



**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 Schofield School

other names/site number

**2. Location**

|                 |                         |                 |                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| street & number | 1310 South Grand Avenue | N/A             | not for publication |
| city or town    | Schofield               | N/A             | vicinity            |
| state Wisconsin | code WI                 | county Marathon | code 073            |
|                 |                         |                 | zip code 54476      |

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

2/5/15

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer – Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Schofield School  
Name of Property

Marathon  
County and State

Wisconsin

#### 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:)

Edson H. Beall

3-24-15

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 structure  
 site  
 object

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

| contributing | noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1            | 0 buildings     |
| 0            | 0 sites         |
| 0            | 0 structures    |
| 0            | 0 objects       |
| 1            | 0 total         |

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property 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/Not In Use

#### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic  
Revival  
MODERN MOVEMENT

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other LIMESTONE

#### 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 prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1923-1949 (Education)  
1923-1959 (Architecture)

**Significant Dates**

1923 (Original building construction)  
1959 (Addition construction)

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

OPPENHAMER & OBEL (1923)  
EDGAR STUBENRAUCH & ASSOCIATES (1959 addition)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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



Schofield School  
Name of Property

Marathon  
County and State

Wisconsin

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

### Property Owner

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

| name/title      |       | Date      |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| organization    |       | telephone |
| street & number |       | zip code  |
| city or town    | state |           |

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

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

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

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**Summary Description**

The Schofield School is a masonry building located at the southwest corner of South Grand Avenue and School Street, southwest of downtown Schofield. The school was constructed in 1923 to replace a previous school that had been destroyed by fire. The building was designed by the Wausau architectural firm of Oppenhamer & Obel in a very simplified Collegiate Gothic architectural style. A one-story masonry addition, designed by Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates in a Mid-century Modern architectural style, was constructed in 1959. The school retains a high level of integrity with no non-historic additions or major alterations to the exterior. The interior also retains its original floor plan and circulation patterns, with historic details including terrazzo flooring, classroom doors, trim, and built-in cabinetry.

**Narrative Description**

***Setting and Site***

The Schofield School is situated on a large, flat lot and fronts onto Grand Avenue; the school backs onto Lake Wausau to the west. The primary (east) façade faces an expansive lawn with mature trees. A concrete center sidewalk leads to the front of the building and curves out to each side, leading to the two primary entrances. A large paved parking lot to the west and access roads to the north and west surround the building. The parking lot and paved areas to the west extend outward into flat grassy areas to Lake Wausau and include sections of playground. A chain link fence completely encircles the edge of the lake and sections of the playground. Residential buildings are located to the north, south, and east of the school property.

***Exterior***

The original main block of Schofield School is a three-story, roughly rectangular building with exterior walls of variegated red brick laid in six-course common bond with simplified Collegiate Gothic detailing. The first story, or ground floor, sits slightly below grade. Gothic details include limestone entrance surrounds, window sills, a molded stringcourse above the first story, and a molded cornice above the third story. A brick parapet with limestone coping extends along the perimeter of the flat roof. The building is regularly fenestrated with large window openings that hold groupings of non-historic replacement windows. The roof is flat and features a crenelated parapet capped with limestone coping.

The building's primary (east) façade has a five part composition with two projecting, three-story entrance bays flanking the center bay. The projecting entrance bays feature decorative brick corbeling, recessed pointed arch niches above the doorways, and crenelated parapets. The entrances sit at ground

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level with non-historic metal and glass doors with an arched transom framed by a limestone surround. The building is regularly fenestrated with large rectangular window openings at each level. The ground floor window openings are infilled with glass block and the upper floor openings house groupings of narrow non-historic metal windows set on limestone sills within original window openings. The center bay features two sets of openings on each floor; each opening having four windows. The outer bays feature one large grouping of seven windows at both the second and third stories.

The rear (west) facade of the original 1923 building is four bays long. The two center bays project out, indicating the location of the gymnasium. The north projecting bay encloses the stairwell. Its exterior fenestration and limestone detailing is consistent with that of the east facade with one set of windows with limestone sills on the second and third stories, and limestone molded cornice and coping detailing. The south projecting bay, which houses the gymnasium, is absent of the molded limestone cornice consistent throughout the remaining portions of the buildings. There are three sets of large window openings infilled with glass block. Protruding brick piers with limestone caps separate each of the three window bays. There are no window openings on the first story. The two flanking bays are void of fenestration except for a single window opening on each story of the southern-most bay with a large section of flat brick wall to the south of each window.

The north and south facades of the 1923 building are three bays long. The eastern-most bay is unfenestrated except for glass block windows on the first story. Above the water table is a flat brick wall that is broken up by a large rectangle formed by a single row of rowlock brick with square limestone corners. The center bay features glass block windows on the first story and a single grouping of non-historic replacement windows on the second and third stories. The western-most bay features a narrower grouping of non-historic replacement windows on the second and third stories. All windows feature limestone sills.

**Rear Addition**

A one-story masonry addition, completed in 1959, extends from the north half of the original building's rear (west) facade. This Mid-century Modern addition is asymmetrical with a slightly irregular footprint, has red brick walls and a low, flat roof with metal coping. The primary façade faces west, with metal and glass doors centrally located and slightly recessed. It features a single window to the north and a projecting brick pier supports a metal sunshade before the building recesses back. Otherwise, the remainder of this facade features unfenestrated brick walls.

The north facade is broken into three bays. The easternmost bay, which houses restrooms, is unfenestrated except for two narrow horizontal windows that sit near the roof line. The largest central bay features a long band of ribbon windows extending up to the roof line with a projecting sunshade

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covering the extent of the windows. The western most bay recesses in and is a simple, unfenestrated brick wall.

The south facade is similar to that on the north but features only one bay. This facade is consistent with the band of ribbon windows and projecting sunshade found on the north side.

***Interior***

The interior of the 1923 building retains its original floor plan and circulation patterns, including double-loaded corridors with classroom spaces on each side. Although the corridors and classrooms have been altered over time with the installation of carpeting, dropped ceilings, vinyl flooring and wall paneling, historic detailing and finishes including stained wood and glass doors with multi-paned transoms in the corridors and original wood built-ins and wood trim (primarily painted) within the classrooms. Evidence of original tin ceiling details can be found under some of the existing dropped ceilings. The original wood flooring is also exposed in a few classrooms.

Stairwells are located at each of the main entrances on the east façade, and on the north side of the west façade, of the original 1923 building to provide circulation between floors. The main entrances on the east side are located at grade and open directly into a landing in the stairwell with access either down to the ground floor or up to the first floor. The stairwells feature wood handrails and the steps are rubber coated.

The gymnasium and auditorium spaces in the 1923 building remain intact. The gymnasium, on the ground floor expanding up to the first floor, features parquet flooring and an upper level gallery on the east side, which is enclosed with wood paneling. Retractable wood bleachers extend along the wall underneath the gallery. A large auditorium space sits above the gymnasium on the second floor.

On the first and second floors, a central double-loaded corridor with original wood and glass doors provide access to classrooms, office spaces, and restrooms. Some classrooms have been altered over time with the installation of carpeting and dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles, but many retain their original chalkboard frames, wood trim, and built-in cabinetry.

The 1959 addition features painted concrete block walls and tile flooring. Large exposed wood beams run across the ceiling, with acoustical tile between. The large classrooms were designed with moveable partition walls. A hallway with open stairs and brightly colored mural walls leads to the 1959 addition from the original 1923 building's first floor. This section of the school sits at grade and can also be accessed by going up a small section of stairs from the original building's ground floor level.



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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

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**Summary Statement of Significance**

The Schofield School is locally significant under National Register Criteria A in the area of Education, and C in the area of Architecture, and is a well-preserved example of a Collegiate Gothic school building within the context of Schofield. Designed by the architectural firm of Oppenhamer & Obel of Wausau and completed in 1923, the Schofield School served as the primary grade school for the city of Schofield and portions of the neighboring town of Weston until its closing in 2011. The building was constructed on the site of the previous grade school, which was completed in 1910 and destroyed by fire in 1922. The new grade school building incorporated a variety of specialized spaces designed to serve the needs of a wide range of pupils from kindergarten through eighth grade, reflecting the expansion of public school education in Schofield and the changing ideals surrounding primary and secondary education. The 1959 addition to the original school was designed by Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates in the Mid-century Modern style. The addition contributes to the school's significance as a good example of Mid-century Modern school architecture reflecting stylistic changes in school designs of the period. The building is the oldest extant school in Schofield.

