

56 2822

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name West Pullman Elementary School

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

2. Location

street & number 11941 S. Parnell Avenue not for publication

city or town Chicago vicinity

state Illinois county Cook zip code 60628

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B C ___ D

 7/9/18
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

 8-27-18
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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 VICTORIAN/Romanesque
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone
walls: Brick
Limestone
roof: Asphalt
other: _____

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The West Pullman Elementary School (or simply the West Pullman School) is a former public school building located at 11941 South Parnell Avenue on Chicago's Far South Side in the West Pullman community area. It is a two- and three-story building with a full basement, stone and concrete foundation, walls clad in red press brick with terra cotta and limestone trim, and a flat roof with a synthetic membrane.

The building was completed in three stages between 1894 and 1923 following the growth of the West Pullman area. Together the three sections blend seamlessly to form a single visually uniform building:

- **Original 1894 Building (South)**

The first section at the south end of the building was completed in 1894 as a two-story eight-room school. It was one of several school buildings completed that year designed by Chicago Board of Education architect W. August Fiedler.

- **1900 Addition (Middle)**

In 1900, Chicago Board of Education architect William Bryce Mundie designed a substantial three-story sixteen-room school addition to the north of the original 1894 section. This was to accommodate the rapidly increasing demand for school seats in the growing neighborhood. Mundie's 1900 addition carries many themes from the original section including material, fenestration, and the overall style.

- **1923 Addition (North)**

A second addition at the north end of the 1900 addition, including a gymnasium and an auditorium, was completed in 1923 reflecting the continuing growth of the area after World War I. The 1923 north addition was designed by Chicago Board of Education architect John C. Christensen and complements the form of the older sections with continued fenestration and banding, but also reflects changes in school design.

The substantial and uniform design of this Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival style building exemplifies the prevailing concepts of school architecture during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with its masonry construction, central corridor layout, and classrooms with tall windows for ample light and ventilation. Ornamentation on the building carries from the original south section through the two additions, with decorative brickwork, limestone trim, terra cotta details, and a pressed metal cornice. Overall, the building has a regular footprint, with a single-story boiler room and chimney on the east side of the original 1894 building. The West Pullman School has a high degree of integrity with few alterations since the completion of the 1923 addition. The building retains its original floor plan and circulation pattern and many of its historic features and finishes. The building maintained its original use as a school until 2013 and retains excellent integrity to illustrate its role in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century development of educational buildings.

Narrative Description

Setting

The West Pullman School occupies nearly an entire block bounded by Parnell Avenue on the west, Normal Avenue on the east, 120th Street on the south, and an alleyway on the north. The school building is oriented north to south along Parnell Avenue with paved playing fields and playground to the east; the entire paved outdoor area is bordered

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

by a wrought iron fence with brick piers. To the north of the school building is a large vacant lot with a single-story store at the northwest corner. The area surrounding the school is largely developed with two- and three-story frame and brick houses and apartment buildings; several vacant lots dot surrounding blocks, but especially along 120th Street.

The building's primary elevation faces west onto Parnell with three main entrances, and a main entrance for the auditorium. There is one secondary entrance on the south elevation and two secondary entrances on the east elevation, which lead to the playground and fields on the east half of the school lot.

Site
The West Pullman Elementary School (or simply the West Pullman School) occupies nearly an entire block bounded by Parnell Avenue on the west, Normal Avenue on the east, 120th Street on the south, and an alleyway on the north. The school building is oriented north to south along the east side of Parnell Avenue with paved and fenced playing fields primarily to the east along Normal Avenue. A narrow service driveway following the route of a vacated alleyway abuts the east side of the school building, separating it from the paved playgrounds to the east. The drive begins at the center of the south end of the site along 120th Street and runs north following the footprint of the school to the north end of the lot where it turns westward toward Parnell Avenue along the northern boundary. The northern segment of the drive opens into a small paved play area along the school's northern end. A larger paved play area also occupies the southern end of the school.

The small play area in the northwest corner of the school site was added following the completion of the auditorium and gymnasium addition around 1923. The area was likely originally unpaved but was paved in asphalt, possibly more than once, during the mid-twentieth century. A small section of wrought iron fence with twin brick piers, described below, line the west side of the play area along Parnell Avenue. A five-foot tall non-historic chain link fence extends the full length of the site's northern border and serves to separate the school from the public alleyway.

The small play area at the school's southwestern corner is the site of the 1894 school section's original play area. Originally this area was landscaped and was encircled by a utilitarian wood fence, which is visible in historic images. A non-historic three-and-a-half-foot tall metal fence installed during the 1990s lines the west and south sides of the area.

The large paved play area between the school service driveway and Normal Avenue was annexed to the school site by 1923 following the completion of the 1923 addition. Nine existing houses and apartment flats were acquired by the Chicago Public Schools and either moved or demolished to create the playground area. The former alley which bisected the block was vacated and acquired by the school in 1923. Although likely originally unpaved, the area is paved in asphalt. At the northern end are two playgrounds with non-historic equipment and a padded surface over the asphalt. A wrought iron fence with brick piers located at corners and at openings was erected around the perimeter of the school site around 1923. Portions of this fence remain along the eastern and southern sides of the play area, as well as at the northwestern corner of the site along Parnell Avenue.

The wrought iron fencing is a standard design used by the Chicago Public Schools at many public school buildings. Simple square tipped pickets with an approximate four-inch spacing are supported by a flat top rail and a tall bottom rail. Fence sections are approximately six-feet in length and are bolted together and supported by angled iron bars. Brick piers support the fence at corners and at entrances. The piers have stepped cast concrete bases, brick shafts with square stone plaques on each side, and decorative limestone caps. There are seven piers in total.

During the 1950s or 1960s, the play area was graded, and the southern end raised a maximum of three-feet. A poured concrete retaining wall is visible along the southern end of the Normal Avenue side, along the 120th Street side, and along the school's private service driveway. At the same time as the grading, the wrought iron fence along Normal Avenue and 120th Street was reinstalled along the top of the retaining wall. The two corner brick piers along 120th Street were made taller by adding layers of concrete on top of the brick shaft; the stone caps were reinstalled on top.

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

There are two openings in the fence along Normal Avenue, which are flanked by brick piers. The southernmost opening is missing a pier, while the northernmost opening has a damaged pier. Along the western side of the play area is a non-historic chain link fence that separates the area from the school's service driveway.

The west side of the school is set back from the sidewalk with small grass lawns set between doorways. These lawns are contained by non-historic chain link fences added sometime during the mid- to late-twentieth century.

Overall, the remaining portions of the wrought iron fence and remaining brick piers contribute to the historic feeling of the former school site and indicate the typical fencing motif of Chicago Public Schools. Non-historic alterations to the fence include the replacement of portions of the fence with chain link, damaged or missing piers, and re-grading at the south end of the site that lifted portions of the fence and resulted in the alteration of brick piers. The extent of alterations precludes the historic fencing portions from being substantial enough to quantify as a contributing structure, but they do reflect the historic feeling of the site and, as such, the iron fencing and brick piers are contributing small-scale features (not counted). The paved play areas occupying the east portion of the site are reflective of the site's historic function in 1923 as a paved play area. The paving of the play area has been replaced over the years since the period of significance.

Exterior

The West Pullman School features a limestone base of rock-faced broken ashlar, with tooled corners and a capping water table of smooth dressed limestone. The upper walls are clad in red pressed-brick, which varies slightly in color between the original half and the additions; the original 1894 and the 1900s sections maintain a deep orange-red tone, while the 1923 addition was sourced with deeper red-toned brick. All original window openings remain, although all windows are replacement and some are currently boarded over. Each section is divided by slightly recessed stairwells, which were rebuilt with the construction of the 1923 north addition.

1894 Section

West Elevation

The West Pullman School's primary elevation faces west onto South Parnell Avenue. The original 1894 section at the south end of the building is two-stories above a basement. The main west elevation is symmetrical and divided by a central shallow projecting bay, which terminates above the main flat roof with a pyramid hip roof; the peak of the roof has a pressed metal finial. Each floor of the bay has a pair of windows. At the base, the rock-faced broken ashlar below the water table continues up to the top of the basement level of the bay and frames a pair of arch-top windows. Above the windows is a decorative spandrel of foliate carved limestone that reads: WEST PULLMAN SCHOOL. The bay is flanked by banks of four windows on each floor. Windows on the basement level have round arches with plain brick voussoirs. First floor windows have flat arches with a plain limestone sill and lintel joining each set of windows. Second floor windows have round arches with brick voussoirs and terra cotta molding. The spandrel between the first and second floor windows features a checkered brick pattern, which is composed of alternating plain and molded rounded brick. The whole elevation is capped by a bracketed pressed metal cornice, and a parapet wall with decorative shallow recessed brick panels and terra cotta coping.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the 1894 section is similar to the west elevation in symmetry. It features a central bay with an arched entrance and pair of tall windows between the first and second floors that are divided by a half round brick mullion with a limestone Corinthian capital and topped by round-arched transoms. The arched entrance has a non-historic metal door and the arched transom is covered over. Originally, there was a limestone portico with round stone columns, but this was removed likely around the time of the 1923 addition. The bay is flanked by paired windows that match the style of the west elevation.

East Elevation

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

The east elevation is similar to the west elevation with the exception of a projecting central bay. Instead, the central bay is flush with the elevation and features a pair of windows per floor, which are flanked by sets of four windows. The basement level connects with the rear single-story boiler house, which was re-clad in new red press brick with a metal cap along the parapet. The first level of the east elevation features flat arched windows, while the second floor has round arched windows; no decorative brickwork or terra cotta is present on this elevation. A brick chimney with decorative vertical bands of recessed brick rises approximately eight feet from the northeast corner of the roof.

1900 Section

West Elevation

The west elevation of the 1900 section is three-stories with a basement level. The overall design of the basement through second floor matches the 1894 section. Above the second floor is a band of terra cotta with a dentil mold. The third floor is clad in red press brick set in a rustic common bond with two recessed courses and five raised courses. Windows on this level have flat arches with a running band of terra cotta across the top of the windows. The whole elevation is capped by a bracketed pressed metal cornice and a plain brick parapet wall.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the 1900 section is similar to the west elevation, except that the middle bay is flush with the elevation. Part of the south end of the basement level is obscured but not covered by the single-story boiler house. The cornice returns across part of the partial south elevation, which has a central pair of windows that overlook the roof of the original section.

