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NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 10024-0018



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 Washington Elementary School
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	1238 Geele Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Sheboygan	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Sheboygan	code 117
			zip code 53083-4761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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


Signature of certifying official/Title

1/4/2017
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - 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

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

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	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	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**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-
Classical Revival**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK
LIMESTONE

roof SYNTHETICS

other LIMESTONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912-1967

1912

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

H. C. KOCH AND SON

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.59 acres

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

1	16T 441946.82 4846447.94	3	
	Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing
2		4	
	Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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	Danielle Euer, Associate	date	January 9, 2016
organization	MacRostie Historic Advisors	telephone	(312) 786-1700
street & number	53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142	zip code	60604
city or town	Chicago	state	IL

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name/title	Ben Marshall	date	January 9, 2016
organization	Gorman & Company, Inc.	telephone	(608) 835-5534
street & number	200 North Main Street	zip code	53575
city or town	Oregon	state	WI

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

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

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Section 7 Page 1

Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Start description on line below

Summary Description

The Washington School is a two-story brick building located at 1238 Geele Avenue, north of downtown Sheboygan. The school was constructed in response to overcrowding at the first Eighth Ward School and Horace Mann Elementary School in the city's Eighth Ward. Construction began in 1911 and was completed in 1912. The school was designed by the Milwaukee firm of H.C. Koch & Son. Two, two-story additions were added on the east and west sides of the building in 1925-1926. An addition to the east wing was completed in 2001. The exterior of the building retains a high level of integrity. While interior renovations have been made, the interior retains its general layout, spatial orientation and historic details including classroom doors, transoms, flooring and trim.

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Washington School is sited on a large flat lot that fronts on Geele Avenue at the northeast corner of Geele Avenue and North 13th Street. The primary (south) façade faces a narrow lawn with mature trees separated from the school by a driveway that provides access from Geele Avenue on the southeast and connects to North 13th Street on the northwest. There is a concrete walkway perpendicular from the sidewalk to the main entrance. Paved parking lots are located to the west and east of the school. To the north is a paved play area and a large lawn with a playground, baseball fields and paved basketball courts that continue to the end of the block. Residential neighborhoods surround the school parcel.

Exterior

The Washington School is a two-story building set on a raised basement with a reinforced concrete foundation. The building is U-shaped in plan, and is composed of an original, 1912 school building, oriented east to west, and two 1926 wings located to the east and west and extending north. A 2001 addition extends from the back of the east wing and wraps into the courtyard at the north façade. The exterior walls are clad in red face brick with simplified Classical limestone detailing. Classical details include a Roman arch hood with dentils that springs from brick piers embellished with limestone capitals, a stone architrave below a brick frieze with stone roundels encircled with brick headers which is topped by a pressed-metal cornice, and exaggerated guttae that hang from the carved limestone plaque which reads "Washington School." The building is regularly fenestrated with tall window openings that have been infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete to accommodate smaller, non-historic replacement windows. The roof is flat with a brick parapet capped with limestone coping.

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

South Façade

The primary (south) facade of the original 1912 school building is five bays long with the main entrance situated between the two central bays and projecting corner bays. The main entrance is set above grade and accessed by a non-historic concrete approach with stairs on the east side and an accessibility ramp on the west with tubular steel railings. The building is entered through non-historic double doors below an exposed-aggregate concrete panel installed in place of a transom window. Above the panel is a stone tympanum with "1911" in relief framed by a brick soldier-coursed arch locked with a limestone keystone; this is the date construction began on the building. An arched pressed metal pediment surrounds the brick arch. The building is regularly fenestrated with tall window openings grouped in fours on the first and second stories of the central bays. In each grouping of four, the center two window openings hold smaller non-historic windows set below exposed-aggregate concrete infill panels with the outer two window openings completely filled in with exposed-aggregate concrete. All of the windows in the two center bays have flat limestone sills and lintels.

The projecting corner bays are fenestrated with large window openings on the first and second stories with grouped windows. The group of five window openings on the corner bays are framed with long bands of simple carved limestone trim, with the vertical sections extending below the first story window opening to meet the limestone water table that demarcates the basement level from the first story. The first and fifth window openings on the first and second stories are infilled with exposed aggregate-concrete. The second, third and fourth window openings have been reduced in height and inset with three non-historic windows. All basement windows, which are set in groups of four on the two middle bays and in groups of three on the two outer bays, feature non-historic brick infill; some openings were retrofitted with non-historic vent grates. Also visible to the east and west of the 1911 building are the south facades of the 1926 wing additions, which are set back from the south facade of the 1912 building and are clad in red face brick in a common bond with limestone detailing consistent with that on the 1912 building. The south facades of the east and west wings each have an entrance at grade with non-historic double doors framed with a carved limestone eared architrave. Set above each of the entrances at the second story are tall, narrow window openings with flat limestone sills and lintels and infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete panels. Decorative brick detailing with limestone accents ornaments the south facades of the 1926 wings.

East Facade

The east facade of the east 1926 wing is three bays long and regularly fenestrated with tall window openings grouped in threes and detailed with stone sills and lintels. For each group of three window openings, the openings at the second and fifth window positions hold a smaller, non-historic window surrounded by exposed-aggregate concrete infill while the openings at the remaining window positions are completely infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete. The water table which continues from the south facade rests on top of window openings for the basement level which have been filled in with red

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Washington Elementary School
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brick. All of the openings have flat limestone sills and lintels. Above the second story, the carved limestone architrave, the brick frieze with limestone roundels, and the pressed-metal cornice continue from the primary facade. The north corner of the east 1926 wing is identified by a recessed entrance two steps up from grade which holds non-historic double doors framed by a carved eared architrave, above which is a tall, narrow window opening infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete with a flat limestone sill and lintel. Extending north of the addition is the east facade of the 2001 addition which wraps around the north and west sides of the 1926 addition to meet the north facade of the 1912 building. The east facade of the 2001 addition is one bay wide, regularly fenestrated with three window openings at each the first and second stories. Each window opening holds two double-hung windows that rest on stone sills and are set below textured cast stone block panels topped with a stone lintel. The 2001 addition is clad in the same red brick with limestone details, mimicking those found on the 1912 building and 1926 addition. The ornamental brick detailing, carved stone architrave, brick frieze with stone roundels and pressed metal cornice details from the 1926 addition are replicated on the 2001 addition. The 2001 addition is demarcated by a lower parapet that otherwise matches the brick parapet capped with limestone coping from the 1926 addition.

