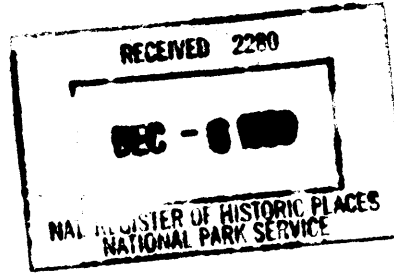


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1664

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 Second Ward School

other names/site number Boyd Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 1105 Main Street not for publication N/A

city or town City of Eau Claire vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 x meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mica Z. Lee  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

12/1/99  
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

Second Ward School  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**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.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper  
*[Signature]* *[Signature]* Date of Action  
*Edson H. Beall* *1-7-00*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property      Category of Property  
(check as many as apply)    (Check only one box)  
  
\_\_\_ private                     building(s)  
 public-local                \_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_ public-state              \_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_ public-federal            \_\_\_ structure  
                                     \_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include listed resources in the count)

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

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

Historic Resources of Eau Claire

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
EDUCATION/ School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Second Ward School  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.

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 our prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1916-1929

**Significant Dates**

1916-1917

1929

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Hancock, Edward J.

Second Ward School  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**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

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Eau Claire School District

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 6197110 49629510 3 1 11111 111111  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 1 11111 111111 4 1 11111 111111  
Zone Easting Northing 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 Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization Mead & Hunt date 24 September 1998  
street & number 6501 Watts Road telephone (608)273-6380  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53719-2700

**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.

Second Ward School  
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
County and State

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 Eau Claire School District  
street & number 314 Doty Street telephone (715)839-6071  
city or town Eau Claire state WI zip code 54703

**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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Second Ward School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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## INTRODUCTION

The Second Ward School was designed by Eau Claire architect Edward J. Hancock and built in 1916-17. Hancock also designed the School's matching 1929 addition to the rear of the main block. The Second Ward School has been called Boyd Elementary School since 1951. The School is a two-story Collegiate Gothic building with a raised basement. It is constructed of structural clay tile and veneered with red brick in common bond. The above-ground portion of the poured concrete basement is veneered with brick. A parapet hides the flat, built-up roof.

## DESCRIPTION

The Second Ward School is located on the southeast corner of Main and McGraw streets, east of Eau Claire's central business district. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century single-family residences surround the School.

The Second Ward School is composed of two rectangular sections. The 1916-17 main block measures about 160 feet (north-south) by about 50 feet. The 1929 rear addition measures 90 feet (north-south) by 25 feet. The School is enriched with smooth-faced, limestone trim that includes: sills, lintels, water table, frieze, cornice, and coping. Most of the windows were replaced or covered over with a panel inset with a small, one-over-one, aluminum, single-hung sash window. The openings were retained. This alteration appears to date from circa 1975. The original windows were three-over-one, wood, double-hung sash. A square, brick chimney rises toward the middle of the main block's roof.

The Second Ward School faces west (see photo 1). A central, projecting entrance pavilion and slightly-projecting end pavilions articulate the symmetrical, front facade. The central pavilion resembles a medieval keep with its square tower form and deep, crenelated parapet (see photo 2). Brick pilasters suggest buttresses at the corners of the tower. The entrance is composed of a pair of replacement doors, each with an original three-pane transom, set in a Tudor arch and recessed between the brick pilasters. The stone surround features compound moldings and a drip mold with label stops. The entrance is surmounted by a recessed stone panel with raised patera and foliated ornamentation, partially covered with metal letters reading: "BOYD." Corner blocks with smaller patera flank two grotesques in human form above. At the second floor, three windows rest on a stone panel, which is carved: "II WARD SCHOOL." Each window is an original, three-over-one, double-hung sash with a three-pane transom. Stone quoining flanks the windows and continues to the parapet. The third-story is the belfry. At this story, the quoins frame three stone panels, each of which is enriched with a raised shield and topped by an opening. Matching openings appear on the other faces of the tower. The openings are blocked with panels, but were open originally to emit the ringing of the bell. The crenelated parapet is enriched with recessed and raised stone panels and raised stone crosses in front of segmental-arched niches on all sides of the tower.