1923 Section

The 1923 section has a T-shaped footprint, with classrooms in the south half and an auditorium and gymnasium in the north half forming the top of the T. The two halves are separated by a stairwell on the west elevation.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the 1923 section is divided into the south classroom half and the north auditorium and gymnasium half. The south half is flanked by the slightly recessed elevations of the north and middle stairwells. Each stairwell has a main ground-floor entrance with a terra cotta surround and an entablature with a frieze with the word ENTRANCE flanked by stylized flowers. The doorways retain original twin eight-pane transoms above modern steel doors. Trio sets of windows are on each floor above the entrance.

The south half is symmetrically organized with three equally sized bays, each with a group of windows. Each window group consists of a central set of three windows divided by mullions, flanked by single windows separated by brick mullions. Each whole window group has a terra cotta sill and a terra cotta or steel lentils with a brick soldier course. The basement level has a plain stone base with a beaded water table cap. The wall above the base is clad in red press brick set in a rustic pattern with a single recessed course and six raised courses. The basement windows are capped by a terra cotta string course. The first and second levels are plain brick and separated from the third level by a terra cotta band. Windows on the third level are capped by a terra cotta string course. The whole elevation is topped by a terra cotta cornice and a plain brick parapet.

The west elevation of the auditorium is similar to the south half in cladding, except that the corners feature brick quoining. The ground level features three double doorways with round arched transoms. The arches are of terra cotta with large scroll keystones. The set of three doorways is flanked by single windows. The first and second levels of the elevation are largely plain with a row of five evenly spaced windows at a point between the two levels. Above the windows is a terra cotta panel with a plain border that reads: ASSEMBLY HALL; twin terra cotta shields flank the panel. The third level has five evenly spaced windows.

South Stairwell

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

Part of the 1923 construction included the rebuilding of the stairwell between the 1894 and 1900s sections. This resulted on the west elevation in a slightly recessed elevation between the two existing elevations. The ground level features a single-story pavilion of brick with triple doorway. The pavilion is clad in press brick with a plain terra cotta cornice and simple brick parapet.

East Elevation

The east elevation is similar the west elevation. The south half has the same cladding, design, and fenestration, except for an off-center, projecting bay with a flat roof on the first level. The bay has the same grouping of windows on its east elevation, and features a single window on its north and south elevations. A simple terra cotta cornice caps the bay. Basement windows along this elevation have non-historic brick infill.

The east elevation of the north half is plain on the basement through second levels but has a row of five evenly spaced windows on the third level.

North Elevation

The north elevation is similar in cladding to the east and west elevation and is divided into three bays. The wide middle bay features five evenly spaced windows with recessed decorative brick lunettes at a point between the first and second levels. A row of five evenly spaced single windows runs along the third level. The flanking bays are slightly recessed and are plain except for a single window on the third level, and an entrance with a terra cotta surround in the east bay. Part of the middle bay is partially obscured by a metal fire escape.

Interior

The interior of the West Pullman School is organized along a bisecting double loaded corridor that runs the length of the building and connects all sections from the south entrance of the 1894 section up to the north half of the 1923 addition. Both the original building and the additions retain their original classroom and hallway configuration. There are four stairwells in the building: one original stairwell at the south end of the 1894 section, a stairwell between the 1894 and 1900 sections, a stairwell between the 1900 and 1923 sections, and a stairwell between the north and south halves of the 1923 section. All stairwells have decorative cast iron newel posts and stringers with round railings and wrought iron balusters. The treads and landings are terrazzo.

The basement has a central corridor flanked by utilitarian storage and mechanical rooms, and by several classroom spaces. East entrances are accessible from the basement only. The basement of the 1894 and 1900 sections originally held gymnasium and related spaces, these areas recently served as storage space. The main boiler room and systems rooms are connected to the south end of the basement and are slightly lower in grade.

The upper floors of the school building have similar finishes between sections, with only slight differences in trim and room layouts. The corridors throughout the building have light colored terrazzo floors with a darker border. The walls are plaster with stained wood baseboard and chair rail, and painted picture rail just above the doorways. All doorways are trimmed in pine or oak with headers or corner blocks (1894 section). The doors in the 1900 and 1923 sections have two lower flat panels with a wire glass above and are topped by a large operable transom. The doors in the 1894 section mostly are raised five-panel doors topped by rectangular three-pane transoms. Wood and glass partitions with two sets of double doors divide the corridors on all three levels between the 1900 and 1923 sections. Most corridors retain double-sided wood clock supports with replacement non-historic clocks.

The original school office spaces are located on the first floor at the south end of the 1923 section. There are two main rooms in this suite. One is a large space that is divided by a wood-paneled counter and lined by built-in cabinets with glass doors above and drawers below. The second room is divided into an interior waiting room and two offices. The waiting room has built-in benches along the corridor-side wall, while the offices are separated by a wood and glass partition.

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

Classrooms are similar between the three sections. In the 1894 and 1900 sections the classrooms all feature a side cloakroom with extra built-in cabinets and walls with beadboard wainscoting with cast iron hooks. Classrooms have maple tongue and groove floors, stained wood baseboards, chalkboard frames, cabinets, and picture rail. In the 1894 section, classrooms also have beadboard wainscoting. Classrooms in the 1923 section feature walls along the corridor side of the room with oak-framed chalkboards that can be raised and lowered to access a hidden cloakroom; most classroom also have maple tongue and groove floors, oak built-in cabinets, and oak trim.

The auditorium is located in the north half of the 1923 addition and is accessed by two double doorways from the basement, while the balcony is accessed from a single door in the landing of the north stairwell between the first and second floors. The two-story auditorium space has a stage with a rectangular plaster proscenium along the east wall and a balcony with a projection booth against the west wall. The proscenium has a simple chamfered edge with a plain inner rope border. Rows of original wood and cast iron theater seats are divided into three sections by two central aisles. Twin double doorways flanking the stage lead to auxiliary exits on the east side of the building. Above the doorways are blank panels that originally held oil murals on canvas painted as part of the Works Progress Administration Federal Arts Project (these murals have since been removed). The floors of the auditorium are brown painted concrete. The walls are divided into upper and lower sections with a green marble base. Lower sections have plaster scored to imitate coursed blocks of stone and are capped by a wide band of stained wood inset with alternating flat plaster panels and cast stylized plaster flowers; the band borders the entire space and continues beneath the balcony. A similar design is found on the front of the balcony. The upper walls are divided into panels framed by raised plaster molding, and the ceiling is crossed by plaster box beams and has original cast metal chandeliers. One special feature of the space is the presence of historic matching window and stage curtains with original white trimmed valances. The valance above the stage has a matching white border and profile to the window valances; it also has the school's initials "WP" in a stylized serif font at its center.

The gymnasium is located above the auditorium in a two-story space with maple tongue and groove floors. The walls are divided into a lower section with white glazed brick, and upper a plain upper plaster section. Original basketball hoops and gymnastic equipment remain in the space. To the east of the gymnasium is a small but equally tall space that was recently used as a locker room.

Integrity

The West Pullman Elementary School exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity. No major additions or alterations have been made to the building since the historic 1923 addition was completed, leaving historic features, finishes, overall form, footprint, and location of entrances and arrangement of fenestration intact.

The exterior retains its historic brick, limestone, and terra cotta cladding. Only the boiler house was reclad in new matching red press brick. Other elements including galvanized metal cornices, finials, and other details remain intact. All of the upper level fenestration remains with only a few openings infilled with brick. All window units have been replaced over time, leaving only a few original transoms above the west elevation entrances, including fanlights above the three auditorium entrances. While some window openings along the east elevation at the basement level have been infilled, the fenestration remains distinguishable. All exterior doors have also been replaced with non-historic metal doors.

The interior of the building also retains a high level of character-defining features and finishes, including but not limited to corridor and room layouts, and floor, wall, and ceilings finishes. Ceilings throughout the building are full height and are not interrupted by any drop or false ceilings. Original flooring finishes, including terrazzo and tongue and groove maple, are also present throughout the building in classrooms, corridors, and other rooms. Only a few floors are covered by acoustic vinyl tiles. Walls also remain in excellent condition with a high degree of integrity with original plaster surfaces and original stained wood trim. The wood trim finishes in corridors and classrooms are generally in excellent condition and include baseboard, chair rail, picture rail, and door and window trim. Additional wood trim includes vertical beadboard wainscoting in clock rooms, built-in cabinets, built-in benches in some rooms,

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

wood and glass partitions in corridors and in the main office, oak-framed chalkboards with original boards, and special operable chalkboards in the 1923 section that can be raised to reveal hidden cloak rooms.

The auditorium and gymnasium both have excellent integrity and retain their historic layout and finishes. The auditorium maintains its stage, plaster proscenium, seating, woodwork, and some decorative lighting. Some changes include the replacement of wall sconces, repainting of the original concrete floor in the auditorium, and the removal of the twin WPA-era murals that flanked the proscenium. The gymnasium retains all historic floor, wall, and ceiling finishes, and it features several original pieces of gymnasium equipment. A third mural formerly located at the north end of the first floor corridor has also been removed.

Both the interior and exterior of the West Pullman Elementary School retain excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance as a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century school building in Chicago's West Pullman community. The building served as a public elementary school from 1894 to 2013 when it was closed along with dozens of other city schools.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1894-1923

Significant Dates

1894

1900

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

W. August Fiedler (1894 building)

William Bryce Mundie (1900 addition)

John C. Christensen (1923 addition)

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The West Pullman Elementary School is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture as an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival style school built in Chicago at the turn of the twentieth century. Additionally, the school building's expansion over time, specifically between the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, mirrors the growth and development of Chicago's far south side community of West Pullman.

The West Pullman Elementary School's period of significance under Criterion C spans the building's period of construction from 1894 to 1923.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Located at 11941 S. Parnell Avenue on the far south side community Chicago's West Pullman neighborhood, the West Pullman Elementary School was constructed in 1894 as an eight-room school designed in the Romanesque Revival. The first portion of the building was designed by W. August Fielder (1842-1903), architect of the Chicago Board of Education from 1893-1896. The Romanesque Revival, made popular by noted Massachusetts architect Henry Hobson Richardson, was influenced by the European Romanesque architecture of the 11th and 12th century, but simplified to emphasize geometric forms and varied textures. Romanesque Revival elements featured in the oldest portion of the school include recessed entries, round-headed arches, bands of windows, a central bay, and use of brick and stone.

