

FEB 22

**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 Marshfield Senior High School

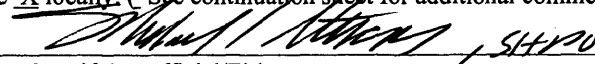
other names/site number Marshfield Junior High School, Marshfield Middle School

2. Location

street & number	900 East Fourth Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Marshfield	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Wood	code 141
			zip code 54449

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
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI


Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Marshfield Senior High School
Name of Property

Wood County
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

4/6/05

bow

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	buildings
	sites
	structures
	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
is 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)

Education/ school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

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 one or more continuation sheets.)

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Marshfield Senior High School
Wood County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 1

Start

INTRODUCTION

The Marshfield Senior High School was begun in 1938 and opened in 1940 as a state-of-the-art, progressive educational facility.(1) The building was designed by Eschweiler & Eschweiler Architects of Milwaukee with influences of the concurrent Art Deco and the Art Moderne movements.(2) The Marshfield Senior High School is essentially three stories high, though the gymnasium section and the tower with observatory on top rise higher. The building is finished with brick and terra cotta and metal trim. Three additions date to 1968, 1979 and 1993.

DESCRIPTION

In 1940, the Marshfield Senior High School sat on 17 acres on the west side of the city. Approaching from 6th Street to the west, the view was of the tower over the entrance. Closer, one would have seen the dominant academic wing, three stories of multi-colored red-brown brick with windows set singly and doubly. On the end pavilions, the single windows are divided by decorative metal panels with geometric designs between the first and the second floor. On the third floor, metal panels in groups of five with a receding rectangular motif are placed between the double windows. Off to the other side a small auditorium protruded from the main building. Behind was the higher, larger and simpler shape of the gymnasium.

The Senior High School opened much-heralded in March 1940. On March 15, 1940, the day before the public would enter the building for an open house, the Marshfield News-Herald described the high school on six pages beginning with the banner headline: "Open House' at High School for Two Days."(3) In 53 stories, most of them short, the News-Herald praises and touts, with considerable civic pride, the new school. Most of these stories are about the design and appearance of the modernist building and its rooms. In advance of local people walking through the school from 1-9 p.m. on March 16-17, and the students moving in on March 18, the News-Herald provided eyewitness accounts of what had been accomplished. Page 7 stories are, in approximate order of emphasis, about: glass block "liberally used," 8,750 glass blocks, intended to let light in but not glare, insulate and make stairs safer—"because they supply an abundance of light, yet do not permit the student's eyes to wander out the window, with the result that he may miss a step and endanger himself and others in a bad fall"; a bicycle room in the basement with an entrance ramp angled so that riders "must dismount and cannot ride directly into the building"; a 250-seat auditorium for debates, speech contests and plays, wainscoted to window level with natural finish birch panels—"one of the most beautiful rooms in the new school..."; glass-fronted display cases in corridors. On page 8 are these items: a history of the McKinley High School fire in 1936 that led to building the new Senior High School; photos of four elementary schools; a report that all the doors, all of birch inlaid with ebony and holly, and some veneered with birch on one side and walnut on the other to match administrative offices finished in walnut, were made by Roddis Lumber and Veneer Co. of Marshfield; a note that Herbert Bradley of Eschweiler & Eschweiler architects "served as inspector" for the architects. On page 9: more Marshfield education history; a report on individual student lockers; a story on roofs, 13 inches of asphalt, insulation, concrete, air voids and plaster, a waterproof barrier over the entire

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Marshfield Senior High School
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building, as well as a lead-coated copper dome on the tower. On page 10: a story about locker rooms; a story on air conditioning, tamper-proof thermostats, weatherstripping; a report on 13 cars of cement, or 21,532 bags, being used for concrete, reinforced with 270 tons of steel, and the use of 291,000 face bricks and 49,000 common brick, the latter from Marshfield Brick Co. Page 11, these stories: glazed tile on walls for easy maintenance, quarry tile on stairs, asphalt tile for corridors; stainless steel table tops and counters in the third floor home economics rooms; a soundproof band practice room in the basement, with five small practice rooms and a vocal room adjacent; a library over the auditorium with glass block windows, and furniture "all in walnut, matching the woodwork"; two large agriculture rooms, one of them a shop with "big doors, which can be opened to admit farm machinery for demonstration purposes and instruction in mechanics." Page 12: black and white photos of classrooms and the auditorium, with its blue velour stage curtain and chairs with blue fabric seats and silvered backs; stories on a pottery kiln in one of the arts and crafts rooms; chemistry, physics and biology laboratories; and "light-colored glass 'blackboards,'" requiring black or blue chalk to produce easily seen writing, and reflect light into the room. All this makes a picture of technology oriented for education that was current and architecture that was appropriate for a public high school.

The original sections of Marshfield Senior High School are of steel reinforced concrete and load-bearing structural clay tile and brick construction. It is finished with brick in varying shades of brown, set mainly in English bond. There are essentially four blocks: an academic wing, the entrance tower with observatory, a smaller wing jutting west for an auditorium and a library, and a gymnasium. Windows are mostly six-over-six and double hung; there some casement windows and openings filled with glass block. Decorative metal panels have rectangular motifs and variations on the rectangular motif.

The 1968 addition at the north end of the building is a one-story, minimalist, brick-covered block with few windows. Bands of raised brick, reminiscent of those on the Eschweiler building, along the top of the block provide some stylistic connection to the older building.

The 1979 addition near the vestibule on the west side is a three-story enclosure for an elevator. Positioned next to the main entrance, this protruding enclosure is windowless, brick-covered, with banding at the third-story level. The architect appears to have styled this addition after the piers next to the main entrance.

The 1993 addition to the east and north of the gymnasium wing is brick-covered. The appearance is more functional than aesthetic, with expansions pushed out from the original gymnasium.

