

PS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8/86)  
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)  
Approved 3/87



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Willard D. Purdy Junior High and Vocational School  
other names/site number Purdy School

2. Location:

Street & number: 110 West Third Street N/A Not for Publication  
city, town: Marshfield N/A vicinity  
state: Wisconsin code WI county Wood code 141 zip code 54449

3. Classification

Ownership of property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.    See continuation sheet.

*[Signature]* 7/27/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
   See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

**Entered in the  
National Register**

entered in the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet

*[Signature]* 9/8/92

   determined eligible for the National Register.    See continuation sheet

   determined not eligible for the National Register.

   removed from the National Register.

   other, (explain:)

*[Signature]*     
Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

Education/School vacant/not in use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

x See continuation sheet

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Section 7. Architectural Description.

The Purdy School occupies the west half of the block between Central and Chestnut Avenue and Third and Fourth streets immediately adjacent to the downtown commercial district. This three story brick building is marked by towers on each of the street elevations. In a modified "E" plan, the original 1919-20 ten-bay by five-bay section of the building is the northern block. The rest of the building was added in 1926-27, making the total building ten bays by twenty-four bays.

The modified "E" plan is created by the 1920 original block on the north, the 1926-27 block-long classroom and corridor axis on the west, the 1926-27 gymnasium/auditorium on the south, and the 1926-27 manual training area in the center protruding from the classroom-corridor axis to the east. The center wing (manual training area) is connected by the coal room at its north east corner to the original block, but is free standing for sixty feet beyond the coal room (see plans in appendix).

Purdy School's vertical emphasis is derived from details rather than massing. Although the school is three stories high, its extreme width (a full city block) negates its height. Verticality is developed through protruding towers, buttresses, and slightly arched third story window sash, rather than the flat headed sash on the first and second stories.

The windows are housed in simple openings with lintels delineated by darker brick, and simple narrow limestone sills. On the north, west, and east elevations, original windows are paired six over six double hung wood sash topped by fixed sash three light transoms. On the north elevation the windows on the second and third stories have been replaced with smaller windows in metal panels. Random other windows throughout the building have received the same treatment. On the south elevation, the fenestration pattern is less regular, and includes pairs and triples of six over six double hung wood sash (with no fixed sash above) and tall nine over nine over nine fixed sash window on the third story auditorium. The east elevation of the classroom/corridor section has windows in only three bays.

The manual training wing has no decorative details. The windows, multi-pane metal sash in large square openings, are different form any in the main block. They are located in five bays on the north and south elevations. The east elevation is three irregular bays, consisting of two metal doors flanking a window.

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Two oriel windows outlined with limestone tabbing accent the second story of the original block. Entrance towers project from the wall surface and rise above the cornice of the rest of the building. Louvered vents accent the top of the towers. Narrow windows are located in the shaft of the tower. The main entrances are recessed in the base of the tower, and are highlighted by a decorative limestone Gothic surround with label mould arches and stone tabbing.

Gothic-inspired detail is concentrated in the entrances' shallow lancet arches and biomorphic spandrel panels, in panels in the towers, in the trim around protruding bay windows, in the buttresses at the building corners and sides of towers, in the crest design along the cornice and above the main doors, in the lintels above the louvered vents in the towers, and in the castellated tower rooflines.

The first floor contains nine classrooms, two opportunity rooms, a restroom, two locker rooms, an equipment room, the gymnasium, a wood working shop, a metal shop and the coal room. The second floor is "C" shaped in plan, as the manual training area is only one story. The second floor contains four classrooms, four general offices, the main office, the library, the study hall, the art room, a rest room, and the second floor of the gymnasium - defined by the suspended track circling the room. The third floor is also "C" shaped in plan. It contains seven class rooms, a commercial room, a shorthand room, a sewing room, two kitchens, a music room, and the auditorium with a stage and balcony. Contemporary importance given to the inclusion of a gymnasium and auditorium in the 1926-27 addition is indicative of the significance of those spaces.

The school has maple floors in the classrooms, terazzo floors in the vestibule, primarily plastered walls, oak trim in most of the major rooms, painted pine or fir in the service and utility rooms. Each of the classrooms is equipped with a built-in bookshelf and blackboards. The circulation areas are decorated with wainscoting. The Art Room and the Music Room have large built-in storage cases with glass and wood doors. The Art Room cases have storage drawers below the cases. The ornamental iron railings in the stairways are in tact.

