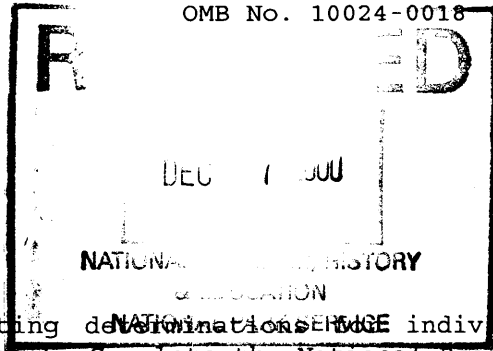


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jefferson High School
other names Jefferson Junior High; Jefferson Middle School

2. Location

street & number 201 South Copeland Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Jefferson N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Jefferson code 055 zip code 53549

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 for additional comments.)

Alicia Z. G...
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

November 21, 2000
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.)

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Jefferson High School
Name of Property

Jefferson 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 of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 1.11.01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)
 private
___ public-local
___ public-state
___ public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
 building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

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

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>		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 Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late Gothic Revival

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

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on continuation sheet(s).)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Jefferson High School was erected in 1924-25 in the Collegiate Gothic style.¹ It was designed by the Milwaukee architectural firm of (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke, in association with Julius Heimerl,² a Milwaukee architect who was a native of Jefferson. The Jefferson High School is two stories tall, set on a raised basement. It is finished with brick and accented with limestone. A contributing addition is appended to the south-facing facade of the Jefferson High School. Designed by the Green Bay firm of Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford and Jahn and built in 1953,³ the addition is a modernized version of Collegiate Gothic in appearance, finished with brick, and set on a poured concrete slab. The 1924-25 main block and the 1953 addition have flat, built-up roofs.

DESCRIPTION

The Jefferson High School (see photo 1) overlooks South Copeland Avenue on a rise west of, and across the Rock River from, Jefferson's central business district. The school occupies a full block in an area of late-nineteenth century single family houses. It is bounded on the north by Racine Street (USH 18), on the south by West Ryder Street, on the west by South High Street, and on the east by Copeland Avenue.

The Jefferson High School is composed of the 1924-25 main block and a contributing 1953 addition (see site plan attached). The

¹"The Evolution of the New School Building," The Jefferson Banner, October 1, 1925, p. 1.

²Original Plans, August 1924, Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

³Plans for Addition, January 1953, Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

gymnasium/auditorium (north) and the classroom wing (south) comprise the rectangular main block, which measures 192 feet (north-south) by 68 feet. The 1953 addition is ell-shaped in plan, made up of a classroom wing (east) and the cafeteria/industrial arts shop (northwest).

The main block of the Jefferson High School is of steel-reinforced concrete and load-bearing structural clay tile and brick construction. It is finished with brick in varying shades of brown, set in Flemish bond. The main block features a crenellated parapet and is trimmed with limestone, including window and door surrounds, water table, belt-course and copings. The belt-course, which runs above the second-story windows, is enriched with a series of human-faced grotesques (see photo 2). Most of the exterior windows in the main block were replaced in 1976.⁴ While the original openings and limestone headers and sills are intact, most now hold a decorative panel. Some of these panels are inset with aluminum, one-over-one, single-hung sash windows. Originally, most of the windows were paired and tripled, four-over-four, double-hung sash, such as appear in the entrance tower. Some of the windows displayed six-over-six configuration. In the classroom wing and part of the gymnasium/auditorium section, two-pane, three-pane or four-pane transoms appeared above each window. The original appearance will be restored as part of the rehabilitation project that Stone House Development is undertaking.

The 1953 addition is of steel-reinforced concrete construction finished with brick ranging in color from cream to orange-brown, set in running stretcher bond (see photo 3). It is one-story tall on a raised basement. The classroom wing displays four-over-four and six-over-six sash windows placed in groups of two,

⁴Plans for Remodeling, no date, Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin; and plaque, 1976, mounted in Jefferson High School first floor hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

three or four. A stone watertable forms a continuous sill for the basement windows. Continuous stone sills appear beneath each group of windows at the first story. A stone belt course runs above the first-story windows and the parapet is finished with a stone coping.

The Jefferson High School faces east. The three-story, square, keep-like, entrance tower dominates the east-facing facade of the main block and separates the gymnasium/auditorium section from the classroom wing (see photo 4). The tower is enriched with quoins, watertable, belt courses, cartouches, coping, and finials of stone. The cornerstone is placed north of the entrance and is inscribed: "1868" and "1924." A flight of concrete steps between brick, closed rails rises to the entrance, which is set in a recessed, segmental arch. The entrance is composed of a group of three glass doors. The originals were multipaned wood doors. A six-pane transom appears above each door. Decorative brickwork suggests compound piers on either side of the entrance. The lintel is stone, enriched with compound moldings, Tudor roses, grapes, and leaves and set within a label molding. Above, a stone panel framed with volutes displays raised letters reading: "HIGH SCHOOL." A pair of the original, four-over-four windows in a quoined, stone surround is set at first-story level. The second story exhibits a group of three original windows in a quoined, stone surround surmounted by a stone cartouche amid volutes. The tower's third story, which housed the bell, displays the same elements on all four faces. Each is composed of a group of three narrow windows surmounted by small, stone panels with raised Tudor roses and capped with larger, stone panels inscribed with Gothic tracery.

On the east-facing facade of the main block, a pair of two-story brick pilasters articulate the gymnasium/auditorium section (see photo 5). Each pilaster is inset with a tile Tudor rose and capped with a broad, stone volute. Between the pilasters, three blocked openings appear at each floor. Originally, there were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

three windows in the middle opening (a six-over-six flanked by four-over-fours), and paired, four-over-four windows on either side. Between the first and second floors, a stone panel ornamented with a cartouche shows how each opening was divided. A two-story, polygonal tower is tucked into the ell where the entrance tower and the gymnasium/auditorium section join. The polygonal tower exhibits single openings with stone sills on each face. Some have been blocked, but most retain their original, four-over-four windows.

The east-facing facade of the classroom wing displays one-story and two-story pilasters, each inset with a tile Tudor rose (see photos 1 and 2). The one-story pilasters terminate in a simple, stone cap, while the two-story pilasters end at the stone belt-course and are surmounted by stone pinnacles. The fenestration pattern consists of openings that held single, paired and tripled windows originally, arranged in the same order at each story.