The Marshfield Senior High School faces west. The three-floor academic wing was designed with paired six-over-six double-hung windows, except for single windows toward the north end and at the ends. The academic wing parapet with brick set decoratively in a header bond with a tile coping above. A motif continued on the exterior was rectangles within rectangles colored gray and made from metal between the first and second floors and from terra cotta on the third floor. The entrance tower block had groupings of three elements up to a just above the academic wing parapet: three oak doors with six-paned windows at ground level, three plate glass panels with four panels within each larger panel above the doors, a stone section above that with fluted panels

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and a rectangle motif made square at the sides and a smooth panel with an eagle sculpture, then three windows in a bay format, three metal panels with the rectangular motif, three more windows, and a bowed metal roof. Above the bay is a casement window topped by an arch. The bottom part of the observatory is covered with fabricated metal in straight lines, then with rectangular panels and curved buttress corners. The observatory roof was of lead-coated copper.

To the south of the tower is the auditorium-library wing. Its entrance, which is a reduced version of the main entrance, consists of two oak doors, two window openings above and a single fluted stone panel with square blocks above, all set within a brick wall solid excepting three glass-block windows in the library. Straight-line rows of raised brick laid in a zigzag bond separate the glass block sections.

The north-facing façade of the academic wing has six-over-six double-hung windows in the stairwells, rectangles of raised brick at either end, and brick in raised straight lines above a space defining row of brick across the wall and bisected by the stairwell windows.

The east-facing (rear) façade of the high school is similar to the west-facing façade, given that the academic wing is for classrooms.

On the south-facing façade, the appearance is more complex, with the auditorium-library wing, the observatory tower, classrooms and studios for art and other subjects, and the gymnasium all being visible. The lower section of the auditorium-library block has four window openings filled with glass block, and the library above has five openings with glass block, these being separated by rows of raised brick. A classroom section behind the auditorium-library had a mix of single and paired six-over-six double-hung windows; metal panels with the rectangular motif separate some of the single windows. On the gymnasium exterior, eight story-and-a-half (or so) openings were filled with glass blocks. Entrances on this façade are even simpler versions of the tower entrance.

On the interior, the plan of the academic wing of the Marshfield Senior High School consists of a central corridor set south to north. The auditorium-library wing is at the south end of the corridor, and the gymnasium is west of the combined academic/auditorium-library area. Staircases are at the south end of the corridor; these have aluminum railings and both square and turned metal balusters.

The Marshfield Senior High School retains many of its original finishes. The academic corridor walls are tiled and have metal student lockers set into the walls. Stairwells are tiled. Most of the custom-made doors remain.

The library and the corridor leading to it are of one piece in terms of use and aesthetics. The corridor has display cases, with walnut trim on the outside and birch inside. Inside the library, light is filtered through glass blocks. The original walnut library circulation desk is in place, beneath a plastered arch with a stylized, squared rise. The room has its original reading tables, with solid walnut edging and "booked" walnut pedestals and tops, and chairs with cut-out chamfered backs. The style for the furniture is modernistic with Art Moderne details.

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An advertisement in the Marshfield News-Herald indicates the furniture was made at Hamilton Manufacturing Co., in Two Rivers, Wisconsin.(4)

A second specialized area is intact but not used. The observatory atop the entrance tower was intended for astronomical studies. "The observatory was built in anticipation of expansion of the high school courses in meteorology and because of the adult interest in astronomy," according to the Eschweiler firm's *50 Years of Architecture*.(5) However, a telescope was not installed. It was to have been a gift of Dr. Paul Doege, one of the founders of the Marshfield Clinic.(6) The observatory is reached from stairs off the third floor.

A third specialized area, the auditorium, no longer exists as originally intended. It ceased being an auditorium in the 1950s, and the seating was sold to various people. In the 1960s, the stage was divided into several rooms, and a wall was built to separate the stage from the larger seating area. In the 1990s, the former seating area was divided into two classrooms.

ALTERATIONS

Modern in 1940, the Marshfield Senior High School, now called the Marshfield Junior High School, still looks modern and sleek. Excluding the 1968, 1979 and 1993 additions attached to the north and west sides of the original Eschweiler building, the school is intact. Other than the reconfiguration of the auditorium space, the layout of the Marshfield Senior High School is almost intact. Interior finishes are largely intact. The original window openings remain, though nearly all of these have been altered by the replacement of the six-over-six windows with two single-pane glass panels and above these a third panel with opaque tan-colored panels. Classroom ceilings have been lowered as rooms were remodeled or painted. The alterations do not comprise the overall integrity of the Marshfield Senior High School, which remains very good.

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)

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.

Education

Period of Significance

1940-1954

Significant Dates

1940

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

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

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.

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Eschweiler & Eschweiler

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Marshfield Senior High School
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Marshfield Senior High School is historically significant under Criterion A. The school is an excellent, largely intact example of an educational facility designed for a variety of student and community needs, including social, vocational and academic training. The school was state-of-the-art for its time. The Marshfield Senior High School also represents the work incorporating the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles of the architectural firm Eschweiler & Eschweiler of Milwaukee. The period of significance extends from its opening in 1940 to the end of the historic period in 1954. Despite additions to the building, it retains sufficient historic integrity to represent significance in the area of education and to demonstrate the educational ideals promoted during the period of construction.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