The building's 1900 addition largely followed the original design which included a twin eight-room school. Originally designed by Fielder, the 1900 addition was carried out by William Bryce Mundie (1863-1939), architect of the Chicago Board of Education from 1898-1902. Mundie's design included a third story addition to the twin eight-room school and featured Classical Revival elements. The Classical Revival style was inspired by the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The style promoted a renewed interest in the classical forms and features formal elements like columns, porches, pediments, symmetrical arrangement of doors and windows, and dentiled cornices. Classical Revival elements like rustic brickwork, terra cotta details, and a cornice are present on Mundie's third story design for the 1900 addition. The final portion of the school was constructed in 1923 and designed by John C. Christensen (1879-1967), architect of the Chicago Board of Education from 1921-1924. The 1923 three story addition included additional classroom space, as well as extracurricular support space like a gymnasium and an auditorium. Christensen's design continued elements of both earlier portions of the building and implemented Classical Revival features like symmetry, decorative brickwork, and a terra cotta cornice complementing the building's earlier portions.

The Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival style building exemplifies the prevailing concepts of school architecture during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with its masonry construction, central corridor layout, and classrooms with tall windows for ample light and ventilation. Ornamentation on the building carries from the original south section through the two additions, with decorative brickwork, limestone trim, terra cotta details, and a pressed metal cornice. Overall, the building has a regular footprint, with a single-story boiler room and chimney on the east side of the original 1894 building. The West Pullman School has a high degree of integrity with few alterations since the completion of the 1923 addition. The building retains its original floor plan and circulation pattern and many of its historic features and finishes. The building maintained its original use as a school until 2013 and retains excellent integrity to illustrate its role in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century development of educational buildings.

The Development of West Pullman

The area that is currently known as West Pullman is a combination of several existing communities that were associated and called West Pullman by sociologists at the University of Chicago in the 1920s. The Town of Kensington was established at "Calumet Junction" following the intersection of new rail lines in 1852 laid by the Illinois Central and Michigan Central Railroads (the junction was located at the current intersection of 119th and Hasted Streets). Irish, German, and Scandinavian immigrants and residents moving westward from the East Coast settled the area during the 1850s. The opening of George M. Pullman's palace car factory and the development of his surrounding factory town of Pullman in 1880 attracted additional

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

investment and new manufacturers to the area. New housing for workers of the Pullman factory and for other new factories was built throughout the area. The village of Gano, was platted in the 1880s by developers from Cincinnati, Ohio seeking to profit from growing demand for land in the area. Many Pullman workers that did not want to live in Pullman in corporate controlled housing bought houses in Gano; so too did many French Canadians who arrived in 1885 as strikebreakers during a strike at a local brickyard.¹ Kensington and the surrounding area were annexed to the City of Chicago in 1889 and in 1895, and were linked to the city's utilities, fire and police protection, telegraph and mail systems, and to the public school system.

In 1891, the West Pullman Land Association (WPLA) purchased a 480-acre tract of farmland, previously known as the Morgan Farm. The land was west of Pullman and just south of Kensington. The land was immediately subdivided and organized into two general sections: Stewart Ridge, an area of finer homes along a higher, wooded part of the land; and West Pullman, which was laid out nearly a mile away from Stewart Ridge as the location for new manufacturing facilities and for the homes of factory workers. Manufacturers were drawn to the new subdivision both by specific enticements from the WPLA and due to the proximity to Pullman's existing labor supply. By 1900, seven major companies and several smaller firms were organized in West Pullman, these included: Sherwin-Williams paint factory and the factories of the International Harvester Company.

The subdivision of West Pullman grew at a faster rate than Chicago itself between 1890 and 1900. While Chicago's population increased at a rate of 54%, the ward that included West Pullman increased by 202%, or by 60,933 new residents; 7,896 of which lived in West Pullman in 1900.² The WPLA advertised the area as a less congested alternative to living in Chicago, and where, "the laboring people living their own their homes and are contented." Also, compared to the Pullman labor strikes during the 1890s, advertisements went on to claim that, "no strike or serious labor difficulty has ever been known in West Pullman." Yet, the WPLA believed that West Pullman and Stewart Ridge, "did not depend in any sense upon suburban residents for their future growth." Instead, they felt the land was destined to become a major new self-sufficient community with residents that lived and worked in the same area.³ It offered lots to new residents for \$350 to \$500 per lot and offered home construction services for those that did not have the means to build on a monthly instalment plan. During the early 1880s, an acre of land could be had for around \$200.⁴ Many new residents built modest frame homes in the West Pullman section of the subdivision, but many were also developed in the more restrictive and affluent Stewart Ridge section, east of Halsted, along Parnell Avenue, and Wallace and Normal Streets. As development flourished, dozens of new retail stores and commercial business blocks were built along Halsted, 119th, and 120th streets.

By the 1920s, the area of West Pullman, Stewart Ridge, and Kensington reached a population of over 20,000, with stores, factories, schools, parks, and several institutions. New waves of immigrants brought Italians, Poles, Hungarians, Lithuanians, and Armenians to the area. The echo of the WPLA's promise of cheap housing for laborers continued through the 1920s, dividing the community economically.⁵ The poorest residents lived in the existing aging housing stock of small frame houses with few modern conveniences; few could afford to move into newer homes built at the periphery of the community.

African Americans were wholly excluded from the community both by restrictive housing covenants and by exclusive hiring practices at the local major manufacturing plants such as International Harvester. The area's population declined during the Depression but surged again following World War II. Racial restrictions on housing remained until 1962 with the opening of a special subdivision called "Maplewood Park" that was finally made available to African American home buyers. The passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968 opened the rest of the community to African American residents, but predatory lending and unfair housing practices maintained a rigid divide. Over the following decade, as new African American families moved into the area, despite predatory lending, many of the area's existing residents, intolerant of their new neighbors, moved out; disinvestment followed, and soon the largest employers closed their plants. By the 1980s, West Pullman had one of the region's highest levels of unemployment and contained many contaminated factory sites. West Pullman continued to lose population through the 2000s; the West Pullman School closed in 2013 citing low enrolment.

¹ Graham Romeyn Taylor, "Satellite Cities – Pullman," *The Survey*, November 2, 1912. 126.

² West Pullman Land Association, *West Pullman and Stewart Ridge – Chicago, Illinois – 1892-1900*, 1900. 14.

³ West Pullman Land Association, 22, 52-53.

⁴ Taylor, 128.

⁵ Ann Durkin Keating, *Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs: A Historical Guide*, Chicago: University of Chicago, 2004. 298.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Chicago Public School History: From Founding Through 1894

The Chicago Public Schools formed following Chicago's incorporation in 1837 with the founding of a board appointed by the City Council. Several rudimentary frame schoolhouses were constructed in the 1840s, during which time state legislature granted additional power to Chicago to purchase and manage school land, and to fund the construction of new schools through taxation. Tax funds allowed for the construction of Chicago's first brick school, later known as the Dearborn School, which was completed in 1845 in the Greek Revival style. Dozens of new school buildings were completed through the 1860s as Chicago's student population rose from fewer than 2,000 in 1849 to nearly 41,000 in the 1860s. School buildings, such as the Chicago High School, built in 1856 in the Gothic Revival Style, and the Haven School, completed in the Italianate style in 1862, followed a rectilinear floor plan with classrooms arranged around a central hallway.

Across the country, the design of school houses followed a few standard formulas for size and layout. The purpose of the school building was primarily to contain classrooms where long-established methods of recitation and memorization could be performed. Buildings were simple, either single room structures in rural area and small towns, or larger multiple room buildings in cities. All types of schoolhouses featured a standard square or rectangular footprint. Few schoolhouse offered more than just classrooms, with some allowing for office space for teachers and principals.⁶ While school houses shared the same basic design principals, concerns for the healthfulness of indoor air and the benefits of improving the illumination of classrooms led to the publication of guides for the design of school buildings, including one published in 1848 by Henry Barnard, the commissioner of the public schools of Providence, Rhode Island. He proposed a series of standards for the location of schools, the size and layout of classrooms, the size and position of windows for light, and most importantly the ventilation of buildings. Having toured schools of every type across country during his career, he asserted that existing buildings were largely unhealthful and uninspiring. School children, he felt, "should spend a large part of the most impressive period of their lives," in school, in buildings which could positively shape their lives.⁷ Overall, "the style of the exterior should exhibit good, architectural proportion, and be calculated to inspire children and the community generally with respect for the object for which it is devoted."⁸ Barnard's moral-driven enthusiasm for the purpose and design of public school buildings helped slowly propel changes in school design.

In Chicago, the Great Fire of 1871 destroyed ten public schools and much of the city, which offered the opportunity to rebuild following new methods. While student enrollment dropped initially, by 1874 nearly 48,000 students were enrolled in the city's 39 school buildings. One of the new buildings was the King School, completed in 1874 by architects Johnston & Edelmann in the Italianate style (Harrison Street and Western Avenue, demolished). Its form was the familiar symmetrical square footprint with rooms set around a central hallway. While similar to previous schools, it featured many of the improvements to design, layout, ventilation, and lighting which had been advocated by educators for over a half century. In addition, as a precaution against fire, brick interior partitions were used instead of the previous standard of frame. The three-story, twelve-room King School, featured tall windows and special ducted ventilation systems, among other new features.⁹ In addition, as a precaution against fire, brick interior partitions were used instead of the previous standard of frame. The King School's modern design and low construction budget made it the school board's favored design and became a "prototype" for school designs by successive architects through the early 1890s.

The Chicago Board of Education created the official position of architect to the Board in 1882, following years of contract design work by early Chicago architect Augustus Bauer (1827-1894). The Board elected three architects, each serving brief terms of fewer than six months. Despite restructuring, designs during this time continued to reflect the model set by the King School nearly a decade before. The North Division High School (later named the James Sexton Public School, 160 West Wendell, architect Julius S. Ender) was completed in 1883 and offered the same overall symmetrical form and layout as other King School-modeled buildings, except with a more stone decorative features and larger windows.

⁶ Dale Allen Gyure, *The Chicago Schoolhouse* (Chicago: Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago, 2011), 27-28.

⁷ Henry Barnard, *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United States* (NY: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1848), 6.

⁸ Barnard, 41. Barnard's words echoed those of William A. Alcott who wrote on the subject of schools in the early 1830s and believed that adequate heat, light, ventilation, and sanitation of prime concern for school design.

⁹ *Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year ending June 26th, 1874* (Chicago: Bryant, Walker & Co., 1874), 22, 132-38. The James Ward School at 2703-29 South Shields Avenue, built in 1875, is an extant example of the school house form that followed the King School. It was designated a local Chicago landmark in 2004.

