1. Name of Property

historic name  Lincoln School
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  318 East 7th Street  not for publication  N/A
city or town  Davenport  vicinity  N/A
state  iowa  code  IA  county  Scott  code  163  zip code  52803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _X_ locally.

(____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date  August 25, 2002

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official  Date

STATE or Federal agency and bureau
USDI/NRHP Registration Form

Lincoln School
Scott County, Iowa

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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.)

X building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing  Noncontributing

1  0 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1  0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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

Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966
Lincoln School
Scott County, Iowa

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions):
   LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials (enter categories from instructions):
   foundation Concrete
   roof Asphalt
   walls Brick
   other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

   _ X_ 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.
   _ X_ 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):
___ Architecture
___ Social History

Period of Significance
___ 1940-1952

Significant Dates
___ 1940
___ 1952

Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked above)
___ N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Muesse, Howard S.
Langlois Construction Co

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

__X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3.31 Acres

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

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See continuation sheet.

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

Boundary Justification  (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
USDI/NRHP Registration Form

Lincoln School
Scott County, Iowa

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Peggy Beedle, Architectural Historian
organization The Louis Berger Group, Inc.  date  7/24/02
street & number  950 50th Street  telephone  319-373-3043
city or town  Marion  state  Iowa  zip code  52302

Additional Documentation
(Submit the following items with the completed form.)

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name  Davenport Community Schools
street & number  1606 Brady Street  #10100  telephone  563-336-5000
city or town  Davenport  state  Iowa  zip code  52803

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

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

The Lincoln School was constructed in 1939, and designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Smith & Childs, and the Davenport architect Howard S. Muesse in a Colonial Revival style. The Langlois Construction Company was the general contractor. The Lincoln School is located East Seventh Street, between Pershing and Iowa streets. It is set on a steep promontory, and much of downtown Davenport is visible from the front entrance. It is located in a neighborhood of old houses, apartments, and commercial buildings.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The school is three stories in height, set on basement and of steel-reinforced concrete and load-bearing brick construction. Above ground, it is finished with light brown brick and accented with limestone. It has a flat roof. There was a classroom wing added in 1952, and second story classrooms on the projecting ends of the school. There are no outbuildings. The school is composed of the two-story I-shaped classroom block, with the auditorium/gymnasium ell centered on the north elevation. The third floor, which consists of the library, science, music and art rooms, is set atop the auditorium/gymnasium ell. In 1952 an addition was constructed on the northwest corner of the school.

The symmetrical, south-facing front facade of the school faces East Seventh Street and is composed of the main entrance, and classrooms on either side. The kindergarten room and the west end classroom project beyond the plane of the front wall, with bay windows on the south, and separate entrances. The main entrance is dominated by four Corinthian columns that rise to the roof. The entrance is a double door with a large transom, capped with decorative stone. Wrought iron balconies project from the second story library windows. The balanced fenestration consists of six-over-six light, double-hung windows, with a six light transom above. The windows are set in groups of two, with decorative stone lintels, which are connected to a stone belt-course.

The east and west elevations are symmetrical, with entrances composed of double doors with transoms and sidelights, flanked by the balanced fenestration of the classroom windows. The addition is constructed of the same brick, but has band of four windows separated by brick pilasters. The north elevation is composed of the auditorium/gymnasium ell, topped with the round wall of the music room. The Lincoln School has retained most of its original exterior finishes.

The interior arrangement features a central octagonal hall, with the community room entrance in the center, flanked by the auditorium and gymnasium doors. The hall is adorned with fluted square columns, wood paneling, a Greek key frieze, and terrazzo floor. The corridor, with glazed tile walls, extends to the exits on the east and west elevations. The kindergarten room is on the far east end. The second floor contains the library, set over the main entrance, and the upper level classrooms. The third floor contains the music, science and art rooms.

The community room has a large glass block window on the north, curved moldings over the storage on the sides, and a tile floor. The auditorium has a semi-octagonal front, with vertical panels on the walls, a small balcony, and the original brocaded seating. The gymnasium is finished with brick and glazed tiles. The balcony has been closed off.
The kindergarten room features a fireplace on the north wall, a balcony playroom on the west, with a child-sized cloakroom and kitchen beneath. The fish pond is set underneath the south bay window, surrounded by knotty pine bookcases and storage.

The classrooms have three sets of double windows, storage on the interior walls, tile floors, original blackboards with wood chalk trays, and block glass insets in the interior wall to bring light into the hall.

