

JUL 22 2016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

other names/site number Campus North School

2. Location

street & number 91 Lisbon Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Buffalo [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14214-1407

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Russell Pierpont DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/13/16
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

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

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

for Catherine Ober...
Signature of the Keeper

8.25.16
date of action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| 1 | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School (grammar school)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick; limestone

roof membrane

other

Narrative Description

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

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Erie County, New York

Name of Property

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 National Register listing.)

- A** Property 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.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or 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 Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. **NPS #32,841**
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building 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 repository: _____

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1917-1925

Significant Dates:

1917; 1925

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Howard L. Beck (1917);
Associated Buffalo Architects (1925)

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.09 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 677456 4757274
Zone Easting Northing

3 17
Zone Easting Northing

2 17

4 17

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 Kerry Traynor [Edited by Jennifer Walkowski, NYSHPO]

organization kta preservation specialists date 5/23/2016

street & number 422 Parker Avenue telephone 716.864.0628

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14216

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Narrative Description

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63) is located at 91 Lisbon Avenue on a corner lot bound by Cordova Avenue to the west and Minnesota Avenue to the south, in a residential neighborhood.¹ The red brick school, designed by Howard L. Beck, architect for the city's Bureau of Buildings, in 1917 is two stories above a ground floor, giving the appearance of a three-story building. In 1925 an addition to the northeast and northwest corners of the building was added by Associated Architects of Buffalo, Inc.

PS 63 is located in a residential neighborhood, one block east of Main Street and three blocks to the south of the University at Buffalo south campus. The neighborhood developed in the early twentieth century as a streetcar suburb, located approximately five miles from downtown Buffalo. Grassed lawn surrounds the south half of the school, while the area to the north is asphalt paving. The main entrance elevation faces Minnesota Avenue, with sidewalks accessing the "girls" and "boys" entrances, which are located to the east and west respectively.

The red brick at the ground floor is corbelled to suggest a banded rusticated finish. Above the rusticated lower level is a broad limestone belt course, which continues around the building, unifying the composition horizontally. Brick piers, each with simple limestone capital, sit on top of the belt course, supporting the cornice and parapet, and defining each window bay. The piers are detailed with a header course around the perimeter suggesting an inset panel, although the wall plane does not change. A similar detail at the spandrel panel between the first and second floors also gives the illusion of an inset panel. Typically there is a window triplet in each bay at the ground floor, first and second floor levels. The windows are three-light double-hung wooden sash units with horizontal muntins. The mullions are classically detailed with base and capital. The sills are all precast and the soldier course of the spandrel panel spans the window head. At grade the windows sit on top of the foundation. The effect is similar to the composition of a daylight factory with broad window bays defined by engaged pilasters and spandrel panels between each floor. The cornice and parapet have been covered with metal siding.

The 1925 additions to the northwest and northeast corners maintain the parts and detailing of the 1917 composition. The only indication of the addition is a slightly raised roofline over seven bays to the north along the west elevation and two bays to the north along the east elevation.

The plan is standardized and functionally organized. Beck's 1917 design consisted of classrooms organized in an H-shaped plan, with gymnasium, pool and auditorium centrally located to the north between the wings. The 1925 addition added additional classrooms, a cafeteria and girls shower and locker room to accommodate an increased enrollment. The classrooms are located around the perimeter of the building to maximize sunlight

¹ The address of 91 Lisbon Avenue is the legal address of the property. Public School No. 63 is also identified at 120 Minnesota Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

penetration, with the main corridor running east-west parallel to Minnesota Avenue and secondary corridors running north-south at each end of the "H" plan.

South Elevation – Minnesota Avenue

The south elevation, facing Minnesota Avenue, is the primary elevation, with the "Girls" entrance located to the east and the "Boys" entrance to the west. The entrances are a single story in height and occupy the intersecting "el" of the H-shaped plan. Paired doors with transoms provide entrance to the south, and a one-over-one wooden sash window with transom occupies the side wall of the vestibule. A limestone surround at the window and door supports a continuous, full entablature. Above the surround of the door and window are brackets that support the cornice. Above each single story entrance vestibule is a paired, two-light wooden sash window with horizontal muntin located mid-floor, indicating the location of a stair behind. Between the entrance bays are five bays, each with a window triplet. The center bay is not as wide and consists of a single sash window. The bay is articulated by a broken pediment, supported by bracketed scrolls above the first floor window. Below the window, just above the belt course, is the City of Buffalo seal set in an inset panel noting the construction date as AD 1917.

The projecting wings of the H-shaped plan consist of three bays facing inward and two bays facing south. The bay immediately above the single story student entrance vestibule consists of paired sash windows, while the remaining bays consist of a window triplet. The windows at grade, which maintain the alignment of those above, have all been covered with board for security.

East Elevation

The east elevation consists of nine bays. The third bay from the south is narrow, with a single window, as opposed to the window triplet visible at the other bays. The detailing of the elevation consists of the banded rusticated brickwork at the ground floor, with brick masonry piers defining the bays at the first and second floors. A door, with limestone surround is located at the second bay from the north. The two bays to the north are distinguished from the seven to the south by a raised roof line.

North Elevation – Lisbon Avenue

The north elevation, facing a parking lot and Lisbon Avenue, consists of three parts. To the east is the 1925 addition; in the middle is the block containing the auditorium and gymnasium constructed in 1917, and to the west is the 1925 addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

The only fenestration on this elevation is located in the classroom block to the east and a single sash window at the northwest corner. Masonry piers define the broad expanse of blank wall, and the bay with the single window sash. There are no windows on the west face of this block.

Centrally located are five bays, each with paired, three-light sash with transom above. The cornice and parapet are not covered by the corrugated metal seen elsewhere. The limestone capitals at each pier steps back as a continuous band across the elevation. Above the capital is glazed yellow brick.

The block to the west, added in 1925, is organized and detailed in a manner seen elsewhere in the building. Masonry piers define each bay. The elevation facing north is three bays wide. Window triplets are located in the first two bays, while there is no fenestration at the bay to the west. The face of the block facing west is two bays wide with a single window sash in the bay to the south and no fenestration in the bay to the north.

West Elevation – Cordova Avenue

The west elevation consists of fourteen similar bays. The seven bays to the south are part of the 1917 design and are similar to the east elevation. The six bays to the north were added in 1925 and are distinguished by a raised roof line at the parapet; otherwise they maintain the same design vocabulary as the 1917 design. Each bay is defined by brick piers, and a window triplet. At the third bay from the east is a single window sash. An entrance is located at the third bay from the north. The entry bay steps out slightly from the plane of the wall. Paired doors feature a limestone surround supporting a denticulated cornice that is continuous with the belt course.

Interior

There are three main entrances to School 63; boys and girls entrances on the south elevation and a third entrance on the west elevation. Each entrance leads into a vestibule and stairs. The stairs descend approximately five feet (7 risers) to the ground floor and ascend to access the first and second floors. The organization of the H-shaped plan is determined by function and maximized access to natural daylight. There are three corridors on each floor. The main corridor runs east west, while two secondary corridors run north-south at each end forming the "H." The classrooms are located around the perimeter of the building to maximize natural light, while the gymnasium, pool, and auditorium are located within the wings to the north.

Hardwood floors are the primary flooring in the building, although there is terrazzo in some corridor locations in the basement and linoleum tile in the 1925 classrooms. The walls and ceilings are plaster; the ceilings have been covered by dropped acoustical tiles. Water infiltration has damaged the hardwood floors and plaster walls throughout the building. The window sash in both the original 1917 building and 1925 addition are similar.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 7 Page 4

Wood trim, stool and apron details are located at the 1917 windows, whereas the 1925 windows lack the wood detailing and are set within the plaster wall and feature a brick stool.

Vertical Circulation

The “Boys” and “Girls” entrances to School No. 63 is located on the south elevation, off Minnesota Avenue. A third entrance is located to the north, on the west elevation along Cordova Avenue. At each entrance a stair accesses the ground floor, located approximately five-feet below grade, and continues up, to the first and second floors. The stair at the boys and girls entrances has simple metal baluster rails and newel posts, and oak handrails. The unadorned metal stair has slate treads, and the landings are hardwood. Paired windows are located at each mid-floor landing.

The stairs at the entrance off Cordova Street are concrete with terrazzo stringers, risers, treads and base. The landings are also terrazzo. The newel posts are marble and the baluster solid with an oak cap at the handrail continuous with the newel post cap.

Ground floor

The ground floor is located approximately five feet below grade and is accessed from stairs at each entry. The windows in the basement are a full story above grade. Conduit and piping is exposed in the corridors. The “Girls” and “Boys” entrance enters the main east-west corridor. Offices and a classroom are located to the north and the fan room/boiler room, gymnasium and locker rooms to the north.

Classrooms are located off the corridor in the wing to the west. To the south the corridor floor is wood and to the north it is terrazzo. The classrooms to the south share a wardrobe, while those to the north have a wardrobe within the classroom. A cafeteria is located in the northwest corner of the wing to the west. A bathroom is located to the south, adjacent to the stairs along the west elevation.

Classrooms are located off the corridor in the wing to the east. There is no wardrobe in this wing.

