8111

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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

| to complete an items. | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of Property | |
| historic name Central High School | |
| other names/site number <u>Central Middle School, 32RY356</u> | |
| 2. Location | |
| street & number 325 Seventh Street N/A | □ not for publication |
| city or town Devils Lake | □ vicinity |
| state North Dakota code ND county Ramsey code 071 zip code 58301 | |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification | |
| As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this in for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this in for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this in for determination of eligibility meets in the National Register of Historic Preservation, In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, the property in the National Register criteria. (In my opinion, th | meet the National ontinuation sheet for |
| Signature of commenting or other official Date | |
| State or Federal agency and bureau | |
| A National Bank Contiguation | |
| 4. National Park Service Certification I, heroby certify that this property is: If entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): | 129/03 |

| Central High Schoo | 1 |
|--------------------|---|
| Name of Property | |

Ramsey, ND
County and State

| 5. Classification | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) |
| (Check as many boxes as apply) | (Check only one box) | Contributing Noncontributing |
| private | X building(s) | 1 buildings |
| X public-local | district | 0 	 0 sites |
| public-State | site | 0 0 structures |
| public-Federal | structure | 0 0 objects |
| 1 | object | 0Total |
| | 00,000 | |
| Name of related multiple pr | roperty listing | Number of contributing resources previously |
| (Enter "N/A" if property is not part | of a multiple property listing.) | listed in the National Register |
| N/A | | 0 |
| 6. Function or Use | | |
| Historic Functions | | Current Functions |
| (Enter categories from instructions) | | (Enter categories from instructions) |
| EDUCATION: school | | EDUCATION: school |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| 7. Description | | |
| Architectural Classification | 1 | Materials |
| (Enter categories from instructions) | | (Enter categories from instructions) |
| Modern Movement: Art De | co | foundation CONCRETE |
| | | walls BRICK |
| | - Andrew Control of the Control of t | roof RUBBER |
| | | other LIMESTONE |
| | | CONCRETE |

Narrative Description

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

| | ment of Significance | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| | able National Register Criteria | | Areas of Significance |
| • | x" in one or more boxes for the criteria | | (Enter categories from instructions) |
| qualifyir | ng the property for National Register listing) | | A D CHARTE CITA D E |
| K-21 | | | ARCHITECTURE |
| ⊠ A | Property is associated with events that | | EDUCATION |
| | have made a significant contribution to | | |
| | the broad patterns of our history. | | |
| □в | Property is associated with the lives of | | |
| D | persons significant in our past. | | |
| | persons significant in our publi | | Period of Significance |
| \boxtimes C | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics | | 1936-1953 |
| _ (| 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 |
| p | | | 1936-1937 |
| \sqcup D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information | | |
| | important in prehistory or history. | | |
| Criteri | a Considerations | | Significant Person |
| | X" in all the boxes that apply.) | | (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) |
| | 11 3 / | | N/A |
| Propert | y is: | | |
| \Box A | owned by a religious institution or used for | | Cultural Affiliation |
| - n | religious purposes. | | N/A |
| ⊔В | removed from its original location. | | |
| □C | a birthplace or a grave. | | Architect/Builder |
| | wommprace or w Brance. | | Marshall, John - Architect |
| \Box D | a cemetery | | Fisher, Nairne W Architect |
| □E | a reconstructed building, object or structure. | | Stavn, H. L. Company - Builder |
| □F | a commemorative property. | | |
| | • • • | | |
| ⊔G | less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. | | |
| | within the past 30 years. | | |
| Narrat | ive Statement of Significance n the significance of the property on one or more continua | tion chapta) | |
| | | tion succes.) | |
| <u>9. Majo</u> | or Bibliographical References | | |
| Bibliogra | aphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on | | ntinuction abouts) |
| | | | of additional data: |
| | eliminary determination of individual | . 🛛 | State Historic Preservation Office |
| F | listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. | | Other State agency |
| □ pre | eviously listed in the National Register | | Federal agency |
| | eviously determined eligible by the National Register | | Local government |
| □ des | signated a National Historic Landmark | | University |
| □ rec | corded by Historic American Buildings Survey | Ш | Other |
| □ rec | corded by Historic American Engineering Record | Name of | repository: |
| | # | | |