The period of significance for Criterion A extends from 1923 to 1949, reflecting the school's role in the history of education in the community as Schofield's only school. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1923 to 1959, the date of construction of the original school through the date of construction of the addition. The building is in good condition, with the 1923 main block and 1959 addition to the building remaining intact. The building retains good integrity, with exterior alterations limited to the replacement of windows and doors in the 1923 block.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

***History of Schofield***

The initial settlement of present day Schofield in the mid-1800s was spurred by the vast stands of timber that covered much of central Wisconsin. The first lumber mill in Wausau was established by George Stevens in 1837, and a man named Martin built a mill nearby, on the east side of the Wisconsin River, in the 1840s. The village that developed around Martin's mill was originally known as Eau Claire, and subsequently became part of neighboring town of Weston. In 1851, Dr. William Scholfield of Mineral Point came to the mill to purchase lumber, and, impressed by the operation and surrounding country, he purchased the mill instead. According to records from the Marathon County Historical Society, during the 1850s Scholfield "laid out the village, erected homes, established a store and built

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the necessary shops to keep the mill in good repair.”<sup>1</sup> Schofield died in 1863, and his widow, Mary, took charge over the family’s extensive lumber operation. In 1883, the family sold the mill to Brooks and Ross Lumber Company. In 1904, the town incorporated as the city of Schofield (the city name spelled without an “l” in the first syllable), presumably in honor of Dr. Schofield and his family.<sup>2</sup> The city experienced slow but steady growth through the twentieth century. The population of the city in 1905 was 744; by 2000, it had reached 2,117.

***Education in Schofield and the Development of the Modern Educational System***

The design and construction of the Schofield School exemplified a statewide trend in the expansion and specialization of educational facilities during the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth century, most community schools combined primary and secondary grades into a single building. By the turn of the century, however, there was a growing recognition that younger children and older children had distinctly different educational and developmental needs that could be best served through separate, specialized facilities. The push for secondary education led first to a proliferation of separate public high schools—the Free High School Law, which provided state aid to fund public high schools in Wisconsin, was passed in 1875 and by 1923 over 400 school districts operated high schools.<sup>3</sup> Junior high schools also gained favor in the early twentieth century, particularly in larger urban areas, as a way to bridge the gap between primary and secondary education.<sup>4</sup>

At the other end of the spectrum, educational reformers were also advocating for the incorporation of early childhood development programs that would bring younger children into the public school system. In 1856, German immigrant Margareth Meyer Schurz established the first kindergarten in the United States in Watertown, Wisconsin. The kindergarten model, which was designed to teach social interaction and engagement in young children through arts, crafts, and music, gained widespread acceptance in the early twentieth century. The first public kindergarten program in Wisconsin opened

<sup>1</sup> “City of Schofield,” Marathon County Historical Society website, accessed November 6, 2013, <http://www.marathoncountyhistory.org/PlacesDetails.php?LocationId=95&View=S&ItemName=>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

“Dr. William Schofield,” *Merrill Herald*, August 30, 1921. Accessed through the Wisconsin Historical Society website on November 6, 2013, <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whba/articleView.asp?pg=1&id=15084&key=schofield&cy=>.

“Schofield Mill,” Wisconsin Historical Images, Wisconsin Historical Society website, accessed November 6, 2013, [http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/fullRecord.asp?id=77723&qstring=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wisconsinhistory.org%2Fwhi%2Fresults.asp%3Fpageno%3D1%26keyword%3D%26search\\_type%3Dbasic%26sort\\_by%3Ddate](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/fullRecord.asp?id=77723&qstring=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wisconsinhistory.org%2Fwhi%2Fresults.asp%3Fpageno%3D1%26keyword%3D%26search_type%3Dbasic%26sort_by%3Ddate)

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Wyatt, editor. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, p. 3-5.

<sup>4</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Peckham Junior High School, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register # 09000124.

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in Manitowoc in 1873 and by the turn of the century kindergarten was “seen as a vital part of the public education system of progressive cities.”<sup>5</sup>

The twentieth century education reform movement ushered in the era of the modern school building. Beginning in the early 1900s the State of Wisconsin began to actively encourage communities to replace their older primary schools with modern “state graded” schools. As discussed in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, “The term ‘graded’ school was generally used to refer to any school that had more than one room and therefore contained more than one grade of pupil.” A 1901 act of the state legislature provided special funding for the construction of new graded schools, and a second act passed in 1905 required schools with more than 65 pupils to provide at least two rooms and two teachers.<sup>6</sup> These legislative acts thus had a direct impact on the form and design of schools across the state, and as *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* points out, “the state even provided sample plans to guide districts in their remodeling projects.”<sup>7</sup>

In marked contrast to the single-room schoolhouse, these schools were large, solidly-built buildings, typically architect-designed of fireproof construction with modern amenities such as a central heating, electricity, and indoor plumbing. Spacious classrooms were well lighted and ventilated with large windows. The interior reflected the programming needs of the students it was built to serve, with secondary schools generally featuring more specialized spaces to accommodate a diverse curriculum. Primary schools typically featured a kindergarten space and some sort of open assembly space that could serve multiple functions.

The history of public education and school construction in Schofield in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century mirrored these progressive developments in public education. In 1860, Horatio J. Sprague deeded an acre of land for the first school, which was housed in a crude shanty. The first proper public school building was a white frame one-room structure on the site of the present Schofield School. In 1910, in order to conform to the state’s new requirements and recommendations for school buildings, this frame structure was removed and a new masonry, “seven-department, state-graded” school was erected at a cost of \$20,000. The school, which provided instruction through ninth grade, served as the only grade school in the joint district formed by Schofield and portions of the neighboring town of Weston, and it was the first school building of more than one room in the district.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> National Register of Historic Places, West Side School, Rhinelander, Oneida County, Wisconsin, National Register # 12000319.

<sup>6</sup> Wyatt, Editor. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Marchetti, Louis, *History of Marathon County, Wisconsin and Representative Citizens*, Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1913.

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

*The Schofield School (1923-present)*

In 1922, a fire destroyed the Schofield Graded School that had been completed in 1910. An article in a local paper following the fire reported that the sentiment in the community was “in favor of erecting a much larger building...[and] suggested that a high school course be included and that a gymnasium be built, the lack of this feature having always been keenly felt.”<sup>9</sup>

Although the new school building that was completed in 1923 did not include a high school—the Schofield school district would not construct a dedicated high school building until 1953—it did have a gymnasium, an auditorium, a kindergarten room, and other specialized spaces that were the hallmarks of modern grade school design.<sup>10</sup> The architecture firm Oppenhamer & Obel of Wausau was chosen to design the new school building and work began quickly on the \$55,000 structure. When lack of funds threatened to delay completion of the school, John F. Ross, president of the Brooks and Ross Lumber Company, donated money and materials for the completion of the school’s gymnasium, estimated at \$3,000, and an additional \$300 for other work.<sup>11</sup>

The new Schofield School opened on September 10, 1923. The *Wausau Daily Herald* described the school as “an imposing, modern building.” In addition to a glowing account of the new gymnasium, the article also described a dedicated kindergarten room on the raised first floor in addition to classrooms for first through fourth grades, “each with bookshelves and a wardrobe containing umbrella and rubber racks.” On the second floor was the main auditorium with a stage and seating for 160, which served primarily as an assembly room for the upper grades but could also be used for performances and other functions. The second floor also housed recitation rooms, the principal’s office and a library. The raised basement was designed to house manual training, domestic science, and demonstration rooms, but these were not completed at the time of the opening due to time constraints and costs. The article also described plans for a “beautiful large playground...west to the banks of Lake Wausau.”<sup>12</sup>

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“Schofield Elementary School Building Celebrates 75 Years,” *DEC District Newsletter*, November 1996, 1 and 4.

“Schofield Is Without A School,” Article clipping from vertical files at the Marathon County Historical Society, dated March 9, 1922 – publication unknown.

<sup>9</sup> “Schofield Is Without A School.”

<sup>10</sup> The year 1953 is the first mention of a dedicated Schofield high school. Schofield consolidated its school district with those of nearby Weston and Rothschild in the early 1950s. It is therefore probable that before the 1950s, high school students in Schofield traveled to either Weston or Wausau to attend high school.

