

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



981

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
other names/site number Fargo Ward 5 North Side School

2. Location

street & number 315 North University Drive  not for publication  
city or town Fargo  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county Cass code 017 zip code 58102

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Marta E. [Signature] 9-4-12  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION  
Elementary (grammar) school

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals  
Late Gothic Revival/Collegiate Gothic

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete  
 walls: Brick, and clay tile  
Limestone trim  
 roof: Asphalt, built-up low slope roof  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheets

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**7. Description:**

Woodrow Wilson School is located on the near north side of Fargo, about six blocks west of the Downtown Fargo Historic District. The property occupies one entire city block, between Third and Fourth Avenues North and facing University Drive on the west. The school building and small open space landscaping occupy the west half of the site, and a hard-surfaced parking lot is on the east half. There are mature boulevard trees (elm, *Ulmus americana*; and boxelder, *Acer nigundo*) along the street right-of-way on all four sides of the property. A few young, smaller specimen trees (flowering crabapple, *Malus 'Vanguard'*) are located in the front and south side yards, installed after the period of historic significance. The overall setting of the school within the fabric of the city of Fargo is consistent in scale with surrounding land uses and defines the edge between two small residential areas, separated by the busy arterial street and commercial properties. The property's walkable perimeter and mature landscape trees help preserve urban open space at the edge of the downtown.

The front elevation of the school is set back from the arterial street (University Drive), presenting a formal "front" entry with two entrances. The brick masonry school building is three stories tall with a flat parapet. Overall material characteristics of the building are reddish blended, wire cut face brick with clay tile backup, creamy-gray limestone trim (coved cornice and belt courses), and limestone ornamentation at entrances. The brickwork is laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The (6 over 9) historic wood windows, with upper transom sash panels that admitted daylight far into each classroom were replaced in the early 1980s. Non-historic replacement windows in all openings are natural satin aluminum frame units with small horizontal sliding glazed lower sash and painted blank opaque insulating panels above. In an overreaction to energy conservation, nearly all Fargo Public Schools system-wide initiated window replacement projects in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Woodrow Wilson, like many of

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the historic school buildings in the district, has been marred by these rather prosaic modifications that are inconsistent with the scale and historic character of these six architecturally distinctive neighborhood school buildings.

The two principal elevations (west front and east rear) are characterized by symmetrical composition and fenestration patterns. The well-maintained Flemish bond brick patterning is one of the character-defining features of the building, and is an attribute closely associated with the Collegiate Gothic architectural style. The west (primary front) elevation is symmetrically composed with three bays. The bays are separated by slightly projected, single-story entrances with paired windows above. The two end bays project forward slightly from the center bay. The center bay is subdivided by three slightly projected pilasters with sloped limestone caps. Windows are generally grouped into sets of three or four, except for the end elevations where they are in pairs. Generally, the main classroom window openings faced east or west. Window heads (flat lintels) are tied together with brick soldier coursing, and all windows have original sloped limestone sills, intact and in good condition. Windows in the center bay are four sets of three windows, with sets of five windows on the upper stories at the two end bays, and pairs of single windows above the entrances.

Two bands of limestone trim wrap horizontally around all sides of the building. The lower belt course is coved limestone projecting 5-inches, located just above the ground floor windows. The coved upper cornice band is about 8-inches high, just above the third-story windows and separating the window sets from the brick parapet and limestone parapet cap. Thus, the building is composed in 3-parts vertically, as a ground level (base), two upper stories (middle/ shaft), and parapet (corresponding to the capital in classical composition).

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The west (primary front) elevation is the most architecturally adorned. Collegiate Gothic style, 3-centered arch hoods define the entrances, with quoins at the sides detailed in limestone trim. Each west-facing entryway is surmounted with the date "1917" and open "book of learning" motifs carved in limestone above (and interrupting the line of the stone belt course). Paired entrance door sets are recessed in each entry opening with three rows of small-lite glass panels in the transoms. The pairs of original doors have been replaced at some unknown time by flush metal-clad doors with small vision lites. The flat parapet cap is raised slightly at the center of the front elevation to acknowledge the carved limestone panel inscribed with the name "WOODROW WILSON".

The north and south (end) elevations are generally blank masonry walls. Ground level spaces on these two elevations originally served gymnasium and manual training rooms, with direct light from evenly spaced, north- and south-facing openings. Brick pilasters flank paired sets of restroom windows are centered above. Elaborate brickwork patterning is detailed as symmetrical blank end panels. Stacked bond header and courses imply a perimeter frame. Flush, stacked bond ornamental panels are placed at about the third floor level, near the top of these four ornamental brick panels (two at each end).

The east (rear, service side) elevation is composed similarly to the corresponding front elevation, but necessities for a single-story boiler room, chimneys, and vent stacks obscure the ground level. There is modest acknowledgement of secondary entry at southeast end, flanked by brick ventilation and exhaust stacks. Historic documents show that the boiler room was once served by skylights; a common method employed by many local architects in 1918.

Notable interior features include the space-planning layout. A double-loaded main corridor (north and south) ends in cross-corridors at each of two, open stairs (near the back of the building). Ventilation chases are integrated with interior corridor



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bearingwalls. This seemingly obvious and straightforward spatial organization proved very adaptable during the school's 95-years of active use. The school was planned according to the prevailing educational concept for neighborhood grammar schools, of homerooms for each grade; with well-equipped cooking, sewing, manual training, physical education, science, math, grammar, art, and reading units of study for specialty areas of the curriculum. Historical documents account for the emphasis given to equipment and interior layouts for these specialty areas of the curriculum. There is a modest amount of surviving, intact plasterwork (generally above the non-historic, suspended lay-in ceilings). The main remnant interior historic features are the glazed brick window stools, a few built-in millwork features, and wood floors in some spaces.

The interior space-planning concept was largely driven by the ability to achieve daylighting and ventilation in all classroom spaces, which was regarded as essential for grammar school learning in the 1910s. The architects, Haxby and Braseth, also gave considerable emphasis to the fire-resistivity of the school's construction. Egress stairs and structural floor decks are cast concrete. The gymnasium space at the north end of the ground floor has a lowered floor to create a story-and-a-half volume

The school building's interior is finished with unornamented plasterwork. Suspended, lay-in ceiling systems are in place in nearly all spaces, installed after the end of the historic period. Oak trim on window interiors has been preserved and is unaltered by the replacement windows. Numerous built-in millwork items (depicted on the architects' original construction drawings) are in excellent, generally unaltered condition. One unusual millwork feature is the vertical sliding, pull-down pocket doors inside many of the classrooms. (Visualize a guillotine, but with balanced counterweights.) The finished floors in classrooms and most public spaces are maple hardwood flooring, furred up from the concrete structural deck. The hardwood flooring is generally in very good condition.

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Materially the school's exterior has a high degree of material integrity, except for the non-historic replacement windows. Character-defining Collegiate Gothic features -- notably the stonework, entrance trim, and Flemish bond brick masonry -- are well-preserved and in a good condition of preservation maintenance. The school's prominent location continues to give it particular visibility and importance in the perception of north Fargo residents.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Education

**Period of Significance**

1917-1962

**Significant Dates**

1917-1919

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Haxby and Braseth, architects  
HAXBY, Robert J.  
BRASETH, Ole A.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):**

N/A

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

Architectural work of Haxby and Braseth. Progressive-era educational infrastructure in North Dakota cities.



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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheets

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheets

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: N.D. Institute for Regional Studies

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.796-acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>667 840</u>	<u>5 194 070</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheets.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.

**11. Form Prepared By**

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**8. Statement of Significance:**

Fargo's Woodrow Wilson School building has local significance under National Register Criterion "C" for its embodiment of the Collegiate Gothic architectural style in its materials and method of construction. It is a good example of the architectural work of Haxby and Braseth architects, one of the important early architectural firms in Fargo during the Second Dakota Boom (1898-1915). The school property has secondary local significance under National Register Criterion "A" for the pattern of historical events it reflects, related to Progressive-era education in an eastern North Dakota city prior to World War I. The dates of the building's design and construction (1917-1919), and the period of the school's operational service as a neighborhood elementary school (1919-1962), reflect the period of greatest historical significance.