The end pavilions on the front (west-facing) facade are identical. Each features three regularly-spaced windows at the ground floor and a group of five windows at each of the first and second floors. The grouped windows have

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Second Ward School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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continuous sills. The stone frieze forms a continuous lintel above the second-story windows. The end pavilions terminate in a stepped, pedimented parapet with a stone panel at each corner. A raised cross in front of a recessed niche ornaments each panel. Between the entrance tower and each end pavilion, the fenestration pattern is composed of a group of four windows flanked by a single window. Across this facade (except on the entrance tower), recessed panels filled with a diamond-shaped stone panel surrounded by brick in a diamond pattern separate the first and second floor windows.

The north- and south-facing facades of the Second Ward School are identical (see photos 3 and 4). On the main block, an entrance pavilion projects slightly on the east end of the facade. Brick pilasters suggesting buttresses frame each entrance. A pair of replacement doors surmounted by a multi-paned transom are set in a Tudor arch. The stone surround is enriched with compound moldings and a drip mold with label stops. Above are stone panels and a stepped drip mold. Another stone panel surmounts the entrance. The panel above the north entrance is incised: "BOYS," and the one above the south entrance (see photo 5) is carved: "GIRLS." Each entrance pavilion has a large opening at the second floor. Currently boarded and set with a small, one-over-one, aluminum window, the openings originally held three three-over-one windows with three-pane transoms. West of the entrance, a single window appears at each floor. The entrance pavilions terminate in a stepped, pedimented parapet with a stone panel at each corner. Three regularly-distributed windows are placed at the ground floor west of the pavilion. A large raised brick panel, with soldier and header courses at the top and bottom and stone corner blocks, enriches the first and second story. No openings appear on the north- and south-facing facades of the rear addition.

The 1929 rear addition is centered on and dominates the east-facing facade (see photos 6 and 7). The east face of the addition features a stone water table, simple stone frieze and cornice, plain parapet and stone coping. The fenestration pattern is composed of a central pair of replacement doors flanked by nine windows at the ground floor, and fourteen windows at each of the first and second floors. The north and south faces of the addition have no openings.

The north and south ends of the east-facing (rear) facade of the main block are visible on either side of the rear addition. At each end, a single window appears at each floor next to the addition. A stepped, pedimented parapet with corner blocks adorns the corners of the main block.

The interior plan consists of a double-loaded corridor running north-south through the main block with classrooms opening off of it (see photo 8). Each entrance pavilion houses a dog-leg staircase. The main block originally had a gymnasium (see photo 9) and bathrooms in the basement, four classrooms on each of the first and second floors. The kindergarten met in one of the second-floor classrooms. The 1929 addition had a bathroom and a lunch room for the boys (north) and a bathroom and a lunch room for the girls (south) in the basement. The principal's office, a bathroom for the teachers, a kindergarten room and one classroom were located on the first floor of the addition. The second floor had two classrooms and one smaller room, which apparently served as the library. When the addition was finished, the bathrooms in the original section were remodeled into two classrooms. The original floor

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plan is largely intact. In the original section, the stage in the gymnasium was enclosed to create a teachers' lounge in 1988; a small conference room was built into the stair hall on the first floor (date unknown); and the wall between two classrooms at the north end was removed to create a larger library (prior to 1988). The kitchen was installed in the basement north of the gymnasium in 1963.<sup>1</sup> Interior finishes include: hardwood flooring and carpeting in the classrooms and gym; asphalt tile flooring in the corridors and bathrooms; and plaster walls. In some areas, pressed metal or concrete ceilings remain, but many classrooms have dropped ceilings. Interior woodwork is simple, but has been retained, including some built-in cabinets and bookcases.

The Second Ward School retains a high degree of integrity. Exterior alterations are confined to replacement windows and doors. On the interior, one wall between two classrooms was removed, a few partition walls were installed to create two additional rooms, and one classroom was converted into a kitchen. These alterations are minimal and do not compromise the excellent historic integrity of the School.

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<sup>1</sup>Boyd Elementary School Students, "We're Making History," Oral History Report, 1989, pp. 17-18 and 23.



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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY**

The Second Ward School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is a fine example of the Collegiate Gothic style and retains excellent integrity. It is also a good and intact example of an early twentieth-century elementary school building. The period of significance extends from 1916 through 1929, to encompass the construction of the original section and the rear addition, both of which contribute to the architectural significance of the Second Ward School.

