other on the west-facing (rear) facade of the Janesville High School. Built in 1964-1965,³ both are utilitarian in appearance, finished with orange brick, and set on poured concrete slabs. The 1919-1923 main block and the 1964-1965 additions all have flat, built-up roofs. There are no outbuildings.

DESCRIPTION

¹Minutes, Meeting of the Janesville School Board (hereafter, JSB), October 17, 1919; September 10, 1920; April 4, 1921; April 13, 1922; and November 13, 1922; and "\$30,000 Voted for Added Equipment at New School," Janesville Daily Gazette (hereafter, JDG), February 6, 1923, p. 1.

²Original Plans, dated August 29, 1919; June 6, 1921; and November 28, 1921; on file, Stone House Development, Madison, Wisconsin.

³Plaque, mounted on the interior of the Janesville High School.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

The Janesville High School (see photo 1) is located on the east bank of the Rock River on South Main Street, south of Janesville's central business district. There are athletic fields, including a softball diamond, north of the school, and a residential area of late-nineteenth century single family houses on the gently-rising ground east of the school. Racine Court forms the south boundary of the Janesville High School. There are a few of residential and low-scale commercial buildings backing up on Racine Court and buffering the school from Racine Street (STH 11), a busy thoroughfare that crosses the Rock River just southwest of the Janesville High School. Originally, Racine Court was a part of Racine Street, which crossed the Rock River. In 1949, Racine Street was re-routed to the south and a new bridge was built. At that time, this old portion of Racine Street was renamed Racine Court.⁴

The Janesville High School is composed of the 1919-1923 main block and two small, noncontributing 1964-1965 additions (see site plan attached). The three-story, rectangular classroom wing (east); the tall, one-story, square gymnasium and pool wing (northwest); and a one-story, rectangular wing (west/rear) housing the mechanical systems comprise the main block of the Janesville High School. The main block was designed by Milwaukee architects Van Ryn and de Gelleke in the Collegiate Gothic style. Janesville contractors Ford, Boos and Schoof built the foundation in 1919-1920, while J. P. Cullen and Son (also of Janesville) built the rest of the building between 1921 and 1923.⁵

⁴"A School and Community," Janesville High School Project, 1985, p. 37.

⁵Minutes, JSB, September 19, 1919; and July 11, 1921.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

The 1964-1965 additions are utilitarian in appearance. They probably were designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Childs and Smith, who designed five elementary schools, one junior high school and one senior high school for the Janesville School District between 1961 and 1970.⁶ The first addition to the Janesville High School was constructed for music instruction, and is a one-story, rectangular mass tucked-up against the north-facing facade of the classroom wing and the east-facing facade of the gymnasium and pool wing (see photo 2). The second 1964-1965 addition is even smaller, and is attached to the west-facing (rear) facade of the mechanical systems section (see photo 3, near center of photo). It is one-story-tall and was a garage.

The main block of the Janesville High School is of steel-reinforced concrete and load-bearing brick construction. Above ground, it is finished with brown brick in common bond. The Janesville High School is accented with limestone, including window and door surrounds, belt-courses and copings. Two limestone belt-courses form continuous sills for the first and third story windows in the classroom wing, and a third runs just above the third story windows in the classroom wing and at both levels in the gymnasium and pool wing. The upper third story belt-course is also enriched with a series of human-faced stone grotesques. The 1964-1965 additions are of steel-reinforced concrete construction finished with orange brick laid in common bond. Most of the exterior windows in the main block were replaced circa 1974.⁷ While most of the original

⁶Artists' renderings of all seven buildings are mounted on the wall of the offices of the Janesville School District.

⁷Cardinal, Yearbook of Marshall Junior High School, 1972 and 1975.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

openings have been retained, each now holds one aluminum, one-over-one, single-hung sash window. Above basement level, each replacement window is surmounted by a metal panel. Originally, most of the basement windows were wood, three-over-three, double-hung sash windows. Above basement level, most of the windows were wood, six-over-six, double-hung sash. The quoined limestone surrounds, present even at basement level and on the rear (west-facing) facade, have been retained.

The symmetrical, east-facing (front) facade of the classroom wing of the Janesville High School overlooks South Main Street and is composed of a recessed central section, with a projecting pavilion at either end (see photo 1). The front doors are centrally-placed, in an entrance pavilion that projects slightly and is strongly reminiscent of Tudor Style models (see photo 4). The entrance itself is composed of three multi-paned doors, each with a six-pane transom, and all three being enframed by a single segmental-arched, limestone surround. The surround is quoined and enriched with compound moldings, one of which is ornamented with leaves and flowers. Above the segmental arch is a drip molding, which has grotesques for stops, each of which is in the form of a human face. Leaves and trefoils ornament the spandrels between the segmental arch surround and the drip molding. Above the drip molding, there are three rectilinear stone panels, each with a single scolloped letter on a banner, on a field of leaves. The three letters spell out "JHS." Just north (to the right of) of the doors is a datestone, inscribed "1921." Above the doors are three windows, set in a stone surround, separated with turned stone mullions that terminate in human-faced grotesques, and surmounted by a stone cornice. At the third story there are three more windows, in a stone surround similar to the one at the second story. These windows are surmounted by decorative stonework including finials, volutes, and a cartouche. The windows at each of the second and

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Continuation Sheet**

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

third stories were originally wood, four-over-four double-hung sash, but they have been replaced. Originally, the entrance pavilion terminated in a tall brick parapet. There were three stone panels with pierced stonework, reminiscent of Tudor strapwork, set in the parapet and centered over the entrance. The pierced stonework was identical to that which remains on the gymnasium section. The parapet was removed c. 1974.⁸

On either side of the front entrance into the Janesville High School, there are two groups of four windows at each story in the recessed section. A brick pilaster separates the two groups of windows on each side. In each projecting end pavilion, there is a group of three windows at each of the basement, second and third stories, as well as a pair of windows at the first story. In the parapet walls above the third story windows, there are three carved stone panels. The center panel features a cartouche, while the side panels are decorated with volutes. There are light wells in front of each group of basement windows in both the recessed and projecting pavilion sections. Each light well has a brick bottom, and its top is protected by a balustrade. The balustrades around the light wells in the projecting pavilions are metal, and very plain. The balustrades protecting the light wells in the recessed section have brick piers and stone balusters. All the balustrades are original.

The gymnasium and pool wing is set well back from the sidewalk at the the northwest corner of the classroom wing. The basement (pool level) of the east-facing facade of the gymnasium is covered by the 1964-1965 addition, but the gymnasium-level window openings can still be seen above the addition. Brick pilasters separate these

⁸Ibid.

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

window openings, which originally held three groups of four six-over-six-over-six, triple-hung windows. The window openings are filled with orange brick that appears to match the brick on the 1964-1965 addition, but which probably date from c. 1974.⁹

The north-facing facade is composed of the classroom wing, the gymnasium and pool wing, and the 1964-1965 addition (see photo 2). On the north-facing facade of the classroom wing, two slightly-projecting three-story entrance pavilions divide the facade into thirds. Each entrance pavilion had a pair of double-doors in a quoined stone surround at the first floor, and a group of three windows between the first and second, and second and third floors. The stone surround framing the entrance is enriched with compound moldings, and finished with a plain drip molding. At the third story is a boxy, copper oriel containing three windows. Above this was originally a parapet inset with three stone panels that matched those still remaining on the gymnasium section. This portion of the parapet was removed ca.1974. East of each entrance pavilion there are three groups of four windows at each level, including the basement. West of the western entrance pavilion, there are two groups of three windows. Two-story brick pilasters separate each group of windows. Beginning at the western entrance pavilion, the first story of the wing is obscured by the later addition. Inside the addition, the original west entrance has been removed. The north-facing facade of the gymnasium and pool wing of the Janesville High School has a slightly-projecting entrance pavilion at either end. Each entrance pavilion has a single, off-set door in a quoined stone surround finished with a simple stone cornice

⁹Photo of the 1964 addition nearing completion, on file in the office of Stone House Development, show the original gymnasium windows still in place.

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

(see photos 5 and 6). At the second story, each entrance pavilion featured a pair of segmental-arched window openings in a stone surround enriched with quoins, a paneled base, and surmounted with two stone panels decorated with scrollwork. These openings have been boarded up. Above, there is a single much larger window opening, now filled with brick, but retaining its quoined stone surround. The deep brick parapet that finishes each entrance pavilion retains its original three stone panels with pierced stonework. Originally, there were two groups of four windows at each level in between the entrance pavilions. The gymnasium had triple-hung, six-over-six-over-six windows, while the pool had six-over-six, double hung sash. All these windows were removed and the openings filled with orange brick circa 1974.