The gymnasium and pool are located within the wings to the north. The gymnasium is accessed from the main corridor running east-west. To the north of the gymnasium is the pool. Windows are located in the upper portion of the north walls of the gymnasium and pool. The walls of the gymnasium are brick and the ceiling is concrete, while the pool area is tile, except for the ceiling which is concrete. To the east of the gymnasium and pool is the girl’s locker room and shower, and to the west is the boy’s locker room, boiler room and fan room. The boys shower is located on the first floor and is accessed from the locker room.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

First Floor

The first floor is organized in a manner similar to the ground floor. The main corridor runs east-west, accessed by stairs running vertically from the boys and girls entrances. Secondary corridors run north-south at the east and west wings of the H-plan. A third stair, located to the north along the east wing, accesses the corridor to the east. Classrooms are located around the perimeter of the building, accessed by the corridors. Wardrobe rooms are shared between two classrooms, except at the classroom in the northwest corner of the west wing, and those in the north half of the east wing which have wardrobes within the classrooms. The boys' bathroom is located to the north, at the intersection of the main east-west corridor and the corridor along the west wing; the girls' bathroom is located at a similar location to the east. The boys shower is located in the west wing, to the east of the corridor. Bathroom and shower spaces are finished with tile.

To the north, between the wings, is the two-story auditorium. Paired doors to the east and west of the main corridor enter the auditorium. The floor of the auditorium is wood and the walls are plaster. Windows are located along the north wall and the stage is located to the west. The ceiling has been covered with dropped acoustical tile; however, in areas where the tile is missing a coffered plaster ceiling is visible above. The proscenium is relatively ornate, with molded plaster panels and rosettes in relief.

Second Floor

The second floor is organized in a manner similar to the ground and first floors. Classrooms are located around the periphery and wardrobes and bathrooms are stacked.

Classrooms

The classrooms are located around the periphery of the building to maximize daylight. Windows and blackboards and, when present, wardrobes are oriented such that light enters the room, across the student desk from the left to avoid shadows when writing. In the classrooms to the north in the west wing and in the classroom at the northeast corner of the east wing the window stool is brick and the wood sash are set within the plaster opening. Wardrobes are also located within these rooms and the floors are linoleum. In the other classrooms the sill, stool and apron are wood and the window opening is framed with wood trim. The floors in these classrooms are wood. The blackboards remain extant in the classrooms. The classroom ceilings have been covered with dropped, acoustical tiles. Above the tile the ceiling is plaster.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Statement of Significance:

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63) is significant under criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of standardized school design in the early twentieth century. The school was designed in 1917 by the city's Building Bureau architect, Howard L. Beck. An addition, consistent with the material fabric and standardized plan of the 1917 building, was added to the northwest corner and northeast corner of the H-shaped plan in 1925, designed by Associated Buffalo Architects, Inc. In the late nineteenth and first decade of the twentieth century school design standards were increasingly based upon considerations for hygiene and the physical, mental and moral health of the student. Architectural design had been considered to play an important role in the education and health of the student in the late nineteenth century; however, by 1913 this focus on aesthetics was no longer considered to be an important consideration and stylistic ornamentation was essentially removed from the design of schools. The idea of "standardization" was the subject of discussion among architects in early 1920s, as worries that the lack of aesthetic consideration would result in diminutive architecture. In 1920 the Associated Buffalo Architects, in consultation with nationally-noted school architect William B. Itner, was formed. The association was a combination of thirty-five architectural firms contracted to provide professional services for the design and construction supervision of eighteen buildings for the Buffalo Board of Education.² The intent was to eliminate duplication of work and reduce the cost of school construction. The association was praised for standardizing the approach to school design with their "typical open plan" typology. Interestingly, Beck's 1917 design for School No. 63 already employed the "typical open plan" typology. Buffalo Public School #63 contributes to the discussion of standardization as an excellent example of the unadorned, standardized school designed using the "open plan" typology. PS 63 retains a high level of integrity in plan and elevation, and is important as an example of standardized school architecture and the movement toward "economical, modern, functional schools." Both the original 1917 design and the 1925 addition adhered to the standardized school typology. The period of significance begins in 1917 with the construction of Beck's design and ends in 1925 with the addition by Associated Buffalo Architects, Inc. This era encompasses all major construction campaigns associated with this school building.

The Aesthetics of Standardized School Design

All will agree, however, on the main things that are desirable – plenty of space about the building, well-kept grounds, a good building as completely fireproof as the resources available will admit, ample light everywhere, an abundance of fresh air, surrounding both the classroom and outside of it that shall foster an appreciation of what is good and what is lovely, and

² Cecil D. Elliott, *The American Architect from the Colonial Era to the Present*, (Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc.), 151

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

every possible opportunity for the development of a good
healthy mind and body for the child to work with.

American School Hygiene Association, 1910³

The standards for school design all considered the interrelationship between function and hygiene. Building orientation, school yards, entrances; staircases; flooring; finishes; toilet rooms; class size; gymnasiums; assembly halls; fire-proof construction, and heating, ventilation and sanitation were all codified in the early twentieth century. The notion that a school building should be “lovely” and that aesthetics had an impact on the development of a healthy mind and body of the child was a significant component of the discourse on school design standards. Edmund March Wheelwright, a leading expert on school design in the early twentieth century published *School Architecture: A General Treatise for the use of Architects and Others*, in 1901.⁴ In it he argued that “few people now maintain that a pleasing architectural effect is an unimportant consideration, and that a beautiful school is not a factor in the education of the young.”⁵ This position regarding aesthetics was reinforced by the *American School Board Journal* in 1902 where it was stated that “it cannot be doubted that the appearance, the good adaptation to its purposes, and the general attractiveness of the school building plays a very important role” in a child’s education.⁶ The aesthetics and function of the building was also determined to “exert good influence on the architectural standards of the neighborhood and of the entire city.”⁷ In 1907 “The American School Hygiene Association” was formed. The objective of the association was to research and promote discussion concerning the problems of school hygiene, and to improve the hygienic conditions surrounding children during school life. The association determined that it was not just classrooms, accommodation for toilets and wardrobes, ventilation, lighting and heating that needed to be considered but “aesthetics is closely related to hygiene – for the mental attitude of the child affects his health, and an honest and healthy appreciation of whatsoever things are lovely is a distinct physical gain for him.”⁸ In 1910 Wilbur Thoburn Mills codified the work of previous scholars and included design details for architects to use in *American School Building Standards*. Mills too maintained that “design unquestionably affects, for better or worse, the health, happiness and morals of the pupils, to say nothing of the educational work carried on therein.”⁹

³*Proceedings of the First, Second and Third Congresses of the American School Hygiene Association*, (Springfield: American Physical Education Review, 1910), 114.

⁴ Edmund March Wheelwright was a Fellow Boston Society of Architects and a Fellow American Institute of Architects. He was the city architect in Boston, Massachusetts from 1891-1895.

⁵ Edmund March Wheelwright, *School Architecture*, (Boston: Rogers & Manson, 1901), 16

⁶ William George Bruce, ed., "School Buildings," in *School Board Journal* 35, no. 5 (November 1902): 8.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁸ Clipston Sturgis, B.A., "Schoolhouse Construction as Affecting the Health and Safety of Children," in *Proceedings of the Congress of the American School Hygiene Association* 1-3 (1910): 104.

⁹ Wilbur Thoburn Mills, *American School Building Standards*. (Columbus, Ohio: Franklin Educational Publishing Company, 1910), 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

By 1913 the attitude toward the importance of the impact of aesthetics on the health of the student was diminishing as school design became highly standardized and the economics of construction a major concern.

The Standardized School

In other words, a school should be, first of all, fireproof; second, sanitary; third supplied with adequate proper ventilation; fourth, convenient for exit and entrance; fifth, efficient and economical in operating expenses, and last of all, and the least important, architecturally distinctive and beautiful.

*Report of Committee on School Inquiry, 1913*¹⁰

As standardization became more “standardized” the intent was to have reproducible requirements of plan, and a general arrangement and character of building and method of construction. In this way, as described in the *Report of Committee on School Inquiry: Board of Estimate and Apportionment, City of New York, Volume 2* “after having designed and adopted one (or twenty, if necessary) absolutely standard school buildings, the time now spent in preparing new plans for each building and securing the approval of all City Departments on the same would be eliminated.”¹¹ The report further stated that “the art of school design has progressed beyond the experimental stage.” Without further study, the present school architect should be able to put forth a school “standard” in every detail.” The standardized school did not need to be architecturally distinctive or beautiful.

The Committee of the National Education Association appointed “The Committee on Standardization of Schoolhouse Design and Construction” in 1916 in response to the “great variation in the plans of school buildings of the same type and number of rooms [which] probably leads to a great waste of public money.”¹² Despite established standards for school design, the committee determined that the plans had been “chiefly selected on the basis of the personal preference of architects, educators and members of school boards, rather than from fitness and economy of arrangement.”¹³ The task of the committee was to “fix standards of school planning.” While the issues of fireproof construction, sufficient lighting and ventilation remained important, “the economical utilization of floor space in a modern departmental school building” was determined to be lacking. The plans of new school buildings were criticized for being “based on old formulas apparently still serving architects as if they were beginners, instead of designers living in an age when all is modern.”¹⁴ Square footage usage, known as “Candle of Efficiency” became the standard for good school planning and design.