<sup>11</sup> “Donation for Schofield School,” *Wausau Daily Record*, February 3, 1923.

<sup>12</sup> “New Schofield School Will Open Monday,” *Wausau Daily Record*, September 8, 1923.

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

The Schofield School served as the only public school in Schofield for several decades. In 1949, the school district acquired the former office building of the Brooks and Ross Lumber Company and remodeled it to relieve overcrowding at the Schofield School. In 1959, a one-story addition in a Mid-century Modern architectural style designed by the Sheboygan-based firm of Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates, was constructed at the Schofield School that added four large classrooms to the building.<sup>13</sup>

The Schofield-Weston school district was consolidated with other local districts in 1950, encompassing the towns of Schofield, Weston, and Rothschild. At that time, the district operated a K-10 school in Rothschild, a K-8 school in Schofield (the Schofield School), and small one-room rural schools in the townships of Weston, Wausau, and Kronenwetter. During the 1950s and 1960s, the district added several new schools. D.C. Everest High School, which served students from Schofield and other communities in the school district, opened in 1953. Total district enrollment that year was 1,668. A newly constructed elementary school was completed in Rothschild in 1961, and a junior high school wing was added to the Everest high school building in 1963.<sup>14</sup>

At some point after this consolidation, the Schofield School became strictly an elementary school, serving grades K-6. It continued to be used for this purpose until 2011, when the school district closed the building.

The Schofield School, the oldest public school building in Schofield, remains an excellent example of an early twentieth century school building and a well-preserved example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. It is also the only example of an early-twentieth century school remaining in the Schofield-Weston school district. Two school buildings in Weston—the Weston School and the Hawthorne School—are listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI), and both are one-room schools that pre-date the era of the modern graded school. The Weston School at County Highway X and Weston Road, a Craftsman-style building constructed in 1898, has been demolished. The Hawthorne School on County Highway SS, completed in 1906 and still extant, is a one-story frame structure with hipped roof.

<sup>13</sup> Architectural drawings for addition to Schofield School, prepared by Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates, dated March 4, 1959.

Note: *Architectural Projects By Irving A. Obel, Architect And Oppenhamer & Obel, Architects*, a survey of the architects' work, incorrectly attributes the school's 1959 addition to Oppenhamer & Obel. The original design drawings for the Schofield School's 1959 addition were prepared by Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

<sup>14</sup> District History, D.C. Everest Area School District web site, accessed November 7, 2013 at <http://www1.dce.k12.wi.us/srhigh/info/history.html>.

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*Architecture*

The Schofield School is a good example of a modern grade school designed in a simplified Collegiate Gothic architectural style. Schofield School also represents the work of a prominent local architecture firm, Oppenhamer & Obel, which designed numerous commercial and institutional buildings in Marathon County during the first half of the twentieth century.

As noted in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, the Collegiate Gothic style in Wisconsin dates from approximately 1915 through 1940. The style was inspired by medieval buildings of prominent English universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, which made it a popular choice for college campus buildings, high schools, and elementary schools, particularly during the late 1910s and 1920s. Often, elementary and high schools displayed a loose interpretation of the style, typically featuring brick exterior walls accented with stone and a central, towered, “keep-like” entrance. Details including battlements, finials, parapets, crenellated parapets, Gothic and Tudor arches, and other Gothic or Tudor embellishments may be present on a Collegiate Gothic building. Typical of Collegiate Gothic school buildings from the 1920s, the Schofield School features brick exterior walls and limestone detailing, with most of the Gothic touches concentrated around the main entrance bay. The projecting entrance bay includes a crenelated limestone entrance surround, with inset pointed-arch niches above and inset quatrefoil niches between the upper story windows.

The architecture firm of Oppenhamer & Obel was a prolific and well-respected firm in Wausau and surrounding communities during the early twentieth century. William A. Oppenhamer was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and studied architecture in Indiana and France. He first practiced architecture in Kalamazoo, Michigan and Chicago before moving to Wausau in the 1910s, where he joined the firm of Swarthout and Speer. Irving A. Obel was born in Sunbeken, Norway in 1882 and studied architecture at the Norwegian Royal Academy. He immigrated to the United States around 1900 and worked in architecture firms in New York and Chicago before opening his own practice Iowa in 1915. This practice was short-lived, and Obel relocated to Wausau in the late 1910s and joined Swarthout, Speer & Oppenhamer. By 1920, Oppenhamer & Obel had formed their own firm with an office on Third Street. According to the January 1, 1921 edition of the *Wausau Pilot*, the firm claimed almost \$2 million in commissions in their first year alone.<sup>15</sup>

Between 1920 and 1940, the firm designed many of Wausau’s most prominent buildings, including the Elks Lodge (1924), the Grand Theater (1927) and the US Post Office and Court House (1938). The firm also designed many school buildings in the area, including the St. James Elementary School in Wausau (1930), the St. Therese Catholic School in Schofield, the Wausau Senior High School (1936,

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<sup>15</sup> “Local Architects Do Big Business in State in 1920.” *Wausau Pilot, Industrial and Historical Edition*, January 1921.

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

1951), and the 1926 addition to the Horace Mann Middle School in Wausau. The firm promoted itself in educational trade journals as experts in the design and construction of public schools, and the 1922 *Journal of the National Education Association* showed that all four public schools slated for completion in Wisconsin that year—the Sawyer Junior High School in Door County, the Sturgeon Bay Senior High School, the Rio Creek Grade School in Kewaunee, and the Hawkins Grade School in Rusk County—were designed by Oppenhamer & Obel.<sup>16</sup>

The Schofield School is one of only four Collegiate Gothic buildings currently identified in Marathon County, and it is the only example outside of Wausau. The other listings are the Horace Mann Middle School (1918, addition 1926), the Trinity Lutheran School (c.1920), and the Holy Name Catholic School (1948).

**Rear Addition**

The Schofield School's 1959 classroom wing is a good local example of the Mid-century Modern style, as applied to school architecture. Popular in American architecture from approximately 1945 through 1970, the Mid-century Modern style took inspiration from early twentieth century European Modern (sometimes call International Style) architects including Walter Gropius (1883-1969), Charles-Edouard Jeanneret (known as "Le Corbusier") (1887-1965), and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969), whose works displayed simple geometricized massing, usually with flat roofs, clear visual expression of structural systems, use of simple manufactured materials, elimination of unnecessary ornament, and ample use of exterior glass. Initially an avant-garde architectural style in America in the 1930s and early 1940s, the style gained widespread public support after World War II and became an accepted design aesthetic for residential, commercial, municipal, and institutional building projects across the country.

As a progressive style that utilized inexpensive but durable construction materials, the Mid-century Modern style was an especially popular architectural aesthetic for the thousands of new American school facilities built in the 1940, 50s, and 60s. With its expansive flat roof with deep overhanging eaves, simple concrete masonry unit construction, exposed manufactured wood structural beams, large exterior glass windows and clear glass interior clerestory windows, the Schofield School's 1959 addition designed by Edgar Stubenrauch & Associates clearly expresses character-defining characteristics of the Mid-century Modern style.

<sup>16</sup> *Journal of the National Education Association*, vol. 11, No. 7, 1922, p. 270.

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Summary of Significance

The Schofield School is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Education as the only public school in Schofield from its construction in 1923 until 1949 when a second school opened in the community. The school is an excellent example of a modern school building, reflecting both the early history of education in Schofield and the expansion of the role of public schools in the city. The school is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture as the oldest extant school in Schofield, an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style and the best example of the style in the city. The 1959 addition contributes to its architectural significance as a good example of Mid-century Modern school architecture reflecting stylistic changes in school designs of the period. The school retains integrity and remains in good condition.



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Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary is the entire parcel associated with Schofield School and the address 1310 West Grand Avenue. Grand Avenue forms the eastern boundary and Center Street forms the southern boundary.

