

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received AUG 14 1985  
date entered SEP 12 1985

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 ORVILLE BEACH MEMORIAL MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 240 Algoma Boulevard \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 415 Jackson Street

city, town Oshkosh \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 54901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places  
title Oshkosh Intensive Survey \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_\_\_ no  
1978

date 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Orville Beach Memorial Manual Training School at 240 Algoma Boulevard is a three-story Neo-Classic school building. The overall structure is formally balanced and constructed on a "T" plan. Its roof is flat, and the walls and raised foundations are Bedford limestone. The metal replacement windows (approved by the Department of the Interior as part of a thorough rehabilitation) carefully duplicate the appearance of the original double-hung, single-pane sash. The principal entrance on Algoma Boulevard is at foundation level and is part of a central pavillion framed by monumental Ionic columns, above which the name of the school is inscribed. Decorative features include rusticated foundations, a pedimented entry head supported by ancones, corner pilasters, and a heavy denticulated cornice with parapet. A glass and metal solarium on the east facade now serves as the principal entrance and marks where the Beach school was once joined to the City Vocational School (demolished to provide parking). The large, unadorned classrooms that constituted the interior were partially destroyed by fire in the 1970's and are now converted to offices.

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ORVILLE BEACH MEMORIAL MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL; Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

Russell J. Spaulding  
Oshkosh City Employees Credit Union  
240 Algoma Blvd., Suite 101  
P.O. Box 1130  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

James G. Osborn  
240 Algoma Blvd. Partnership  
240 Algoma Blvd.  
P.O. Box 950  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Wayne C. Chaney  
Century Capital Group  
240 Algoma Blvd.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

# 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 checked="" 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"/> 1900–1935	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1911<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** William Waters<sup>2</sup>

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Orville Beach Memorial Training School is of state significance as one of the earliest school buildings in Wisconsin known to have been constructed as part of what is now the VTAE system. A fine example of the Neo-Classic period of construction, the Beach School is also architecturally significant as one of the earliest examples of a style that dominated prominent public and commercial construction in Oshkosh during the early 20th century. (Local architectural significance)

**EDUCATION**

In 1909 the Wisconsin legislature took up the problems of illiteracy and early termination of formal education through an appointed commission, which recommended that communities of 5,000 people or more be required to establish a board of industrial education and provide continuing, evening, and industrial schools. Enacted by the legislature in 1911 and established through local taxing power, funding appropriations, and the State Board of Industrial Education, the system was the first of its kind in the United States. The first school to be established under the 1911 law was in the city of Racine.<sup>3</sup> By 1912 twenty of these schools were in operation in cities as diverse as West Allis, Madison, Two Rivers, Wausau, and Superior. Intensive surveys of eleven of these cities identify that few vocationally-oriented school buildings were ever constructed: Oshkosh (1911), Milwaukee (1918), La Crosse (1924), and Racine (1929).<sup>4</sup> These surveys detail that most were operated out of local high schools, modest annexes, and even unused industrial buildings until the 1920's.

Due to the unique circumstances of its construction, the Beach School in Oshkosh is one of the earliest schools known to have been built as part of this continuing state-wide system. Upon her death Helen Beach made a \$150,000 bequest to the city as an endowment for a manual training school, on the condition that the city raise \$50,000 to build such a school in memory of her industrialist husband.<sup>5</sup> Contested by the Beach heirs and one Oshkosh resident (who claimed the bond proceedings were defective), construction of the school was delayed until 1911. By that time the new state law was in effect and the completed building was in the hands of the local board of industrial education rather than the board of education.

That first year over 716 students attended the school's classes in cooking, sewing, millinery, house management, basket making, drawing, painting, wood working, cabinetmaking, and finishing, pattern making, foundry work, blacksmithing, and mechanical drawing.<sup>6</sup> This number grew to 1,540 by 1922 and 2,133 by 1931, maintaining a position as second largest vocational school in the Fox River Valley.<sup>7</sup> A second building, the City Vocational School, was built in 1925 to accommodate the growth in enrollment.<sup>8</sup> In conjunction with this second building, the Beach School served a growing evening enrollment during the Depression and supplied training for occupations critical to national defense during World War II (operating twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week).<sup>9</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name Oshkosh, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	7	6	5	5	0	4	8	7	4	9	9	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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter James Adams

organization Peter James Adams and Associates date May 20, 1985

P.O. Box 341

street & number 537 East Wisconsin Avenue telephone (414) 722-8963

city or town Neenah state Wisconsin 54956

# 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date JULY 19, 1985

For NPS use only

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

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/12/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Ultimately incorporated into the Fox Valley Technical Institute, the Beach School remained in use until the 1970's.

ARCHITECTURE

Designed by William Waters, the Beach School is one of 15 extant Neo-Classic or Classic Revival buildings in Oshkosh, ten of which were designed by either William Waters or the firm of Auler and Jensen. The first to be constructed was the Oshkosh Public Library (Waters, 1899), followed by the First Baptist Church (Waters, 1901), and the Wenrich Block (Ca. 1903).<sup>10</sup> The Beach School and the State Exchange Bank (Waters) were both constructed in 1911.<sup>11</sup> The last of this early 20<sup>th</sup> century series was the Algoma Boulevard Annex to the City High School (Waters, 1915).<sup>12</sup> The distinguishing features of these five buildings are their use of the Ionic order and the solemnity of their design: low, powerful massing with a modicum of decoration.