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

Architect John J. Flanders altered the standard school building design by introducing asymmetrical footprints and elaborate architectural design elements. An early example of his work near the Peabody School is the 1884 John Lothrop Motley School Building at 739 North Ada Street (National Register, 2017). In between Flanders' two terms as school architect was Charles Rudolph, the architect of the James Mulligan Public School Building at 1855 to 1863 North Sheffield Avenue.

During the 1880s and 1890s Chicago's school board entered a perpetual race to provide enough desks for all the city's students. Several factors combined to direct new populations of children to Chicago's public schools. During the 1880s, the emergence of the Progressive Era, a period of social activism and political reform in the United States, called for an end to child labor. The recognition of childhood as an important period of human development led to new laws enforcing school attendance. In 1883, the State of Illinois passed the Compulsory Education Act, which required all children ages 8 to 14 to attend school for at least 12 weeks per year. The law was very unpopular among those who saw children as part of the household structure and relied on them to contribute financially. At the same time, the law was criticized for being unenforceable given that the school board could grant "good cause" exceptions to keep children at home or at work. The law was strengthened in 1889 with the appointment of 3 truant officers, 7-year-olds were included, and the number of weeks of attendance was increased from 12 to 16.¹⁰

An additional source of students in 1889 was the City of Chicago's annexation of five surrounding townships, including Kensington (later known as West Pullman). All the newly annexed communities together covered nearly 170 square miles and placed over 100 schools and 35,000 students under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. Additionally, between the 1880s and World War I, thousands of immigrant families settled in Chicago annually. The combination of attendance requirements, child labor laws, new populations, and a much larger city area led to extensive school construction campaigns to accommodate the thousands of new students.

In 1894, the Board of Education organized an architecture department and elected an architect to design new schools in-house instead of on commission. Board members felt that the architect could work more efficiently in direct connection with the Board than working separately, to complete the dozens of new schools that were needed to address overcrowding. Architect William August Fiedler, commonly known as August Fiedler, was the first in-house architect. During 1894, the School Board approved and built nineteen new schools designed by Fiedler, including the West Pullman Elementary School. Fiedler's term occupied the greatest period of school building construction in the Board's history since it began to tackle overcrowding and mounting demands for education a decade earlier.

The Construction of the West Pullman Elementary School

In 1894 twenty-two new school houses completed across Chicago, including the West Pullman School. Land for the school was donated by the West Pullman Land Association in April 1893 for the construction of the school.¹¹ Contracts for the school were awarded in August 1893 and the building opened in the spring of the following year with eight classrooms and seating for 432 students.¹² At the time, West Pullman was a rapidly growing suburban community that was at once part of Chicago yet far removed from the city. Few schools existed in the area. When the area was annexed to the city in 1889, the city's Board of Education was immediately given control of the new lands and required to provide public education as needed.

In 1889, West Pullman was not an immediate concern for the board because existing area schools served the needs of the small suburban community. But, after a few years of considerable annual growth, the number of families and school-age children could no longer be efficiently served. In addition, new companies opening plants in West Pullman planned to attract over 2,500 new employees. Yet, West Pullman did not represent the neediest or most pressing area. Some on the board questioned why money should be spent to build a school in an otherwise removed suburban area with few more than fifty

¹⁰ John Howatt, *Notes on the First One Hundred Years of Chicago School History* (Chicago: John Howatt, 1946) 30.

¹¹ *Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 30th, 1893* (Chicago: Geo. K. Hazelitt & Co., 1893) 195.

¹² *Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Fortieth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 29th, 1894* (Chicago: J. M. W. Jones Stationary and Printing Co., 1894) 135.

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

families; the need was not seen. However, because much of the necessary land was donated, the board proposed to build a sixteen-room school, completing first an eight-room section.¹³

Board architect W. August Fiedler completed a design for twin eight-room school buildings to be built separately that could serve the community and its continued growth. In its first year, the West Pullman School served only slightly more than half its capacity and had two rooms left empty. At the time, it appeared to the board that this \$34,000 school was large enough for the community for the foreseeable future. In comparison, schools built in other areas in 1894 were immediately filled to capacity. The board lamented that, “the rapid growth of Chicago in population has made it impossible to construct school buildings fast enough to provide for the children who have applied for admission...”¹⁴

Within two years, the West Pullman School was at capacity with over 550 students. At the same time, architect W. August Fiedler was in the midst of an ongoing investigation of his department by the Board of Education for mismanagement of funds. He was ultimately exonerated of charges but chose to leave the position at the end of 1896. In June of that year, the West Pullman Business Men’s Association petitioned the Board of Education to build “the remaining half of the school building,” outlined in Fiedler’s existing plans.¹⁵ But, an addition was not built and the school, like many in Chicago, remained chronically over-crowded.

An addition to the West Pullman School became a priority in 1897 with Normond S. Patton as board architect, but Patton was discharged in 1898. At first, the board proposed building a twin, eight-room building as an addition as specified in W. August Fiedler’s original plans. But, as demand increased, the board approved the construction of a \$43,000, twelve-room addition.¹⁶ The structure’s design followed the plans left by Fiedler but included a third floor to house the four additional classrooms. With Patton removed, the Board hired acting architect Frederick A. Fiedler in November 1898 to continue work on existing plans and to solicit bids for construction including an addition to the West Pullman School.¹⁷ In December, the Board hired architect William Bryce Mundie as the new board architect and instructed him to complete several urgent projects, the second most important of which was the addition for the West Pullman School.¹⁸ In his design for the West Pullman school addition, Mundie respected Fiedler’s Romanesque style design for the long-planned two-story, eight-room school addition, but left his mark on the addition’s third floor by designing it in his preferred Classical style with rustic brickwork, and terra cotta banding and cornice.

The enlarged school building was completed in February 1900 and held twenty-two classrooms with capacity for over 1000 students. The first floor featured a flexible space for use as an assembly hall or a gymnasium, and new manual training rooms for trades were included. Additionally, the building provided classroom space for high school students.

West Pullman Elementary School continued to grow and develop with the community through the 1920s, when the need for greater and more modern facilities was needed. Students planted several trees around the school in 1913 along the parkway and on the grounds. Board architect John C. Christensen designed a large new addition with many more classrooms and spaces designed as a gymnasium and an auditorium. The three-story addition cost \$320,000 and the engineer for the project was John Howatt, who published a history of Chicago’s public school buildings in 1946.¹⁹ Outside the school, the playgrounds were expanded to cover nearly the entire block between Parnell and Normal Avenues. Houses were moved or razed, and the block’s bisecting alley was vacated.

West Pullman Elementary School served the West Pullman community through the twentieth century and was closed along with dozens of other schools in 2013.

¹³ “To consider the Abolition of ‘Fads,’” *The Chicago Tribune*, February 16, 1893. 3.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ “Find Fiedler a Tartar,” *The Chicago Tribune*, June 6, 1896. 13.

¹⁶ *Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 24th, 1898* (Chicago: John F. Higgins Print, 1898) 15;

The Economist, June 17, 1899. 745.

¹⁷ “Illinois,” *The School Journal*, January 7, 1899. 35.

¹⁸ “William Bryce Mundie, School Architect,” *The Chicago Tribune*, December 18, 1898. 18.

¹⁹ “Contracts Awarded,” *The American Contractor*, November 4, 1922. 40.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Architect W. (William) August Fiedler (1842-1903)

Born in Elbing, Germany, William August Fiedler was educated in architecture before immigrating to the United States in 1871. He worked as an architect in New York City for several years, and then moved to Chicago in 1874 as part of a large influx of architects that saw professional opportunity in the rapidly-growing city. Fiedler was also one of several German-born architects who were drawn to Chicago with its large German-American population.

Once in Chicago, Fiedler (generally known by his middle name August) entered the field of interior design and high-quality furniture and furnishings, first in partnership with John W. Roberts and then by himself as A. Fiedler & Co., “Designer and Manufacturer of Artistic Furniture.” Fiedler's clients included many of the city's social elite, with one of his most elaborate interior designs created in 1879 for Samuel M. Nickerson’s sumptuous residence at 40 East Erie Street (1883, a designated Chicago Landmark).

During the 1880s, Fiedler formed an architectural firm with John Addison, who was known for his “Modern Gothic” designs. The firm designed grand homes and commercial buildings in Chicago and across the Midwest. One of their best Chicago works was the Germania Club Building of 1889 at west Germania Place and north Clark Street (a designated Chicago Landmark). In 1890, Fiedler and Addison ended their partnership, and Fiedler briefly practiced independently until he was appointed Board of Education Architect in 1893.

Prior to Fiedler’s appointment, the position of Architect to the Board of Education had been held by architects who worked on commission rather than salary; they were paid a percentage of the cost of each school in compensation for their work. As a result, architects had tended to produce standard designs that were not site-specific and could easily be copied across the city, guaranteeing a stream of income without the need for great customization.

However, Fiedler was faced with a new employment system and a growing public desire for unique and site-specific architecture. He was hired at \$6,000 per year as an architect employed within the Board of Education. As a result, he took over design and supervisory roles that previously had been performed by the school board and its staff. When he started early in 1893, Fiedler employed two superintendents and two draftsmen. However, by 1896 the amount of work required of him necessitated the employment of six draftsmen and thirteen superintendents. The resulting professionalism and the ability for closer cooperation between the Board of Education and the Architect's office was a specific expression of the larger professionalism that was spreading through the architectural profession at the close of the nineteenth century.

During his three years as Architect to the Board of Education, Fiedler designed 58 new school buildings and dozens of additions. It was the greatest period of construction in the school board’s history until that time. Among the many school buildings that he designed were the Augustus Burley Public School at 1630 West Barry Avenue, the Richard Yates Public School at 1839 North Richmond Street, and the Goethe Public School at 2236 North Rockwell Street.

In 1896, the Board of Education audited Fiedler’s department and discovered that the cost of designing new buildings and superintending construction had climbed by 61% during his tenure. This was due to the many new employees required to complete each project, and the Board was unhappy and intended to fire Fiedler. A subsequent investigation exonerated Fiedler, who then chose to resign his position and return to private practice.

Among his later private commissions, one of his more notable was the expansion of the West Side Grounds (Taylor and Wolcott streets), which was at the home of the Chicago Cubs until the team moved to Weeghman Park (now Wrigley Field) in 1916.