The building exterior has not been changed significantly since construction. Some windows have been replaced - presumably for energy efficiency. The replaced windows do not affect the Collegiate Gothic character of the building. While some deterioration and reversable partitioning have affected the interior, very few changes have occurred inside the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
1919-1927

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Childs, Frank; Childs & Smith, Chicago  
Parkinson & Dockendorff, LaCrosse

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

x See continuation sheet

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Section 8. Statement of Significance.

**Summary of Significance**

This property is locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. It is a good representative example of Collegiate Gothic architecture and the only building of this style in downtown Marshfield. Constructed in 1919-20, and 1926-27, the Purdy School is the oldest school in Marshfield retaining its historic form. It is also one of the earliest known Wisconsin commissions by architect Frank A. Childs of Chicago, and an excellent representation of the ability of the architectural firm of Parkinson and Dockendorff to design in Period Revival styles. The period of significance dates from the beginning of construction in 1919 to the completion of the addition in 1927.

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**Historical Background**

Construction of the Willard D. Purdy Junior High and Vocational School was approved at an annual Marshfield school district meeting held on July 1, 1918. By a vote of 58 to 3, voters accepted the recommendation of the school board to bond the school district for \$60,000 toward the erection of a new school to ease overcrowding.<sup>1</sup> On July 10, the school board authorized the purchase of the Hatteberg property, which included a large dwelling, on lots 1, 2, and 3 of block 80 on the corner of West Third and Chestnut Streets for the building site.<sup>2</sup> In April, the school board considered and authorized the purchase of lot 4 of block 80 belonging to Dr. Doege, one of the Marshfield Clinic founders.<sup>3</sup> Construction was delayed until the end of World War I.

In a public notice to contractors dated February 11, 1919, Frank A. Childs of Childs & Smith of Chicago, was identified as the architect for the new school.<sup>4</sup> He used the popular Collegiate Gothic Style as the embellishment to an otherwise simple brick building. Seventeen construction bids were received by the due date of March 15, 1919.<sup>5</sup> Successful bidders were Krasin Brothers of Marshfield, general construction at \$52,200; American Foundry and Heating Company of Milwaukee, heating and ventilating, \$9,125; Leo J. Leitz of Marshfield, plumbing, \$3,359; and Johnson's Electric Shop of Marshfield, wiring and electrical work, \$1,375.<sup>6</sup>

Chocolate-colored rough-textured brick made at the Marshfield Brick and Tile Company was used for the body of the school. In June of 1919, Louis Hartl, president of the Marshfield Brick and Tile Company, decided to install three new kilns to double the output of the plant from about 15,000 to 30,000 bricks per day. According to local newspapers, the company's bricks were growing in popularity, and the company's

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<sup>1</sup>Marshfield News, July 4, 1918.

<sup>2</sup>Loren H. Dressendorf, A History of Marshfield, Wisconsin Schools, A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, University of Wisconsin, 1924.

<sup>3</sup>Marshfield Times, April 19, 1919, p.2.

<sup>4</sup>Marshfield News, February 27, 1919.

<sup>5</sup>Marshfield News, February 27, 1919.

<sup>6</sup>Marshfield News, March 20, 1919, p. 1.



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"fancy" bricks were "pronounced by experts as among the most artistic produced in the country."<sup>7</sup> Architect Childs reported his preference for the bricks in a letter to Dr. W.T. Poad, Chairman of the building Committee of the Junior High and Vocational School:

The brick are being very much admired here in our office and we hope to use them on another job at once and on a large school building next year. Hurrah for Marshfield! Nothing like discovering home industries.<sup>8</sup>

In April, 1919, a description of the new structure appeared on page one of the Marshfield News. The building would have a 112 foot frontage, face Third Street, and be three stories high with a concrete foundation. The exterior of the walls would be of rough texture facebrick of a dark copper-brown color, trimmed with Bedford stone, while the roof would be of composition material on a concrete slab. Floors would be of reinforced concrete topped with wood finish, except for those in the corridors, bathrooms, and halls. The stairs would be of reinforced concrete with ornamental iron railings. The plaster would be of fireproof gypsum blocks, taking the place of studdings and lath. The interior wood work would be of birch, the window and door frames of white pine. The basement or first floor plan would include the heating plant, a hot air system, a woodshop, an electrical laboratory, a drafting room, machine shop and a classroom. Except for the heating plant, all would be manual training areas. The second floor would house the principal's office, an assembly hall, four classrooms, two recitation rooms and two toilet rooms. The third floor would include two classrooms, two stenographic rooms, a teacher's restroom, a sewing room, kitchen dining rooms, toilets, and a corridor.