On the north-facing facade of the Jefferson High School, only the gymnasium/auditorium section of the main block can be seen (see photo 6). Three brick pilasters rise the full height of the building, separating the openings into pairs. Originally, the basement exhibited three-pane awning windows, while pairs of four-over-four windows appeared at the first story. At the second story, columns of four-over-four-over-four-over-four windows lit the auditorium.

The south-facing facade of the main block is largely obscured by the 1953 addition (see photo 7). One opening can be seen on the stair tower, above the roof of the addition. Above the opening, a stone panel carved to resemble strapwork appears.

The west-facing (rear) facade of the main block consists of the gymnasium/auditorium section (north), the classroom wing (south) and a small, flat-roofed utility section projecting from the classroom wing at basement level (see photo 8). A polygonal,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

brick chimney rises on the west wall of the utility section. Two-story brick pilasters divide the facade of the gymnasium/auditorium section. Openings that held single windows appear outside the pilasters, while the openings between the pilasters originally had paired windows. At the north end on the first story, a door opens onto a metal fire escape.

On the interior, the plan of the Jefferson High School consists of a central corridor running north-south through the classroom wing. The gymnasium/auditorium section is set at the north terminus of the corridor. Dog-leg staircases are located at the south terminus of the corridor and on either side of the corridor between the classroom and gymnasium/auditorium section.

The Jefferson High School retains most of its original finishes. In both the main block and the addition, there is terrazzo in the corridors and stairhalls; wood flooring in most of the classrooms and in the gymnasium; concrete floors in the auditorium and in most of the basement rooms; carpeting in the administrative offices and library; and tile in the bathrooms and locker rooms. Above basement level, the walls and ceilings are finished with plaster, although many areas currently have dropped acoustical tile covering the plaster. In the basement, many areas have exposed brick walls and exposed ceilings. In the gymnasium, a metal spiral staircase rises to a spectators' gallery (see photo 9), which runs around the top of the gymnasium. The gallery has wood flooring and built-in bench seating.

The Jefferson High School exhibits built-in woodwork, including a small cabinet with a ventilated coat closet in each classroom in the main block, larger cabinets and bookcases in most rooms and specialized equipment such as laboratory tables in the original science classroom (see photo 10). The library retains most, if not all, of its original built-in bookcases and magazine racks. Lockers are built into the corridors in the classroom wing. In the vestibules, there is wainscoting of yellow glazed tile, inset

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

with patterned tiles. The interior window and door surrounds are wood, with simple Craftsman lines. Most spaces, including the stairhalls, display a broad, wood chair rail. There are suspended fluorescent lights throughout the building, except in the auditorium.

The auditorium has both a main floor and a balcony, each of which has rows of wood, fold-down chairs. The floor is concrete, and the walls and ceilings are plaster-finished. The ceiling is beamed. Each beam displays compound moldings. Brackets embellished with acanthus leaves, volutes and flowers support several of the beams. The stage is wood and features a proscenium enriched with compound moldings and a large shield with the letters "JHS" intertwined (see photo 11). The auditorium retains its original light fixtures, including hanging bowl lights suspended above the main floor, and opaque, ceiling-mounted globes above and below the balcony. Identical globes once lit the corridors in the classroom wing.

ALTERATIONS

The Jefferson High School has suffered very little alteration over time, and much of it is easily reversible. Exterior changes have been limited to replacement windows set within reduced window openings, which occurred in 1976. The original window configuration will be restored as part of the rehabilitation project. The layout of the Jefferson High School is almost completely intact. Interior changes dating from the 1976 remodeling include the fire doors installed in the corridor between the classroom wing and the gymnasium/auditorium section, and enclosed stairhalls. Sometime between 1953 and 1976, one classroom was made into two rooms on the first floor and two rooms in the basement were subdivided. Interior finishes are intact, except that dropped acoustical tile and fluorescent lighting were installed in most spaces circa 1976. The original

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

window configuration will be restored as part of the rehabilitation project.

Taken altogether, the alterations to the Jefferson High School are very minor, especially considering that it has been used intensely for nearly 75 years. The alterations do not compromise the overall integrity of the Jefferson High School, which remains very good.

Jefferson High School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

Architecture

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
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1924-1953

Significant Dates

1924-25; 1953

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 resource.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Van Ryn & de Gelleke

Heimerl, Julius

Foeller, Schober, Berners,

Safford and Jahn

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Jefferson High School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is an excellent and intact example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as an outstanding example of an early twentieth century free-standing high school, and was state-of-the-art for its time. The Jefferson High School also represents the work of a "master" architecture firm in Wisconsin, (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke of Milwaukee. The period of significance extends from 1924 through 1953 to encompass the construction dates of the original section and the addition, both of which contribute to the significance of the school. The Jefferson High School retains very good integrity.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF JEFFERSON

Rodney Currier and Andrew Lansing founded the city of Jefferson when they settled at the confluence of the Rock and Crawfish rivers in December 1836. In 1837, Enoch Darling led a group of settlers from Bark Mills (southeast of Jefferson, now known as Hebron) to Jefferson by boat. The group brought a small frame building with them, which they placed at the current intersection of Main and Milwaukee streets. This building served as the first courthouse, tavern and trading post in the new community.⁵

Jefferson grew slowly at first. Enoch Darling and Gilmore Kendall dammed the Rock River and constructed a sawmill on the east bank in 1842. Between 1845 and 1850, Jefferson developed from a sawmill site into an agricultural support community, increasing from 80 to 550 inhabitants. A second sawmill, a flour mill, a tannery, and the Breunig Brewery added to the manufacturing sector. In 1856, Jefferson was selected over

⁵History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin, (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879), p. 466.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Watertown as the seat of Jefferson County. The community of Jefferson incorporated as a village in 1857.⁶

In 1859, the Chicago & NorthWestern railroad arrived in Jefferson, firmly establishing the community as a regional shipping center. Jefferson boomed, reaching a population of 2,006 by 1860. Many of these new residents were German immigrants, who had begun settling in Jefferson County in large numbers in the late-1840s. German influence in Jefferson was so pervasive that the local newspaper, the Jefferson Banner, published both German and English editions from the late-1850s through 1895.⁷

