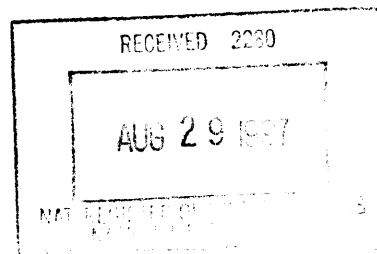


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1169

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Emerson School

other names/site number 5DV1495

2. Location

street & number 1420 Ogden Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Denver [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80218

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 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 [].)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer August 18, 1997 Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
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
See continuation sheet [].

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date 9/26/97

Emerson School
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN

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

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

Emerson School
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/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 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- [] 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 Bibliographic 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
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1885

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roeschlaub, Robert S.

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[X] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society
Denver Landmark Preservation
Commission

Emerson School
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 502180 4398560
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Garrett, Treasurer

organization Medical Care and Research Foundation date 12/6/1996

street & number 1420 Ogden Street telephone 303-831-0267

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80218

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Capitol Hill Senior Resources, Inc.

street & number 1420 Ogden Street telephone 303-831-0267

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80218

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

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Emerson School occupies approximately a half-block site fronting onto East 14th Avenue between Ogden Street and the alley between Ogden and Corona Streets in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood. The landscaping includes paved parking areas off the south and north elevations, large areas of lawn, and an assortment of mature shrubs and trees. The two-story red brick building rests on a quarry-faced rhyolite foundation and is topped by a hipped-roof with extensive eave bracketing, two dormers, and two highly decorative brick chimneys. Bays of double and triple one-over-one, double-hung windows with large transoms provide interior illumination. A large limestone sundial graces the south elevation and a similarly designed decorative name plaque ornaments the west elevation. The irregular plan accommodates four corner classrooms on each floor with additional rooms and storage space in the raised basement and in the large open attic. Original interior walls remain throughout the school along with wood molding, doors, and wainscotting. Some interior spaces have been divided to facilitate reuse as office space. The most evident interior change is the large conference room in what was the first floor entry corridor. A 1917 one-story brick addition off the north elevation provided separate space for kindergarten and first grade classes. The C-shaped plan, flat roofed building contains a full-length porch across the west facade. Light is provided by bays of multi-light, wood frame windows on all elevations. The addition is joined to the original building through a basement level passageway. The Emerson School retains a high degree of historic integrity, both interior and exterior, and is fully capable of conveying its architectural significance.

The Emerson School consists of two structural elements—the original 1885 building and the 1917 cottage school addition. The original building is an irregular rectangular plan, approximately 100 ft. x 80 ft. structure of red brick laid in running bond which rises from a quarry-faced rhyolite foundation with tooled and beveled upper course. Each asymmetrical elevation consists of two or three two-story sections which together terminate in an irregular hipped roof with eave bracketing, dormers, and decorative brick chimneys. The composition shingle roof rises to a ridge line capped by decorative copper cresting.

Numerous brick string courses surround the original building. The first runs just below the first-story sills. The second intersects the junction of the first-story window and transoms and the third, just above the second, arches over the window bays to form segmentally arched hoods. This string course pattern is repeated on the second-story. Two final string courses surround the building just below the eaves. Regularly spaced corbeling interrupts the top-most course and supports closely spaced eave brackets.

Windows throughout the building are original. Most are double or triple, one-over-one, double-hung sashes with wood frames. These are topped by single or multi-light transoms (filled with wood panels) beneath brick voussoirs forming segmental arches. Single one-over-one sashes

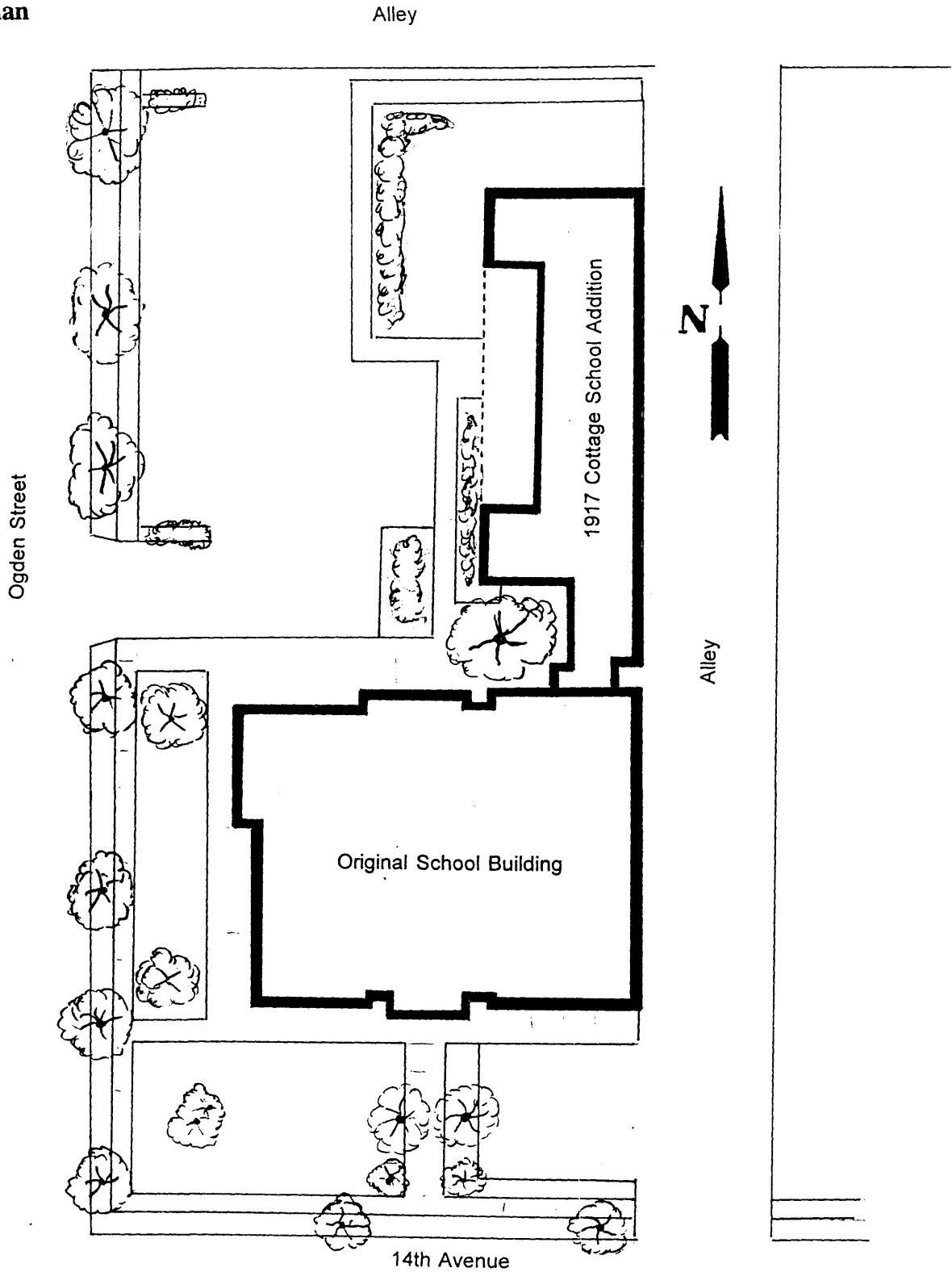
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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