**HISTORY OF THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE**

The early history of the city of Eau Claire is closely associated with the development of the lumber industry in the Chippewa Valley, earning the community its nickname, the Sawdust City. Logs were rafted down the Chippewa River beginning in 1821, and a sawmill was built at Chippewa Falls in 1838. In 1846, Stephen McCann, Jeremiah Thomas, George Randall and Simon Randall erected a dam and a sawmill at the junction of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. The sawmill was washed away by heavy rains in 1847, but the Randalls, with new partners, were able to rebuild the mill. A second dam and mill complex was built for Jesse Gage and James Reed soon afterward.<sup>2</sup>

Lumbermen such as Daniel Shaw, Charles Bullen, Joseph G. Thorp, Orrin Ingram, Donald Kennedy, H. C. Putnam and George Buffington set up operations near the sawmills in the 1850s. Three small settlements grew up near the sawmills, separated by the rivers. The village of Eau Claire was located south of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River; Eau Claire City was located south of the Eau Claire and east of the Chippewa; and North Eau Claire was north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa. In 1856, plats for the Village of Eau Claire and Eau Claire City were recorded, and Eau Claire County was separated from Chippewa County. The village of Eau Claire was made county seat. In 1861, the population of the three settlements was 3,164.<sup>3</sup>

Following the Civil War, many Norwegian immigrants settled in Eau Claire, adding to an ethnic base of Germans, Irish, Canadians and Yankees. By this time, a fourth community had developed in the area. West Eau Claire was located north of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River. When Eau Claire incorporated as a city in 1872, the new city included what had been West Eau Claire, as well as the former communities of Eau Claire, Eau Claire City, and North Eau Claire. The population in 1880 was 9,771. By 1885, the booming lumber industry had caused the population to swell to 21,668, making Eau Claire the second-largest city in Wisconsin. During the late

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<sup>2</sup>Jane Hieb, Eau Claire, Heartland of the Chippewa Valley: An Illustrated History (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc, 1988), pp. 20-22.

<sup>3</sup>Mary Taylor, "Final Report: Intensive Historic/Architectural Survey of the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin," Report Prepared for the City of Eau Claire, March 1983, pp. 6-7; and Lois Barland, Sawdust City (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1960), pp.12-20.

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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1880s, the lumbering industry in Eau Claire declined sharply. The city's population fell twenty percent in response, dropping to 17,415 in 1890. Eau Claire's business community moved into wood-products manufacturing, with such enterprises as the Pioneer Furniture Company (1887), the Phoenix Furniture Company (1899), the Dells Pulp and Paper Company (1894), the Linderman Box and Veneer Company (1895) and the Kaiser Lumber Company Box Factory (1905). These concerns helped stabilize Eau Claire's population.<sup>4</sup>

After the turn of the century, the manufacturing sector expanded beyond wood-products, with the Gillette Safety Tire Company (later Uniroyal, Incorporated, and the city's largest employer until it closed in 1992), the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works (later National Presto Industries, producing small home appliances), and other companies. In 1916, the Wisconsin State Normal School for teacher-training opened in Eau Claire. This post-secondary institution, now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, drew students from all over west-central Wisconsin. Eau Claire's population, which had hovered around 17,500 from 1890 to 1910, began to grow again in the 1910s. This reflected the city's development as a regional economic and educational center for the surrounding rural counties.<sup>5</sup>

In 1940, the population of Eau Claire was 30,745. It reached 44,619 in 1970.<sup>6</sup> Today the city of Eau Claire is a lively community with more than 55,000 residents and thriving institutional, commercial and industrial sectors.

#### HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN EAU CLAIRE

Education was very important to the early European-American settlers of Eau Claire, many of whom came from New England and New York, where the public school movement had gained widespread support in the 1840s. This movement advocated primary education free to all, both for progress and for the well-being of society. Perhaps the leading factors in sparking this movement were rapidly increasing industrialization, which required a literate workforce, and the ceaseless tide of immigrants that began arriving in the 1840s, especially from Ireland and Germany, and who needed to be "Americanized." Educational reformers also thought universal literacy would benefit society in better-informed voters, and would provide equal opportunities to all, reducing stratification in society.<sup>7</sup>

The public education movement was very influential in Wisconsin. When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the state constitution provided for a system of free public schools, administered by local school districts and supervised by

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<sup>4</sup>Taylor, pp. 8-9.