Jefferson grew very slightly between 1860 and 1890. The economy expanded, adding industrial enterprises such as the Jefferson Woolen Manufacturing Company (begun 1866), the Wisconsin Manufacturing Company (1866, produced furniture), the Kemmeter Brick and Coal Company (1867), the Jefferson Boot and Shoe Factory (1868, later known as Copeland and Ryder), the Jefferson Foundry (established 1875), and the Riverside Cheese Factory (1877). The village incorporated as a city in 1878. In 1890, the city of Jefferson counted 2,287 residents.⁸

During the 1890s, Jefferson's rate of growth increased and the population reached 2,584 in 1900. New factories during this period included: the Waverly Manufacturing Company (established in 1899), which built motorcycles; and the Union Upholstering Company (1899), producing sofas and sofa-beds. The city's first

⁶Ibid; and John Henry Ott, Jefferson County, Wisconsin and Its People, (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1917) I:297-300.

⁷Centennial Celebration and Bridge Dedication, Jefferson, Wisconsin (N.p.: n.p., 1936).

⁸Ott, I:301, 477-79 and 483.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

electric light plant opened in 1893, the same year that the water system was installed.⁹

During the first four decades of the twentieth century, Jefferson's population remained steady. Street paving began in 1906 and the first sewers were installed in 1908. The Sheboygan Evaporated Milk Company, established 1910 to produce condensed milk, became a part of the Carnation Company in 1915.¹⁰ New businesses during this time reflected changes in technology and included automobile dealerships and repair shops, gas stations and movie theaters.

Since the late-1940s, the population of Jefferson has more than doubled. In 1990, the city had 6,078 residents. Today, Jefferson is a lively agricultural support community and county seat with a thriving commercial sector.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN JEFFERSON

In 1839, the first school building in Jefferson was erected. Built of logs, the school was located on the west side of the Rock River. In the early 1840s, a frame house on the east side of the Rock River was converted to school use. At that time, the east and west sides were separate school districts. In 1851, a brick school was built in Jefferson's east side school district while a frame school was constructed in the city's west side district. A new school was erected in each district in 1870. In 1879, following Jefferson's incorporation as a city, the school districts were unified. The same year, the city purchased the former Jefferson Liberal Institute, a school of higher learning associated with the Universalist church, for \$5,125.¹¹

⁹Ibid., I:227.

¹⁰Ibid.; and Centennial Celebration and Bridge Dedication, pp. 60-62.

¹¹Ott, I:116-117; and Centennial Celebration and Bridge Dedication, p. 19.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

The Jefferson Liberal Institute was constructed in 1868 on the site of the existing Jefferson High School. It had closed in 1876 due to financial insolvency. After the city purchased the property, the building re-opened in the fall of 1880 as Jefferson High School, offering a general four-year degree. An addition was built in 1895-96. In 1907, the attic suffered a fire. When the attic was rebuilt, a gymnasium and auditorium were constructed within it. In 1911, a sewing room, kitchen and dining room for domestic science were created on the second floor of the school. The same year, Jefferson High School instituted a high school degree specializing in commercial courses such as bookkeeping, accounting, typing, commercial law, and shorthand. In 1915, a teaching specialization was added. A specialization in agriculture followed in 1918.¹²

Jefferson High School's diversifying curriculum attracted increasing numbers of students. In 1910, 97 students were enrolled at the high school. By 1924, the number of students had risen to 220. On March 27, 1924, the 1868 Jefferson High School was destroyed by fire. The Milwaukee architectural firm of (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke, in association with Jefferson architect Julius Heimerl, was engaged to prepare the plans for a new high school building. The foundation of the new high school was constructed using brick salvaged from the old building. The old cornerstone, dated 1868, was also incorporated into the new high school.¹³

¹²Ott, I:116-117.

¹³Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin (Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1910), p. 271; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent: 1922-24 (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1924), p. 238; and "The Evolution of the New School Building."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

The new Jefferson High School opened in September 1925 with 220 students enrolled in grades 9-12. By 1940, student enrollment had reached 270 per year, a figure that remained steady through World War II. Enrollment began to climb during the 1950s, reaching 494 students in 1960. The post-World War II baby boom was overcrowding the high school. Enrollment rose to 621 in 1964.¹⁴ That year, a new Jefferson Senior High School was erected and the 1925 building became Jefferson Junior High School. In 1976, the Jefferson School District reorganized the grades from a junior-senior high school system, to a middle school (grades 6-7-8) and high school (grades 9-10-11-12) system. At that time, Jefferson Junior High became Jefferson Middle School.¹⁵ While school enrollment fell during the late 1970s and 1980s, advances in technology led to changes in curriculum, notably the use of computers in the classrooms. It proved too difficult to adapt the Jefferson Middle School Building, with its masonry construction, to changing technology. In June 2000, Jefferson Middle School closed. The building will be rehabilitated as apartments.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Jefferson High School is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is an excellent and intact

¹⁴Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent: 1924-26 (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1926), p. 213; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent: 1938-40 (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1940), p. 46; Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent: 1959-61 (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1961), p. 113; and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Biennial Report of the State Superintendent: 1963-65 (Madison: State Department of Public Instruction, 1965), p. 188.

¹⁵Jefferson City Directory, (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1975; and 1976).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

example of the Collegiate Gothic style, as well as an outstanding example of an early twentieth century free-standing high school, and was state-of-the-art for its time. The Jefferson High School also represents the work of a "master" architecture firm in Wisconsin, (Henry) Van Ryn and (Gerrit) de Gelleke of Milwaukee.

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Wyatt), 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 characteristics of the Gothic and Tudor styles may also be present.¹⁶ The Jefferson High School is a fully-developed and ornate example of 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 on the Jefferson High School includes stone quoining, tracery, crenellated parapet, classical moldings, cartouches, pierced stonework reminiscent of strapwork, and human-faced grotesques. The strapwork and the grotesques are found on very few Collegiate Gothic buildings. The 1953 addition contributes to the architectural significance of the Jefferson High School because it was designed to harmonize with main block's Collegiate Gothic styling. The addition exhibits a rectilinear, flat-roofed form, a brick finish with

¹⁶Barbara Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-31.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

stone trim, and incorporates "modernized" elements drawn from the main block. These elements include the segmental-arched entrance, parapet and belt course, fenestration pattern in groups of two, three and four windows, and four-over-four and six-over-six double-hung sash.