Site Plan



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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

are found on each elevation and are topped by flat arches without transoms. All sills are of tooled rhyolite.

The south (14th Avenue) elevation consists of three major symmetrical sections. The first-story of the eastern-most section contains a centered triple window with multi-light transom flanked by double windows with single-light transoms. This fenestration is repeated on the second-story. The basement contains two single and one double one-over-one sashes and a plain wood half-light door accessed by a concrete stair surrounded by chain link fencing and sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The recessed middle section contains a projecting entry. The recessed entry porch beneath a half-round arch is accessed by four concrete steps with wrought iron railings leading to double half-light wood doors topped by a fan light. One-over-one sash windows covered by metal bars flank the entry. A brick string course surrounds the entry and intersects the top of the window openings. A soldier course separates a second belt course which forms a hood over the entry arch and limestone keystone. The upper gable end contains a triangular panel of dogtoothed brick and stepped corbeling along the eave. The gable coping is of limestone and the roof is of composition shingles. A wood panel covers the former door to the basement stairs located on the west elevation of the entry. A brick half-round arch and string course hood surrounds the covered transom. Stucco covers all the brick on the entry below the lower string course. The protruding entry is flanked by single sash windows. The second-story contains a centered triple window flanked by single sashes. The roof above the section contains a hip-roofed dormer with triple one-over-one windows, clapboard siding and a copper finial. The western section is windowless except for the basement which contains a pair of two-over-two sashes and a wood half-light door accessed by a concrete stair surrounded by chain link fencing and sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The dominating feature of the section is a large Indiana limestone sundial. The sundial is surrounded by a corbeled base, brick pilasters and a half-round brick hood with dentils and a limestone keystone. The arch encloses two limestone name plaques with raised letters—a curved plate spelling out "EMERSON" and a straight plate spelling out "SCHOOL."

The west (Ogden Street) elevation consists of two major sections. The first-story of the southern section contains two triple windows identical to the south elevation and two one-over-one sashes. The second-story repeats this pattern. The single windows are separated from the triples by a chimney which rises the full height of the building through a small roof gable and terminates at the ridge line. The basement contains four two-over-two sashes and one four-light fixed window. The northern section is similar to the western-most section on the south elevation except that the sundial area contains a limestone plaque containing the name of the school in incised letters. Two smaller plaques flank the main plaque and contain the 1884 construction date of the school, two digits in each plaque. The basement contains two six-light fixed windows and a window opening covered by a wood panel.

The north elevation consists of three major sections. The western-most contains a pair of triple windows on the first and second-stories. The basement contains a six-light fixed window and a wood half-light door accessed by a concrete stair surrounded by chain link fencing and sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The middle section contains the rear entry and is similar to the south elevation entry. The entry porch terminates in a flat roof and the second-story triple window

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

occupies a mid-level position to illuminate an interior stair. Four concrete steps with a center wrought iron railing provide access to the double half-light metal doors topped by a fanlight. These doors are of modern construction and provide an air lock in front of the existing historic doors. To the west of the entry porch is a shed-roofed plywood addition with a half-light door at grade which provides access to an interior elevator. The roof above the section contains a three window shed-roofed dormer. The eastern section contains a large square brick chimney that rises through the eave. The basement contains a single six-light window covered with a wood panel.

The east elevation contains two major sections. The southern section contains a single and a double one-over-one sash window on the first-story and a set of double windows on the second-story. A coal chute with a metal door and a two-light fixed window pierces the foundation. The northern section contains two triple windows on the first and second-stories. A metal fire escape follows along the face of the wall from an enlarged second floor window on the north setback. A brick basement extension with concrete roof contains two coal chutes with metal doors.

Two identical large brick chimneys rise through the east and west elevation hipped-roof. The highly decorated chimneys are topped with copper caps. Cooper roof cresting also follows the ridge line between the two chimneys.