Statewide, after 1920, Junior High Schools were being established for grades seven, eight, and nine. In general, the Junior High Schools remained in the old High School building, while new facilities were constructed for High Schools.<sup>9</sup> With the construction of the Purdy School, Marshfield had the first genuine Junior High School

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<sup>7</sup>Marshfield News, June 19, 1919, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup>Marshfield News, 28 August, 1919, P. 1.

<sup>9</sup>Barbara Wyatt, Project Director. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volumes 1-3, A Manual for Historic Properties. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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in the state. Although other school systems had schools labeled "junior high", the Purdy Building was the first to be constructed for that purpose.<sup>10</sup>

The building was dedicated on November 11, 1920, to Willard Delton Purdy, a soldier from Marshfield. He was killed after the completion of the war when an unexploded grenade lost its protective pin. In an effort to save his comrades, Purdy threw himself on the grenade to absorb the impact. Purdy lost his life while saving that of his patrol.<sup>11</sup> The school had originally been named Garfield, and then Franklin, but after much complaint, the citizens chose Purdy in a public vote.<sup>12</sup>

It took a year and nine months to complete the school, and opened near capacity enrollment. The expected enrollment of the Junior High school had been 240 students but actual enrollment was 290, ten short of its 300 student capacity.<sup>13</sup> By 1925, overcrowding in the High School and Junior High prompted the School Board to consider additional facilities.

On March 12, 1925, Dr. G.W. Sexton, a member of the school board, addressed the Rotary Club on Marshfield's public schools. Sexton spoke of "urgent needs..." and "a most serious crisis" "Without criticizing any of the boards of education which have preceded us, I am convinced that there has been in the past too much of a tendency to build for the present without any regard of thought for the future of the school system." After careful deliberation by the school board and the engagement of "three of the best experts in the state", the following was suggested to accommodate the growing student population: 1. Remodel the high school, 2. Build a new senior high school, 3. Barracks, 4. Half-time instruction, 5. Elimination of tuition pupils, 6. Remodel Purdy. Sexton declared:

The last and only feasible plan is an addition to the Purdy Building. The Purdy Building is the only modern structure we have in the city and I am convinced that the Board of Education got as much or more for their money than

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<sup>10</sup>Marshfield News, 28 August, 1919, p.8.

<sup>11</sup>Marshfield News-Herald, 7 June, 1972, p. 18.

<sup>12</sup>Marshfield News, 25 September, 1919, p.1.

<sup>13</sup>Dressendorf, p. 54.

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any other board has been able to secure, the only criticism being that the building is not large enough and the site was not large enough but the building is there, and we must make use of what we have.<sup>14</sup>

A special election was held on Tuesday, November 24, 1925 to decide whether to build an addition to the Purdy Building. The School Board provided ten reasons why an addition was necessary, including that the Purdy building had no gymnasium to comply with physical education laws, and that it had no assembly room, "another important part of educational training."<sup>15</sup> The voters approved the addition by a vote of 269-226. Contemporary importance given to the inclusion of a gymnasium and auditorium adds to the significance of those spaces.

Plans for the addition to the Purdy Building, prepared by the architectural firm of Parkinson and Dockendorff of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, were approved by the Industrial Commission on January 16, 1926. The firm designed the addition to match the original block fluidly. The plans indicate in more than one location that a certain elements should match the old building.<sup>16</sup> While they were using the original design to influence the addition, it was not out of their architectural vocabulary to use the Collegiate Gothic for a school building, as other commissions in Richland Center and Sparta, Wisconsin indicate.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Marshfield Herald, 12 March, 1925, page 1.