Only one other pre-1950 school building remains in Jefferson. The East Elementary School, located on Sanborn Avenue between Milwaukee and Dodge streets, was erected in 1939.¹⁷ It is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style, finished with random, rock-faced stone and featuring multiple gables with brick and applied half-timbering in the gable ends. Although the Collegiate Gothic and Tudor Revival styles arise from the same medieval English tradition, the two are not really comparable. The East Elementary School retains very good integrity.

The Jefferson High School is also an outstanding example of the early twentieth century free-standing high school building type, dedicated to high school students. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most high schools were located in the same building as the elementary school. In the 1913-14 school year, for example, there were 219 buildings in the state in which both elementary and high school students were taught, and only 24 buildings dedicated to high school students (one of which was the 1868 Jefferson High School). This changed following World War I, as the high school curriculum diversified (in part in response to state mandates and incentives), requiring complex buildings with libraries, large gymnasiums and specialized classrooms for science, manual training, and so on.¹⁸

¹⁷Datestone.

¹⁸Wyatt, III:3-4 through 3-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

The state-of-the-art, free-standing high school of the late 1910s and the 1920s was spacious, light, with good ventilation and heating, electricity and indoor plumbing. The classrooms were assigned by subject, with teachers who specialized in one or more subjects. There were often classrooms with built-in equipment and facilities, intended for certain subjects, notably manual training, domestic arts, and the sciences, as well as a library and a principal's office. During this period, school designers began to include a gymnasium in the school building. The early gymnasium was located typically in either the attic or the basement, and was often not very functional. Educators urged the inclusion of an assembly room, or an auditorium (a larger space), in the school plan during the 1920s. The auditorium would provide space for school programs and plays, as well as cultural events, and would enable the school to play a larger role in its community by providing lectures for the general public at the school. This, in turn, would promote the Americanization of immigrants and the development of better-educated citizens.¹⁹

The Jefferson High School is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century free-standing high school because it not only incorporated everything recommended for a state-of-the-art 1920s high school, but some additional features as well (see plans attached). The Jefferson High School plan included a library; a gymnasium with balcony seating; a large auditorium; offices for the principal and for the superintendent of schools; rooms for general manual training and for drafting; a kitchen, a pantry and a sewing room for domestic science; classrooms for typing and bookkeeping; and a large science laboratory. Most of these specialized rooms had built-in cabinetry and bookcases designed for each specialized use. Each room features a built-in coat closet, open at the top to allow air circulation to dry wet garments and boots. Elements included in the Jefferson High

¹⁹See any issue of the Wisconsin Journal of Education, 1920s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

School plan that were ahead of their time included the lunch room (adjacent to the domestic science kitchen); a lounge and restroom for female teachers and another for male teachers; and a classroom dedicated to art instruction.²⁰ A lunch room and an art room did not become standard in high school building plans until the 1940s.

During the late 1940s, the state-of-the-art high school building plan began to include specialized classrooms for music instruction, especially for the high school band. Jefferson High School's 1953 addition reflects this development, including a large band room with built-in cabinets for instrument storage, and six small practice rooms. The band room, as well as new, larger classrooms for sewing and cooking, and specialized rooms for general shop, agricultural shop and graphic arts appear in the original plan for the addition. These elements show Jefferson High School's continuing commitment to maintaining a state-of-the-art building that could accommodate the ideal curriculum recommended by educators of the time. Therefore, the 1953 addition is counted as contributing to the architectural significance of the Jefferson High School.

While Wyatt does not classify the architectural firm of Van Ryn and de Gelleke as "master architects," for the purpose of National Register evaluation, their body of work is such that they merit consideration as master architects. Henry Van Ryn (1864-1951) was born in Milwaukee of Dutch and German immigrant parents. Van Ryn was not formally trained in architecture, but went to work in the office of Milwaukee architect Charles A. Gombert in 1881, at the age of 17. Van Ryn later worked briefly for two other Milwaukee architects, James Douglas, and Edward Townsend Mix. In 1885, Van Ryn established his own firm, in partnership with Robert G. Kirsch. The following year, the

²⁰Original Plans.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

partnership dissolved, and Van Ryn worked alone for a few years. In 1889, he formed a new partnership with Charles L. Lesser and Frank W. Andree. By 1895, that partnership had also ended. In 1897, Gerrit de Gelleke joined Van Ryn, after completing the architectural program at the University of Pennsylvania. De Gelleke (1872-1960) was born in Milwaukee of Dutch immigrant parents. The firm of Van Ryn and de Gelleke endured for nearly 40 years. Over time, de Gelleke became the chief designer, while Van Ryn concentrated on the business and public relations aspects of the firm. Their partnership ended in 1937, and neither appears to have secured many commissions after that time.²¹

School design was a specialty for the firm of Van Ryn and de Gelleke, although they also designed many residences and several public buildings. Prior to joining with de Gelleke, Van Ryn designed at least two schools: the Longfellow School in Wausau (1894, extant) and St. John's Grade School in Marshfield (1896, demolished); as well as additions to several schools. Between 1897 and 1928, Van Ryn and de Gelleke designed at least 38 school buildings, and eight additions to school buildings, most of them in the Milwaukee area. From 1912 until 1924, they were the architects for the Milwaukee School Board.²² Many of their school designs of this period, including the Jefferson High School, were executed in the Collegiate Gothic style. Only three schools designed by Van Ryn and de Gelleke are known to have been demolished. Three of their school designs have been listed individually, or determined eligible for listing, on the National Register: the Main Hall, La Crosse State Normal School, La Crosse (1908-09); the Janesville High School (1919-23); and Engelmann

²¹Donald M. Aucutt, "Van Ryn: Architect in Central Wisconsin at Century's Turn," Catalog prepared as part of an exhibit of Van Ryn's work, which toured Wausau, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Merrill and Antigo in 1992-93, pp. 4-10, and 24.