¹⁰ John Purroy Mitchel, William A. Pendergast, and Cyrus C. Miller, *Report of Committee on School Inquiry Board of Estimates and Apportionment 2* (New York: City of New York, 1913), 673.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 671.

¹² William Conrad Bruce, William Conrad, William George, and National School Board Association, "Standardization of Schoolhouse Design and Construction," in *The American School Board Journal* 53, no. 4 (October 1916):50

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Frank Irving Cooper, "Standard Test for Schoolhouse Design and Construction," in *American Architect and Architecture* 118, no. 2324 (July 7, 1920): 9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Despite the move towards more standardization, architects and engineers criticized the approach and maintained the importance of aesthetics for neighborhood character and in the education of children. In an article published in *Architect and Engineer* in 1921, John J. Donovan wrote that “standardization is commendable, but whenever standardization takes the form of limiting freedom in design and composition, or the endeavor to make the community fit the school instead of vice versa, then standardization is nothing short of prolonged menace.”¹⁵ Donovan asked “just how a community would appreciate ten or fifteen schools of the same general plan, and with practically the same exterior appearance.”¹⁶ The idea that school children would not appreciate architectural design is questioned by Harold Donaldson Eberlein. In a 1922 article in *The Architectural Record* Eberlein maintains that aesthetics is an important consideration in school design when he states that “during their most impressionable years, children ought not to be set in an unlovely environment that will inevitably tend to blunt their future architectural sensibilities.”¹⁷

The problem was becoming one of economics, particularly after World War I, as the population and school enrollment increased in industrial cities necessitating the construction of new schools. The cost of building a “unique” school each time became an economic problem. “The reaction resulting from the general school housing shortage throughout the country is finding its greatest impetus in many of the larger cities. ... The importance, then, of serious study and wise and economical planning must be apparent if educational results commensurate with large expenditures are to be attained.”¹⁸

Buffalo Public School No. 63

Buffalo Public School #63 is an excellent example of this typical standardized plan, designed by city architect Howard L. Beck in 1917 to accommodate a growing population in the northern part of the city. The University of Buffalo had established a new college campus on the grounds of the Erie County Almshouse, located three blocks to the north, in 1910, and the importance of the streetcar along Main Street and rise of the automobile resulted in the city’s suburban expansion to this area in the early 1900s. As illustrated by the 1916 Sanborn Map the neighborhood adjacent to the school was growing. Adjacent streets show residential lots laid out and a large number of houses constructed. St. Agnes Training School for Girls had been constructed to the northwest on Main Street.

PS 63 was modern and complied with all of the standards established by contemporary scholars with regards to hygiene, heating and ventilation, lighting and so on. The plan of PS 63 is two stories above the ground floor,

¹⁵ John J. Donovan, "Architecture, Planning, and Construction of Schools," in *The Architect and Engineer* 64, no. 3 (March 1921): 82.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Harold Donaldson Eberlein, "The Kensington School," in *Architectural Record* 51 (July - December 1922): 203.

¹⁸ William B. Itner, "The Buffalo School Building Program," in *The American School Board Journal* 62, no. 1 (February 1921): 52.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

giving the appearance of a three-story building. The classrooms are located around the perimeter to maximize light penetration. The auditorium, gymnasium and pool are centrally located within the wings of the H-shaped plan. The construction is fireproof and the finishes are standard. Stylized detailing on the elevations is minimal and reminiscent of the daylight factory, with broad open window bays defined by engaged pilasters and spandrels. The corbelled detailing of the brick masonry suggests a rusticated ground floor, the contrast of red brick and limestone at the simple capitals; pilaster bases and belt course provide the ornamental program. The entrance vestibules are the most highly articulated with limestone surrounds and full entablature; however, even this detailing is minimal.

The school was designed with the intent of allowing the community to use the auditorium, gymnasium, and pool spaces. Beck's design is interesting in that a dental clinic was located in the ground floor, providing a mixed-use function in the building that would serve the community. The design provided accommodations for a kindergarten classroom, girls play room, boys play room and manual training room at the ground floor; six classrooms, a manual training room and sewing room on the first floor, and five classrooms, an open air classroom, and a domestic science classroom on the second floor. Wardrobes and bathrooms were located on each floor. The gymnasium and pool were located on the ground floor and auditorium on the second floor. Interestingly, an apartment was located in the southeast corner of the second floor, likely accommodations for the janitor.

By 1925 the neighborhood around PS 63 was settled and houses built on the vacant lots seen on the 1916 Sanborn Map. The result was an increase in enrollment that necessitated an addition to PS 63. The addition, designed by the Associated Buffalo Architects, added two classrooms and a cafeteria to the ground floor of the west wing and a girl's locker and shower to the northwest corner of the east wing. The dental clinic was renovated into a classroom. Four classrooms and a boy's locker and shower were added to the northeast corner of the east wing, and a classroom to the northwest corner of the west wing on the first floor. At the second floor, four classrooms were added to the west wing and one to the east wing. The only difference in the Associated Buffalo Architects design as compared with Beck's is that the corridors in the basement were finished with terrazzo as opposed to wood, and the wood trim was removed from the windows, which now featured a brick stool. Wardrobes in the addition were moved into the classroom, as opposed to having assigned space off the corridor. The elevation of the addition maintained Beck's design vocabulary, which was already reduced in ornament. PS 63 continued to function as a neighborhood school, becoming known as Campus North. The school closed to new students in 2004 and was a "swing" school for students from other schools during renovation. It closed in 2010.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

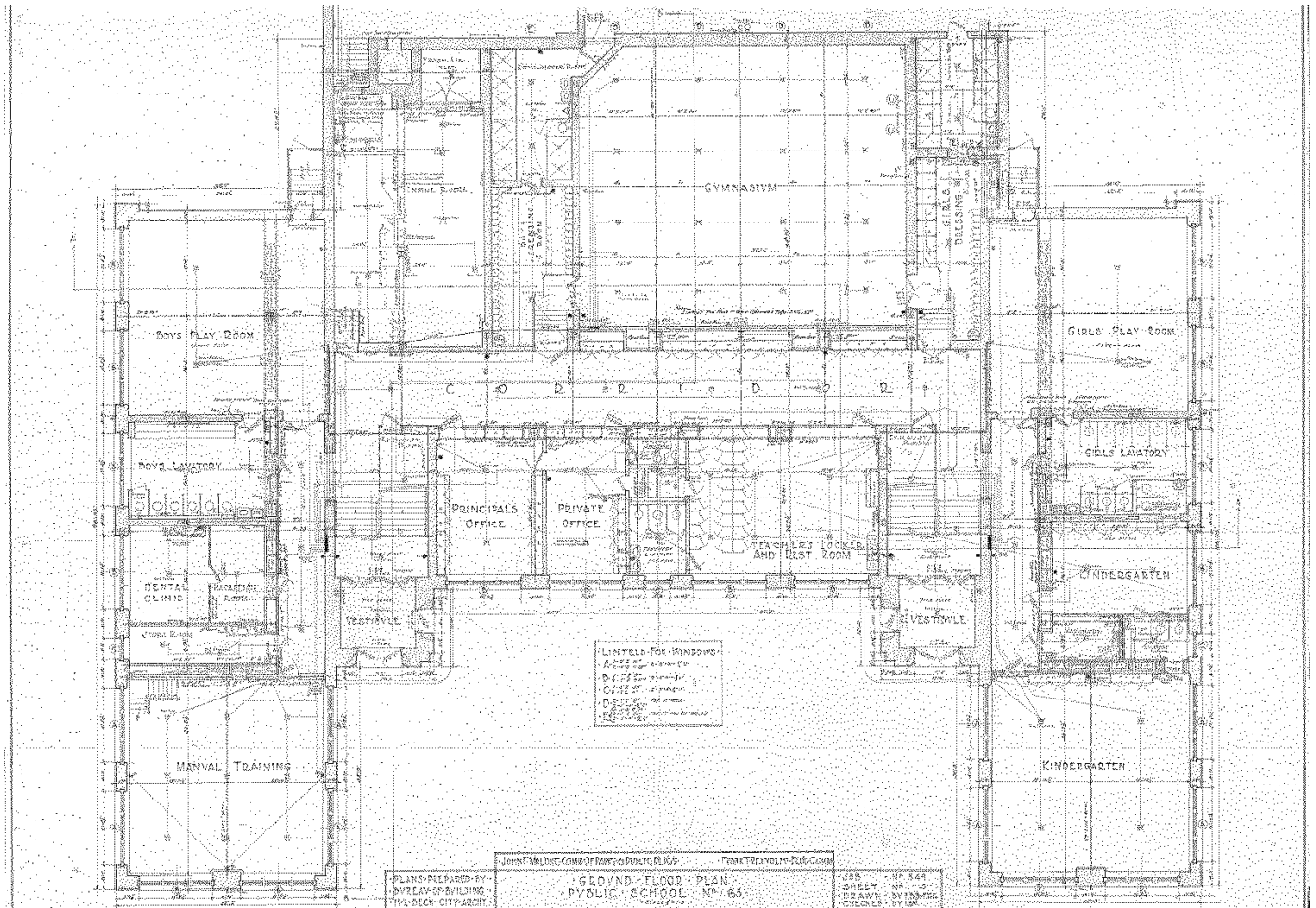


FIGURE 1: Ground floor Plan, School No. 63, Howard L. Beck, Architect, 1917.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