The south-facing facade of the classroom wing of the Janesville High School originally matched the north-facing facade, and is intact except for replacement windows (see photos 7 and 8). The opening into the narrow courtyard, which separates the mechanical systems wing from the classroom wing, can be seen from this facade. The south-facing facade of the mechanical systems wing has a single steel door with a segmental-arched multipaned transom, and retains its original pair of two-over-two wood double-hung sash windows. Originally, a tall, round, brick chimney rose from the roof of the mechanical systems wing, but it was removed sometime after 1953. Beyond this wing, one single and four pair of windows that light the corridor into the gymnasium can be seen.

The west-facing (rear) facade of the Janesville High School overlooks the Rock River (see photo 3). The fenestration pattern is mostly intact. On the classroom wing, north to south, there is a group of three windows, a single window, three groups of four windows, a single steel door, a pair of windows, and a steel garage door (which opens into what was the automotive shop) at basement

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

level. The garage door opening is original, although the door is a replacement. Three brick pilasters separate the groups of windows. At the first story, north to south, there is one group of four windows, a pair of windows, a single window, and two groups of four windows. At each of the second and third stories, there are four groups of four windows, a pair of windows, and a group of three windows. The west-facing facade of the mechanical systems wing has no openings. On the gymnasium and pool wing, brick pilasters divide the facade into four bays, each of which originally had four windows. Those at gymnasium level were six-over-six-over-six, while those at pool level were four-over-four. All these openings have been filled with orange brick. At the south end of the gymnasium and pool wing is the corridor into those spaces. On this facade, there is a pair of wood multi-paned doors in a quoined limestone surround. Above the doors is a pair of windows.

On the interior, the plan of the classroom wing of the Janesville High School is composed of a central square block, with a double-loaded corridor running along all four sides, and with classrooms, offices and restrooms placed on the outside of the corridor. The auditorium occupies most of the central block on the first, second and third floors, while the cafeteria, kitchen, two classrooms and several storage rooms make up the central block in the basement.

The plan of the gymnasium and pool wing consists of a straight corridor at the south end of the wing, which is continuous with the northern arm of the classroom wing corridor, opening into two pool/locker rooms at basement level, and one large gymnasium on the first floor. The mechanical systems wing is a maze of rooms.

There are six stairhalls in the Janesville High School; one inside each of the five entrances into the school and one in the corridor

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

in the gymnasium and pool wing. There is also a small elevator, installed in what was a closet at the south end of the auditorium's stage. The elevator is not original.

The Janesville High School appears to retain most of its original finishes. There is black-and-gray terrazzo in the hallways, stairhalls, cafeteria, and basement kitchen; wood flooring in most of the classrooms and in the gymnasium; concrete flooring in the auditorium and in some of the old manual training rooms in the basement; carpeting in the administrative offices, the library and the old public lecture room (first floor); and tile in the bathrooms, pool and locker rooms. Above basement level, the walls and ceilings are finished with plaster, although many areas currently have dropped acoustical tile covering the ceiling plaster. There is original woodwork, including built-in cabinets and bookcases, in many rooms (see photo 9). The old model dining room also has a built-in sideboard (see photo 10). There are lockers in the corridors in the classroom wing, as well as multipane transoms above the classroom doors and along the interior classroom walls. Most of the classrooms and office have a wood chair rail, below which is plaster divided into sections by vertical boards, creating the effect of wainscoting. In the vestibules, there is wainscoting of yellow glazed tile, inset with blue patterned tiles. In the basement, many areas have exposed brick walls and exposed ceilings. The interior window and door surrounds are wood, with simple Craftsman lines, except that the window sills are tile. There are suspended fluorescent lights throughout the building, except in the auditorium.

The auditorium has both a main floor and a balcony, each of which has rows of wood, fold-down chairs with upholstered seats (see photos 11 and 12). On both levels, the floor is concrete, and the walls and ceilings are plaster-finished. There is wood-and-plaster

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

wainscoting on the main level. The ceiling is beamed, and each plaster-covered beam is embellished with a cable molding, dentils, and moldings enriched with leaves and grapes. The stage is wood and features an ornate proscenium that is paneled and enriched with tracery, shields, and moldings decorated with leaves and flowers. The auditorium receives light from a variety of sources. There is a group of skylights (currently painted over) centered over the seating. There are also hanging bowl lights, each of which is enriched with leaves and flowers. Along the north and south walls of the auditorium, there is a series of grouped windows. Each group is composed of two leaded-glass windows, surmounted by a tall panel, above which are two more leaded-glass windows united beneath a segmental-arched lintel. All of the leaded-glass windows feature the same simple, floral pattern in yellow and green (see photo 13). Each panel is enriched with tracery, shields and ribbons, while each lintel features a cable molding, and a torus molding studded with flowers. Above each of the two side entrances near the stage, there is a lintel enriched with tracery, flowers, quaterfoils, and a molding decorated with leaves and grapes.

The Janesville High School has suffered very little alteration over time, and much of it is easily reversible. The 1964-1965 additions are small, dwarfed by the main block. One is set back from the street and on a side facade of the building, while the other is on the rear facade. Other exterior changes have been limited to replacement windows set within the original openings, the bricking-in of the window openings of the gymnasium, and the loss of the parapets over the entrance pavilions. The layout of the Janesville High School is almost completely intact. Fire doors have been installed in the corridor of the classroom wing at a couple of locations; the women teachers' restroom on the first-floor has been partitioned into two spaces; the wall separating the library from the study room on the second floor has been removed to accomodate

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

a larger library; a second study room on the second floor has been partitioned into two classrooms; a partition was constructed creating a corridor through the bookkeeping room into the typing room on the third floor; and on the third floor, each of the general science and physics laboratories were divided into two classrooms. Interior finishes are intact, except that dropped acoustical tile has been installed in some spaces. These are very minor changes for such large a building, especially one that was intensely used for more than 75 years. Altogether, these alterations do not compromise the overall integrity of the Janesville High School, which remains excellent.

Janesville High School
Name of Property

Rock County, Wisconsin
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 the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and
Development

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

Period of Significance

1919-1923

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

Significant Dates

1919-1923

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Criteria Considerations

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

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

Cultural Affiliation

B removed from its original location.

N/A

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

Architect/Builder

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

Van Ryn & De Gellke/architects

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheet(s).)

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Janesville High School is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A, in the field of Community Development and Planning. Erecting the Janesville High School was one element in a three-part plan put forward by Janesville's civic and business leaders, and embraced wholeheartedly by the citizens of Janesville, to bring General Motors to Janesville and keep it there. This effort was successful, and changed the character, economy and history of the community. The impact of General Motors can still be felt today. In addition, the Janesville High School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. The School's 1919-1923 main block is an excellent and intact example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as an outstanding example of an early twentieth century free-standing high school, and was state-of-the-art for its time. The Janesville High School also represents the work of a "master" architecture firm in Wisconsin, (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke of Milwaukee. The Janesville High School retains excellent integrity. The period of significance runs from 1919, the year construction began, through 1923. In 1923, Janesville High School opened, and General Motors' Chevrolet Division began producing automobiles in Janesville.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The City of Janesville is centrally located in Rock County, and encompasses portions of Janesville, Harmony and Rock Townships. The first European-American settlers of what would one day become the city of Janesville built a log cabin on the east bank of the Rock River in the fall of 1835. Nine pioneers spent the winter in

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Section 8 Page 2

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

that cabin: John Inman, George Follner, William Holmes, Joshua Holmes, Samuel St. John, St. John's wife and their three children.¹⁰

Henry F. Janes came in January 1836, staked a claim on the east bank of the Rock River near the present-day intersection of Main and Milwaukee streets, had a log cabin built, and returned to Racine. Janes brought his family back to the cabin in May 1836. Janes and the Holmes brothers each operated ferries across the Rock River, and hosted travelers in their homes. In 1836, the territorial legislature selected a site for the Rock County seat on Janes' claim. Janes applied for a post office for the site, recommending the name "Black Hawk." The Postmaster General, Amos Kendall, is said to have rejected the name, as there was already a post office called "Black Hawk" in Wisconsin Territory (in what is now the state of Iowa). The Postmaster General did grant Janes a post office, and appoint him postmaster, but designated the post office, "Janesville."¹¹

By the summer of 1837, there were five buildings in Janesville: two log houses and three frame houses. The settlement's first hotel was the Janesville Stage House, erected on South Main Street in 1838. The first store building was constructed near the hotel the same year. It was used first as a carpenter's shop, but became Lappin and Ward's general store, the first store in the settlement, in 1839. In August 1839, Henry Janes left Janesville and headed

¹⁰William Fiske Brown, editor, Rock County: Wisconsin, (Chicago: C. F. Cooper & Company, 1908), pp. 526-33.