North, Courtyard Facade

The north facade of the 2001 addition is clad in the same red brick with limestone details as the east facade of the addition. This facade of the building is unfenestrated with a flush steel door set west of center at grade. Ornamental brick coursing and limestone detailing which mimics that on the south facade of the 1926 wings enliven what would otherwise be a blank wall.

The west facade of the 2001 addition is fenestrated with double-hung windows grouped in two sets of two on the first and second stories and with a third set of two on the first story. The tall window openings have stone sills and lintels and are partially infilled with textured cast stone block as on the east facade of the 2001 addition. Window openings are framed with carved limestone trim, mimicking that found on the corner bays of the 1912 building. A steel door is located at grade south of the third set of first story windows. The west facade of the 2001 addition engages the north facade of the 1912 school.

The north facade of the 1912 building is clad in the same red Roman brick as found on the primary (south) facade. This facade is fenestrated with large window openings that match those at the corner bays of the south facade, ornamented with limestone sills, lintels, and trim identical to that found on the south facade. The large window openings hold small, non-historic windows with fixed panes over small operable windows. Tall narrow window openings are completely infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete are located on the first and second stories. The architrave, frieze, and cornice details on the primary south facade are repeated on the north facade. At the center of the 1912 corner bays, the parapet steps up to its normal height. Projecting from the north facade is a low, one-story

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boiler house with a smokestack of red brick that extends above the height of the building. Windows at the basement level have been completely infilled with red brick. A small, square chimney on the roof is also visible from this facade.

The east facade of the west 1926 wing is sparsely fenestrated with two tall window openings that have stone sills and lintels and are located at the south end of the second story. One window opening is twice the width of the other, suggesting that it once held two double-hung windows. Both window openings have been completely filled in with exposed-aggregate concrete. Limestone trim, including the watertable and carved architrave as well as the pressed-metal cornice, continues on this facade from the south and west facades.

The north facade of the west 1926 wing features the same ornamental brick coursing and limestone detailing found at the south facade of this wing. This facade is fenestrated with a single tall window opening with a limestone sill and lintel on the second story that is completely infilled with exposed-aggregate concrete, but is wide enough to suggest that it once held two windows. A recessed entrance is located below this window, accessed by two steps up from grade.

West Facade

The west facade of the west 1926 wing is regularly fenestrated with tall window openings that have limestone sills and lintels and are arranged in four groups of three openings per bay, with two window sash in each opening along its length at the first and second stories. On the first story, the north and south window openings have smaller, non-historic windows in the second and fifth openings, surrounded by exposed-aggregate concrete infill. The remaining window openings are completely filled in with exposed-aggregate concrete panels. The two, first floor, center groups of window openings are taller than the others on the facade, with their sills extending below the others. These center windows on the first story are completely filled in with exposed-aggregate concrete panels. On the second story, all four window groups have smaller non-historic windows surrounded with exposed-aggregate infill in an identical manner to those found on the first story. Above the center two window groups, the parapet steps up above the regular level of the parapet, matching the same treatment found on the south facade of the 1912 building. The limestone detailing found on the primary south facade continues on the west facade. Three basement windows at the south end of the facade have been completely infilled with red brick.

Interior

The interior of the 1912 building is oriented along a main double-loaded corridor running the length of the building with classrooms on both sides. Single loaded corridors on the second floor only extend north along the courtyard sides of the east and west wings. Restroom facilities are located in their original locations in the 1912 section on each floor on the north side of the main corridor. Staircases

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servicing all floors are located in the 1926 wings, just outside the original 1912 structure. Stairways in the 1912 building were removed and the corridors extended for the completion of the wings.

The basement is occupied by a two-story gymnasium in the west wing and by a cafeteria and kitchen in the east wing. Originally, the cafeteria was the location of a large manual training room. On the first floor classrooms line the corridor of the 1912 section, with main administrative offices located on either side of the original main entrance. The corridor turns northward into the east wing, which features several additional classroom spaces; originally, the first floor of the east wing was the location of the school's single large kindergarten classroom. On the third floor, the original classroom layouts remain intact.

Many classrooms retain historic, wood paneled doors with operable transoms above, hardwood flooring, wood trim, and chalkboards. Other existing historic materials include terrazzo flooring at the 1926 wings, mosaic flooring and built-in cabinets. Historic stair elements remain and include terrazzo treads and landings, steel balustrades with square newels and wood handrails. Alterations throughout include: limited classroom reconfiguration, installation of elevators, and added suspended ceilings and non-historic vinyl tile flooring in corridors and selected classrooms.

Integrity

Overall, the Washington School displays the architectural integrity that makes it a significant local example of Neoclassical Revival style architecture and early twentieth century graded school architecture. Though the buildings original windows have been replaced and filled in, the original 1912 building and its 1926 additions retain their characteristic two-story massing, roof lines, and brick and stone ornament remain intact. Inside, the 1912 and 1926 buildings retain their original spatial layouts and historic finishes including terrazzo floors, decorative stairs, wood and glass classroom door systems, and classroom built-ins.

The 2001 addition is located north and west of the main school block and is only minimally visible from Geele Avenue and Kroos Court. The addition does not negatively affect the building's historic character.

___End of Description of Physical Appearance

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

___ Insert Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Washington School is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C as a good example of a distinctive property type, the modern grade school, and as a well-preserved example of a Neoclassical Revival school building within the context of Sheboygan, designed by a recognized master architect. Designed by the architectural firm of H.C. Koch and Son of Milwaukee and constructed in 1911-1912, the Washington School served as a grade school until its closing in 2013. The Washington School was built to relieve overcrowding in Sheboygan's older Eighth Ward and Horace Mann Elementary schools. As Sheboygan grew, the city's acute overcrowding problem continued, requiring the expansion of the Washington School in 1926. The Washington School's design and construction exemplified greater statewide trends in education, including expansion to relieve over-crowding, and specialization of educational facilities to address the needs of different age groups. H.C. Koch & Son's design for the school included fireproof construction and classrooms, an office, library, and two large reception rooms to serve the needs of pupils from kindergarten through eighth grade. Two additions were completed in 1926, adding a gymnasium and nine classrooms.

The Washington School's period of significance for Criterion A extends from 1912 to 1967, reflecting the school's growth and continuing relevance to the community from the year construction on the school began through 1967, the fifty year cut-off for National Register nominations.