In the time of early cultures, the site of what is now Marshfield was land where the Oneota people lived. In relatively modern times, the 1600s into the 1700s when Europeans and Native nations encountered each other, the Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk and Meskwaki nations lived in and near the city's site.⁽⁷⁾ As a settlement of white people of European background, Marshfield, sitting on the high prairie of Central Wisconsin, developed later than nearby Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, both on the Wisconsin River. Waterway and railroad developments played into the first white ownership and community building. In 1866, the new Green Bay and Mississippi Improvement Company, belonging to John Magee and Samuel Marsh, acquired ownership of the Marshfield site from the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company. The Wisconsin Territorial government had given that company 700,000 acres tax-free for ten years in exchange for creating a steamboat passage from Green Bay via the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the Mississippi River. In 1872, Samuel Marsh died, leaving his ownership share to heirs including nephew John J. Marsh. In 1871, brothers Louis and Frank Rich built from logs a combination residence, hotel, tavern and store (demolished) at what is now the northeast corner of North Chestnut Avenue and West Depot Street; their plan was to provide for railroad track-laying gangs and subsequent railroad crews and patrons. The first train entered Marshfield July 4, 1872.⁸ Thus, the community started. Formal development began in 1874 and 1875 with surveying and platting. John Marsh and J.P. Buck, once an agent for the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company, submitted the plat to the Wood County Register on September 9, 1875. Lumber mills and related businesses, and then the Marshfield Clinic (founded 1916), innovative and large, with a cooperative base, accounted for continuing economic and population change. ⁽⁸⁾

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MARSHFIELD

“What would eventually become the School District of Marshfield, comprised of seven buildings within the city limits, and two others in surrounding townships, began in the summer of 1873, when new settlers in the

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wilderness known as Marshfield realized a need for organized education for the youth of the fledgling settlement. Miss Clara Davis of Spencer was hired as the first school marm..." So began a recent (1997) modern history of education in Marshfield, Wisconsin.(9) Davis, who traveled to Marshfield on a handcar from nearby Spencer, was paid \$20 a month for a two-month school session, with the money coming from the parents of her students. Davis taught in the second-floor front room of a grocery store on the southwest corner of South Chestnut Avenue and West First Street. A public school board was organized on August 27, 1877, for the Joint School District No. 1 of the Town of Marshfield. Marshfield's first permanent school was built in the fall of 1877 a few blocks away at the northeast corner of West Third Street and South Chestnut; the site is now a parking lot for the Marshfield News-Herald newspaper. A larger school for a growing community—more than 800 people by 1881—was built in 1882 with money borrowed by the school district. T.F. Vannedom, Marshfield, planned and built the school. Surrounded by woods and at times inaccessible because of watery marshes, the school was located on Central Avenue between East 6th and 7th streets and called the Central Avenue School. The old building was sold and used later for the first city fire department headquarters. When Marshfield incorporated as a city in 1883, the first school census showed 461 children of school age, with 125 attending public school. A three-year high school was started in 1886 at the Central Avenue School. The first graduating class in 1888 included four girls and three boys.(10) Marshfield grew, school enrollment grew. In 1890, a new brick high school, the brick being Marshfield brick, as stipulated by the district board and building committee, was built on the Central Avenue School site. The three-year course of study was changed to four years. The old wood school was moved to the nearby East 2nd Street and South Maple Avenue to become city hall, a hose house for the fire department, a part-time school and location for church services and Sunday School classes for many different Christian denominations.(11)

Greater distinction and experience came to district schooling in 1895 when Allen D. Conover (1854-1929), Madison architect, was hired to plan and supervise the construction of a Fourth Ward School. At East 4th Street and South Vine Avenue, the two-story, four-room graded school was built by Thomas Wright of Marshfield and opened in February 1896. The walls were brick.

By 1898, high school enrollment was 102 pupils being instructed by three teachers. Crowding, an expected challenge for growing Wisconsin cities, resulted, and the school board voted to raise money to buy a site for a new building. Henry J. Van Ryn (1864-1951) and Gerrit de Gelleke (1872-1960), architectural partners in Milwaukee, were hired to design a high school for a site on Oak Street between West 5th and 6th streets, a place chosen because it was higher and would have good drainage. The first Van Ryn and de Gelleke plans were considered too expensive and revised. The architects were paid \$850 for their plans for supervising construction by Thomas Wright of Marshfield. In 1899, the high school course of study was changed to offer four years of Latin, one year of French and one year of history, so that graduates could better meet the requirements of the University of Wisconsin. The world for young Marshfield was becoming bigger. The new, rather grand, brick McKinley High School opened on January 29, 1900, with 120 students and four teachers. Blanche Shearer taught the new Latin, as well as German and history. Margaret Ashmun taught English and art. Born in Rural in Waupaca County, Ashmun (1875-1940) was a graduate of Stevens Point State College. After Marshfield, she

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headed the English Department at Stout Institute, Menomonie, and taught English at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from 1907-12. She then moved to New York, where her literary accomplishments included popular children's books. Among them were *No School Tomorrow* (1925), *Brenda Stays at Home* (1926) and *Susie Sugarbeet* (1930). The young Ashmun, about 25 in Marshfield, was likely inspiring for her students.(12)

The school board employed another architect of nonlocal note in 1902, when J.H. Jeffers (c. 1865-?), Wausau, was hired to plan a First Ward School on C Street, now North Oak Avenue, and West Cleveland Street. Thomas Wright of Marshfield was again the contractor. The former First Ward School building, a wood frame building, was purchased by Upham Manufacturing Company, moved and used as general offices. In 1911, Van Ryn and de Gelleke returned to Marshfield to design the brick Jefferson School, an additional elementary school on South Maple Avenue between East 10th and 11th streets. In 1918, the school board approved a new building to house a junior high school and a vocational school. The location would be the southeast corner of West Third Street and South Chestnut Avenue and the school would be named for President James A. Garfield. The Chicago architectural firm headed by Frank A. Childs (1875-1966) and William Jones Smith (1881-?) was hired—the first non-Wisconsin architects to design for the school district. Work was delayed until after World War I, however, because the War Industries Board in Washington, D.C., said it would “not look with favor upon the construction of the new school buildings until the war shall have been done.”(13) Dedicated, then, in 1920, the school was finally named for Willard D. Purdy, a World War I hero from Marshfield. Enrollment was 290 pupils in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades, and 100 in the vocational school. With the opening of the new school, regular courses in domestic and manual arts were added; special courses in music, art and physical training were offered.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