¹¹Ibid.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

west, as the settlement, with nearly 300 inhabitants, had become too crowded for him.¹²

In 1840, Rock County commissioners had the village of Janesville platted, following much the same layout that Henry Janes had established earlier, but had not recorded officially.¹³ In 1842, Janesville's first bridge was erected, encouraging settlement to spill over onto the west bank of the Rock River. The bridge was located at Milwaukee Street, where Janes' ferry had crossed. By the fall of 1845, the small community had 817 persons, and included a sawmill, a brickyard, a stone quarry, various frame and masonry commercial and residential buildings, two schoolhouses, regular stagecoach service to Milwaukee, and a newspaper.¹⁴

By June 1850, Janesville had 3,100 residents. In 1853, Janesville incorporated as a city. It was divided into four wards; two on each side of the river. The same year, railroad service began, when the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railway Company (later a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul line) was completed from Milwaukee to Janesville. During the 1850s, several industries developed in Janesville, their machinery powered by the Rock River. Janesville's nine flour mills were the leading manufacturers, serving farmers as far away as Portage. There was also a sash-door-blind factory, two woolen mills, and the predecessor to the Janesville Machine company, the Harris, Guild, Angell and Tyler foundry and machine shop. By 1859, Main Street and East and West

¹²Ibid., p. 533.

¹³Ibid., p. 534.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 538.

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Milwaukee streets were built up, and Janesville had rail connections with Milwaukee, Chicago, Monroe and Oshkosh.¹⁵

Janesville grew steadily through the 1860s, reaching a population of 8,789 by 1870. In 1874, the city's thriving textile industry expanded with the establishment of the Janesville Cotton Manufacturing Company. This company built a factory between North Franklin and River streets, where it produced sheeting, and employed nearly 400 hands during the late-1870s and the 1880s.¹⁶

In 1880, Janesville had 9,018 residents. The Janesville Electric Light Company and the Janesville Telephone Exchange both came into being that year. In 1881, the Janesville Machine Company was formally incorporated by James Harris, J. B. Crosby and others. The new company took over the Harris Manufacturing Company, which had succeeded Harris, Guild, Angell and Tyler in 1869. The Janesville Machine Company manufactured agricultural implements, including prize-winning plows, and the well-regarded "Little Champion" line of mowers, reapers and disk harrows. During the 1880s, tobacco brokering also came to Janesville. Rock County farmers had been cultivating tobacco since the Civil War, but it had been handled primarily in Chicago. This sector of Janesville's economy grew during the late nineteenth century, and by the early twentieth century there were 30 tobacco warehouse in Janesville. At that time, it was said that more tobacco was packed in Janesville than in any other city in the U. S., with the exception of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.¹⁷

¹⁵Ibid., pp. 545-558.

¹⁶Ibid., pp. 565-66.

¹⁷Ibid., pp. 570-573.

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By 1890, the city of Janesville had 10,836 inhabitants. Industry in the city continued to diversify, with the incorporation of the George S. Parker Pen Company in 1891. The Parker Company quickly grew to be the largest fountain pen factory in the world, and inspired several smaller pen manufacturers to locate in Janesville as well. In 1892, the Janesville Street Railway Company, which had begun its municipal transportation service with horse-drawn carriages in 1885, converted to an electric trolley system. Several new subdivisions were added to Janesville during the 1890s, and by 1900 the city had 13,185 residents.¹⁸

During first fifteen years of the twentieth century, Janesville grew very little. There were various public improvements, however. In 1901-02, Janesville's first City Hall was erected at Jackson and Wall streets. A public library building, funded in large part by Pennsylvania philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, was built in 1903. Janesville's slow growth inspired local businessmen to organize the Janesville Advancement Association in 1905 to attract new industries. In 1910, the population was 13,894 and there were 78 factories in the city, employing 1,000 workers. About 50 percent of the factories produced textiles or clothing. The Janesville Machine Company, under the able management of Joseph A. Craig, was Janesville's largest factory, with 250-300 hands, and a plant sprawling over three city blocks south of Pleasant Street on both sides of River Street.¹⁹

¹⁸Ibid., pp. 575-580.

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 573 and 589.

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The 1918 An Educational Survey of Janesville also reviewed the industrial sector of the city. The survey noted that there had been little growth since 1900, and stated:

...it is safe to assume that except for some unusual and unforeseen condition which may arise, [Janesville's] future development will not be marked by any rapid growth in population.²⁰

The same year An Educational Survey of Janesville was released, Joseph A. Craig announced that General Motors Corporation would move the Samson Tractor Company to Janesville, where it would merge with the Janesville Machine Company, and bring as many as 4,500 new residents to Janesville within a year or two. Local civic and business leaders went to great lengths to ensure that this venture would be successful (see discussion under Historical Significance: Community Development and Planning). In 1918-19, the Samson Tractor Company factory was constructed.²¹ Joseph Craig was named general manager, and by May 1919, tractors were rolling off the production line. Samson provided an immediate boost to Janesville's population, which reached 18,293 in 1920. In 1920 Samson added a line of trucks. Despite Craig's efforts, General Motors ended tractor production in Janesville in September 1921, and stopped making trucks in 1922. This might have been the end of General Motors in Janesville, but Craig urged General Motors officials not to abandon Janesville. The citizens of Janesville had made a substantial financial commitment to General Motors (see

²⁰C. P. Cary, An Educational Survey of Janesville, Wisconsin, (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1918), p. 115.

²¹"A School and Community," p. 1.

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discussion under Historical Significance: Community Development and Planning), and in September 1922, General Motors announced it would convert the Samson factory into an assembly plant for the production of Chevrolet automobiles. In March 1923, the Chevrolet plant opened with 730 employees. By the end of the month, the factory was producing as many as 150 cars a day.²²

Since that time, General Motors has been the leading employer in Janesville, and the city's growth has reflected the fortunes of General Motors. Automobile production in Janesville was at its height between about 1950 and 1970. Janesville grew by 41 percent during the 1950s, and by 32 percent during the 1960s. The population in 1970 was 46,426.²³ Automobile production has declined since 1970, and the General Motors work force has been cut back. Janesville's growth has been modest, increasing by ten percent during the 1970s, and by two percent during the 1980s. The 1990 population of Janesville stood at 52,210.

Education was extremely important to the early European-American settlers of Janesville. The first classes were taught in 1839, in a log cabin (demolished) that stood near the Monterey Bridge. A second log school building (demolished) was erected near Main and Milwaukee streets in 1840.²⁴

²²Ibid., p. 31.

²³Robert C. Nesbit, Wisconsin: A History, (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1973), p. 549.

²⁴Bernice Cadman, "The History of the Janesville Public Schools," unpublished manuscript on file at the Janesville Public Library, 1959, p. 6.

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Two brick school houses were built in 1844, one on either side of the Rock River. In 1845, there were 273 children enrolled in Janesville schools. By 1853, this figure had risen to 1,600, including also both private public schools.²⁵ At that time, there were seven or eight public elementary schools in the city, with 858 students enrolled. Each school was its own school district, with its own school board. During early 1850s, civic leaders advocated creating a single unified, or "union" school system, with graded public schools. In April 1855, the City of Janesville School District was created, with all the public schools in the city under the direction of a single School Board. The members of the School Board were appointed by the Janesville Common Council, which controlled the public school budget.²⁶

One of the first actions of the new unified school board was to create a free high school program. The state legislature had authorized union school districts to establish free high schools in 1855. The first public high school had been established in the city of Kenosha in 1849.²⁷ Janesville's free high school program appears to have been the fourth in the state, behind Kenosha, Waukesha and Racine.²⁸ The city of Janesville bought the 1844 stone

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid., pp. 6-7.

²⁷Barbara Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), III:3-1 through 3-7.

²⁸Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin for the Year 1856, (Madison: Calkins and Proudfit, Printers, 1857), pp. 60-61.

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Janesville Academy building (demolished), at 10 South High Street, to house the new high school program. The Janesville Academy, a private, college-preparatory school, had been chartered in 1843. The new public high school opened in 1855, and was called the Janesville Free Academy. The School Board had a new high school building constructed in 1857-59, at a cost of \$40,000.²⁹ The new school, located just east of the Rock County Courthouse, was a three-story Italianate building that housed Third Ward elementary school students and a teacher-training program, as well as high school students.³⁰ In 1870, Janesville was one of only 14 communities in the state that had high school programs.