The 1917 dark red brick cottage school addition off the north elevation is a C-shaped plan, approximately 95 ft. x 42 ft., flat-roofed building. The brick is laid in a pattern of seven courses of running bond and one course of alternating stretchers and headers. A soldier course near the parapet runs the length of the north, west and south elevations. All windows in the addition are wood framed and have flat brick arches and sandstone sills. A five-foot high brick wall extends north flush with the east elevation and joins a chain link fence which runs around the north half of the building to form an enclosed playground.

The west (Ogden Street) facade contains a full length porch filling the inner portion of the C-shaped plan. A short brick wall capped by concrete runs along the length of the porch. A small central gable supported by two Tuscan columns delineates the porch entry. Access to the porch is through a pair of glazed aluminum frame doors. Glass panels in black aluminum frames enclose the porch. Entry to the building from the porch is through a pair of half-light metal doors topped by a nine-light transom. Two evenly spaced six-over-six windows flank each side of the main entry. Two additional six-over-six windows occupy the ends of the C-plan.

The north elevation contains a plain metal door and a six-light transom. A former window opening is bricked in and retains its sandstone sill.

The east (rear) elevation is divided into 7 bays by brick pilasters. Each bay contains a single six-light window. The southern-most end of the cottage school addition forms a short connection to the basement of the original building. The east elevation of the connection contains a solid wood door with sandstone sill and two paneled window openings.

The south elevation of the cottage school is a mirror image of the north elevation. It also contains the connection to the original building. The west elevation of the connection contains a one-over-one window and a solid wood door.

The exterior of the school has changed little over time. Alterations include the stuccoing of the south elevation entry, the addition of doors and sheltered stairs to the basement, the removal of

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

the upper portion of the west elevation chimney, the replacement of the main chimney caps, finials and roof cresting, and modifications to the landscaping. The largest alteration is the 1917 cottage school addition off the north elevation. The addition is clearly of later design and construction than the original and its minimal connection to the original building does little to lessen the architectural integrity of the school.

A new heating plant was installed in the original building at the time of the cottage school construction. The large chimney on the north elevation of the original building and the extended basement on the east elevation are part of the new heating system.

The interior of the original building underwent several changes in the early 1990s to accommodate the use of the building for various medical and non-profit organizations. Original walls remain but some classrooms were divided into smaller spaces. Original wood floors, trim, doors, wainscotting and some blackboards remain. The conference room in the entry corridor is the largest single interior alteration. In addition to filling most of the corridor space, the construction of the conference room necessitated the removal of the original corridor stairs. Despite these changes, the character defining school spaces remain and a modern visitor may readily understand the design and functioning of the Emerson School.

In 1994 the Colorado Historical Society and two local foundations provided funds to restore and preserve the exterior. The rhyolite and brick walls were washed and repointed, the extensive brick work and sundial were repaired, and lastly, the chimney caps, finials and roof cresting were replaced.

In 1997, the Emerson School stands fully capable of conveying its architectural significance.

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1885 Emerson School is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its having been designed by Colorado's premier master architect, Robert S. Roeschlaub. Roeschlaub began his architectural career in Denver in 1873 and continued to design buildings until 1912. While his work spans the full spectrum of commercial, civic, and residential architecture, he achieved particular prominence for his school buildings. The Emerson School is the oldest remaining example of a Roeschlaub designed school in Colorado.

Robert S. Roeschlaub began his practice in Denver in 1873 and continued until his retirement in 1912. He designed numerous schools, college buildings, churches and residences. He also is credited with a number of Denver commercial buildings including the King Block (1879), Bancroft Block (1880), Times Building (1881), Union Block (1881), Barth Block (1881), A.T. Lewis & Son Dept. Store (1894; 1902) and the I.F. Williams Store (1902). Of his commercial structures, only the Lewis Department Store and the Hover Drug Co. buildings remain. National Register listed Roeschlaub buildings include the A.T. Lewis Store, Central City Opera House, Cheyenne County Jail in Cheyenne Wells, and Denver's Trinity United Methodist Church, Corona School, Chamberlin Observatory, and First Congregational Church.

Roeschlaub's architectural practice is credited with about fifty school commissions over a forty-year period and does not include the many additions he made to these original buildings. His expertise and renown won him commissions throughout the region. In addition to his numerous Denver projects, he designed schools in Cañon City, Colorado Springs, Greeley, Golden, Lake City, and Pueblo.

From 1876 to 1889, Roeschlaub served as architect for the East Denver (Arapahoe) School District. During this time he is credited with transforming education in the city from the one-room schoolhouse typical of the rural experience to multi-room structures incorporating both the most modern institutional thinking of the time with architectural style and grace of which the city could be proud.

The early citizens of the Denver took great pride in their schools and the visible statement each made about the level of civilization and enlightenment reached by the new community. The *Denver Times* commented in 1879 in praise of Roeschlaub's recently completed Twenty-fourth Street School, "It is not a comment upon the city of Denver, and the character of its population, that the first and only public buildings of note in the city are the school houses..."

At the time Roeschlaub designed Emerson School in 1884, he could bring to the project considerable experience based on his having designed several other school buildings. His first school was Denver's Broadway School (1875), followed by the Centennial School (1876) in Pueblo, the Twenty-fourth Street School (1879) in Denver, and two commissions in 1880, the Ebert School in Denver and the Lake City School in Lake City. In 1881 Roeschlaub completed designs for the

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

Cañon City (Washington) School and the Centennial High School in Pueblo, and two additional Denver commissions, the first wing of the East Denver High School and the Gilpin School. Denver's Longfellow School followed the next year, and in 1883 his firm completed designs for Denver's Whittier School and Pueblo's Hinsdale School. None of these Roeschlaub buildings remains.