²²Ibid., pp. 26-32.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 11

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus (1926). While no formal evaluation of the work of Van Ryn and de Gelleke has been carried out, the Jefferson High School, an aesthetically pleasing and fully-developed Collegiate Gothic building that shows fine attention to detail, is certainly representative of their work, and likely among their better designs.

Van Ryn and de Gelleke designed the Jefferson High School in association with Julius Heimerl. Heimerl was born in Jefferson. He worked as a draftsman for Milwaukee architect Charles F. Ringer in 1888, and practiced architecture on his own in Milwaukee from at least 1890 until at least 1910. In Jefferson, Heimerl created the NeoClassical Revival facade of the Jefferson County Bank at 121 South Main Street (1902), remodeled the facade of the Puerner Block (circa 1906-09, NRHP), and designed the Heilemann House (1907), the Farmers and Merchants bank at 106 South Main Street (1911), St. John's Lutheran Church (circa 1910), and the Meadow Springs Golf Clubhouse (1929).²³ Heimerl's contribution to the design of the Jefferson High School is unknown. He represented Van Ryn and de Gelleke in Jefferson and frequently inspected the building during construction.²⁴ None of his designs outside of Jefferson have yet been identified.

The firm completing the addition, Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford and Jahn, was prolific in its designs. The majority of the firm's work was completed in Wisconsin, especially in Green Bay, but their work may also be found in most Midwestern states and in Canada. The firm designed a wide variety of building

²³Kirk R. Huffaker, Christina Slattery and Amy R. Squitieri, Main Street Commercial Historic District, nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, September 10, 1996, pp. 8:10-11.

²⁴"The Evolution of the New School Building."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

types, including commercial and public buildings, gas stations, and churches.

The firm was founded by Henry A. Foeller (1877-1938) in Green Bay. He worked with several partners, finally joining with Max Schober in 1906. Foeller and Schoeber retained their partnership until the 1930s, when Foeller retired. The successor firm continues in practice today.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION G

The 1953 addition contributes to the architectural significance of the Jefferson High School even though it is not yet 50 years old. The addition is significant because it represents a continuation of both the Collegiate Gothic style, and the state-of-the-art high school building plan, of the original section. The addition displays a 1950s interpretation of Collegiate Gothic, with its rectilinear, flat-roofed form, and brick finish with stone trim. The addition also incorporates "modernized" elements drawn from the main block including the segmental-arched entrance, parapet and belt course, fenestration pattern in groups of two, three and four windows, and four-over-four and six-over-six double-hung sash.

The plan of the 1953 addition is state-of-the-art for its time because it includes a large band room with built-in cabinets for instrument storage, and six small practice rooms, as well as new, larger classrooms for sewing and cooking, and specialized rooms for general shop, agricultural shop and graphic arts. This plan shows Jefferson High School's continuing commitment to maintaining a state-of-the-art building that could accommodate the ideal curriculum recommended by educators of the time.

Jefferson High School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheet(s).)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

Jefferson School District Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.5 acres

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

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

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 Consultant
organization for Stone House Development date 06-21-2000
street & number 147 South Butler Street telephone 608-233-6000
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

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)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

REFERENCES

Anderson, William T. "The Development of the Common Schools," in Wisconsin Blue Book: 1923. Madison: State Printing Board, 1923.

Aucutt, Donald M. "Van Ryn: Architect in Central Wisconsin at Century's Turn." Catalog prepared as part of an exhibit of Van Ryn's work, which toured Wausau, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Merrill and Antigo in 1992-93.

Centennial Celebration and Bridge Dedication, Jefferson, Wisconsin. N.p.: n.p., 1936.

Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin. Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1910.

History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Huffaker, Kirk R., Christina Slattery and Amy R. Squitieri. Main Street Commercial Historic District. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, September 10, 1996.

The Jefferson Banner. 1925.

Jefferson City Directory. Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1975; and 1976.

Jefferson High School. Original Plans, August 1924. Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

Jefferson High School. Plans for Addition, January 1953. Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Jefferson Middle School. Plans for Remodeling, no date.
Jefferson School District, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

Ott, John Henry. Jefferson County, Wisconsin and Its People.
Two volumes. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1917.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Biennial Report of
the State Superintendent: 1922-24. Madison: Department of Public
Instruction, 1924.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Biennial Report of
the State Superintendent: 1924-26. Madison: Department of Public
Instruction, 1926.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Biennial Report of
the State Superintendent: 1938-40. Madison: Department of Public
Instruction, 1940.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Biennial Report of
the State Superintendent: 1959-61. Madison: Department of Public
Instruction, 1961.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Biennial Report of
the State Superintendent: 1963-65. Madison: Department of Public
Instruction, 1965.

Wisconsin Journal of Education. 1920-29.

Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Blue Book. Madison:
State Printing Board, 1892.

Barbara Wyatt, editor. Cultural Resource Management in
Wisconsin. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.
Three volumes.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The parcel on which the Jefferson High School is located encompasses blocks 7 and 8 in the West Jefferson Addition to the city of Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The rectangular parcel measures 264.0 feet east-west and 575.0 feet north-south, and contains 3.5 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The historic boundaries of the Jefferson High School coincide with those of the legal parcel on which it sits. These boundaries enclose the building's contributing main block, one contributing addition, and the green space historically associated with the Jefferson High School.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 11

Jefferson High School, Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, November 1999
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of the east-facing (front) facade, looking west.

The information for the following photos is the same as the
above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 11

Close-up of pilaster showing human-faced grotesque.

Photo 3 of 11

View of the south- and east-facing (front) facades of the 1953
addition, looking northwest.

Photo 4 of 11

Close-up of the entrance tower, looking west.

Photo 5 of 11

View of the east-facing facade of the gymnasium/auditorium
section.

Photo 6 of 11

View of the north-facing facade, looking south.

Photo 7 of 11

View of the west-facing facade looking northeast.

Photo 8 of 11

View of the west-facing facade looking southeast.

Photo 9 of 11

View of the gymnasium showing the spiral staircase.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

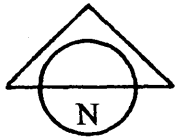
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 2

Jefferson High School
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Photo 10 of 11
View of the original science laboratory.


