

917

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Eau Claire Vocational School

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number	1300 1st Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Eau Claire	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Eau Claire	code 035 zip code 54702

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*David J. Benkovic*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/19/2014  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Eau Claire Vocational School

Eau Claire

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is  
 entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National  
Register.

other, (explain):

  
Signature of the Keeper

11/12/19  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

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

contributing	noncontributing
1	0 buildings
	0 sites
	0 structures
	0 objects
1	0 Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

VACANT/not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American  
Movements

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Concrete

other

**Narrative Description** See Section 7 Continuation Pages.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Education**

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**Period of Significance**

1942 - 1967

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**Significant Dates**

N/A

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Melby, R.C.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See Section 8 Continuation sheets.

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

See Section 9 Continuation Sheet

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other: Area Research Center (McIntyre Library),  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Chippewa Valley County Museum,  
Eau Claire  
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library,  
Eau Claire

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than 1.0 acre

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

1 15 617943 4963375  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** Anthony Godfrey, Ph.D.  
**organization** U.S. West Research, Inc.  
**street & number** 2395 Fisher Lane  
**city or town** Salt Lake City

**state** UT

**date** May 15, 2014  
**telephone** (801) 485-2526  
**zip code** 84109

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

### Property Owner

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

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	state

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

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

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The Eau Claire Vocational School is located on a triangular tract of land bounded on the northeast by 1st Avenue, on the west by Oxford Avenue and on the southeast by Beach Street. The Eau Claire Vocational School is configured as a three-story main section of brick, the front facade of which faces northwest toward the triangle apex, adjoined on its southwest side by a series of single-story additions. The primary (north) facade contains the main entry. The east facade faces 1st Avenue. The west facade faces Oxford Street and is secondary because it is occupied mostly by a series of one-story additions. The angled addition furthest south is a one-story garage that faces toward an asphalt paved parking lot and Beach Street, which occupies the property's southeast corner. The structure's varied rooflines and parapets delineate the shape and extent of the additions that have been made over the years.

#### Integrity

The building has a high level of physical integrity to its period of significance (1942-1967), despite some changes to the building over time. The building's exterior appearance derives from the 1941-1942 conversion of this factory building to a vocational school, including window locations and door openings. Additionally, the basic layout of the building is as it was in 1942 in relation to the location of the main entry, the central corridors on each floor, the classrooms/offices from the corridors, and the large ceiling spaces of the one-story shop area all remain in a similar relationship.

#### Northwest Facing Facade

No photographs have been located to document the architectural style of the original three-story main section of the building (1901-1904) but a 1931 Sanborn map (*Figure 1*) provides clues as to the building's original design as a factory. The original three-story front section – labeled on the map as general storage warehouse – was undivided with common bond pattern brick exterior walls and wood interior structure comprised of timber beams and joists supported by two rows of wooden posts with brick pilasters in the exterior walls. Given the industrial nature of the building and lack of mention on the Sanborn map of interior finishes, it is likely that the interior spaces of the original factory were unfinished, with exposed brick walls and covered wood columns and beams.

The current configuration of the main entrance of the three-story northwest facing front façade resembles a medium-rise apartment building, with a mitered brick surround that frames a double-leaf metal doorway with fixed sidelights and a glass-block transom. The entrance also has a metal canopy with two pipe columns on the outside corners, which are not original to the building. The exterior walls of the front facade, which has three bays, are refaced with simple red brick, common bond patterned pilasters spaced between buff-colored structural clay tile spandrel panels. At one time, the original factory windows on the north-facing facade were replaced with triple-ganged aluminum double-hung units. They were placed on the original stone sills on each facade. The glass block windows at grade level on the front facade of the main section of the building, along with several that

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are boarded up, appear to be part of the 1981 Eau Claire Parks & Recreation Department renovation and done to deter vandalism. The HVAC units and grates on the front facade were also part of the 1981 Parks and Recreation renovation. They were placed in order to provide a non-ducted ventilation system to the building. The walls on the building's north facade are capped with simple terra cotta parapets. The roof of the three-storied sections of the main building is concrete deck. A poured concrete foundation below grade supports the exterior walls of the north-facing facade as well as the rest of the main building.

East Facing Facade Looking Toward 1st Avenue

The east-facing facade is very similar in appearance as the north-facing facade, but does not have an entrance, but has nine bays. The exterior walls of the east facing facade are refaced with simple red brick common bond patterned pilasters spaced between buff-colored structural clay tile spandrel panels. Each bay has a triple-ganged, aluminum double-hung unit on the original stone sills which replaced the original factory windows. The glass block windows at grade level on the east facing facade of the building appear to be part of the 1981 Eau Claire Parks & Recreation Department renovation and done to deter vandalism. The HVAC units and grates on the east-facing facade were also part of the 1981 Parks and Recreation renovation.

South Facing Facade Looking Toward Beach Street

The south-facing facade has three bays of the original factory including an original three-story brick tower attached to the building's southwest wall, which contained a stairwell and an electric freight elevator that provided access to the upper floors. Beyond this was a warren of single-story additions that extended to the west property line. Given the building's history, they were probably built in the late 1920s or 1930s. These additions included storage rooms and an oil warehouse with a concrete coal bin in the basement level. The layout of the rooms in the additions indicate the seemingly random nature of their layout, which can be discerned in the rooflines of the present-day building with intersecting parapets indicating that the structure may have been added onto at least four separate times. Like the main section, these additions featured unfinished interior spaces. Many of the original windows on this side have been bricked in, mostly likely to prevent vandalism. There are also several modern metal door entrances. Circa 1950, a three-door garage was added to the building.

West Facing Facade Looking Toward Oxford Street

The west-facing facade has a mixture of architectural elements. The nine bays of the original building are visible in the background and depict similar exterior architectural elements found of the north, east, and south facades, including materials, windows, and HVAC units and grates. In the foreground is the backside of the garage and former storage rooms and oil warehouse from an earlier era. There is also a loading dock and entrance to the main building on the west facing facade. All of the original

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windows of the 1920s and 1930s additions on this side of the property have been bricked in at some point in time, most likely to prevent vandalism.

Post 1941 Architectural History

In 1941-1942, the building was converted from a warehouse to an educational facility (*Photo 27*) and a partial set of construction drawings dated September 18, 1941 indicate major interior and exterior work to be undertaken on the building. R.C. Melby<sup>1</sup> was commissioned to draft a rehabilitation of the building. The basement of the original three-story section – intended to house sheet metal, electrical and machine shops – was left largely undivided and unfinished but had adequate lighting from a series of windows along the exterior walls. Other than a small boiler room and a fuel room, the single-story addition southwest of the main section had only a crawlspace. According to the plans, the first floor of the three-story section (*Figure 2*) was subdivided into a series of classrooms, administrative offices, a library, and a woodworking shop, accessed by a corridor that extended along the building's southwest wall. These were all medium-scale spaces separated by wood-studded plaster covered partitions, with finished ceilings and floors. The one-story addition housed a laundry, auto mechanics shop, welding shop, and an "apprentice" shop, as well as a girls' restroom. The second floor of the main section of the building (*Figure 3*) was given over to living spaces. The northern corner was partitioned off into an open dormitory dominated by bunk beds along the two sidewalls. Beside this were small apartments for the supervisor and cooks, a boys' shower, a kitchen, cafeteria serving counter and several small exam rooms. The south part of the space housed the open dining hall and a lounge. Open dormitories aligned on either side of a central corridor occupied almost the complete third floor of the main section (*Figure 4*).

While the rehabilitation concentrated principally on interior improvements, the exterior of the building's main section underwent extensive alterations at this time as well, resulting in a more collegiate and less industrial character. The exterior walls were refaced with simple common bond patterned red brick pilasters spaced between buff-colored structural clay tile spandrel panels—three bays on the front and rear, nine bays on each of the sides. The original factory windows were replaced with triple-ganged aluminum double-hung units on the original stone sills. The walls were capped with simple terra cotta parapets. The main entrance of the northwest front was configured to resemble a medium-rise apartment building, with a mitered brick surround that framed a double-leaf doorway with three fixed lights for each door and a fixed glass-block transom above (*Ibid.*: 6). Throughout these changes, the structure's footprint remained largely unchanged; the addition of a red

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. Melby was probably not a licensed architect, but a draftsman. In the years 1937 to 1939, Eau Claire city directories listed him as a student. The 1941 Eau Claire city directory listed him not in the architect section but did note that he worked as a draftsman for Refrigerating Industries, Inc. Shortly thereafter, he joined the armed forces and remained in the Army until at least 1946. Eau Claire city directories indicate that he did not pursue architecture after World War II, but was a postal carrier until at least 1956. *Eau Claire City Directories, 1935-1956*.



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brick enclosed stairwell to the rear of the three-story section marked the only substantial change. Massed as a hodgepodge of red brick boxes, little could be done stylistically about the single-story additions on the southwest side, and they were left as original. Window openings were either left in place with the sash replaced by aluminum or simply bricked in. Construction of the rehabilitation began soon after completion of the drawings and was accomplished in 1942.

By 1950, additional changes to the building occurred as indicated by a 1950 Sanborn map (*Figure 5*). The classrooms and dorms remained as original. The only addition to the structure's footprint was a concrete-block garage attached to the south corner that may have replaced and extended an earlier concrete-block garage. Aligned along Oxford Avenue, it was situated at a 45-degree angle to the main building. The single-story structure housed three garage bays, with the sectional doors facing east. Additionally, a one-story frame warehouse had been built along Beach Street and a temporary metal classroom was located at the southeastern edge of the property.

In 1967, the building was turned over to the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department to be used for a community center and administrative offices. It is likely that at this time, the City of Eau Claire also replaced some of the windows along the lower level of the building with fixed glass block. The entrance door was replaced and was sheltered by an aluminum canopy. The 1977 Sanborn map (*Figure 6*) illustrates the transitional nature of the building thereafter. On the map, it was identified as the Parks & Recreation Building, but still used the floor plan—with original shop labels of the earlier vocational school. No additional structures were built onto the main building (and no more ever would), but the warehouse along Beach Street and classroom built at the rear of the property had been removed. A parking lot was installed in their place with a small supply shed positioned in the middle. Eventually, this small shed was removed as well.

The Parks & Recreation Department occupied the building for twelve years as such before undertaking another rehabilitation of the building. Early in 1981, the agency commissioned Eau Claire architects David Len and David Peterson to delineate the work. In May, they produced a set of drawings. The basement, which would contain two meeting rooms and a shuffleboard stadium, was left largely intact, with replacement of doors and doorways with hollow metal as the principal change. Work in the upper levels, which housed offices and storage rooms, involved primarily replacement of the electrical and mechanical systems; the partitions, windows, and doors were left largely intact. Demolition and construction began later that year and were completed early in 1982.

Parks and Recreation occupied the property with no further substantive changes until moving out in 2010. Since that time, the former 28,824 square foot Eau Claire Vocational School building excluding the lower level has stood vacant, but was recently sold by the city of Eau Claire (*Figures 7-10*).

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Today, each floor is about the same as it was when completed in 1942, as they relate to corridor location, classrooms or offices. The lower level is a single loaded corridor with classrooms to the east. The first level is still a single loaded corridor with classrooms/offices to the east and has a connection to the one-story shop areas to the west. The second and third floors have some of the original 1942 lockers and coat closets present (*Photos 19-22*). Additionally, the one-story shop area maintains the same character of exposed brick exterior walls and exposed wood trusses, as was part of the 1942 classrooms.