Legal Property Description

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 13, Township 28 North, Range 7 East; thence S01° 29' 29" E along the East line of the Northeast ¼ Section 13, 1572.55 feet; thence S 87° 51' 24" W, 1065.27 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel to be described; thence continuing S 87° 51' 24" W along the North line of those parcels described and recorded in Document Numbers 1611354 -1611356 (inclusive), 200.02 feet to the West line of Blocks 1 and 7 and the Original Plat of the Village (now City) of Schofield; thence N 00° 48' 50" E, 530.72 feet to a point located 73.5 feet, more or less, from the ordinary high water mark of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau); said point also being the point of being of a meander line along the Easterly bank of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau); thence N 33° 27' 55" E along the said meander line along the Easterly bank of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau, 206.09 feet to a point located 25 feet, more or less from the ordinary high water mark of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau); thence S 72° 41' 22" E along the said meander line along the Southerly bank of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau), 142.48 feet to a point on the East line of Lot 2, Block 7 of the Original Plat of the Village (now City) of Schofield; said point located 15 feet, more or less, from the ordinary high water mark of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau) and also being the end of the meander line along the Easterly and Southerly bank of the Wisconsin River (Lake Wausau); thence S 01° 51' 10" W along the East line of said Lot 2, Block 7 of the Original Plat of the Village (now City) of Schofield, 234.68 feet to a point on the South right-of-way line of School Street; thence S 87° 46' 14" E along the said South right-of-way line of School Street, 205.80 feet to a point on the Westerly right-of-way line of South Grand Avenue; thence S 08° 25' 53" W along the said Westerly right-of-way line of South Grand Avenue, 162.71 feet to the North line of that parcel described and recorded in Document Number 1336512; thence S 89° 03' 03" W along the North line of those parcels described and recorded in Document Numbers 1336512 and 1611353, 228.13 feet to the East line of those parcels described and recorded in Document Numbers 1392221 and 1392219; thence S 00° 48' 09" W, 245.45 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel thus described.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land associated with the Schofield School building in Schofield, Marathon County, WI. Based on Sanborn maps, this appears to correspond to the historic boundary of the school.

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

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**Name of Property:** Schofield School  
**City or Vicinity:** Schofield  
**County:** Marathon  
**State:** Wisconsin  
**Photographer:** Allen Johnson, MacRostie Historic Advisors  
53 West Jackson Blvd, Suite 1323, Chicago, IL 60604  
**Date Photographed:** June 19, 2014  
**Location of Original Digital Files:** Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office  
816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

Description of Photograph(s) and Number:

- 1 of 14: Primary (east) facade of 1923 block, looking southwest
- 2 of 14: Primary (east) facade of 1923 block looking west
- 3 of 14: West and south elevations of 1923 block and west and south elevations of 1958 wing, looking northeast
- 4 of 14: North and west elevations of 1923 block and 1958 wing, looking southeast
- 5 of 14: North and west elevation of 1923 block and north elevation of 1958 wing, looking southeast
- 6 of 14: Ground floor – north stair landing at entrance on east (primary) elevation
- 7 of 14: Ground floor – gymnasium, looking northwest
- 8 of 14: 1958 wing – main corridor, looking west
- 9 of 14: 1958 wing – Classroom 14, looking northwest
- 10 of 14: 1958 wing – Classroom 12, looking southwest
- 11 of 14: First floor – main corridor, looking south
- 12 of 14: First floor – main corridor, looking northeast
- 13 of 14: First floor – Room 104, looking northeast
- 14 of 14: First floor – Room 102, looking southwest

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List of Figures:

1. Schofield School, historic photograph from 1923 newspaper.
2. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1923
3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1961
4. Aerial view of site, 2013
5. Schofield School, exterior view with students, 1925
6. Interior view, 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, 1956
7. Exterior view with students, date unknown
8. Ground floor plan, 1922
9. First floor plan, 1922
10. Second floor plan, 1922
11. Addition plot plan, 1959
12. Addition ground floor plan, 1959

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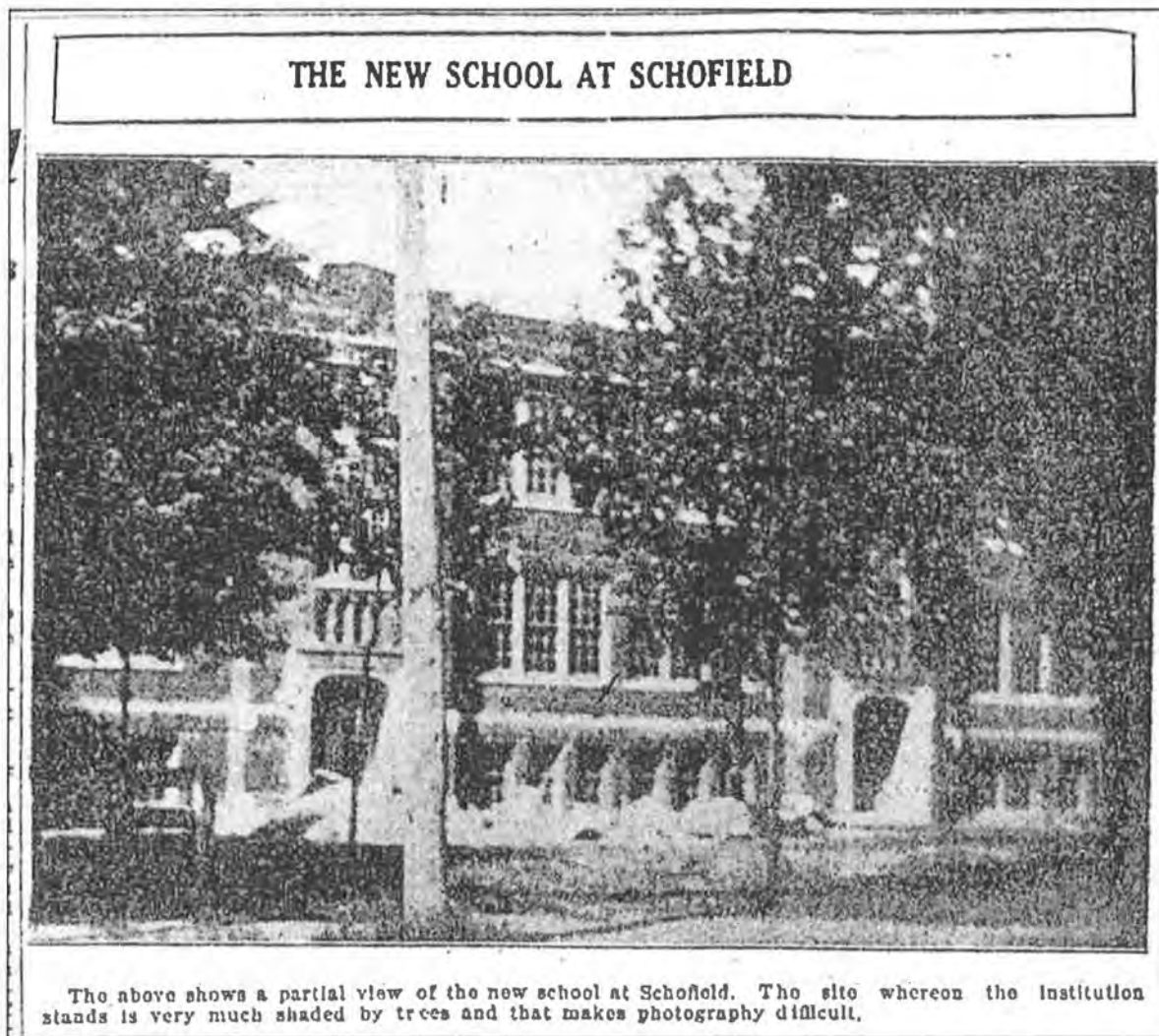


Figure 1: Schofield School, Wausau Daily Record-Herald, September 10, 1923.