Roeschlaub's schools attracted the attention of school boards and educators outside Colorado. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported in 1883 that "F.W. Bicknell, editor of the *New England Journal of Education* has been spending the week visiting the Denver schools" and "Mrs. Otis, a very intelligent New England lady who...has been greatly interested in educational and philanthropic movements for a long series of years, has written her impressions of Denver schools to the *Boston Commonwealth*." The following year plans and photographs of two of Roeschlaub's schools were exhibited in New Orleans and the exposure brought requests for plan copies from Canada, England and Germany.

The concept of tax-supported free public education remained a controversial issue in Denver during the 1860s and 1870s. In addition to basic education, the school board focused its attention on health and hygiene considerations. Commentators more often praised Roeschlaub's school buildings for their ventilation, heating, sanitation, and lighting than for their stylistic qualities. The *Rocky Mountain News* boasted of East Denver schools in an 1884 article as being "the most magnificent schools and finest system in America," and that "for air, light, and general comfort and convenience they are unequaled in the whole country...a monument to western taste, culture and liberality, placing us in the front rank of progress."

Roeschlaub kept himself informed about advances in architectural technology and applied this knowledge to his school building designs. Each school represents an evolutionary step in building technology. Roeschlaub treated each school as an architectural laboratory in which to test and perfect engineering technologies and it is under this concept that the full body of his work is best understood.

The design for his first commission, the 1875 Broadway School, is repeated with slight variations in the Centennial School in Pueblo, the Twenty-fourth Street School in Denver, the Washington School in Cañon City, and the Longfellow in Denver. Each school is a compact symmetrical building with four classrooms per floor organized around a central corridor. Two entrances are placed directly opposite each other to facilitate good ventilation. Girls and boys generally used different entrances and cloak halls were also divided by gender. In the 1882 Longfellow School, Roeschlaub set the classroom doors at a diagonal to the hall to define the center as the heart of the school rather than a mere passageway.

The next group of Roeschlaub's Denver schools consist of the Ebert (1880), Gilpin (1881), Whittier (1883), and Delgany (1885). All are sober rectangles with symmetrical elevations, but all are larger and higher than the Broadway model with simple, imposing outlines. Each is marked by a greater variety of surface materials and treatments. Red brick is accented by contrasting light stone in the foundations and such trimmings as sills and keystones. A cornice of fancy brickwork, either graded horizontally or laid in a sawtooth or dogtooth pattern is common. Roeschlaub often employed brick in such a manner as a low-cost alternative to terra cotta or carved stone. The

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

technique of rendering the name of the school in an elaborate decorative plaque first occurs at Whittier. Gilpin and Whittier also use a six room per story design as opposed to the four in the Broadway model. The stairway in both schools is centered in the structure and combined with a two-story gallery to make it both a functional and decorative element. In the Whittier design, Roeschlaub moves from the two opposing central entrances to a four corner entrance design.