<sup>15</sup>Marshfield Herald, November 19, 1925, Section 2, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup>"...all dividing sash bars to match those in present old building...", " see present old front entrance" notes to "Addition to the Purdy School, Marshfield, Wisconsin, revised January 12, 1926, Approved by the Industrial Commission, January 16, 1926" Plans housed at the office of the Building Inspector, City Hall, 620 South Central Avenue, Marshfield, Wisconsin.

<sup>17</sup>Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites, Survey and Registration Section, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

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It is notable that between design and construction in 1926, plans for shouldered lintels of contrasting material and for lancet arched window sash on the third story windows were altered to the flat, darker brick lintels and barely arched upper sash that exist in the building today.

Bids for the construction were considered by the School Board and the Industrial Board at the March, 1926 meeting. Theo. J. Molzahn was awarded the general construction at \$186, 656<sup>18</sup>; M.B. Quall of Clintonville received the plumbing contract at \$8,937; Donaldson Heating Company of Minneapolis was awarded the heating contract at \$2,834; and Johnson Heating Company of Milwaukee received the temperature regulation contract at \$1,500. It is interesting to note that none of the original contractors worked on the addition, although it was only six years after the first building campaign.

The new building was to be built of Marshfield brick and the general contractor agreed to patronize local businesses as much as possible.<sup>19</sup> The use of Marshfield brick would help "to match the appearance of the new with the old part..."<sup>20</sup>

The new building, covering half a city block, was described in an article on the first page of the Marshfield Daily News dated May 11, 1927. The building, facing north on West Third Street, west on South Chestnut street, and south on East Fourth street, was located just a half a block from the main business thoroughfare and was designed to accommodate 500 students. It was described as three stories high with an auditorium and gymnasium. There were no basement rooms for educational purposes. The boiler room and coal rooms were the only ones in the basement. Brick and stone trimming were used in the construction of the building. The volume of the building, including the original unit, was approximately 1,365,000 cubic feet. The length was 267 feet, the width on the north side 112 feet, and on the south side 140 feet.

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<sup>18</sup>Molzahn was also awarded the contract for the construction of the new Marshfield Clinic in May, 1926. That building is at 600 South Central, and has subsequently undergone significant alterations.

<sup>19</sup>Marshfield Herald, 26 March, 1926, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup>Marshfield Daily News, March 9, 1926, p. 1.

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The manual training rooms were located in nine rooms grouped into a department on the east side of the new structure. A special ventilating system controlled the air while the entire building was heated by what was known as a split system of heating. The building had a telephone system, clock and bell systems.

The auditorium had a complete modern stage, including a special stage lighting panel, curtains, cyclorama and sets for dramatic work. The proscenium arch was 38 feet wide and the stage had a depth of 30 feet. The auditorium was 108 feet long, 60 feet wide and had a balcony 23 feet deep. The entire unit seated 982 people with space available for about 50 more seats.

The gymnasium was the largest in the city with a seating arrangement for 1,000 and standing room for 700-800 more people. On each side there were dressing rooms with lockers and showers.

The dedication was held on May 10 and 11, 1927.

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### Architects and Builders Biographies

#### Frank A. Childs

In a public notice to contractors dated February 11, 1919, Frank A. Childs of Childs & Smith of Chicago, was identified as the architect for the new Purdy School.<sup>21</sup>

Frank A. Childs was born in Evanston, Illinois in 1875. He attended the Armour Institute of Technology and the Art Institute of Chicago from 1894-1897. He had additional training in France, and with a variety of architects, including Holabird & Roche of Chicago. In 1904 he began his architectural practice, and formed a partnership with William Jones Smith in 1912. Childs registered as an architect in Wisconsin in 1917, Smith in 1923. Childs and Smith received numerous Wisconsin commissions, among them the John Edwards High School (1933) in Port Edwards, the Lincoln High School (1931) in Wisconsin Rapids, the Vocational School (date unknown) in Appleton, and the High and Vocational School in Sheboygan (1924). Marshfield's Purdy School is among the earliest of Childs' work in Wisconsin. For the Purdy School, Childs used the popular Collegiate Gothic Style as the embellishment to an otherwise simple brick building. The firm of Childs & Smith continued to use the Collegiate Gothic in their school and church designs, while using Neo-Classical Revival for public buildings, and a variety of Period Revival styles for domestic architecture.<sup>22</sup>

#### Parkinson and Dockendorff

The architectural firm of Parkinson and Dockendorff of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, designed the 1926 addition to the Purdy School. Albert E. Parkinson and Bernard J. Dockendorff formed a partnership in 1902.<sup>23</sup> Parkinson was born in London, England in 1870, and was trained by his father and in "Scranton Schools". Dockendorff was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in 1878 and attended local public schools. He worked for two years for the LaCrosse firm of Stoltze & Schick. He then studied for two years at

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<sup>21</sup>Marshfield News, February 27, 1919.