| Centra Name | | n School perty | | | | | | Ramsey, ND County and State |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10. Ge | ograp | hical Data | | | | | | |
| Acrea | ge of l | Property <u>2</u> | 2.4 acres | | | | | |
| UTM (Place a | | | es on a continuation sheet) | | | | | |
| 1 1 Zor | | 5 1 0 4 0 8 asting | 5 3 2 8 8 9 0 Northing | 3 | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2 Zo | ne E | asting | Northing | 4 | Zone Se | Easting ee continua | Northing tion sheet. | |
| | | ndary Description of the | ption property on a continuation she | et.) | | | | |
| | | ustification ne boundaries we | ere selected on a continuation s | sheet.) | | | | |
| 11. Fo | rm Pr | epared By | | | | | | |
| name/t | | | ont, Architect | | | | | |
| | | | and Barbara McCormick | | | | | 202 |
| _ | | | Historic Preservation Con | mmission | | | ate <u>July 17, 20</u> | 003 |
| | | iber 502 Four | th Street | | _ • | | -662-3334 | |
| city or | town_ | Devils Lake | | | _ state . | ND | zip code | 58301 |
| Additi | ional I | Documentatio | on | | | | | |
| Submit | the follo | owing items with | the completed form: | | | | | |
| Conti | nuatio | n Sheets | | | | | | |
| Maps | | | | | | | | |
| ΑŪ | JSGS | map (7.5 or 1 | 5 minute series) indication | ng the property's loca | tion. | | | |
| A S | Sketch | map for histo | oric districts and properti | es having large acrea | ge or ni | ımerous r | esources. | |
| Photo | graph | s | | | | | | |
| Rep | presen | tative black a | and white photographs o | of the property. | | | | |
| Additi | ional i | tems | | | | | | |
| (Check | with t | he SHPO or FP | O for any additional items) | | | | | |
| Prope | | | | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| | | | est of the SHPO or FPO.) | | | | | |
| name | | • | olic School District #1 | | | | | |
| | | | North College Drive | | telen | hone 701- | 662-7640 | |
| | | Devils | | | _ | tate N | | code <u>58301</u> |

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 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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|---------|--------|---|------|---|
| | | | | |

Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Description

Central High School was built in 1936 and is located at 325 Seventh Street in Devils Lake, North Dakota. Today the school is known by the community as the Central Middle School. It is on the original construction site located at the north side of Seventh Street facing to the south. The original section of the building was constructed at the southwest corner of the intersection of Kelly Avenue and Seventh Street.

The original building and the new additions occupy about 40% of the entire city block between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. Parking on site is located on the north and the east sides of the building. The location is two blocks north of the main business district and is surrounded by residential buildings. The City of Devils Lake, seat of Ramsey County, is situated on prairie land approximately two miles north of the lake also called Devils Lake.

Central High School is a two-story symmetrical building with a partial basement. The building is Art Deco style with hints of Art Moderne. The main level, which is considered the ground level, is approximately 42 inches higher than the front exterior grade level. The grade level around the building is quite similar on all four sides. Entry to the main level is made by a series of stairs located at the exterior and interior entrances. The exterior stairs consist of three limestone risers to the entry doors into the interior vestibule and an additional set of stairs constructed of terrazzo. The stair vestibule leads directly into the main corridor of the school.

The entire building is brick, highlighted with limestone. The brick is light cream in color with a wire-cut finish and was manufactured in North Dakota. The building is mainly running bond brick with accents of saw-tooth and some panel areas of header bond located between the main floor window and second floors windows.

The Art Deco style is significant in Devils Lake and is depicted in the following elements. The design is clean, with little ornamentation. The style's ornamentation evolved from the materials used. The projecting main entry, centrally placed along the Seventh Street facade, is constructed of limestone. The architect carried the limestone down to the building base and then continued the limestone base horizontally flanking east and west. The front windows are accented with limestone pilasters carved in vertical flutes. These are carried up to the top horizontal brick lintels. Immediately above the stone pilasters, the running-bond brick is turned into saw-tooth bond design. The saw-tooth accents the vertical limestone.