The Washington School's period of significance for Criterion C is 1912-1926, encompassing the building's original construction and its 1926 additions, all in the Neoclassical Revival style unique among Sheboygan schools. The building is in good condition, with the 1912-1912 main block and 1926 additions to the building remaining intact, as well as the majority of its exterior decorative features. The building retains sufficient integrity, with exterior alteration limited to the infill and replacement of windows and doors, as well as a 2001 addition located at the back of the building.

History of Sheboygan

Settlement in Sheboygan began in the early 19th century, as explorers and traders established themselves along the shore of Lake Michigan. By 1824, Sheboygan was one of the three leading trading posts on Lake Michigan in Wisconsin, along with Manitowoc and Milwaukee.¹ The first

¹ Carl Zillier, ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin: Past and Present, Vol 1* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912), 55.

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Washington Elementary School
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sawmill in the area was built in 1834 by William Paine and Colonel Oliver C. Crocker.² Two years later, the city included fifteen or twenty buildings, including two stores, two warehouses, and a blacksmith shop. In 1837, the land speculation boom that had been building in previous years in Sheboygan County was followed by a bust that halted development and resulted in Sheboygan becoming nearly depopulated for the next several years.³ While Sheboygan's early settlers were mainly American, the first significant number of immigrants began arriving from Germany in late 1846, with many more arriving in 1848, fleeing the revolution. The city of Sheboygan was officially chartered in 1853.⁴ That summer, 13,400 immigrants landed in the city. In 1856, ground was broken for the Sheboygan and Mississippi railroad, significantly increasing access to the city by land. The growth of industry during the 1880s earned Sheboygan a reputation as a prominent manufacturing city. By 1893, the population of the city reached 23,000. With steady growth of the city through the twentieth century, the population of Sheboygan totaled 50,400 in 2010.

Education in Sheboygan and the Development of the Modern Educational System

The design and construction of the Washington School exemplified a statewide trend in the expansion and specialization of educational facilities during the early twentieth century. In the late nineteenth century, most community schools combined primary and secondary grades into a single building. By the turn of the century; however, there was a growing recognition that younger children and older children had distinctly different educational and developmental needs that could be best served through separate, specialized facilities. The push for secondary education led first to a proliferation of separate public high schools. The Free High School Law, which provided state aid to fund public high schools in Wisconsin, was passed in 1875 and by 1923 over 400 school districts operated high schools.⁵ Junior high schools also gained favor in the early twentieth century, particularly in larger urban areas, as a way to bridge the gap between primary and secondary education.⁶

At the other end of the spectrum, educational reformers were also advocating for the incorporation of early childhood development programs that would bring younger children into the public school system. In 1856, German immigrant Margareth Meyer Schurz established the first kindergarten in the United States in Watertown, Wisconsin. The kindergarten model, which was designed to teach social interaction and engagement in young children through arts, crafts, and music, gained widespread acceptance in the early twentieth century. The first public kindergarten program in Wisconsin opened

² Ibid., 68.

³ Ibid., 68.

⁴ "History & Info," City of Sheboygan. <http://www.ci.sheboygan.wi.us/historystatistics/>.

⁵ Barbara Wyatt, editor. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, p. 3-5.

⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Peckham Junior High School, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register # 09000124.

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Washington Elementary School
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in Manitowoc in 1873 and by the turn of the century kindergarten was “seen as a vital part of the public education system of progressive cities.”⁷

The twentieth century education reform movement ushered in the era of the modern school building. Beginning in the early 1900s, the State of Wisconsin began to actively encourage communities to replace their older primary schools with modern “state graded” schools. According to *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, “The term ‘graded’ school was generally used to refer to any school that had more than one room and therefore contained more than one grade of pupil.” A 1901 act of the state legislature provided special funding for the construction of new graded schools, and a second act passed in 1905 required schools with more than 65 pupils to provide at least two rooms and two teachers.⁸ These legislative acts thus had a direct impact on the form and design of schools across the state, and, “...the state even provided sample plans to guide districts in their remodeling projects.”⁹

In marked contrast to the single-room schoolhouse, these schools were large, solidly-built buildings, typically architect-designed of fireproof construction with modern amenities such as central heating, electricity, and indoor plumbing. Spacious classrooms were well-lighted and ventilated with large windows. The interior reflected the programming needs of the students it was built to serve, with secondary schools generally featuring more specialized spaces to accommodate a diverse curriculum. Primary schools typically featured a kindergarten space and some type of open assembly space that could serve multiple functions.

Public education was prioritized by Sheboygan’s residents from its earliest days. The first school, located on the east side of 8th Street between Niagara Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue was established in a converted house in 1837 with twelve students. The first purpose-built school building, located between North 7th and 8th Street on Niagara Avenue, was built in 1856 and designed by A.L. Weeks. Owing to the city’s large immigrant German population, German language was included in the curriculum as early as 1857, followed by music and “formal gymnastics.”¹⁰ By 1885, the 8th Street school had expanded to two rooms in a building shared with a bowling alley. In 1887, the city government organized the city into wards; after 1900, Sheboygan would arrange and locate their schools as ward schools.¹¹ The first high school was completed in 1901, after occupying rooms in the

⁷ National Register of Historic Places, West Side School, Rhinelander, Oneida County, Wisconsin, National Register # 12000319.

⁸ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ “Elementary Schools Then and Now,” *Sheboygan Centennial Celebration Official Souvenir Program*, (Sheboygan: Office Supply & Printing Company) 25.

¹¹ Jennifer L. Lehrke and Alissa Kuether, *City of Sheboygan: Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report*, (City of Sheboygan Historic Preservation Commission, 2002).

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Lincoln grade school.¹² A second high school, later known as Sheboygan Central High School, was completed in 1919. The total enrollment for Sheboygan's schools in 1925 was 5519 with a budget of \$458,898.12. With the conversion of Sheboygan's first high school to a vocational curriculum, construction for a new high school began in 1937.