<sup>22</sup>Wisconsin Architects File, Survey and Registration, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

<sup>23</sup>Jim Thomas Dockendorff, "Biography of : Bernard J. Dockendorff" Biographical Files, Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, July 30, 1981.

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Technicum in Darmstadt, Germany. For another four years he studied under Professor Ludwig Becker of Mayence, then returned to the United States just before the partnership was formed. The firm specialized in the design of public schools.<sup>24</sup>

Parkinson and Dockendorff merged the addition with the original Purdy School gracefully. The plans indicate in more than one location that certain elements should "match the old building".<sup>25</sup> While they were using the original design to influence the addition, it was not out of their architectural vocabulary to use the Collegiate Gothic for a school building, as other commissions in the style in Richland Center and Sparta, Wisconsin indicate.<sup>26</sup> These earlier commissions, built in 1912 and 1922 respectively, may have influenced the city's decision to use Parkinson and Dockendorff, since they proved the firm's ability in the Collegiate Gothic style.

Krasin Brothers

In 1885 Gus Krasin (the primary member of the company) was born in Volnia, Russia and moved to southern Arkansas when he was seven years old. He left home at age nineteen to be a carpenter. By 1907, he had moved to Marshfield, and began the contracting and architectural firm of Krasin Brothers with his brother J.F. Krasin. Gus Krasin registered with the Wisconsin State Licensing Board in 1918, at which time he indicated that he had been practicing since 1910, and specialized in school and church design. In 1918, his office was located at 121 South Central Avenue. He was listed individually as an architect in 1921 City Directory. Krasin Brothers Contractors was also listed in the 1921 and 1928 City Directories. In 1932 Krasin Brothers ceased operations, at which time Gus Krasin devoted more of his time to architecture and the supervision of construction projects. He designed Marshfield's new Adler Theater (419 South Central) in 1937, and advertised as "Registered

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<sup>24</sup>Wisconsin Architects File, Survey and Registration, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

<sup>25</sup>"Addition to the Purdy School, Marshfield, Wisconsin, revised January 12, 1926, Approved by the Industrial Commission, January 16, 1926" Plans housed at the office of the Building Inspector, City Hall, 620 South Central Avenue, Marshfield, Wisconsin.

<sup>26</sup>Wisconsin historic sites inventory, Survey and Registration, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

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Architect, Public Buildings, Schools, Commercial and Residential Buildings". In 1937 Krasin's office was located at 202 1/2 South Central Avenue.<sup>27</sup>

### Architectural History

#### Period Revival Styles

The "Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin" manual states:

The term "Period Revival" is often used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects borrowed during the first four decades of the twentieth century, but particularly during the 1920s. Many architects commonly advertised their expertise in a broad stylistic range during this period. The wide availability of photographs, and the popularization of revival styles through architectural journals, in concert with Beaux Arts exposure, might have allowed for greater historical accuracy. However, many of the best designs of the period are not historically "correct" copies of mannerism but are the architect's creative interpretation of the style.<sup>28</sup>

Marshfield has two buildings in the commercial core area with clear historical references. The primary example is this school. The Collegiate Gothic was influenced by the Neo-Gothic Revival which placed emphasis on verticality through steeply pitched roofs, irregular massing and random ashlar construction. Neo-Gothic Revival buildings were popular for religious, educational and commercial uses. The popularity of the style coincided with World War I and the return of veterans from Europe. Designers of Collegiate Gothic buildings referred to medieval universities for design inspiration, frequently employing towered entrances, battlements, finials, and other medieval ornament. The Purdy school incorporates all of these design features.

Purdy School's vertical emphasis is derived from details rather than massing. Although the school is three stories high, its extreme width (a full city block) negates its height. Verticality is developed through protruding towers, oriel windows, battlements, and gothic arched third story windows.