The two-story building retains a vertical rectilinear appearance. This is accomplished by the vertical pilasters mentioned above and is highlighted by material relief at the entrance. The vertical relief is accomplished by the manner of accenting the main stone entrance with a multiple of corner relief or steps that project vertically from the base to roof. Approaching the building from the south front on Fourth Avenue, the vertical rectilinear effect is very evident.

The structure was designed with the most modern features available for that period of construction. The interior of the building bears significant resemblance to the original décor. All the halls have terrazzo floors; the classroom floors are maple wood. Italian and American marble is found at each entrance. There is ornamental plaster

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Description (continued)

throughout the building as well as the original acoustical tile ceilings. Much of the original indirect lighting fixtures at the entrances remain intact with an occasional globe having been replaced on a few of the fixtures. In the main entrance hall, an original trophy case is still intact.

The original 1936 building was built on concrete footings. The structural floor system is composed of concrete structural ribs and a 2½" concrete slab. The flat roof framing is the same as the floors. The main structure is concrete post-and-beam. The exterior walls are brick, with structural clay tile finished with plaster on the interior. The exterior walls form a 3'-6" parapet above the roof. The parapet is capped with a stone coping.

The exterior of the building was recently updated with the installation of new windows. The original wood-framed windows were replaced in summer of 2000 with new aluminum-framed windows. The new windows mimic the size and design of the original ones. At that time, new aluminum doors were also installed in the original 1936 building.

The main facade of the building is symmetrical in design. It is situated at the T-shaped intersection of Seventh Street and Fourth Avenue, and is prominently visible from the south as the terminus of Fourth Avenue. The siting of the school effectively concludes the view from the business district, two blocks away, making it a visible indicator of the importance of education within the community.

A 1964 addition was added onto the northeast corner of the building. The architecture firm was Lightowler Johnson of Fargo, North Dakota. The addition measures 141' by 78'. It is a two-story masonry structure with a concrete foundation system, steel joist and concrete slab floor and roof system. The exterior walls are brick and concrete block. The interior walls are concrete block. The function of the addition was to add more classrooms. The architect did not attempt to blend the addition into the main block of the building. Its design is typical of its period and has multiple narrow slot casement windows along the facade. The brick color does not match the original building. Porcelain panels were used as accent at the entrances. The roof is flat and the parapet walls are capped with limestone.

The 1989 addition was added on the north side of the original building. The architecture firm was Schoen Associates of Grand Forks, North Dakota. The size is 116' east and west by 44' north and south. The structure is utilitarian in visual design. The addition has a concrete footing foundation system and masonry above grade. The brick used is jumbo size with attempts to match the original building. The addition has minimal windows not matching any other part of the building. The roof is flat and made of steel joist and steel deck. The roof parapet is capped in colored metal. Its function is as a multi-purpose room and kitchen. The structure is two stories tall, but has only one floor, as height is needed for indoor sports, which was the main reason the addition was built.

In 1996, modifications involving an exterior concrete ramp and an interior elevator system facilitated ADA accessibility for the entire school and involves an exterior concrete ramp and an interior elevator system. Architect of these modifications was John C. Dumont of Devils Lake, North Dakota.

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Statement of Significance

Built in 1936-1937, Central High School (now known as Central Middle School) is a locally prominent landmark that derives its significance from two principal areas: Education and Architecture. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its role in the development of the Devils Lake School System. Central High School is also nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for being an excellent and rare example of a high architectural style, Art Deco, in Devils Lake. In the early 1900s, architect John Marshall resided in Devils Lake. Marshall's buildings have had a lasting influence in Devils Lake. His two most prominent designs are Central High School and the World War Memorial Building at 510 Fourth Avenue.