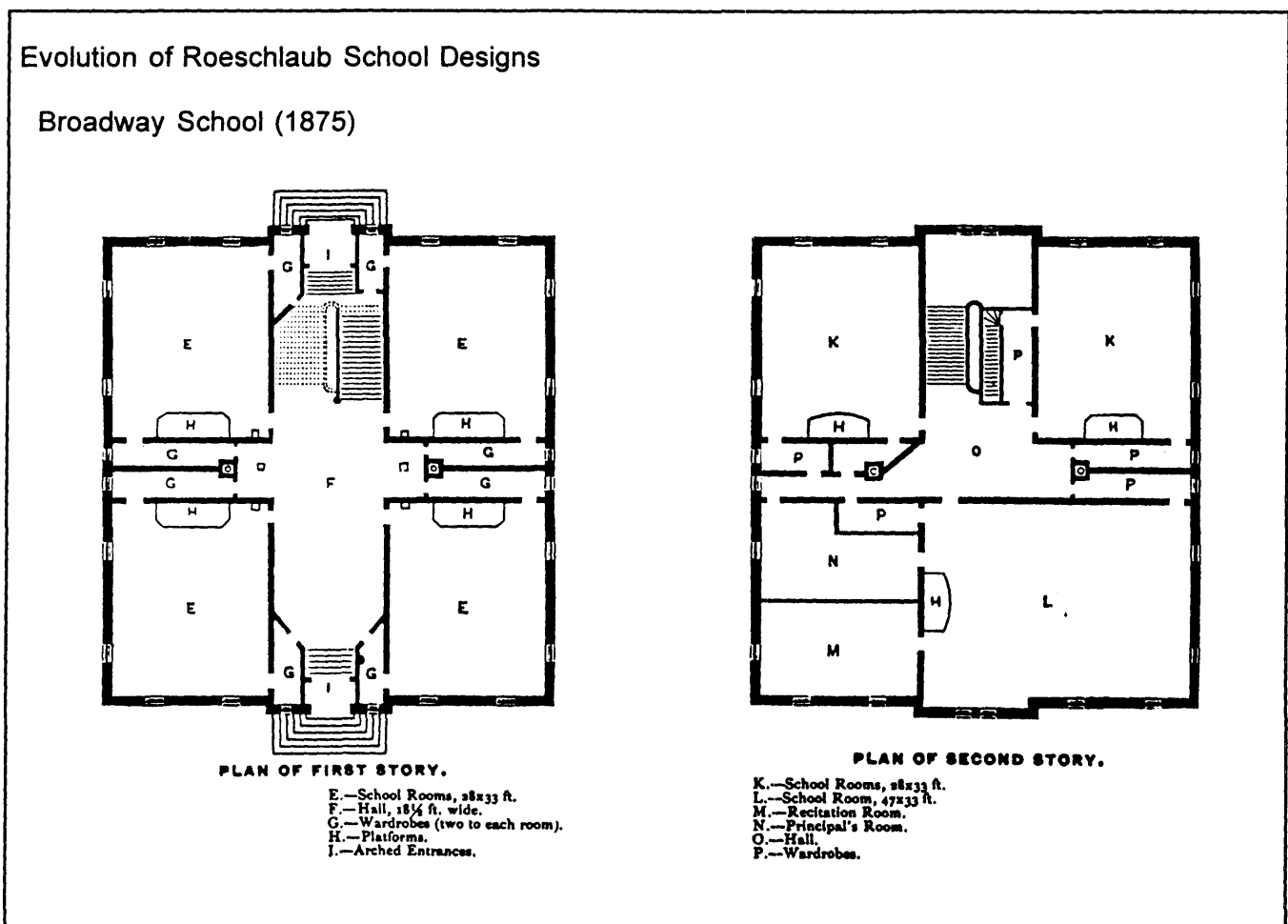


Figure 1

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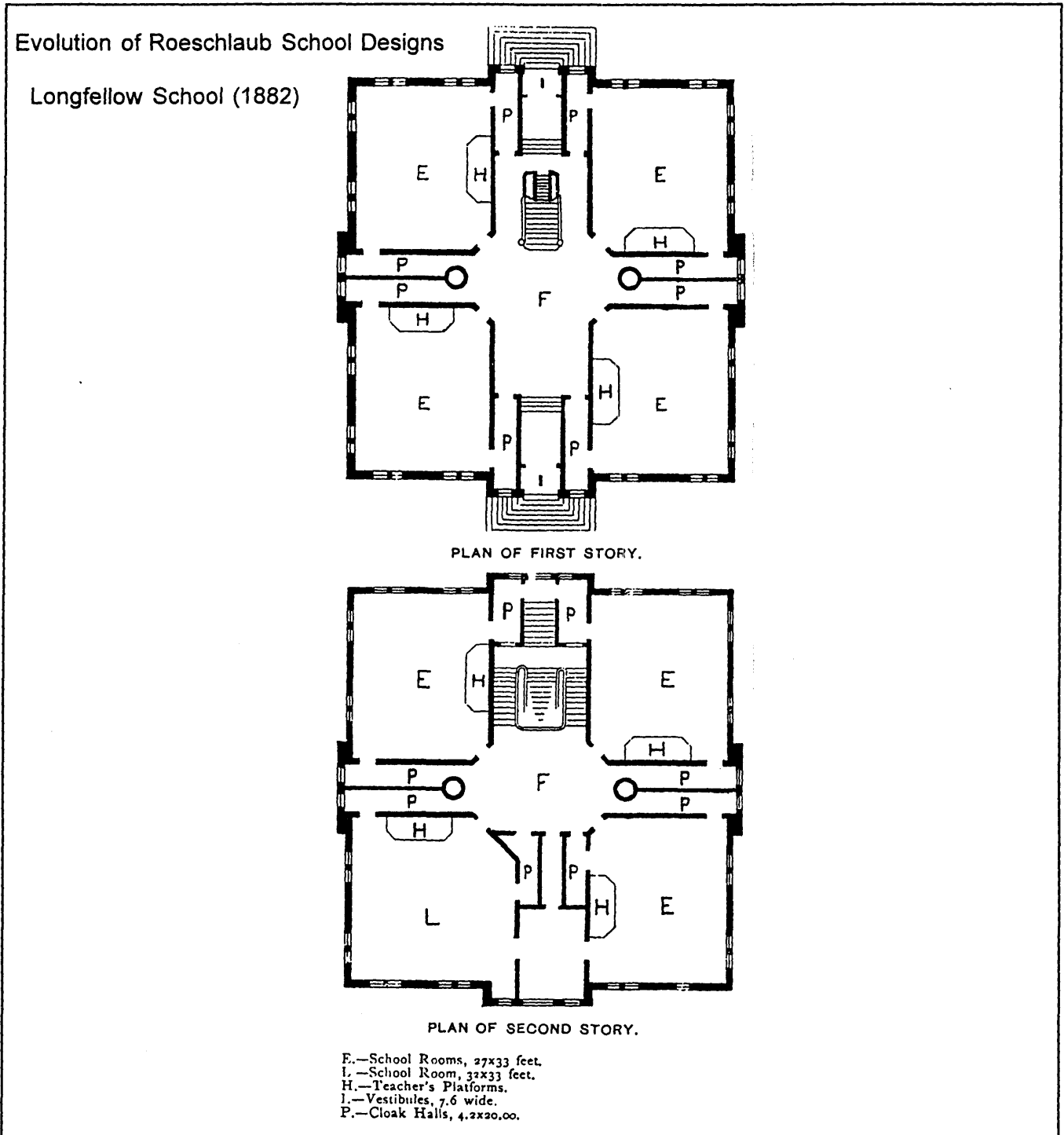