William Bryce Mundie (1863 – 1939)

Architect William Bryce Mundie was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in 1863 to a Toronto architect, and was the grandson of an early Scottish architect. Mundie studied at the Hamilton Collegiate Institute and apprenticed for three years with a Canadian architect. In 1884, Mundie immigrated to the United States, landing in Chicago, where he worked as a

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

draftsman for early Chicago architect William Le Baron Jenny, before becoming a partner in 1891.²⁰ Two notable buildings designed by the firm of Jenny & Mundie are the Ludington Building of 1891 at 1104 South Wabash Avenue, and the Horticulture Building at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Mundie was appointed architect to the Board of Education in December 1898 following the discharging of board architect Normond S. Patton. During his four years as board architect, Mundie designed many new school buildings and additions, the majority of which were executed in the Classical style with rusticated brickwork, shields and plaques, elaborate cornices with anthemion, and columned door surrounds. His schools include: Wendell Phillips Academy High School at 244 East Pershing Boulevard completed in 1904; the former Sullivan Elementary School at 8255 South Houston Avenue of 1902; and the non-extant Chicago Parental School at 3600 West Foster Avenue completed in 1902.

Mundie continued to work with Jenny and partnered with Elmer Jensen following Jenny's retirement in 1905. The firm expanded again in 1936 with the addition two senior draftsmen.

John Charles Christensen (1879 – 1967)

John C. Christensen was born in Copenhagen and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1889. His long career with the Chicago Board of Education encompassed the design and construction of both the Stewart School in 1906 and its south addition in 1940. Throughout his career, which covered nearly fifty years, Christensen served frequently as assistant architect or as the lead board architect.

Christensen started in 1906 as Clerk of the Works in the Architect's Department under the direction of architect Dwight Perkins. During Perkins's tenure, Christensen contributed to and oversaw the construction of several of Perkins's Arts and Crafts and early Prairie School influenced schools, including the Stewart School, Lyman Trumbull School (1600 W. Foster, 1908), and the monumental Carl Schurz High School (3601 N. Milwaukee, 1910).

In 1908, Christensen was appointed as Assistant Deputy in Chicago's Building Department under Commissioner Joseph Downey, who was a member of the Board of Education and head of the buildings and grounds committee; Downey was one of several board members who fought to oust Perkins from his position as board architect. Christensen returned to the Board of Education in 1910 as assistant architect to Perkins's successor Arthur Hussander, who had served as superintendent of construction under Perkins. Hussander led the design of Chicago's public school buildings away from the innovative and socially progressive school designs that Perkins had developed towards more Classical Revival styles. He designed over fifty schools, many of which were clad in buff brick with cream-colored terra cotta or Bedford Limestone, and featured colonnades of Ionic columns and other Classical elements. Examples of his work are found across Chicago and include: Nicholas Senn High School (5900 N. Glenwood Avenue, 1913), Robert Lindbloom Technical High School (6130 S. Wolcott, 1919, a designated Chicago Landmark), and several smaller schools like the Le Moyne Elementary School (Fremont Street and Waveland Avenue, 1915). An example of his work in West Pullman is the 1914 south addition to the Thomas Scanlan Public School at 11725 South Perry Avenue.

Christensen became Board architect in 1921. He held this position until 1924 when newly elected Mayor William E. Dever appointed a new Superintendent of the Schools in response to a lengthy Board of Education corruption scandal. The entire board was restructured with new board members and department heads to replace those that had been jailed for benefiting from clandestine deals. Christensen remained as architect but served under new supervising architect Edgar D. Martin of the firm Schmidt, Garden & Martin. Martin designed over thirty school buildings, primarily drawn from Gothic and English Tudor Revival styles that were popular at the time. The schools employed an innovative use of concrete that sped up construction. However, following Martin's resignation in 1926, a new scandal emerged when it was discovered that concrete work in nearly all the new schools had been improperly reinforced, resulting in cracks and deformation. No one was ultimately held responsible for the work or the costly reinforcements needed to make the schools safe.

Christensen resumed as board architect in 1926, and designed dozens of school buildings across Chicago, including several in and around West Pullman. These include: the Thomas Brennan Public School (Haley Elementary) built in 1925 at 11411

²⁰ "William Bryce Mundie, School Architect"

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

South Eggleston Avenue; the Samuel Gompers Public School built in 1927 at 12322 South Lafayette Avenue; the John D. Shoop Elementary School built during the late 1920s at 1460 West 112th Street; and the Christian Fenger Senior High School built during the 1920s at 11220 South Wallace Street.

Paul Gerhardt, Sr. was briefly appointed to the position of board architect in 1928. Gerhardt supervised the repair and stabilization of schools, and continued on to design dozens of new schools including: Von Steuben High School (5039 N. Kimball Avenue, 1929) and Albert G. Lane Technical High School (2501 W. Addison Street at Western Avenue, 1931, Lane Technical School originally occupied a building at Sedgwick and Division Streets designed by Dwight Perkins in 1908, but moved to the larger current Addison Street campus in 1931). Both schools are designated Chicago Landmarks.

Once again, in 1931 Christensen became architect of the schools. Yet, with limited financial resources during the Great Depression, the Board of Education was unable to begin any substantial new school buildings or additions until the late 1930s. Christensen designed many new schools in the Art Deco and Modern styles and in streamlined historical styles including: the Modern style buff brick and limestone Chicago Vocational School (2100 E. 87th Street, 1938) and the Walter L. Newberry School (700 W. Willow St, 1937). In 1940, he looked back to the beginning of his career to design a new seven-classroom addition to the Stewart School. His familiarity with the design and construction of schools for much of the century gave him a great understanding for how additions should be treated. Christensen completed dozens of additions, like the one for Stewart, which carefully capture the design of the original school and create a seamless extension.

Christensen remained as architect to the Board of Education through the 1950s. Board Superintendent, Herard C. Hunt initiated a school construction campaign to accommodate Chicago's Post-War Baby Boom, which contributed to a 40% increase in the city's elementary school population during the 1950s. Hunt raised \$50 million to build additional schools, but his successor Benjamin C. Willis led the charge of funding and building over 200 new elementary schools and 13 high schools during the late 1950s and early 1960s. During this period, the Board of Education cut its architecture department and returned to hiring private architects, like Perkins & Will, to design schools; a process that had ended in 1894.

Comparables

The community area of West Pullman has many examples of Chicago public school architecture; however, the West Pullman Elementary School remains the most intact and best-preserved example of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century school architecture in the area. Two comparable schools exist. These include the former Thomas Scanlan School on South Perry Avenue, which was also designed by W. August Fiedler, with a Classical Revival style addition by Arthur Hussander. The school has a recent addition but was closed in 2013 and remains boarded. A second comparable is the Curtis Public School on 115th Street also designed by Fiedler, but with a greater emphasis on the Classical Revival style.

The majority of schools in the West Pullman community area were built during the 1920s and in the post-World War II era during two great periods of population growth.

- **Thomas Scanlan School** (Songhai Elementary), 1897-1914, 11725 South Perry Avenue.
This school was built in 1897 and designed by board architect W. August Fiedler in the Romanesque Revival and Venetian Gothic Style. A large addition with an auditorium was built to the south in 1914 and designed in the Classical Revival style by board architect Arthur Hussander. A third, single-story addition was completed to the north in 1996. Scanlan was closed in 2013 and remains boarded.
- **George William Curtis Public School**, 1893-1906, 32 East 115th Street.
The Curtis School was first completed in 1893 by board architect W. August Fiedler in the Romanesque and Classical Revival style. Architect Dwight W. Perkins designed a rear auditorium addition completed in 1906; the exterior is utilitarian in style and clad in common brick. A detached addition was completed to the east in 1974. In 2009, the 1893 and 1906 portions of the school were renovated.
- **Thomas Brenan Public School** (Haley Elementary), 1925, 11411 South Eggleston Avenue.

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

The Brenan school was built in 1925 and designed by architect John C. Christensen in the Gothic Revival style. The building continues to serve as a school and remains in very good condition with typical alterations including window and door replacement.

- **Samuel Gompers Public School**, 1927, 12322 South Lafayette Avenue.
The Gompers School was dedicated in 1927 and designed by board architect John C. Christensen. The building is a copy of the Gothic Revival style Brenan School above. A cafeteria addition was completed in 1994. Overall the building remains in very good condition with only windows and doors replaced.
- **John D. Shoop Elementary School**, 1920s, 1460 West 112th Street.
The Shoop School was built in the late-1920s and design by board architect John C. Christensen. The school's Gothic Revival design is similar to the Gompers and Brenan schools.
- **Christian Fenger Senior High School**, 1920s, 11220 South Wallace Street.
Fenger Senior High School was built in the 1920s and designed by board architect John C. Christensen in the Gothic Revival style.

Conclusion

The West Pullman Elementary School is an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival style school building built in Chicago at the turn of the twentieth century. Additionally, the school building's expansion over time mirrors the growth and development of Chicago's far south side community of West Pullman between the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

The West Pullman Elementary School is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture, and has a period of significance beginning in 1894, the initial date of construction, to 1923, the date the last addition was completed.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Barnard, Henry. *School Architecture; or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United States*. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1848.

Blair, F. G. "West Pullman School, Chicago." *Illinois Arbor and Bird Days*, (68) 1913.

"Contracts Awarded." *The American Contractor*, November 4, 1922.

"Fiedler is on Fire." *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 22, 1896.

"Find Fiedler a Tartar," *The Chicago Tribune*, June 6, 1896.

Gyure, Dale Allen. *The Chicago Schoolhouse*. Chicago: Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago, 2011.

Howatt, John. *Notes on the First One Hundred Years of Chicago School History*. Chicago: John Howatt, 1946.

"Illinois." *The School Journal*, January 7, 1899.

Keating, Ann Durkin. *Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs: A Historical Guide*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2004.

Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year ending June 26th, 1874. Chicago: Bryant, Walker & Co., 1874.

Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 30th, 1893. Chicago: Geo. K. Hazelitt & Co., 1893.

Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Fortieth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 29th, 1894. Chicago: J. M. W. Jones Stationary and Printing Co., 1894.

Public Schools of the City of Chicago – Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Education for the Year Ending June 24th, 1898. Chicago: John F. Higgins Print, 1898.

Taylor, Graham Romeyn. "Satellite Cities – Pullman." *The Survey*, November 2, 1912.

The Economist. June 17, 1899.

"To consider the Abolition of 'Fads.'" *The Chicago Tribune*, February 16, 1893.

West Pullman Land Association, *West Pullman and Stewart Ridge – Chicago, Illinois – 1892-1900*. 1900.