In 1936 a fiery night led, with some indirection, to the building of the new Marshfield High School. Fought for more than five hours by firefighters with overextended equipment (such as a pumper truck built to throw 750 gallons a minute supplying more than 1,000 gallons a minute). A fire on October 13, 1936, left McKinley High School “a burned out shell, smoldering for days after.”(14) One day later, district administrators located the high school students in the Purdy school, where they would stay for four years. Deliberation began on a new school site and how to pay for the building in the midst of the Great Depression. In 1937, the school board chose 17 acres of land on East 4th Street at South Palmetto Avenue.(15) The board hired Eschweiler & Eschweiler, Milwaukee, as architects.(16) Federal government funding totaling \$216,000 was sought through the Public Works Administration (PWA), but denied. The project was scaled smaller. In September 1938, PWA funds totaling \$200,000 were approved, which was about 45% of the amount needed.(17) The Marshfield Common Council authorized a \$180,000 bond issue, plus insurance payments of \$82,500 from the McKinley High School fire and short term notes to cover the remaining \$18,000. In November 1938, project bids were opened. A front-page newspaper story reported that W.C. Smith, Inc., Duluth, Minnesota was the low bidder.(18) Construction began with excavation on December 5, 1938, and continued into the spring of 1940

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when the public saw their new building during an open house March 16 and 17. The final cost was \$428,585.94, according to ledgers of the Eschweiler architectural firms, now at the Wisconsin Architectural Archives in Milwaukee.(19) Five hundred and sixty students moved from Purdy to the new Senior High School Building, leaving 295 junior pupils, 70 vocational students, and 40 students in the School for the Deaf at Purdy. The district later received a \$127,637 Works Progress Administration grant for landscaping the high school grounds. This covered an underground water supply for flooding two hockey rinks, hidden sprinklers for a football field, tennis courts, and, with Chicago landscape architect Robert Bruce Harris as planner, pools, flower beds, trees and bushes.(20) Old McKinley High School survived, in a material, though somewhat abstract, sense, with the reuse of its bricks in 1941 for a new football stadium next to the new school. These resources are not included in the nomination because many of them have been altered since their construction.

The building was intended to provide spaces for all the needs of a high school in a small city surrounded by farms in the early 1940s. Basement rooms were for agriculture and music; first-floor rooms for bookkeeping, mathematics, typewriting, shorthand and other classes on the first floor, as well as offices for the principal, dean of women and nurse; second-floor rooms for various classes and art—including a pottery kiln; third-floor rooms for chemistry, physics, biology, sewing and home economics with stainless steel table tops and counters, and a kitchen and cafeteria.

All this was in keeping with education trends of the near-mid-20th century. As Alice Barrow of the Office of Education of the Federal Security Agency wrote in 1939, in a book *Public Buildings, a Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration*: “Because of the complex conditions of modern life it is necessary to give children a much richer and more varied educational program than formerly in order that they may develop the intelligence and resourcefulness to meet the conditions of a changing civilization.”(21) Barrow noted that “changes in curriculum are reflected in a demand for buildings that contain not only classrooms but auditoriums, gymnasiums, music rooms, art rooms of various types, science laboratories, libraries, shops, home economics, and sewing rooms.” Barrows reviewed 1,965 completed school buildings for which Public Works Administration (PWA) grants were used, with a total of \$113,155,766 being provided in PWA grants and loans each year between 1934-38. Particular concerns for her were gymnasiums and auditoriums. About gymnasiums, Barrows said, “...it is desirable to place the gymnasium toward the rear of the building so that there may be easy access to the playground which is usually behind the building.” For auditoriums, she found it essential to consider the use of this space. Barrows noted that the modern auditorium was a different space than the earlier “assembly hall where the whole school met in the morning for opening exercises.” Rather, the modern school program, she said, would not need such a large auditorium. Indeed, such a space, “actually prevents the planning of the kind of auditorium needed for both school and community use.”

The Marshfield Senior High School met the needs outlined by Alice Barrows. A large practice gymnasium was located at the rear of the building.(22) High school team indoor games with other schools would continue to be in the Purdy gymnasium. Adjacent to or near the gymnasium were locker rooms, conveniently positioned for

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the new stadium nearby, as well as "corrective" gymnasiums for "those students unable to participate in the regular gym classes because of some physical handicap." An auditorium was included at the front of the building, with its own entrance for ticket sales and patron admission. This space seated about 250 persons, and was not "intended for use as an assembly room, but rather as a place for debates, speech contests, plays given by school groups and other similar functions." Other progressive functions of the building have been described generally and specifically elsewhere in this section and in the introduction for this nomination.

Some eight years after students were welcomed to the building, in a high school yearbook dedicated to the "Era of Atomic Energy" with potential "vast for both better and worse," the young building was evident in its daily uses.(23) The yearbook, the *Tiger*, for 1948, was described as "an atomic yearbook!" A guidance counselor is shown meeting with mothers and students about "the problems of baby-sitters." The Latin Club has 31 members. "Scientists of Tomorrow" are at work in the third-floor laboratories. Young women are preparing and eating lunch in a home economics kitchen. The Future Farmers of America has 68 members. Woodworkers make furniture in the basement workshops. Boys wrestle in the practice gymnasium. Cast members are on stage in the auditorium in the senior play "New Fires." Written beneath students in graduation robes leaving the school's main entrance, the final words in the *Tiger* are: "Education is the golden key to open the door to a profitable and sane atomic future."