EDUCATION

The Early Years, 1880-1930

Among the earliest concerns of pioneers who settled in Devils Lake was building schools and churches. Records show that in 1883, the Devils Lake School District was incorporated.¹

An 1883 survey found that 83 pupils were eligible for school enrollment. The first public school opened on November 5, 1883, in a lower level building located at the corner of Farrington Avenue and Fourth Street. The teacher was Mrs. O.B. Corsett. The grammar schools at this time normally included elementary age students and were in session about 60 days during the year. By 1885, 110 students were enrolled with two teachers. One of these, John F. Cowan, went on to become County Superintendent of Schools, District Attorney, District Judge and Attorney General of North Dakota.

In 1887, the first public school was constructed at Fourth Street and Seventh Avenue. It was a frame structure of eight rooms that housed all students and faculty. This building was used until 1893. L.B. Fancher was appointed the first superintendent in 1888 and served until 1894. There were three teachers in addition to Fancher. Fancher was able to add an accredited high school course and the first class of 2 students graduated in the spring of 1893. It consisted of Samuel Renville and Albert C. Baker, both of whom later became medical doctors. Fancher was elected County Superintendent of Schools in 1894.

This public school rapidly outgrew its first building. By 1893, a new brick school named Central was constructed at the north end of Kelly Avenue facing south on Seventh Street. The population of Devils Lake increased from 1,729 residents in 1900 to about 5,000 residents in 1910. School enrollments expanded substantially and the old Central School became overcrowded. The original schoolhouse was sold to the Sisters of Mercy and became St. Vincent de Paul, the first hospital in Devils Lake. As a result, Washington School was constructed in 1908 at Fourth Street and Seventh Avenue at a cost of \$35,000 and was used as an elementary school.

In 1912, a frame building, reported to have been built in the 1890s as a Commercial College, was purchased and moved to a location across from the North Dakota School for the Deaf on Fourteenth Street West. This wooden

¹The author is indebted to the book committee of the Ramsey County Centennial Books, volume 1, for the history of the Devils Lake school system.

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

structure, finished with a brick veneer, was named Lincoln School and served as an additional elementary school. Pershing School was constructed in 1915 at the corner of Eighth Street and Fifth Avenue. Pershing was used in conjunction with Central High School until it was destroyed by fire in 1988. These schools provided spaces for the growing enrollments as 135 students were now enrolled in grades nine through twelve.

Between 1916 and 1930, enrollments at the elementary level continued to grow, reaching 1,106 in 1922. It then decreased to a low of 854 students in 1931. Grades nine through twelve continued to increase from 135 students in 1915 to 341 students at the start of the depression in 1930. Discussion and debate about the need for a new high school occurred frequently.

By 1921 the demand was so prominent that the Devils Lake Board of Education had plans drawn for a \$350,000 building. Bonds were voted on that year and the measure passed, but due to a technicality it was impossible to proceed with the sale of the bonds.

1930s to Present Times

In 1930, F.H. Gilliland was hired as the seventh Devils Lake School District Superintendent. His tenure of twenty-nine years spanned the Depression, World War II, and the Korean War. Elementary and high school enrollments continued to climb and many of the old school facilities were overcrowded. At this time, old Central School was almost 40 years old.

In 1935, local architect John Marshall and Nairne W. Fisher of St. Cloud, Minnesota, drew up preliminary plans for a building that would meet present and future needs of the school district. These plans were used as a basis for an application to the federal government through the Works Progress Administration for a grant of \$159,545, which represented 45% of the total costs now estimated at \$360,000. (The increase can only be attributed to inflation. No records exist which show other reasons.) On December 5, 1935, the citizens of Devils Lake School District voted to issue \$175,000 in bonds. The issue passed by an overwhelming majority of eleven to one.

Construction began in June 1936 and was completed in June 1937. The new school was built on the site of old Central School which was razed in 1935. During these years, classes were held wherever space was available – the Carnegie Library, Masonic Temple, Memorial Building and various churches.