<sup>5</sup>Taylor, pp. 8-9; and Barland, *Sawdust City*, p. 112.

<sup>6</sup>Taylor, p. 9.

<sup>7</sup>Barbara Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), III:2-3 and 2-4.

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Second Ward School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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the state superintendent of public instruction. The power to hire teachers, build schools, and establish policies was given to the local school district, while the state superintendent's power was very limited.<sup>8</sup>

The early European-American settlers of Eau Claire were quick to show their support for public education. By the late-1850s, the small communities of North Eau Claire (District 1), Eau Claire City (District 2) and the village of Eau Claire (District 3) had each established their own school district and built at least one school building. The Second Ward School would eventually be built in District 2. The first school in District 2 opened in 1856, in a small, one-room building (demolished) constructed of rough boards and located on Jones Street between Farwell and Barstow streets. In 1857, a second, larger school was erected on South Farwell Street near Gray Street. By 1863, there were 300 students in District 2. In 1864, District 2 abandoned that building and constructed a new one (demolished) on South Farwell Street between Emery and Earl Streets. It was later called the Bartlett School. In 1864-65, there were 192 students in the primary grades and 53 in the high school class. District 2 was quite progressive, having offered "graded" classes (in which children were taught in separate groups, divided by age) and high school course work as early as 1863. Districts 1 and 3 kept pace, at times surpassing District 2 in advancing the curriculum. In 1872, the Bartlett School building was expanded, and the first high school class graduated. In 1877, District 2 served 240 students.<sup>9</sup>

In 1881, District 2 decided to build another elementary school for students in the outlying area of the district. The District bought the site on which the existing Second Ward School would be built for \$1,345. Thorp School was erected on the site and opened in September 1884 with two teachers and four classrooms. The Thorp School was a two-story, frame, Italianate building with intersecting, low-pitched, hip roofs. Finished with clapboards, Thorp School featured eave brackets and a bell cupola.<sup>10</sup> In 1889, District 2 built the Lockwood School (extant) at 522 Lincoln Avenue, which had two classrooms for elementary school students.<sup>11</sup>

In 1890, the three school districts of North Eau Claire, Eau Claire City and the village of Eau Claire consolidated. The new School District of Eau Claire had eight wards, six school buildings and 3,177 students. In 1893, the elementary schools were re-named to correspond with the wards in which they were located. The Thorp School became the Second Ward School.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid., III:1-1

<sup>9</sup>William F. Bailey, editor, History of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin (Chicago: C. F. Cooper and Company, 1914), pp. 402-403.

<sup>10</sup>Historic Photo, Undated, on file, Chippewa Valley Historical Society.

<sup>11</sup>Bailey, pp. 402-03; and Barland, Sawdust City, pp. 105-06.

<sup>12</sup>Bailey, pp. 405 and 407.

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Under the leadership of J. K. McGregor, the first city superintendent of schools, the School District of Eau Claire built upon its progressive tradition, focusing first on erecting a building dedicated to high school students. At the time, teaching elementary and high school students in separate buildings was still a new idea, which would not catch on statewide until after World War I. The first Eau Claire High School (demolished 1957) was erected in 1892. The new high school adopted the curriculum recommended by the state superintendent of public instruction and placed a special emphasis on manual training. One of the earliest known classes in manual training in Wisconsin had been offered at the Alexander School in District 3, beginning in 1885.<sup>13</sup>

During the early twentieth century, in advance of many school districts around the state, the Eau Claire School District incorporated elements of the high school curriculum into the grade schools. Around 1900, physical education (called "physical culture") was introduced into the city's grade schools. Apparatus such as horizontal and parallel bars, swings and punching bags were installed in the school buildings and on the play grounds. Both during recess (called "intermission") and when children became restless in class, the children were allowed to use the apparatus to release pent-up energy. Teachers reported improved discipline, better health and general contentment among the children as a result. In 1903, manual training was extended to the grade schools to teach young children practical skills. This program met with success and resulted in various recommendations: paper cutting and folding for kindergarten; weaving and braiding for first grade; basket-weaving for second and third grade; and sewing and wood-carving for grades fourth-through-sixth.<sup>14</sup> With regard to physical education, it was noted that the gymnasium should be located in the basement "in order to avoid the noise incident to having a gymnasium in one of the upper rooms. . ."<sup>15</sup>