Washington School (1912-present)

The Washington School is the third school built in Sheboygan's Eighth Ward, and was commissioned in response to overcrowded conditions at the existing two Eighth Ward schools. The prominent and prolific Milwaukee firm of H.C. Koch & Son, known for designing Milwaukee City Hall (1895), was commissioned to prepare plans for the building. The contract to construct the building was awarded to Rudolph Jahn, and the school was built at a cost of \$44,160.¹³

The school held a formal opening ceremony on November 11, 1912. Speeches were made by Mayor Theodore Dieckmann, the president of the Sheboygan board of education, the school principal and a local minister. Musical performances were given by a choir of Washington School students and a quartet.¹⁴

After completion of the Washington School, the population growth that had necessitated its construction continued. In 1915, the school's enrollment totaled 486.¹⁵ That figure increased to 503 during the 1916-1917 school year.¹⁶ Within five years of being built, the Washington School was already overcrowded, with all classrooms filled and two additional classrooms added in the basement to accommodate students.¹⁷

By 1923, a large number of parents petitioned the Sheboygan Board of Education for an expansion of Washington School. The board superintendent consulted a census of the Eighth Ward and found that even with the proposed construction of a new junior high school, the expansion of Washington School was necessary. The Board of Education Building and Grounds Committee took up the matter that same year.¹⁸

¹² J.E. Leberman, *One Hundred Years of Sheboygan: 1846-1946*.

<http://www.sheboyganhistory.com/1946/leberman1946.htm>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Washington School Formally Opened," *Sheboygan Press*, Nov. 12, 1912, 1.

¹⁵ "4096 Enroll in Schools of the City," *Sheboygan Press*, Sept. 9, 1915, 7.

¹⁶ "Official Proceedings of the Common Council" *Sheboygan Press*, Sept. 10, 1917, 4.

¹⁷ "Mayor Albrecht and New Council Ushered into Office," *Sheboygan Press*, Apr. 18, 1917, 1.

¹⁸ "School Board Votes Against Dance Petition" *Sheboygan Press*, Dec. 17, 1923, 13.

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Washington Elementary School
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Population growth in the Eighth Ward continued to grow into 1925, with a corresponding increase in students enrolled in Washington School. That same year, \$100,000 was appropriated for enlarging the school. Two wing additions were completed in 1926, for an estimated cost of \$112,000.¹⁹ The architect for the addition is identified in School Building Data Card File at the Wisconsin Historical Society as R.R. Jahn, who was the contractor for the original 1912 building.²⁰

Projections of population growth in Sheboygan's Eighth Ward proved correct, as by 1929, Washington School's enrollment reached 527.²¹ That same year, the school's supervised playground served many children in the neighborhood during July with a daily average attendance of 227 children and a weekly average of 1,134 children.²²

Architecture

The Washington School is an excellent and intact example of a modern grade school designed in the Neoclassical Revival style. It is representative of the Neoclassical Revival style with its overall symmetrical composition and classically-derived design elements. Classical details include a Roman arch hood with dentils that spring from brick pilasters embellished with limestone capitals, a carved stone architrave below a brick frieze with stone roundels encircled with brick headers which is topped by a pressed metal cornice and exaggerated guttae that hang from the carved limestone plaque which reads "Washington School." Above the door is a stone tympanum with "1911" carved in relief. The south facades of the east and west wings each have an entrance framed by an eared architrave.

Neoclassical Revival Style

As noted in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, the Neoclassical Revival style in Wisconsin dates from 1895 through 1935. The style is generally characterized by the use of forms of classical antiquity, which were popularized by Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.²³ Neoclassical Revival buildings overall employ sparing use of ornamentation. Typical elements of the style that were employed by H.C. Koch & Son on the Washington School include: a symmetrically-composed façade; a wide frieze below the cornice; double-hung, symmetrically arranged windows with lintels above, sometimes grouped in pairs or trios; a doorway at the center of the façade which may be capped with a decorative lintel or a broken pediment, and with ornamental elements usually surrounding the

¹⁹ "Give Contract for Addition to School" *Sheboygan Press*, July 29, 1925, 4.

²⁰ Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Division. Collection: Superintendent of Public Instruction, Field Services – School Buildings, School Building Data Card File: 1922-1948. Series No. 691, Box No. 1.

²¹ "Proposed New \$400,000 Sheboygan Junior High School Building" *Sheboygan Press*, Nov. 4, 1929, 9.

²² "Attendance in Playgrounds in Sheboygan is Gratifying" *Sheboygan Press*, July 29, 1929, 4

²³ Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2009), 224.

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Washington Elementary School
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door. While the style was used for residences, it was particularly popular for public and institutional buildings.

Two important and influential Wisconsin examples of Neoclassical Revival style buildings include the Wisconsin State Capitol Building (1906, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970), and the Wisconsin State Historical Society Building (1900, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972). Smaller but still prominent examples of the style include dozens of Carnegie libraries across the state including those in Sparta (1902) (NRHP 1981), Bayfield (1903) (NRHP 1980), and Washburn (1904) (NRHP 1984).

The Washington School is the best extant example of a Neoclassical Revival style school building in Sheboygan, and one of two best examples of the style in the city. The partially demolished Mead Public Library (1904, Patton & Miller, 707 North 7th Street, AHI# 82271) is another early, although incomplete, institutional example of the Neoclassical Revival style. Other Sheboygan examples of the style include City Hall (1915), and the Sheboygan Post Office (1937).

Sheboygan's other good local examples of the Neoclassical Revival style are the St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and School built in 1918 (828 New Jersey Avenue) and constructed of molded concrete block.

Other extant Sheboygan schools, libraries, and other places of learning from the early twentieth century design were designed in other popular architectural styles including Collegiate Gothic style and the later Art Deco style.

H.C. Koch and Son

As noted in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, H.C. Koch and Son are notable Wisconsin architects, and are especially recognized for their contributions to school building design. Henry C. Koch (1841 – 1910), was born in Hanover, Germany and immigrated to Milwaukee as a child, where he received his education. He apprenticed in the office of George W. Mygatt, one of the first architects in Milwaukee, from 1856 to 1862. Koch left the office to enlist in the 26th Wisconsin Infantry. In 1863, he was transferred to the staff of General Philip H. Sheridan, serving as a topographic engineer. After the war, Koch returned to Milwaukee in 1866 and entered into partnership with Mygatt.²⁴ From

²⁴ National Register of Historic Places, National Soldiers Home Historic District, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register #05000530.