In 1875, the Wisconsin state legislature passed the Free High School Law, providing state aid to high schools. The state offered to pay one-half the cost of educational instruction in any high school, up to \$500 per school. State Superintendent of Schools, Edward Searing, worked with several professors at the University of Wisconsin to devise three different curricula. One was a three-year course, intended for communities of less than 6,000. The other two were four-year courses, intended for larger communities. One was nearly identical to the three-year course, aimed at developing well-rounded individuals who would be good citizens and workers, but were not necessarily college-bound, while the other four-year course emphasized the classics (Latin, Greek and ancient history). Eighteen high schools took advantage of the new law within the first year after its enactment; 24 more followed in

²⁹Brown, pp. 553-556.

³⁰Cadman, pp. 12-14.

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1876.³¹ Janesville participated in the Free High School program beginning in 1875.

By 1890, Janesville's burgeoning population and the increased interest in high school education had resulted in overcrowded conditions in the 1859 school. In April 1894, Janesville voters approved a bond issue of \$55,000 to build a new high school building. The new Romanesque Revival high school, erected at 58 South High Street (demolished), opened in 1895 and could accommodate 400 students.³² By 1900, the average annual high school enrollment had reached 400, and by the 1910, annual enrollment was consistently over 400.³³ When An Educational Survey of Janesville was released in 1918, high school enrollment had reached 530, dangerously overcrowded. The survey also pointed out that the 1895 high school was not equipped for the 1918 curriculum, which should include manual training, domestic science, physical education, and commercial courses such as bookkeeping, typing and so on.³⁴ On the heels of this survey came the announcement that the General Motors Corporation would build a large factory in Janesville, further increasing the city's population and demanding a high-school-educated work force. This encouraged voters to approve the construction of a new high school in April 1919 (see discussion under Historical Significance: Community Development and Planning).

³¹Wyatt, III:3-4 through 3-5.

³²Cadman, pp. 24-26; Brown, p. 582; Cary, p. 17.

³³Brown, p. 583; Cary, p. 110.

³⁴Cary, pp. 11 and 17.

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The Janesville High School opened in 1924. It housed students in grades 7 through 12 until 1955, when it became a Janesville Junior High School. The post-World War II baby boom had overcrowded the high school and a new Janesville Senior High School (now Craig High School) had been built at 401 South Randall Avenue in 1955. In 1962-63, Franklin Junior High School was built at 450 South Crosby Avenue, and the old Janesville Junior High School was renamed Marshall Junior High School. During the 1970s, the Janesville School District reorganized the grades from a junior-senior high school system, to middle school (grades 6-7-8) and high school (grades 9-10-11-12). At that time, Marshall Junior High became Marshall Middle School.³⁵ While school enrollment fell during the late 1970s and 1980s, advances in technology led to changes in curriculum, notably the use of computers in the classrooms particularly at middle school age. In December 1996, the old Marshall Middle School closed, and a new Marshall Middle School opened.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

The Janesville High School is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A in Community Development and Planning. Janesville High School was one of three elements in Janesville's plan to convince the General Motors Corporation to bring, and retain, production facilities to the community. Joseph A. Craig, a businessman who was committed to making Janesville successful, led this effort.

Joseph A. Craig (1867-1958) was born and raised on a farm in Pennsylvania. As a young man, he migrated to Illinois, where he

³⁵Cadman, pp. 35-38.

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operated a successful agricultural implements dealership. He went to work for the Janesville Machine Company, manufacturers of agricultural implements, as a salesman in 1892. Craig's shrewd business sense and his talent for organizing led to his appointment as general manager of the Janesville Machine Company by 1897. Under his leadership, the company prospered, gaining a national reputation for both the company's products (especially plows) and Craig's managerial ability. William C. Durant, president of the General Motors Corporation, approached Craig in March 1918 with a request that Craig take over management of the Samson Tractor Company, located in Stockton, California. General Motors had just acquired Samson, and it was failing. Craig countered by proposing that General Motors move the Samson Tractor Company to Janesville, buy the Janesville Machine Company, and combine the two enterprises. Durant was not interested in manufacturing agricultural implements, but he did agree to move the Samson Tractor Company to Janesville.³⁶

Durant's decision apparently received lukewarm support from other officials of the General Motors Corporation, who were not convinced that Janesville offered the quality of life desired for the company's employees, and which would ensure that the company would have educated, capable and satisfied employees.³⁷ The Samson Tractor Company expected to bring 4,500 people to Janesville when the factory opened in the fall of 1919. This would increase the population of the city by 25 percent in a matter of months. Yet in the spring of 1918, there were no more than 12 residences for sale or rent. Further, Rock County dirt roads made accessibility to

³⁶"A School and Community," pp. 1-2.

³⁷"Janesville's Opportunity," JDG, March 29, 1919.

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Janesville difficult for automobiles and trucks during much of the year. Finally, Janesville's schools were all more than twenty years old, outmoded, overcrowded and poorly-located around the city. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction issued An Educational Survey of Janesville in 1918, which stated: "That the city has few good school buildings is a fact that is perhaps familiar to most of its citizens."³⁸ The study condemned the high school in particular, noting that the building, intended for 400 students, housed 530, "well in excess for comfort, convenience and proper sanitation."³⁹ The study continued:

The assembly room, cloak rooms and many recitation rooms are so badly overcrowded as to be not only inconvenient but unhealthful and unsafe. . . The attic rooms for commercial work and domestic science are especially objectionable, interfered with as they are by the trusswork of the building, inconvenient access, poor lighting and ventilation...There might be serious danger in case of fire. . .⁴⁰

If Janesville was going to be successful in attracting and retaining the General Motors Corporation, there was much to be done. Janesville met this challenge with a burst of activity. In the spring of 1918, Joseph Craig and other civic and business leaders organized the Janesville Chamber of Commerce (hereafter, the Chamber). Under the slogan, "Preparedness for Progress," the organizers invited men to become members of the Chamber by pledging

³⁸Cary, p. 6.

³⁹Ibid., p. 17.

⁴⁰Ibid.

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\$25 a year for three years. The response exceeded the organizers' expectations: by late May of 1918, the fledgling Chamber had more than 600 members.⁴¹ In June 1918, the Chamber elected officers and developed a work program. The Chamber joined with the Rock County Good Roads Association to promote the paving of 100 miles of state trunk highways, which it was estimated would cost \$1.5 million and take 5 years to complete. The Chamber also helped organize the Janesville Housing Corporation, whose goal was to build 500 houses as rapidly as possible. The Janesville Housing Corporation was financed by subscription and personally approved by William Durant, who invested \$100,000 of General Motors' money in the venture. Janesville residents pledged another \$200,000.⁴²

In November 1918, the Janesville Daily Gazette exhorted Janesville "to be prepared" for the nearly 10,000 persons General Motors would bring to the city in the next three years.⁴³ Shortly thereafter, the Janesville School Board (hereafter, Board) began discussing building a new high school. In January 1919, the Board unanimously approved two resolutions: first, that a new high school be built; and second, that the Board request that the Common Council and Mayor take the steps necessary to issue bonds to fund site acquisition and planning for the new high school.⁴⁴

⁴¹"A School and Community," pp. 19-20.

⁴²Ibid., p. 7.

⁴³"Great Growth For City Predicted at Meeting Last Night," JDG, November 14, 1918.

⁴⁴Minutes, JSB, January 24, 1919.

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Janesville's elected officials supported the Board's request, and placed a \$60,000 bond issue on the April 1, 1919 ballot. They also detailed nationally-prominent city planner, John Nolen, to review the proposed site for the new high school as the first task in his role as planning consultant for the city. Nolen was enthusiastic about the site's size, location and accessibility, and reportedly said that if the city did not get the tract for the school, they ought to get it for a park.⁴⁵

The voters of Janesville were to face two referenda on April 1. In addition to the \$60,000 school bond issue, the Chamber and the Rock County Good Roads Association were successful in placing a \$1.5 million road bond issue on the ballot. The Chamber campaigned heavily for both issues. In the days leading up to the election, full-page ads appeared in the Gazette. The road issue was promoted with the slogan, "Ride on Concrete," and illustrated with photographs of Model Ts mired in the mud on existing county roads.⁴⁶ For support of the school bond issue, the Chamber made a special appeal to women voters.

Prior to the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1919, which gave women the right to vote nationwide, Wisconsin women had very limited voting rights. The 1885 School Suffrage Bill had given Wisconsin women the right to vote in "school matters," an ambiguous term that was not clarified until 1902, when the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided that this meant women could vote only in the election of the State Superintendent

⁴⁵"What Dr. John Nolen, City Planner, Says," JDG, March 25, 1919.