The new Central High School was considered one of the most modern and innovative school structures in the United States.² The building housed approximately 1,200 students in thirty classrooms, twelve special rooms, twelve office rooms, fifteen large and small toilets, eleven service spaces, and five janitorial closets. There were spaces for industrial arts, home economics, agriculture, commerce, science, music, physical education, English, and

² Statement is listed in the Ramsey County Centennial Book, volume 1, page 123. It is not cited, and it is uncertain where the statement was made or by whom.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Statement of Significance (continued)

dramatics, as well as a library and classrooms for all academic studies. Special systems included a modern sound system with a speaker in each room that could be used for announcements, radio, phonograph transcription, and supervision. Conversations could (and still may) be carried on with any room and broadcast connections were installed to allow programs to be sent over a local station. The building was planned in three units – school, gymnasium/auditorium, and band room. Any one unit could be used separately from the other units as steel gates separated them from one another.

A central Master Clock is located in the main office, controlling clocks in all classrooms and ringing all program bells and other signal equipment. The original 1936 electric clock system was located in the main office and was pendulum regulated. The announcement/bell system was installed when the 1964 building addition was built. A power supply console for the clock and the old announcement system is located in the basement beneath the office area. The clock was manufactured by the Standard Electric Time, Co. of Springfield, Massachusetts. The clock was maintained for many years by a gentlemen named Earl Marshall. Mr. Marshall, who is now 90 years old, was a teacher for the Devils Lake Public System and a clock repairman. (Photo of clock at end of nomination).

The building was dedicated on October 22, 1937. Headlines of the <u>Devils Lake Daily Journal</u>, October 21, 1937 noted "Central School Result of 20 Years' Agitation." Excerpts from an editorial written by Art Timboe, editor, read,

Devils Lake is proud of its educational system. The present school district has been established since 1893 and not since its inception has the school district failed to meet its obligation financially and at the same time expand its program into higher riches of achievement. Today Devils Lake has a magnificent new school building. It is a monument to them and a shrine for the youth of this city where they may come to study, learn and inherit. It is hoped by every parent, members of the school faculty and school officials that the youth of this vicinity avail themselves of this generous educational gift.

There were approximately ten buildings in the Devils Lake Commercial District that were built during the Depression Era. The Works Progress Administration was involved in the building of the World War Memorial Building, and Roosevelt Park, as well as Central High School.

In 1955, three new elementary schools were opened. They were Minnie H, Sweetwater, and Prairie View. Washington and Lincoln Schools were razed. Central High School was then used exclusively for grades seven through twelve. In 1965, an addition called the East Wing was constructed on the northeast side of the building connecting to the gymnasium. This building contained classrooms for art, physical science, multipurpose and ten additional classrooms. In the seventies, Central High School received a major interior paint facelift.

Central High School housed grades seven through twelve until the fall of 1992, when Devils Lake dedicated a new high school on the north end of the city. Central became Central Middle School for grades five through

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

eight. Its exterior appearance remains relatively unchanged. New windows, which mimic the originals, and new doors were installed in 2000.

An all-school reunion was held in Devils Lake in the summer of 2000. Approximately 1,500 former students returned, most of whom attended Central at one time. There were many fond memories, tears, and laughter. One general opinion was that everyone had received an outstanding education at Central.

ARCHITECTURE

John Marshall was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on April 12, 1864. At the age of twenty-five he moved to Chicago and worked as an architect and contractor in Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska. In 1895, Marshall came to North Dakota, homesteading at Starkweather where he farmed for ten years. In 1905, he moved to Devils Lake where he became actively engaged in architecture with M. Sarles.

The Devils Lake Home Investment Company employed Marshall in 1907. This company was a group of local businessmen who erected residences for the Great Northern Railroad Shop Workers. Marshall designed twenty cottages that rented for \$15.00 to \$18.00 per month. There is one cottage at 106 West Tenth Street that is thought to be an original but this has not been verified. The lot is owned by the Great Northern Railroad and is situated near the original Roundhouse.

In 1908, the firm of Marshall and Sarles designed the parsonage for St. Joseph Catholic Church at 515 Fourth Street. Other Marshall designs were the Elks Building at 420 Fifth Street (destroyed by fire) and schools at Grafton, Lakota, Larimore and Edmore. He has also been credited with designing Central School in Grand Forks and several homes in Devils Lake, but these are not verified.