*Criterion "A" for patterns of historical events in the context of Progressive era educational infrastructure in eastern North Dakota cities just prior to World War I:*

Fargo has had a tradition of neighborhood elementary schools extending back to the 1890s, with a distinct division in schools between north side and south side neighborhoods. The Fargo School Board's commitment to construct Woodrow Wilson School began with the perceived need to replace an earlier north side neighborhood school (Longfellow), which was located in a residential Fifth Ward neighborhood close to downtown known as "Douglas Terrace," at North 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. (Historian Ron Ramsay has characterized that mixed-income neighborhood as "Douglasville", with a number of prototypical working-class house designs.) Led by Board Secretary E.G. Guthrie, the Fargo Board of Education had a sound reputation for investing in neighborhood schools citywide. The School Board built incrementally in north- and southside neighborhoods. St. Louis architect William B. Ittner (registered as an architect in North Dakota in 1917) maintained a solid reputation with the Fargo School Board and other school boards in eastern parts of the state as an advisor and

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school design consultant, based on his consultation and planning advice about emergent school design concepts (daylight, ventilation, pupil health, and fire resistive construction).

The "homeroom" concept prevailed at the time the newly proposed Fifth Ward School was being planned. Each grade (kindergarten through eighth) was assigned a homeroom, with separate classrooms for specialty areas of the curriculum. Planning for this new northside school in the Fifth Ward emphasized a commitment to extended facilities and resources for night school classes. In 1917 that meant serving skills-training needs of a largely immigrant community in near-north Fargo; primarily Norwegian-Americans and Swedish-Americans that predominated in the nearby neighborhoods.

Several early Fargo architects were well-known for their advertised competency in school design. William Gillespie, in particular, advertised a specialty in school building design that built upon his collaborative practice with his son-in-law, architect William C. Albrant. The firm of Haxby and Braseth was actually a successor to the architectural firm of Albrant and Gillespie (originally established in 1905 as Haxby and Gillespie). In February 1917, the School Board selected Haxby and Braseth to prepare plans, specifications, and provide supervision for the new northside school based largely on their experience with reliable cost control, quality of construction support, and experience with emerging concepts in design for education. Payment for architectural services was authorized on the basis of 5% of the final cost of construction.

With taxpayer support, Fargo and other growing North Dakota cities were prepared in 1917 to invest in educational infrastructure that served neighborhoods for the next eight decades. These Progressive-era schools were planned, designed, constructed, and furnished to accommodate educational practices that emphasized basic skills (reading,

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writing, mathematics), and also citizenship, manual training, physical fitness, and good health. Architects' original design drawings for Woodrow Wilson School are labeled "New Fifth Ward School," with the presumptive school name "Longfellow" shown in the naming block of the parapet on the front elevation drawing. (Fargo residents may recognize that a later, modern "Longfellow" north side school revisited the name of that earlier historic school building.) Politically attuned to the need for local input, the School Board took an informal poll in 1917 among north side residents. Sensitive to world events just prior to the outbreak of "the Great War," more than half the residents who returned comment ranked the name of "Woodrow Wilson" (with 87 votes) well above the other suggested dedication names (General Grant, Longfellow, Emerson, Mark Twain, Admiral Dewey, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Voltaire, and Liberty). President Wilson's commitment to trying to keep the U.S. out of military involvement in a European War seems to have been popular among residents of a largely Scandinavian immigrant community.

As the school was being designed, a series of events unfolded, related to the outbreak of hostilities in Europe and U.S. involvement. Newspaper accounts reflect growing local awareness of the impact world events would have on their local community. Local events related to the architects also changed abruptly with the death of Robert J. Haxby in 1917. Architects are seldom the central figures in historical events, and under Ole Braseth's leadership, the design of Woodrow Wilson School proceeded without significant problems. The death of Haxby led to formation of other architectural relationships, including Braseth and Rosatti (1917-1924) and Braseth and Houkom (1924-1945).

Woodrow Wilson School was completed under Braseth's supervision in January 1919, and was promptly put into service for both neighborhood grammar school and for extended night classes. The architect assisted in selecting manual training equipment, gymnasium equipment, and food preparation equipment suited to the expanded

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curriculum. Woodrow Wilson School was consistent in design and operations with other Fargo neighborhood schools, by various architects (especially Horace Mann, Clara Barton, and Roosevelt). These durable, flexible, and adaptable school buildings fulfilled the architectural vision and aspirations of the School Board and taxpayers in the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century.

*Criterion "C" for the Collegiate Gothic architectural style and the work of the Fargo firm of Haxby and Braseth:*

With its design roots in Cambridge and Oxford, and following directly from stylistic precedents set at Bryn Mawr and Princeton, the Collegiate Gothic architectural style is exemplified by cream colored limestone surrounds at door and window openings, grouped multi-pane windows, and a stylized (often crenellated) parapet edge at the roofline. There is an interesting, coincidental association between Princeton University's extensive use of Collegiate Gothic architecture, and a small Fargo school bearing the name of Woodrow Wilson. Wilson personally regarded Gothic Revival architecture as well-suited to the expression of learning. In December 1902, six months after being elected as President of Princeton, Woodrow Wilson commented in the Princeton Alumni Weekly that, "Gothic architecture has added a thousand years to the history of the university, and has pointed every man's imagination to the earliest traditions of learning in the English-speaking race."

Wilson also once said that in constructing Collegiate Gothic buildings, Princeton had "declared and acknowledged [its] derivation and lineage." Wilson's avowed enthusiasm for the Collegiate Gothic style probably escaped local notice in design of Fargo's proposed Ward 5 neighborhood school (subsequently named for President Wilson), but the coincidence is intriguing nonetheless. As Princeton's supervising architect in the 1910s and 1920s, Ralph Adams Cram, the Yale-trained architect characterized by architectural historians as the "high priest" of Collegiate Gothic, was even more explicit. "By building [in the Collegiate Gothic style]," he wrote, "Princeton was committed to the retention for all



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time of that collegiate style of architecture which alone is absolutely expressive of the civilization we hold in common with England and the ideals of liberal education now firmly fixed at Princeton." At a local level, Woodrow Wilson School aspires to claim a place in that Anglo-American lineage of learning.

Architects Haxby and Braseth designed Woodrow Wilson School in a restrained version of the popular Collegiate Gothic style, based on their considerable prior experience working in that style. Robert J. Haxby (b. 1854 in Garden City, NY – d. 8/28/1917) trained as an architect in New York state. In April 1885, with the death of his first wife, Rebecca Van Loan Haxby, he was left widowed with their three-year-old son (Robert Van Loan Haxby) to raise. In 1903 he relocated to Superior, WI where he remarried (Anna Haxby, 18-years his junior), and then briefly to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul. 1904 census records suggest that father and son may both have been employed briefly in the firm of Clarence H. Johnston, an important regional architect who worked extensively in the Collegiate Gothic style, especially at the University of Minnesota. By 1905, the elder Robert Haxby relocated once more to Fargo. His son Robert V.L. Haxby (graduated Columbia University in 1908) continued working for the Johnston firm and later went on to become a fairly well-known architect principal with the Minneapolis firm of Haxby, Bissell, Belair, Green.

Robert J. Haxby's arrival in Fargo coincided with the early, unexpected death of one of Fargo's first generation of architects, William C. Albrant (b. 6/24/1871 - d. 8/3/1905). Haxby soon formed an architectural partnership with Albrant's brother-in-law, William D. Gillespie, and they collaborated on Fargo's National Register-listed Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW) Lodge Hall (1914-15). In 1915 Gillespie resigned the firm under pressure from the State Board of Architecture, and went on to found Gate City Savings and Loan. City directories and newspaper accounts indicate that he also continued to practice architecture on his own, specializing in school design statewide in smaller North Dakota communities, so he never really gave up on his active promotion of architectural services.



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In 1915, Robert J. Haxby formed a new partnership with Norwegian-American immigrant architect Ole A. (Andrewson) Braseth (b. 4/29/1873 – d. 11/29/1961). Braseth immigrated with his parents in 1881 at 8 years of age. In 1910 he was listed as a house carpenter in Foxholm, Ward County, ND. He interned in Grand Forks for a time as a draughtsman with architect John W. Ross, who designed numerous North Dakota schools and commercial buildings, mostly in the Classical Revival style. It appears that Braseth's academic training in architecture was minimal, although he was sufficiently experienced and credentialed to serve on the State Board of Architecture from 1943 to 1953. Design of Woodrow Wilson School would have been initiated under Robert Haxby's involvement, and completed by his partner Ole Braseth after Haxby's August 1917 death (from a heart attack brought on by heat stroke).