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1870 to 1872, Koch partnered with Julius Hess.²⁵ When Hess relocated to Detroit, Koch renamed the firm H.C. Koch & Co. The firm was one of Milwaukee's most prominent, and very prolific. Notable buildings include Milwaukee City Hall (1895), as well as the Hotel Pfister (1893), the city's first building of fireproof construction. Koch was very active in veterans' organizations as one of the founders of the Wolcott Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1880 and the national encampment in Milwaukee in 1889.²⁶

Koch's forty-year career included the completion of over 300 public and private buildings, including over fifteen courthouses in Wisconsin and Illinois, and over 120 school buildings in towns and cities across Wisconsin.²⁷ His work for the Milwaukee Board of Education during the 1870s and 1880s brought him acclaim as a leader in the design of modern school buildings. The firm's designs were quickly noticed by school boards outside of Milwaukee. Their importance in school design allowed the firm to secure commissions to design schools across Wisconsin and in surrounding states.²⁸ Many of his earlier and most striking examples employ elements of Romanesque Revival style architecture, elements of which can be seen in the Washington School's triumphal brick arch and pediment above the main entrance. The Washington School was completed by the firm after Henry Koch's death in 1910. By that time, the Koch's firm had completed well over 120 school buildings.

In addition to his Milwaukee commissions, Koch designed buildings for the University of Wisconsin at Madison and in Wisconsin and other states. An interesting note is that German was the language spoken in Koch's firm and that German architecture was the firm's specialty.²⁹ Henry C. Koch was a Fellow of the Western Association of architects from 1887-1889, and a member of the American Institute of Architects from 1889-1909. Armand D. Koch (1879 - c.1932) was born in Milwaukee, where he attended public schools. He studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He entered his father's firm as a young apprentice, and continued as a partner until 1910, after which he established his own firm. Well known in Milwaukee, he designed the Wells Building (1901-1902), the Waldheim Building (1916), and the Milwaukee Athletic Club (1917).

²⁵ National Register of Historic Places, National Soldiers Home Historic District, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register #05000530.

²⁶ National Register of Historic Places, National Soldiers Home District, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, National Register #05000530.

²⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Stutsman County Courthouse and Sheriff's Residence/Jail, Jamestown, Stutsman County, North Dakota, National Register # 76001356.

²⁸ Robert Tanzilo, *Historic Milwaukee Public Schoolhouses*, Charleston: The History Press, 2012. 4.

²⁹ Jennifer Watson Schumacher, ed., *Images of America: German Milwaukee* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing), 16.

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Comparable Neoclassical Revival Style Architecture in Sheboygan

The Washington School's original 1912 block along with its significant 1926 additions display formal and decorative features typical of Neoclassical Revival Style architecture. An American design aesthetic influenced by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago popular in Wisconsin from 1915 to 1935, the Neoclassical Revival Style was used on commercial and residential buildings, but especially popular for institutional buildings. The Washington School's symmetrical composition, Roman arch hood, dentils, wide frieze, pilasters topped with capitals, and eared architraves are all common characteristics of Neoclassical Revival Style Architecture.

Found in early twentieth century buildings throughout the United States, the Neoclassical Revival Style was a popular style in Wisconsin with several examples in Sheboygan. The Washington School is the only example of a Neoclassical Revival school in Sheboygan identified in the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory. Based on twentieth century school directories, current school board facility information, and the City of Sheboygan's *Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report* of 2006, only one Neoclassical Revival school remains in addition to the Washington School.³⁰ The St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and School were built in 1918 at 828 New Jersey Avenue in the Neoclassical Revival style. The main structure features a symmetrical main south elevation with a central entry, a metal cornice, and pairs of large windows with stone lintels. Unlike the Washington School, St. Cyril is clad in molded concrete block.

All other extant examples of the style in the city are commercial or residential buildings, with the exception of the Mead Library (1904; partially extant), City Hall (1915), and the Sheboygan Post Office (1937).

Comparable Educational Architecture in Sheboygan

The Washington School is a good local example of 1910s graded school architecture. It is only one of two extant examples of 1910s graded school architecture in Sheboygan, and the only extant 1910s public school in Sheboygan. St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and school was completed in 1918 as a parochial school also in the Neoclassical Style. Following the construction of the Washington School, no other elementary schools were built in Sheboygan until 1953. During the period between the completion of the Washington School in 1912 and the year 1953, the Sheboygan Board of Education primarily expanded existing elementary school buildings rather than building new schools.

³⁰ *City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin: Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report*, LJM Architects, Inc, 2006; Sheboygan Area School District website: <http://www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us/schools/>.

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In 1919, construction began on Sheboygan's second high school, which would later be named Sheboygan Central High School. Completed in 1922, the high school was designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. The former Sheboygan Central High School building no longer functions as a high school and currently houses the offices of the Sheboygan Area School District as well as a small charter school. A few of Sheboygan's extant early 20th century public school buildings constructed before World War II include:

- **Central High School, 1922; additions, date unknown**
843 Jefferson Ave.
This high school building was completed in 1922 in the Collegiate Gothic style. Only part of the building remains in use as a school, the rest of the building functions as the school district's main offices. Most of its windows feature non-historic infill.
- **South Side Junior High School, 1931; additions 1974, 1997**
1017 Union Ave.
The former South Side Junior High School (now Farnsworth Middle School) was completed in 1931 in the Collegiate Gothic style with later additions in 1974 and 1997. Many of the windows have been altered or infilled.
- **North High School, 1937**
1226 North Ave.
The former North High School (now Urban Middle School) was completed in 1937 in the Art Deco style. The majority of its windows are infilled.

Conclusion

The Washington School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education as a school building that represents the history of public education in Sheboygan. The school's expansion reflects Sheboygan's early twentieth century growth and resulting attempts to relieve over-crowding in schools and the school's evolving design reflects accepted theories of educational best practices as they evolved over time. The school is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent local example of an early twentieth century public elementary school building that was built to provide specialized and modern educational facilities to address the needs of different age groups from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Washington School is also locally significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the Neoclassical Revival style designed by a recognized master, H.C. Koch and Son. Furthermore, the

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Washington Elementary School
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Washington School remains as the only existing grade school dating to this period of Sheboygan's development.

With its original spatial layout including corridors, classrooms with minor alterations, and stairs remaining intact, the Washington School's original 1912 building, along with its 1926 additions, is a good local example of an early twentieth century graded school. The red brick building displays a number of important character-defining characteristics typical of twentieth century Neoclassical Revival style architecture.

___End of Statement of Significance

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National Park Service

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Section 9 Page 1

Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

___Insert References

Sources Consulted

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Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database.

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“Attendance in Playgrounds in Sheboygan is Gratifying,” *Sheboygan Press*, July 29, 1929.

“Give Contract for Addition to School” *Sheboygan Press*, July 29, 1925.

“Mayor Albrecht and New Council Ushered into Office,” *Sheboygan Press*, Apr. 18, 1917.