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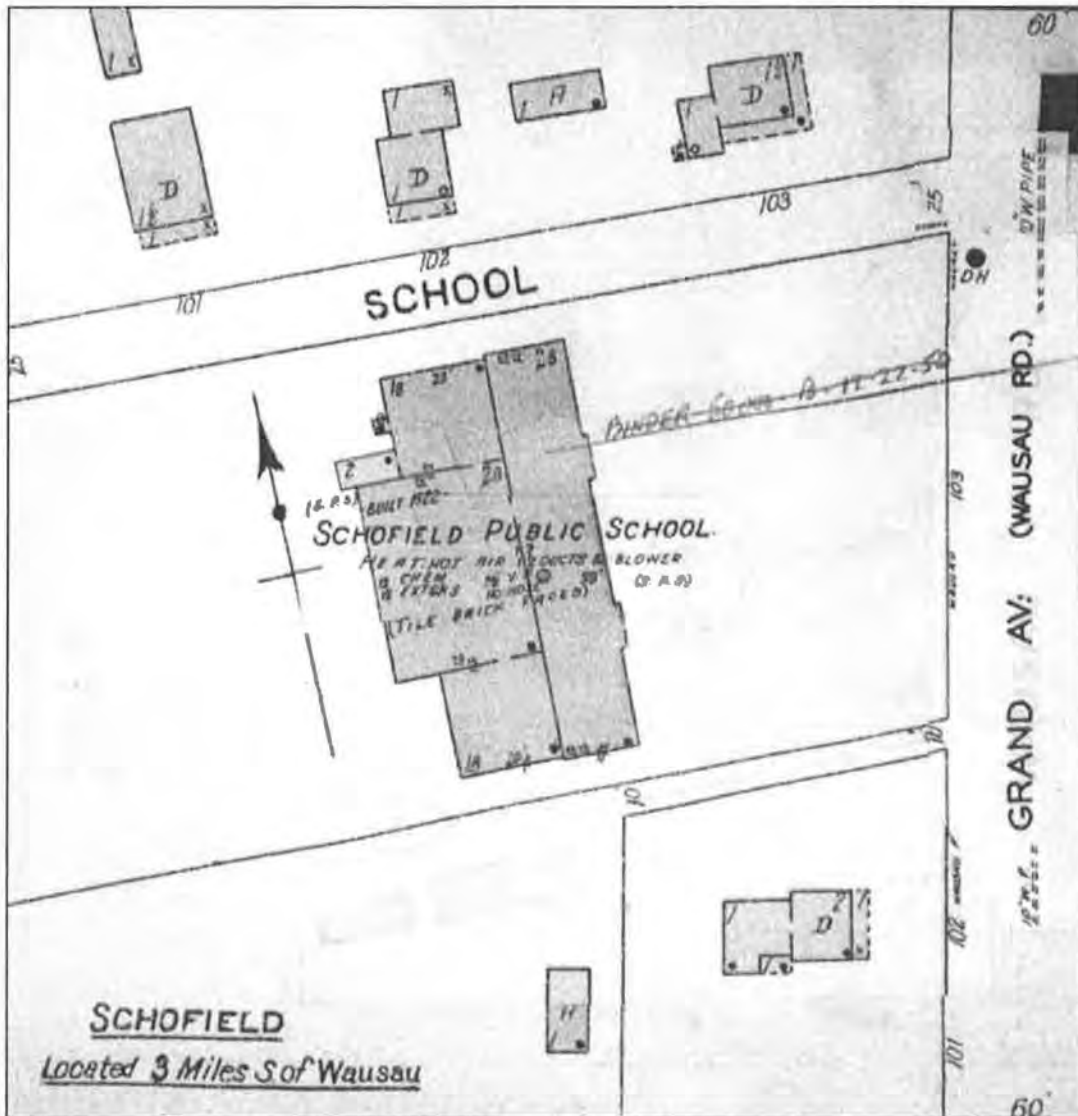


Figure 2: 1948 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the original 1923 Schofield School.

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Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

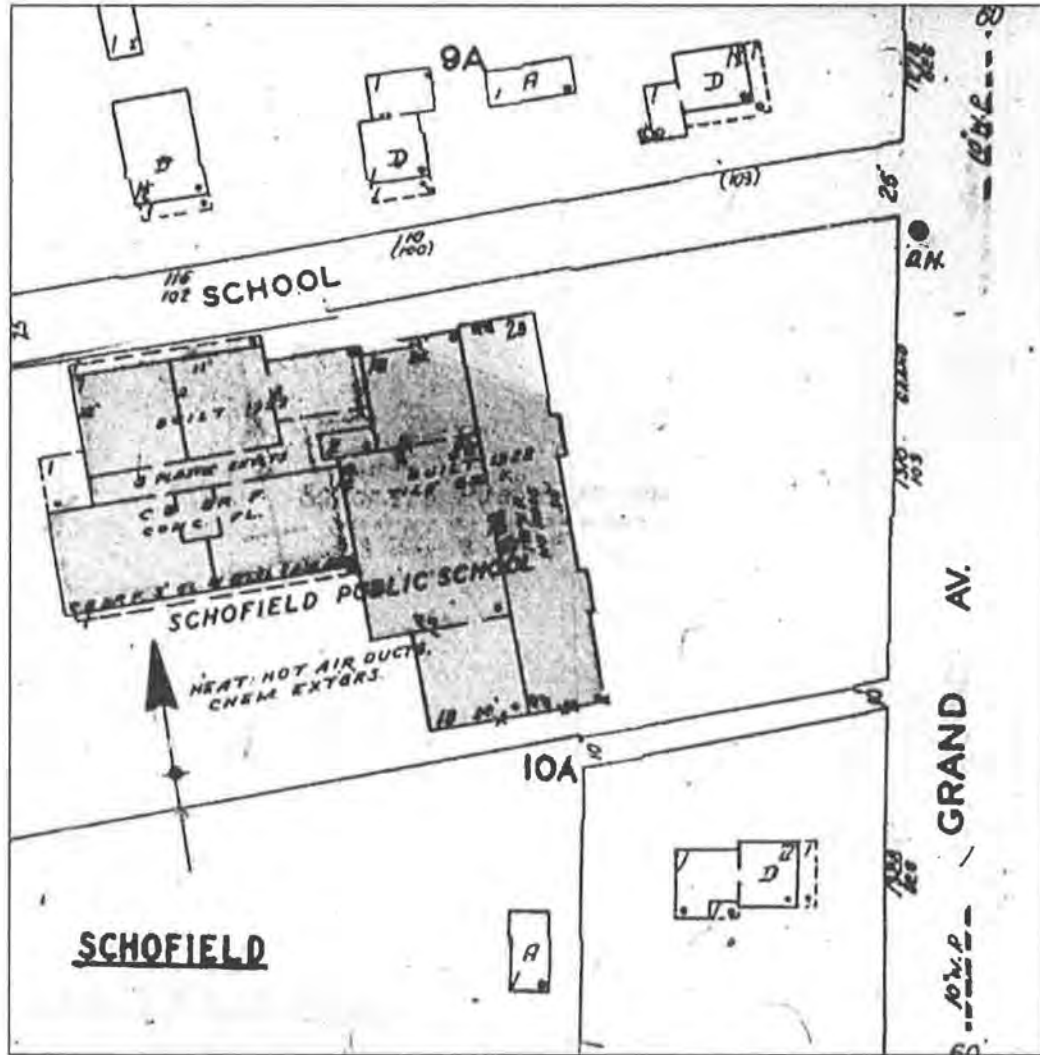


Figure 3: 1961 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the original 1923 Schofield School and the 1959 addition.



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Figure 4: Aerial view of site, looking north (2013)

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Figure 5: Schofield School students (1925). From *Schofield History 1904-2004: 100 Years of Progress*.

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Figure 6: Schofield School 5th Grade Class (1956). From *Schofield History 1904-2004: 100 Years of Progress*.

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Figure 7: Schofield school kids lining sidewalk in front of school (date unknown). From *Schofield History 1904-2004: 100 Years of Progress*.