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Significance

The Eau Claire Vocational School derives its local level of National Register significance from its association with vocational education. With an area of significance as education under Criterion A, the property provides a direct link with the vocational movement in Wisconsin, with Eau Claire's vocational education system (one of the state's earliest), and with Depression-era vocational education in Wisconsin and the National Youth Administration (NYA), one of President Roosevelt's Depression relief agencies. Its period of significance extends from the school's acquisition and remodeling of the building completed in 1942 to the School's vacation from the site in 1967. In 1941, the City of Eau Claire bought the former Multi-tone Factory at 1300 1st Avenue because Eau Claire's vocational program was experiencing a surge of students that stretched the schools existing facilities at the Sixth Ward School on Mappa Street (extant) and needed more room. It was also a time when the United States entered World War II and skilled workers and increased industrial production were vital to the war effort. The convergence of these two factors helped establish the Eau Claire Vocational School at this location. The school continued the long history of vocational education in the City of Eau Claire here until 1967, when the building was turned over to the City of Eau Claire's Parks and Recreation Department. Due to extensive rehabilitation in 1941-1942, paid for with funds from the Eau Claire Vocational Board, the NYA, and the City of Eau Claire, the building's current exterior appearance and much of its exterior and interior fabric date from this period. Its relatively high level of physical integrity thus contributes to the property's National Register eligibility.

In summary and evident from its history discussed below, the Eau Claire Vocational School is associated with the expansion of vocational education in Eau Claire and the State of Wisconsin; it is significant as the building most closely associated with the expansion of vocational education in Eau Claire and the site where expanded state and federal vocational expansion programs were implemented; that it filled the need to train workers for industry prior to and after World War II; that it has a unique association/partnership with the NYA; and that the NYA through the Eau Claire Vocational School provided one of the few federal vocational education programs open to girls as well as boys.

Background to Development of Vocational Education in Wisconsin, 1900-1911

At the turn of the century, Wisconsin was transitioning from a wheat growing area into a dairy state and from dependence on agriculture to one with a significant industrial sector. However, at this time, most of Wisconsin's workforce was uneducated and there was a need for a rapidly changing education system to meet the needs of a fast changing workplace involving the introduction of automation of jobs. To take advantage of these new industrial opportunities, Charles McCarthy, creator and head of the Legislative Reference Library, University of Wisconsin President Charles R. Van Hise and others actively sought the development of vocational education in Wisconsin. As a result of their efforts, in

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1911, state legislation was passed to form continuing education schools – the predecessors of today's technical colleges. The 1911 law required that all communities with a population of 5,000 or more to establish a continuation, trade, and evening school. This included the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin (Van Gorden 1972: 1-6; CVTC 2012a: 7-8, 22). Wisconsin became the first state in the country with a system of vocational, technical and adult education. At the recommendation of Governor Francis E. McGovern (1911-1915) and an interim committee a State Board of Industrial Education was created, a position of assistant for industrial education in the state superintendent's office was established, and the 1911 law provided for the establishment of local boards of industrial education, and appropriated aid for these schools (Wyatt 1986: v. 3, Introduction to Education, 1-1 to 1-7).

City of Eau Claire's Vocational Education, 1912-1937

In September-October 1912, the first industrial school work in Eau Claire began after a local industrial board of education was appointed. Thereafter, gender-segregated vocational classes for teens, who were not attending regular school, began in Eau Claire. Two rooms of the First Ward Public School formerly located at North Dewey and Wisconsin Streets were devoted toward vocational education. Initially, students had only a handful of classes to choose from. They included mechanical drawing, shop arithmetic, carpentry, cooking, sewing, and citizenship. Three years later, separate gender-specific vocational education schools opened in Eau Claire. Boys went to the Eighth Ward Public School building formerly located at 500 N. Barstow Street. Girls went to the First Ward Public School building at the corner of North Dewey and Wisconsin Streets (Van Gorden 1972: 9-10; CVTC 2012a: 9; CVTC 2012b: 18-19).

In 1917, changes in Wisconsin law extended the age of school attendance from fourteen to seventeen years. Consequently, vocational schools now served an older group of students. In 1921, Wisconsin legislation also increased required school attendance to half time for employed 14-to 16-year olds and eight hours per week for 16- to 18-year olds. Nonetheless, there was no co-education as far as vocational classes were concerned and Eau Claire vocational students were still separated by gender at the schools they attended. A revised curriculum now included sheet metal, millinery, letter writing, spelling, hygiene, accounting, secretarial practices, office machines, academic work, and telegraphy. The next change in vocational education in Eau Claire came in the fall of 1926. At that time a new high school was opened in Eau Claire and an agreement was struck between the Industrial Board of Education and the Eau Claire Board of Education to allow the use of space in the new building for vocational purposes. In return, the Industrial Board of Education furnished and equipped many of the rooms. This move was a major step in the growth of vocational education in Eau Claire. Later in the decade, new classes were added in home nursing, salesmanship, commercial law, elements of banking, physical culture for girls, papermaking, agriculture and English for new Americans. These programs allowed Eau Claire's vocational educational system to keep pace and adjust its programs to new

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realities. Eau Claire also became one of the first Wisconsin cities to have day industrial classes, a factor that contributed to the constant growth of the school. Nevertheless, a year later, the Eau Claire's Industrial Board realized that the facility-sharing program did not adequately meet the needs of their type of education. As a remedy, they sought to exchange their high school equipment for the Sixth Ward School building on Mappa Street. But because of the stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent Great Depression, the move to the Mappa Street location was not made until 1937. During this time, the school was under the direction of Harley Brooks and vocational education continued in the high school (1927-1941) (Van Gorden 1972: 11, 16-19; CVTC 2012a: 16-17).

City of Eau Claire's Vocational Education Program, 1937-1941

In 1937, Eau Claire's City Council approved the move to Mappa Street as well as remodeling and building an addition to the Sixth Ward building, making it the first school building for vocational education in Eau Claire. All three floors were renovated and a one-story shop addition was added. Eau Claire Vocational School programs were also renamed "Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education." By 1938 the curriculum at the Mappa Street location included classrooms for a state apprenticeship program and classes, as well as typing, dictation, business English, correspondence, shorthand, transcription, commercial law, business math, machine calculations, bookkeeping, accounting, penmanship, spelling, secretarial practice and filing. By 1938, trade skills were also being taught there. They included barbering, painting, plumbing, pharmacology, bricklaying, carpentry, watch making, and marketing. When not attending class, the trade school apprentices worked in the field with a journeyman.

Thanks to student aid from New Deal programs, such as the NYA, unemployed workers received skill training at the Eau Claire Vocational School. The NYA was a New Deal agency that focused on providing work and education for youths and was aimed to help the millions of young Americans who found it harder than other groups to find work during the Depression. In accordance with an Executive Order dated June 26, 1935, the NYA was set up as an agency within the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and later came under several different agencies, such as the Federal Security Agency and the War Manpower Commission. Congress earmarked the funds with which the NYA operated from the general appropriation for emergency relief (Johnson and Harvey 1938: 8-9).

The NYA operated from 1935 to 1943, during which it came under several agencies, such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It offered vocational guidance, self-improvement, health benefits and citizenship courses. Over the years, it helped over 4.5 million young people find work, get vocational training, or afford a better education. The idea was that paying for an education was more beneficial than providing welfare. War training needs in Eau Claire eventually led to woodworking and auto mechanics courses at the Mappa Street site, an electrical shop on Graham

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Avenue, and a machine shop on Jones Street. Enrollment in 1940 reached 1,057 day and nighttime students with a staff of sixteen instructors. The list of activities at Mappa Street also included sports (basketball, soccer, badminton, ping pong, volley ball, kick ball and tumbling) and a Glee Club and orchestra. By 1941, the Mappa Street location was bulging at the seams and Director Brooks began looking for a new building. The need for additional space was urgent as training demands for war increased after Congress renewed the National Defense Act to include a program called Vocational Education for National Defense (VEND). Between 1940 and 1945, this program gave seven million war production workers pre-employment and supplemental training nationwide (Van Gorden 1972: 19-20, 23-26, 33; CVTC 2012a: 19-24).

Multi-tone Building (1300 1st Avenue) History

In February 1941, Director Brooks unexpectedly resigned for reasons of health, and Sam Davey, then the principal of the senior high school, replaced him (Van Gorden 1972: 33). Under Director Davey (1941-1944), a search for a new building continued and ended with the purchase of the old Multi-tone Building at 1300 1st Avenue, which stood on a triangular tract of land within Block C of Chapman and Thorp's Addition. This building, which was between 1901 and 1903-1904, had an interesting history of its own prior to this purchase.

The known history of Block C begins with an Eau Claire City directory for 1889-1890 that listed no occupants for this location. An 1891 lithographic map of Eau Claire indicates that this triangular piece of land was empty as well (Pauli Map 1891; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1889-1890*). Meanwhile, in 1890, the Eau Claire Trunk Company was established to manufacture suitcases, trunks, bags, telescope cases and all manner of leather products. Research suggests that the company acquired Block C around 1890 and had a manufacturing site at 1124-1126 1st Avenue with an office at 127 South Barstow Street no later than 1893-1894. W. E. Wahl & Ferdinand Hoepfner were listed as the proprietors (Fraser 2014: 2; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1893-1894*: 116; *1895-1896*: 128). However, the factory located at this address probably was not the current building. Having just begun their enterprise, it is likely that they did not have the capitalization to build a new building but probably temporarily occupied another building there.

With their business growing, in 1901, the Eau Claire Trunk Company incorporated with a working capital of \$75,000. This capital probably allowed them to build the current building no later than 1903-1904. The Eau Claire city business directory for 1901-1902 listed the company as "trunk manufacturers" with an address at the single address of 1124 1st Avenue, while the subsequent city directory for 1903-1904 listed the company as having a "factory and sample rooms" at the combined address of 1124-1126 1st Avenue. The company's office still remained at 127 S. Barstow Street. It was mostly a family run business with W.E. Wahl, as President, Ferdinand Hoepfner as Vice-

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President, William H. Hoepfner as Secretary, and George Hoepfner as Treasurer (Fraser 2014: 2; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1901-1902*: 324; *1903-1904*: 75-76, 358). It can be assumed that the three-story (with basement) manufacturing plant was built on this property to accommodate a growing volume of business. Subsequent city directories up until 1918 indicate that the factory operated there with a retail store still at 127 S. Barton Street (*Eau Claire City Directory, 1905-1906*: 125; *1912*: 162; *1914*: 160). During that time, the company advertised as carrying the biggest assortment of trunks, dress suit cases, telescope cases, extra trunks, sample cases and bags and that repair could be done on short notice (*Eau Claire City Directory, 1910*: 5).

Sometime after 1918, the Eau Claire Trunk Store went out of business, perhaps because Ferdinand Hoepfner, the family head may have passed away. Apparently, the Hoepfner family inherited the property and the building upon it. A year later, they leased and/or sold the building to the Multi-tone Phonograph Company, which occupied the factory building starting in June 1919. E.J. Sailsted, who had worked for the Columbia Talking Machine Company, had developed a new machine. In 1918, Sailsted sought to produce the new phonograph machines in Eau Claire but needed a factory. Sailsted planned to build a new plant, but in June 1919, instead he announced the purchase of the factory formerly used by Eau Claire Trunk Company. According to newspaper accounts, this purchase gave his company 22,000 square feet and he predicted the production of 100 units of his phonographs a day. The Multi-tone Phonograph Company made in five models and sold them nationwide and at a downtown showroom "The Phonograph Shop" at 112 Grand Avenue East. In February 1920, local newspapers reported that the company was producing almost 50 machines a day and that big rush orders were coming in to the company. All seemed well. However, a year later, an abrupt reversal of fortune, coupled with Sailsted faking his death in a fire, and then the disappearance of the founder and president of the Multi-tone Phonograph Company for a time,<sup>2</sup> placed the company in receivership (Wick 1994). Ownership of the factory most likely reverted back to the Hoepfner family, who would eventually sell the building to the City of Eau Claire years later (Van Gorden 1972: 28). Despite a brief occupancy of only two years, thereafter, the building became known as the old Multi-tone Factory no doubt because of the notoriety and scandal surrounding Sailsted.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Eau Claire city directories indicate that the building and property were occupied jointly by a series of commercial firms, including the Eau Claire Warehouse Company (1923-1935), the National Biscuit Company (1929-1935), and the Murphy Transfer & Storage Company, which was later renamed the Murphy Motor Freight Lines (1929-1935) (*Eau Claire City Directory, 1923*: 211; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1926*: 138; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1929*: 153,

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<sup>2</sup> Sailsted was eventually found alive and living with his former secretary in Eureka, California. Both were found guilty of arson and were sentenced to four years in prison.