Braseth then formed a partnership with Joseph E. Rosatti, who designed some of the firm's most distinguished architectural projects, including the finely detailed, glazed terracotta-ornamented Roosevelt School in north Fargo. (The new firm was billed on the architects' letterhead as "successor to Haxby and Braseth".) In 1924 Rosatti was replaced as Braseth's partner by S. (Sveinung) Marius Houkom, who continued the firm's architectural legacy late into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Both Rosatti and Houkom had academic ties to the architectural program at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, which likely influenced their architectural approach.) As Braseth curtailed his Fargo practice around World War II, he relocated, first to Bismarck, then to Minot, and eventually to Grand Forks where he is buried.

The architectural design of Woodrow Wilson School may be characterized as tasteful and well-proportioned, albeit a bit conservative and straightforward. Collegiate Gothic motifs are generally treated as embellishments on the school. The architects' manner of working and inclination toward the Collegiate Gothic style were products of their prior

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experiences, collaborating with other architects. Excerpts from historic construction documents are attached as additional documentation to this nomination. Proven, conservative design was offered as an assurance to School Board of trouble-free construction services.

On behalf of the architectural firm, Ole A. Braseth followed up with field inspection services, negotiated additional work required for satisfactory performance by the contractors, and assistance in selecting and purchasing power tools and equipment for the Manual Arts and Gymnasium components of the curriculum. With continued architectural opportunities during the Second Dakota Boom, reliable performance was the architect's investment in the potential for future work for the Fargo Schools and other school systems in the region. The method of construction directed considerable attention to daylighting, ventilation, and fire resistivity, consistent with recommendations by consulting nationally-known school experts like William Ittner.

Except for replacement of historic windows with energy conservation sash units in the 1970s, Fargo's Woodrow Wilson School retains a high degree of material integrity and integrity of context. Exterior masonry materials are well-maintained and unaltered. Key details that characterize the Collegiate Gothic have been preserved. Scale and relationship of the school building and its site to the near north Fargo, mixed use neighborhood are significant reflections of public investment in educational infrastructure during the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Flexibility of the interior spatial layout lends itself to adaptability of the school to future uses and redevelopment, while retaining the special and distinctive context relationship of a close-in neighborhood school; a substantially different context relationship from large educational campuses on the contemporary urban periphery.

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*Summary conclusions; trends and patterns evidenced by Woodrow Wilson School:*

Woodrow Wilson School is primarily significant under Criterion "C" for its architectural style and method of construction, together with its association with a locally well-known historic architectural firm. Relative to the architectural work of Haxby and Braseth architects, completion of Woodrow Wilson School at the time of Robert J. Haxby's death marks an important transition for Ole Braseth, leading to future associations with Joseph E. Rosatti and Marius Houkom. North Dakota established a state licensing law for architects in 1917. Together with archival records of the Fargo Schools, surviving construction documentation that accompanies the Woodrow Wilson property sheds light on practices of one of Fargo's more important "second generation" architectural firms prior to World War I.

At the local level, Woodrow Wilson School has secondary significance under Criterion "A." Relative to the context of education in North Dakota cities from 1917 to 1962, Woodrow Wilson School reflects a wisely-planned, functional, and adaptable school building well-grounded at the edge between a residential neighborhood and a busy commercial zone of the city center. The Woodrow Wilson School building, and several other well-planned neighborhood schools in Fargo from about the same time period, functioned exceptionally well for elementary school education for more than 80-years. In recent decades before the Woodrow Wilson School closed (in 2011), it served as an alternative high school for high-risk and non-traditional learners, including a large percentage of recent immigrant learners for whom English was a second language. This reflects an interesting correspondence with the World War I era when the school opened. From its earliest days of operation, Woodrow Wilson School offered night classes and manual training for non-traditional learners of all ages. The school served extended-day programs in its earliest years, and continued to serve new immigrant communities beyond the historical period, through alternative high school courses. The building remains materially sound and retains the inherent flexibility of use it originally embodied. With reinvestment in new systems, this well-built building has the potential to continue as a useful historic feature of the local community for many years to come.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

Name of Property

Cass County, North Dakota

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo
Name of Property
Cass County, North Dakota
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 2

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

Name of Property

Cass County, North Dakota

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Section number 10 Page 1Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota**10. Geographical Data:**

## Verbal Boundary Description:

City of Fargo Parcel 01-2382-04450-000, comprised of Block 45 in Roberts Second Addition, bounded by University Drive on the west, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North on the north, 12<sup>th</sup> Street North on the east, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North on the southern boundary. Building address is 315 North University Drive.

## Boundary Justification:

The boundary description includes all property within the boundary of land associated with Fargo's Woodrow Wilson School throughout the historic period of significance, including the school building and incidental related site features.



Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Name of Property

Cass, North Dakota  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner:**

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

name Aldevron  
street & number 3233 15<sup>th</sup> Street South telephone 701.297.9256  
city or town Fargo state ND zip code 58104

**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.460 et seq.)  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

Name of Property

Cass County, North Dakota

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Section number Additional documentation Page 1

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

Photo caption/identifier continuation sheet:

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
01\_ND\_CS WWilson WElev NRHP\_458.tif
6. Subject description; West (front) exterior elevation  
Photographer facing east
7. **Photo number 1 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
02\_ND\_CS WWilson NE NRHP\_532.tif
6. Subject description; South (end) and east (rear) exterior elevations  
Photographer facing northwest
7. **Photo number 2 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
03\_ND\_CS WWilson SE NRHP\_531.tif
6. Subject description; East (rear) and north (end) exterior elevations  
Photographer facing southwest
7. **Photo number 3 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
(Digital TIFF image)
6. Subject description; Oblique west facade and south (end) exterior elevations  
04\_ND\_CS WWilson SW NRHP\_467BW.tif
7. **Photo number 4 of 10**

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

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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo
Name of Property
Cass County, North Dakota
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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
05\_ND\_CS WWilson EDet NRHP\_798 color.tif
6. Subject description; Color image of west entrance details and brickwork.  
Photographer facing southeast
7. **Photo number 5 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
06\_ND\_CS WWilson EntDet NRHP\_539 color.tif
6. Subject description; Color image of west entrance details; brick and stonework.  
Photographer facing east
7. **Photo number 6 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
07\_ND\_CS WWilson Det NRHP\_799.tif
6. Subject description; West entrance details; brick and stonework.  
Photographer facing east
7. **Photo number 7 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date: April 26, 2012
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
08\_ND\_CS WWilson Int EntryVest NRHP\_P545.tif
6. Subject description; Interior view toward north entrance vestibule  
Photographer facing west
7. **Photo number 8 of 10**

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date:
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
09\_ND\_CS WWilson Int Hall NRHP\_P547.tif
6. Subject description; Interior view of typical upper floor corridor  
Photographer facing south
7. **Photo number 9 of 10**

1. **Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo**
2. Cass County, North Dakota
3. Photographer: Steve C. Martens
4. Photo date:
5. State Historical Society of North Dakota, (digital TIFF image accompanying nomination)  
10\_ND\_CS WWilson int Gym NRHP\_P546.tif
6. Subject description; Interior view of gymnasium space  
Photographer facing west, at north end of building
7. **Photo number 10 of 10**

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo
Name of Property
Cass County, North Dakota
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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