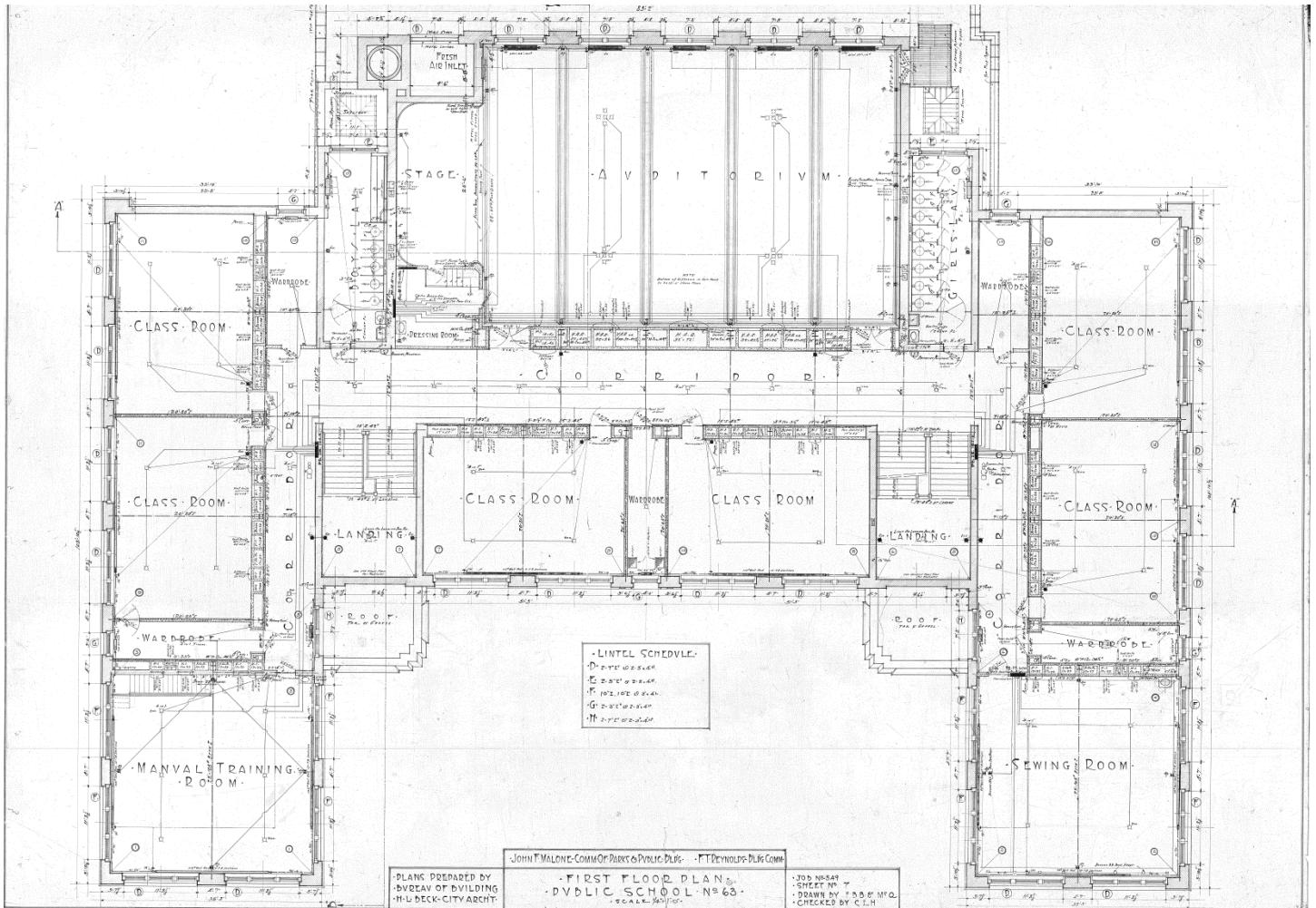


FIGURE 2: First Floor Plan, School No. 63, Howard L. Beck, Architect, 1917

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

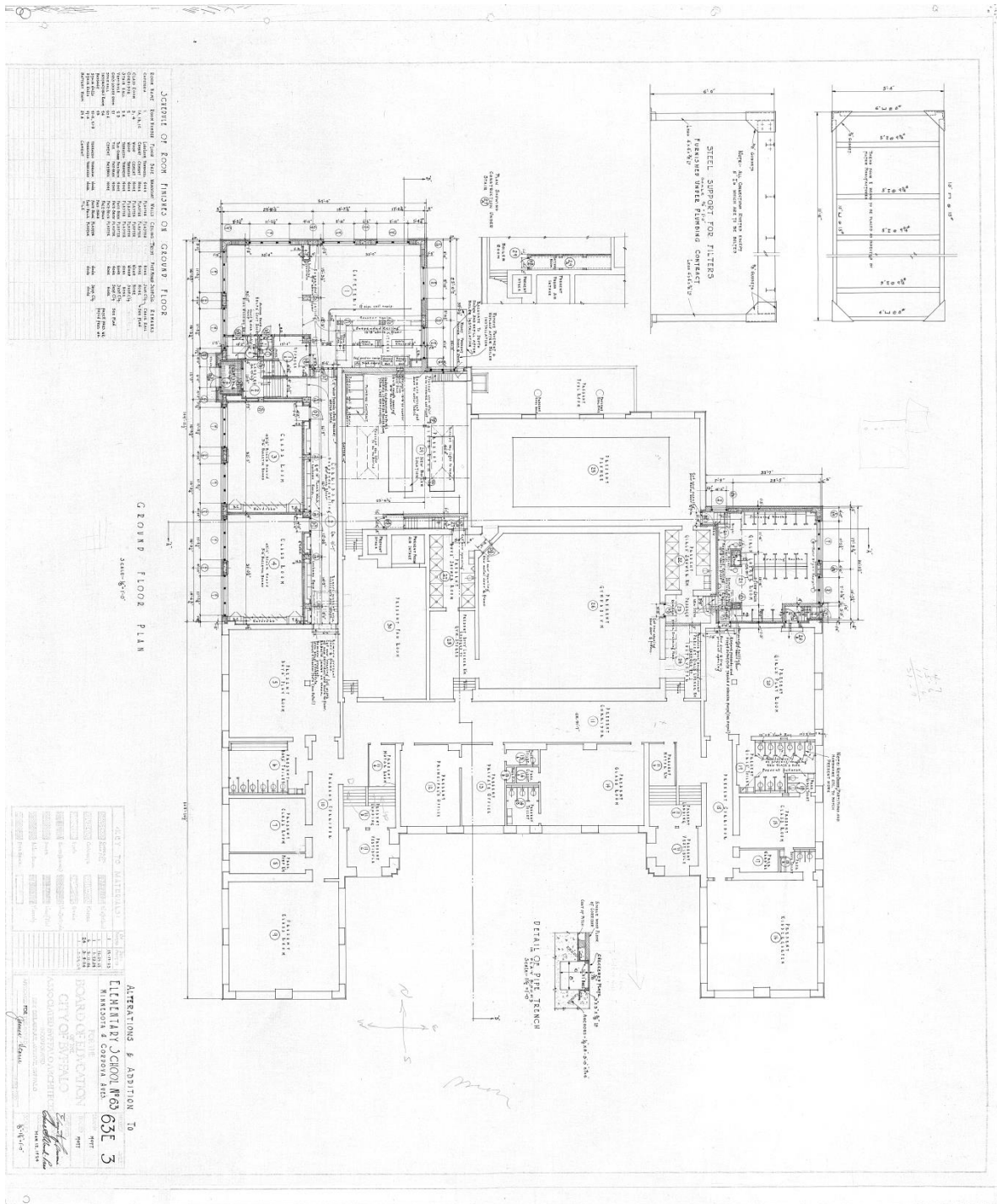
Section 8 Page 8

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



**FIGURE 3: Ground floor Plan, School No. 63 Addition, Associate Buffalo Architects, Inc. 1925.
Note area outlined in dark ink is addition.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