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<sup>27</sup>brochure "New Adler Theatre, Marshfield, Wisconsin" (privately printed, 28 September, 1937); "Architects File" at Division of Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

<sup>28</sup>Wyatt, Architecture 2-28.



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Gothic-inspired detail is clustered around the entrances, in panels in the towers, in the trim around protruding bay windows, in the buttresses at the building corners and sides of towers, in the crest design above the main doors, in the horizontal members in the towers, and in the castellated tower rooflines. This is typical of the Collegiate Gothic, the trends of the time towards reducing costs, and simplifying details in the move towards modernism. The building is otherwise a large brick box.

Other Period Revival buildings in Marshfield

The Mediterranean Revival filling station at 112 East Fourth Street is the only other example of Period Revival in downtown Marshfield. It is very different in style, scale, and integrity from the Purdy Building. This filling station is simply adorned with a red tile roof and round arched windows evoking grander Mediterranean Revival buildings. This detail is located at the angled main entrance to the building. The garage doors evident on the north elevation are now closed in.

Comparison to other Marshfield School Buildings

The Purdy School is the oldest school in Marshfield to retain its historic form. Of the Marshfield schools constructed before the Purdy Building, only one exists, and it is more altered than Purdy. The Jefferson Elementary School, built in 1911, received a major non-contributing addition in 1952. The original Grant, Lincoln, and Washington schools, built by 1900, were demolished. New schools on different sites now use those names; Grant, built in 1963; Lincoln built in 1957; and Washington, built in 1957. The McKinley High School, built in 1900, was destroyed by fire in 1938, the new Washington School is on the site. Except for the Junior High School, built circa 1938 (originally built as the High School, successor to McKinley), the other schools in Marshfield - Madison, East Fremont, Nasonville, and Marshfield Senior High, were all built after the National Register cut-off date of 1942.

The original block of the Jefferson Elementary School is a two story square block on a raised basement. It is ornamented sparsely, dentils around the cornice, thick plain lintels and sills, and a segmental arch over the entrance comprise the details. It appears to have been designed for utilitarian purposes, and carries no stylistic label. The one story 1952 addition has a footprint larger than that of the original building.

The Willard D. Purdy School is significant under Criterion C as a fine local example of the Collegiate Gothic style. It is the only building of this style in downtown Marshfield. Constructed in 1919-20, and 1926-27, the Purdy School is the oldest school in Marshfield retaining its historic form. The school is a distinctive example

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of how prevalent the use of Gothic design elements was in the post World War I period. As architects struggled with new architectural forms to encompass increasingly large consolidated schools, the Collegiate Gothic emerged as a design vocabulary with the versatility to adapt to larger complexes. It evoked a popular cultural connection with prestigious educational academies and expressed a desire to dignify education as a powerful social institution.

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#### Newspapers

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Marshfield Times April, 1919.

Marshfield News Herald 6,7,8 June, 1972 (special centennial edition).

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Other Collections

Architects File, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

Vertical Files, North Wood County Historical Society, Upham Mansion, Marshfield.

Vertical Files, Marshfield Public Library, East Second Street, Marshfield.

Plans

"Addition to the Purdy School, Marshfield, Wisconsin, revised January 12, 1926, Approved by the Industrial Commission, January 16, 1926" Plans housed at the office of the Building Inspector, City Hall, 620 South Central Avenue, Marshfield, Wisconsin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 2 acres

UTM References

A 1/5 7/2/3/9/0/0 4/9/4/9/3/6/0 B / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  
C / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of block 80 in the City of Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire half city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Sample Bernstein, consultant;  
research assistance by Barbara A. Bartkowiak  
organization for Planning Associates date March 6, 1992  
street & number 309 Norris Court telephone (608) 251-4615  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

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Photograph #1 of 3  
Willard D. Purdy Junior High and Vocational School  
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
Photograph by Rebecca Sample Bernstein, March 14, 1992  
Negative at WI Historical Society  
View looking northeast

Photograph #2 of 3  
Willard D. Purdy Junior High and Vocational School  
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
Photograph by Rebecca Sample Bernstein, March 14, 1992  
Negative at WI Historical Society  
View looking southwest