⁴⁶JDG, March 29, 1919, p. 9.

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of Instruction and on local school matters. This had little meaning at the local level as school board members typically were appointed by local elected officials. During the 1910s, some Wisconsin communities petitioned the legislature to amend their charters such that school board members were elected directly. This gave women a local school-related issue on which they could vote. In Janesville, the school bond referendum of April 1919 was the first local election in which women could vote.⁴⁷

The Chamber appealed to women voters in newspaper ads featuring, in bold-face, head-line type, "WOMEN--MOTHERS--YOU MAY VOTE." The ads claimed that the General Motors Corporation believed proper school facilities were as important as building houses, and that failure to pass the school bond issue now would block the city's growth. The ads went on to explain how to register, what the ballot would look like, and listed the names and addresses of various women in each ward who would be available to explain the issue further, and to drive women to the polls. Local women, notably Helen Sutherland, were actively involved in getting out the vote, organizing a telephone network and going door-to-door to remind women voters to go to the polls.⁴⁸

Both the school and road bond issues passed overwhelmingly. In the school bond issue, women cast 1,596 ballots, accounting for about one-third of all votes. A large number of high school students,

⁴⁷David Mollenhoff, Madison: A History of the Formative Years, (Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1982), pp. 380-384.

⁴⁸"Women Work for School Board Vote," JDG, March 28, 1919, p. 3; ads, JDG, March 29, 1919, p. 16 and March 31, 1919, p. 14; and "A School and Community," p. 8.

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who had planned to strike if the issue failed, gathered in front of the office of the Gazette and celebrated, "giving school yells while doing a snake dance in the street."⁴⁹ John P. Cullen, president of the Chamber, attributed the success of the school bond issue to women voters, stating: "All honor to the women of Janesville."⁵⁰ The Gazette followed with an editorial praising women voters for their effective organization.⁵¹

In April 1919, the School Board approved contracts to purchase the various parcels on which the new high school would be built, and in May they appointed Henry Van Ryn and Gerrit de Gelleke as architects for the new school.⁵² Over the summer, Board members visited high school buildings in Milwaukee and met frequently with the architects. In July, the Board requested that the Mayor and Common Council issue bonds in the amount of \$40,000 to cover construction of the foundation for the new high school, to be constructed in the fall.⁵³ Van Ryn and de Gelleke's plan for the foundation was approved in September, and the contract to build it was awarded to

⁴⁹"Strike of High School Students Averted by Victory for Bonds," JDG, April 2, 1919, p. 3.

⁵⁰"Janesville Women Cast Third of Vote," JDG, April 2, 1919, p. 1.

⁵¹JDG, April 6, 1919.

⁵²Minutes, JSB, April 10, 1919; and May 6, 1919.

⁵³Minutes, JSB, July 10, 1919.

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Ford, Boos and Schoof, a local firm.⁵⁴ The foundation was completed over the winter.

Meanwhile, General Motors Corporation had purchased the Janesville Machine Company, acquired 122 acres on the south side of Janesville, and erected a new building for the Samson Tractor Company.⁵⁵ Joseph Craig was named general manager of Samson. By May 1919, tractors were rolling off the production line, and in 1920 a line of trucks was added. Despite Craig's efforts, the Samson Tractor Company was not as profitable as had been hoped. The factory quit producing tractors in September 1921, and ended truck production in 1922. This might have been the end of General Motors in Janesville, but Craig urged Durant not to abandon Janesville. The citizens of Janesville had made a commitment to General Motors in their wholehearted support of the building of the high school, the financing of the Janesville Housing Corporation, and the paving of the state trunk highways. In September 1922, it was announced that General Motors would convert the Samson factory into an assembly plant for the production of Chevrolet automobiles. In March 1923, the Chevrolet plant opened with 730 employees. By the end of the month, the factory was producing as many as 150 cars a day.⁵⁶

During the same period, planning and construction on the Janesville High School was carried out. Van Ryn and de Gelleke finalized the plans over the summer and fall of 1921.⁵⁷ In July 1921, John P.

⁵⁴Minutes, JSB, September 8, 1919; and September 19, 1919.

⁵⁵"A School and Community," p. 1.

⁵⁶Ibid., p. 31.

⁵⁷Original plans.

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Cullen and Son was awarded the contract to build the school.⁵⁸ On December 27, 1921, the City Council unanimously passed an ordinance issuing \$600,000 in bonds for the erection of the high school.⁵⁹ On April 1, 1922, the cornerstone was laid. The Janesville High School opened on February 5, 1923, with an enrollment of 1,165.⁶⁰

The Janesville High School was dedicated on March 27, 1923. To celebrate what the Gazette called the "Million Dollar School," there were two days of open house, with students conducting tours for the public; a concert held in the auditorium, broadcast over the radio; and an essay contest, answering the question, "What does a new high school mean to Janesville?"⁶¹ Jean Sutherland won the essay contest. Interestingly, Sutherland's mother, Helen, who had been instrumental in organizing women voters in the school bond issue, had been elected to the Janesville School Board in 1920. At the time the Janesville High School opened, she was serving as the Board's first woman president.⁶²

⁵⁸Minutes, JSB, July 11, 1921.

⁵⁹"Building of New High School in 1921 is Assured. . . Council Passes \$600,000 Bond Issue, Biggest in History," JDG, December 28, 1920, p. 1.

⁶⁰"1,165 Enrolled in New High School," JDG, February 3-4, 1923, p. 3; and "\$30,000 Voted for Added Equipment at New School."

⁶¹"Hundreds Marvel at New School as Open House Begins," JDG, March 26, 1923, p. 4; "Million Dollar School to be Dedicated Tonight," JDG, March 27, 1923, p. 1; and "Million Dollar School Dedicated," JDG, March 28, 1923, p. 11.

⁶²"A School and Community," p. 16.

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The Janesville High School ably served high school students until 1955, when it became a junior high school. The building continued as Marshall Junior High School, and later Marshall Middle School, until closing in December 1996. Janesville's other efforts to elicit a commitment from General Motors, namely the paving of Rock County's state trunk highways and the Janesville Housing Corporation, also were completed successfully. The Janesville Housing Corporation, in particular, was innovative, building hundreds of low-cost homes during the 1920s, and becoming a national model for dealing with housing shortages.⁶³ General Motors, in turn, went on to become the leading employer in Janesville, enlarging the industrial sector, and having a long-lasting impact that is still felt today.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Janesville High School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. The School's 1919-1923 main block is an excellent and intact example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as an outstanding example of an early twentieth century free-standing high school, and was state-of-the-art for its time. The Janesville High School also represents the work of a "master" architecture firm in Wisconsin, (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke of Milwaukee.

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Wyatt), the Collegiate Gothic style was built in Wisconsin between about 1915

⁶³Ibid., p. 7; and Heritage Preservation Associates, "Historic Janesville: An Architectural History of Janesville, Wisconsin," report prepared for the City of Janesville Department of Community Development, 1982, p. 18.

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and 1940. Inspired by the medieval buildings of prominent English universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, the style was popular for college campus buildings, high schools and elementary schools, especially during the late 1910s and the 1920s. Elementary and high school designs were often a loose interpretation of the Gothic mode. The Collegiate Gothic elementary or high school building is typically finished with brick, accented with stone, and features a central, towered, "keep-like" entrance. Details such as battlements, finials, parapets that may be crenellated, Gothic and Tudor arches, and ornament characteristics of the Gothic and Tudor styles may also be present.⁶⁴ The Janesville High School is a fully-developed and ornate example of Collegiate Gothic, incorporating many of the above-listed features, such as the brick finish accented with stone, parapets, towered keep-like entrances, and ornament typical of the Gothic and Tudor styles. The ornamentation on the Janesville High School includes stone quoining, tracery, quatrefoils, classical moldings, cartouches, pierced stonework reminiscent of strapwork, and human-faced grotesques.

Five other schools were erected in Janesville during the 1920s. Two were public elementary schools and three were elementary schools affiliated with churches. All five are extant. The two public schools, Roosevelt, at 315 South Ringold Street (1929-30), and Wilson, at 465 Rockport (1929-30), were designed by the noted Madison architectural firm of (James) Law, (Edward) Law and (Ellis) Potter. Roosevelt Elementary is Georgian Revival in style, while Wilson Elementary is Neo-Classical Revival. Wilson is a contributing element in the National Register-listed Old Fourth Ward Historic District. All three of the church-affiliated schools are Collegiate Gothic in style, finished with red brick and trimmed

⁶⁴Wyatt, II:2-31.