In 1909, the Board of Education published a 250-page document with a detailed course of study for grade school students, including physical education, manual training and domestic science. Eau Claire's grade schools adopted this course of study. The Eau Claire School District initiated several other innovations in the grade schools prior to 1915, including: hiring teachers who specialized in either physical education, music or drawing; placing a piano and a "victrola" in each school; opening the school to community events, such as those sponsored by the Civic Social Center Association (an organization whose goal was the Americanizing of immigrants); teaching horticulture and agriculture by encouraging children to plant gardens at home; encouraging children to be thrifty, and establishing savings accounts for children where earnings gained through the saving of school supplies were deposited; and, maintaining a cooperative arrangement with the public library to provide picture books to the city schools.<sup>16</sup> New

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<sup>13</sup>Ibid., pp. 408-09.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 413.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 414.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., pp. 419-21.

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grade school buildings erected during this period reflected this innovative curriculum, as well as incorporating elements of the model school plans advocated by nationally-recognized authorities such as Dr. Wiley and William George Bruce. These elements included central heating, electric wiring, indoor bathrooms and gender-segregated entrances. Both Wiley and Bruce apparently inspected and complimented the Ninth Ward School (erected 1912, demolished), one of two grade schools built during this period.<sup>17</sup>

The original section of the Second Ward School was designed by local architect Edward J. Hancock. Construction began in the fall of 1916 and the school formally opened on 26 January 1917.<sup>18</sup> The plan reflected the Eau Claire School District's curriculum guidelines by placing the gymnasium in the basement, with a stage at one end so that the space also served as an auditorium; and providing gender-segregated entrances. Matching the gender-segregated entrances, the girls' bathroom and locker room was on the south end of the basement, while the boys' facility was on the north end. Gender segregation carried through on the playground as well, where the boys played together at the north end and the girls at the south end.<sup>19</sup> The first and second floors each had four classrooms. The classrooms featured built-in bookcases and cabinets, many of which are still in place. The addition, also designed by Hancock, was erected in 1929.<sup>20</sup> It contained a bathroom and locker room for the girls and another for the boys, as well as gender-segregated lunch rooms (children brought lunches from home) in the basement. The bathroom-locker rooms in the original section were then remodeled into classrooms. The addition had several specialized spaces. The first floor of the addition featured a kindergarten room, a classroom, a principal's office, and a bathroom for the teachers. The second floor contained two classrooms and a smaller room, which apparently was the library.<sup>21</sup>

The existing Second Ward School retains most of its original plan. In the original section, the stage in the gymnasium was enclosed to create a teachers' lounge in 1988, a small conference room was built into the stair hall on the first floor (date unknown), and the wall between two classrooms at the north end was removed to create a larger library (prior to 1988). The kitchen was installed in the basement north of the gymnasium in 1963.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 423.

<sup>18</sup>Debbie Brown to Elizabeth Miller, Letter, 22 September 1998; and "We're Making History," pp. 17 and 38.

<sup>19</sup>"We're Making History," p. 12.

<sup>20</sup>"Salary of Keller Fixed at \$5,000; Davey Re-elected," Eau Claire Leader, 13 June 1929, p. 2; and "Contract is Let for Addition to Second Ward School," Eau Claire Leader, 3 July 1929, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup>"We're Making History," pp. 12, 17 and 18.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 18.

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Eau Claire's elementary schools were given names in the 1950s. The Second Ward School became Boyd Elementary School, the name it still carries, in 1951. This name recognizes Robert Boyd (1845-1932), who donated the land for Boyd Park Playground, located just north of the Second Ward School across Main Street. Boyd was born in Addison, New York, and settled in Eau Claire in 1871. At first engaged as a book-keeper, Boyd opened a real estate and abstract business in 1872. Soon after, he began dealing in real estate and lumber. In 1910, Boyd served as a city councilman. The same year, he gave the city the land for Boyd Park.<sup>23</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Second Ward School is architecturally significant at the local level, under Criterion C. The School is a fine and intact example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as a good example of an early twentieth century elementary school building.