“Official Proceedings of the Common Council” *Sheboygan Press*, Sept. 10, 1917.

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“School Board Votes Against Dance Petition” *Sheboygan Press*, Dec. 17, 1923.

“Washington School Formally Opened,” *Sheboygan Press*, Nov. 12, 1912.

___ End of References

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Section 10 Page 1

Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

___ Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is the entire parcel associated with Washington Elementary School and the address 1238 Geele Avenue. The parcel is bounded by Bell Avenue on the north, Geele Avenue on the south, North 13th Street on the west, and private residential properties on the east.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land associated with the Washington Elementary School building in Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI.

___ End of Boundary Descriptions

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Section photos Page 1

Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

___Insert Photo Descriptions

Name of Property: Washington Elementary School

City or Vicinity: Sheboygan

County: Sheboygan State: Wisconsin

Photographer: Emily Ramsey

MacRostie Historic Advisors

Location of Original Digital Photographs: State Historic Preservation Office, Madison, WI

Date Photographed: July 24, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and Number:

1 of 10: West and primary south elevation of west 1926 wing, looking northeast.

2 of 10: South and east elevation of east 1926 wing, looking northwest.

3 of 10: North elevation of 1912 block and 1926 and 2001 wings, looking south.

4 of 10: North elevation of 1912 block and partial 1926 and 2001 wings, looking south.

5 of 10: West elevation of west 1926 block, looking southeast.

6 of 10: Southwest stairwell at first floor, looking south.

7 of 10: First floor classroom in 1912 block, looking northeast.

8 of 10: Gymnasium, looking north.

9 of 10: Basement hallway, looking east.

10 of 10: First floor hallway, looking west.

___End of Photo Descriptions

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Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

___Insert Figures

List of Figures:

Figure 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1948

Figure 2: Aerial view annotated with construction dates

Figure 3: Clipping from Sheboygan Daily Press 3-13-1911

Figure 4: Sheboygan Centennial Souvenir photo of school crossing guard c. 1953

Figure 5: Sheboygan Centennial Souvenir clipping

Figure 6: Blueprints of north and south elevations from architects H.C. Koch & Son

Figure 7: Blueprints of east and west elevations from architects H.C. Koch & Son

Figure 8: Current basement level plan

Figure 9: Current first floor plan

Figure 10: Current second floor plan

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Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

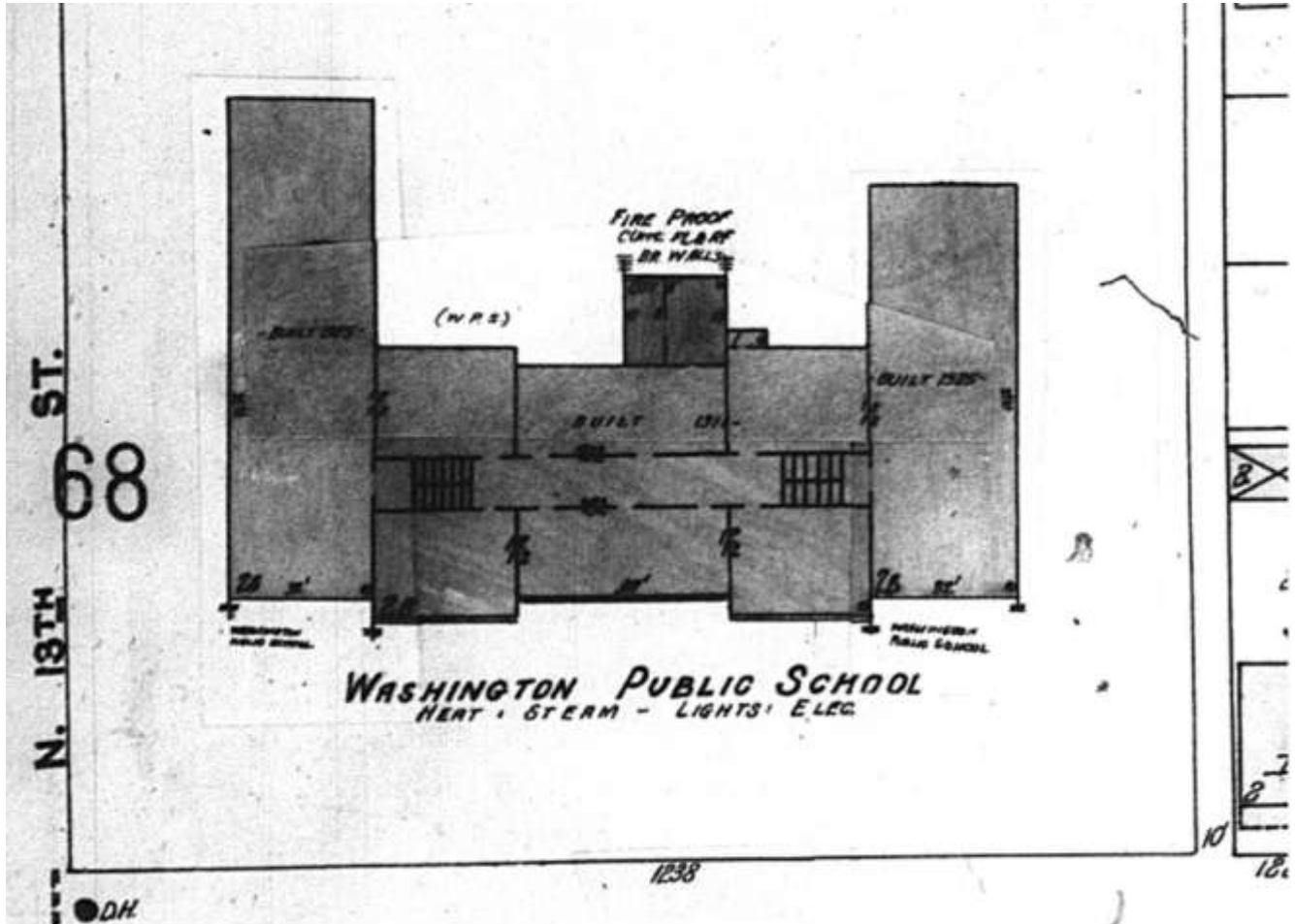


Figure 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1948

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Washington Elementary School
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Figure 2: Aerial view annotated with construction dates