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300-301; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1931*: 149, 282-283; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1933*: 127, 268, 270; *Eau Claire City Directory, 1935*: 126, 273, 275). By 1931, the date of the first extensive Sanborn map (*Figure 1*), the former trunk and phonograph factory had been enlarged with single-story additions to the southwest of the original three-story building. The original three-story from section-labeled on the map as a general storage warehouse—remained undivided with brick common bond pattern exterior walls and wood interior structure comprised of timber beams and joists supported by two rows of wooden posts, with brick pilasters in the exterior walls. Given the industrial nature of this building and the lack of mention of interior finishes, it is likely that the interior spaces were unfinished with exposed brick walls and uncovered wood columns and beams. The Eau Claire Warehouse Company likely occupied this space. Beyond the main building was a warren of single-story additions that extended to the west property line. These included storage rooms and an oil warehouse, with a concrete coal bin in the basement level. The layout of these rooms and the seemingly random nature of their layout can be discerned in the roof lines of the present-day building, with the intersecting parapets indicating that the structure may have been added onto at least four separate times. These additions probably featured unfinished interior spaces because they were built in the late 1920s to accommodate the National Biscuit Company and the Murphy Motor Freight Lines, both businesses that required and would have used this type of space.

Sometime between 1935 and 1937, the three companies who occupied the property (Eau Claire Warehouse Company, National Biscuit Company, and Murphy Motor Freight Lines) fell victim to the Depression and went out of business because they did not appear in the 1937 and/or in subsequent Eau Claire city directories (*Eau Claire City Directory, 1937, 1939, 1941*).

Purchase and Remodeling of Multi-tone Factory Building, 1941-1942

At first to meet the demands for greater space due to the war effort, Eau Claire County agreed to appropriate \$2,000.00 for building rental for the Eau Claire Vocational School. But at some point in early 1941, the school formed a cooperative education program with the federal government and sought to buy a building. The City Council appropriated \$12,500.00 for equipment, which was matched by an equal sum from the NYA. The Eau Claire County Board contributed an appropriation as well and a cooperative city, county, and federal effort was born to physically expand the Eau Claire Vocational School. In April of 1941, the Eau Claire Board of Vocational and Adult Education requested the City Council to purchase the Multi-tone Factory at 1300 1st Avenue to meet the Board's need for expansion of the vocational education program in Eau Claire and to be an NYA Center. The building was purchased from George and Rose Hoepfner on May 29, 1941 for \$25,000.00 for use as the Eau Claire Vocational School (Van Gorden 1972: 27-28).



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John Faville, Jr., the NYA Wisconsin Administrator, commissioned R.C. Melby<sup>3</sup> to draft a rehabilitation of the building, converting it from a warehouse to an educational facility. Approved by E.A. Madden, State Supervisor of Works Division Construction, a partial set of drawings dated September 18, 1941 indicate major interior and exterior work to be taken on the building. The basement of the original three-story section (*Figure 2*) intended to house sheet metal, electrical and machine shops – was left largely undivided and unfinished but had adequate lighting from a series of windows. Other than a small boiler room and a fuel room, the single-story addition southwest of the main section had only a crawlspace (Fraser 2014: 3).

Construction of the rehabilitation began soon after completion of the drawings and was accomplished in 1942 (Ibid.: 7). With NYA funding, the Eau Claire Vocational School became an NYA resident center, a program NYA started in 1936-1937. The students lived in co-operative dormitories with the only requirement for entrance, besides relief status, was their desire to learn. Prior to 1942, there were many NYA projects in the State of Wisconsin involved with commercial training boys and girls with many working part-time in county offices running switchboards, typing, taking dictation, filing, indexing and recording, or they worked in county conservation organizations, building feeders and shelters for game birds, constructing and maintaining fish breeding and rearing ponds, or they sewed clothes for needy children in public schools. Throughout the state, NYA youth spent some of their spare time in vocational schools/s shops and classrooms. But living in co-operative dormitories was a new development in the Wisconsin's NYA program. By 1938, Wisconsin called its ten small NYA residences Co-operative Training Centers. They were located in Antigo (20 students), Chippewa Falls (31 resident students), Green Bay (31 resident students), Madison (66 resident students), Marinette (27 resident students), Menomonie (21 student residents), Platteville (21 student residents), Racine (30 student residents), Superior (36 student residents) and Wausau (29 student residents). The 1942 Eau Claire Vocational School facility fit into this category of Co-operative Training Center, but was larger than all ten of the other training centers (Lindley 1938: 46-47, 50, 54-55, 78, 82, 97-98, 103-105, 116, 178, 236-237).

Interestingly, vocational and NYA students did much of the work. About fifty unskilled NYA students placed under skilled foreman did the construction. All equipment in the building, including double-deck bunks, dining room tables, cabinets, benches, tool cribs, shelves, desks and chairs for offices were made in school shops. Lockers were made in the woodworking shop, fireproof doors in the sheet

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. Melby was probably not a licensed architect, but a draftsman. In the years 1937 to 1939, Eau Claire city directories listed him as a student. The 1941 Eau Claire city directory listed him not in the architect section but did note that he worked as a draftsman for Refrigerating Industries, Inc. Shortly thereafter, he joined the armed forces and remained in the Army until at least 1946. Eau Claire city directories indicate that he did not pursue architecture after World War II, but was a postal carrier until at least 1956. *Eau Claire City Directories, 1935-1956*.

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metal shop, machines and tools in the tool shop. Trainees also did the electrical wiring, and made and installed a "talk back" public address system (Van Gorden 1972: 27-28).

However, the Eau Claire Board of Vocational and Adult Education faced many problems during the remodeling period. The NYA reported financial difficulties during construction because the federal government had impounded almost all of NYA's funds for the war effort. To meet the financial crisis, the Vocational School transferred funds from its regular operating and teaching funds, an action that enabled completion of the remodeling. Dedication ceremonies were held in May 1942 with a dinner for 200 persons. These guests included city and county officials, NYA officers, prominent Eau Claire businessmen and industrialists, and state vocational officials. The dinner was held in the dining room of the remodeled building (Ibid.: 29-30).

Eau Claire Vocational and NYA Center During World War II

The addition of the 1st Avenue location to Eau Claire's school facilities was a major step in the expansion of vocational education in Eau Claire. The Eau Claire Vocational and NYA Co-operative Training Center housed vocational school shops and also provided a NYA residence center to house 125 youths between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five for training in vital defense industries. At this time, ten percent of the youths receiving training in Wisconsin were enrolled in the Eau Claire facility, which was more than in the whole state of neighboring Minnesota. The school was the first enlarged center in Wisconsin to begin operations under the new defense-training program and classes were held 24 hours a day to meet war demands. It also was one of two in Wisconsin to have a joint operation facility—a plan that many hoped would be more economical. Using federal funds appropriated for the NYA, the Eau Claire Vocational School provided instruction, while the NYA administered the resident center and paid NYA students to attend defense-related training. Trainees came from lists provided by the NYA, Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Wisconsin Employment Office. Though the center was first established to house and train boys only, provisions were made to adapt it for use by both boys and girls in the future. This avenue soon became necessary because the boys graduated rapidly and filled defense jobs at big companies throughout the country, such as Boeing Aircraft, A.O. Smith Machine Tool Company and shipbuilding yards around the Great Lakes, leaving the student body predominately female. By 1943, machine shop and diesel engineering for girls was offered as well. Eventually, the 1st Avenue location also became solely a girl's dormitory. Boys were thereafter housed at Mappa Street (Ibid.: 32; CVTC 2012a: 23, 25, 27).

Eau Claire Vocational School, 1943-1962

In late 1943, the NYA was unexpectedly terminated as a functional federal government agency and the U.S. Treasury turned over to the Eau Claire Vocational School all NYA equipment, materials, and supplies for the duration of the war. Hearings were held on the subject. Senate hearings indicated that

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hard times of the 1930s had changed dramatically since the NYA program was set up, and that young people did not need NYA aid and assistance in finding employment during the war (United States Senate 1942: 2-3).

A year later, William Enge, an instructor at the school since 1932, replaced Sam Davey as director. Under Enge's leadership (1944-1962) the school thrived and made the transition to peacetime employment. Immediately following the war, the school purchased all of the NYA's equipment for just over \$6,000.00, and then leased approximately \$250,000 of equipment through the Government Surplus Authority to re-outfit the school's machine shops. Other supplies and materials were purchased from the Veteran's Educational facilities at a mere five percent of their fair value price. In the late 1940s, the school added new classes to meet federal and local company needs. For instance, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which was created in 1935 under the Roosevelt Administration to bring electricity to rural areas, asked the school to hold two-week institutes for linemen apprentices, and by request of the U.S. Rubber Company,<sup>4</sup> a one-week leader institute was held for personnel and foremanship training in industrial psychology. There were also special courses in accounting for Civil Service, and trade extension classes for electricians and sheet metal workers of the city. Federal and state funds assisted in on-the-farm training programs. Another important program during this period was the establishment of a barber school. The classroom contained stark rows of chrome and black-leather chairs in front of plain mirrors, attended by young men clad in white tunics (Ibid.: 34-35; CVTC 2012b: 20).

In 1949, changes another important change came to vocational education in Wisconsin. At that date, the Wisconsin State Legislature altered the regulations for vocational schools by providing that any child between the ages of seven and sixteen must attend some school regularly on a full-time basis to the end of the school term. However, after completing the course of study for the first eight grades, they could, as an option, attend a vocational and adult education school full-time. Compulsory attendance laws, such as the Wisconsin law, became a factor in the growth and size in enrollment in trade, industrial, and commercial classes at the Eau Claire Vocational School. Because of it, enrollment was larger than ever at the school, especially with new courses added in radio and television. The introduction of color television broadcasting had created a demand for training in electronics and communications. Furthermore, evening classes in topographical drafting family relations, and data processing were also held. By 1956, Wisconsin State Board standards also led to

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<sup>4</sup> In 1942, U.S. Rubber Company (later named Uniroyal) sold its Eau Claire factory to the federal government because of restrictions on rubber use in manufacturing products for civilians. The factory was renamed the Eau Claire Ordnance Factory, which made small caliber ammunition. In late 1943, U.S. Rubber purchased the factory back and started manufacturing products using synthetic rubber.

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the development of programs, such as automotive and mechanical technology (Ibid.: 36-38; CVTC 2012a: 31, 34; CVTC 2012b: 19).

Meanwhile, relatively minor changes to the building had occurred since the 1942 rehabilitation as evidenced by a 1950 Sanborn map (*Figure 6*). The classrooms and dorms remained as original. The only addition to the structure's footprint was a concrete-block garage attached to the south corner. The single-story structure housed three garage bays. Additionally, a one-story frame warehouse had been built along Beach Street and a temporary metal classroom was located at the southeastern edge of the property (Fraser 2014: 7; L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Vertical Files).

Throughout the 1950s and later, the country as a whole and Wisconsin in particular experience vigorous economic growth and modernization. With the help of the G.I. Bill, veterans attended higher education schools in great numbers, including vocational schools. Vocational education in Eau Claire kept pace with this growth and modernization, providing trained workers for new professions, such as computer technology. Eau Claire was in a unique position for this growth because it was the only vocational school in northwest Wisconsin offering post-high school courses and graduates in almost every instance found employment. With this growth, the Eau Claire Vocational Board considered expansion of the 1st Avenue facilities. Time was spent in efforts to purchase adjacent property on Beach and Randall Streets, but the Vocational Board was unsuccessful. The 1st Avenue Vocational School was also beginning to need major repairs, such as a new heating plant, re-roofing, and other remodeling needs (Van Gorden 1972: 38-39; CVTC 2012a: 34-35).