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, the Collegiate Gothic style was built in Wisconsin between about 1915 and 1940. Inspired by the medieval buildings of prominent English universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, the style was popular for college campus buildings, high schools and elementary schools, especially during the late 1910s and the 1920s. Elementary and high school designs were often a loose interpretation of the Gothic mode. The Collegiate Gothic elementary or high school building is typically finished with brick, accented with stone, and features a central, towered, "keep-like" entrance. Details such as battlements, finials, parapets that may be crenellated, Gothic and Tudor arches, and ornament characteristic of the Gothic and Tudor styles may also be present.<sup>24</sup> The Second Ward School is a fully-developed example of the Collegiate Gothic, incorporating many of the above-listed features, such the brick finish accented with stone, parapets, towered keep-like entrance, and ornament typical of the Gothic and Tudor styles. The ornamentation includes stone quoining, patera, classical moldings, shields and human-faced grotesques. Grotesques are found on very few Collegiate Gothic buildings.

Four other Collegiate Gothic school buildings remain in Eau Claire. These are St. Patrick's Catholic School, the Longfellow Elementary School, the old Eau Claire High School, and Schofield Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus.

St. Patrick's Catholic School is located at 322 Fulton Street. Built circa 1920, it is a three-story, brick edifice with stone trim. Utilitarian in appearance, St. Patrick's features very simple entrances and a crenelated parapet with a stone coping. It retains good integrity.

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<sup>23</sup>Barland, The River Flows On: A Record of Eau Claire, 1910-1960 (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1965), p. 407.

<sup>24</sup>Wyatt, II:2-31.

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The Longfellow Elementary School at 512 Balcolm Street is a two-story brick building trimmed with stone. Its stream-lined appearance suggests a construction date in the 1930s. The Longfellow School is enriched with a parapet, and parapeted entry porches with quoined, segmental-arched portals. It retains good integrity although it does have a large, modern addition.

The Eau Claire High School at 314 Doty Street was built in 1925 (see photo 10). It is quite similar to the Second Ward School, probably because both buildings were designed by Eau Claire architect Edward J. Hancock. The Eau Claire High School is a three-story brick building with stone trim. It is much larger than the Second Ward School, filling an entire city block. Like the Second Ward School, the Eau Claire High School is enriched with water table, lintels, sills and coping of stone. The High School's keep-like entrance pavilions are slightly more ornate than those of the Second Ward School. The front entrance pavilion, for example, features more stone veneer, including tracery on the parapet. Unlike the Second Ward School, the High School does not have grotesques, but it does retain many of its original wood, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, giving it slightly better integrity than the Second Ward School.

Schofield Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus was erected in 1914-15 (see photo 11). It was the original building for the Wisconsin State Normal School, which opened in Eau Claire in 1916. Designed by the distinguished Milwaukee firm of (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke, Schofield Hall is two stories tall on a raised basement, finished with brick. It features quoining, window and door surrounds, lintels, sills and coping of stone. While Collegiate Gothic buildings often display some classical ornament, Schofield Hall details have a strong classical flavor. For example, the openings that are not flat-arched are segmental-arched, rather than Tudor- or Gothic-arched. Further, Schofield Hall's keep-like entrance pavilion is very square, lacking the compound pilasters or buttresses that might give this feature a more medieval flair. The stone ornament on the pavilion's parapet, simulating pierced strapwork, is distinctly Jacobean and an element generally confined to the most high-style Collegiate Gothic buildings. Schofield Hall retains good integrity.

In conclusion, the Second Ward School is a better example of the Collegiate Gothic style than either St. Patrick's Catholic School or the Longfellow School. The Second Ward School compares well with both the Eau Claire High School and Schofield Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus. These latter three buildings are fully-developed examples of Collegiate Gothic style, with fine ornamental details, and very good integrity. Both the Eau Claire High School and Schofield Hall are listed on the National Register for their architecture.