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL: FUNCTIONAL, NAME CHANGES

In 1964, school Superintendent Donald K. Dean told the school board "the time is ripe for a new building." He meant a new high school. John J. Flad and Associates, Madison, was chosen as architect in 1965. The Flad and Associates building was completed in 1968.

The former Senior High School became the Junior High School in 1968, following an addition and remodeling costing \$350,359.08. Flad and Associates designed this addition, which included four classrooms and a lecture hall at the north end of the building and a music room, choral room and music practice rooms by the original gymnasium.(24) An elevator was added to the Junior High School in 1979. The architect for the elevator enclosure was O'Donnell Silberman Associates of Marshfield. In 1992, the school board approved borrowing \$2.9 million for a 30-classroom addition to the new Senior High School and an addition. The addition permitted the removal of ninth grade students from the Junior High. The Junior High School was enlarged again in 1993, with the addition of a cafeteria and restrooms near the original gymnasium. This addition was designed by Bray Associates Architects of Sheboygan.(25) It is presently called the Marshfield Middle School.

ARCHITECTURE

The Marshfield Senior High School is an example of the Art Deco style and was state-of-the-art for its time. The school is the work of a "master" architectural firm in Wisconsin, Eschweiler & Eschweiler of Milwaukee. *Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin* (Wyatt), discusses the elements associated with the style. The

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Marshfield Senior High School
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associated Art Moderne, elements of which are also seen in the building's design, are discussed as well. (26) Elements of these stylistic influences may be seen in the inset metal panels and in the treatment of the main entry and of the tower. The Marshfield high school is essentially a horizontal building, and the materials include glass block-filled window openings, metal trim around windows and doors, and terra cotta motif pieces.

The Eschweiler family of architects was one of the preeminent architectural firms in Wisconsin in the 20th century.(27) The firm's founder was Alexander C. (Chadbourne) Eschweiler (1865-1940), born in Boston, Massachusetts. Alexander (his first name being used to avoid confusion with his sons) grew up in the copper-rich Upper Peninsula of Michigan; his father, Carl Eschweiler, was a mining engineer born in Germany and trained at the University of Bonn. In 1882 when Alexander was 17, the family moved to Milwaukee, and the youth attended Marquette Academy. He worked as a clerk and draftsman. In 1886, at 21, Alexander entered Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, to study architecture. With Charles Babcock continuing as dean since the School of Architecture was started in 1871, the Cornell curriculum was based on the (John) Ruskin notion that "before an architect can become a true artist, he must be a master of the art of building and a man of science."(28) Considering Ruskin being English and the appearance of buildings by Cornell professors, the preferred style was European referential. After graduating in 1890, Alexander returned to Milwaukee and employment by H.C. Koch & Co., whose designs referenced European styles. In 1893 Alexander won a design competition for buildings at Milwaukee Downer College competition—early work with schools—and opened his own office. Unlike Wright and his influence on and affinity for progressive architecture, conservatively—popularly—educated Alexander Eschweiler worked in period styles with influences from England and Continental Europe. He and his wife Marie had nine children, three daughters who died as infants and three who survived, Hannah, Elizabeth and Francesca, and three sons, Alexander C. Jr. (1893-1951), Carl F. (1894-1971) and Theodore L. (1895-1966). The sons were all sent to Cornell to study architecture. In 1923, the three young men joined their father and the firm name was changed to Eschweiler & Eschweiler. They bought a three-story building, which was originally a house, at 720 East Mason Street (1892, demolished) in Milwaukee and after remodeling design by Alexander Jr. moved their office there. The street level was for shops, the second floor for offices and meeting rooms, the third for drafting. The firm prospered. In the mid-1930s, according to his grandson Thomas Eschweiler, keeper of the Eschweiler papers and materials at the Wisconsin Architectural Archives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Alexander had several strokes in the mid-1930s, and with his imperfect health, he became less active in the firm. In the later 1930s Alexander seldom visited the Mason Street office.(29) Alexander Jr. and the very social Theodore (Ted), who were rather competitive with each other, functioned as full project managers and the more aesthetic Carl as a designer. Increasingly, they left their father's older idioms behind. "They are not operating in a design vacuum," said Thomas Eschweiler about his father and uncles. Modernism arrived at Eschweiler & Eschweiler. The progressive direction of the firm clearly shows in photos of buildings in *50 Years of Architecture*, a book published in 1943 to observe the first half century of Eschweiler architecture.(30)

By the time the Eschweiler brothers obtained the Marshfield Senior High School contract, they regarded a school project as a "god-send," said Thomas Eschweiler. Excepting government-sponsored work and what the

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wealthy could do, the Great Depression had shrouded architects. One year in the early 1930s, total Eschweiler & Eschweiler income was \$379. Thomas accompanied his father, Alexander Jr., to Marshfield for senior high school bid openings; he remembers driving in a snowstorm. Once acquired, the brothers handled the project in their typical office way. They met and agreed on a solution. They would then give the project to office designers. The plans would eventually be sent to Charles S. Whitney (1892-?) for structural engineering; the offices for his business, separate but consistently used by the Eschweilers, had a third-floor connection to the Eschweiler offices.