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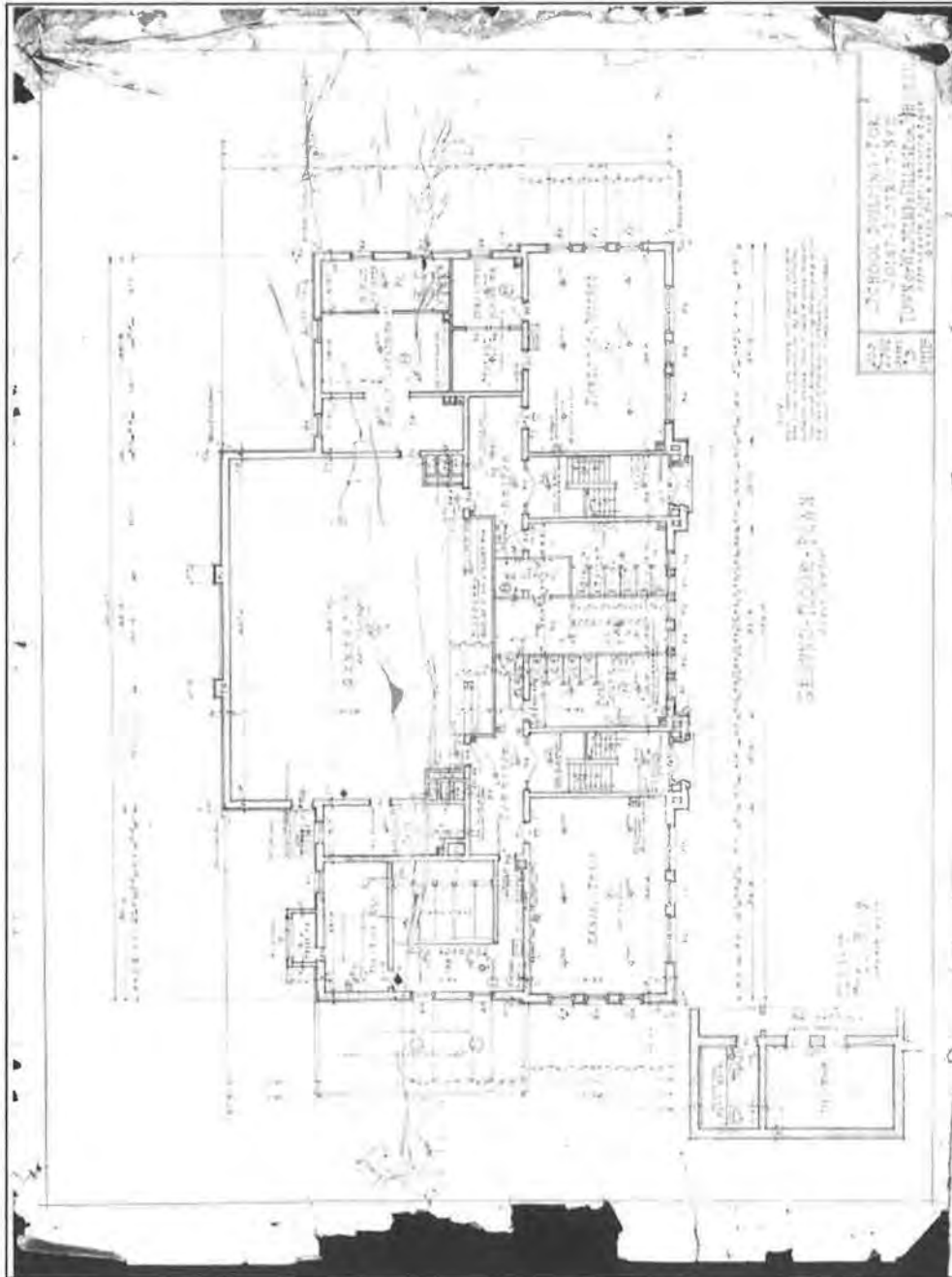


Figure 8: Schofield School ground floor plan (1922)

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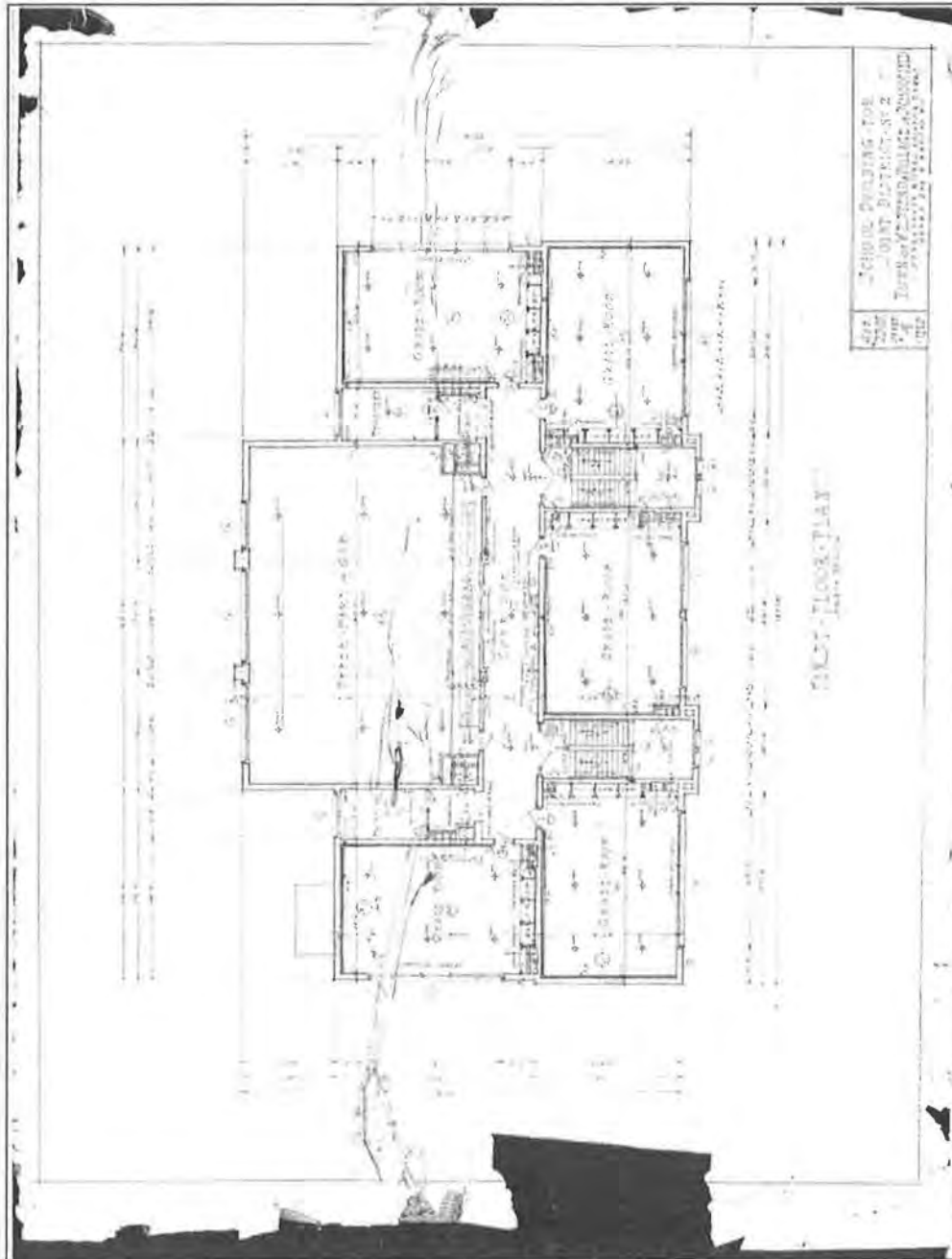


Figure 9: Schofield School first floor plan (1922)