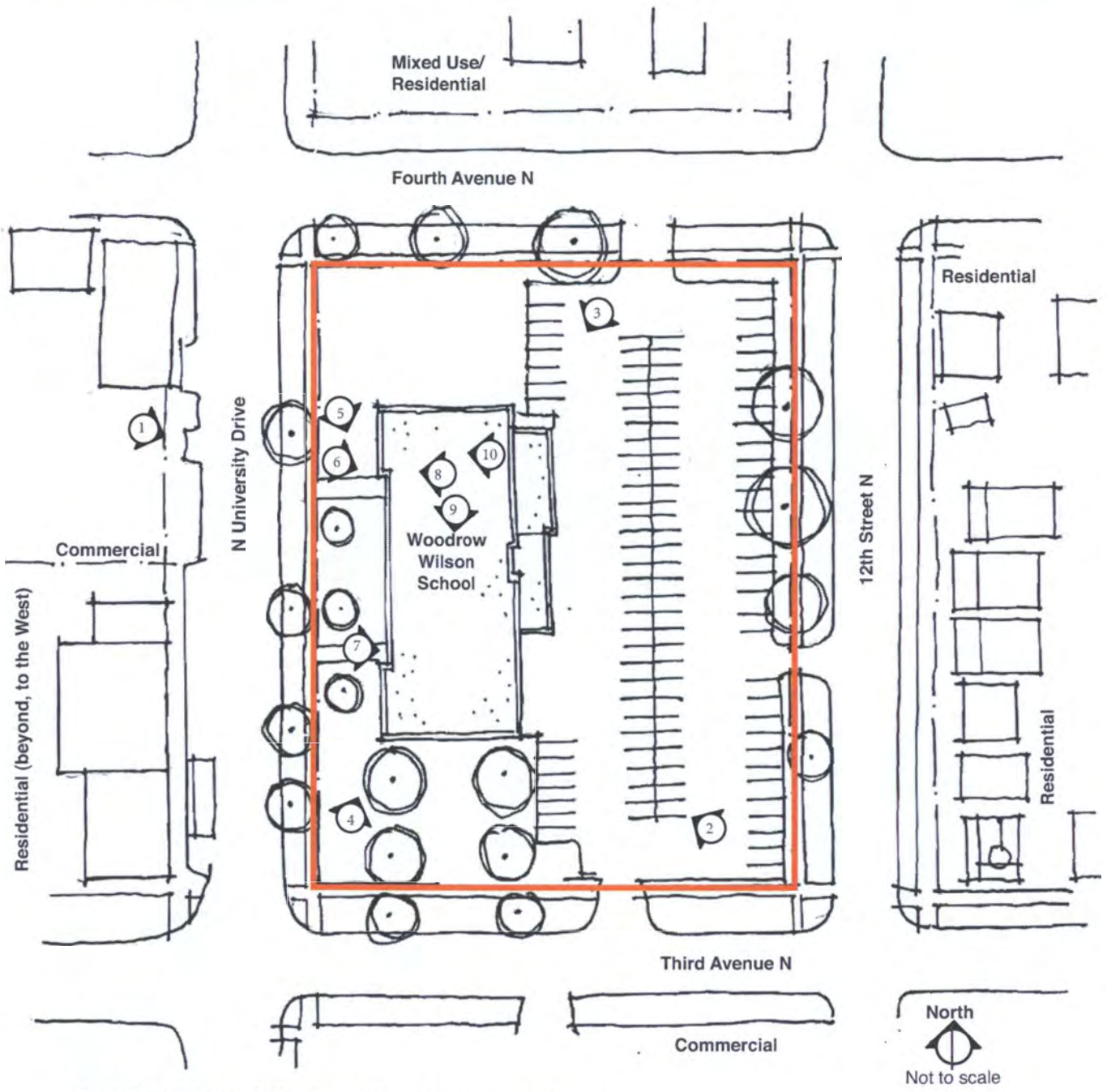


Fig. 1: Sketch Map of Woodrow Wilson School property; with reference photo standpoints indicated



**United States Department of the Interior  
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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota



Fig. 2: Aerial photo of Woodrow Wilson School.  
Adapted from *GoogleEarth* image; June, 2012.



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Fig. 3: Historical photo, c. 1920. Accessed on Fargo Public Schools internet web site authored by John Caron, for the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo, ND; "Fargo, North Dakota Woodrow Wilson School" (web page and photo accessed 6/06/2012) at: <http://www.fargo-history.com/other-schools/fargo-public-schools.htm>

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Page 7

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo

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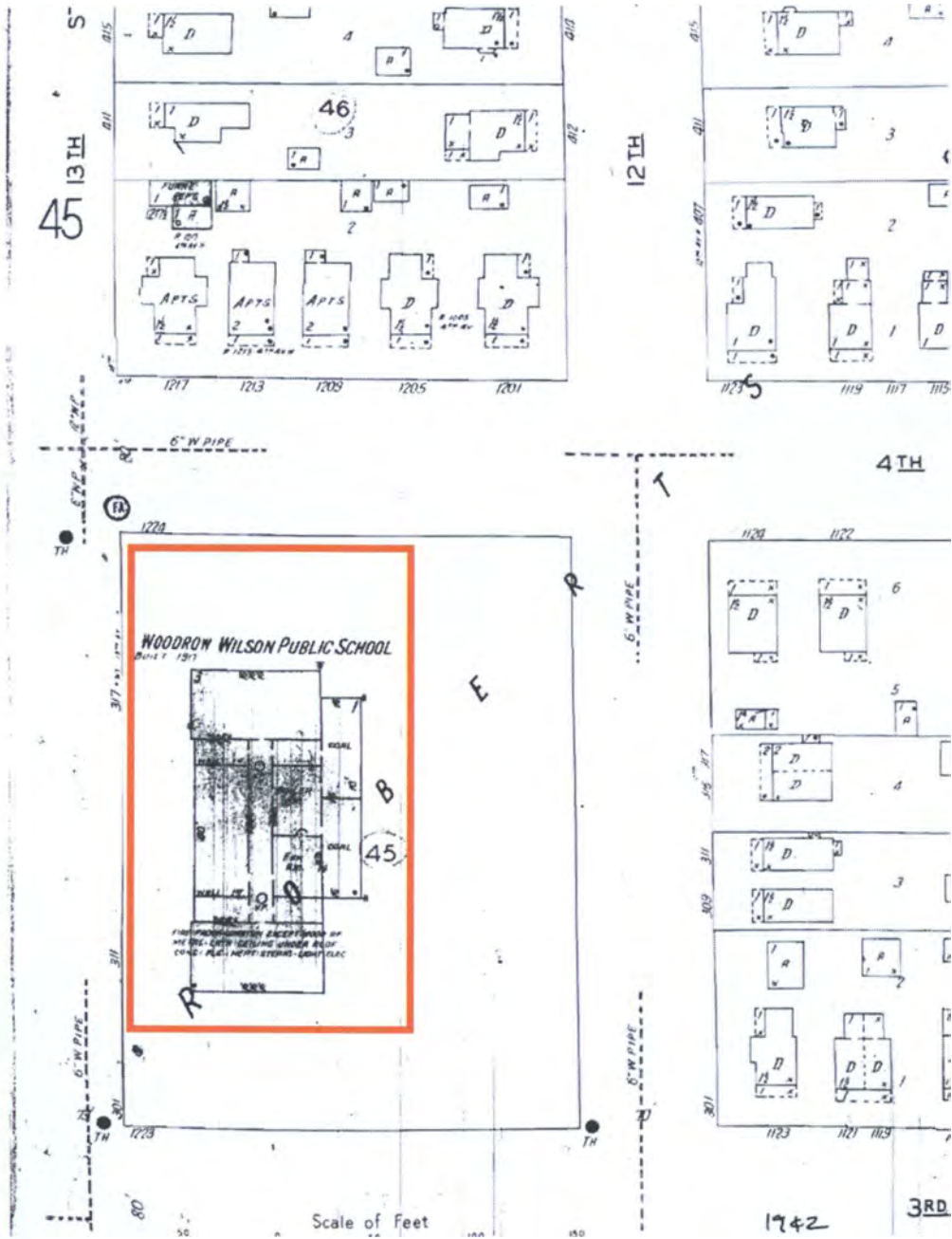


Fig. 4: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Fargo, North Dakota, 1942.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