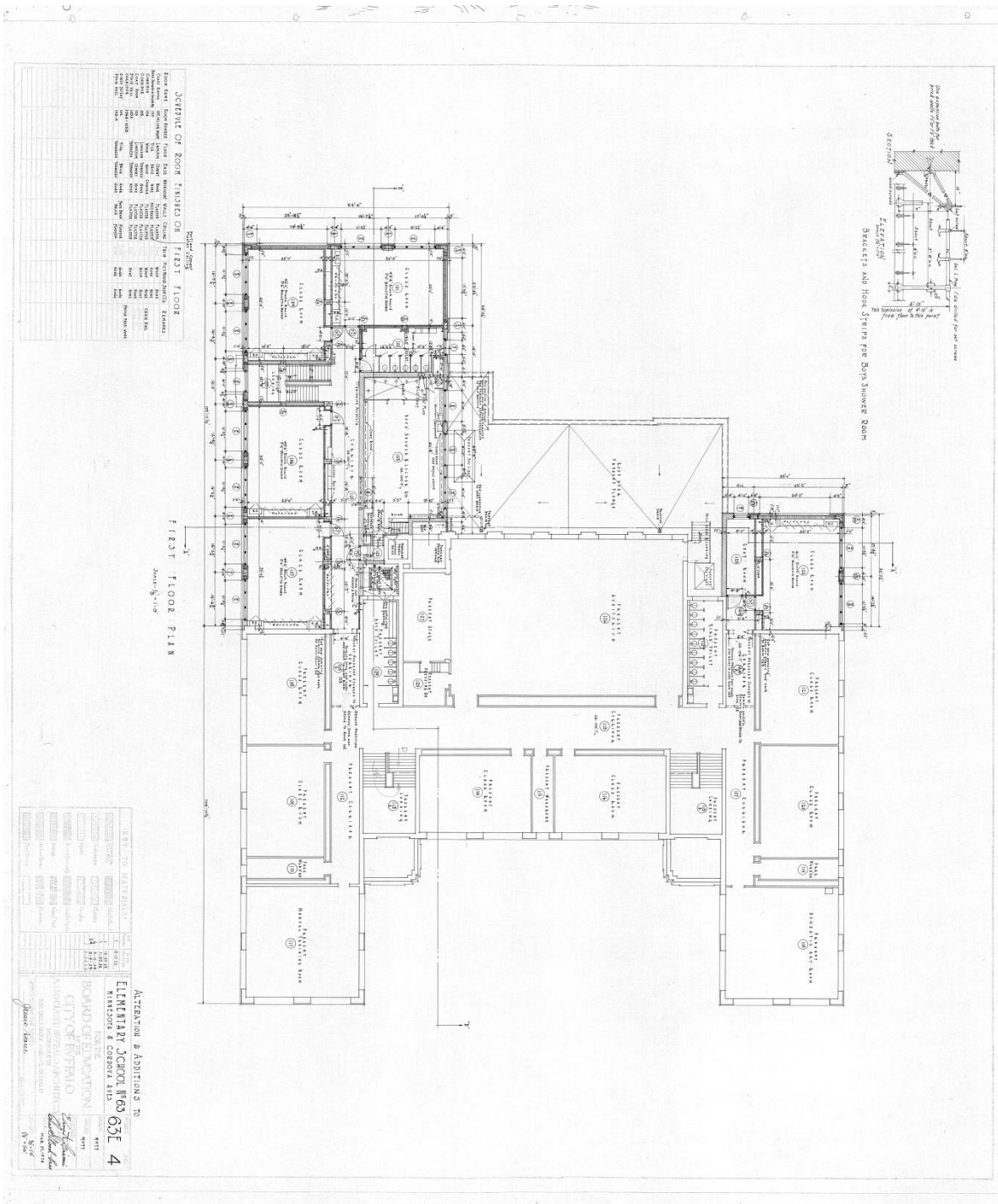
Section 8 Page 9

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



**FIGURE 4: First Floor Plan, School No. 63 Addition, Associate Buffalo Architects, Inc. 1925.
Note area outlined in dark ink is addition.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

The Buffalo School Building Program: Associated Buffalo Architects, Inc.

School construction came to a halt following the United States entry into World War I in April 1917, due to restrictions on building materials and a shortage of labor, and did not resume until 1919 when the war ended.¹⁹ Following the war, growing industrial centers like Buffalo faced inadequate school housing coupled with increased student enrollments; “the demands for increased facilities and the excessive building costs, together with bonding limitations, seems almost impossible of solution.”²⁰ In 1920 the *American School Board Journal* published “The Buffalo School Building Program,” praising Buffalo for being prepared “to meet its school housing problem in a well-considered and comprehensive manner.”²¹

The Buffalo Board of Education responded to the increased need for schools by hiring noted school architect William B. Ittner of St. Louis as a consultant in 1920 and forming a cooperative association of local architects known as the Associated Buffalo Architects, Inc. The association, which was made up of approximately fifty local professionals, was formed for the primary purpose of designing and supervising the construction of schools. The president of the association was Charles S. Wood; Franklin J. Kidd was vice-president; H. Osgood Holland was treasurer and Duane Lyman was secretary. Members included prominent Buffalo architects Edward B. Green, Esenwein & Johnson, Duane Lyman, Frederick Backus and Max Beierl. By 1920 Howard Beck was no longer involved in the design of schools for the city. Of the forty-one schools constructed during his tenure as city architect, seventeen were constructed between 1903 and 1920. After 1920 and the formation of the Associated Buffalo Architects, “typical” plans were “worked out with due consideration for those principles and objectives which are guiding the reorganization and development of secondary education in the United States.”²² The plans and specifications would be the “product of the Associated Buffalo Architects; thus individuality of the members is merged into the collective achievement of the association as a whole.”²³ It was intended that standardization of plan, construction and finish would eliminate duplication of work and reduce the cost of school construction.

The plan was intended to have “maximum economy in school buildings... the buildings designed for the Buffalo plan offer every opportunity for the wonderful advance in educational methods and practice which has been determined as highly essential in our education system.”²⁴ The “typical” plans were described as being the “open type,” which essentially means that the school was a “daylight factory” for education. The classrooms were placed around the perimeter of the building to ensure “maximum sunlight penetration and their sanitation, therefore, should be beyond question. To further the “open type” plan, the basement was eliminated and all

¹⁹ The Treaty of Versailles was signed on November 11, 1918.

²⁰ Ittner, in *The American School Board Journal* 62, no. 1, 52.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid., 53.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

rooms would be at grade to provide adequate light and air. In the “typical” plan the floor space, in response to the “Candle of Efficiency,” would be reduced into “comparatively small areas.” The disposition of stairways, corridors and exits, and gymnasium, assembly and vocational rooms would be such to ensure maximum sunlight. In plan this translates into the classrooms being located around the perimeter, and gymnasium, pool and auditorium spaces, and mechanical rooms being centrally located.

Although period literature indicates that the “typical open type” plan evolved through the work of consulting architect William B. Ittner and the Associated Buffalo Architects in 1920, Beck’s 1917 plan is “typical,” suggesting that the “typical open plan” was not unique to Ittner and the association’s work. The 1917 design for PS 63 featured the “open type” plan, with the classrooms around the perimeter maximizing daylight; the gymnasium, pool and auditorium spaces were centrally located and the basement was eliminated. One of the goals of the Buffalo School Building Program was to have the buildings planned “for the widest community, as well as for the continuation-school uses.”²⁵ Beck’s design featured a dental clinic at the ground floor, a mixed-use that provided a service to the community. It appears, as illustrated by Beck’s 1917 design for School No. 63 that Beck was putting into practice Ittner and the association’s standardized approach to school design before it had formally been established.

²⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

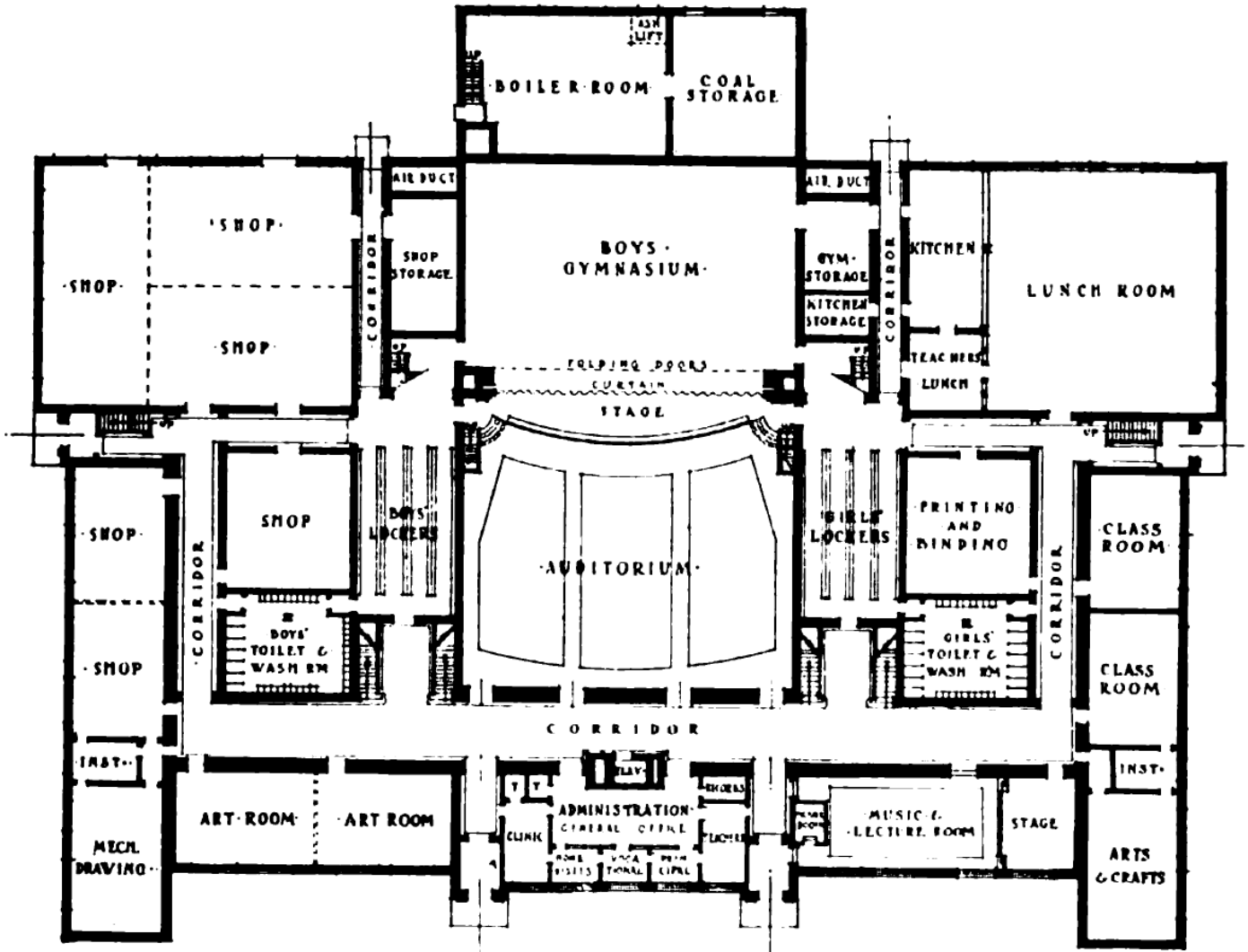


FIGURE 5: "Typical" Ground floor Plan, Small Intermediate School, Buffalo, N.Y.
Associated Buffalo Architects; William B. Itner, Consulting Architect.²⁶