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Schofield School  
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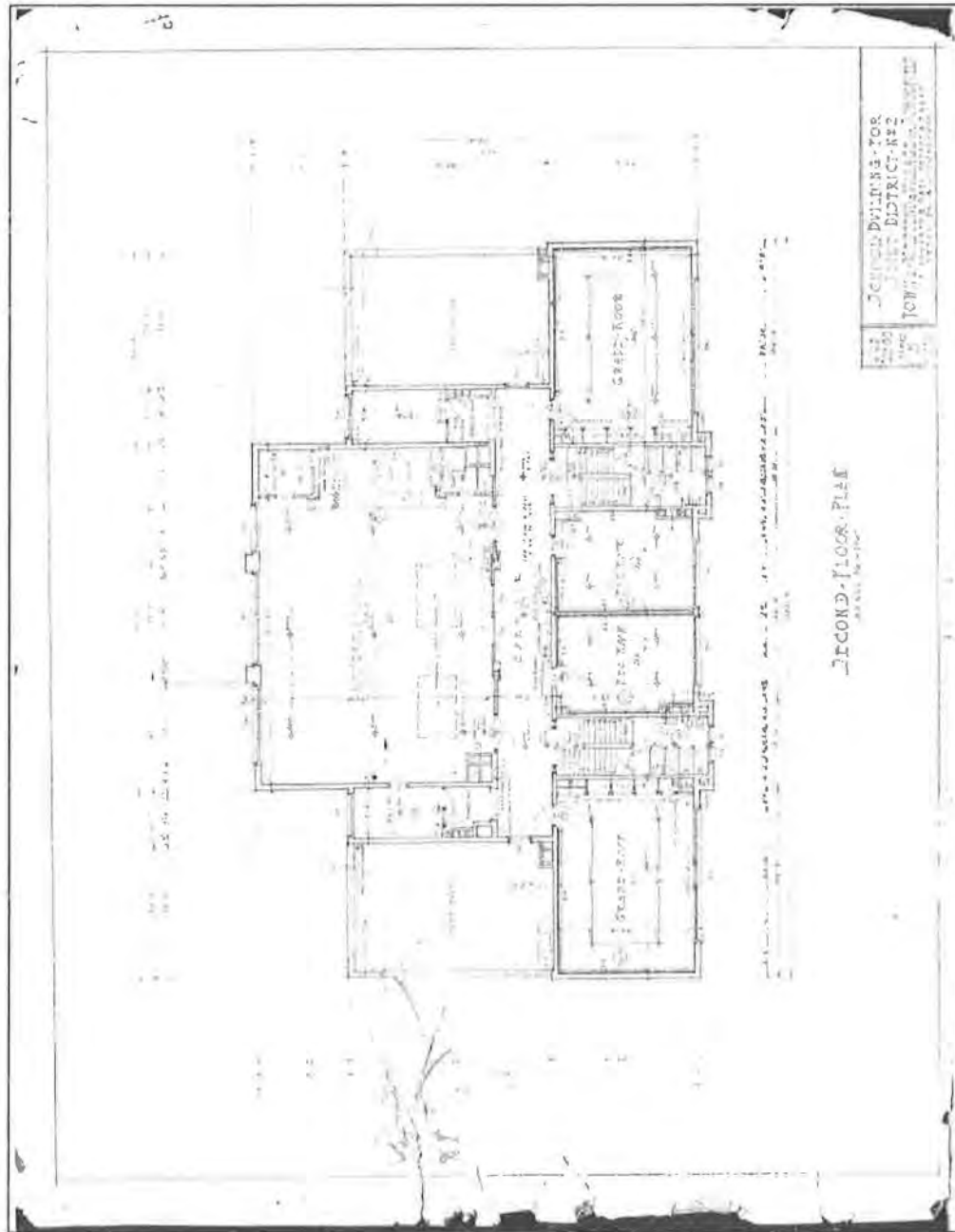


Figure 10: Schofield School second floor plan (1922)

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Schofield School  
Schofield, Marathon Co., WI

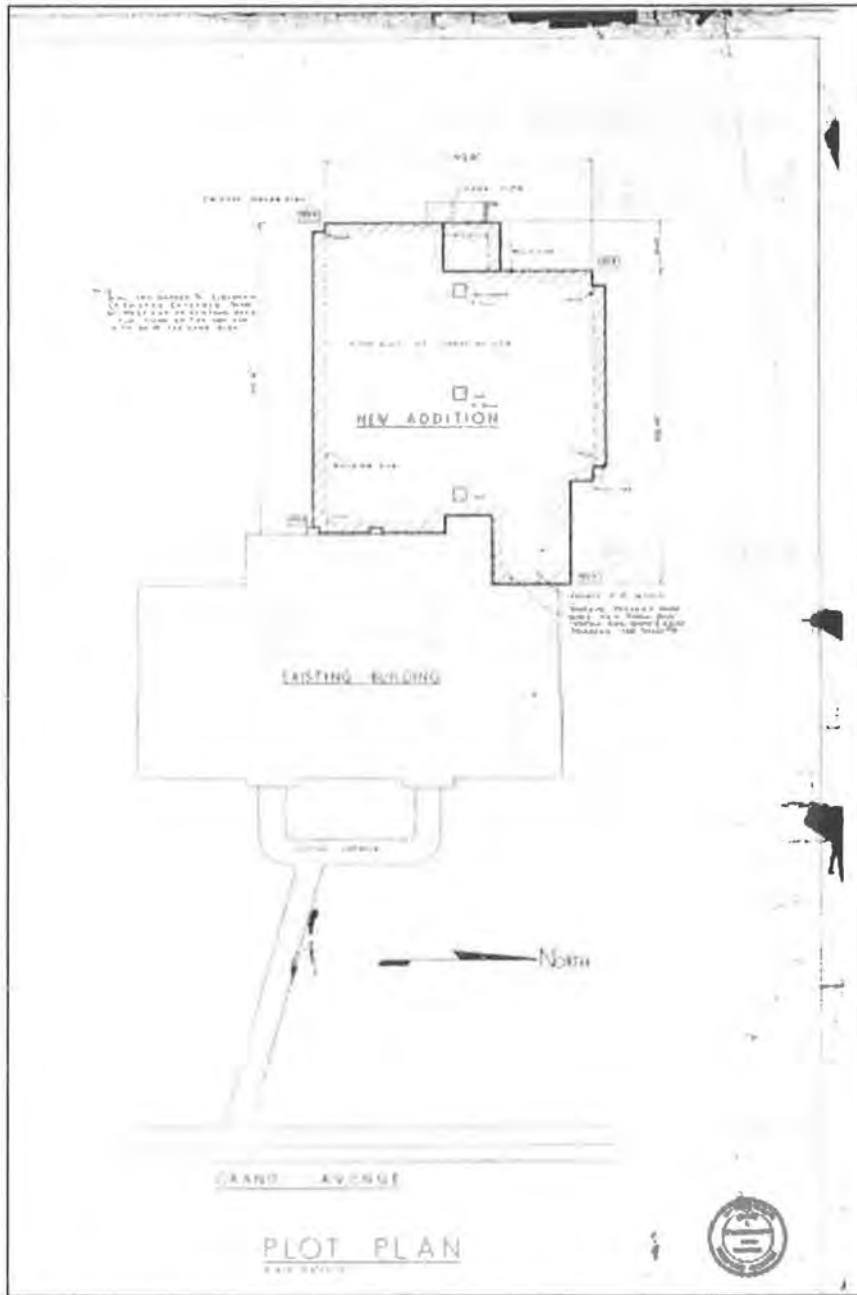


Figure 11: Schofield School addition plot plan (1959)