Three of Marshall's buildings constructed in the 1930s are excellent examples of his designs: Central High School, the World War Memorial Building, and the Marshall Building. The former two were designed with Nairne W. Fisher. The Marshall Building at 205 Fifth Street is one of the few downtown buildings constructed during the Depression Era. While the front of this building has been heavily altered, its left entry bay and transom have been preserved. The second story repeats a window formula found on other contemporary buildings: two sashes flanked by three-part Chicago style windows. Another typical period feature is the stepped parapet with flanking crenelation.

Nairne W. Fisher was a well-known architect from St. Cloud, Minnesota, chosen by Marshall because of his expertise in designing schools. He came to St. Cloud in 1925, possibly from Chicago, and worked at the firm of Schaefer and Fisher. From 1928-1938, he is credited with St. Anthony's Church and School, Garfield and Jefferson Grade Schools, and Cathedral High School, all in St. Cloud, Minnesota, as well as Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa, and Mundelein College in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1934, Marshall and Nairne W. Fisher designed the World War Memorial Building at 510 Fourth Avenue. The chaste ornament and rectilinear massing of this two-story buff brick and limestone building are monumental, while still conforming to the simple character of the Art Deco/Moderne period. A horizontal

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

emphasis is achieved with limestone, while the mid-section ribbing creates a vertical effect. Typical of Art Deco ornamentation is the use of "exotic" local themes such as the limestone relief panels depicting Sioux Indians found around the entrance. These panels depict life among the Sioux.

In 1936, Marshall and Fisher drew up the plans for Central High School which stands today mostly unchanged – a testament to the quality of the design. Marshall chose Fisher to help design Central High School because of his expertise in schools, but the Devils Lake School Board insisted that Marshall be designated the main architect as he was a local resident. It is now occupied by grades five through eight and is known as the Central Middle School.

Central High School had a basic program, including classroom space, administrative space, special educational spaces, and assembly spaces. The design is simple and straightforward, but it also uses the Art Deco style to add a bit of educational value to the building. The simple monumentality of the brick structure highlights the grave importance of education within the community. It is ornamented enough to give character and class, but not enough to detract from the business of learning that was the main purpose of the building. Its placement guarantees its visibility within the community.

At the time of his death on October 5, 1949, John Marshall was recognized as North Dakota's oldest architect. He was also a past president of the North Dakota Architects Association. Central High School and the World War Memorial Building seem to be the high points of Marshall's career.

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Central High School Devils Lake, Ramsey County, ND

Verbal boundary description

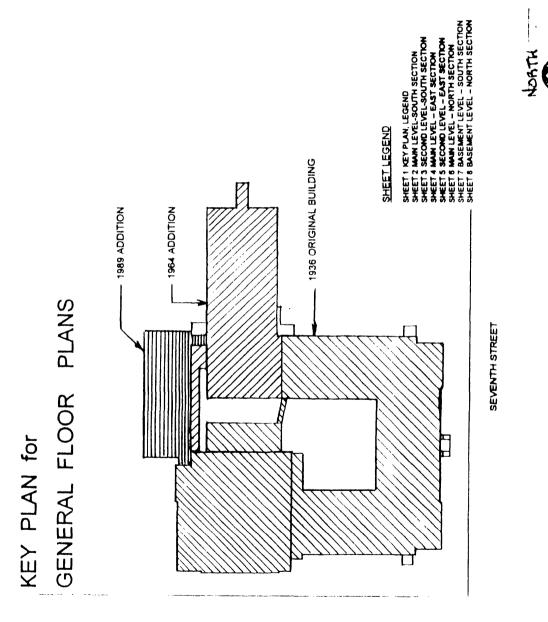
The property includes the building and land that occupies the School Block and Block One of Rugers Addition Lots 1- 14 of the City of Devils Lake. The boundaries that are used in this nomination are those legally accepted by the Ramsey County Register of Deeds in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The Central School is located on southwest end of the nominated property. It is bordered on the north by Eighth Street, Kelly Avenue on the west, and Seventh Street to the south. The east boundary is adjacent to the location of the new Devils Lake Public Library that is being constructed in the fall of 2002. Before the addition of 1965, the east boundary was School Street, which was abandoned when the addition was completed. The land in these lots is historically associated with the property.