Photo 11 of 11
View of the auditorium looking toward the stage.

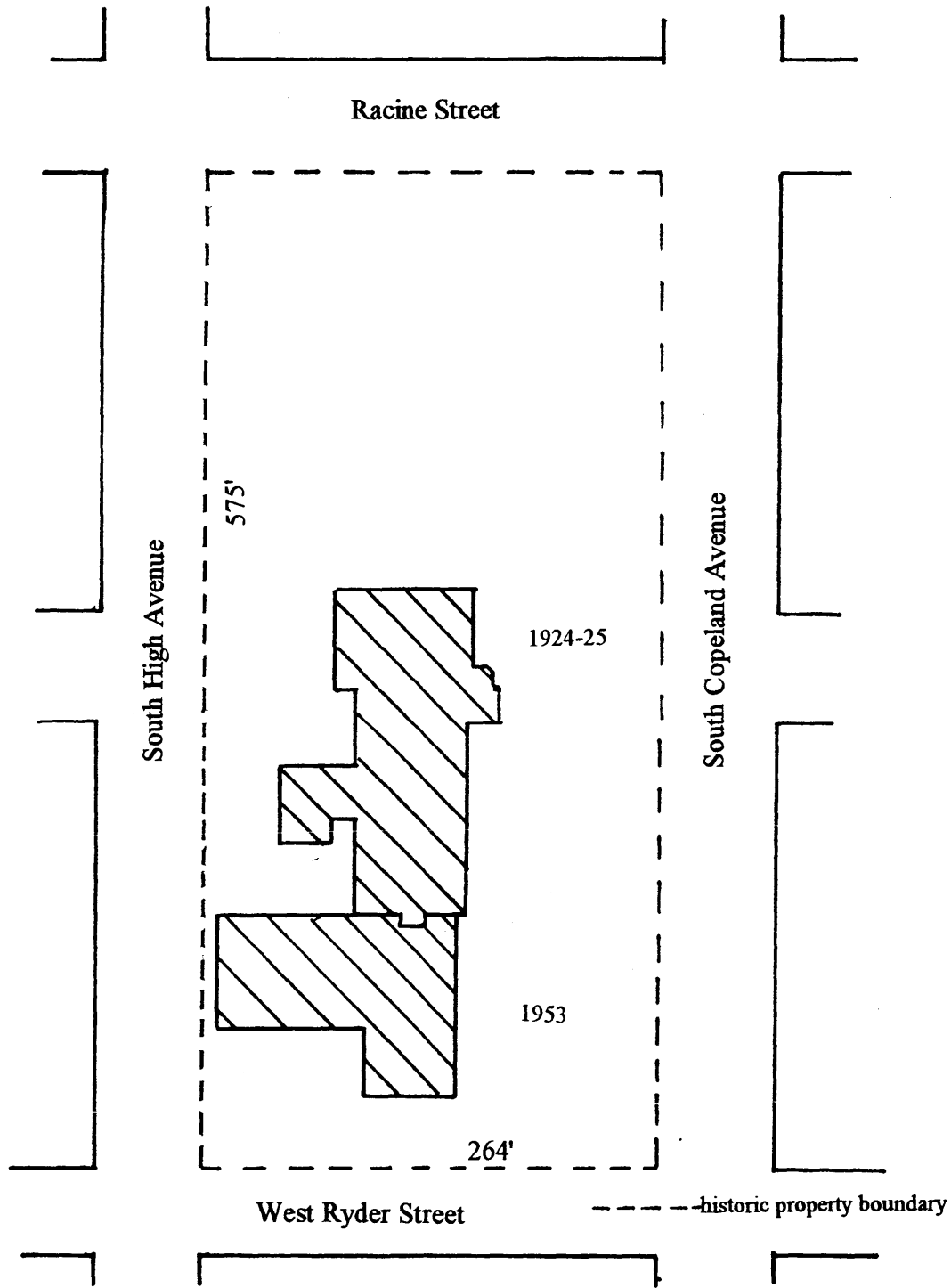


JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
201 South Copeland Avenue
Jefferson, Jefferson County

Scale: 1" = 100'

 Contributing

 Non-contributing



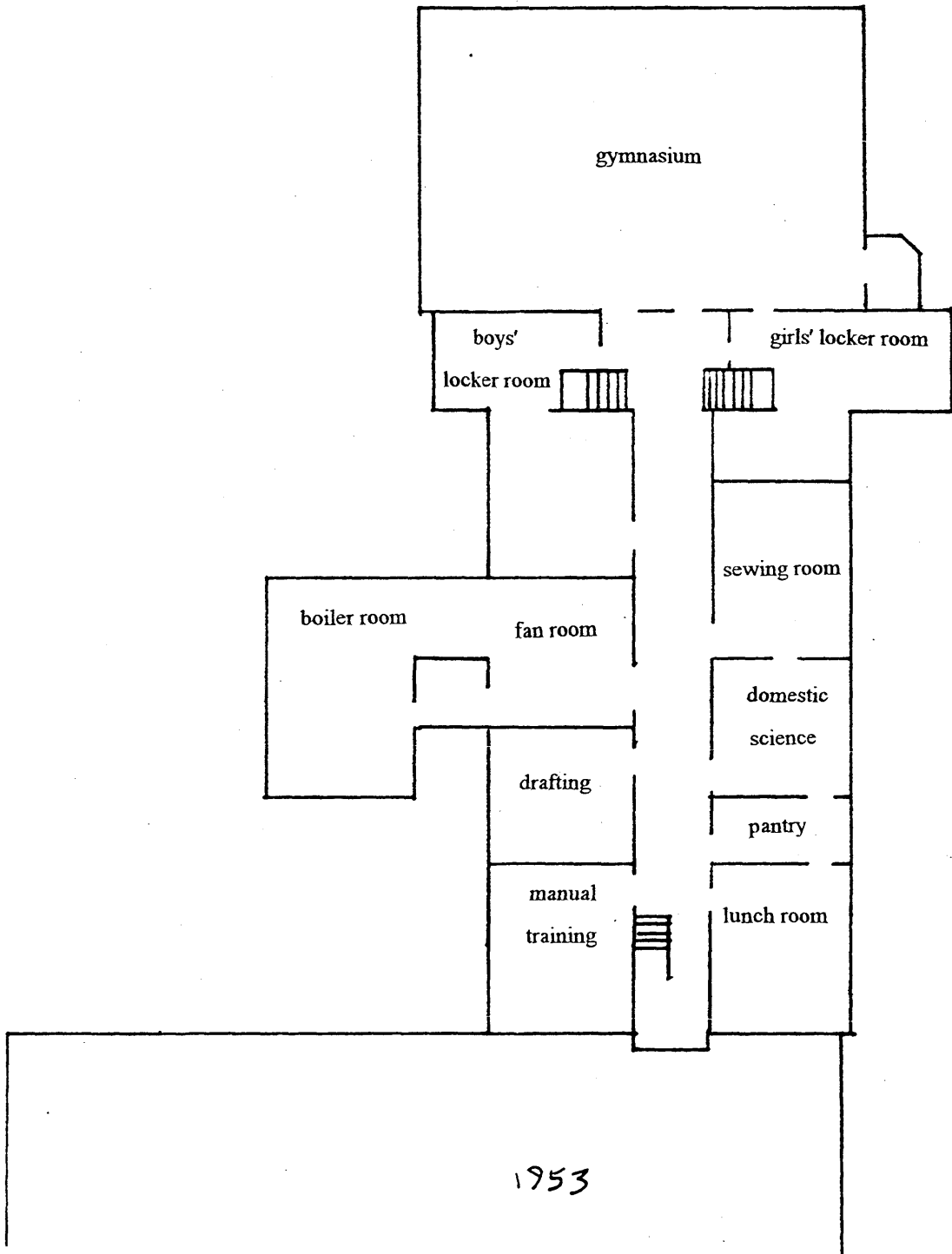
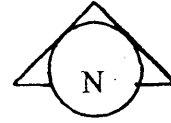
BASEMENT PLAN