The design work for the Marshfield Senior High School was by Anthony Wuchterl, Edward F. Bernard, Herbert Bradley and Elmer Louis Scharpf. The plans are carefully dated, with credits for drawing, tracing and checking; the credits are by first and last initials of the person responsible, and these initials have been identified by full name at the Wisconsin Architectural Archives. The front elevation, with accommodation for a shorter building depending on funds, was drawn by Wuchterl and dated October 21, 1937, with revisions December 6, 1937, and November 1, 1938. The tower (same dates as front elevation) was drawn by Wuchterl and traced by Bernard. Basement and first-floor lighting plans (November 1, 1938) are by Bernard and Bradley. Bernard and Bradley also did the site plan (November 1, 1938). Library furniture dated March 13, 1939, was drawn by Wuchterl, traced by Scharpf and checked by Carl Eschweiler.(31)

Especially fine in this collaborative project are presentation drawings by Wuchterl. A 1937 pencil drawing, done before detailed working materials, shows the dominating tower from an undomineering vantage. Three adults, a woman and a couple, are at the landscaped entrance, which appears as a block with recessed elements encouraging entry. The words HIGH SCHOOL are above the doors and paired eagles above the words. Above the block a more lightly sketched bay window suggests continued thrust up. Unlike this drawing, the completed building bears the words SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL and there is one eagle.(32) A second Wuchterl drawing is in *50 Years of Architecture*.(33) The perspective here is farther away, with students talking in shadows in front of the entrance and the tower above fully sunlit. Wuchterl's rendering is romantic and evocative. He was "farmed out" for drawing to other architects in Milwaukee, said Thomas Eschweiler. Wuchterl was active in the Milwaukee community and in early historic preservation and research in Wisconsin, as evidenced by a 1943 exhibition of his photos at the Art Institute of Chicago and a 1950 mention in the Wisconsin Magazine of History.

The Eschweiler architectural practice ended in 1975 after several name changes, the last being Eschweiler & Schneider. The Eschweiler drawings and files went to the Wisconsin Architectural Archives, which was started from proceeds of the sale of the 720 East Mason Street building which had been owned by Theodore and then his wife who sold it.

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CONCLUSION

The Marshfield High School represents the tremendous changes taking place in the modern high school curriculum in the 1930s. New, large high schools were constructed that contained specialized classrooms for teaching specific subjects, and included gymnasiums, libraries and auditoriums as part of the plan. The planned observatory further demonstrates the growing interest in science education. The large, modern high school could accommodate the needs of a diverse student population – both those preparing for higher education and those planning to pursue careers in farming and industry. The nominated school represents Marshfield's continued interest in keeping up with its growing population and in providing modern learning facilities for its students. The Marshfield Senior High School conforms to the ideals set forth by the PWA of a school that addressed the "complex conditions of modern life" and permitted students to "develop the intelligence and resourcefulness to meet the conditions of a changing civilization" with facilities for all important aspects of education, including science, art, music, shop, agriculture, home economics, as well as for recreation and dramatics.

Footnotes

- 1 Wyatt, 2-35.
- 2 Original plans, 1937-39. Wisconsin Architectural Archives.
- 3 Marshfield News-Herald, March 15, 1940, pages 7-12.
- 4 Marshfield News-Herald, March 15, 1940, page 8.
- 5 *50 Years of Architecture*, unnumbered pages.
- 6 Historic Preservation Association of Marshfield, interviews. Marshfield residents believe the telescope was either not powerful enough or there was too much city light for effective viewing. They have heard that the intended instrument is in use in Madison, Wisconsin.
- 7 Crews-Nelson and others. Bieder.
- 8 Bernstein, page 1 and following. In her research, Bernstein drew on Marshfield, *Wisconsin, Highlights of History, 1872-1972* (Marshfield, Wisconsin, 1972), and *History of Northern Wisconsin, An Account of its Settlement, Growth, Development, and Resources, an Extensive Sketch of its Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages* (Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1881); reprinted in 1988, The Ralph W. Secord Press, Iron Mountain, Michigan).
- 9 Meyers, page 1. In the spring of 2004, the Marshfield School District included eight locations inside Marshfield and one rural elementary school.
- 10 Photo, Marshfield News-Herald, March 15, 1940, page 9. The photo provided by Mrs. Reuben A. Connor, Auburndale, shows seven graduates: Dora Olin, Bessie Hatteberg, Joseph Stierle, Herman Brooks, Klara Hatteberg, Frank Hinman and May Robinson. Meyers misses Robinson in his history, but does say the class "included" the other six, rather than consisted of the six.
- 11 Meyers, subsequent pages.
- 12 Wales, page 1, following. Though Ashmun moved to New York, she kept her home in Rural and spent some winters in Madison. She traveled "abroad."
- 13 Meyers, unnumbered page.
- 14 Marshfield News-Herald, "Senior High School Destroyed by Fire Last Evening; Loss Is Nearly \$100,000," October 14, 1936, page 1. Aucutt, Van Ryn.

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Continuation Sheet**

Marshfield Senior High School
Wood County, Wisconsin

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- 15 Meyers, unnumbered page.
- 16 Marshfield News-Herald, "Architect to Plan School," April 15, 1937, page 1.
- 17 Marshfield News-Herald, "New High School Grant of \$216,000 Approved Today," September 15, 1938, Also, Marshfield News-Herald, March 15, 1940, page 7.
- 18 Marshfield News-Herald, "Award Contracts for Senior High School; Low Bids Total \$367,920," November 23, 1938, page 1.
- 19 Eschweiler ledgers: Marshfield Senior High School, PWA Project No. 1504, Job No. 1179, December 1938, page 139, Wisconsin Architectural Archives.
- 20 "Landscaping of School Grounds Is WPA Project," Marshfield News-Herald, March 15 1940, page 7. Designer Harris is most known for his golf courses. Harris was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's founding in 1946 ("Architects' Corner: the Point People in Golf," The Wire, February 3, 2003).
- 21 Short and Brown, see Barrows, pages XVIII-XXII.
- 22 Marshfield News-Herald, March 15, 1940, pages 7-12.
- 23 Tiger, page 3, elsewhere.
- 24 Rodenbeck interview.
- 25 Rodenbeck.
- 26 Wyatt. 2-35.
- 27 Eschweiler family history sources: "An Era of Eschweilers," Milwaukee, September 1968. Nomination, North Point North Historic District. Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee Sentinel, January 27 and 29, 1994. Milwaukee City Directory, 1885: The listing for Alexander Eschweiler as a clerk for an unspecified employer. The 1885 directory shows 18 architects; among them is H.C. Koch, and considering that Eschweiler worked for Koch after graduating from Cornell University, it's likely he worked for Koch before going to Cornell.
- 28 Cornell University architecture on-line.
- 29 Thomas Eschweiler interview. Firm workings comments here are from the interview.
- 30 *50 Years of Architecture*.
- 31 Wuchterl from Eschweiler plans.
- 32 *Tiger* yearbook, 1948.
- 33 *50 Years of Architecture*, pages unnumbered.

____ End of Statement of Significance

Marshfield Senior High School
Name of Property

Wood County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1 15 724746 4948932
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald Michael Aucutt
organization Water Street Words
street & number 413 Jackson Street
city or town Sauk City

state WI

date May 3, 2004
telephone 608 643 0113
zip code 53583

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Marshfield Senior High School
Wood County, Wisconsin

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Marshfield Senior High School
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End of References

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Section 10 Page 1

Marshfield Senior High School
Wood County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are a portion of the legal description for the entire Marshfield Senior High School (now Middle School) property, provided by City of Marshfield Assessor's Office: ALL OF LOT 14, SUBD OF BLK 222, & LOTS 1 & 2, BLK S, LYG NLY OF 8TH ST, EXC THE W 55' OF E 205' OF N 368' OF LOT 2, & EXC E 150' OF LOT 2 BLK S.

The site basically follows South Palmetto Avenue between East 5th and 6th streets. Starting on South Palmetto Avenue at its intersection with East 5th Street, 434 feet south just past the intersection of Palmetto and East 6th Street, then turning east for 433 feet along the south end of the school, then turning north for 190 feet at the back of the gym, then turning west for 171 ½ feet, then turning north along the rear parking lot for 244 feet, then turning west again toward Palmetto and back to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes the school and its immediate surroundings. The other portions of the school parcel are not included in the nomination.

Marshfield Senior High School
Name of Property

Wood Wisconsin
County and State

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	Marshfield School District	date	
organization	Central Office	telephone	715 387 1101
street&number	1010 East Fourth Street	zip code	54449
city or town	Marshfield	state	WI

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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Marshfield Senior High School
Wood County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 1

 Insert Photo Descriptions

Photo 1 of 8

Marshfield Senior High School, Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

Photo by Donald M. Aucutt, April 2004

Negative on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society

View of the west-facing (front façade), looking east.

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

Photo 2 of 8

Close-up the main entrance tower with 1979 elevator enclosure (left).

Photo 3 of 8

View of the west-facing façade—academic wing.

Photo 4 of 8

View of the west-facing façade and 1968 addition, looking southeast.

Photo 5 of 8

View of the east-facing façade and 1968 addition (right) and 1993 addition (left, one-story), looking south.

Photo 6 of 8

View of the east-facing façade, looking southwest.

Photo 7 of 8

Close-up of the east-facing façade.

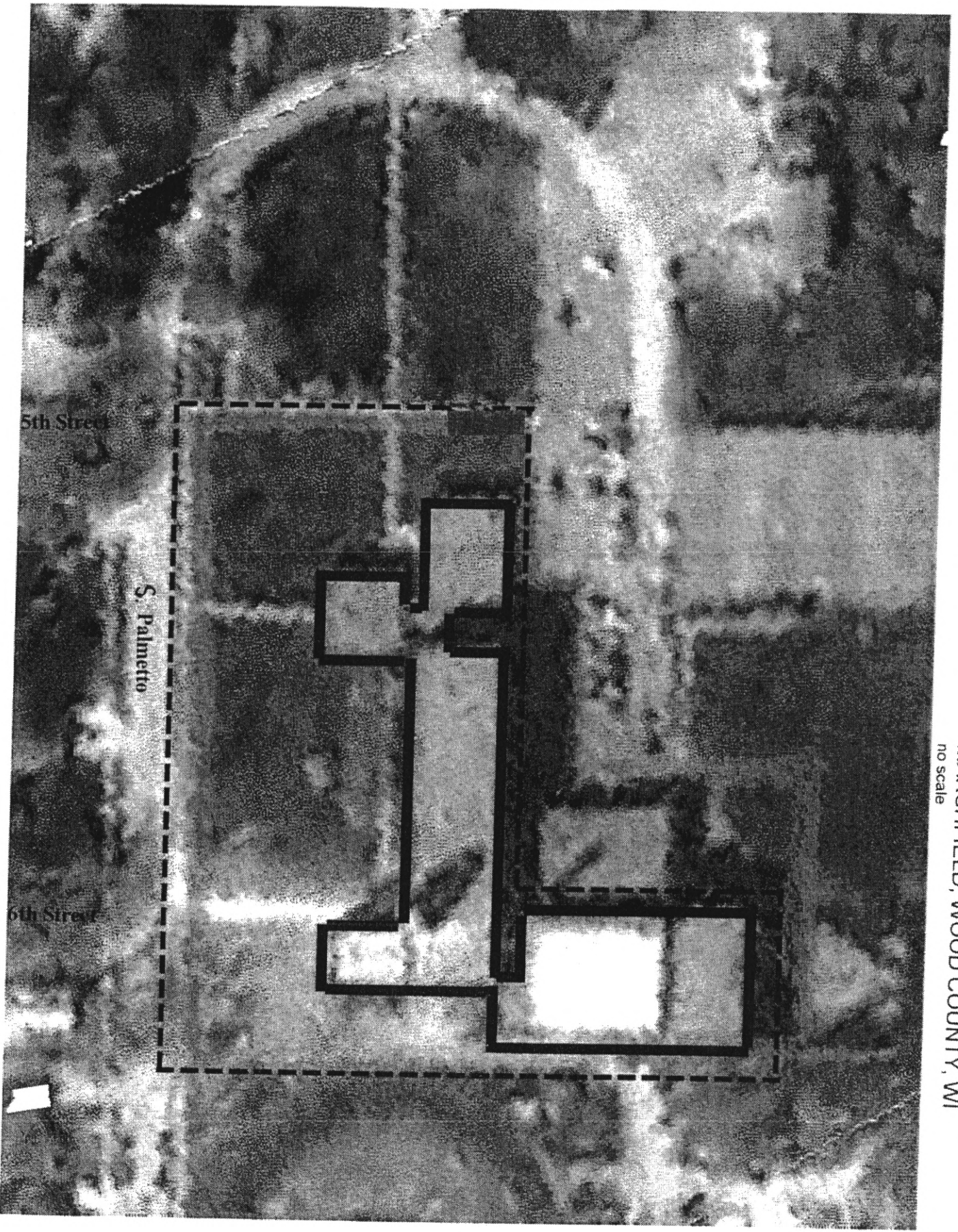
Photo 8 of 8

View of the south-facing façade and 1993 addition (right), looking north.

 End of Photo Descriptions

MARSHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MARSHFIELD, WOOD COUNTY, WI
no scale

East



Dotted
line =
site
bound-
ary.

Thick
line =
building
outline.
North

5th Street

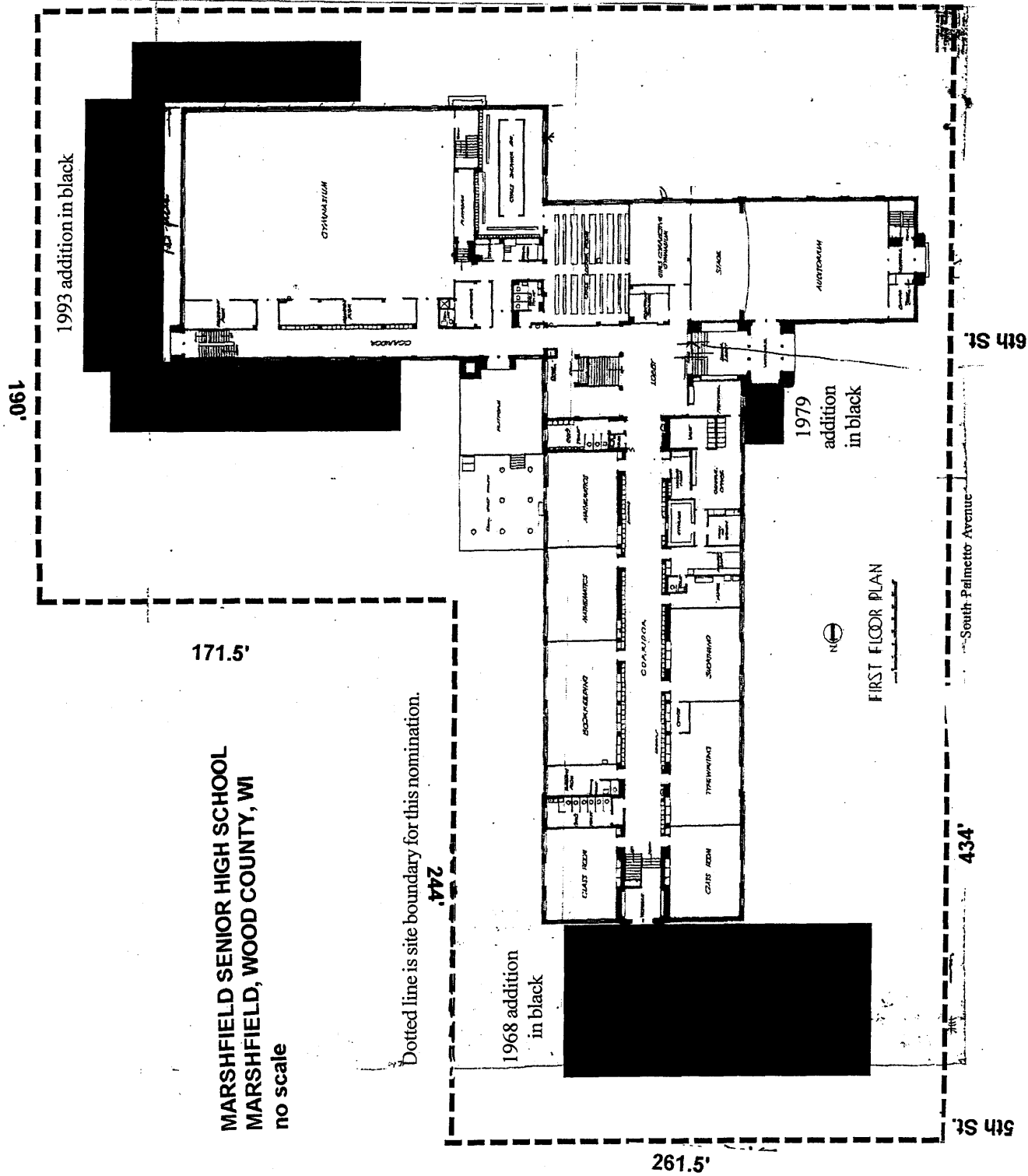
S. Palmetto

6th Street

West

**MARSHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MARSHFIELD, WOOD COUNTY, WI
no scale**

Dotted line is site boundary for this nomination.



North

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

5th St.

434'

South Palmetto Avenue

6th St.

433

190'

1993 addition in black

171.5'

244'

1968 addition in black

1979 addition in black

261.5'