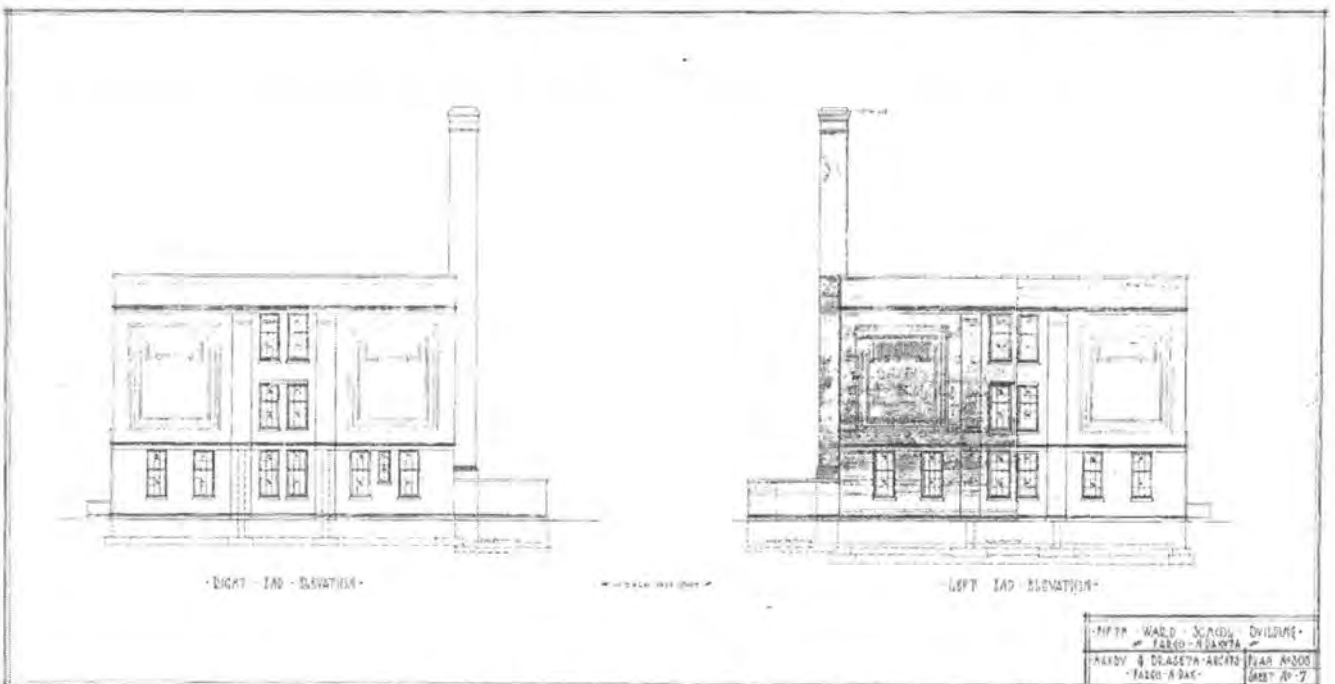
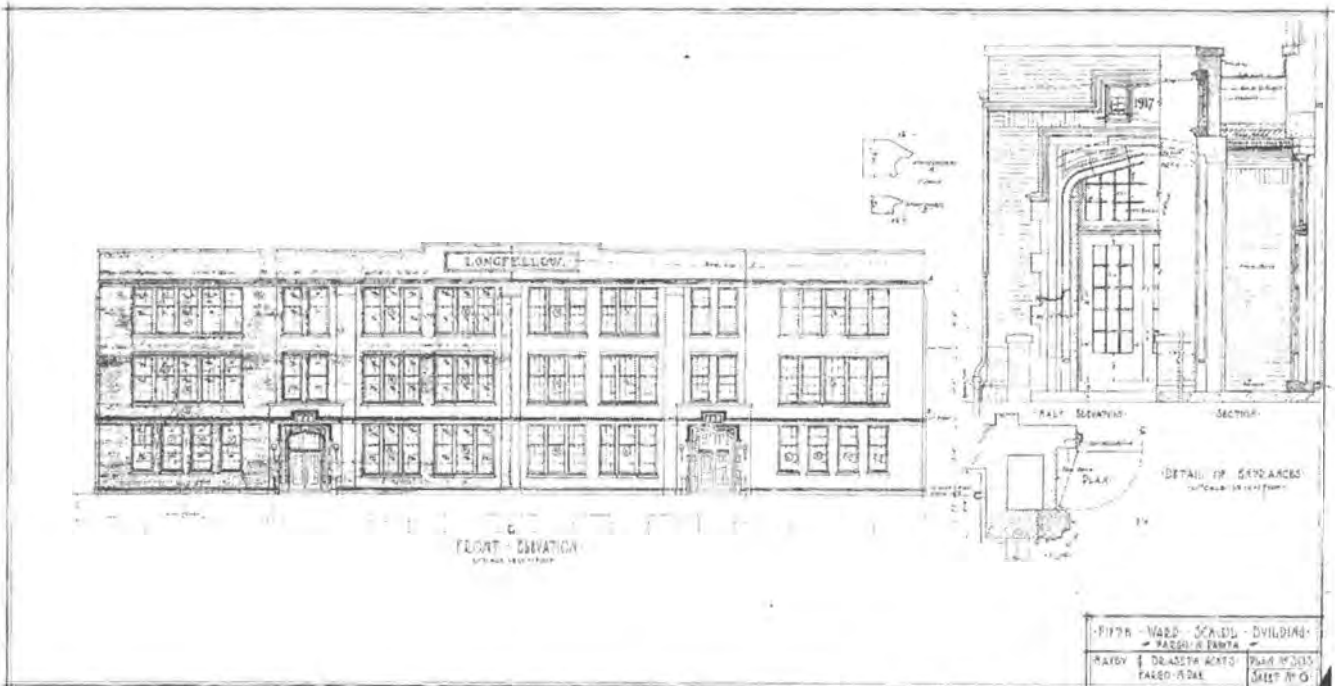
Section number Additional documentation

Page 8

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo
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Cass County, North Dakota

Figs. 5 and 6: Exterior Elevations from  
Haxby and Braseth 1917 construction drawings



United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

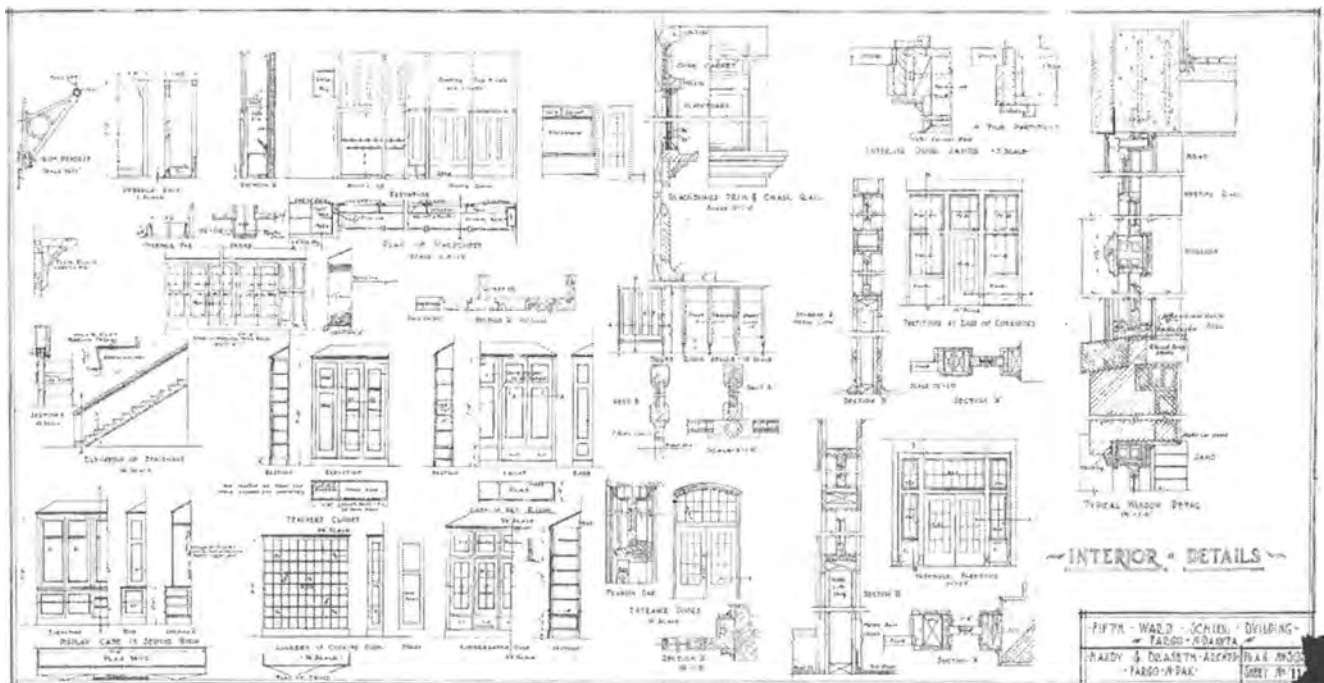
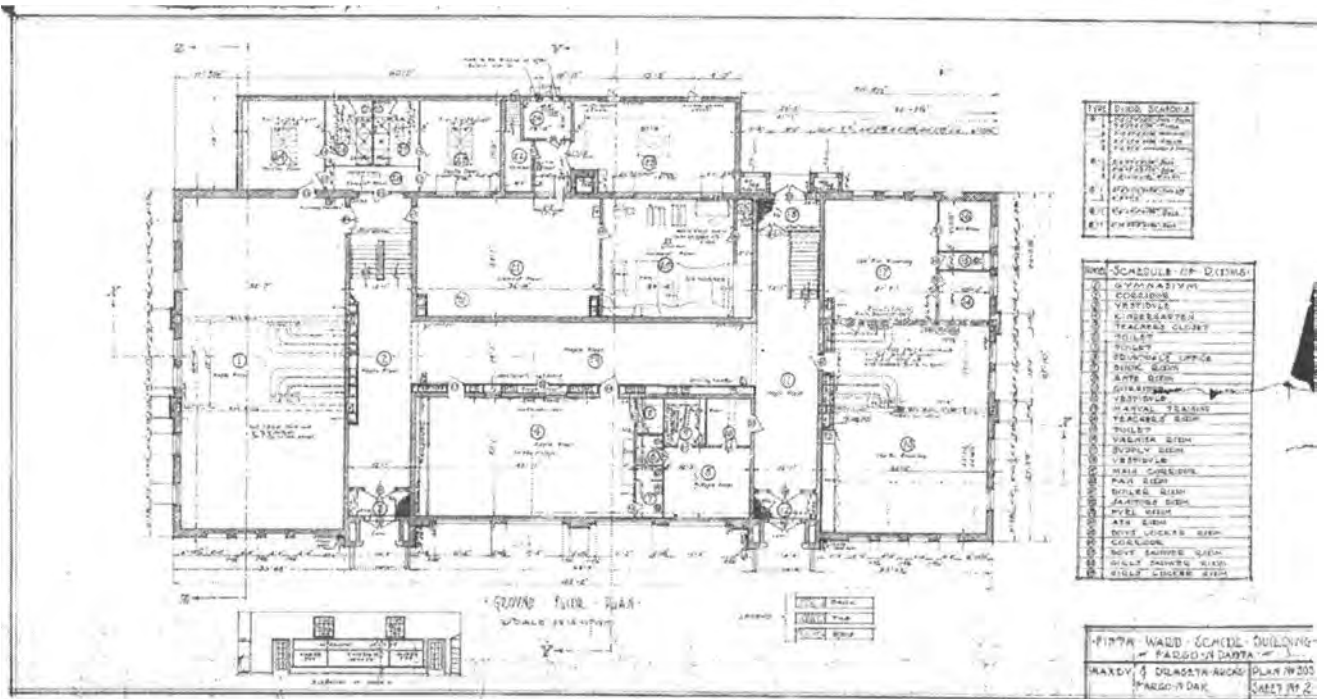
Section number Additional documentation