Not being able to expand into the neighborhood, in the 1957, the Eau Claire Vocational Board decided to purchase a 22-acre open site on West Clairemont Avenue and planning for a new school here began almost immediately. By 1959, a contract was signed to construct a one-story structure on the property, but funding was lacking for a few years. In 1961, when the Wisconsin legislature authorized the State Board to award two-year technical programs, the State Board allocated federal funds to the Eau Claire Vocational Board to construct buildings for vocational and adult education schools on the West Clairemont locations. Spurred by the space race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, technological education was now being emphasized nationwide. As a result, in October 1962, the first building on West Clairemont Avenue was completed. It was named the Eau Claire Technical Institute because of the greater emphasis being placed there on a two-year technical education curriculum. It was also the first building in Eau Claire designed and built specifically for vocational-technical education. Meanwhile, housed trade and industrial programs were still offered at the 1st Avenue facility. Over time, building on the site expanded, leading to the current Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) (Van Gorden 1972: 42-43; CVTC 2012a: 37).

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The purchase of the property on West Clairemont Avenue, the construction of the first building there, signaled the beginning of the end of the Eau Claire Vocational School at 1st Avenue. In 1962, Cecil Beede (1962-1972) succeeded William Enge as Director of both facilities and a year later came the Vocational Education Act of 1963. It authorized a major expansion and redirection of vocational education with a goal of assisting the States to expand, improve, and update high-quality programs of vocational-technical education and to strengthen and expand the economic base of the nation at the same time. It was America's response to Russian technological advances symbolized by the Sputnik space program (L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Vertical Files). Thereafter, the Eau Claire Vocational School pursued new technological education developments called for in the Act. For instance, the first automated processors, predecessors to today's computers, came to the 1st Avenue school, which still housed many programs after the first Clairemont Avenue building had opened (Van Gorden 1972: 48; CVTC 2012a: 43). Nonetheless, in 1967, 800 full-time students and a few hundred students in continuing education courses moved to the new facilities on Clairemont Avenue and the 1st Avenue school closed (L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Vertical Files). Thereafter, the building program at the West Clairemont Avenue campus grew by acquiring additional land, site development and improvements. Eventually, the new Eau Claire Technical Institute served as District One of a statewide master district plan for vocational, technical and adult education that covered Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn Counties and was later renamed Chippewa Valley Technical College (Van Gorden 1972: 56-57).

Conclusion

The Eau Claire Vocational School is eligible for listing at the local level of significance in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, significant to history in the area of Education for its association with vocational education. The building is significant for its role in the vocational movement in Wisconsin, with Eau Claire's vocational education system (one of the state's earliest), and with Depression-era vocational education in Wisconsin and the National Youth Administration (NYA), one of President Roosevelt's Depression relief agencies. Its period of significance extends from the school's acquisition and remodeling of the building completed in 1942 to its vacation from the location in 1967. Due to extensive rehabilitation in 1942, paid for with funds from the Eau Claire Vocational Board, the NYA, and the City of Eau Claire, the building's current exterior appearance and much of its exterior and interior fabric date from this period. Its relatively high level of physical integrity thus contributes to the property's National Register eligibility.

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Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC)

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Eau Claire, Wisconsin: Chippewa Valley Technical College.

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Wyatt, Barbara (ed.).

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Eau Claire Vocational School is located on a triangular tract of land bounded on the northeast by 1st Avenue, on the west by Oxford Avenue, and on the southeast by Beach Street within Block C of Chapman and Thorp's Addition.

**Boundary Justification:**

The above triangular description is the historic location of the Eau Claire Vocational School and encompasses the entire property and building within this lot.



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**Name of Property:** Eau Claire Vocational School  
**City or Vicinity:** Eau Claire  
**County:** Eau Claire County  
**State:** WI  
**Name of Photographer:** Anthony Godfrey, Ph.D.  
**Date of Photographs:** May 2014  
**Location of Original Digital Files:** Wisconsin Historical Society  
Historic Preservation Division  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Photo #1 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0001)  
North façade (right) and east elevation (left), camera facing southwest.

Photo #2 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0002)  
East façade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest.

Photo #3 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0003)  
South façade, camera facing northeast. (Duplicate also).

Photo #4 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0004)  
South façade, camera facing northeast. (Duplicate).

Photo #5 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0005)  
West façade, camera facing northeast.

Photo #6 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0006)  
West façade, camera facing east.

Photo #7 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0007)  
North façade (left), West elevation (right) camera facing southeast.

Photo #8 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0008)  
North façade, camera facing south.

Photo #9 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0009)  
North façade, front door, camera facing south.

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Photo #10 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0010)  
East façade, glass brick windows, camera facing southeast.

Photo #11 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0011)  
West façade, bricked in windows, camera facing northeast.

Photo #12 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0012)  
South façade, bricked in areas, camera facing northeast.

Photo #13 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0013)  
Detail of window, stone sill, common bond brick pattern, and buff tile exterior.

Photo #14 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0014)  
Detail of windows, brick parapet, and ceramic roof tiles.

Photo #15 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0015)  
Detail glass block windows and concrete plinth foundation.

Photo #16 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0016)  
Second floor room 204. Former dining hall and lounge area of vocational school.

Photo #17 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0017)  
Second floor room 203. Former dormitory area of vocational school.

Photo #18 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0018)  
Second floor room 205. Wash sink former kitchen area of vocational school.

Photo #19 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0019)  
Third floor room 307, northwest corner.

Photo #20 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0020)  
Third floor room 309, southwest corner.

Photo #21 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0021)  
Third floor corridor west wall. Coat hanger alcove perhaps of former vocational school?

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Photo #22 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0022)  
Third floor corridor east wall, lockers.

Photo #23 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0023)  
Lower level, room LL3. Looking southwest. Machine shop area of former vocational school.

Photo #24 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0024)  
Lower level, room LL3. Looking southeast at glass block windows/concrete foundation. Machine shop area of former vocational school.

Photo #25 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0025)  
Lower level, storage LL-B. Looking west at entrance to fuel room from former boiler room of vocational school.

Photo #26 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0026)  
Lower level, storage LL-B. Looking east at entrance to former boiler room of vocational school.

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Photo #1 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0001)  
North façade (right) and east elevation (left), camera facing southwest.

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Photo #2 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0002)  
East façade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest.



Photos #3 and #4 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0003 and 0004)  
South façade, camera facing northeast.

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Photo #5 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0005)  
West façade, camera facing northeast.



Photo #6 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0006)  
West façade, camera facing east.

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Photo #7 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0007)  
North façade (left), West elevation (right) camera facing southeast.



Photo #8 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0008)  
North façade, camera facing south.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Continuation Sheet

Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Photo #9 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0009)  
North façade, front door, camera facing south.



Photo #10 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0010)  
East façade, glass brick windows, camera facing southeast.



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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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Photo #11 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0011)  
West façade, bricked in windows, camera facing northeast.



Photo #12 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0012)  
South façade, bricked in areas, camera facing northeast.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Photo #13 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0013)  
Detail of window, stone sill, common bond brick pattern, and buff tile exterior.

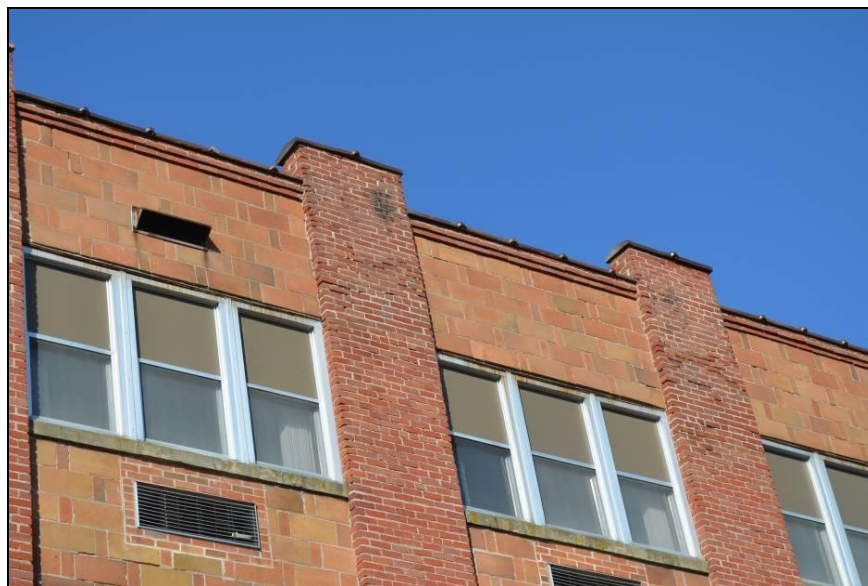


Photo #14 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0014)  
Detail of windows, brick parapet, and ceramic roof tiles

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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Photo #15 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0015)  
Detail glass block windows and concrete plinth foundation.



Photo #16 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0016)  
Second floor room 204. Former dining hall and lounge area of vocational school.

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Photo #17 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0017)  
Second floor room 203. Former dormitory area of vocational school.



Photo #18 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0018)  
Second floor room 205. Wash sink former kitchen area of vocational school.

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

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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Photo #19 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0019)  
Third floor room 307, northwest corner. Built in closet area of former vocational school.



Photo #20 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0020)  
Third floor room 309, southwest corner. Built in closet area of former vocational school.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Photo #21 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0021)  
Third floor corridor west wall. Coat hanger alcove of former vocational school.



Photo #22 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0022)  
Third floor corridor east wall. Lockers of former vocational school.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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Photo #23 (WI\_Eau Claire County Eau Claire Vocational School\_0023)  
Lower level, room LL3. Looking southwest. Machine shop area of former vocational school.



Photo #24 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0024)  
Lower level, room LL3. Looking southeast.at glass block windows/concrete foundation. Machine shop area of former school.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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Photo #25 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0025)  
Lower level, storage LL-B. Looking west.at entrance to fuel room from former boiler room of vocational school.

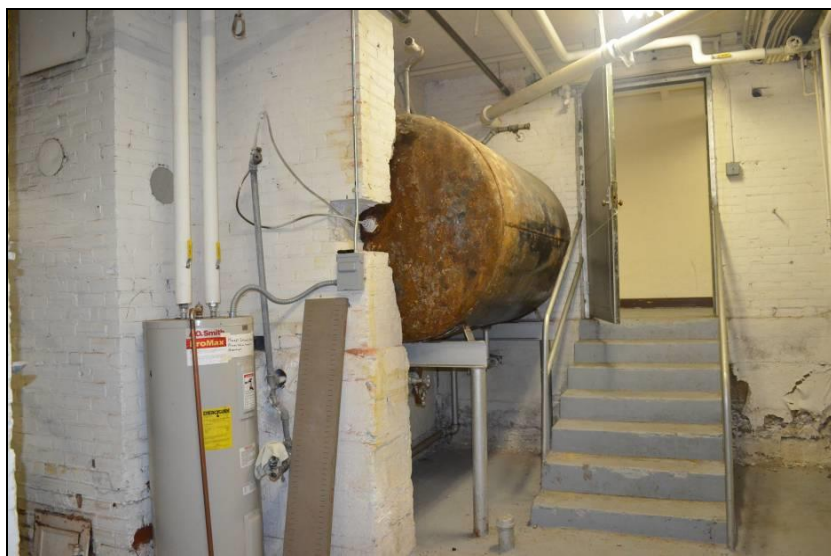


Photo #26 (WI\_Eau Claire County\_Eau Claire Vocational School\_0026)  
Lower level, storage LL-B. Looking east.at entrance to former boiler room of vocational school.