Photograph #3 of 3  
Willard D. Purdy Junior High and Vocational School  
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
Photograph by Rebecca Sample Bernstein, March 14, 1992  
Negative at WI Historical Society  
Detail of west elevation entrance

Figure 1.  
 Willard D. Purdy Junior High  
 and Vocational School  
 Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
 Not to scale

GROUND FLOOR

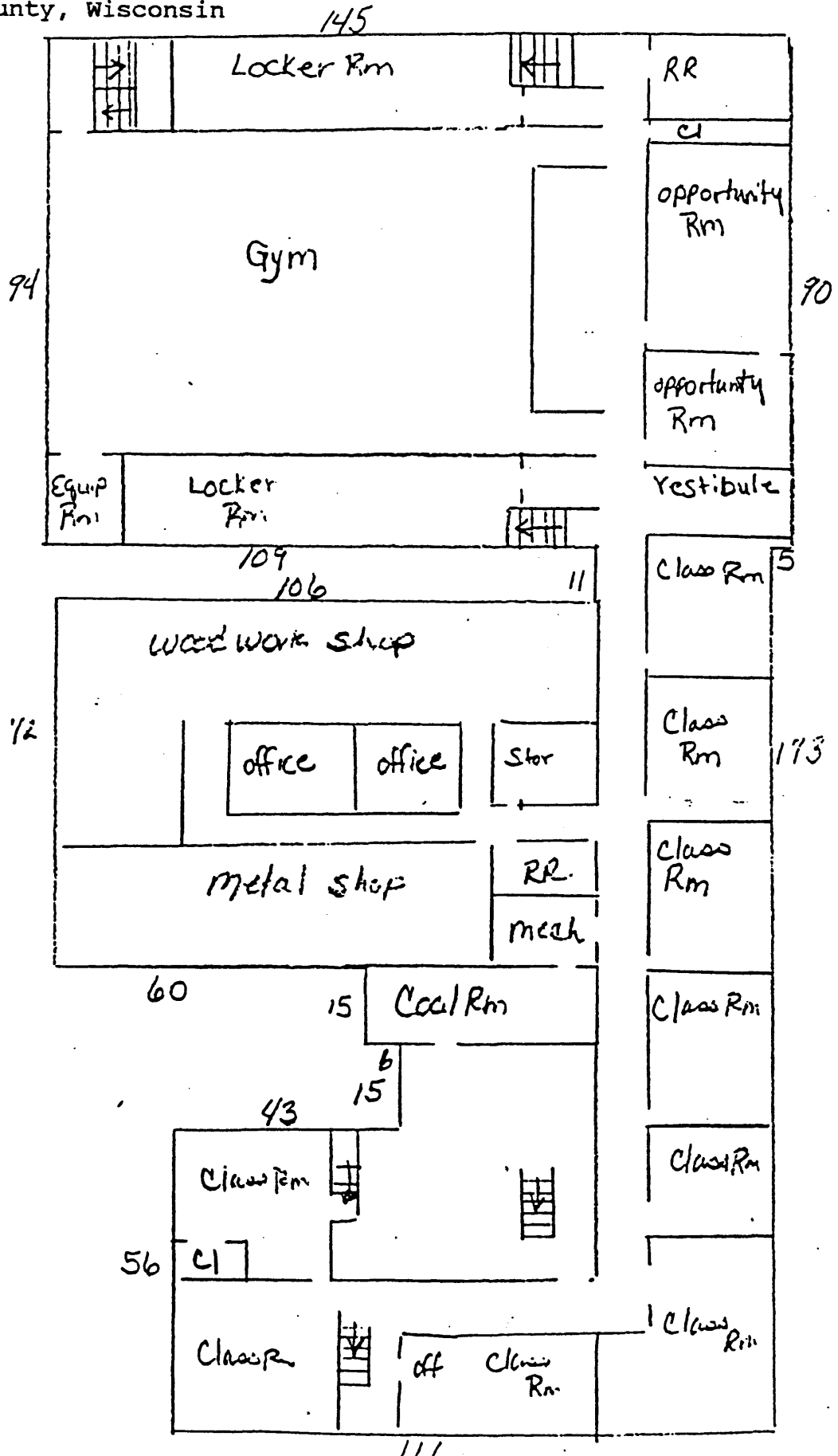
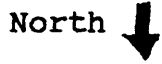


