



United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

1587

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children, Administration Building

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 9508 Watertown Plank Road not for publication N/A

city or town Wauwatosa vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53226

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Alicia J. Gou 11/27/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or federal agency and bureau

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
Name of Property

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain) _____

John
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall *1.7.99*

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(check as many as apply) (Check only one box)

___ private building(s)
 public-local ___ district
___ public-state ___ site
___ public-federal ___ structure
 ___ object

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

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 1

The Administration Building

Description

The Setting: The Milwaukee County Grounds

In 1852, the Gregg Homestead, which included 160 acres, a house and agricultural buildings, was purchased by Milwaukee County to serve as the county poor farm. This was the beginning of the establishment of the present day Milwaukee County grounds and facilities. Milwaukee County grouped its institutions to care for the sick and the poor five miles west of Milwaukee on 11 acres, including orchards, woods, meadows, and farmlands.¹ At the time of development, the county grounds were in the country, outside of the urban development of the community of Wauwatosa.

The county grounds expanded in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to include the following institutions: Milwaukee County Hospital, Asylum for the Mentally Diseased, Home for Children, School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, Infirmary, and Muidale and Blue Mound Sanatoria. In addition, farmland was still being harvested and various groupings of farm buildings were found on the county grounds. The county grounds continues to service Milwaukee County residents as a complex of facilities providing medical, mental health facilities, and other social services.

The Administration Building of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children was constructed on the Milwaukee County Grounds in 1898 and designed by Milwaukee architect R.A. Messmer. The original buildings of the home included a central administration building flanked by two dormitories and a heating plant. Later, an infants' building, hospital, and school were added to the complex. During the 1970s the two dormitories, located east and west of the Administration Building, were demolished due to deterioration caused by lack of use. A fire in the infants' building during the late 1980s resulted in its demolition and the hospital was also demolished. Currently only the Administration Building, school, and heating plant are extant. The heating plant has undergone some major changes and deterioration resulting in a loss of integrity.

When the original buildings were first constructed in 1898, hundreds of trees were planted around the grounds of the home. These trees have since matured and provide a park-like setting for the County Home for Dependent Children. The Administration Building is set back from the road and a grass-covered hill leads to the building. A circular drive is located in the front of the building and surrounds a grass-filled area that was originally a lake/pond. This circular drive appears to follow the original driveway.² Modern development has occurred around the county grounds, but the land on which the Administration Building of the Home for Dependent Children is located has not been significantly affected by this development.

¹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

² Information from historic photographs in the Milwaukee County Historical Society's photograph collection from the Milwaukee County Grounds.

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Exterior

The Administration Building was constructed of a masonry frame with a blond brick veneer in a stretcher bond pattern. Vernacular in form, the building has relatively few architectural features that would indicate an influence of any particular style. Architectural details are limited to plain stone lintels above the windows, a simple hip roof, dormers, and a symmetrical facade. Three stories high and T-shaped in plan, the building has a hipped roof that is pierced by a number of dormers and a parapeted cross gable. The building consists of a main front section and a rear wing set on a limestone foundation. All of the windows are double-hung sash with a few being replaced by new windows or partially filled with window unit air conditioners. Decorative features of the building include a stone cornice coping, limestone lintels and sills, and a brick beltcourse.

The main (south) facade of the building is dominated by a parapeted cross-gable. Dormers are found on each side of the cross gable and five windows are located on the third story. Twelve windows, found on both the first and second stories, are organized in pairs to form six sets of two. The first story has a central entry with paired wood and glass paneled doors and a two-pane transom. The corners of the front facade are chamfered and contain two windows. Square concrete piers support a single-story porch extending the width of the cross gable. Originally, this porch had round decorative columns, but sometime during the 1920s the columns were changed to square concrete piers and the brick bases were covered with concrete.³ More recently, the openings between the lower support pillars have been filled with poured concrete. A concrete ramp was added to this facade next to the porch.

A large dormer with two double-hung sash windows is found on the east facade of the main building. One set of paired windows are centered between single double-hung sash windows on the second story. The first story displays two double-hung sash windows and a single-story porch, enclosed in brick and capped with a hip roof. The girls' (east) dormitory was attached to the porch via a covered brick walkway. Both the dormitory and the passage have been demolished.⁴ The entrance to the porch faces south and concrete steps lead to a single, wood panel door with transom. Two additional sash windows, both with small vents located in the upper pane, are located in the porch.