Jefferson High School

201 South Copeland Avenue

Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

No scale



1953

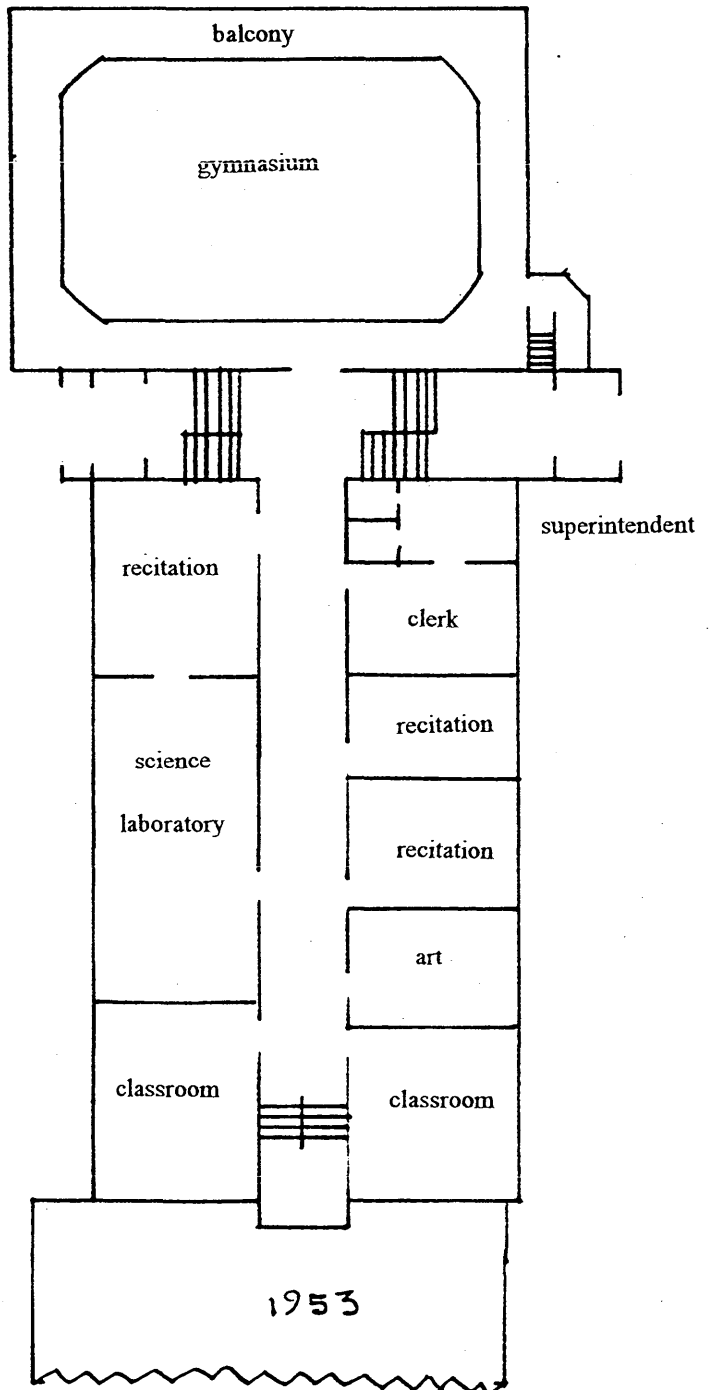
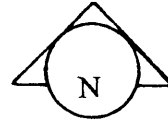
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Jefferson High School