²⁶ Ibid., 56.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 13

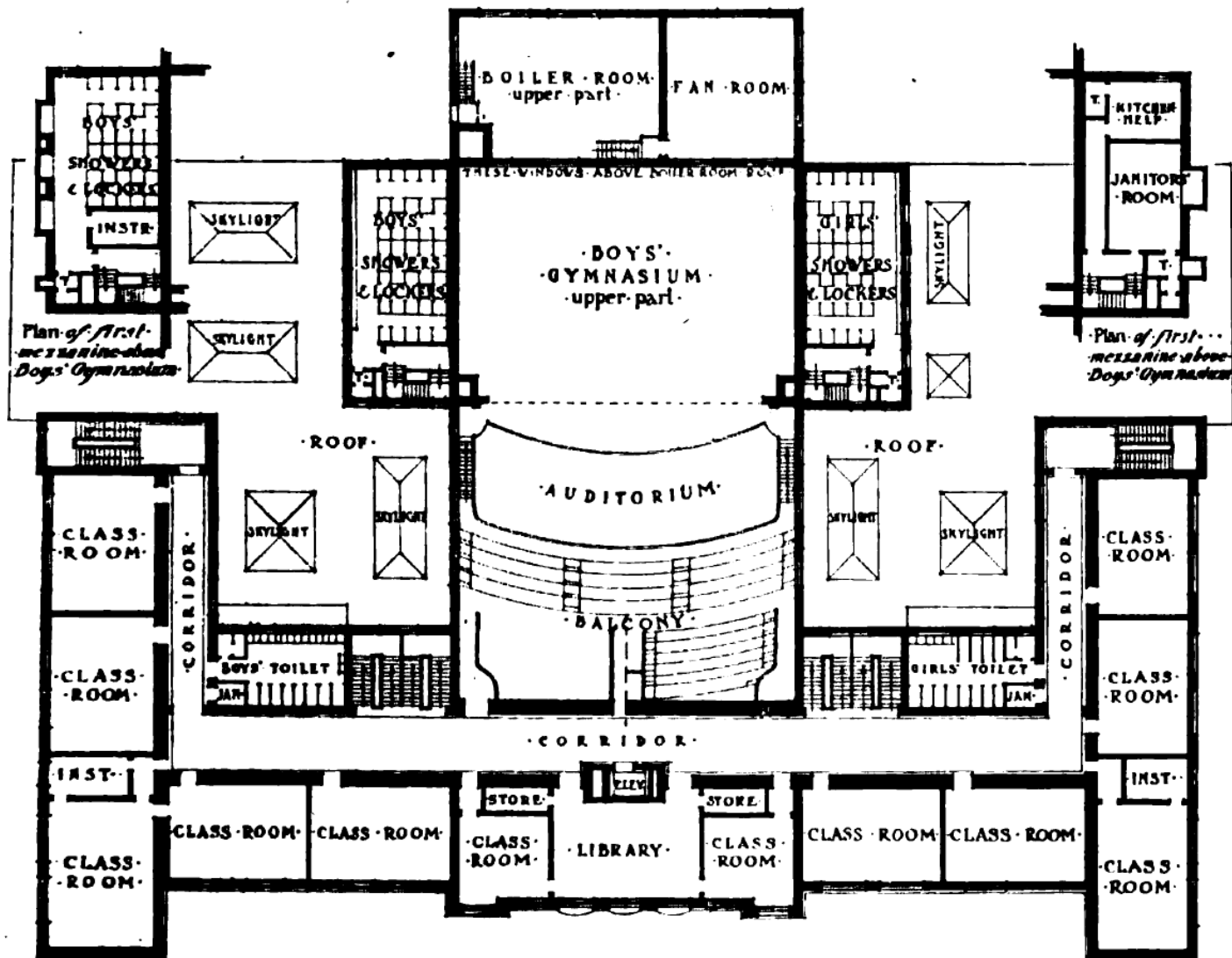


FIGURE 6: "Typical" First Floor Plan, Small Intermediate School, Buffalo, N.Y. Associated Buffalo Architects; William B. Itner, Consulting Architect.²⁷

²⁷ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Summary

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63) meets National Register Criterion C as a good representative example of standardized school design from the early twentieth century. As the population and enrollment increased there was a need for new school construction. The cost of building an architecturally “unique” school each time was seen as economically wasteful, as standards for classroom size, corridors, stairs, heating, ventilation and lighting did not result in a standard plan. Buffalo was praised for its School Building Program, which standardized design, resulting in a “typical” open type plan typology. Not only did Buffalo standardize the plan, it also formed, in 1920, a co-operation of architects called the Associated Buffalo Architects, Inc. who would oversee design and construction. Beck’s 1917 design for PS 63 utilized the standardized “typical” open type plan typology before the Associated Buffalo Architects had standardized it. Buffalo Public School #63 is significant for its contribution to the discussion of standardization in the city of Buffalo, and as a school designed by Howard Beck, who had been the city architect since 1903, and then added onto by the Associated Buffalo Architects.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Bibliography:

- Bruce, William Conrad, William George Bruce, and National School Board Association. "Standardization of Schoolhouse Design and Construction." In *The American School Board Journal* 53, no. 4 (October 1916): 52-53.
- Bruce, William George, ed. "School Buildings." In *School Board Journal* 25, no. 5 (November 1902): 5.
- "Buffalo, New York City Directories." *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, <http://www.ancestry.com/>.
- Bingham, Robert W. *Cradle of the Queen City: A History of Buffalo to the Incorporation of the City*. Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Historical Society, 1931.
- Burgess, Nat Ayres. *Healthful Schools: How to Build, Equip and Maintain Them*. Boston, Mass: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.
- Cooper, Frank Irving. "Standard Test for Schoolhouse Design and Construction." In *American Architect and Architecture* 118, no. 2324 (July 7, 1920): 9-10.
- Donovan, John J. "Architecture, Planning, and Construction of Schools." In *The Architect and Engineer* 64, no. 3 (March 1921): 68-98.
- Donovan, John J. *School Architecture Principles and Practice*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1921.
- Dresslar, Fletcher Bascom. *American Schoolhouses*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911.
- Elliott, Cecil D. *The American Architect from the Colonial Era to the Present*. Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2003.
- Examination of the Public School System of the City of Buffalo*. Buffalo, New York: University of the State of New York, 1916.
- Eberlein, Harold Donaldson. "The Kensington School." In *Architectural Record* 51 (July - December 1922): 199-210.
- Itner, William B. "The Buffalo School Building Program." In *The American School Board Journal* 62, no. 1 (February 1921): 52-58.
- Jensen, C. N. and Joseph Monson. "School Building Codes." In *Department of Public Instruction*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Paragon Printing Company, 1922.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Mills, Wilbur Thoburn. *American School Building Standards*. Columbus, Ohio: Franklin Educational Publishing Company, 1910.

Mitchel, John Purroy, William A. Pendergast, and Cyrus C. Miller. *Report of Committee on School Inquiry Board of Estimates and Apportionment 2*. New York: City of New York, 1913.

Proceedings of the First, Second and Third Congresses of the American School Hygiene Association. Springfield: American School Hygiene Association, 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Buffalo, New York, 1889, 1899, 1925, and 1951. Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1981.

Sturgis, Clipston, B.A. "Schoolhouse Construction as Affecting the Health and Safety of Children." In *Proceedings of the Congress of the American School Hygiene Association* 1-3 (1910): 104-14.

Superintendent of Education. *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education of the City of Buffalo*. Buffalo: Haas & Kelly, Printers, 1915-1916.

Swartwout, Egerton. "Review of Recent Architectural Magazines." In *Review of Recent Architectural Magazines* 22, no. 2 (1922).

University of the State of New York. *Annual Report of the Education Department*. Albany, N.Y.: The University, 1917.

Weed, G. Morton. *School Days of Yesterday: The Story of the Buffalo Public Schools*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Buffalo Board of Education, 2001.