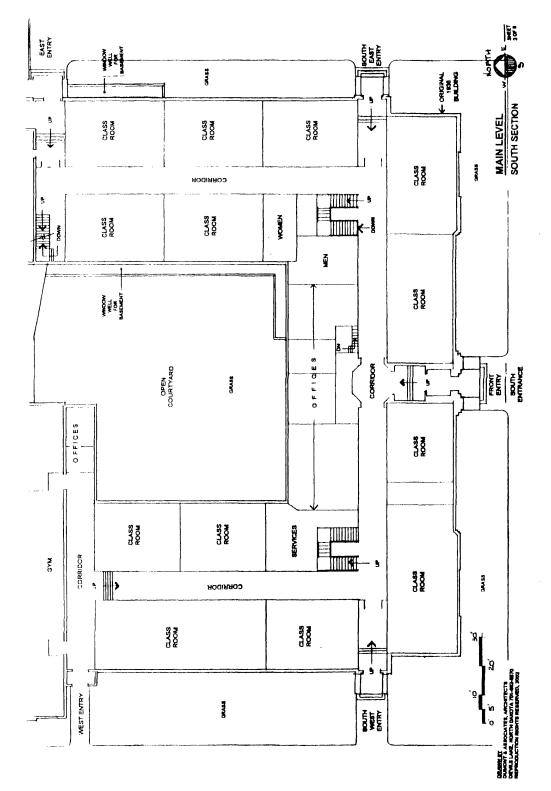
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Devils Lake Central High School Ramsey, North Dakota