"William Bryce Mundie, School Architect." *The Chicago Tribune*, December 18, 1898.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.8

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.676896</u> Latitude	<u>-87.635585</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

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

The boundary is the entire parcel associated with the West Pullman Elementary School at 11941 S. Parnell Avenue in Chicago, IL. The building faces west onto S. Parnell Avenue, and is bordered on the north by a public alley, on the south by 120th Street, and on the east by Normal Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land historically associated with the West Pullman Elementary School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Matt Wicklund and Lara Ramsey date 3/15/2018
organization MacRostie Historic Advisors telephone 312-786-1700
street & number 53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142 email lara@ramseyhcinc.com
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60604

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: West Pullman Elementary School
City or Vicinity: Chicago
County: Cook **State:** IL
Photographer: Matt Wicklund
Date Photographed: June 13, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 15:

North and west elevations of 1923 section
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 15:

West elevation of the 1900 section
Camera facing east

Photo 3 of 15:

South elevation of the 1894 section
Camera facing north

Photo 4 of 15:

South and east elevations
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5 of 15:

East elevation
Camera facing northwest

Photo 6 of 15:

North elevation
Camera facing south

Photo 7 of 15:

First floor corridor of 1894 and 1900 sections
Camera facing north

Photo 8 of 15:

Second floor in 1900 section, typical classroom
Camera facing west

West Pullman Elementary School

Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois

County and State

Photo 9 of 15:

First floor built-in cabinet in 1894 section
Camera facing west

Photo 10 of 15:

Second floor stair in 1894 section
Camera facing north

Photo 11 of 15:

First floor vestibule in 1923 section
Camera facing south

Photo 12 of 15:

Second floor of 1923, typical classroom
Camera facing northwest

Photo 13 of 15:

Ground floor of 1923 section, auditorium
Camera facing northwest

Photo 14 of 15:

Second floor of the 1923 section, gymnasium
Camera facing west

Photo 15 of 15:

Basement of the 1894 and 1900 sections
Camera facing north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

List of Figures

Figure 1

c. 1900 view of the West Pullman School. The 1894 portion is centered in the photograph, with the recently completed 1900 addition immediately to the left.

Figure 2

c. 1900 rendering of the West Pullman School

Figure 3

c. 1910 view of West Pullman School

Figure 4

West Pullman School site chronology

Figure 5

Site map of West Pullman School, site boundary indicated by dashed line

Figure 6

First Floor Plan of West Pullman School

Figure 7

Second Floor Plan of West Pullman School

Figure 8

Third Floor Plan of West Pullman School

Figure 9

Location Map

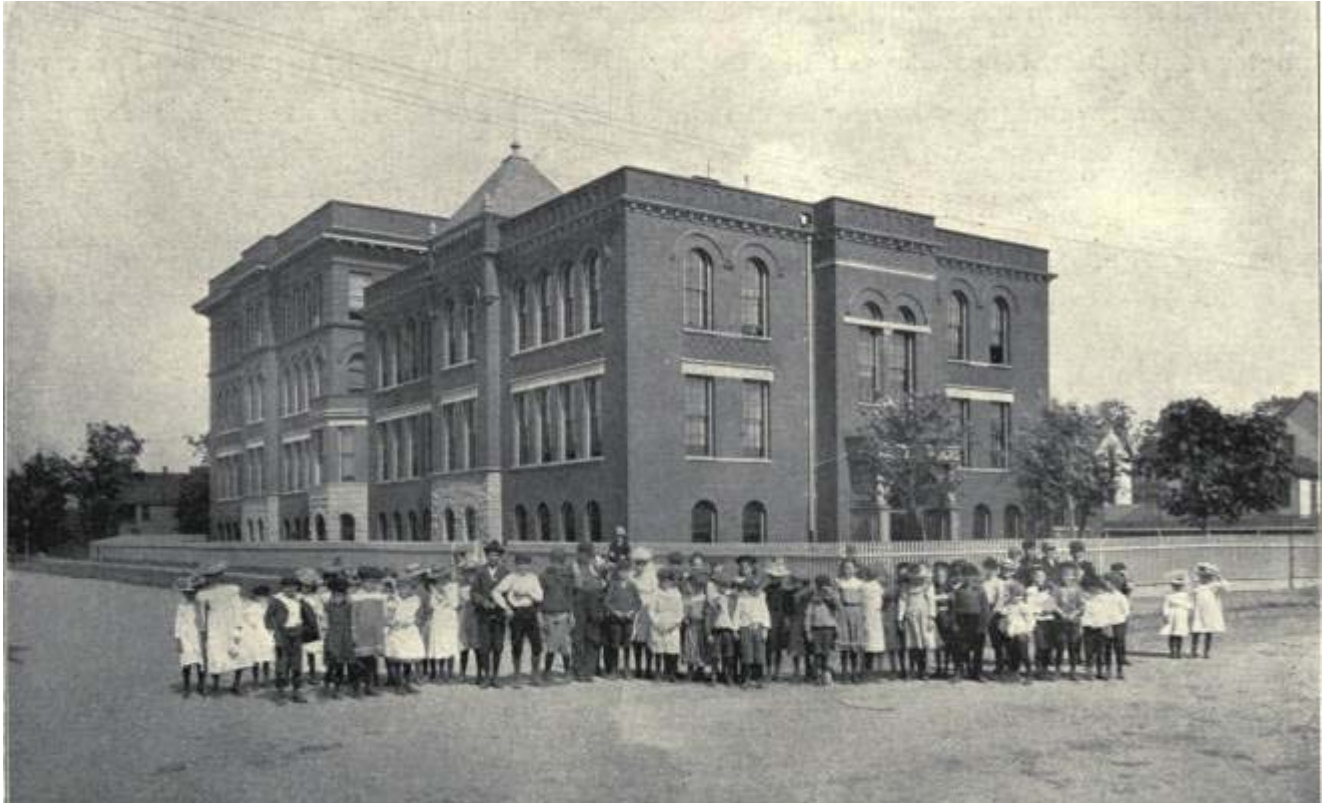
Figure 10

Site map of nominated property with site features notated

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Figure 1: c. 1900 view of the West Pullman School. The 1894 portion is centered in the photograph, with the recently completed 1900 addition immediately to the left.
Source: *West Pullman Land Association, 1900, p. 29.*



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

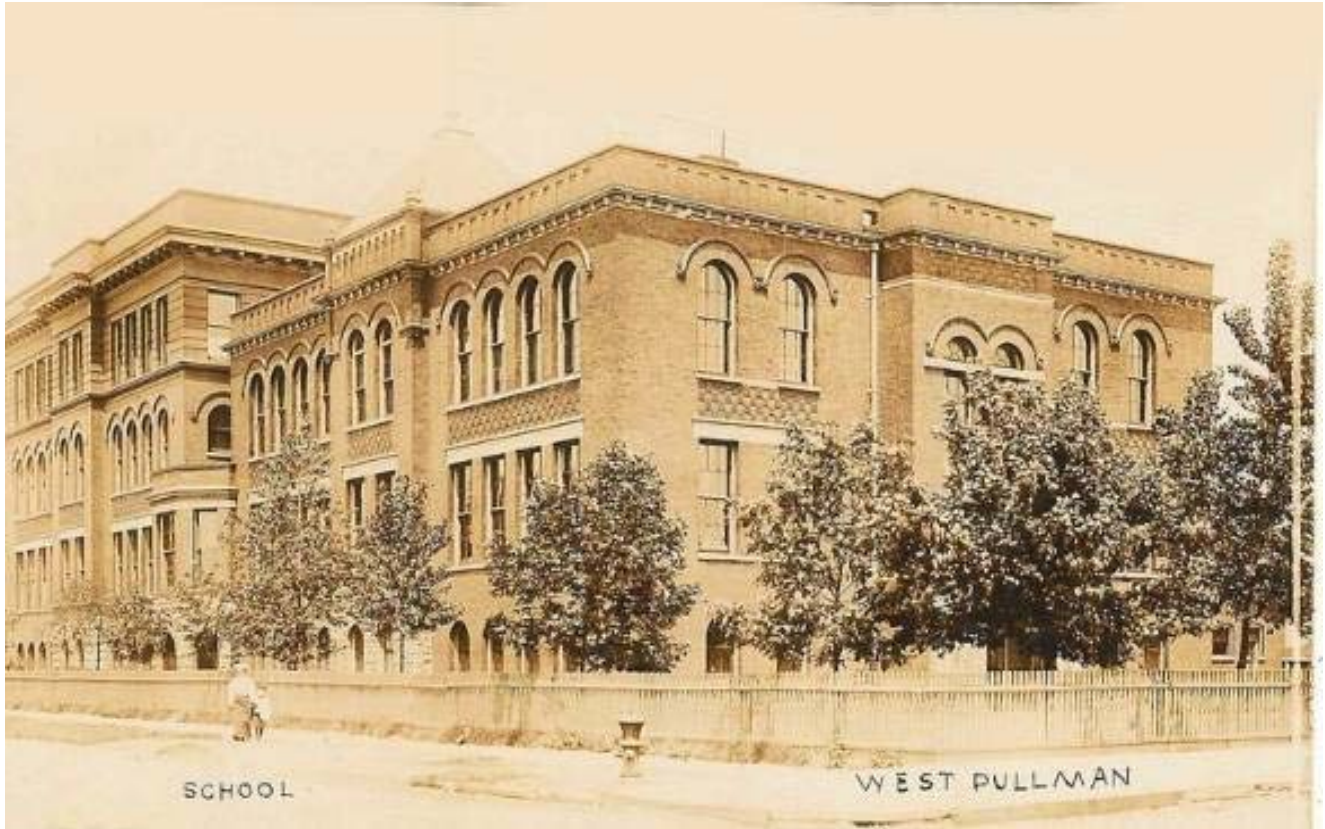
Figure 2: c. 1900 rendering of the West Pullman School
Source: *West Pullman Land Association, 1900, cover.*



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

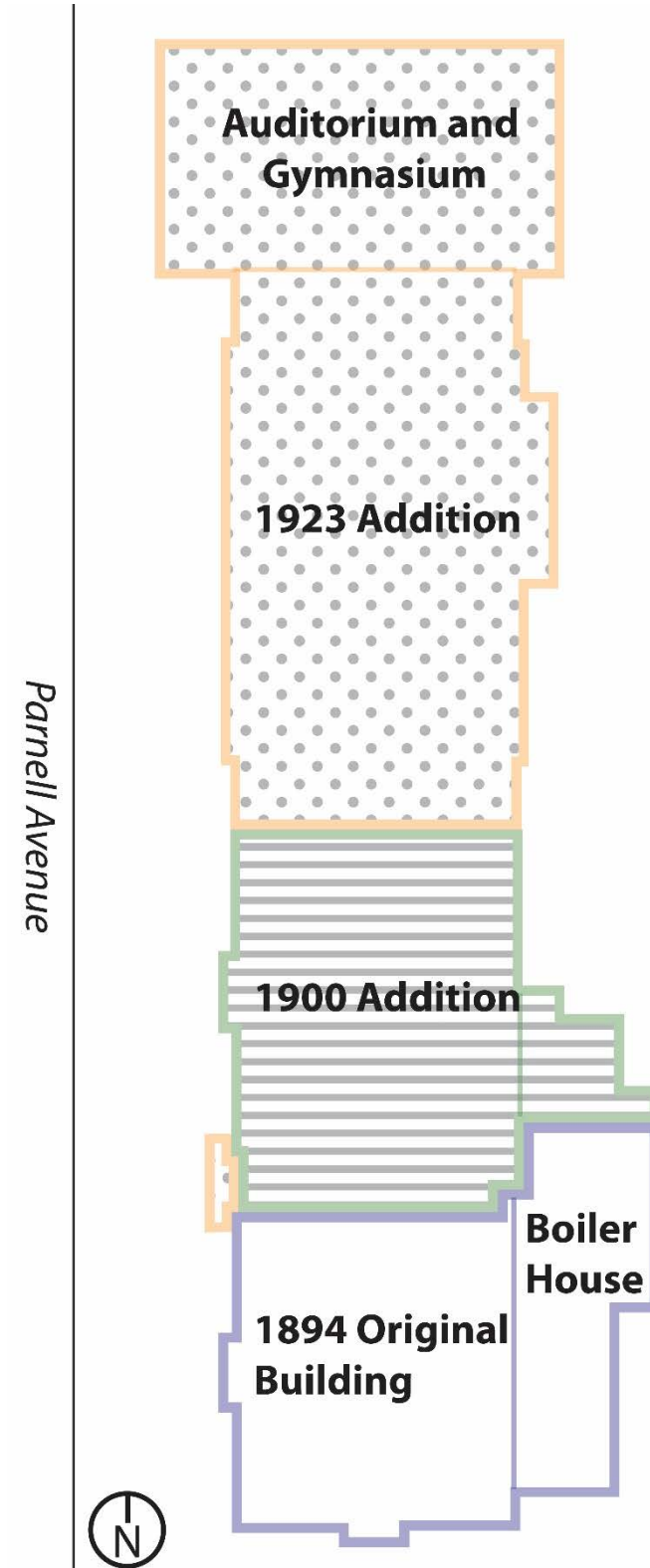
Figure 3: c. 1910 view of West Pullman School
Source: *Chuckman Chicago Nostalgia*



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

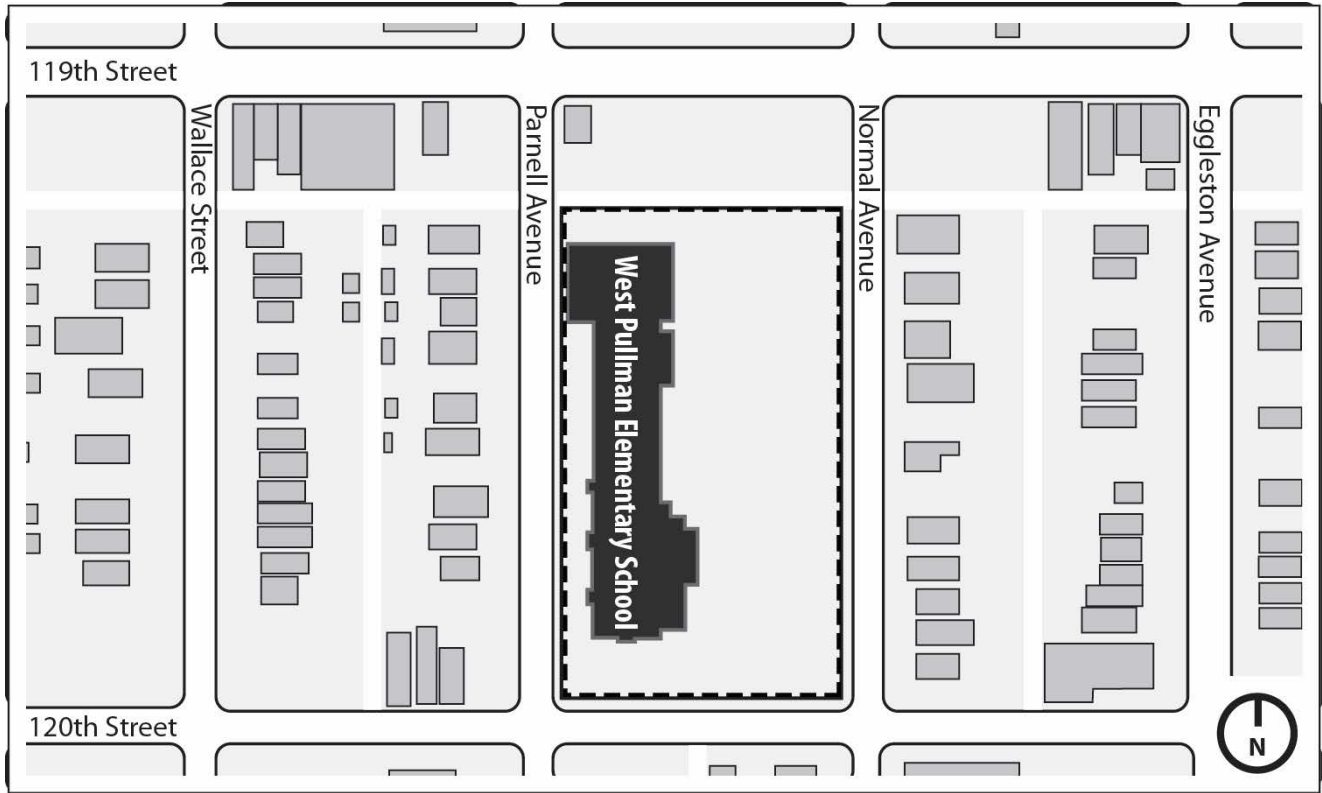
Figure 4: West Pullman School site chronology



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

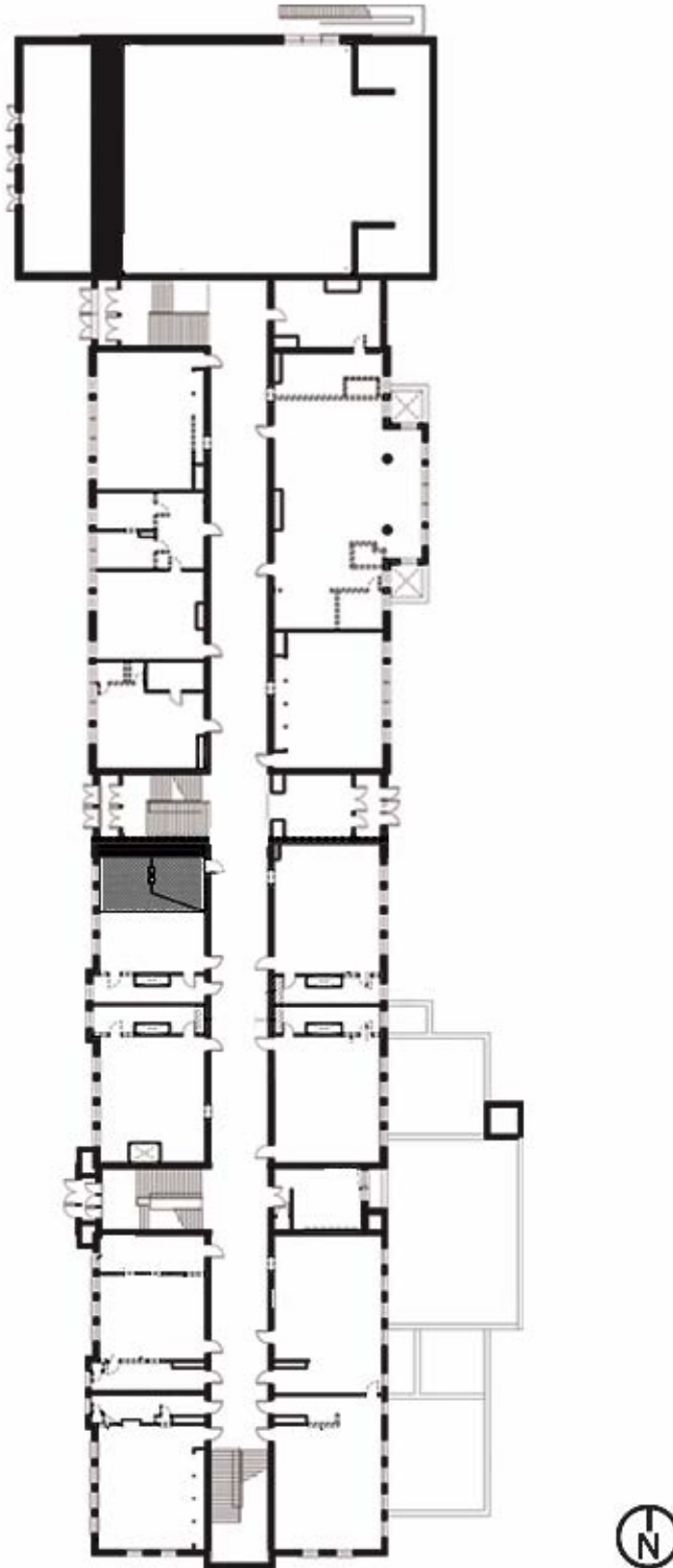
Figure 5: Site map of West Pullman School, site boundary indicated by dashed line



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

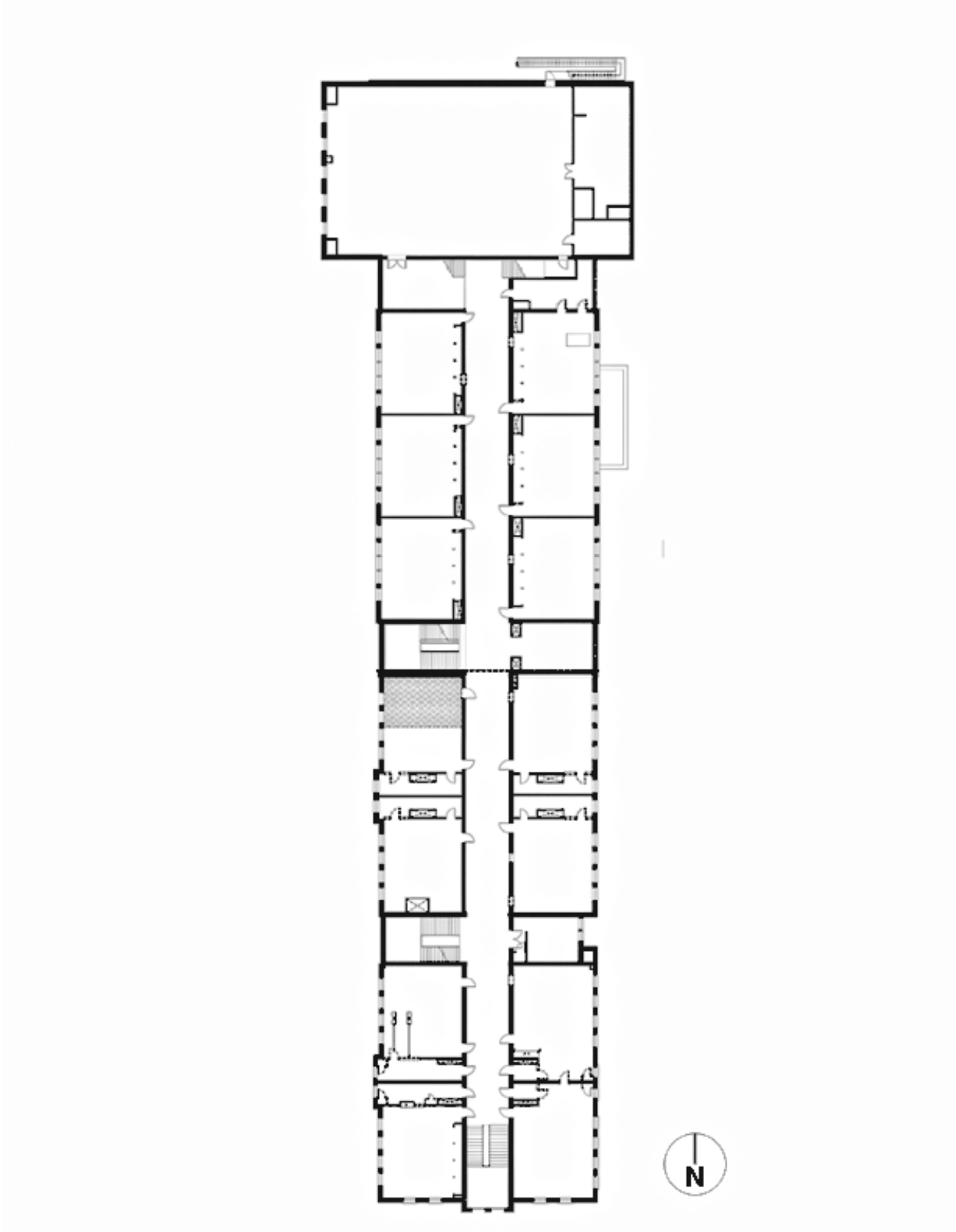
Figure 6: First Floor Plan of West Pullman School



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

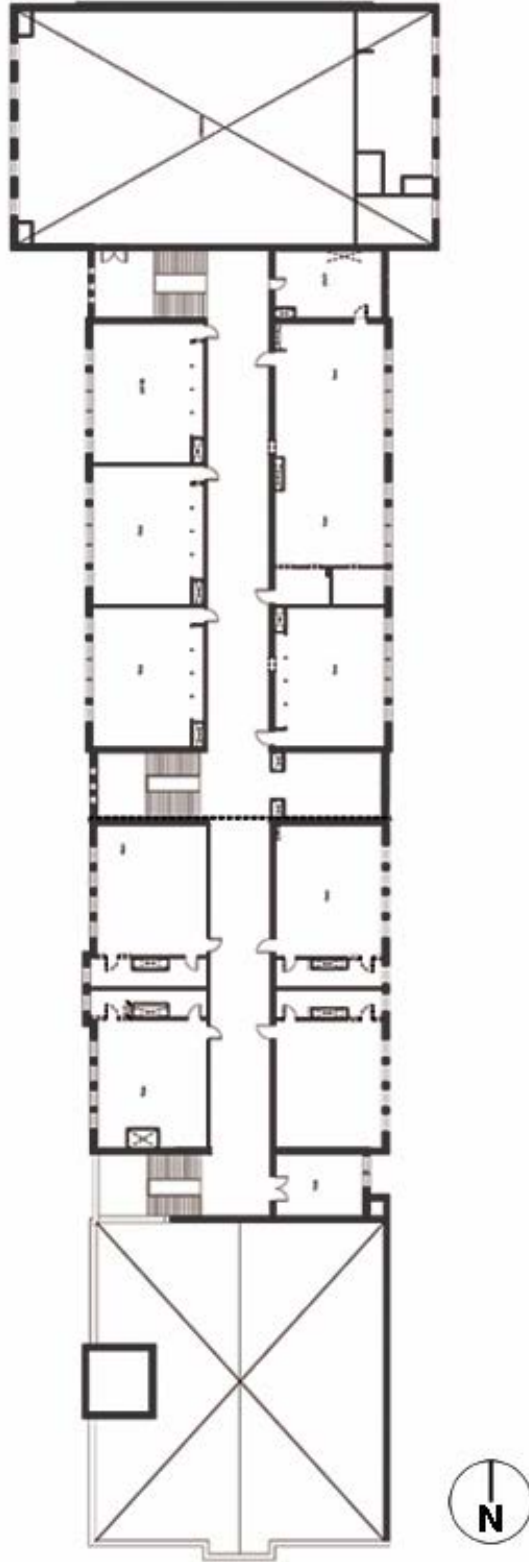
Figure 7: Second Floor Plan of West Pullman School



West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Figure 8: Third Floor Plan of West Pullman School




West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Figure 9: Location Map

Source: Google, Accessed March 16, 2018 (Image capture from April 2017)

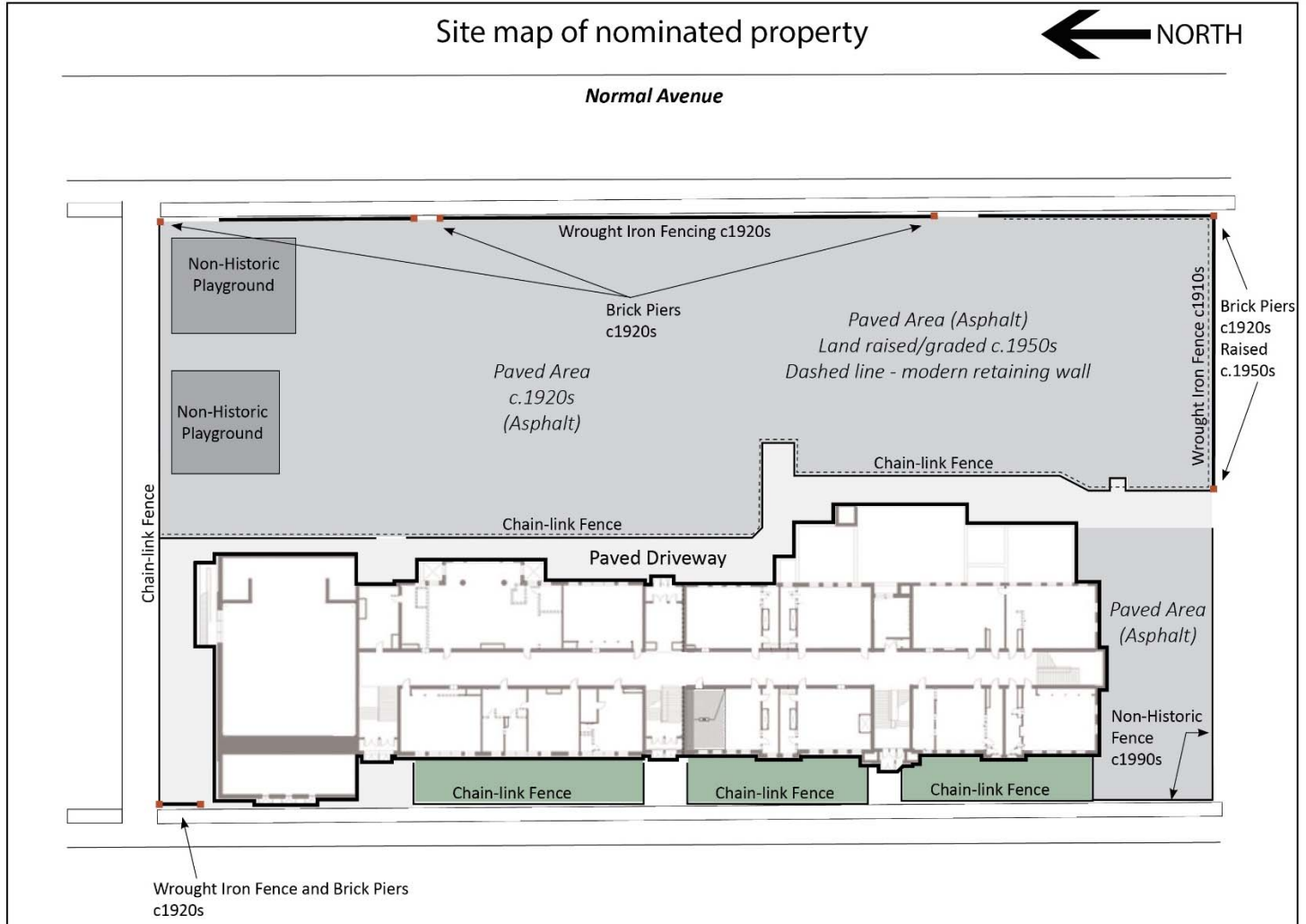


 Boundary of West Pullman Elementary School
GIS Coordinates
A: 41.676896, -87.635585

West Pullman Elementary School
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

Figure 10: Site Map of nominated property with site features notated, not to scale





ASSEMBLY HALL

3



West Pleasant Street School



























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: 7/12/2018 Date of Pending List: 8/13/2018 Date of 16th Day: 8/28/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/27/2018 Date of Weekly List: 8/31/2018

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 8/27/2018 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.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

July 10, 2018

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nomination recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its June 29, 2018 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

Methodist Episcopal Church, Salem, Marion County
Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, Princeton, Bureau County
Dr. William Burns House, Polo, Ogle County
Downtown Peoria Historic District, Peoria County
St. Thomas Catholic High School for Boys, Rockford, Winnebago County
West Pullman Elementary School, Chicago, Cook County

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Heckenkamp".

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator
Survey and National Register program
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

enclosures