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with white stone, and retain good integrity, but none is as high style an example as the Janesville High School. St. Patrick's School at 305 Lincoln Street (1920) is a very modest example, with very little ornament. It contributes to the Old Fourth Ward Historic District. Old St. Paul's School at 164 South Academy Street (1927-28), which also contributes to the Old Fourth Ward Historic District, is a bit more ornate, with its church-like entrance pavilion featuring buttresses and corbelling. St. Mary's School at 307 East Wall Street (1928-29), located in the National Register-listed Prospect Hill Historic District, is also fairly ornate. It has a keep-like entrance pavilion with a rock-faced stone veneer base, and buttresses; a gabled parapet; and a Tudoresque polygonal bay. Of the four Collegiate Gothic school buildings in Janesville, the Janesville High School is the best and most fully-developed example.

The Janesville High School is also an outstanding example of the early twentieth century free-standing high school building type. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most high schools were located in the same building as the elementary school. In the 1913-14 school year, for example, there were 219 buildings in the state in which both elementary and high school students were taught, and only 24 buildings dedicated to solely to high school students. This changed following World War I, as the high school curriculum diversified (in part in response to state mandates and incentives), requiring complex buildings with libraries, large gymnasiums and specialized classrooms for science, manual training, and so on.⁶⁵

⁶⁵Ibid., III:3-4 through 3-5.

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The state-of-the-art free-standing high school of the late 1910s and the 1920s was spacious, well lit, with good ventilation and heating, electricity and indoor plumbing. The classrooms were assigned by subject, with teachers who specialized in one or more subjects. There were often classrooms with built-in equipment and facilities, intended for certain subjects, notably manual training, domestic arts, and the sciences, as well as a library and a principal's office. During this period, school designers began to include a gymnasium in the school building. The early gymnasium was located typically in either the attic or the basement, and was often not very functional. Educators urged the inclusion of an assembly room, or an auditorium (a larger space), in the school plan during the 1920s. The auditorium would provide space for school programs and plays, as well as cultural events, and would enable the school to play a larger role in its community by providing lectures for the general public at the school. This, in turn, would promote the Americanization of immigrants and the development of better-educated citizens.⁶⁶

The Janesville High School is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century free-standing high school because it not only incorporated everything recommended for a state-of-the-art 1920s high school, but some additional features as well. The Janesville High School plan included a library; a very large gymnasium; a large and beautifully-appointed auditorium; a block of offices for the principal and staff; specialized manual training rooms for auto mechanics, machines, wood-working, cement, electrical work and lumber; drafting rooms; kitchens, sewing rooms and fitting rooms for domestic science; a music room; classrooms for typing, shorthand and bookkeeping; and science laboratories for biology,

⁶⁶See any issue of the Wisconsin Journal of Education, 1920s.

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Janesville High School
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agriculture, chemistry, physics and geography. Most of these specialized rooms had built-in cabinetry and bookcases designed for each specialized use. Elements that were ahead of their time included the cafeteria and kitchen; the two swimming pools; a lecture room dedicated to the public; a lounge, locker room and restroom for women teachers; a dining room with linens, china, glassware and silverware for use in domestic science; and two classrooms dedicated to art instruction.⁶⁷

While Wyatt does not classify the architectural firm of Van Ryn and de Gelleke as "master architects," for the purpose of National Register evaluation, their body of work is such that they merit consideration as master architects. Henry Van Ryn (1864-1951) was born in Milwaukee of Dutch and German immigrant parents. Van Ryn was not formally trained in architecture, but went to work in the office of Milwaukee architect Charles A. Gombert in 1881, at the age of 17. Van Ryn later worked briefly for two other Milwaukee architects, James Douglas, and Edward Townsend Mix. In 1885, Van Ryn established his own firm, in partnership with Robert G. Kirsch. The following year, the partnership dissolved, and Van Ryn worked alone for a few years. In 1889, he formed a new partnership with Charles L. Lesser and Frank W. Andree. By 1895, that partnership had also ended. In 1897, Gerrit de Gelleke joined Van Ryn after he had completed the architectural program at the University of Pennsylvania. De Gelleke (1872-1960) was born in Milwaukee, the son of Dutch immigrants. Van Ryn and de Gelleke maintained a successful practice together for nearly 40 years. Over time, de Gelleke became the chief designer, while Van Ryn concentrated on the business and public relations aspects of the firm. Their

⁶⁷Original plans.

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partnership ended in 1937, and neither appears to have secured many commissions after that time.⁶⁸

School design was a specialty for Van Ryn and de Gelleke, although they also designed many residences and several public buildings. Prior to joining with de Gelleke, Van Ryn designed at least two schools: the Longfellow School in Wausau (1894, extant) and St. John's Grade School in Marshfield (1896, demolished); as well as additions to several schools. Between 1897 and 1928, Van Ryn and de Gelleke designed at least 38 school buildings, and eight additions to school buildings, most of them in the Milwaukee area. From 1912 until 1924, they were the architects for the Milwaukee School Board.⁶⁹ Many of their school designs of this period, including the Janesville High School, were executed in the Collegiate Gothic style. Only three schools designed by Van Ryn and de Gelleke are known to have been demolished. Two of their school designs have been listed individually, or determined eligible for listing, on the National Register: the Main Hall, La Crosse State Normal School, La Crosse (1908-09); and Engelmann Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus (1926). While no formal evaluation of the work of Van Ryn and de Gelleke has been carried out, the Janesville High School, an aesthetically-pleasing and fully-developed Collegiate Gothic building that shows fine attention to detail, is certainly representative of their work, and likely among the best of their designs.

⁶⁸Donald M. Aucutt, "Van Ryn: Architect in Central Wisconsin at Century's Turn," Catalog prepared as part of an exhibit of Van Ryn's work, which toured Wausau, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Merrill and Antigo in 1992-93, pp. 4-10, and 24.

⁶⁹Ibid., pp. 26-32.

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CONCLUSION

The Janesville High School is historically significant at the local level under Criterion A, in Community Development and Planning. Erecting the Janesville High School was one element in a three-part plan put forward by Janesville's civic and business leaders, and embraced wholeheartedly by the citizens of Janesville, to bring General Motors to Janesville and keep it there. This effort was successful, and changed the character, economy and history of the community. In addition, the Janesville High School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. The School's 1919-1923 main block is an excellent and intact example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as an outstanding example of an early twentieth century free-standing high school, and was state-of-the-art for its time. The Janesville High School also represents the work of a "master" architecture firm in Wisconsin, (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke of Milwaukee.

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Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

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Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

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Janesville High School
Name of Property

Rock County, Wisconsin
County and State

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

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.0 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/6 3/3/4/7/2/0 4/7/2/6/7/8/0 3 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
2 / / / / / / / / / / / / 4 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
___ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization for Stone House Development date 10-21-97
street & number 701 Ridge Street telephone 608-233-6000
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53705

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Janesville High School
Name of Property

Rock County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Janesville School Apartments, LLC (c/o Stone House Development)
street & number 701 Ridge Street telephone 608-233-6000
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53705

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site on which the Janesville High School is located is made up of the following parcels in the City of Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows:

Lots 3 through 14, Dickson and Bailey's Addition to the City of Janesville, except the northeasterly 246 feet of Lot 3 and the northeasterly 246 feet of Lot 4; and

Lot 15, Dickson and Bailey's Addition to the City of Janesville, except the east 325.5 feet thereof; and

Excepting part of Lots 2, 3 and 4 of Dickson and Bailey's Addition to the City of Janesville described as follows: Commencing at an iron pin monument at the most northerly corner of said Lot 2, thence S 46 degrees 20 minutes W 246.0 feet to an iron pin monument at the place of beginning for the land to be herein described; thence S 43 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds E 170.0 feet to an iron pin monument; thence S 46 degrees 29 minutes W 130.2 feet, more or less to a point on the River Wall; thence N 43 degrees 23 minutes W along said River Wall 170.0 feet to a drill hole on said River Wall; thence 46 degrees 29 minutes E 130.0 feet to the place of beginning.

The parcel contains approximately 6.0 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Janesville High School coincide with those of the legal parcel on which it sits. These boundaries enclose the building's contributing main block, and two small noncontributing

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additions, as well as the green space historically associated with the Janesville High School.

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Photo 1 of 13
Janesville High School
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, September and November 1997
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of the east-facing (front) facade, looking west.

The information for the following photographs is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 13
View of the north-facing facade showing connection to 1964-65 addition, looking southwest.

Photo 3 of 13
View of the west-facing facade, looking southeast.

Photo 4 of 13
Closeup of the main entrance on east-facing (front) facade, looking west.