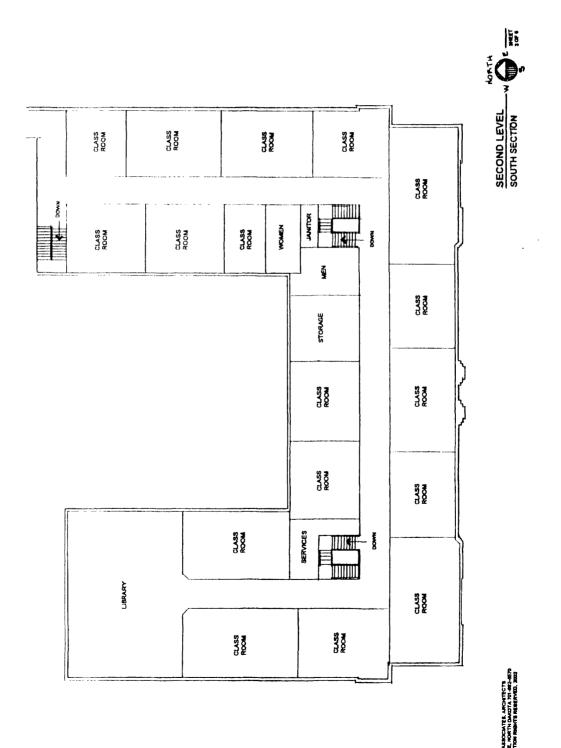


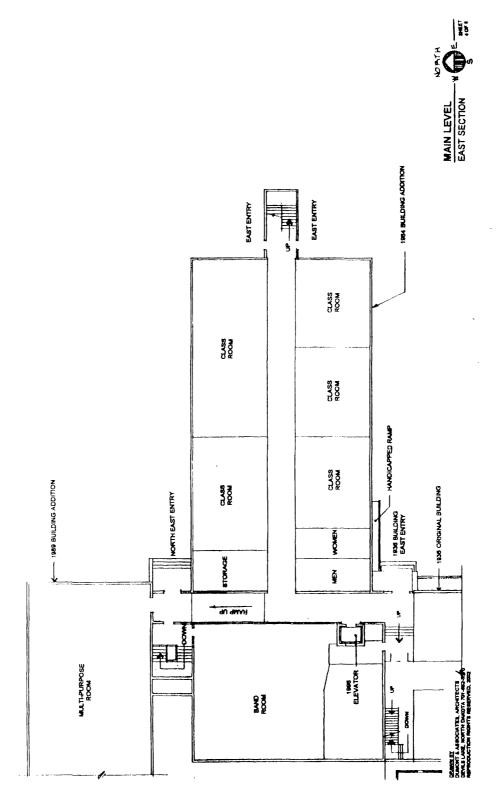
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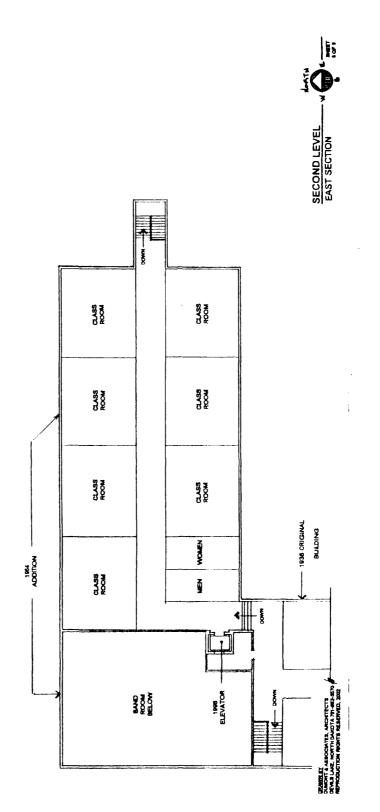


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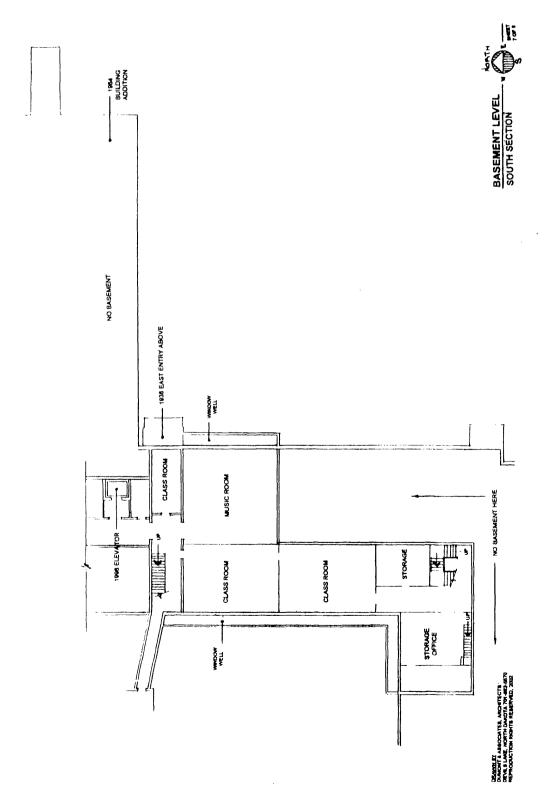


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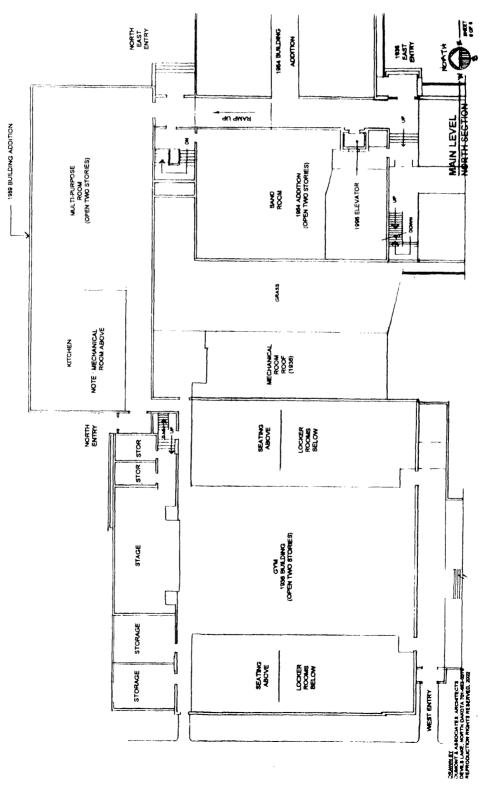


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