The art and science rooms on the third floor have storage for the specialized equipment needed for those subjects. The music room has a curved north wall, and the side walls narrow to the entrance. The original large side windows have been bricked over.
SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Lincoln School is locally significant under Criterion A, as an example of a PWA school, and Criterion C as an excellent example of a modern elementary school. Evaluation of the Lincoln Elementary School for National Register eligibility is based upon criteria outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966 (Beedle and Deiber 2002), under the property type “Elementary School.” The school is typical of the modern elementary school with large kindergarten rooms and facilities for community use. Funding from the PWA helped many communities to construct public buildings during the depression. The school has retained its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

In the 1920s the Davenport Board of Education surveyed the eighteen elementary schools regarding modern facilities, projected city growth, and the direction of this growth. They projected that the number of elementary school students would rise by almost three thousand between 1930 and 1950, however no building plan was developed based on these statistics. By 1936, the elementary population had risen to the 1950 figure, and new buildings were needed. Twelve of the old elementary schools were to be abandoned, and six new ones constructed: Monroe Elementary, Lincoln School, Madison Elementary, Washington Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, and McKinley Elementary. This was a PWA project; the federal government contributed 45% of the 2.5 million dollars needed to fund the project.

The Chicago architectural firm of Smith & Childs designed the floor plans, which were similar for all six schools. Local architectural firms were hired to design the stylistic features. The elementary buildings were “designed to accommodate a new instructional plan. The buildings contained central libraries, special science, art and vocal music rooms as well as gymnasiums and auditoriums” (Davenport Democrat 30 June 1938 page 2).

In addition each school had a community room, or a “social and recreational unit for the citizenry.” Besides this room, the gymnasium, auditorium, music, science and art rooms, which were located in the center of the school: “These compactly grouped activity units may be completely separated from the classroom areas for use at night as a social center” (Schmitt and Childs 1941:22).

Ground was broken in 1939. Lincoln was the only school constructed on a previous school site. The schools opened in the fall of 1940. Teachers were positive in their assessment of the schools. Kindergarten rooms, located at the ends of the buildings, had separate entrances and outdoor play areas. The three upper grades spent half of the day in the homeroom, and half in the special rooms, as an introduction to the junior/senior high school regimen. Students at lunch went home or ate in the balcony overlooking the gymnasium. As the student population grew, the gymnasium was used as a lunch room.

After the end of World War II, there was a population increase in Davenport. In 1952, besides constructing second-story classrooms on the projecting ends of the school, a two-story classroom addition, with a cafeteria in the lower
level, was constructed on the northwest corner of Lincoln Elementary. It was constructed of the same brick, but has a different fenestration pattern. Another elementary school, Hoover, was constructed in 1955 to relieve some of the congestion. Enrollment continued to rise through the 1950s and 1960s. The 1970s began a decline that is still going today.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section  9  Page  5  name of property:  Lincoln School
county, state:  Scott County, Iowa

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, Mary A.

Davenport Community School District

Davenport Democrat

Schmitt, Irvin H. and Frank A. Childs
1941  "Six Schools With Social Centers" *Nation's Schools* pp 20-22 Volume 27 February 1941.
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary for the Lincoln Elementary School includes the main block of the school and the open space around it. The boundary consists of East Seventh Street to the south, Pershing and Iowa streets on the north and south, and East Eighth Street on the north.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary includes the school and its associated open space that contribute to the setting of the architecturally significant resource. This includes all the historic features of the property but does not exceed the area of significance.
The following items apply to all photographs:

- **Property Name:** Lincoln School
- **Location:** Davenport, Scott County, Iowa
- **Photographer:** Peggy Beedle
- **Date of Photographs:** 2002
- **Location of Negatives:** The State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Individual Photograph Identifications:**

1. South elevation and grounds, facing northeast
2. View from main entrance, facing south
3. South elevation, facing east
4. South elevation, main entrance, facing north
5. Addition, facing southeast
6. North elevation, facing southeast
7. West elevation, facing east
8. West elevation, facing southeast
9. Central hall, facing northeast
10. Music room, facing northeast
11. Classroom, facing southeast
12. Kindergarten, fish pond underneath the window, facing south
13. Auditorium, facing northwest
14. Gymnasium, facing northeast
Lincoln School
Scott County, Iowa

1952

1939

Scale 1" = 80'
Main Office, Davenport Community School District, Davenport, Iowa.
Main Office, Davenport Community School District, Davenport, Iowa.
Main Office, Davenport Community School District, Davenport, Iowa.