\_\_\_End of Photo Descriptions



**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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| Figure 2  | First Floor Plan – Construction Drawings, 1941           |
| Figure 3  | Second Floor Plan – Construction Drawings, 1941          |
| Figure 4  | Third Floor Plan – Construction Drawings, 1941           |
| Figure 5  | 1950 Sanborn Insurance Map                               |
| Figure 6  | 1977 Sanborn Insurance Map                               |
| Figure 7  | Lower Level Floor Plan – City of Eau Claire              |
| Figure 8  | Floor Plan, First Floor – City of Eau Claire             |
| Figure 9  | Floor Plan, Second Floor – City of Eau Claire            |
| Figure 10 | Floor Plan, Third Floor – City of Eau Claire             |
| Figure 11 | Historic Photograph, exterior c1941                      |
| Figure 12 | Historic Photograph, classroom view, undated             |
| Figure 13 | Historic Photograph, automobile mechanics class, undated |

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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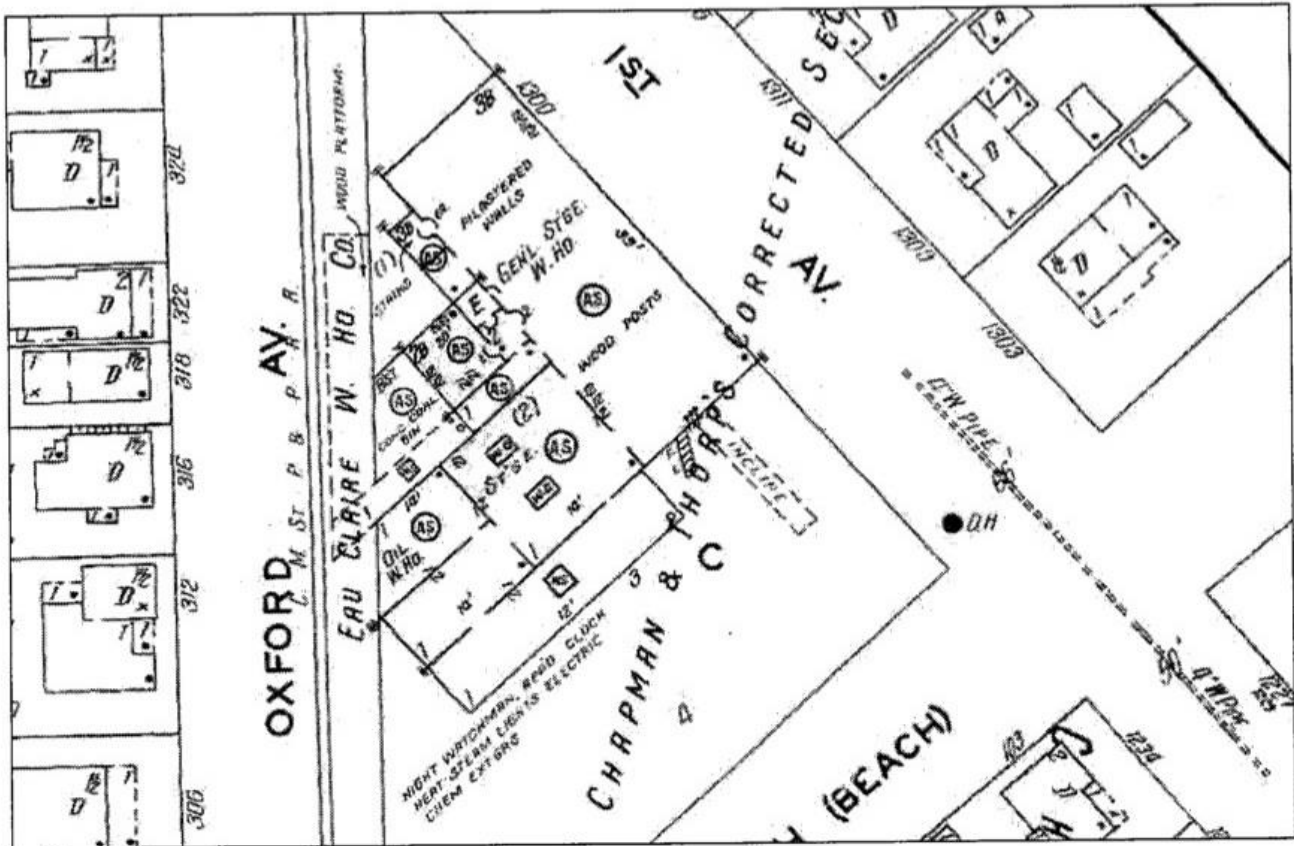


Figure 1: 1931 Sanborn Insurance Map.

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National Park Service**

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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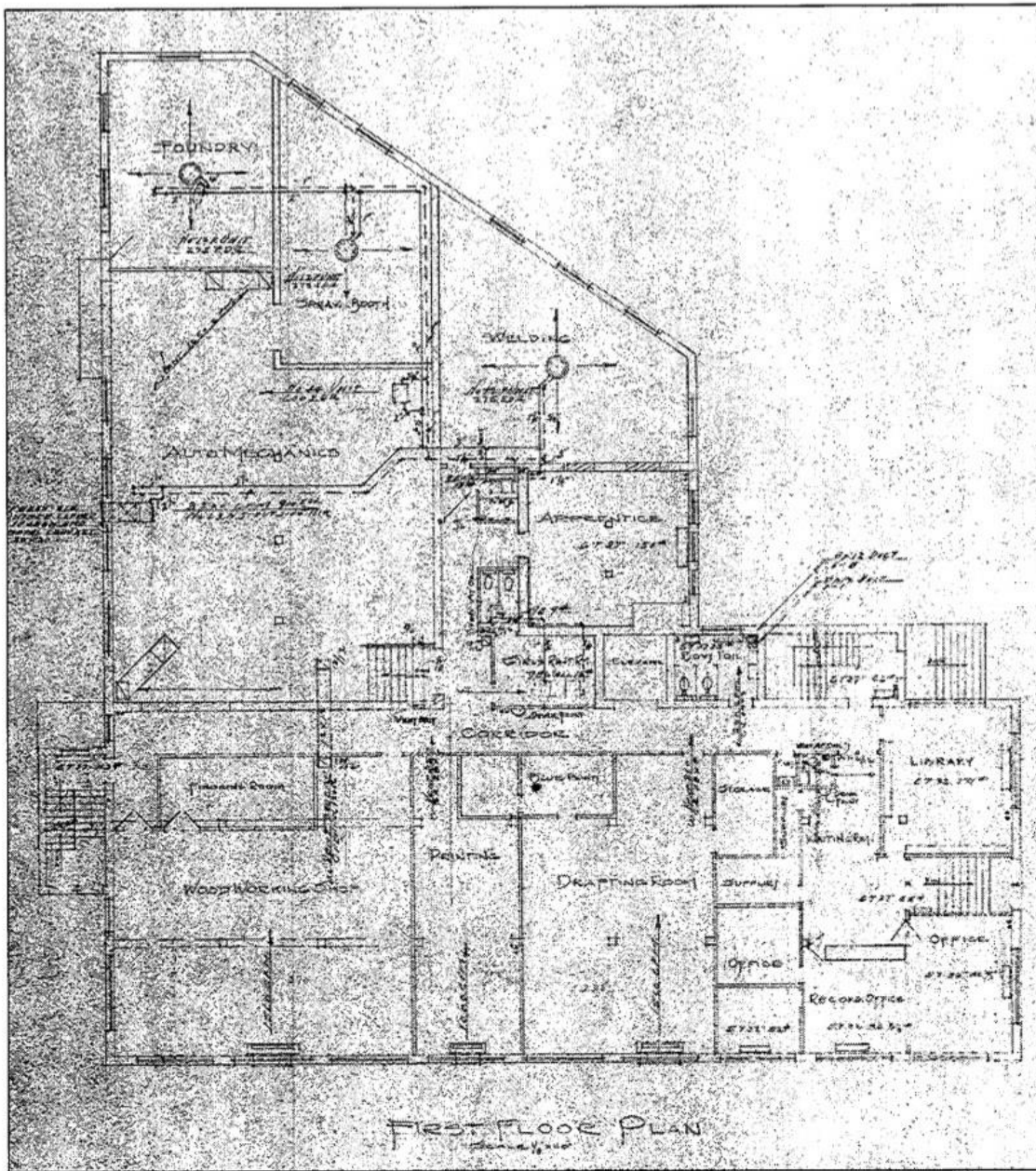


Figure 2: First Floor Plan – NYA Construction Drawings, 1941.

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National Park Service**

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Section Figures Page 4

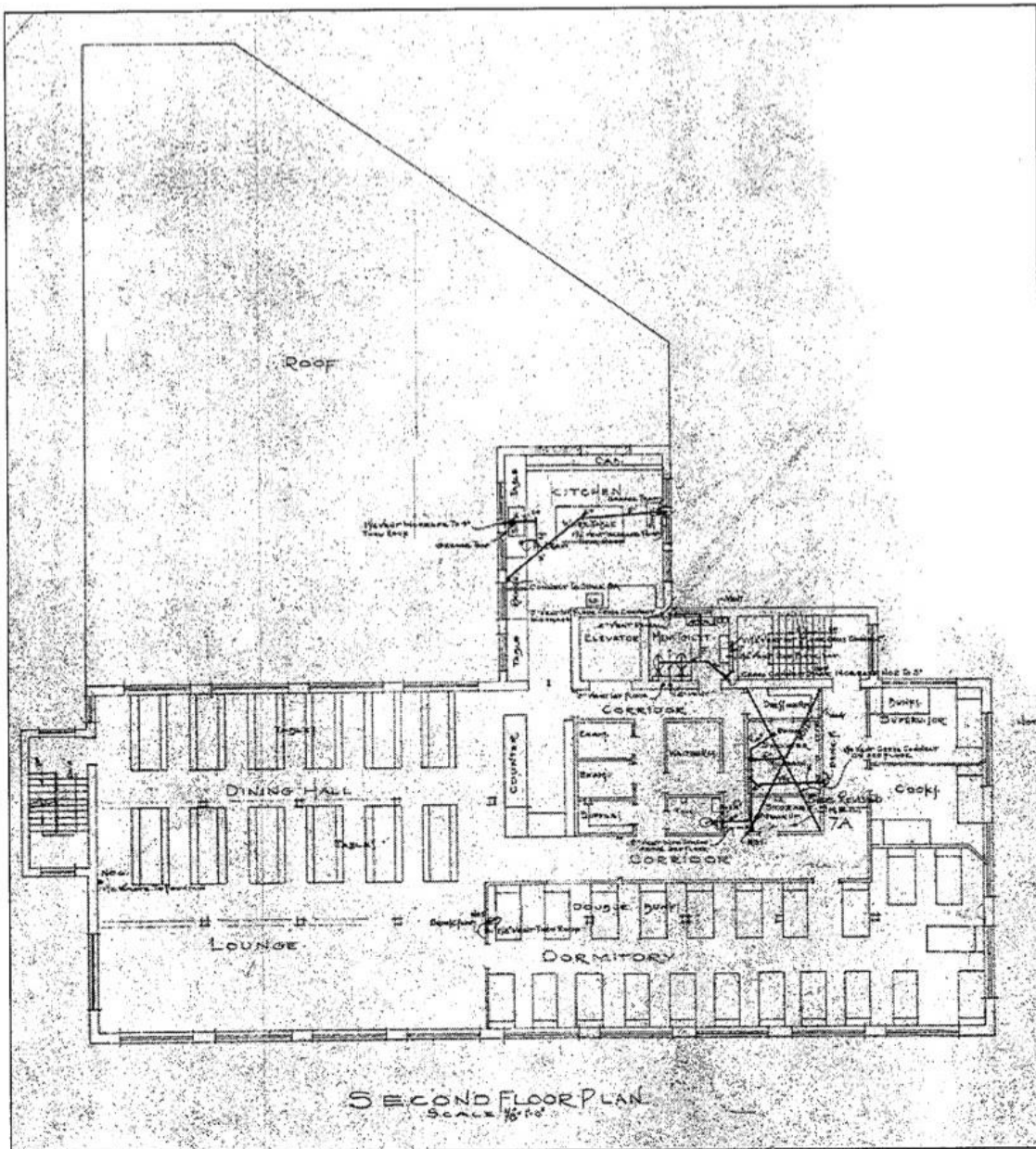


Figure 3: Second Floor Plan – NYA Construction Drawings, 1941.