Figure 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

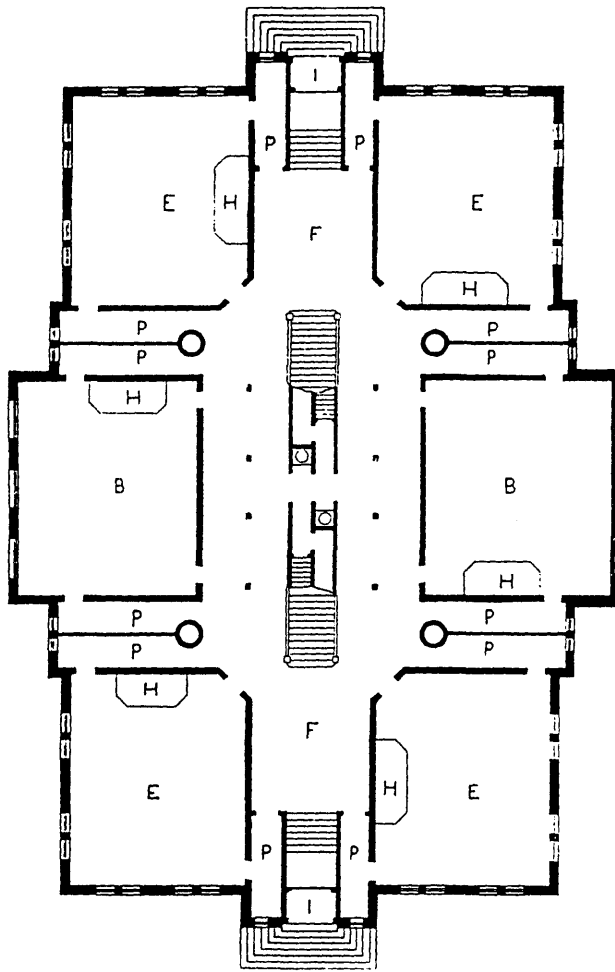
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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

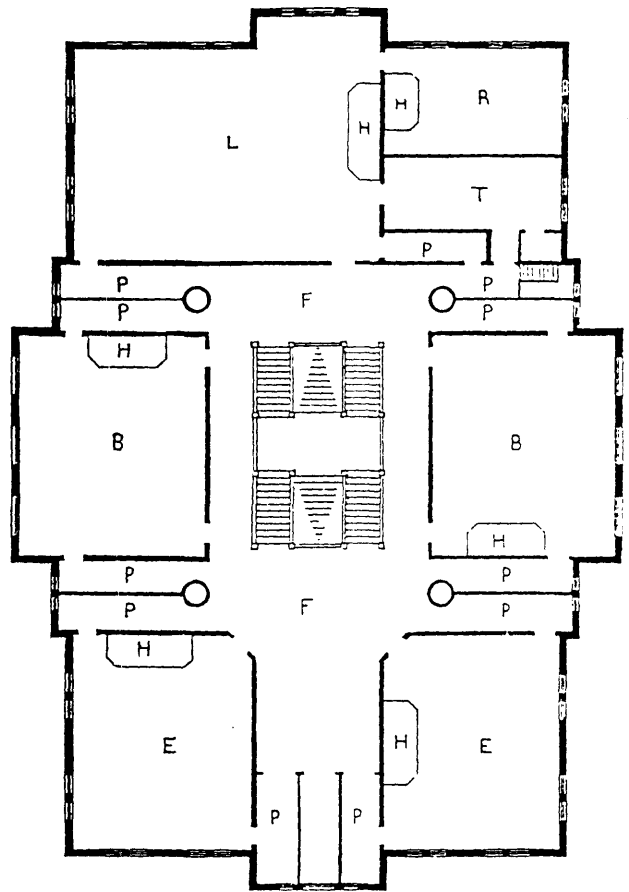
Evolution of Roeschlaub School Designs

Gilpin School (1881)



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

E.—School Rooms, 27x33 feet.	H.—Teacher's Platforms.
B.—School Rooms, 28x33 feet.	I.—Vestibules, 7.6 wide.
F.—Corridor, 17 and 33 feet wide.	P.—Cloak Halls, 4.6x19.



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.

E.—School Rooms, 27x33 feet.	H.—Teacher's Platforms.
B.—School Rooms, 28x33 feet.	P.—Cloak Halls, 4.6x19.0
F.—Corridor.	R.—Recitation Room, 27.6x16.0.
	T.—Principal's Office and Recitation Room, 11.6x27.6.

Figure 3

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Emerson School
Denver County, Colorado

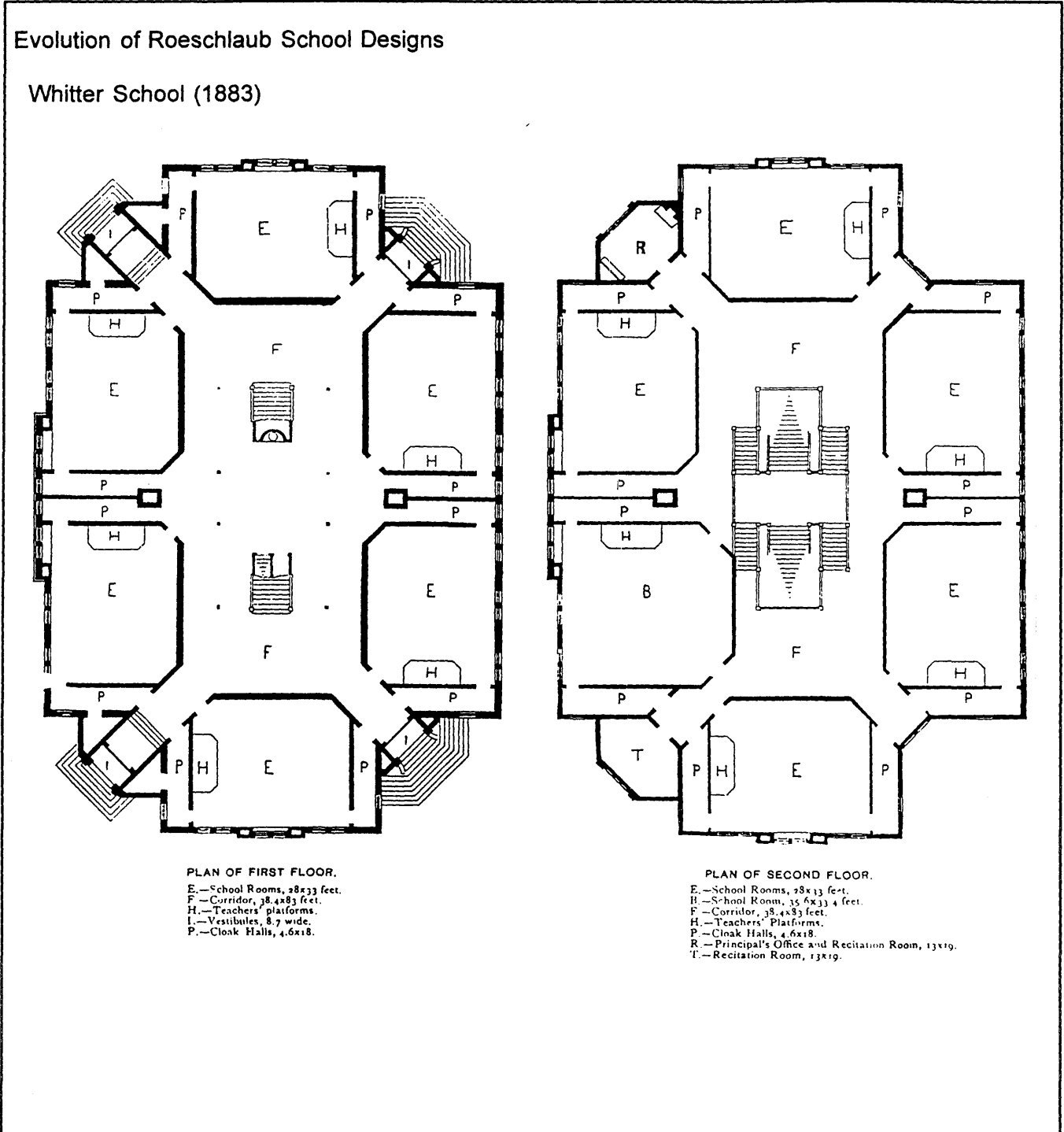


Figure 4

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Denver County, Colorado

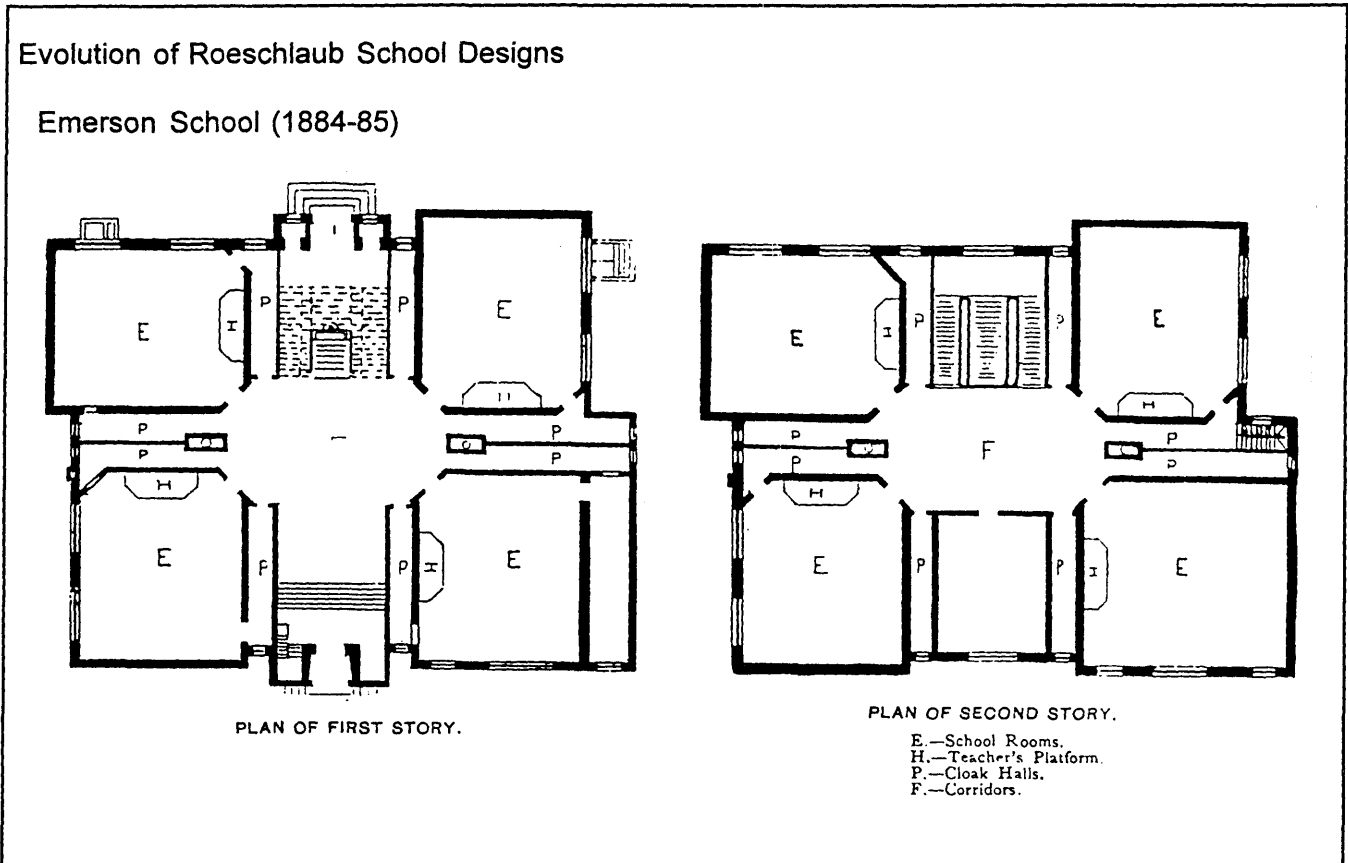


Figure 5

Emerson School is a product of Roeschlaub's earlier work but also demonstrates his willingness to try something new. In plan, Emerson resembles the blockish Longfellow School in its double outside building entrances, eight-room orientation with diagonal classroom entrances, and end corridor stairway. The classrooms are oriented around a center pivot so that light enters each classroom on the students' left—ideal for right-handed students. Roeschlaub first used this classroom lighting scheme in Longfellow and repeated it in subsequent schools. However, at Emerson, only the side wall of each room contains windows. This design is seemingly at odds with the era's interest in improving ventilation and illumination.

Roeschlaub also abandons the strict symmetry of his earlier schools in the design of Emerson. He treats the building as four blocks slid out from the center and oriented toward different compass points. A sense of rotation exists as though each block formed the fins of a pinwheel revolving around the hexagonal center hall. One modern commentator considers the placement of the four corner towers and stairwells at Roeschlaub's Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church three years later to be the mature realization of this concept.

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Emerson School
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Emerson School utilizes a number of design elements unique to Roeschlaub's work. The asymmetrical organization of its elevations is as far as Roeschlaub goes towards expressing a romantic, picturesque point of view in his school buildings. The brick work at Emerson is of a particularly high quality, in design and execution. The outstanding features are the entrance portal, the west elevation name and date plaque, and the defining element, the immense limestone sundial on the primary facade, probably the first in Colorado. Haber, Fuller and Wetzell, in their biography of Roeschlaub, describe the style of the Emerson as neo-Tudor, a historical period that mixed Gothic and early Renaissance motifs. Richard Brettell, in *Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893*, takes a stylistically safer route by categorizing it as "the Roeschlaub middle-period school style."

The south elevation entry portal (a truncated version appears on the north) is Gothic in outline and shelters a doorway of simple Renaissance profile. As with many of his other designs, Roeschlaub is creatively eclectic, avoiding rigorous devotion to historic sources while developing his own architectural character. Shortly after its construction the *Colorado School Journal* commented on the novelty of the school: "The plan is entirely new and original, an outgrowth of the experience of Captain Roeschlaub, the architect of the Board, the members of the Board of Education, and Aaron Gove, the superintendent, in the erection of the many school buildings...in the district during the past ten years. In the planning of this building care was taken to introduce no feature that would produce aesthetic effect alone, and which would be detrimental to the convenience or comfort of the occupants of the house, or would in any way interfere with the work of the school." The *Journal* apparently considered the sundial to be strictly functional and educational.

Students living in the Capitol Hill neighborhood originally attended Broadway School. Rapid growth soon led to overcrowding and a call for a new facility. Planning for a new school began in 1884 (hence the date plaques), but the district did not acquire the land on the northeast corner of Alma and Capitol (now Ogden and 14th) until April 3, 1885. Construction began two weeks later and was completed by the first of November. The school board named the building in honor of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The quality of the Emerson School design and construction is borne out by its nearly century-long life as an elementary school. Certain changes occurred over the years to keep the building functional and in step with changing educational philosophies. As originally constructed, the southeast corner of the school grounds included a brick, hipped-roof outhouse for use by students and faculty. Indoor plumbing was installed at a later date. A four-room basement apartment housed the school janitor.

In 1917, as part of a new idea in education, a one-story addition was built directly north of the main building. Called cottage schools, the new concept was to separate the kindergarten and first graders from the older students by placing the younger students in a cozier more home-like setting. The Emerson cottage contained three rooms and a large porch where classes could be held when weather permitted. A short below grade hallway connected the cottage to the main school building. The addition has been adaptively reused as a day care center.

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The southeast upstairs classroom was fitted with a stage at an unknown date to compensate for the lack of an auditorium. Similarly, part of the basement was fitted out to function as a gymnasium.

The school prospered until demographic changes in the neighborhood brought lower attendance and resulted in the school board's decision to close the building in 1979. In 1980 a group of non-profit organizations purchased the building for a proposed senior center. This plan proved to be infeasible and the building was once again on the verge of closing. In 1989 the Medical Care and Research Foundation took over management of the building in order to prevent its closing, and more importantly, to preserve their geriatric clinic which occupied one-third of the first floor. The foundation decided that the building would be ideal as offices for non-profit organizations. During the next several years, funds were raised to remodel this important structure. Today the Ralph Waldo Emerson Center houses fourteen organizations. Denver's city council designated the school a Denver Landmark in 1984.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 13-15, Block 103, Morgan Colfax Avenue Addition to Denver; Lots 9-20, Block 103, Capitol Hill Subdivision Second Filing; Lot 35 and the North 15 feet of Lot 14, Block 103, Brewer's Addition to the City of Denver.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the school building.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-6:

Name of Property: Emerson School
Location: Denver County, Colo.
Photographer: Geri Mitchel
Date of Photographs: November, 1996
Negatives: Medical Care and Research Foundation, 1420 Ogden St., Denver, CO

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	South and west elevations, view to the northeast.
2	West elevation, view to the southeast.
3	North elevation, view to the south.
4	Sundial detail, south elevation, view to the north.
5	Entry detail, south elevation, view to the north.
6	Cottage school addition, west elevation, view to the east.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Englewood, Colo.
7.5 Minute Quad
Photorevised 1994

