

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Lincoln School

and/or common Madison Art Center

**2. Location**

street & number 728 East Gorham Street not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Madison Parks Department, Daniel Stapay, Director

street & number 704 East Gorham Street

city, town Madison, vicinity of state Wisconsin 53709

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Courthouse

street & number City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Designated Madison Landmark has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 18, 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

## 7. Description

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

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

The Lincoln School has a large rectangular plan rising 2-1/2 stories above the grade on its south or main facade. An appendage occurs at about the mid-point of both the east and west elevation, almost square in plan, and rising the full height of the building enclosing the stair towers providing the vertical access within the building. On the south facade of each of these appendages is a smaller almost cubical extension but one story in height, facing to the street, creating an entrance vestibule directly into the stair tower.

Materials for the building are a cream yellow brick with white terra cotta or stone trim, as the case may be. Brick work is laid up with joints raked in both the horizontal and vertical directions providing a very distinct emphasis upon each individual brick. The color of the mortar, too, is darker, creating an emphasis upon the brick pattern. A horizontal emphasis is given to the building by a stone sill that connects all of the windows on each facade approximately 1/2 story above grade, and the main facade has windows extending almost from end to end. The windows are separated by brick pilasters extending from the sill to a terra cotta belt course completely surrounding the building. Both the terra cotta belt course and the terra cotta capitals at the top of each brick pilaster are executed in a foliated design. Other foliated designs in terra cotta appear in medallions set between the cornice and the belt course on the south facade and in a similar location on the east and west facade of the stair towers. A magnificent terra cotta tympanum is located above each of the main entrances surrounding an eagle above a plaque bearing the name of the school, also in terra cotta. The design of the tympanum with the eagle and the pilaster capitals is also found in the work of George Grant Elmslie at the Merchants Bank of Winona, Minnesota.

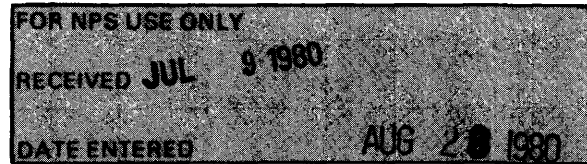
An English basement row of windows is located beneath the continuous sill of the first floor windows.

A continuous terra cotta coping surrounds the entire building in a pattern that appears as a series of dentils much ~~simple~~ simpler in pattern than the other ornamentation on the building.

The exterior of the building remains in good condition today, with very little change except that the plaque containing the name, Lincoln School, has been covered with one bearing the inscription "Madison Art Center". A piece of modern sculpture defaces the fine brick facade adjoining the west entrance to the building. Some modifications have taken place inside the building to adapt it to its present use for the Madison Arts Center. None of these, however, have destroyed original spaces within the building and the opportunity remains to creatively adapt this building to another community or municipal use.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Lincoln School, Madison, Wisconsin

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1915<sup>1</sup> Builder/Architect Claude and Starck<sup>1</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lincoln School is an important Madison building in that it embodies distinguished characteristics of Prairie School Architecture in a public educational building and it is the work of an architectural firm with an important regional influence.

While the school building is essentially a rectangular form, it achieves a horizontal expression through the use of continuous terra-cotta ornamentation above the window heads of the second floor and at the cornice. On the facades, and particularly the south facade facing East Gorham Street, and additional horizontal emphasis has been provided through a stone sill course at the level of the first floor. In these ways the principal attributes of a horizontal composition are achieved in this building.

The building's relationship with the Prairie School is further developed through the use of foliated terra cotta ornamentation. These details occur at the capital on each of the brick pilasters separating the windows on all facades. Additional superb terra cotta ornamentation is found in the eagle gracing the tympanum over the two main entrances.