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
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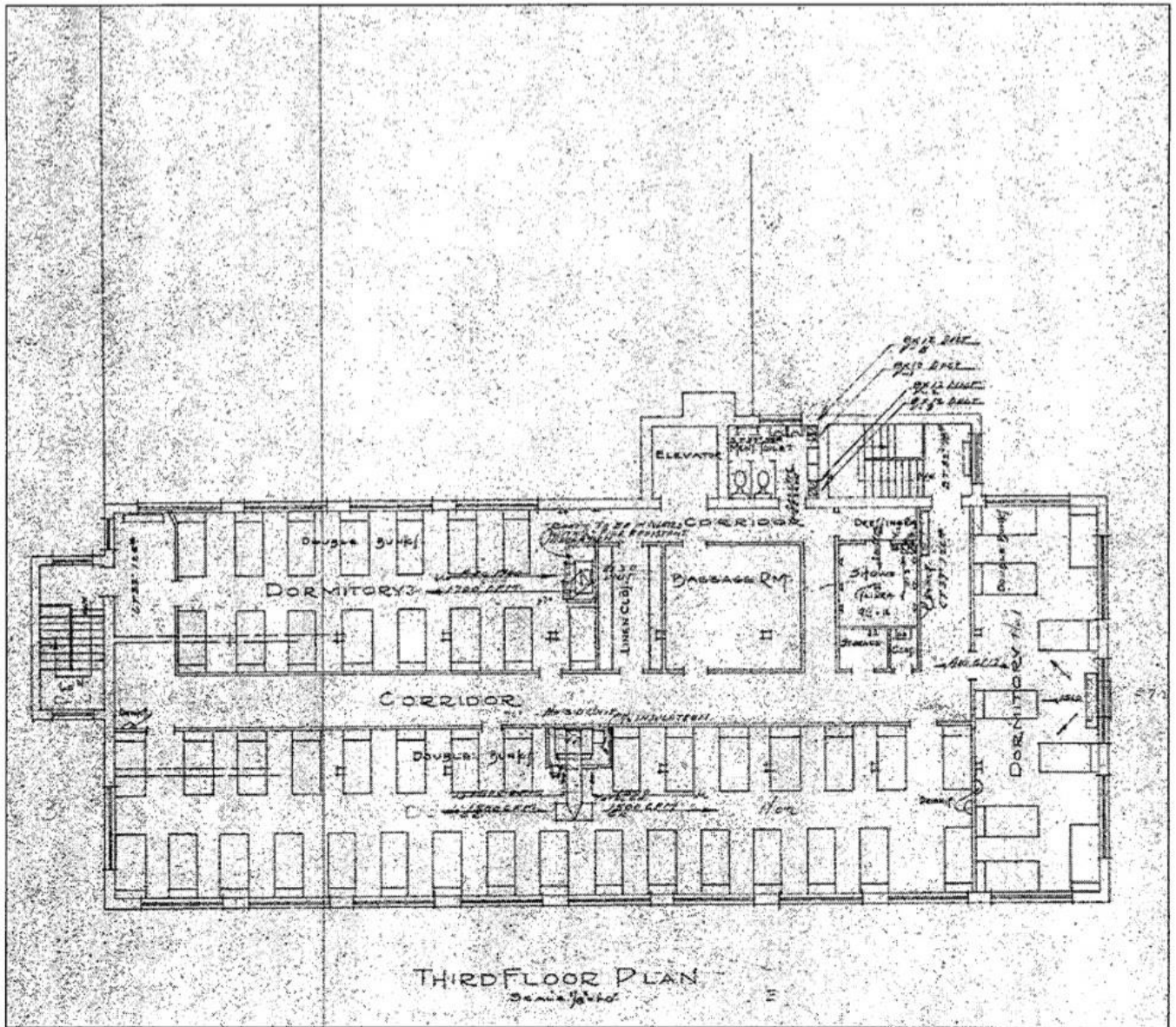


Figure 4: Third Floor Plan – NYA Construction Drawings, 1941.

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National Park Service

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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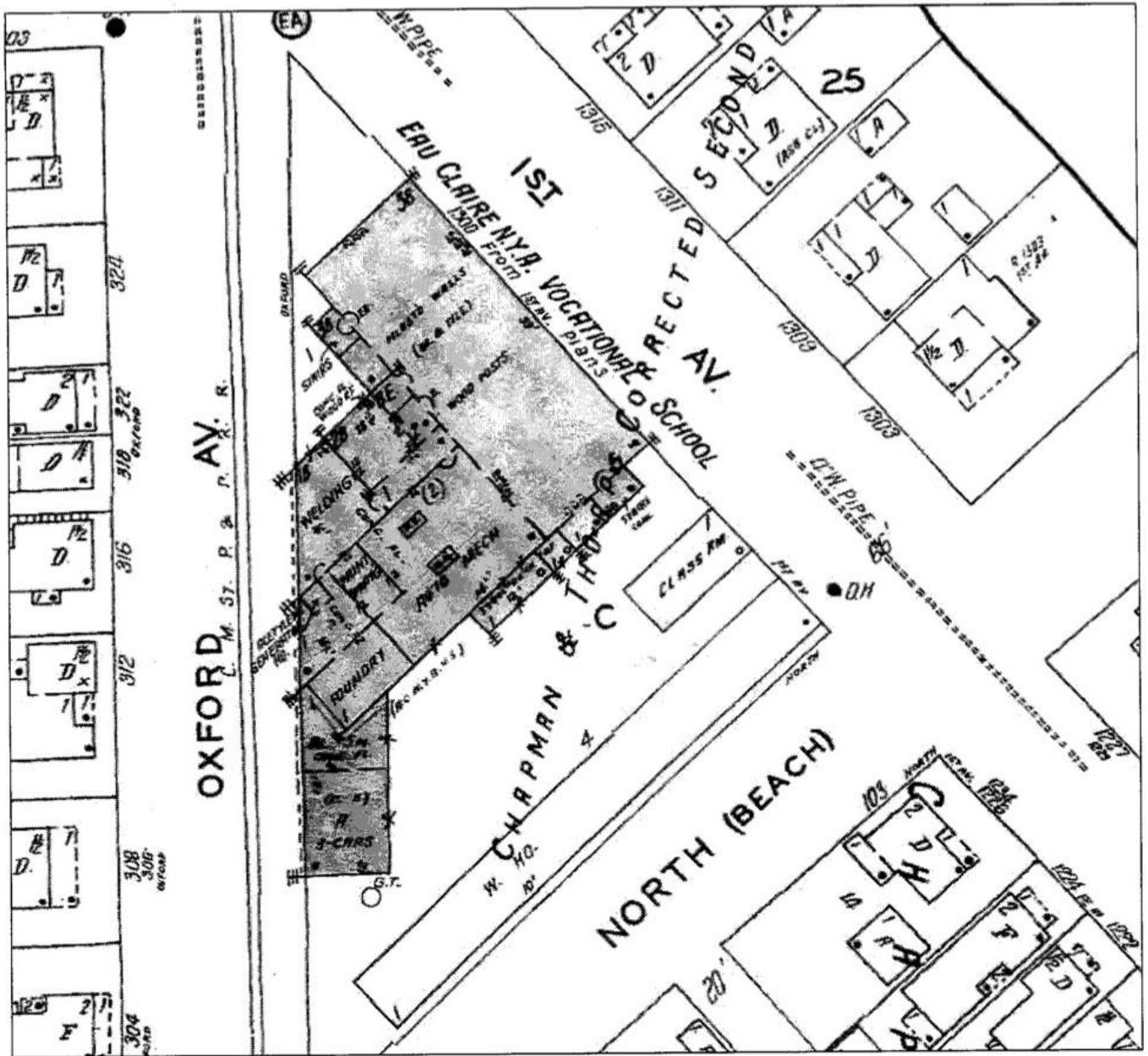


Figure 5: 1950 Sanborn Insurance Map.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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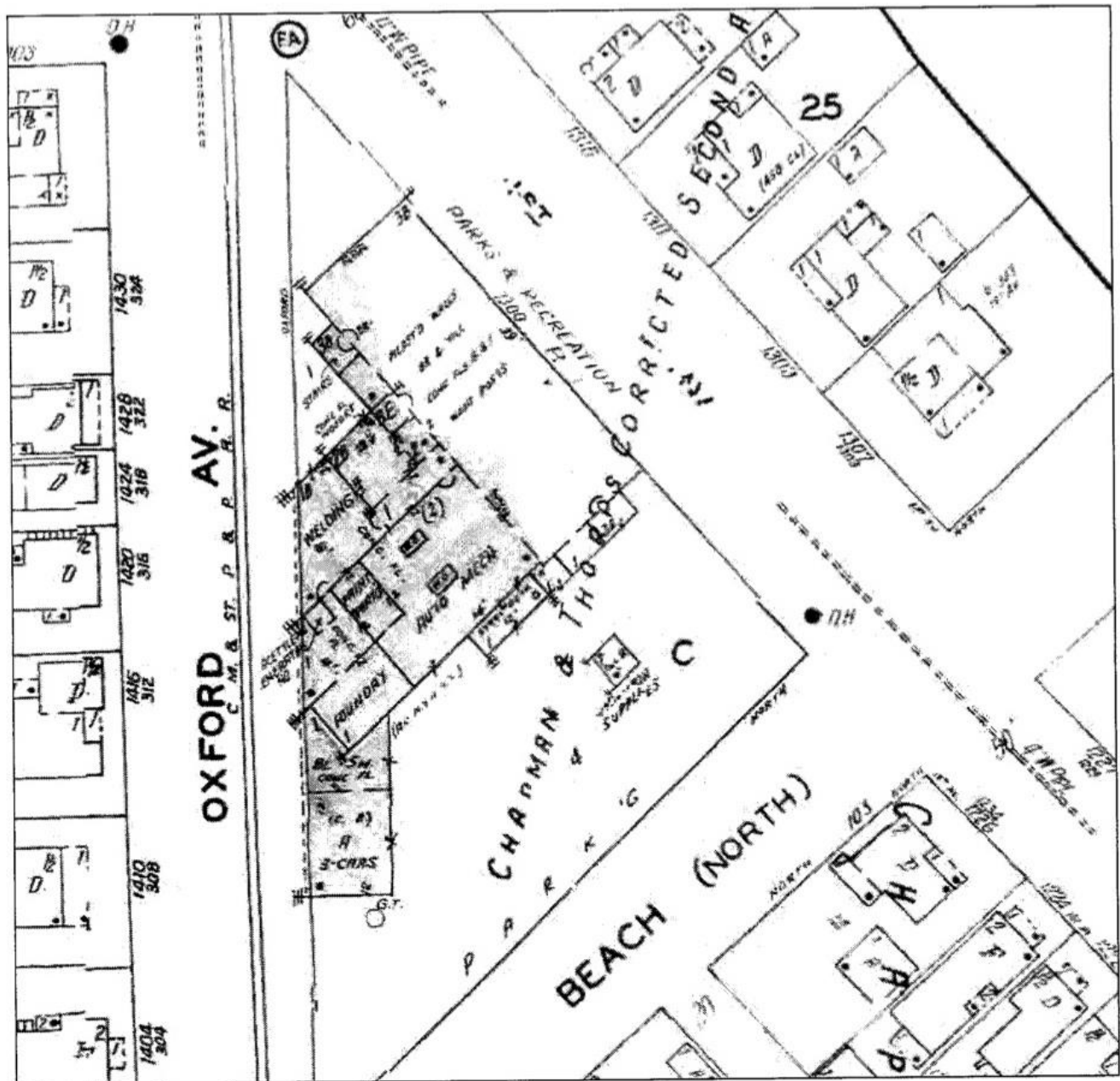


Figure 6: 1977 Sanborn Insurance Map.