Photo 5 of 13
View of the north-facing facade, looking southwest.

Photo 6 of 13
View of one gymnasium entrance, north-facing facade, looking south.

Photo 7 of 13
View of the south-facing facade, looking northeast.

Photo 8 of 13
View of the south-facing facade, west end, looking north.

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Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Photo 9 of 13
View of the typical classroom.

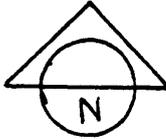
Photo 10 of 13
View of the model dining room.

Photo 11 of 13
View of the auditorium, looking toward the stage.

Photo 12 of 13
View of the auditorium, looking toward the balcony.

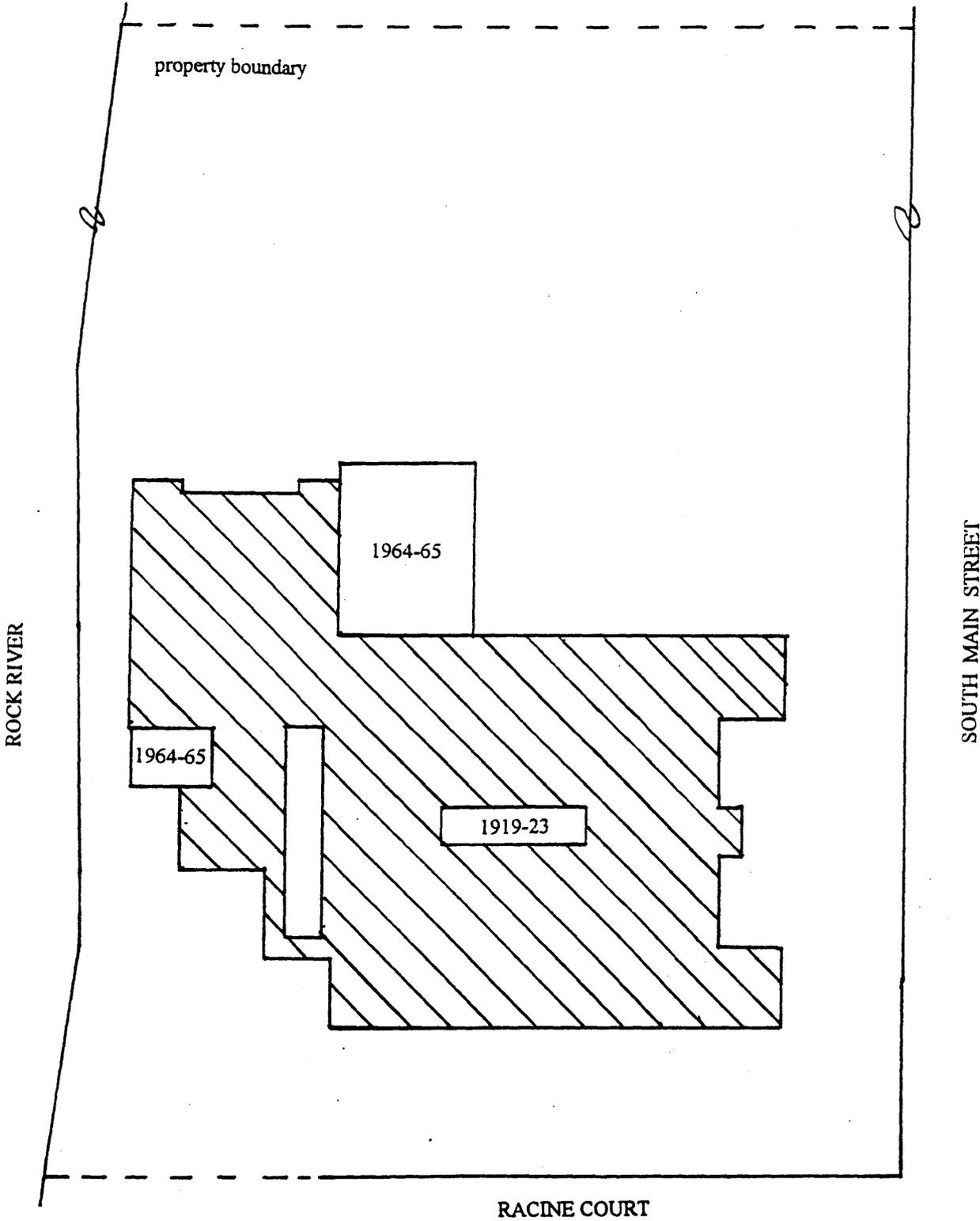
Photo 13 of 13
View of a typical leaded-glass window in the auditorium.

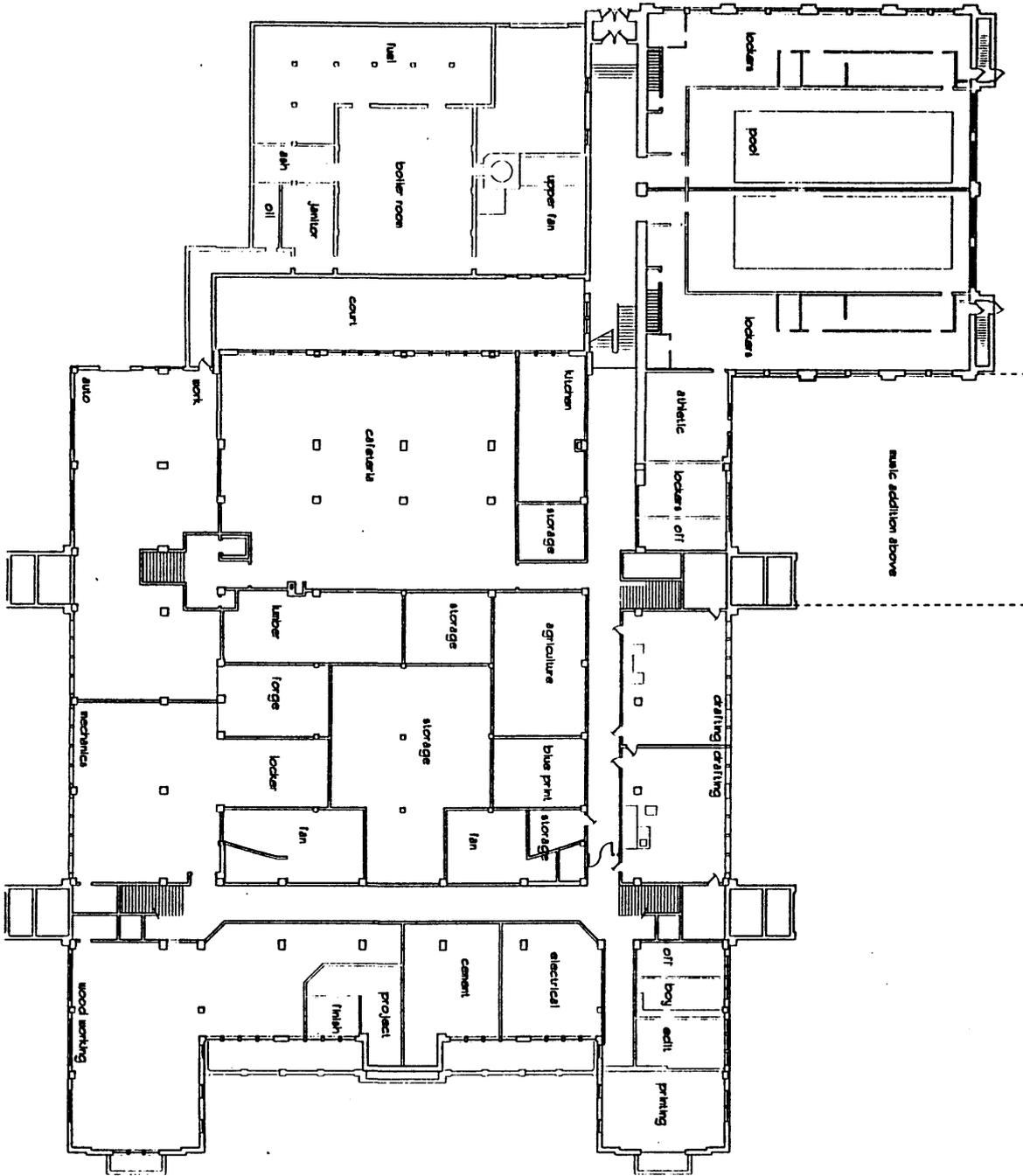
JANESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin



Scale 1"=80'

-  Contributing
-  Noncontributing





GROUND FLOOR

JANESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
 JANESVILLE, ROCK CO., WI
 not to scale



MARSHALL SCHOOL APARTMENTS
 408 East Main Street
 Janesville, Wisconsin
 701 ridge street medison wisconsin 53705