Figure 2.  
 Willard D. Purdy Junior High  
 and Vocational School  
 Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
 Not to scale

SECOND FLOOR

North ↓

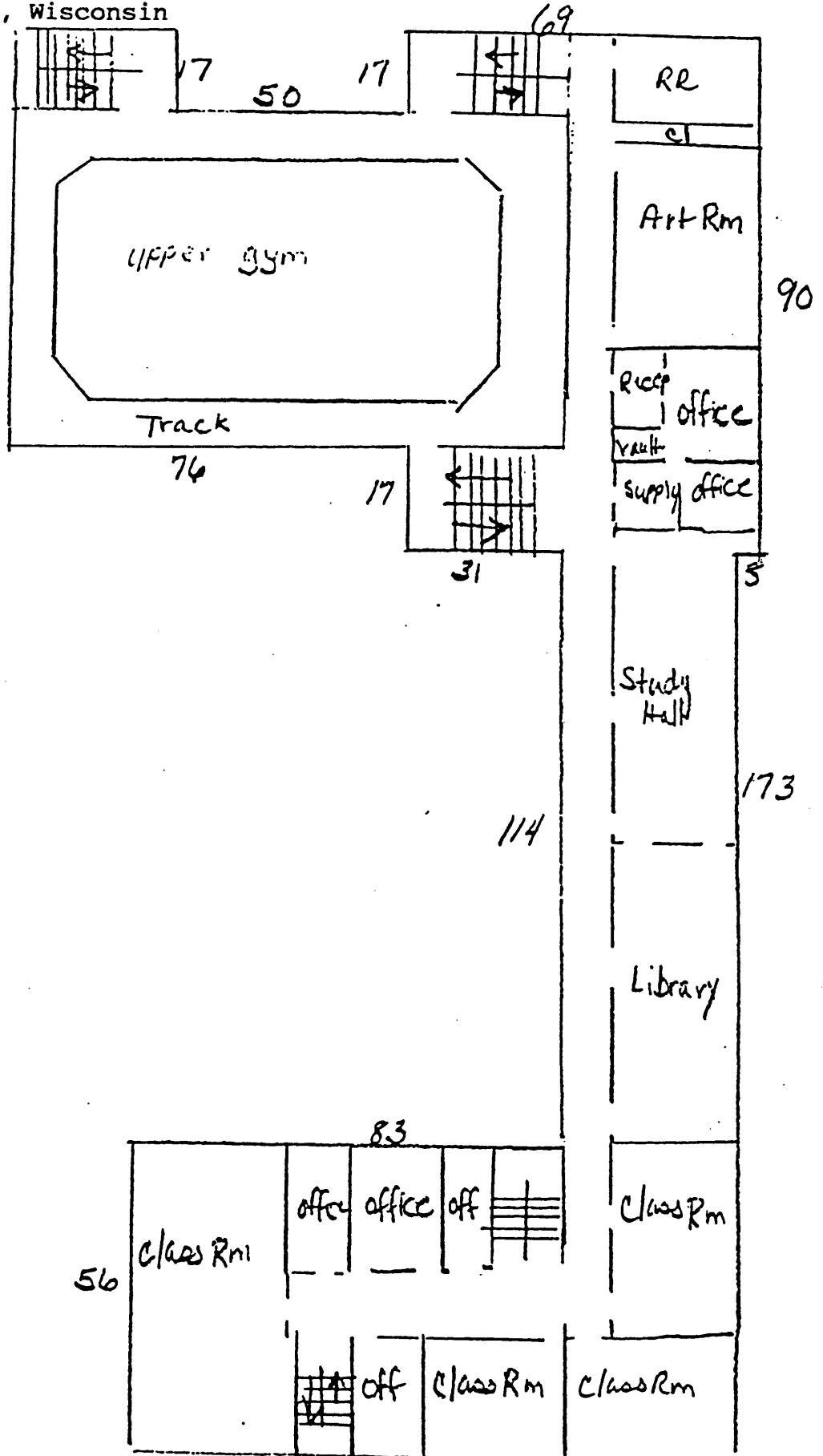




Figure 3.  
Willard D. Purdy Junior High  
and Vocational School  
Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin  
Not to scale

Third Floor