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

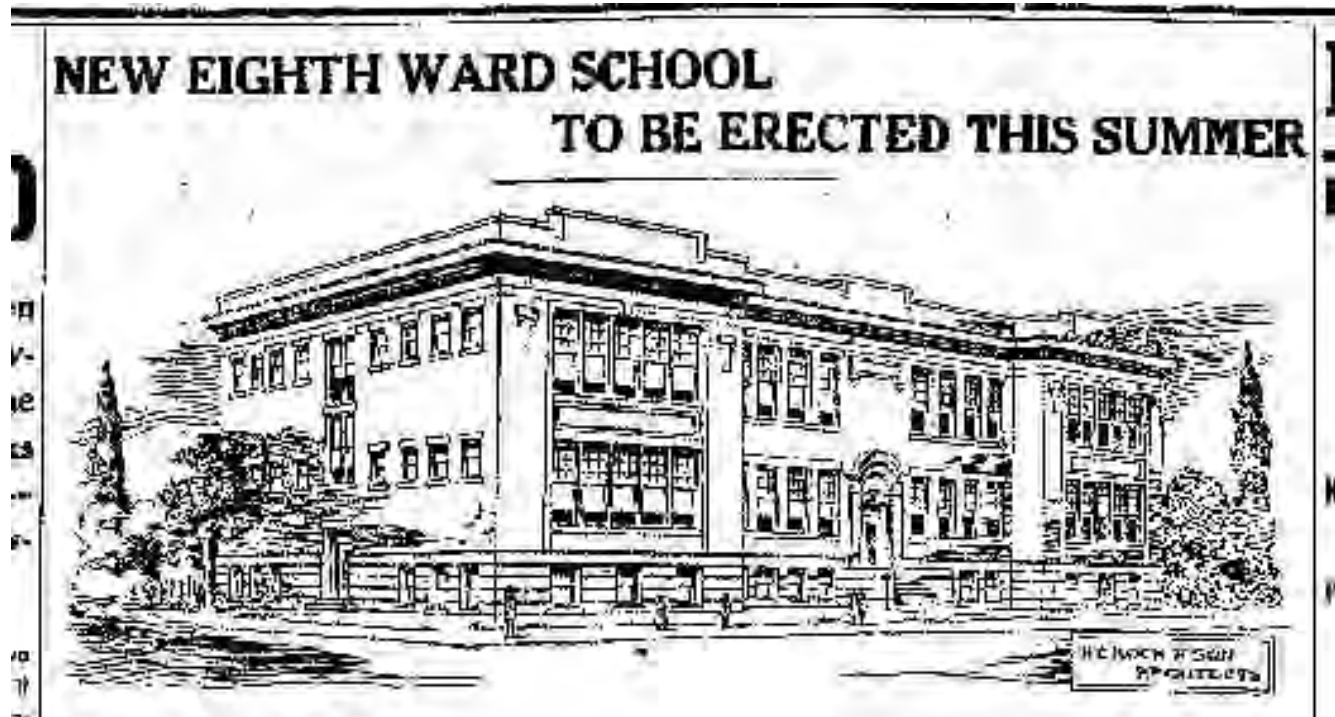


Figure 3: Clipping from Sheboygan Daily Press 3-13-1911

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 4: Sheboygan Centennial Souvenir photo of school crossing guard c. 1953

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Washington Elementary School
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Figure 5: Sheboygan Centennial Souvenir clipping

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Washington Elementary School
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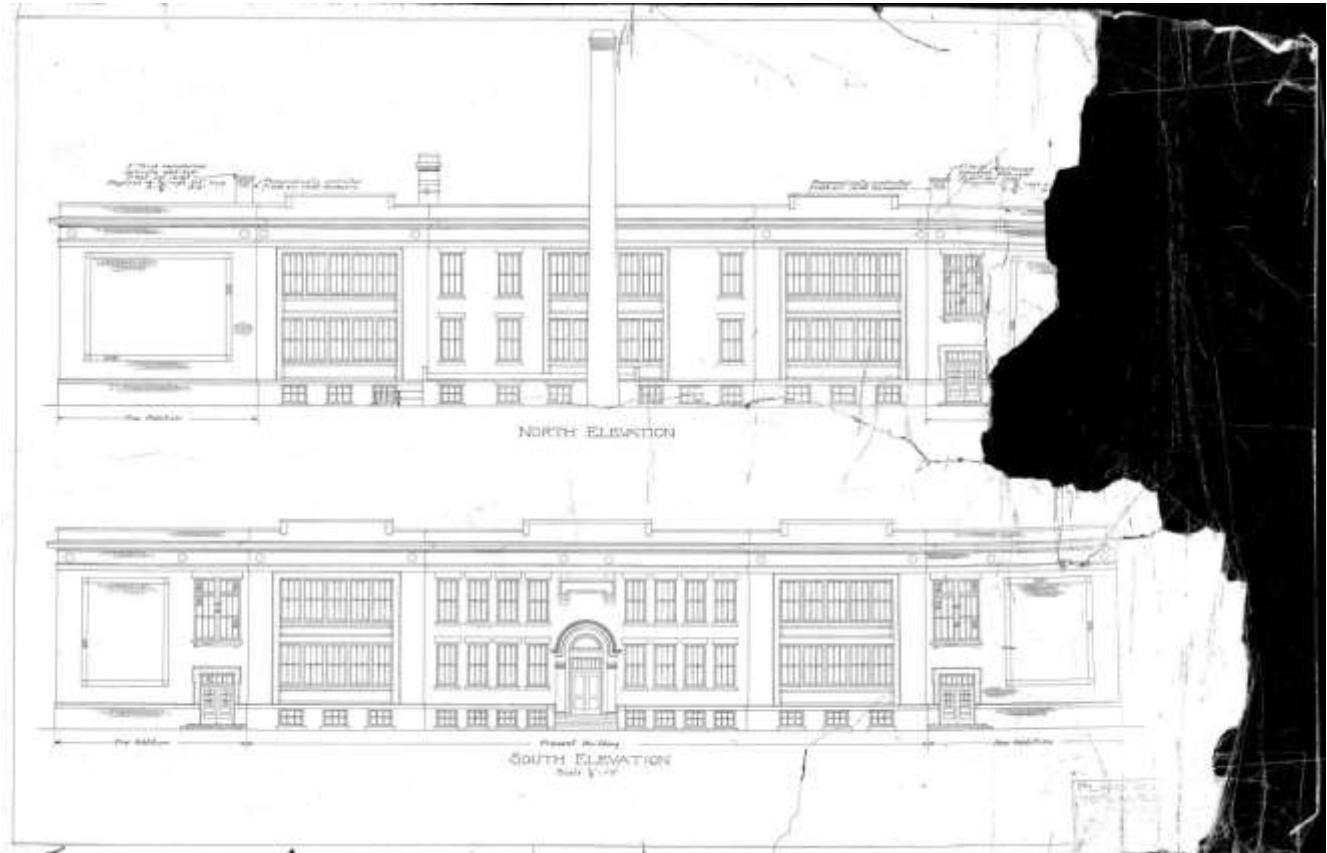