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National Park Service

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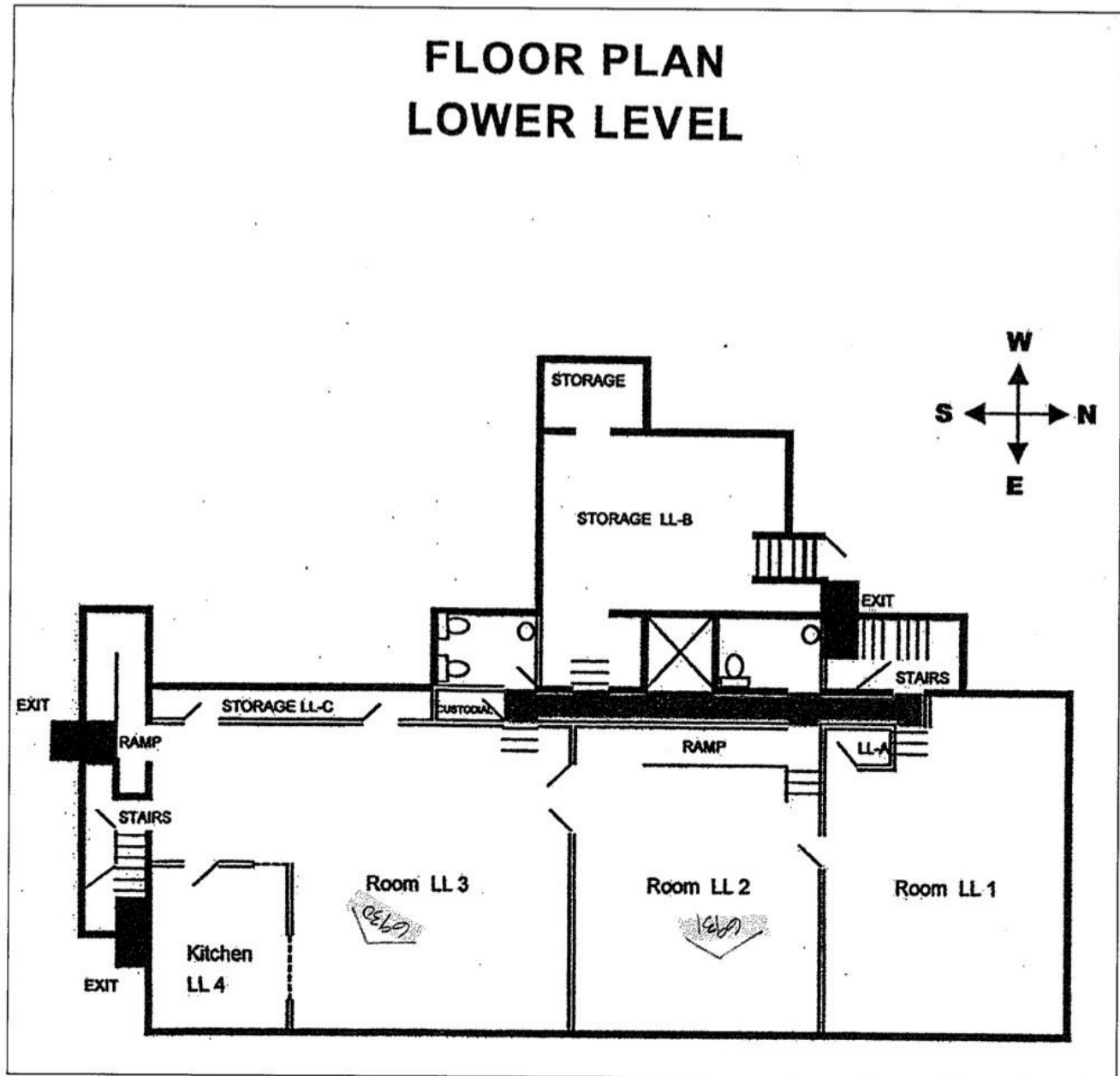


Figure 7: Lower Level Floor Plan – City of Eau Claire, 2010.



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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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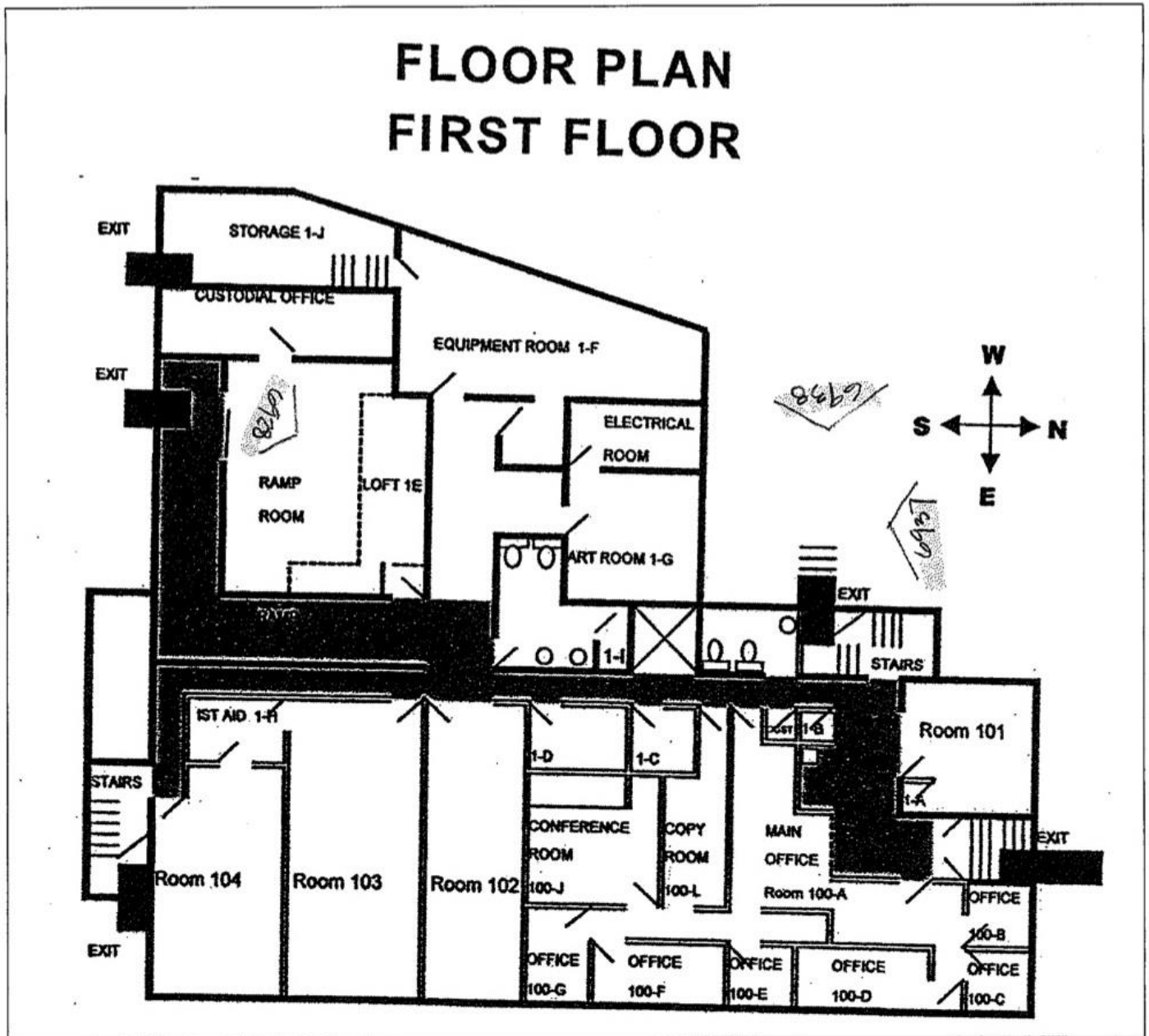


Figure 8: Floor Plan, First Floor – City of Eau Claire, 2010.

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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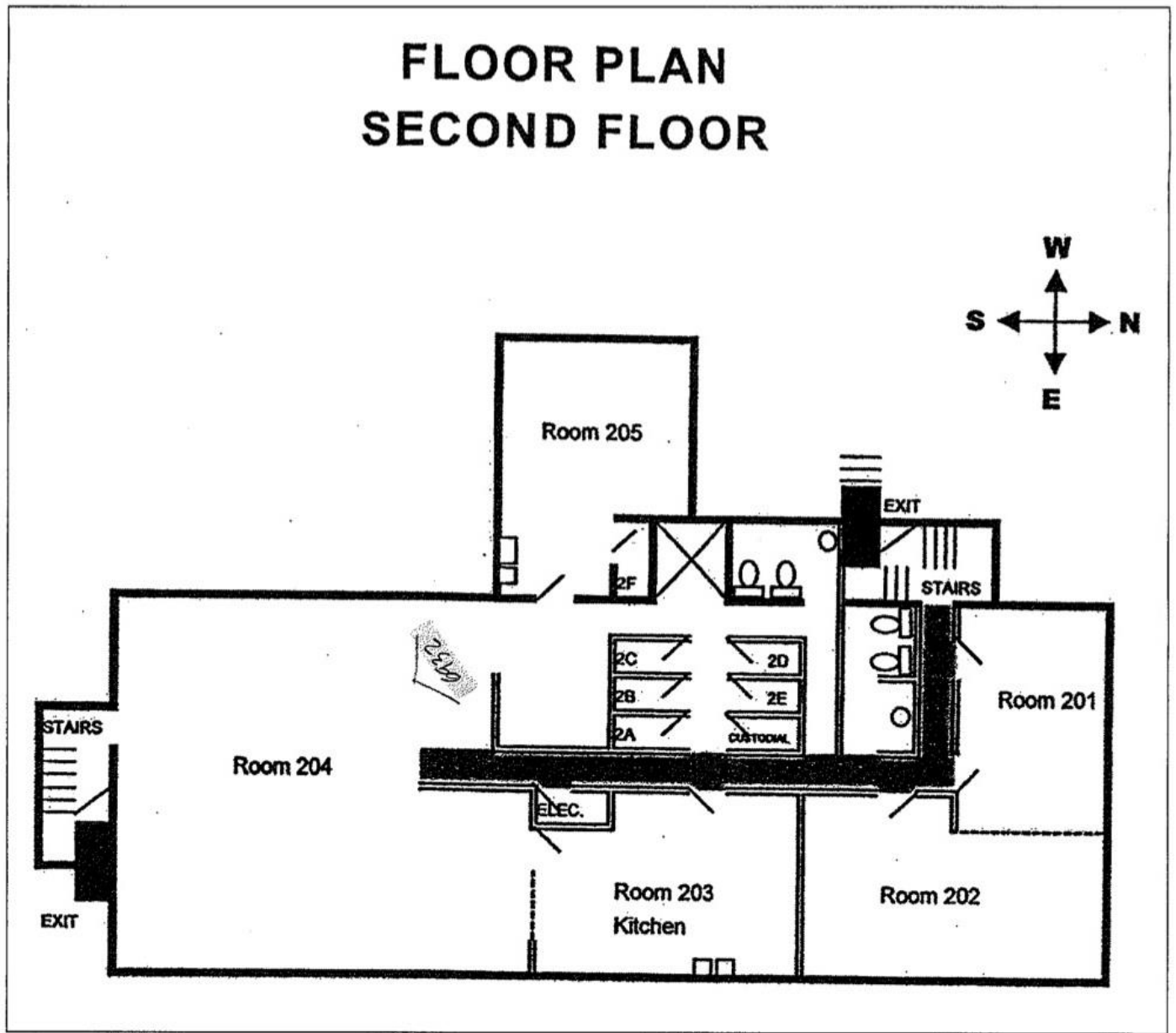


Figure 9: Floor Plan, Second Floor – City of Eau Claire, 2010.