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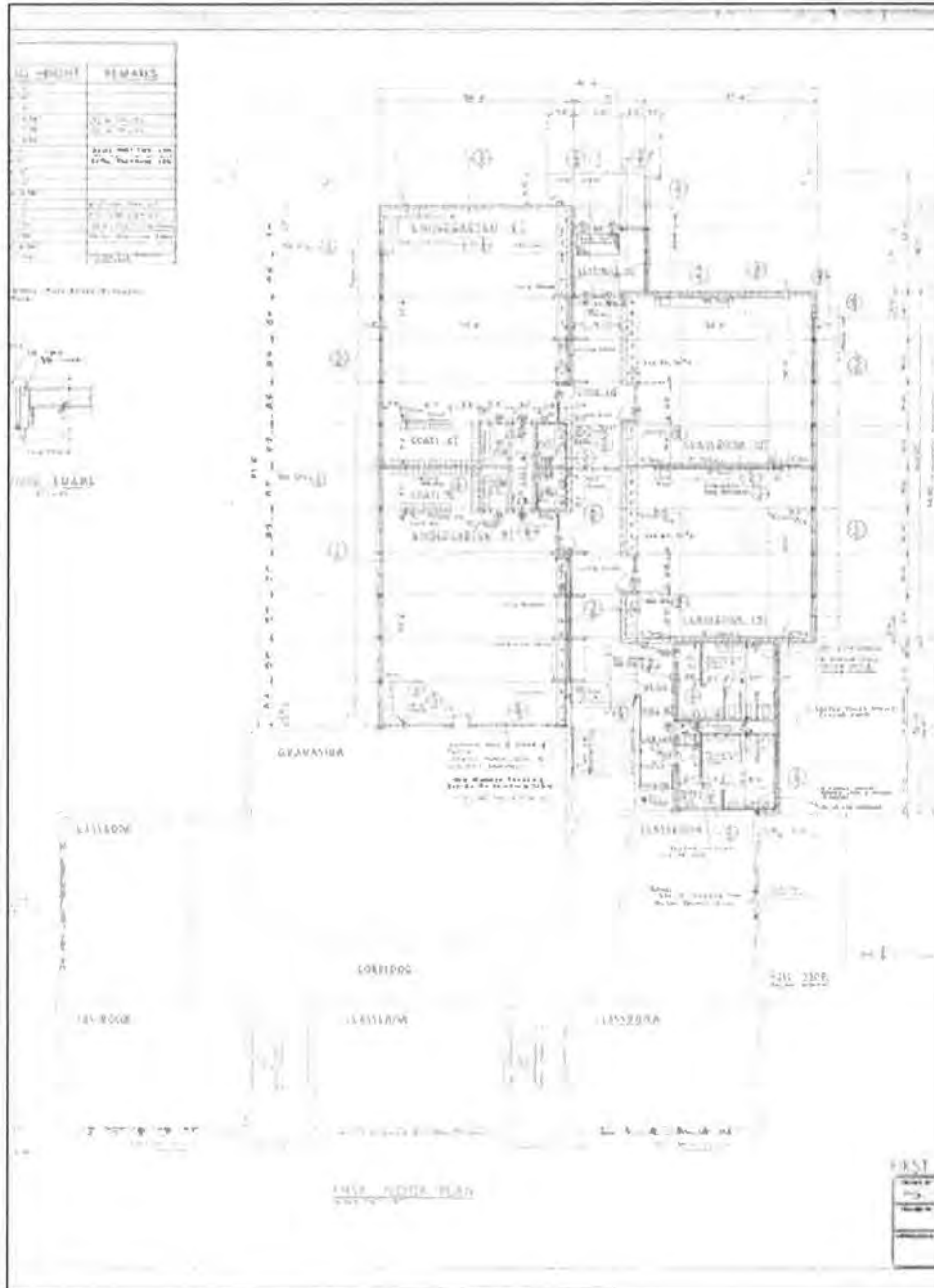
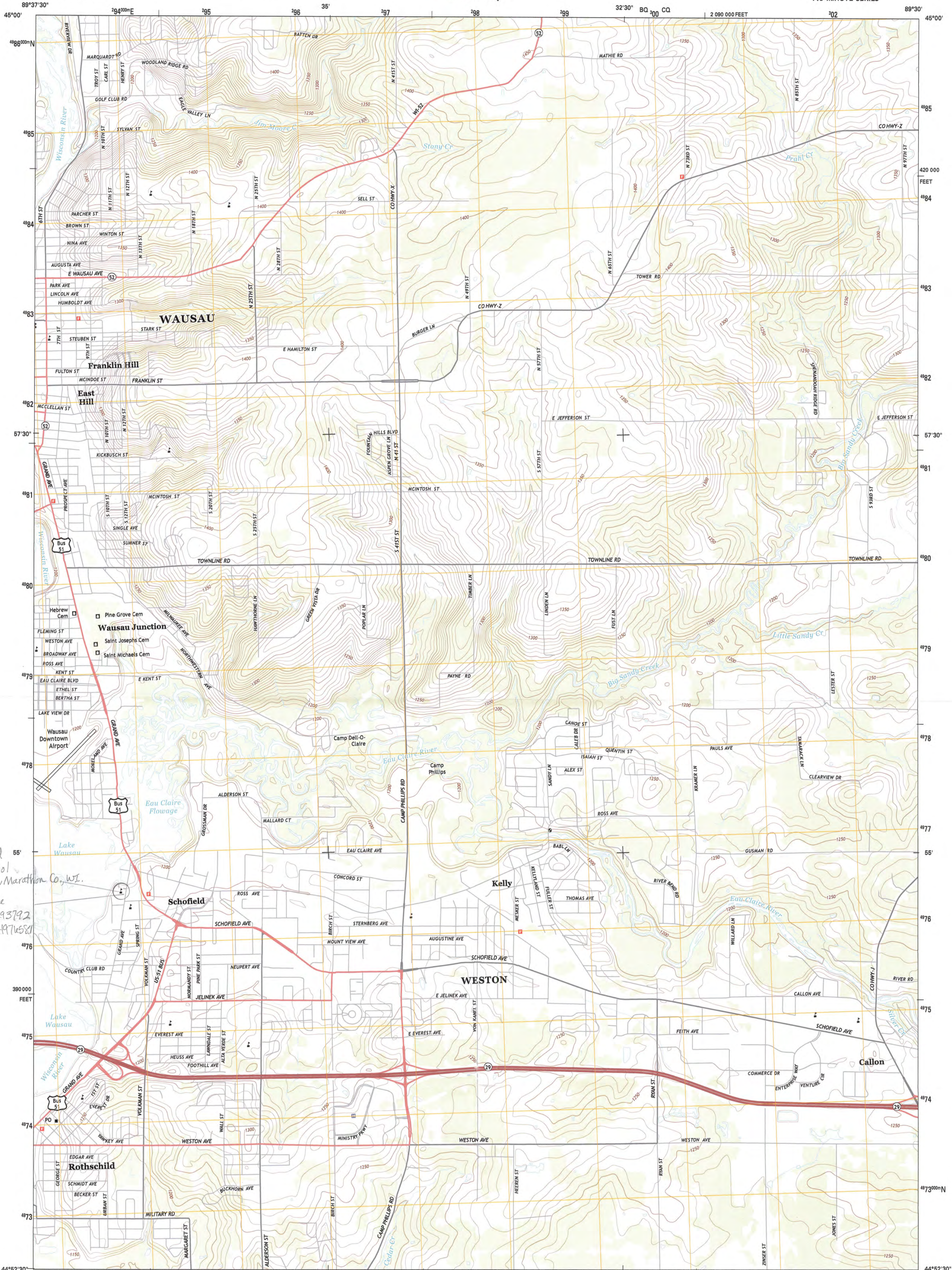


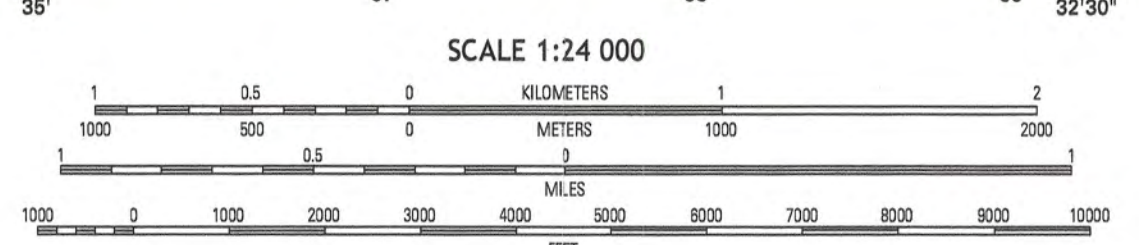
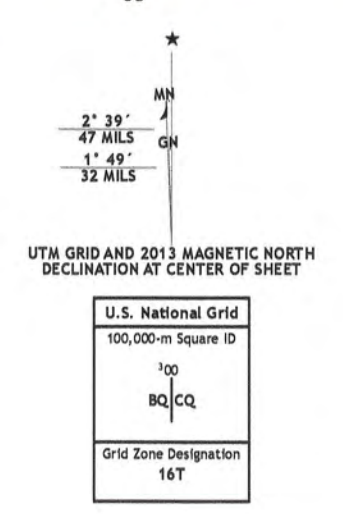
Figure 12: Schofield School addition ground floor plan (1959)



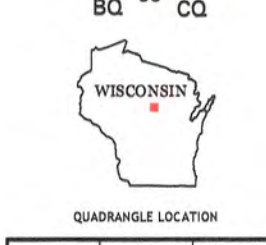
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Northing: 497658

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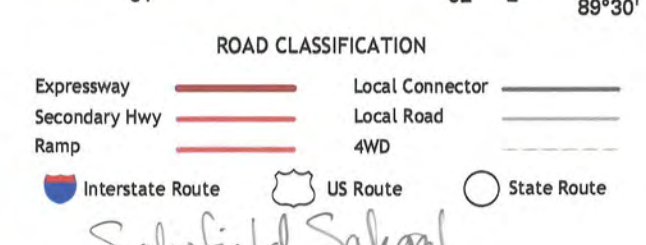
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Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1999  
Boundaries.....Census, IBWC, IBC, USGS, 1972 - 2012



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
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A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.12



|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Brokaw      | Nutterville | Kalinke |
| Wausau West | Wausau East | Ringle  |
| Monroe      | Peplin      | Bevent  |



Schofield School  
1310 S. Grand Ave.  
Schofield, Marathon County, WI, 54476  
WAUSAU EAST, WI  
2013

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Schofield School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Marathon

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/24/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000108

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3-24-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:



RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Peggy Veregin

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 5th day of February 2015,  
for the nomination of the Schofield School to the National Register of Historic  
Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

         Multiple Property Nomination form

14 Photograph(s)

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

13 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)/historic photograph(s)

         Piece(s) of correspondence

         Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

         Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

X  This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67  
         The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.

         Other: \_\_\_\_\_