PLANS

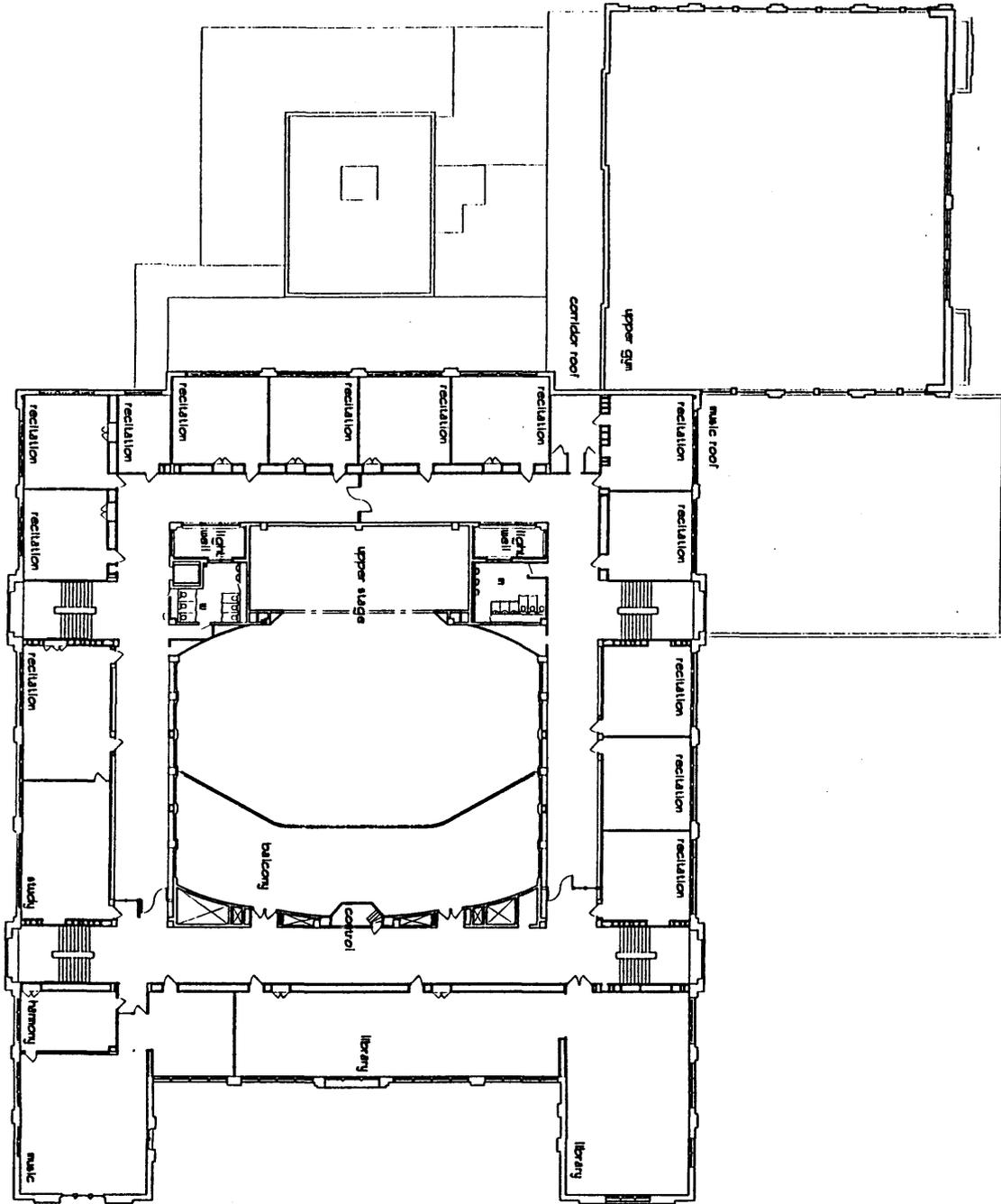


STONE HOUSE
 ARCHITECTS, INC.
 701 Ridge Street
 Madison, Wisconsin 53705
 (608) 253-6000

DRN BY: SRS
 JHP: PCL
 DATE: 5/4/81
 233 6363 / 233 7063

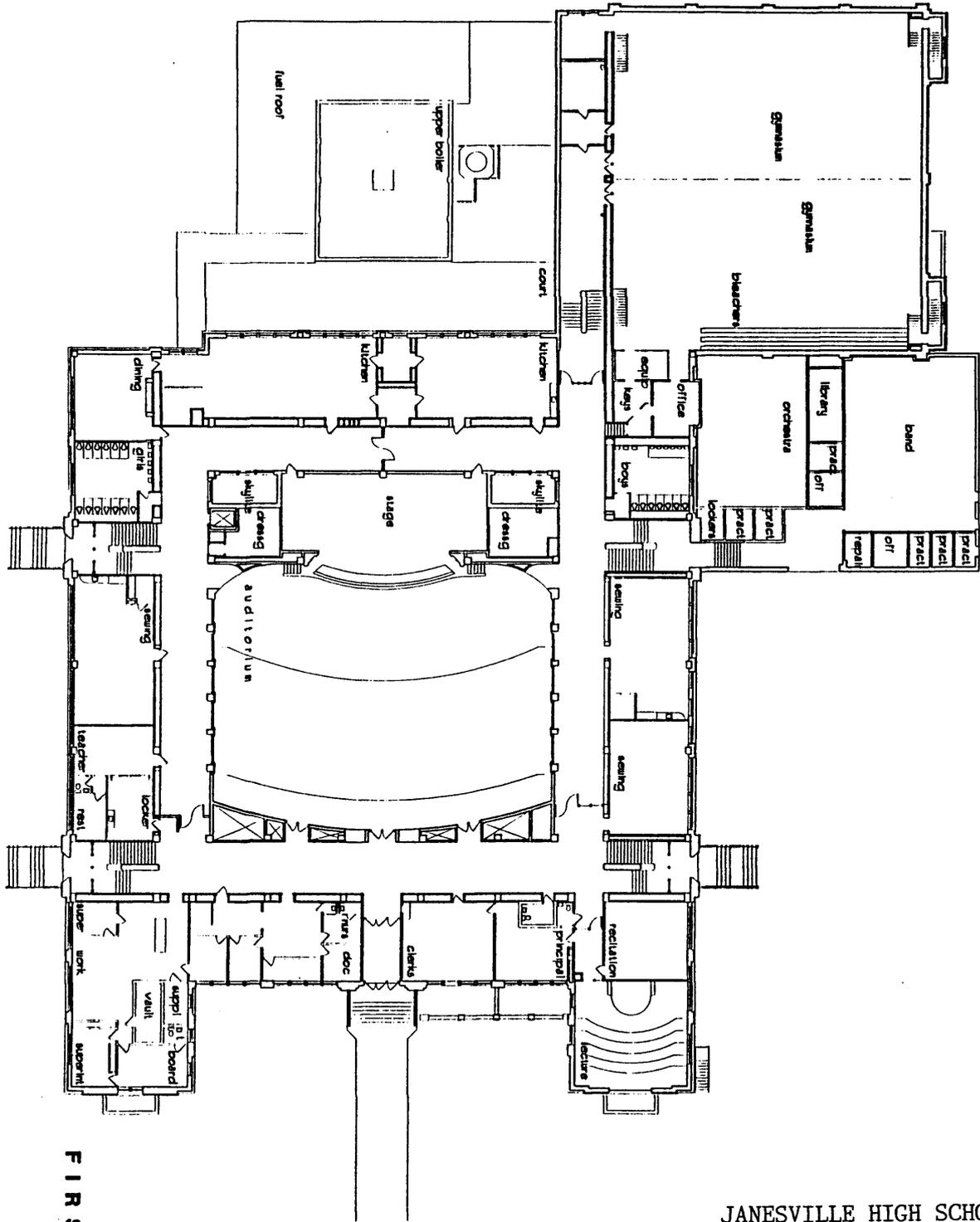
SHEET
 A-1





SECOND FLOOR

JANESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
 JANESVILLE, ROCK CO., WI
 not to scale



FIRST FLOOR

JANESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
 JANESVILLE, ROCK CO. WI
 not to scale

the architects
MARSHALL SCHOOL APARTMENTS
 408 East Main Street
 Janesville, Wisconsin
 701 Ridge Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53705

PLANS

STONK HOUSE
 701 Ridge Street
 Madison, Wisconsin 53705
 (608) 233-8000

SHEET
 Date: _____
 Drawn by: _____
 Checked by: _____
 233.8363/233.7063