The north facade also has chamfered corners with double-hung sash windows on each story. The roof has two hip roof dormers located to either side of the rear wing. The second story has four double-hung sash windows and the first story has six. Four additional windows, smaller in size, are found along the limestone foundation.

The west facade has a decorative dormer with two double-hung sash windows. It is similar in appearance to the east facade dormer. Centered between two windows on the second story is a modern steel door with a steel fire escape. Originally, three window openings were located on the first story, but the northernmost opening has been filled with brick. The remaining openings contain double-hung sash windows. Four smaller windows are found in the limestone base.

The two-story rear wing of the building has a hip roof pierced by numerous hip-roof dormers. The east facade of the wing has two dormers; one with a small window, the other filled by a vent. A plain brick chimney stands at the northeast junction of the

³ Evidence regarding the date of change from a 1924 dated photograph located in the archives of the Milwaukee County Historical Society. These photographs also indicate that decorative chimneys flanked the cross gable. These have been removed.

⁴ The boys' dormitory, located west of the building, was demolished in 1972.

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main building and the wing. Five evenly-spaced, double-hung sash windows pierce each of the stories of this facade. Five smaller windows in the foundation are vertically aligned with the upper story windows. Ornamental brickwork, dentils, and coping also decorate the wing.

A single, hip-roof dormer with a vent is found on the roof of the rear wing's north facade. Three windows are found on the second and first stories. A single-story square addition with a flat roof located on this facade was used for freight deliveries. This addition contains two large freight doors, a pedestrian entrance, and a glass block window.

The west facade has two hip-roof dormers on the roof and five double-hung sash windows on the second story. An enclosed porch dominates the first story, even though five additional windows are also found on this level. The entrance to the porch faces north and has concrete steps. This side porch was probably enclosed in the 1930s using double-hung sash windows. Additional windows are found in the basement level facade.

The exterior of the building retains its overall appearance and a high level of integrity. Major alterations were probably completed more than 50 years ago within the building's period of significance. Some of the changes include the removal of decorative chimneys on the front facade, replacement of the columns of the front porch, and enclosure of the west porch.

Interior

The Administration Building has historically been used as an office and dormitory space. In recent years it has been converted into record storage, a juvenile court, and office space. Relatively sparse in interior ornamentation, the entire building has pine woodwork that was painted or stained dark brown. A majority of the rooms retain their original appearance and configuration. The original doors and transoms remain. The basement of the building had 13 rooms. According to 1937 WPA records, the spaces in the basement were used for a children's dining facility and laundry.⁵ A tunnel leading to the original boys' dormitory is located in the rear wing. Currently, the basement is used for record storage. The basement has tile flooring in the southwest room, terrazzo flooring in the halls, and decorative stenciling on the plaster walls in the southeast room. The walls in the southwest room are glazed tile. The remaining walls are terrazzo and plaster.

The main floor of the building contains seven rooms and two restrooms. The 1937 WPA records show that the first floor contained a reception area, two small offices, a kitchen, faculty dining room, and sewing room. A staircase located in the center hall has turned balusters stained dark brown. This staircase leads up to the attic story. The shaft of the added elevator extends into the attic story. Relatively little ornamentation is found in this part of the building, with one exception being two scrolled plaster brackets found in the main hall. Some of the original wood floors have been covered with carpeting and the majority of the original light fixtures have been replaced by fluorescent tube lighting.

Twenty-two rooms on the second floor served as faculty living spaces.⁶ Each of the rooms has a small closet and original wood doors with single transoms. One larger room is found at the front of the building and has a set of double doors. Two restrooms

⁵ Information regarding room use from Works Progress Administrations, "Physical Inventory of Home for Dependent Children," (Washington, D.C.: Works Progress Administration, 1937).

⁶ Room function based on WPA "Physical Inventory of Home for Dependent Children."

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are also located on this floor. All of the restrooms in the building have original tile flooring and glazed tile walls. The women's restroom on the second floor contains a skylight. On this level, the balcony railing has been recently reinforced with pine two-by-fours as a safety precaution.

The third floor of the building has storage areas in the rear wing and an auditorium in the main wing. The auditorium is located in the center and the west and east ends of the wing are used as storage and are separated from the auditorium by large windows. The auditorium has wood flooring and a small wood platform stage. Currently, the top of the concrete elevator shaft stands in the center of the room.

The interior of the building remains largely intact. Primarily cosmetic changes include the addition of carpeting, fluorescent lights, and some drop ceilings. The Administration Building retains integrity of design, material, and setting. Minor changes have been made to both the interior and exterior of the building, but these changes do not affect the building's overall integrity.