Figure 6: Blueprints of north and south elevations from architects H.C. Koch & Son

United States Department of the Interior
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Washington Elementary School
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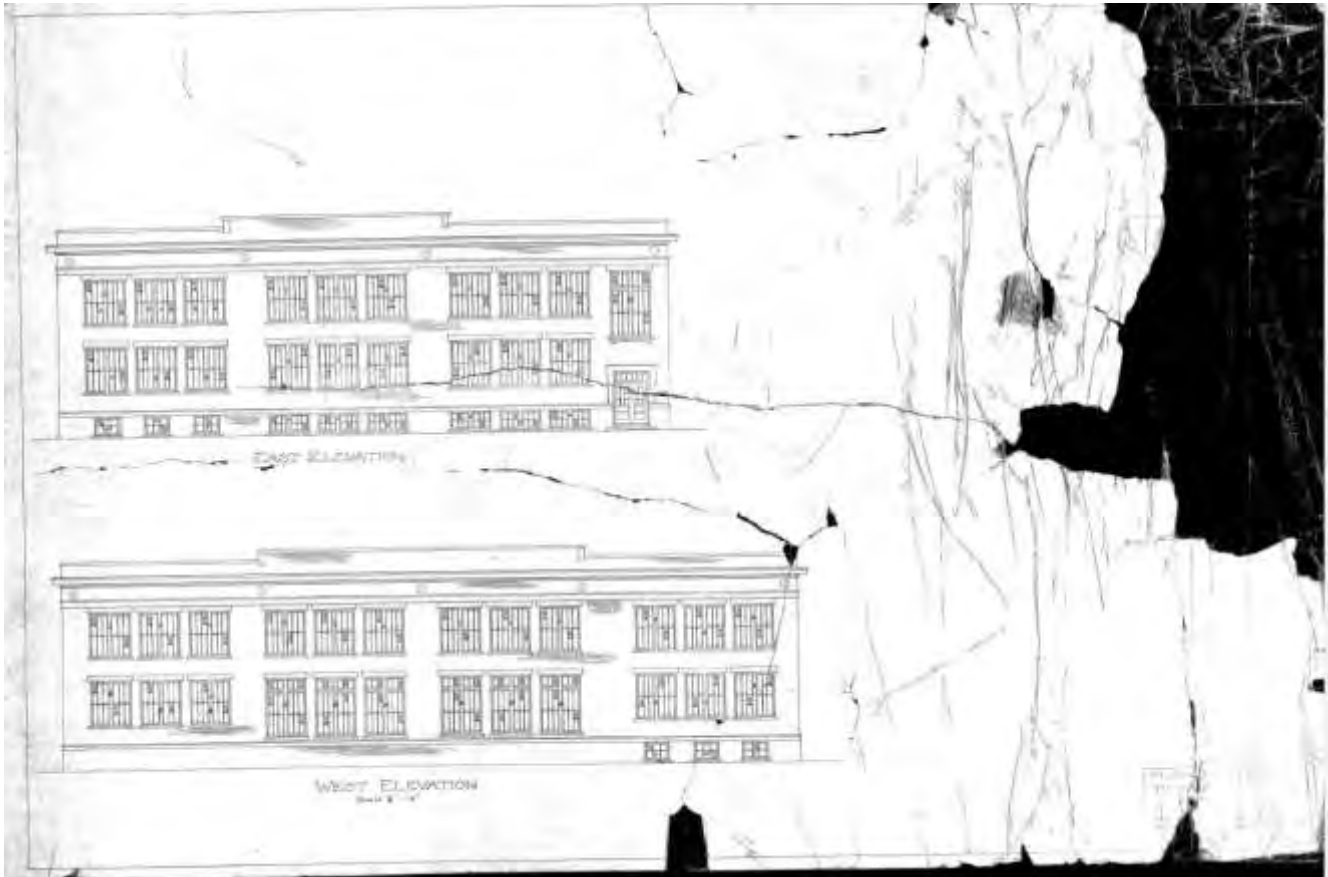


Figure 7: Blueprints of east and west elevations from architects H.C. Koch & Son

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Section figures Page 9

Washington Elementary School
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Figure 8: Current basement level plan.

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Washington Elementary School
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Figure 9: Current first floor plan.

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Washington Elementary School
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 10: Current second floor plan.

___End Figures



WASHINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL











EXIT

EXIT

EXIT



Whiteboard



Chalkboard

Green Chalkboard

Green Chalkboard

Blueboard

East

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo

Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

I'LL TRY

TEAMWORK

COOPERATION

RESPECT







204

204

205

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/6/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 2/21/2017 Date of Weekly List: 2/23/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 2/14/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

GLENN GROTHMAN
6TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



DEC 02 2016

1020 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE B
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
(920) 907-0624

501 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2476

GROTHMAN.HOUSE.GOV

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 29, 2016

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

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing in support of Washington Elementary School's nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The school building, located in Sheboygan, is part of the Sixth Congressional District which I represent.

The Washington Elementary School building characterizes a significant period in Sheboygan's past, representing the history of public education and exemplifying the importance the community placed on the education of their children. Its beautiful Neoclassical Revival style is unique among Sheboygan schools. Constructed in 1912, it included fireproof construction and was used as a grade school for 101 years, reflecting the expansion of public education and the growth of the city of Sheboygan. I believe it is important to preserve the past for future generations not only to enjoy the architecture but also to learn about Wisconsin's history and journey since becoming a state in 1848.

Please give all due and fair consideration consistent with current federal and State laws and agency regulations. Please keep me apprised of your efforts and findings by contacting my District Director, Alan Ott, at 1020 S. Main Street, Suite B, Fond du Lac, WI 54935 or by calling (920) 907-0624. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Grothman".

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Fourth day of January 2017, for the nomination of the Washington Elementary School to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 10 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 10 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- X This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: