

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

White Limestone School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street, between Dayton and Buchanan NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

Streets

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Dodge

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Mayville, c/o Mayor Clayton L. Sieloff

STREET & NUMBER

254 Marguerite Street

CITY, TOWN

Mayville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53050

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dodge County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Juneau

STATE

Wisconsin 53039

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE

1974

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A two-story Greek Revival school building of coursed white limestone rubble from the Randall quarry at Waupun, with pediments at the gable ends and a tetraprostyle portico with giant Doric columns supporting a pediment at the main entrance. The columns stand on large square pedestals. Crowning the center of the roof is the square base of a large cupola, the dome of which was removed in 1970 because of deterioration. Usable parts of the old, tall dome remain in storage, however, and there is a possibility of restoration in the future. All cornices, raking and horizontal, are supported by paired brackets. Fenestration is uniformly 2/2 double-hung sash, and windows have tooled stone lintels and sills. Except for loss of the tall cupola dome, the handsome building looks very much as it did in the 1890's.

The north end of the building, **constructed** in 1857-58, measured 18.3 x 12.2 meters (60' x 40'). By 1876 it was necessary to enlarge the school greatly and a 21.3-meter (70') addition was built onto the south end of the original school, giving the building an overall length of approximately 40 meters (130'). It was at this time that the main entrance with the large pedimented portico was built on the front and the cupola on the top of the structure.¹ The White Stone School building seems disproportionately large for a relatively small city, but was needed to accommodate the school population quite early in Mayville's history. (See Statement of Significance.)

1. Hubble, p. 382

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857-58; 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture. The White Limestone School is significant as a fine Greek Revival building constructed of white stone cut from a nearby quarry, and whose appearance has remained virtually unchanged for a century. It is undoubtedly the Mayville area's most outstanding architectural landmark.

Education. Mayville was first settled in 1845 and its residents were early to show great concern about proper education for their children. They organized the first school in 1847 and built a temporary schoolhouse. In 1849 the community built its first permanent school building, a frame structure. The Mayville school district was incorporated in 1856 by a special act of the state legislature, and by 1857 the school enrollment had increased sufficiently that the 1849 schoolhouse was no longer adequate. This led to the construction in 1857-58 of a very substantial two-story white limestone schoolhouse with a high basement. This facility is significant in the educational history of Mayville because it not only provided adequate room but also made possible the departmentalization of the school. Whereas the earlier schools had offered a relatively meager range of subjects--principally reading, writing, and arithmetic--, three grades or departments were established in the new stone building and more subjects were added to the curriculum, history and geometry in particular.¹

In less than twenty years the community's growth again created demand for school expansion and in 1876 a 21.3-meter (70-foot) addition was built onto the south end of the original stone building. This more than doubled the size of the White Stone School and matched the original portion perfectly. Erection of the large pedimented tetraprostyle portico and the cupola at that time gave the schoolhouse its fine architectural characteristics which, for the most part, remain today. It also made possible further improvements in the school system. In 1880 a high school was established in the older (north) part of the building and the elementary grades were housed in the new addition.² In the same year, "the German language was made a part of the course of study in all grades of the public schools."³

The White Stone School building seems to have been disproportionately large for a relatively small community, especially at the time when the addition was built. Mayville's growth accounts for this, however. The community became industrialized very early in its history with the completion in 1849 of a charcoal blast furnace with capacity to smelt eight tons of iron per day. By 1875 production had increased to 45 tons daily, and during this period and beyond, the Mayville area's population had grown quite steadily. By 1890 Mayville itself was an incorporated city with a population of 1165. As the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartsch, Norman D., "Mayville And The Iron Age," The Mayville Story, Mayville Centennial Executive Committee, 1947. No pagination.
Hubble, Homer Bishop, Dodge County, Wisconsin: Past and Present (Chicago, 1913), 1:379-384
"History of Mayville's Schools," n.p., n.d.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	3	7	5	0	0	0	4	8	1	7	1	0	0
ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

B

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

C

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

D

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

18 June 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-0746

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James Morton Smith

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

7/15/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/22/80

ATTEST:

DATE

10/15/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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WHITE LIMESTONE SCHOOL

community had grown, so had its school population, and of course additional schools were needed as time went on, some of which were parochial. The smelting industry remained highly important until the end of World War I, after which it began a rapid decline. Ironmaking ceased in Mayville in 1928.⁴ The city's population had risen to 3011 by 1920 but during the next decade it dropped to 2521. (New industries came later, and the 1974 population estimate was 4354.⁵)

The White Stone School, though not fully occupied, remains in school use yet today, although it must now be considered as endangered. It is a significant survival which, except for a brief hiatus in 1964, has served the community continuously since 1876. Its story is an integral part of the history of education in this small Wisconsin city, where there was early establishment and continuous development of an exemplary and progressive public educational system.

1. Hubbell, p. 381
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Bartsch, p. 3 (no pagination)
5. Population figures from Wisconsin Blue Books.