A second series of classical construction began in the mid-1920's: the Oshkosh Masonic Temple (Ausler and Jensen, 1925), the U.S. Post Office (James A. Wetmore, 1929), the Paine Thrift Bank (Auler and Jensen, 1925), the Recreational Building (1926), the First National Bank (Hoggson Brothers, 1926), the Security Bank (Julius Dreger, 1927), the Wisconsin National Life Insurance Building (Auler, Jensen and Brown, 1927), and the Daily Northwestern Building (Auler, Jensen and Brown, 1930).<sup>13</sup> The Fraternal Reserve Association Building was also constructed during the same time period but remains undated.<sup>14</sup> The distinguishing features of these ten buildings are their more diverse use of the classic orders and the exuberance of their design: lofty proportions, Renaissance and mythical ornamentation, and large, round arched windows. Two of this 1920's group are currently listed on the National Register: the Daily Northwestern Building (NRHP 5/13/82) and Wisconsin National Life Insurance Building (NRHP 4/29/82).

Of the earliest classically inspired buildings, the Beach School is one of the two oldest distinguished by their architectural integrity and formality of design. The Oshkosh Public Library has been subject to inharmonious additions and alterations, as have the Wenrich Block and the Algoma Boulevard Annex; the State Exchange Bank, on the other hand, diverges from the classical traditions in its rock-faced stone facade. The First Baptist Temple and Beach School remain largely untouched by time and are the two best examples of this earlier, more austere interpretation of classical precedent.

<sup>1</sup>Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. March 18, 1911; page 15, column 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. February 25, 1911; page 14, column 4.

<sup>3</sup>Spinti, Robert James. The Development of Trade and Industrial Education in Wisconsin.

<sup>4</sup>Graduate paper. University of Missouri, 1968. Page 329.

<sup>5</sup>Oshkosh Intensive Survey Form, 240 Algoma Boulevard; telephone conversation with Carlen Hatala, Milwaukee Department of City Development; La Crosse Intensive Survey Form, 304 N. Sixth Street; Racine Intensive Survey Form, 800 Center Street.

<sup>6</sup>Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. September 8, 1909; page 4, column 1.

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- <sup>6</sup>Spinti. Page 80.  
<sup>7</sup>IBID. Pages 132 and 169.  
<sup>8</sup>Karstaedt, Clinton F. Oshkosh, 100 Years a City: 1853-1953. Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
<sup>9</sup>Castle-Pierce Printing Co., 1953. Page 99.  
<sup>9</sup>Paris, Kathleen A. "Education for Employment." 1981-1982 Blue Book, page 102.  
<sup>10</sup>Oshkosh Intensive Survey Forms. 106 Washington Ave., 138 Church St., 566 W. Main St.,  
<sup>11</sup>Ibid. 913 Oregon St.  
<sup>12</sup>Ibid. 215 Church St.  
<sup>13</sup>Ibid. 204 Washington Ave., 219 Washington Ave., 1621 Congress Ave., 425 Division St.,  
<sup>14</sup>404 N. Main St., 903 Oregon St., 220 Washington Ave., and 224 State St.  
<sup>14</sup>Ibid. 105 Washington Ave.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Karstaedt, Clinton F. Oshkosh, 100 Years a City: 1853-1953. Oshkosh, Wisconsin.  
Castle-Pierce Printing Co., 1953.  
Intensive Survey Reports for the Cities of Oshkosh, Racine, La Crosse, Kenosha, West  
Allis, Beloit, Janesville, Eau Claire, Wausau and Superior.  
Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. 1911 through 1913.  
Paris, Kathleen A. "Education for Employment." 1981-1982 Blue Book.  
Spinti, Robert James. The Development of Trade and Industrial Education in Wisconsin.  
Graduate Paper. University of Missouri, 1968.

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A part of Lots 15, 13, 17 and 23 of Block "G" of Leach's Map of 1894, Seventh (7th) Ward , City of Oshkoah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin containing 73,454.02 square feet of land and being described by: Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of Lot 15 of said Block "G" and being the true point of beginning; running thence N. 29°-17'-33" E.222.48 feet, along the Westerly line of said Lot 15; thence S.59°-40'-09" E. 77.56 feet; thence N. 30°-49'-39"E. 28.29 feet; thence S. 59°-36'-19"E.8.00 feet; thence N. 30°-23'-41" E. 64.30 feet, to the Southwesterly corner of Lot 19 of said Block "G"; thence S. 57°-28'-00"E.98/50 feet, along the Southerly line of said lot 19 to the Southeasterly corner of said Lot 19; thence S. 36° 33'-15" W. 15.83 feet, along the Westerly line of Lot 13 of said Block "G"; thence S. 55°-58'-53"E. 55.59 feet, along the Southerly edge of a concrete curb line; thence S. 45°-03'-33" E.9.91 feet to the Northerly line of Lot 17 of said Block "g"; thence S. 57°-26'-09" E. 5.62 feet, along the Northerly line of said Lot 17 to a point where the Northwesterly wall of the recreation gymnasium intersects the Northerly line of said Lot 17; thence S. 33°-27'-10"W. .88.22 feet, along said wall; thence N.56°-32'-50" W. 4.98 feet, along said wall; thence S.33°-27'-10"W. 10.30 feet along said wall; thence S.56°-32'-50" E.4.99 feet, along said wall; thence S. 33°-27'-10"W.38.85 feet, along said wall; thence S.56°-27'-51"E.14.99 feet, along said wall and its projection to a point on the Easterly line of Lot 17 of said Block "G"; thence S.34°-20'-52"W.182.49 feet, to the Southeasterly corner of Lot 17; thence N.52°-28'-00"W.245.88 feet along the Southerly line of said Lots 17, 23 and 15 to the true point of beginning.