201 South Copeland Avenue

Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

No scale



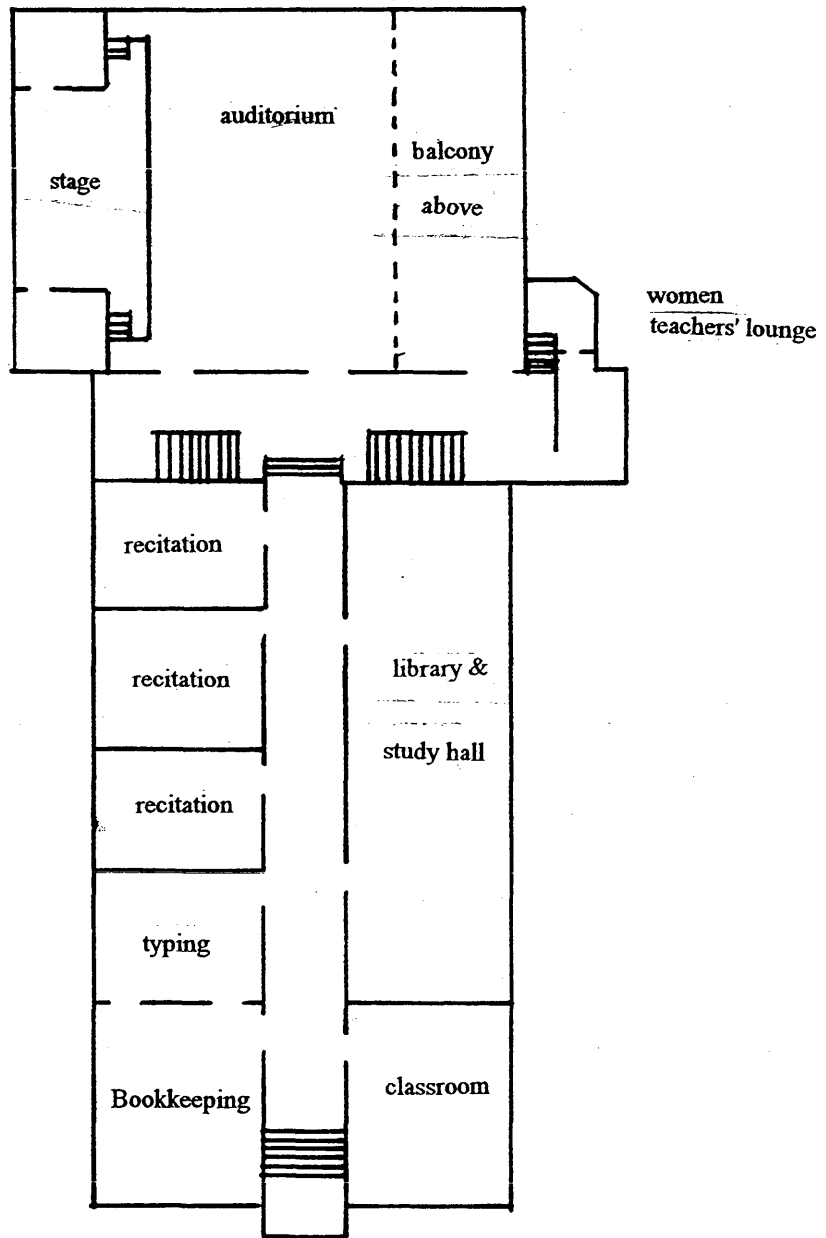
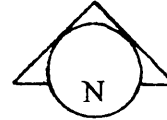
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Jefferson High School

201 South Copeland Avenue

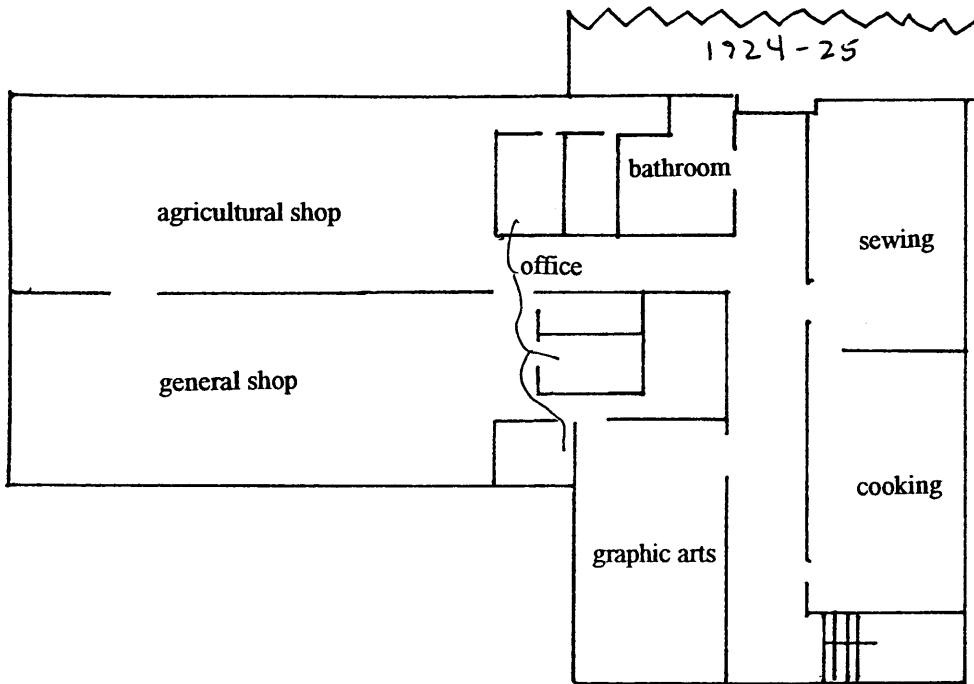
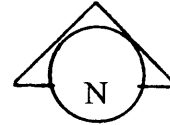
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

No scale

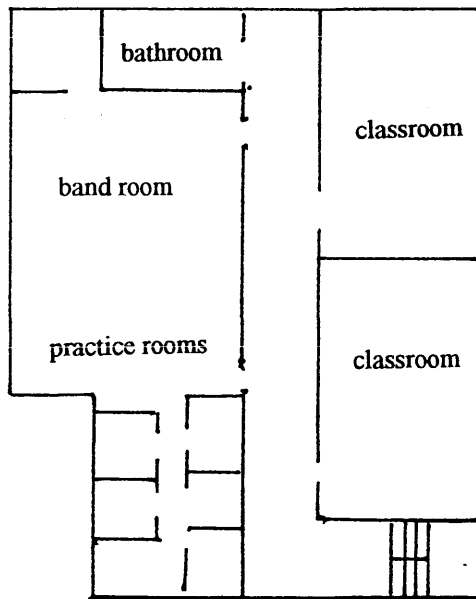


1953 ADDITION PLAN
Jefferson High School
201 South Copeland Avenue
Jefferson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

No scale



Basement Plan



First Floor Plan

Jefferson High School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

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

name Jefferson School Apartments, LLC (c/o Stone House Development)
street & number 147 South Butler Street telephone 608-233-6000
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53703

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.