Page **9**

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Figs. 7 and 8: Ground Floor Plan and Details from Haxby and Braseth 1917 construction drawings



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Page 10

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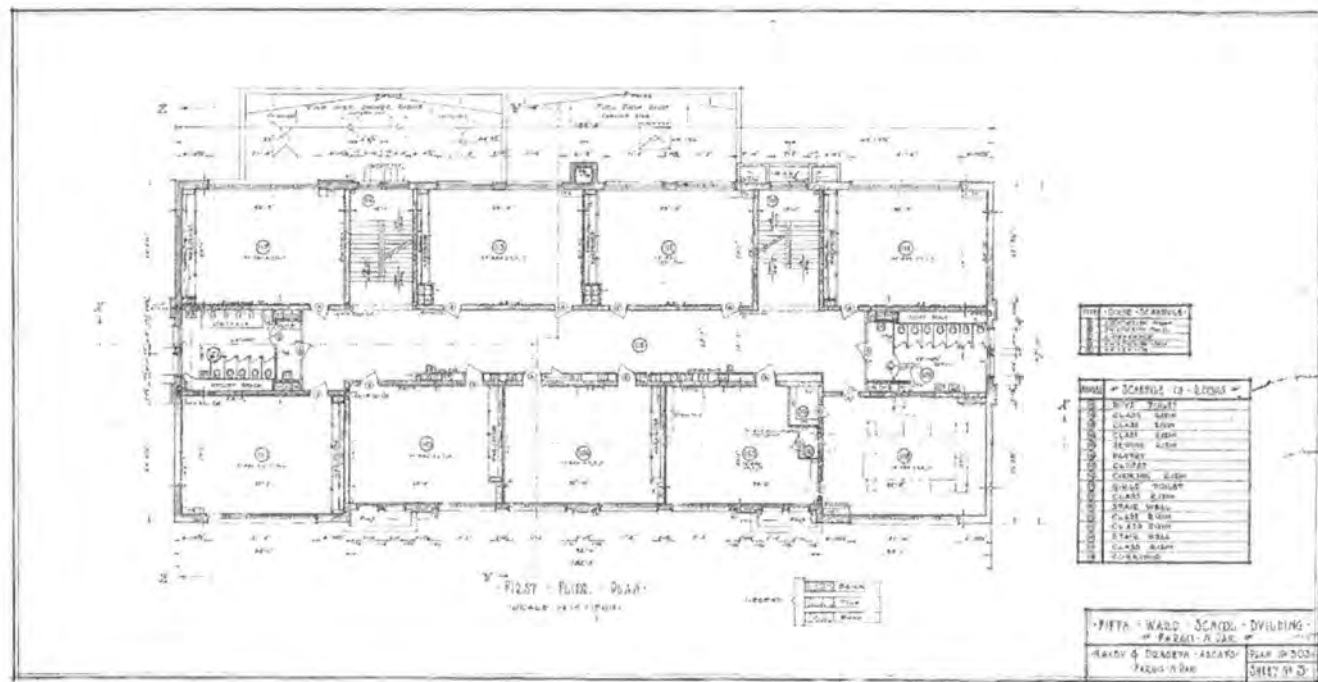
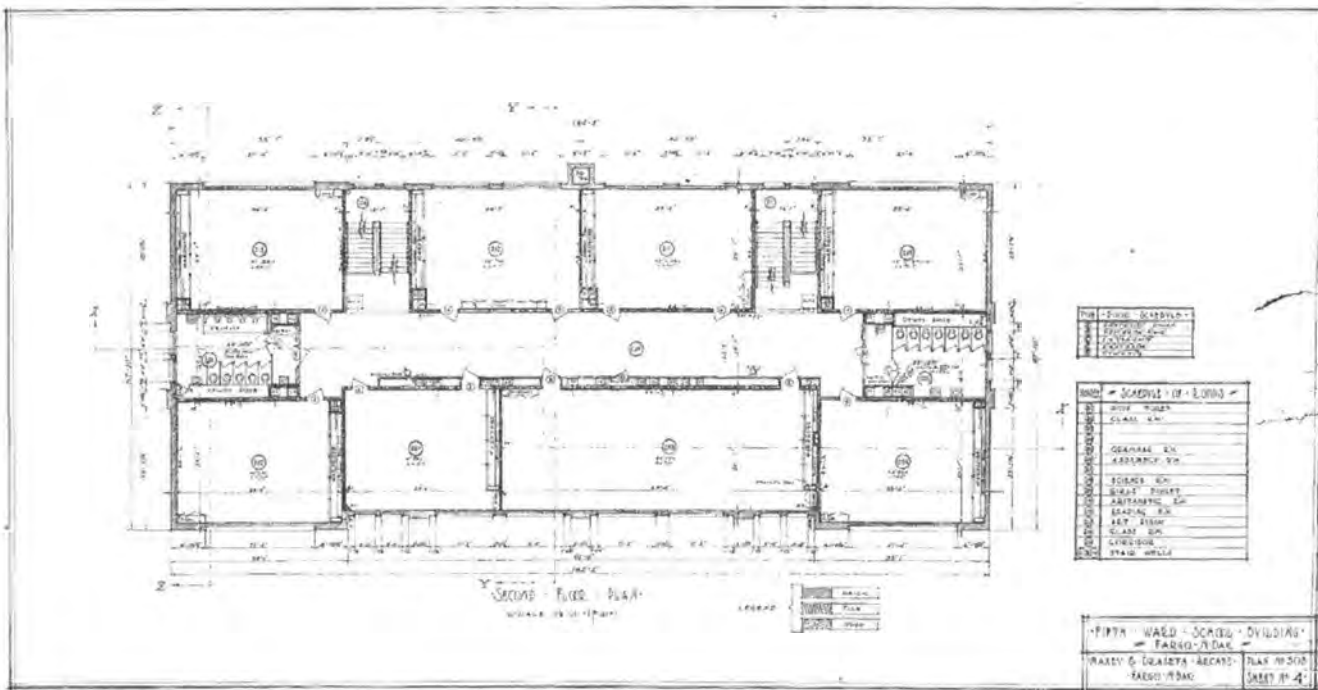
Cass County, North Dakota