The Second Ward School is also a fine example of an early twentieth century elementary school building type. As a school building type, the Second Ward School reflects the changes that took place in elementary school curriculum in the early twentieth century. During this time, the curriculum expanded beyond the "three Rs." Attention was directed at developing well-rounded individuals with the inclusion of "manual training" for boys, especially wood-working; and "domestic science" for girls, specifically sewing and cooking. A rising concern for health and nutrition led to the inclusion of a gymnasium, lunch room and indoor bathrooms. An assembly room or auditorium was

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included, either as a separate room or as a stage at one end of the gymnasium. This reflected the new role of the elementary school as a community center for Americanizing immigrants and educating the public. Libraries also came into vogue. In the late 1910s and early 1920s, the "library" was a book-shelf located in a corner of each classroom. By the mid-1920s, the library was a separate room. Gender-segregation was also embraced by many educators. Finally, the state-of-the-art elementary school building of the late 1910s and the 1920s was spacious and light, with good ventilation, heating and electricity.<sup>25</sup>

The Second Ward School's 1916-17 original section and 1929 addition incorporated many of these features, including a gymnasium with a stage for use as an auditorium, gender-segregated entrances, lunch rooms, bathrooms and playground. When the original section was completed, the "library" was a bookcase in the corner of each room, while the 1929 addition provided a separate, small room for the library. The Second Ward School plan had some features that were less common in elementary schools of the 1920s: a kindergarten room; a principal's office; and a bathroom for the teachers.<sup>26</sup>

The Second Ward School was designed by Edward J. Hancock (1889-1930). He was born in England and immigrated to the U. S. as a boy, joining relatives in Fargo, North Dakota. He trained in the Fargo architectural firm of his uncles, George and Walter Hancock. Edward Hancock then practiced architecture in Regina and Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, with Reilly, Dawson, Hancock and Reilly from August 1911 until July 1915. He came to Eau Claire in July 1915, and joined Carl Volkman's firm. This partnership dissolved in November 1916. Hancock briefly relocated to Seattle, Washington, but soon returned to Eau Claire. He practiced on his own in Eau Claire until his death. The Second Ward School was his first large commission in Eau Claire. Hancock also designed the commercial block at 403 South Barstow Street (1924), his residence at 480 Roosevelt Avenue (1926), the residence at 474 Roosevelt Avenue (1926), and the Masonic Lodge at 616 Graham Avenue (1927) in Eau Claire and the Whitewater High School in Whitewater, Wisconsin.<sup>27</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Second Ward School is eligible for the National Register at the local level both as a fine and intact example of a Collegiate Gothic school and as an excellent example of an early twentieth century elementary school. The Second Ward School is a better example of the Collegiate Gothic style than either St. Patrick's Catholic School

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<sup>25</sup>William T. Anderson, "The Development of the Common Schools," Wisconsin Blue Book: 1923 (Madison: State Printing Board, 1923), p. 114-119; and any issue of the Wisconsin Journal of Education, 1920s.

<sup>26</sup>"We're Making History," pp. 12, 17-18, 23 and 35.

<sup>27</sup>Barland, The River Flows On: A Record of Eau Claire, 1910-1960, p. 425; and "E. J. Hancock, Eau Claire Architect, Dies at Fargo," Eau Claire Leader, 3 July 1930, p. 2.



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or the Longfellow School and compares favorably with both the Eau Claire High School and Schofield Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus. These last two buildings, along with the Second Ward School, are fully-developed examples of Collegiate Gothic style, with fine ornamental details and very good integrity. Both the Eau Claire High School and Schofield Hall are listed on the National Register. The Second Ward School also represents a state-of-the-art, early twentieth century elementary school, which included a basement gymnasium with a stage for use as an auditorium; gender-segregated entrances, bathrooms and lunch rooms; a kindergarten room; a principal's office; and a library.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Second Ward School is located on Lots 1 through 6, Block 9, in the Eau Claire Lumber Company's Sixth Addition to the City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. The School parcel encompasses 1.1 acres and measures 260 feet (north-south) by 180 feet.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the Second Ward School enclose all the resources historically associated with the School and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which it sits.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Photo 1 of 11*

Second Ward School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin  
Photo by Stacey Pilgrim, Mead & Hunt, 10 June 1998  
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
View of the west-facing (front) facade, looking southeast.

For the photographs listed below, the information is the same as the above, except as noted:

*Photo 2 of 11*

Closeup of the main entrance.

*Photo 3 of 11*

View of the north- and west-facing facades, looking southeast.

*Photo 4 of 11*

View of south- and west-facing facades, looking northwest

*Photo 5 of 11*

Closeup of south entrance.

*Photo 6 of 11*

View of the east-facing facade, looking southwest.

*Photo 7 of 11*

View of the east-facing facade, looking northwest.

*Photo 8 of 11*

Second floor corridor, main block.

*Photo 9 of 11*

Gymnasium, looking southwest.

