

HISTORIC NAME: Tyler Public School
 CURRENT NAME: Tyler Jr. High Public School
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet

COUNTY: Lincoln
 CITY/TWP.: Tyler
 ADDRESS: Strong Street
 Tyler, MN

80007089
DEC 1 1980

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Architecture</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary _____
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X
 PRESENT USE: Jr. High School
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1903 ORIGINAL USE: Public School
 ORIGINAL OWNER: School District 23 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: A.J. Van Deusen

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Independent School District No. 409
 Tyler, MN 56178 ACREAGE: Less than one acre _____

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Superintendent, Tyler Public School,
 100 Strong Street, Tyler, MN 56178

UTM REFERENCE:
 Tyler, MN 7.5

FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth
 DATE: May 1980

14 / 728720 / 4906920

DESCRIPTION:

The Tyler Public School is prominently located at the northern end of Tyler's main commercial street. Built in 1903, the school is constructed of red brick on a high, rusticated stone foundation. Stone is also used in the window lintels and balustrade. The 2½ story building, with features of the Renaissance Revival and Romanesque styles, is built on a rectangular plan with a multi-dormered flared hip roof with wood shingles, wide eaves and modillions. On the east and west sides are curvilinear gables with stone coping and finials. The first or principal story is articulated in horizontal brick bands to resemble stone coursing. Flat arches with brick keystones cap the windows. A small stone band separates the first and second story. The second story is smooth unarticulated brick. The front (south) facade is divided into three distinct and symmetrical bays. The side bays project. The recessed round arched central entrance slightly projects and is capped by a parapet and balustrade. A four story square tower with an open belfry and pyramidal roof is located directly over the entrance. A central staircase flanked on either side by classrooms divides the interior. The exterior is unaltered with the exception of the replacement of window sash. The school is currently used for junior high classes.

In 1918, a two story structure was built to the south and east of the 1903 building. Attached to the earlier building by a one story concourse, this structure is of brick construction and was designed by Minneapolis architect C. Howard Parsons. It features simple ornamentation including the division of the front facade by pilasters and an irregularly stepped parapet. In 1951, a brick classroom addition was added to the north of the 1918 building, and in 1960, a brick 1½ story gymnasium was constructed to the east of the 1918 building. Also in 1951, a one story brick elementary school section was built to the west of the 1903 building. It is connected to the 1903 building by an unobtrusive one story concourse.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Tyler Public School is significant as a locally distinctive public building and as a well preserved and maintained school facility. From the organization of the Tyler School District in 1880 until 1903 students attended classes in a frame school to which classrooms were added as enrollment increased. In 1903, the present school was built according to the plans of Winona architect A.J. Van Duesen. Primary grades were located on the first floor, grades 8 to 12 were on the second floor, and the attic was reserved for chemistry, home economics and basketball practice. In 1918, a wing designed by Minneapolis architect C. Howard Parsons was constructed to the south and east to house the senior high school. Later additions followed in 1950, 1951, and 1960, but none of these have obscured the

(see continuation sheet)

integrity of the original school. Although all the wings are connected, the sensitive approach taken at the time of their construction allows the original building to retain its prominent position on the school lot as designated by the original town plat. Located at the northern terminus of Tyler's main commercial street, the school remains the focal point of the community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Tasker, A.E. Early History of Lincoln County. Lake Benton News Print, 1936.

"New School House," The Tyler Herald, 28 March 1918, p. 1

Tyler Journal, 24 April and 26 June, 1903, p. 5.

Lincoln County Centennial History Committee, Lincoln County, Minnesota, 1873-1973. Lake Benton, Minnesota: Journal Printing Company, 1973.