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

Figs. 9 and 10: First and Second Floor Plans from  
Haxby and Braseth 1917 construction drawings





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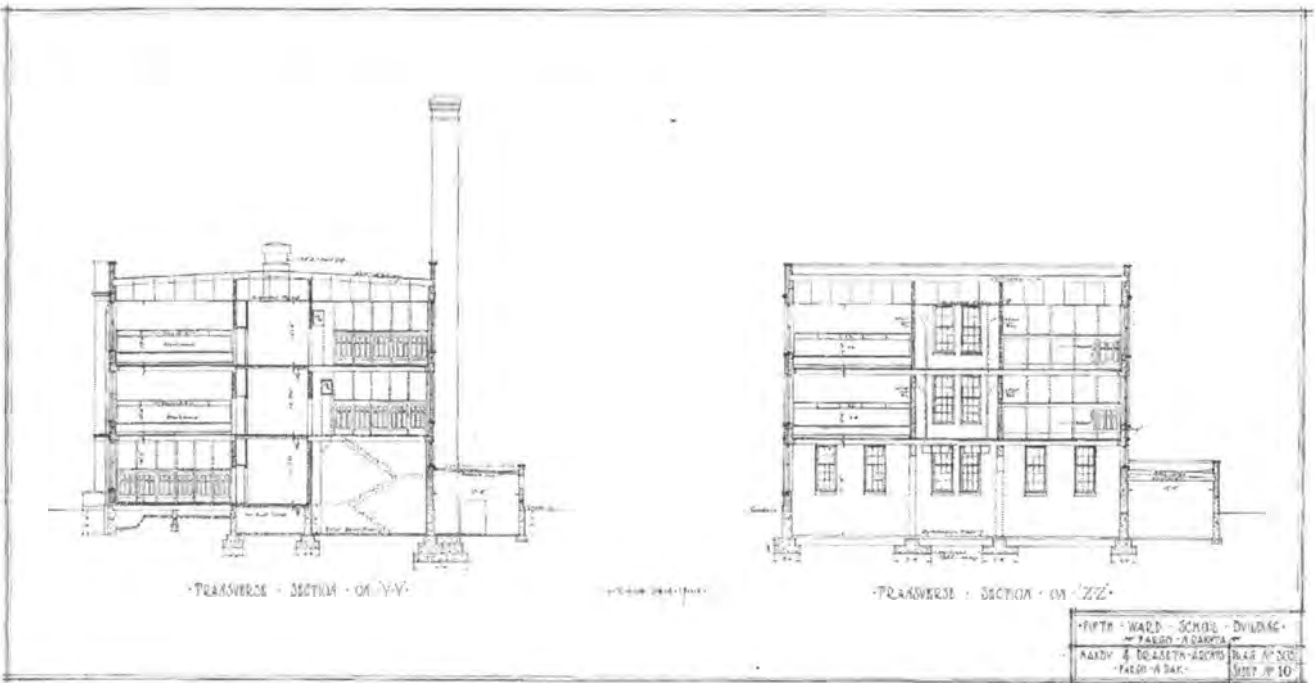
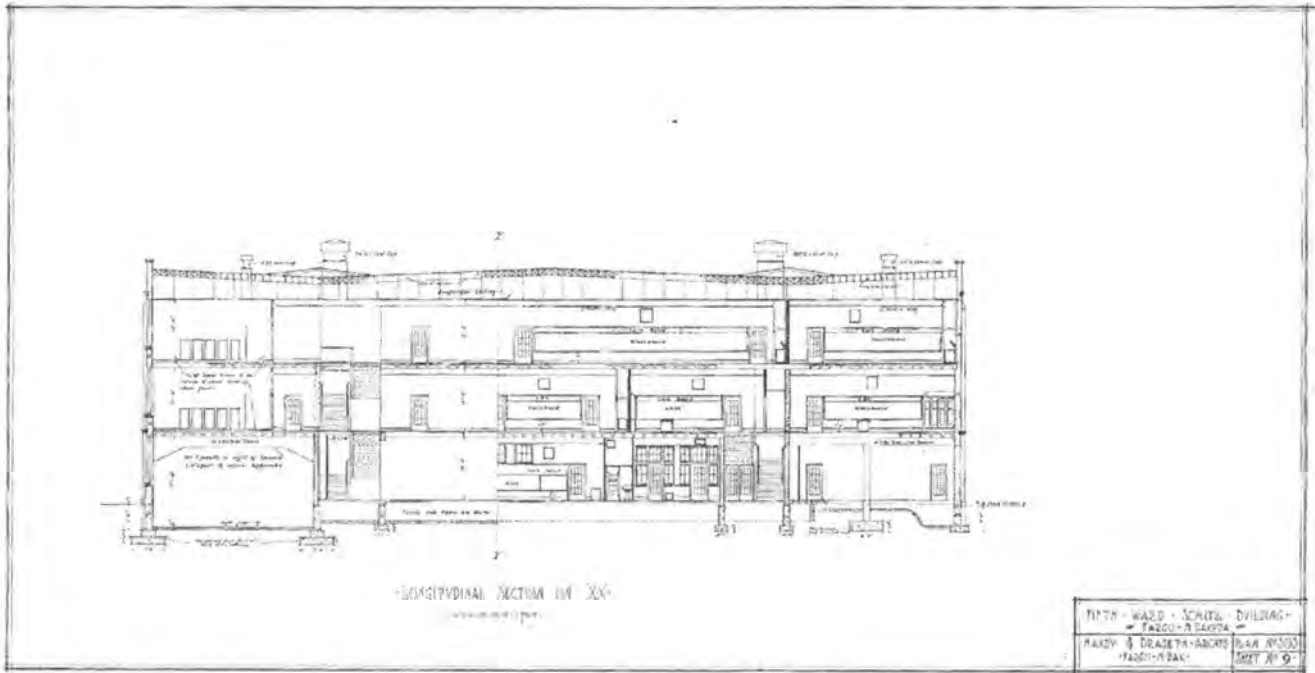
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number            Additional documentation           

Page **11**

Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
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Figs. 11 and 12: Typical Building Sections from  
Haxby and Braseth 1917 construction drawings





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Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo  
Cass County, North Dakota