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National Park Service

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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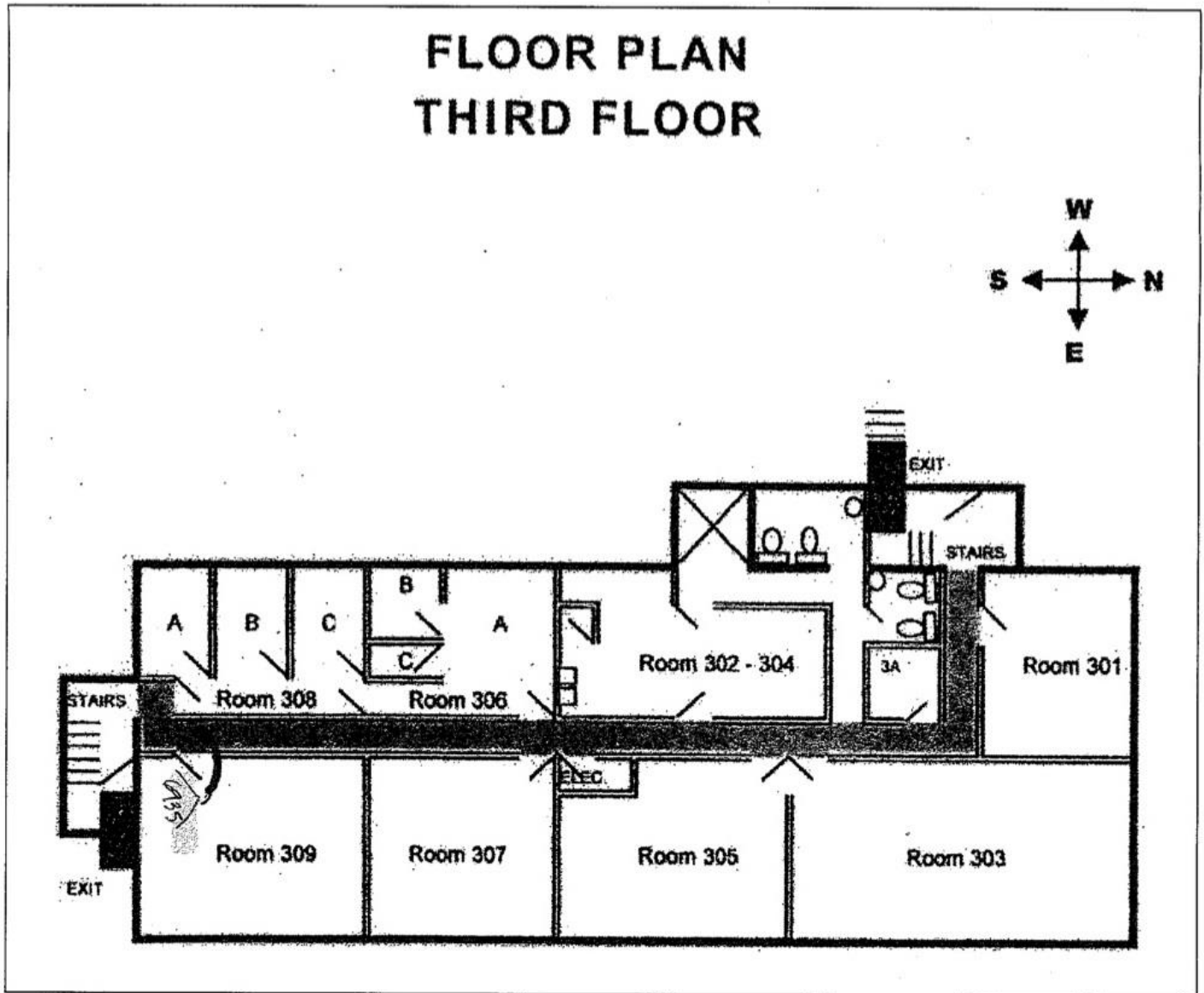


Figure 10: Floor Plan, Third Floor – City of Eau Claire, 2010.

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Eau Claire Vocational School  
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Figure 11  
Eau Claire Vocational School, circa 1941.

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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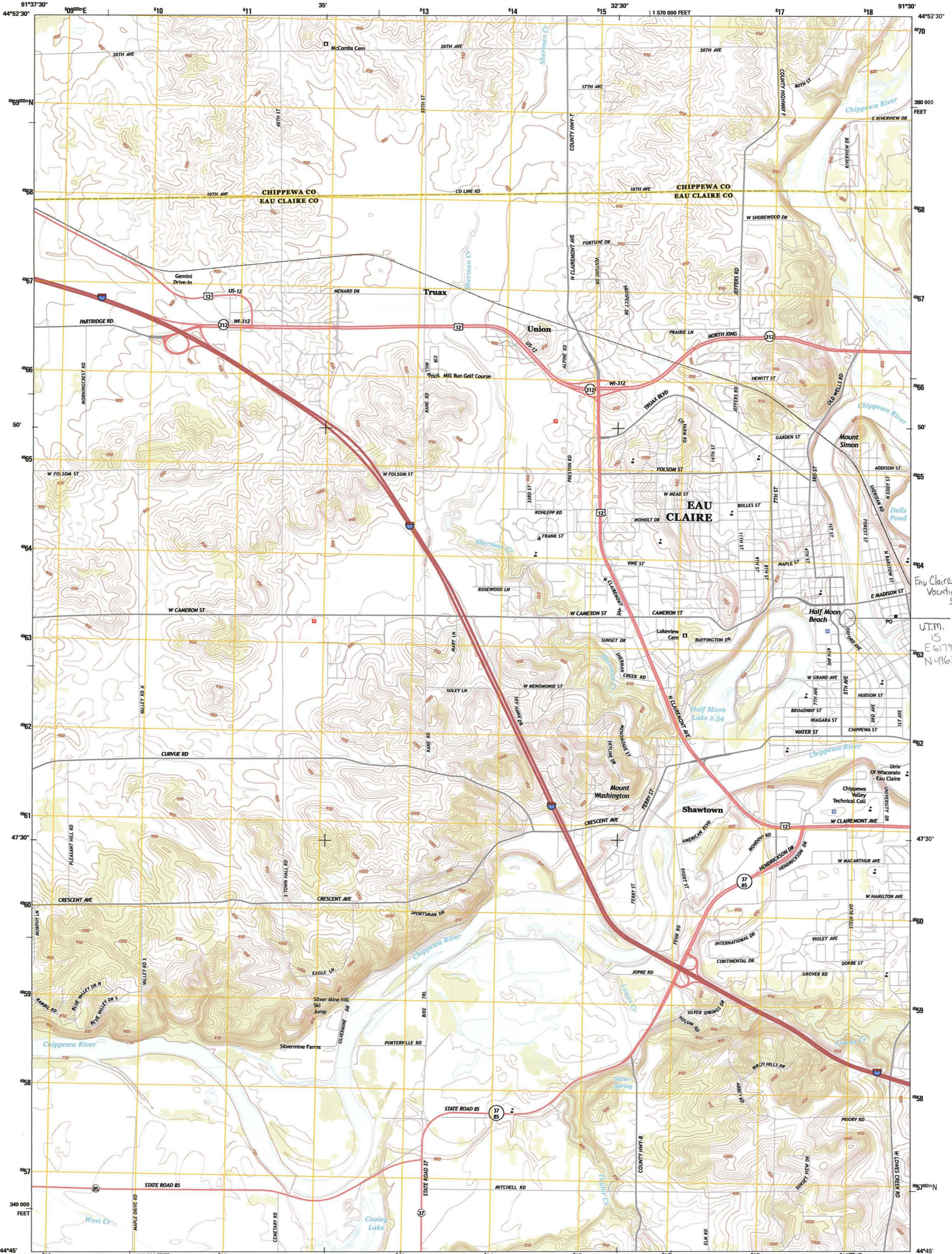
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Figure 12, Classroom, undated photograph



Figure 13, Automobile Mechanics Class, undated photograph



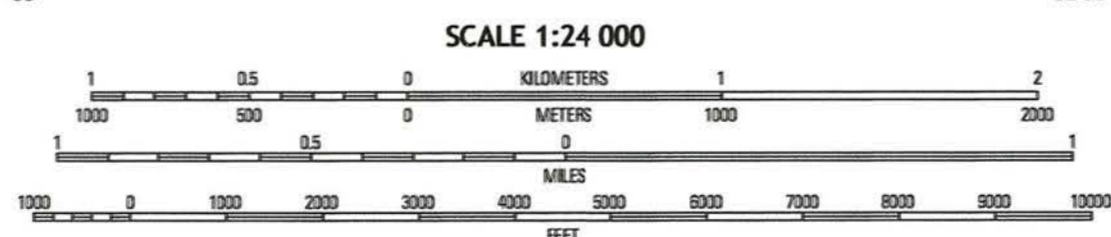
Eau Claire Vocational School  
U.T.M. 15  
E 617943  
N 4963375

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and  
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15T  
10 000-foot ticks: Wisconsin Coordinate System of 1983 (central zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, August 2010  
Roads.....©2006-2012 TomTom  
Names.....©2013 GNS, 2013  
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2010  
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1998  
Boundaries.....Census, IBWC, IBC, USGS, 1972 - 2012

UTM GRID AND 2013 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

U.S. National Grid 100,000-m Square ID
XX
Grid Zone Designation 15T



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
This map was produced to conform with the  
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.  
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.12

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Colla South	Albertville	Chippewa Falls
Silk Creek Lake	Eau Claire West	Eau Claire East
Rock Falls	Mondovi NE	Cleghorn

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Expressway	Local Connector
Secondary Hwy	Local Road
Ramp	4WD

Interstate Route US Route State Route



















A multi-story brick building with a central entrance. The building features a grid of windows, including a large three-pane window on the second floor and a smaller three-pane window on the first floor. The brickwork is reddish-brown. A tree with sparse red leaves is on the left. A blue handicapped parking sign is on the wall.

A tree with sparse red leaves, likely a flowering tree, stands to the left of the building. The branches are thin and the leaves are small and bright red.

A dark-colored car is partially visible on the left side of the image, parked near a concrete barrier.

A concrete barrier or low wall runs along the sidewalk in the foreground, separating the street from the building area.

A blue handicapped parking sign with a white wheelchair symbol and the text "HANDICAPPED PARKING" below it.

A smaller brick building with a few windows and a door, located to the right of the main building. It has a concrete base and a small ramp leading to a door.

A street with a double yellow line, a yellow curb, and a sidewalk. The street is paved with asphalt and has a concrete curb on the left side.



1300

8C-3







































A.O. Smith  
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From the Heat  
Hanger.

ENERGYGUIDE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Eau Claire Vocational School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Eau Claire

DATE RECEIVED: 9/26/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/12/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000917

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Signed in consultation w/ Barbara Wyatt. Builly is  
minimally eligible as an early conversion from  
factory to vocational school.*

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER *[Signature]*

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 11/12/14

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.

Re: Eau Claire Vocational School  
1300 First Ave, Eau Claire, WI.  
No. 2014 - 393

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE ELIGIBILITY OF 1300 FIRST AVENUE FOR LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.**

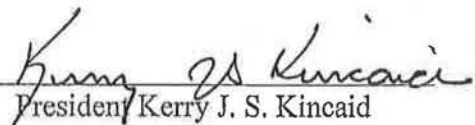
**WHEREAS**, the owner of the property of 1300 First Avenue, Eau Claire Housing LP, has prepared a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Landmarks Commission has reviewed the nomination for 1300 First Avenue and agree with the findings that it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that the City Council concurs with the Landmarks Commission that 1300 First Avenue is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of the nomination shall be made available for review at the Community Development Department and the L.E. Phillips Public Library.

Adopted,  
July 22, 2014

(SEAL)   
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL)   
City Manager Russell Van Gompel

(ATTESTED)   
City Clerk Donna A. Austad



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DANA WACHS**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

RECEIVED <sup>91ST</sup> DISTRICT

August 13, 2014

AUG 18 2014

DIV HIST PRES

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board  
c/o Peggy Veregin  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State St.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Peggy,

I would like to express my support of the nomination of the Eau Claire Vocational School to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

As a lifelong resident and current State Representative from Eau Claire, I share the pride of the Eau Claire community in our local history and the people and places that have made Eau Claire what it is today. Eau Claire continues to do a wonderful job of preserving our history while looking to the future.

The Eau Claire Vocational School at 1300 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue has served many different functions throughout its history, and this nomination recognizes its unique place in Eau Claire's history as well as its rightful place in Eau Claire's future. Recently the Eau Claire Landmarks Commission and the Eau Claire City Council announced their support for the listing of this property on the National Register of Historic Places. I join in this support, and I appreciate the consideration of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter, and please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Dana Wachs  
State Representative-91st Assembly District



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



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

**FROM:** Peggy Veregin

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 19th day of September 2014,  
for the nomination of the Eau Claire Vocational School to the National Register of  
Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

26 Photograph(s)

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

2 CD(s) with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

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

2 Piece(s) of correspondence

Other

**COMMENTS:**

Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

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

Other: \_\_\_\_\_