The firm of Claude and Starck produced a series of schools whose plan elements bear a similarity to each other. Generally, entrances are found at either end of the main facade, facing in the same direction as the facade. The long major wall is broken into three horizontal elements. An English basement row of windows is located beneath the continuous sill of the first floor windows, thus creating a base for the composition. The first and second floors are linked by continuous vertical brick pilasters rising from the sill of the first floor window to the head of the second floor windows. These pilasters terminate in capitals that supported a continuous belt surrounding the building of either terra-cotta or stone as the case might be. The remaining portion of the elevation is a continuous horizontal band from the top of the second floor window heads to the cornice. Thus a three part elevational scheme of base, shaft and capital was developed in keeping with Louis Sullivan's concept of a classically developed composition. This design is found in schools at Argyle, Mount Horeb and Monroe, and a slightly modified version in Evansville. None of these schools, however, exhibits the richness of terra-cotta ornamentation as does the Lincoln School in Madison or did the Lincoln School in Monroe. A tragic fire forced the demolition of the similarly high quality high school in Monroe by Claude and Starck leaving Madison's Lincoln School as the sole survivor of a rich composition in public school design.

<sup>1</sup> Building Permit, April 1, 1915, City of Madison Building Inspection Department. The material in this nomination is taken from the Madison Landmarks Commission form, is copywrited and used by permission of Mr. Orr.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

A Partial List of Buildings both Public and Private designed by Claude and Starck, Architects, Madison Wisconsin, published privately about 1920. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "Prairie Architecture in Madison Wisconsin; Influences, Forms and Form-Givers", unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1971. "Louis W. Claude; Madison Architect of the Prairie School", manuscript in

# 10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 2.62

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	0	6	2	5	0	4	7	7	2	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Block 138, Original Plat of Madison, Wisconsin

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gordon D. Orr, FAIA, Chairman

organization Madison Landmarks Commission date December, 1979

street & number 351 West Wilson Street telephone 608 266-6552

city or town Madison state Wisconsin, 53703

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Merney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/21/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce  
Keeper of the National Register

date 8/28/80

Attest: Kristin J.O. Connell

date 8/8/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Lincoln School, Madison, Wisconsin

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Precedence for the ornamentation was illustrated in the Western Architect issues of January 1913 and January 15, wherein the work of the firm of Purcell and Elmslie was illustrated and attention called to the Merchants Bank of Winona, Minnesota. This building built some two years before the Lincoln School shows terra-cotta capitals and a terra-cotta tympanum over the main entrance containing an eagle identical to that of the Lincoln School. Sketches indicate that the original designs were undoubtedly the work of George Grant Elmslie, a close friend of Louis W. Claude. An autographed issue of the Western Architect containing this design remained in the possession of Louis Claude indicating his ready access and knowledge of these terra-cotta designs. The cost of creating clay models and moulds undoubtedly prompted Claude to seek the use of these designs in his own architectural composition for the Lincoln School rather than have the school board bear the cost of creating a new design. Whether this was with or without the permission of Elmslie is not known, however, their continuing friendship would indicate that it was with permission. Thus, the Lincoln School stands as the best known surviving example of the firm of Claude and Starck of a public High School Building incorporating a Sullivanesque form of terra-cotta ornamentation with a clear statement of Prairie School principles.

The fact that Claude and Starck designed schools in cities other than Madison and that in their area of small library design, a specialty of theirs, their work spread to Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and even the State of Washington, indicates that their influence was regional.

Louis W. Claude (1868-1951) was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, educated in the local public schools, attended the University of Wisconsin as a special civil engineering student under the tutelage of Allan D. Conover, for whom he worked while a student. He left in 1891 for experience in the Chicago offices of Adler and Sullivan, D.H. Burnham and Company, and Schlacks and Otteheimer. Claude returned to Madison, accepted a short term appointment on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin and established his own architectural practice about 1894. Edward F. Starck (1868-1947) was born in Milwaukee, moved to Madison and graduated from high school there. He obtained his experience in the offices of Edward Townsend Mix in Milwaukee, Handy and Cady of Chicago, and D.R. Jones in Madison. He joined Louis W. Claude in an architectural partnership about 1896 which lasted until 1929.

Personal relationships existed between Louis Claude, Frank Lloyd Wright and George Emslie, that remained far beyond the years when they worked with each other in Chicago. Certainly the opportunity to discuss their architectural ideas in the office of Louis H. Sullivan may have prompted Claude to continue expressing Sullivan's ideas as he did in the Lincoln School.

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possession of the Prairie School Review, scheduled for 1979 publication.

"The Western Architect" - Vol. XXI, No. 1, January 1915