Wheelwright, Edmund March. *School Architecture*. Boston: Rogers & Manson, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated with a heavy bold line on the attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all land historically and presently associated with Buffalo Public School #63.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

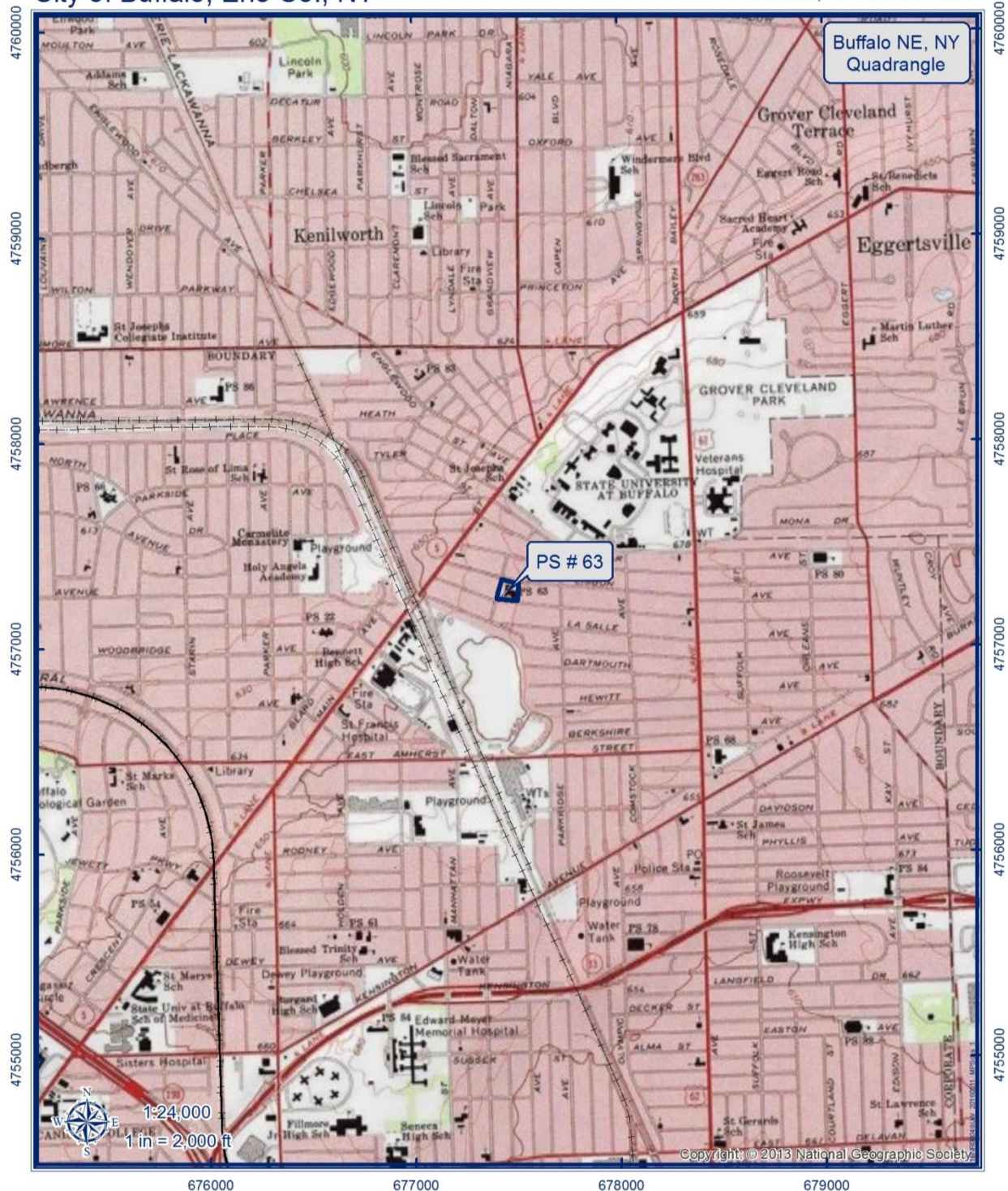
Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

91 Lisbon Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214-1407



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



PS #63



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 3

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

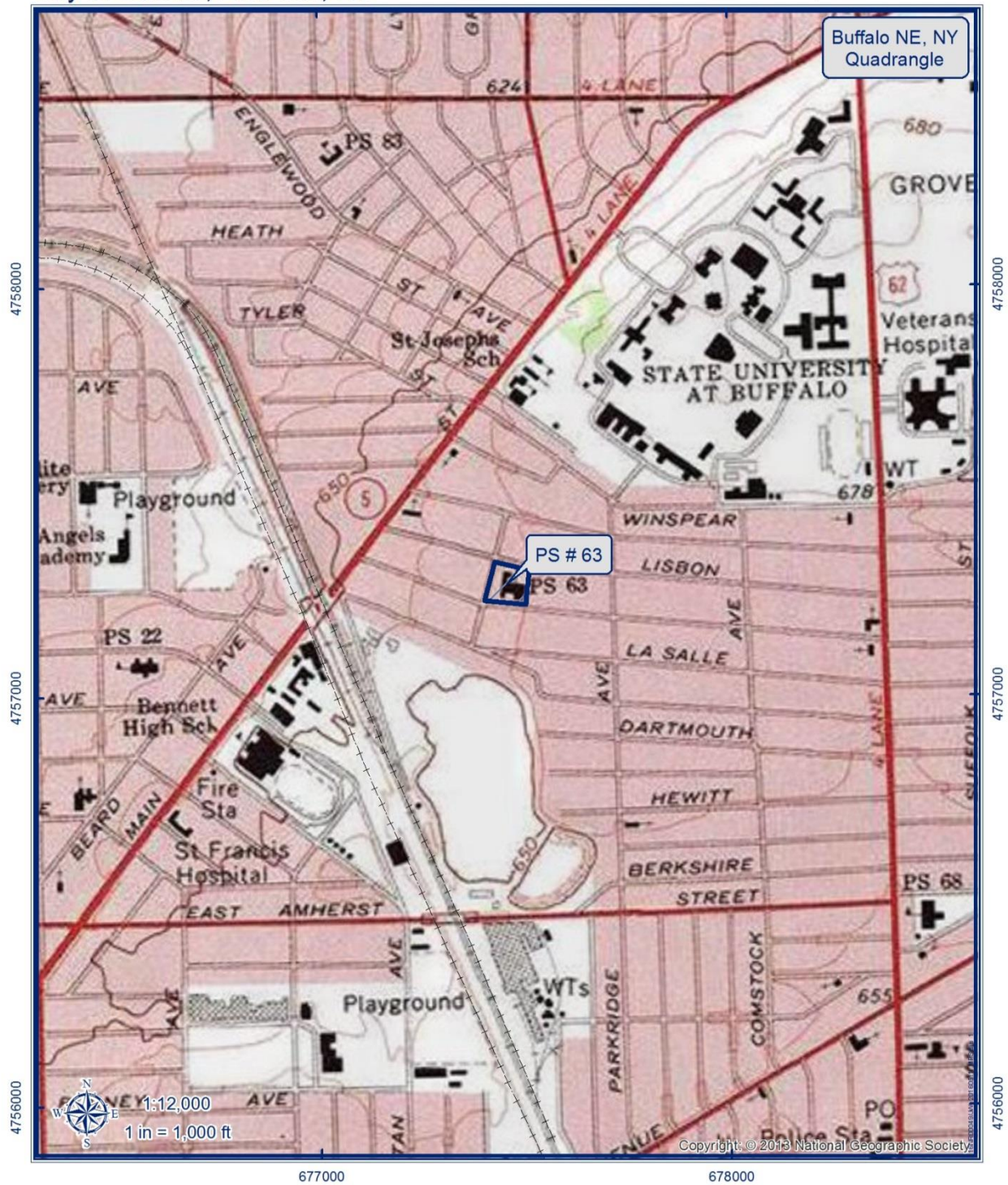
Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

91 Lisbon Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214-1407



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



PS #63



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 4

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

91 Lisbon Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214-1407



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



PS #63



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 5

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

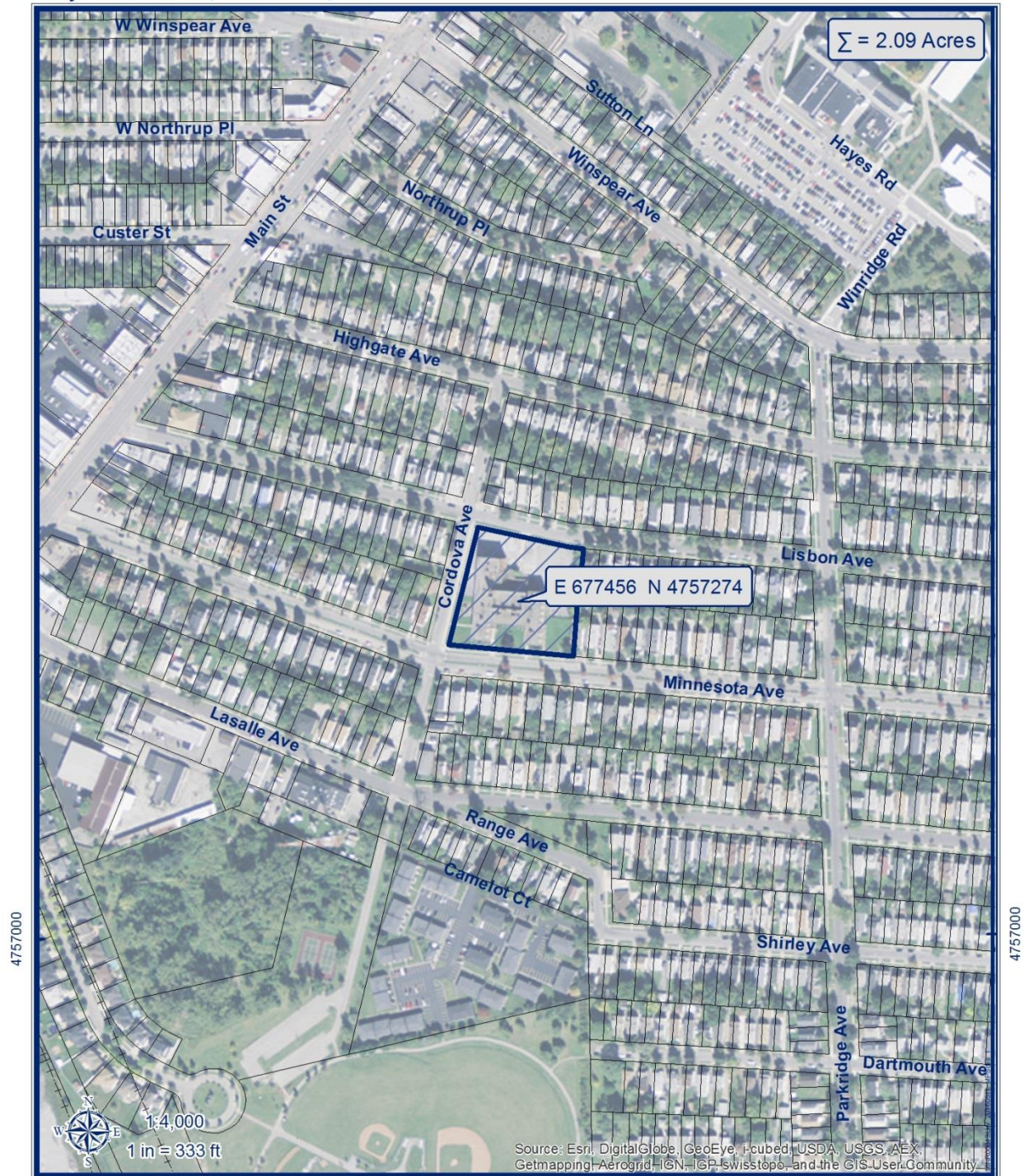
Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City of Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

91 Lisbon Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214-1407



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



PS #63



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information

Photo Log - Total of Eighteen (18) Photos:

Name of Property: Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City or Vicinity: Buffalo
County: Erie
State: New York
Name of Photographer: Kerry L. Traynor
Date of Photographs: June 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: kta preservation specialists; 422 Parker Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0001

West and partial south elevations looking northeast from the corner of Minnesota and Cordova Avenues.
Note change in parapet height distinguishes the 1925 addition (to the north) from the original 1917 school (to the south).

Name of Property: Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City or Vicinity: Buffalo
County: Erie
State: New York
Name of Photographer: Kerry L. Traynor
Date of Photographs: July 2016
Location of Original Digital Files: kta preservation specialists; 422 Parker Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0002

South elevation looking northeast from Minnesota Avenue.

Name of Property: Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)
City or Vicinity: Buffalo
County: Erie
State: New York
Name of Photographer: Kerry L. Traynor
Date of Photographs: June 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: kta preservation specialists; 422 Parker Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0003

Looking northwest toward court at "Boys" entrance showing east and south elevation of west wing, 1917 portion of school.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 2

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Looking northeast showing main wing of "H" plan and broken pediment above middle bay window at first floor, 1917 portion of school.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0005

Looking northeast showing "Girls" entrance at east intersection of "H" plan, 1917 portion of school.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0006

Looking northwest showing east elevation. The change in parapet height at last two bays to the north distinguishes the 1925 addition from the original 1917 school.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0007

Looking southwest showing elevations to the north from Lisbon Avenue.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0008

Detail of cornice at north elevation.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0009

Looking south from Lisbon Avenue showing north elevation. Wings to the east and west were added in 1925. Note middle bay showing windows at 1917 auditorium.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0010

Looking southeast from the corner of Cordova and Lisbon Avenues showing west and partial north elevations.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0011

Looking northeast showing west elevation. Note the change in height at the parapet distinguishes the 1925 addition to the north from the original 1917 school to the south.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0012

Looking west along main corridor, first floor. Note exposed concrete ceilings, hardwood floors and plaster walls.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0013

Looking west along main corridor, second floor, 1917 building.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0014

Detail of stair showing slate newel post and baluster rails; wooden handrail and slate tread.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0015

Detail of classroom. Typical.

Name of Property:

Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 3

City or Vicinity: Buffalo
County: Erie
State: New York
Name of Photographer: Michael Bray
Date of Photographs: May 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: Carmina-Wood-Morris, PC, Buffalo, NY 14216

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0016
Looking north showing stage and proscenium opening in auditorium.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0017
Looking northeast into gymnasium.

NY_Erie County_Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)_0018
Looking east showing pool.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 4

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Buffalo 1916-1940 vol. 9, 1935, Sheet 928

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #63 (PS 63)

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 5



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Buffalo 1925-Feb. 1951 vol. 9, 1935-June 1950, Sheet 928



CAMPUS NORTH















CAMPUS NORTH





NO
STANDING
TAKING
SCHOOL
DAYS

CAMPUS
NORTH

FOR SALE
BY CITY OF BURLINGAME
ALUMIPRO REALTY
851-5277



CAMPUS
NORTH

FOR SALE
BY CITY OF RUFFALO
851-5277

FOR SALE
BY CITY OF RUFFALO
851-5277

CAMPUS
NORTH



EXIT



AUDITORIUM









WRITE
MORE
LEARN
MORE







POOL DEPTH 5 FT DEEP

5 FT DEEP

4 FT

SHALLOW

SHALLOW

DEEP

1/2 FT. DEEP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Buffalo Public School #63 (PS 63)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 7/22/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/06/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000587

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.25.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER *[Signature]* _____

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



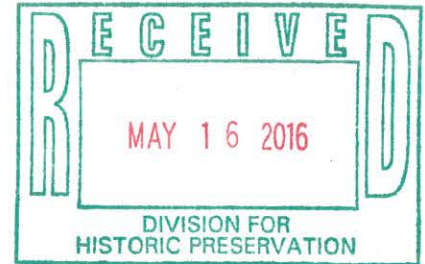
CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



May 6, 2016

Ms. Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation/Deputy SHPO
New York Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189



Re: Proposed listing is 120 Minnesota Avenue (aka 91 Lisbon)

Dear Ms. Pierpoint:

This letter expresses my support for the Lofts at University Heights project and my waiving of the comment period for the listing of this property on the National Register of Historic Places.

The conversion of the former Buffalo Public School Number 63 into apartments will contribute greatly to the University Heights residential offerings and return this former school to a vibrant addition to this community. The project located in the heart of the University District is also walking distance to the University of Buffalo and both the Main Street and Bailey Avenue business districts.

This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing this property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to comment on the proposed listing of property within my jurisdiction. The proposed listing is 120 Minnesota Avenue (aka 91 Lisbon) The Lofts at University Heights, formerly Buffalo Public School 63.

I hereby waive my right to comment on the proposed listing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron W. Brown".

Byron W. Brown
Mayor



BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

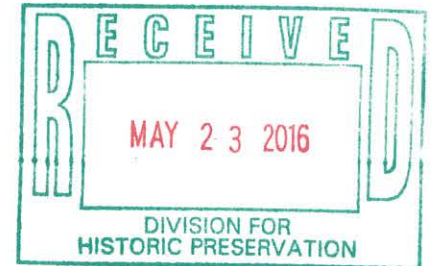
CITY OF BUFFALO
BUFFALO PRESERVATION BOARD
65 NIAGARA SQUARE, ROOM 901 CITY HALL
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202-3394



PAUL McDONNELL
AIA CHAIR

May 12, 2016

Ms. Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner of Historic Preservation/Deputy SHPO
New York Division for Historic Preservation
Pebbles Island State Park
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189



RE: Proposed listing of 120 Minnesota (aka 91 Lisbon)

Dear Ms. Pierpont

This letter expresses the support of the Buffalo Preservation Board for the Listing of 120 Minnesota Avenue (aka 91 Lisbon) The Lofts at University Heights, Formerly Buffalo Public School 63, on the Nation Register of Historic Places.

This will help ensure this important piece of the historic fabric of Buffalo be properly rehabilitated and maintained for generations to come.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McDonnell".

Paul McDonnell
Chair, Buffalo Preservation Board



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

15 July 2016

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following six nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Depew High School, Erie County
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Erie County
Buffalo Public School # 63 (PS 63), Erie County
Dennis-Newton House, Tompkins County
Second Walton Armory (Thirty-third Separate Company), Delaware County
Ascension Roman Catholic Church Complex, Niagara County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office