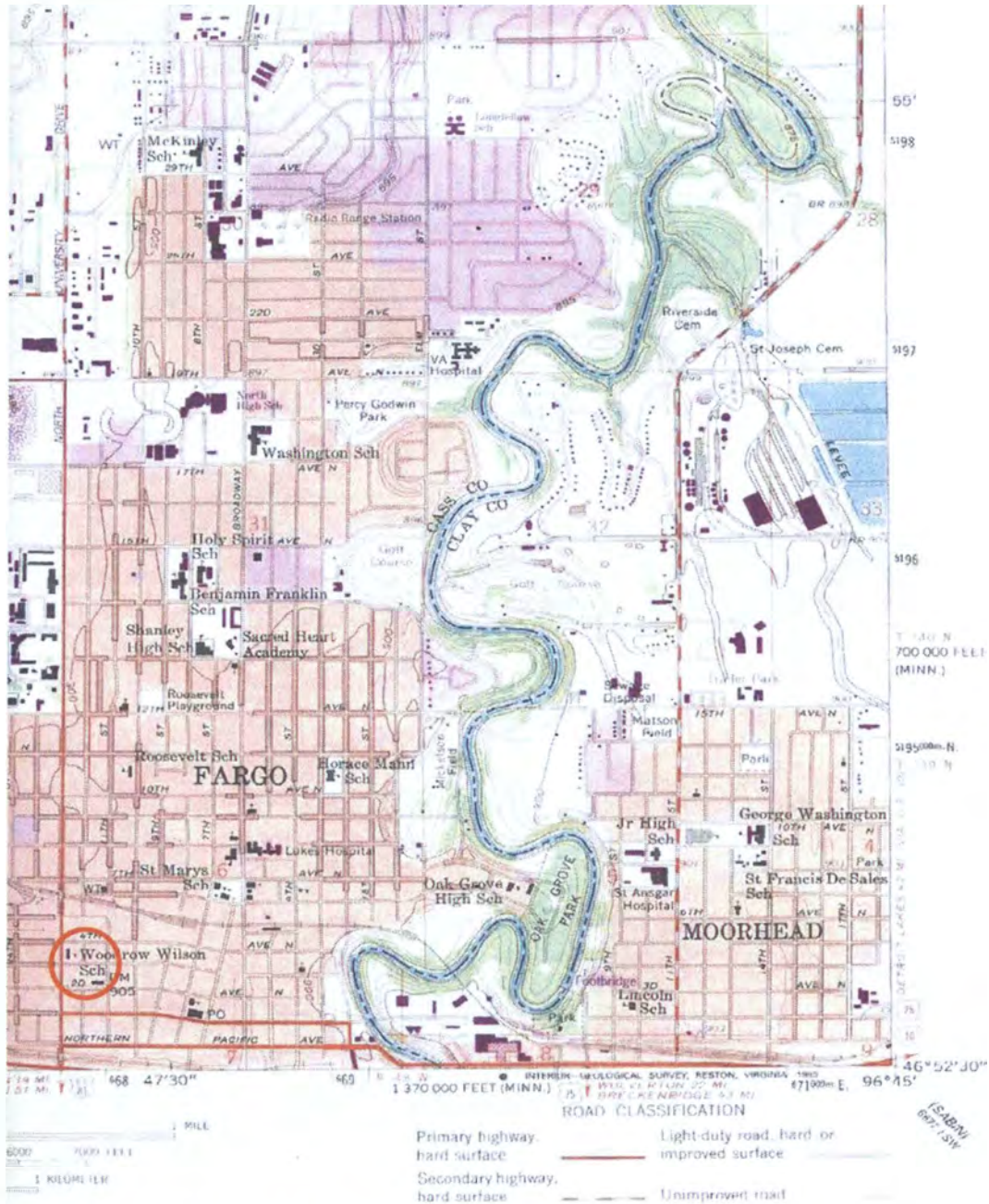


Fig. 13: USGS Topographic Map excerpt (reference)  
Fargo, N. Dak. quadrangle

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson, Woodrow, School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Cass

DATE RECEIVED: 9/07/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/24/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000881

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10-24-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

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

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

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

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

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



WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 1 OF 10







WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 2 OF 10



WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 3 OF 10



WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 4 OF 10





@9ndcs wilson edet nhr-298 color.tif  
Copyright © 2012

WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 5 OF 10





1917

3

WILSON  
FIRE ALARM  
PULL STATION



Blindus wilton enidat nhrzovg autorPttf  
COPYRIGHT © 2012

WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 6 OF 10





1917

3

NO PARKING  
FIRE DEPARTMENT



WEDDROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 7 OF 10



WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 8 OF 10




WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 9 OF 10



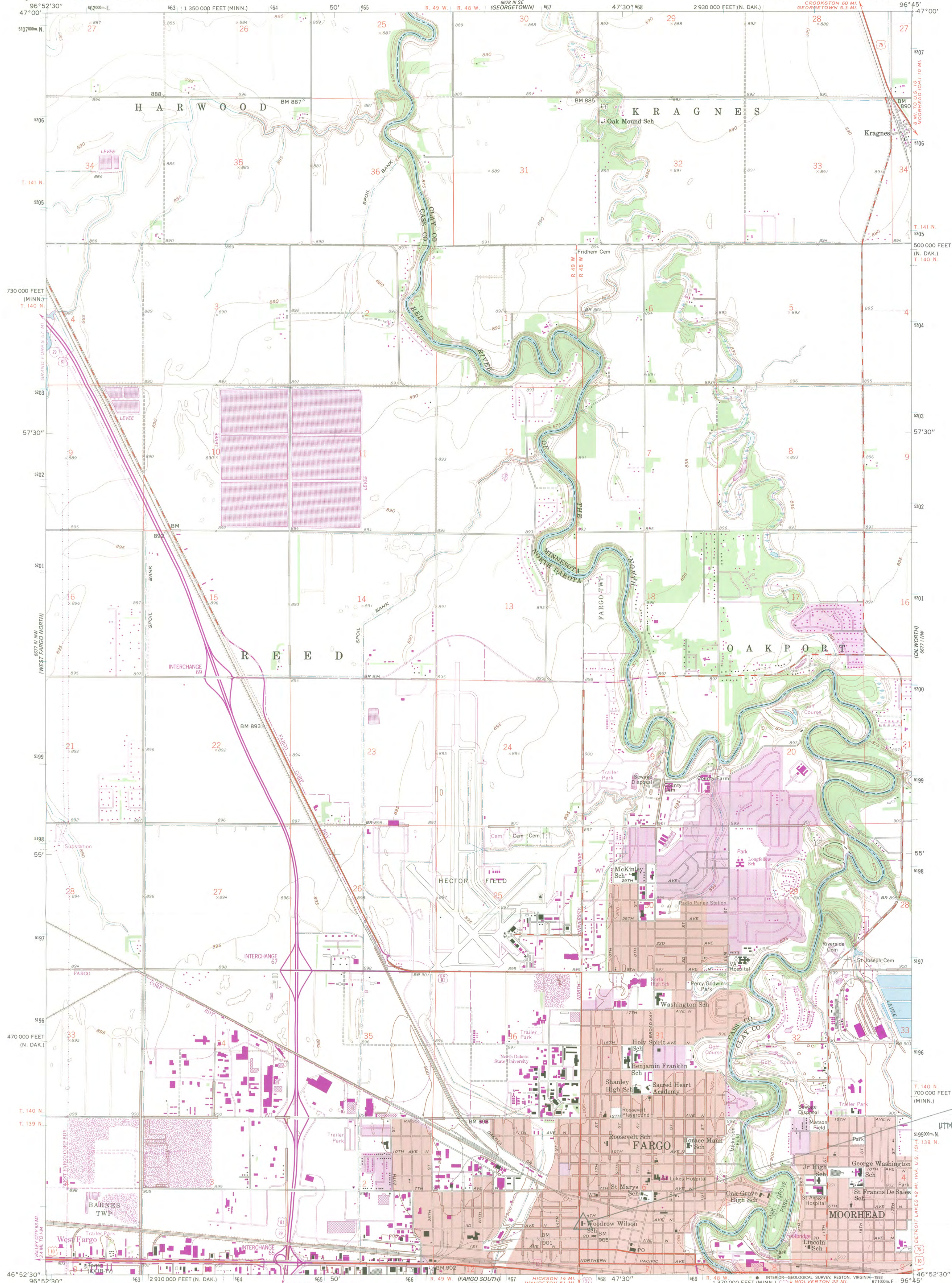




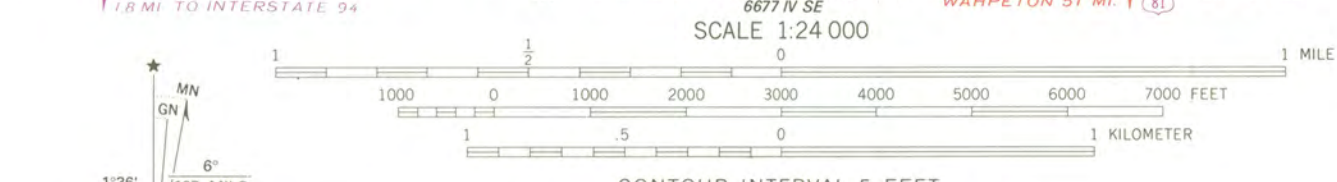
WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL, FARGO  
CASS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO 10 OF 10





Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NGS/NOAA  
Planimetry compiled from aerial photographs taken 1954. Topography by planetable surveys 1959  
Projection: North Dakota coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
10,000-foot grid ticks: North Dakota coordinate system, south zone and Minnesota coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND NORTH DAKOTA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Unimproved road  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route



FARGO NORTH, N. DAK.-MINN.  
46096-H7-TF-024  
1959  
REVISED 1993  
DMA 6677 IV NE-SERIES V871

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Minnesota agencies from aerial photographs taken 1990 and other sources  
Contours not revised. This information not field checked  
Map edited 1993  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Lorna Meidinger  
Date: 5 September 2012  
Subject: National Register Nomination



The following materials are submitted on this 5th day of September 2012, for the nomination of the Woodrow Wilson School, Fargo to the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
- Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
- 10 Photographs
- 1 Original USGS map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- 1 Other: Photo cd, with digital copies of the nomination

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections \_\_\_ do \_\_\_ do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: