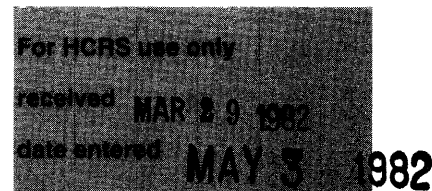


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Emerson School

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1100 Sylvania Avenue NA not for publication

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson County Board of Education

street & number 3332 Newburg Road

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County (Ky.) Courthouse

street & number 531 W. Jefferson Street

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Heritage Division, Kentucky Arts Commission

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance Emerson School is located at the corner of Sylvia and Hickory Streets in the heart of the Schnitzelburg neighborhood, about three miles southeast of downtown Louisville. The area around the school is residential in character. Rows of modest, neatly-kept shotgun homes line the shady streets. A block away, on Burnett Street, is the other major institutional building in Schnitzelburg, St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church.

Emerson School, built in 1904, features a variety of exterior finishes that is typical of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The raised, limestone basement level is pierced by small, rectangular windows. Brick laid in a banding pattern characterizes the first floor, contrasting with the smooth surface of the upper story. Greater contrast is offered by the fact that the first-floor windows are flat-arched, with brick voussoirs, while the openings above are round-arched and capped by stone hood molds which spring from brick pilasters. All the windows are tall and narrow, with six-over-six sash lights. Terra cotta string courses in egg-and-dart motif run above both stories.

There are two principle facades. The northeast, or Sylvia Street, facade is symmetrical, consisting of a slightly projecting, pedimented entry pavilion, flanked by four windows on either side. The round-arched, ground-level entrance is framed by a pedimented stone surround. Glass-paned double doors are flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom. Above the entry is an oversized, round-arched window flanked by a pair of smaller, arched openings. The shallow pediment crowning the roofline contains a circular vent.

The Hickory Street facade on the northwest is also symmetrical and features a pedimented entry bay. This entrance is elliptical, flanked by smooth stone pilasters and capped by a denticulated cornice. A multi-pane fanlight caps the doorway, which has been somewhat altered. A wide, frame cornice encircling the structure is unadorned. The hipped, metal roof is intact.

A large, two-story brick addition dating from 1923 faces Hickory Street to the southwest of the original section. A pilastered, double door entry is topped by a stone cornice embellished with dentils. Above, a tripartite window is set in an Art Deco-style stone surround. The other windows in both stories are straight-arched, with brick voussoirs and pronounced keystones. The main cornice line and string courses of the original building are continued in the addition. The two structures are joined by a two-story passageway.

At the rear of the original building, a long basement-level corridor leads to a brick boiler house at the rear of the property. These structures are included in this nomination as additions to the original school.

The lot where the school stands is grassy on the Sylvia and Hickory Streets sides and paved in the rear.

There are also a number of "portable" classrooms on the lot which are not included in the nomination.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | |

Specific dates 1904; 1923 **Builder/Architect** Thomas and Bohne

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Emerson School is one of the finest examples of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in Louisville. The city boasts only a handful of institutional structures in this style, most notable among them St. Martin's Parochial School (1896) and the Shelby Park Branch Library (1911; National Register--December 1980). Downtown Louisville has no major buildings designed in this style. Emerson is the work of the distinguished local firm of Thomas and Bohne.

The school was completed in 1904 and opened the same year under the name of Sylvia Street School. Four years later, it became known as the John Hoertz School for a member of the school board. In March of 1911, following a board ruling prohibiting a school from bearing the name of a living person, it was renamed for Ralph Waldo Emerson after a vote of the student body. Since 1975, Emerson has housed the Teenage Parent Program, a model project which combines medical care and social services with a regular high school curriculum.

Thomas and Bohne, successors to the firm of Drach and Thomas, were also responsible for the design of the Crescent Hill Branch Library (1908), Longfellow and St. Vincent DePaul schools, and Firehouse #21 (1907-08). The 1923 addition was probably the work of the architect of the school board, J. Meyrick Colley. It provided five additional classrooms and a combination gymnasium/auditorium facility for the school.

Emerson School is a significant example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in the city. It has been both an aesthetic and educational asset to the Schnitzelburg neighborhood for three-quarters of a century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville, 1902-1912.
 "Children Gave Name to this School." Louisville Post, 27 March 1923.
 13th Report of the Board of Education of Louisville, Kentucky (1924).
 Emerson School Cornerstone.

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Louisville East Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A | <u>1 6</u> | <u>6 1 0 3 2 0</u> | <u>4 2 3 0 9 2 0</u> | B | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing | | | |
| C | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | D | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| E | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | F | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| G | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | H | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the southern corner of Hickory and Sylvia streets, thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeast right-of-way line of Hickory Street 195 feet to a point, thence in a southeasterly direction and parallel to Sylvia Street 223 feet to a point, (see continuation sheet)

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

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------|--------|------|
| state | <u>NA</u> | code | county | code |
| state | | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh Foshee / Architectural Historian
 organization Louisville Landmarks Commission date August 1981
 street & number 727 W. Main Street telephone (502) 587-3501
 city or town Louisville state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Mary Gorman Spigel*
 title SHPO date 3/11/82

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
| <u>William H. Braman</u> | date <u>5.3.82</u> |
| Keeper of the National Register | |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| |
|------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

Emerson School
1100 Sylvania Street
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

thence in a northeasterly direction and parallel to Hickory Street
193 feet to a point in the southwest right-of-way line of Sylvania Street,
thence in a northwesterly direction along said line 225 feet to the
beginning, being part of Lot 162, Block 24-G of the City of Louisville.
(See Sanborne Map, Map #2.)

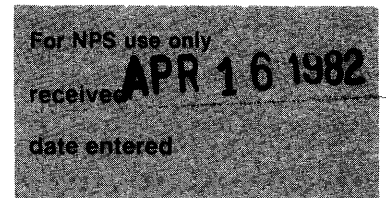
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Emerson School, Louisville

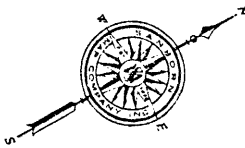
Continuation sheet Jefferson County

Item number 10



Page 3

The area nominated includes only the original school building, the 1923 addition and the attached boiler house. The several detached "portable" buildings on the school property are not within the described boundary.



HOERTZ AV.

MORGAN

1388

761

SCHOOL

SCHOOL (A.C.)
P.P. BUILT 1905
WOOD SHED
SCHOOL

ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH
1000

CHURCH
STEEL TRUSS BY
WALLS PILASTERED

CONVENT

PARKING

AV.

HICKORY

HICKORY

HICKORY

SYLVIA

E. BURNETT AV.

EMERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL

1387

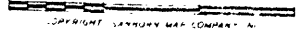
1386

MORGAN

TEXAS AV.

E. BURNETT AV.

SCALE OF FEET



COPYRIGHT LATHROP MAP COMPANY '24

643

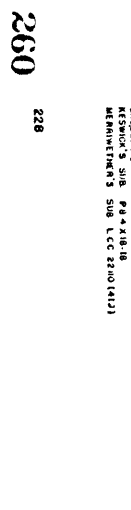
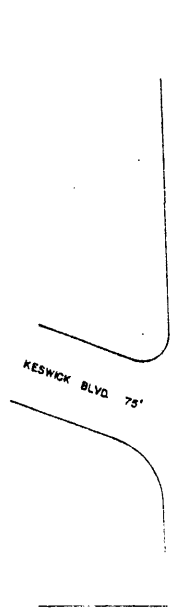
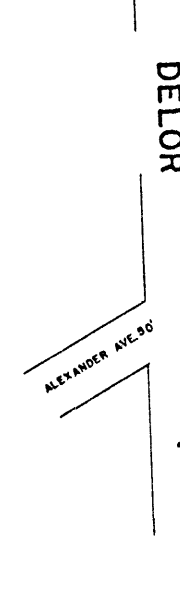
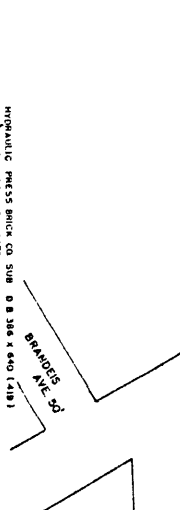
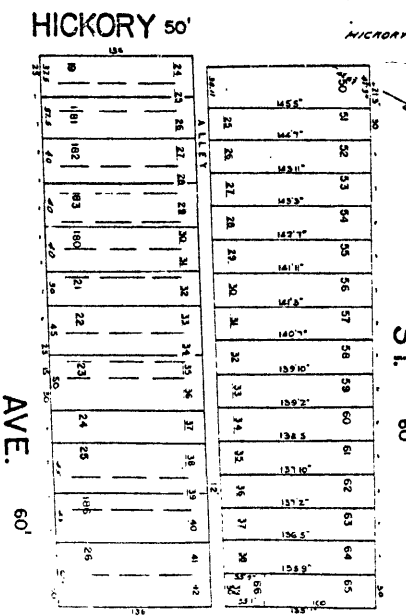
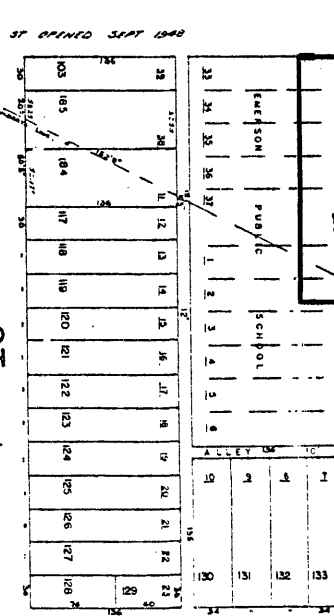
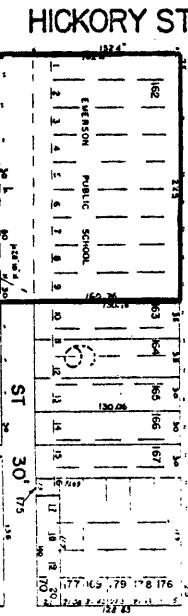
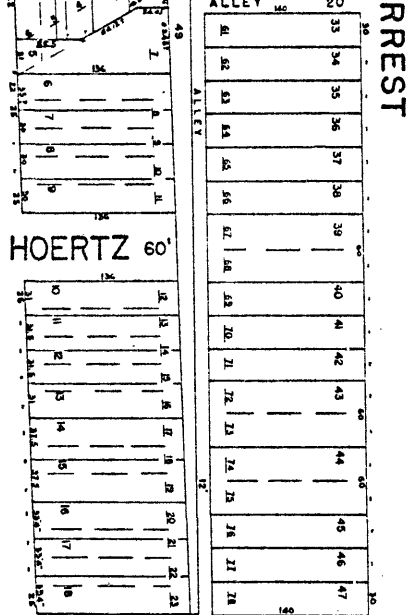
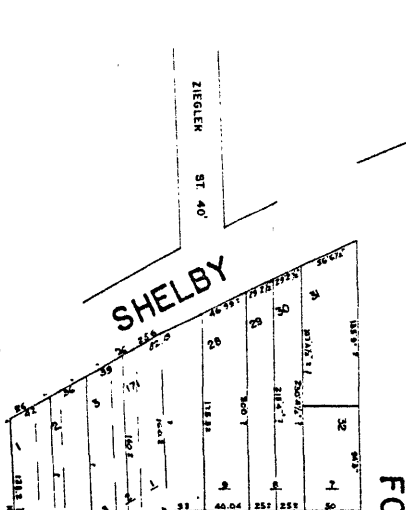
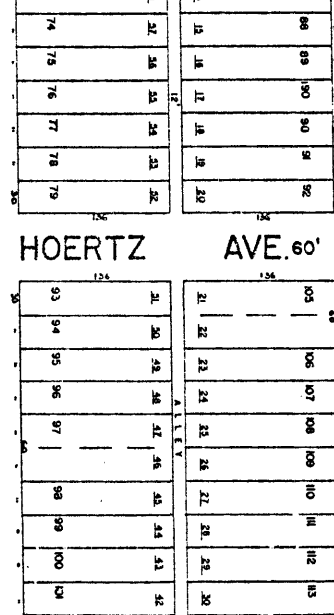
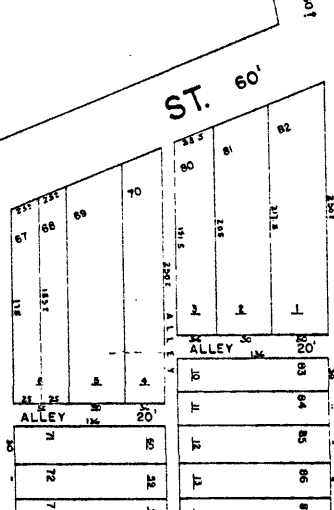
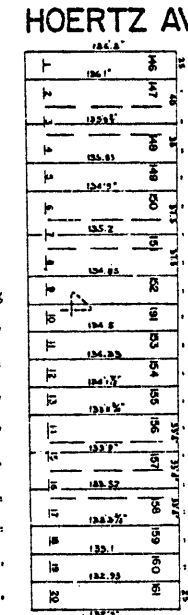
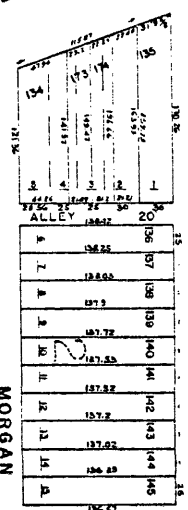
Emerson School
Louisville, Jefferson Co.,
Kentucky

Sanborn Map Co. (1974)
Pelham, New York

Map 2. Sanborn Map, vol. 6,
p. 634-35.

1" = 100 feet.

Nominated area shown in black.



HYDRAULIC PRESS BRICK CO. SUB. 0.8 388 x 840 (418)
RESMICK'S SUB. P4-41818
MEMPHIS' SUB. L.C.C. 2200(412)

BRANDIS AVE. 50'

ALEXANDER AVE. 50'

KESWICK BLVD. 75'

TEXAS

Emerson School
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Ky.
Jefferson County Real Estate
Atlas (1968)
Map 3. Real Estate Atlas