*Photo 10 of 11*

Eau Claire High School, 314 Doty Street, Eau Claire.

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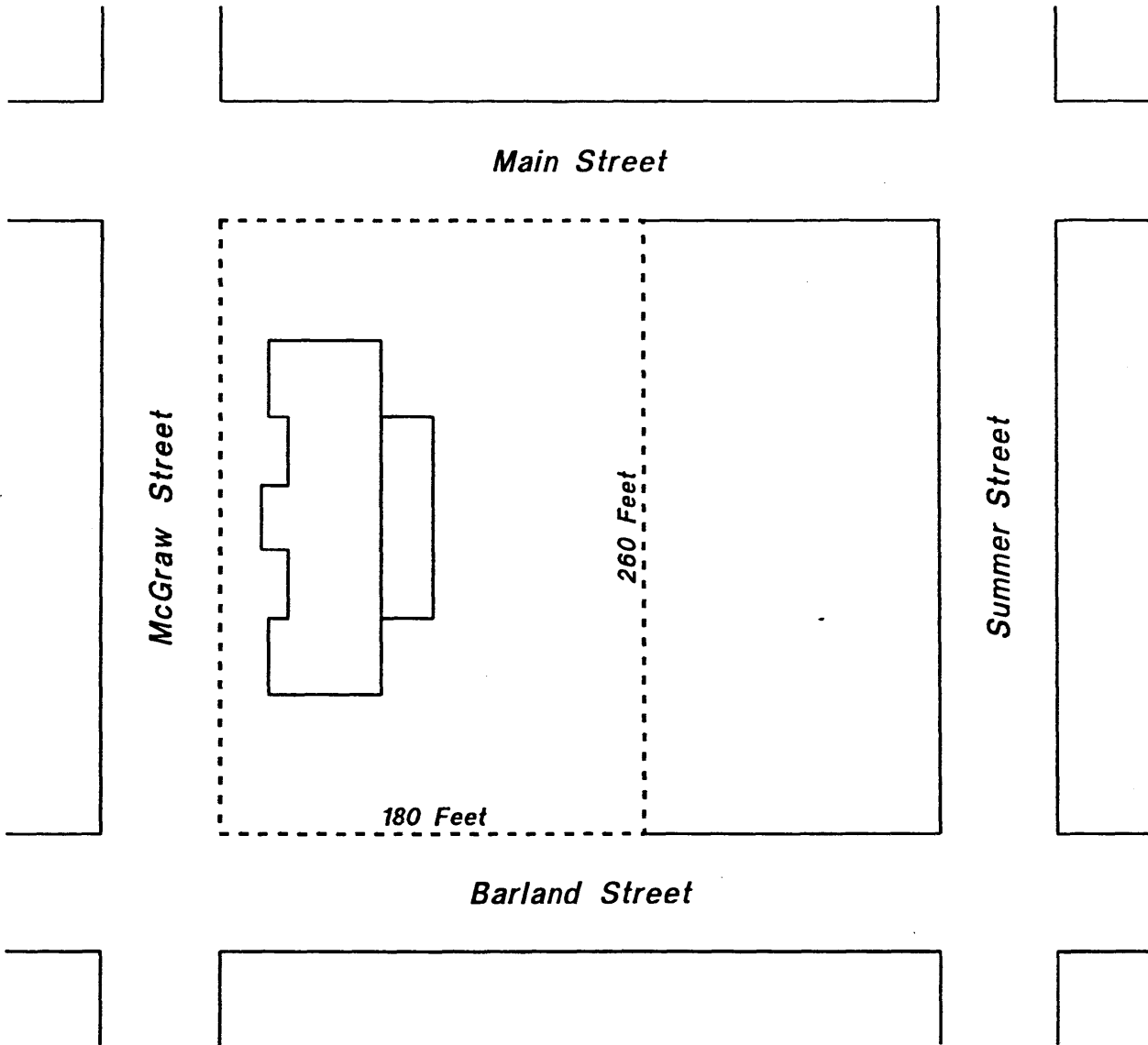
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*Photo 11 of 11*  
Schofield Hall, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.



**SECOND WARD SCHOOL**

1105 Main Street  
 Eau Claire, Eau Claire County  
 Wisconsin

**Legend:**



Contributing



Historic Boundary



Scale: 1" = 75'