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building 1
Name of Property

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
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 the National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
SOCIAL HISTORY

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.

Period of Significance
1898-1947

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.

Significant Dates
N/A

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information
important in our prehistory or history

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious
purposes.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

Architect/Builder
MESSMER, ROBERT A.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance
within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Statement of Significance

The Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children was established in 1898 to provide temporary care for the poor and dependent children of Milwaukee County residents. Twelve years earlier, the state had established the Wisconsin State Public School in Sparta as a facility for dependent children throughout the state. It was uncommon for a county to establish its own care facilities. The Milwaukee County Home facility originally included an Administration Building, Boys' Cottage, Girls' Cottage, and heating plant/maintenance building. At present, of the original buildings only the Administration Building and the heating plant remain, although the heating plant has been altered, diminishing its integrity. The school, built in 1924 and expanded in 1947, is also extant.

The Administration Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A: Social History* as an example of Milwaukee County's efforts to care for dependent children. It holds local significance as an integral component of the social institution that provided care from 1898 until its closing in 1982. The Administration Building of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children was the centerpiece of the institution, containing the offices and living quarters for many of the employees, and the kitchen and dining halls for the children and employees.

The period of significance for the Administration Building begins with the construction of the building and opening of the facility in 1898 and proceeds through the years when the building was continuously used for administration of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children. The period of significance ends in 1947, which is the typical 50 year ending date for National Register properties. During the period of significance, the home served as the primary care facility in Milwaukee County, expanding each year to assist more children.

Relief for Dependent Children in Wisconsin

During the mid-to-late nineteenth century, a growing number of children and adults who were mentally diseased or impoverished were left with no one to care for them. Prior to this time, the ill and impoverished were taken in and cared for by other family members. However, by the late nineteenth century, family members were incapable of providing assistance or they lived too far away to provide care. These impoverished and ill people became dependent on local governments for care, which placed a heavy financial burden on these communities and counties throughout Wisconsin.

Prior to 1870, state institutions had been established in Wisconsin for criminals, the blind, the deaf, juvenile delinquents, and for the mentally ill. During this period there was a great demand for facilities to care for the poor, especially dependent children.⁷ Children were housed in private institutions supported by county funds, or sometimes placed in institutions intended for delinquent children, such as the Industrial School in Waukesha or the Industrial School for Girls in Milwaukee.

In 1860, the Wisconsin Industrial School for delinquent children was established in Waukesha. Many children were sent to this facility, not because they had committed a crime, but simply because they were orphans. In 1870 the facility was limited to the enrollment of boys, decreasing the availability of facilities for girls. In the hopes of alleviating the problem of caring for poor

⁷ Donald J. Berthrong, "Social Legislation in Wisconsin 1836-1900," (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1951), 198.

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and dependent children, the state legislature passed an act in 1875 allowing private citizens to open industrial schools.⁸ Within 2 months, the Milwaukee Industrial School for Girls was established by a private corporation, aided with state funds.

Dependent children were also housed in almshouses and poor farms, but in 1876 a law was passed forbidding children between the ages of 5 and 16 from remaining in an almshouse.⁹ Often county poorhouses herded together the mentally ill, the aged, children, and the able-bodied poor. Children were removed from the mix because it was believed that they were not being exposed to the proper environment and educational opportunities. As early as 1878, a movement had begun in the state to establish a school for poor and dependent children, with the State Board of Charities recommending "a state public school as a preventative, not a reformatory institution."¹⁰

The State School at Sparta

Although the movement for a school for dependent children began seven years earlier, it was not until 1885 that legislative authority was given to establish the Wisconsin State Public School. In 1886, the State Public School at Sparta, under the control of the State Board of Supervisors, was opened to meet the demand for housing and education of the state's dependent children. The Board of Supervision was the legal guardian of all children placed in the school and the school offered instruction through eighth grade. The Wisconsin State School was modeled after the Michigan State Public School in Coldwater, Michigan.

The school was a facility for Wisconsin minors who had become wards of the state. The majority of children resided at the facility for only a few months, while permanent homes were located. The mission of the school was defined as the following:

*There should be received as pupils in the State Public School, children who had been or might be declared dependent on the state for support, who were over the age of three and under the age of fourteen, and who were physically and mentally sound.*¹¹

Children lived and attended classes at the State Public School, a complex of buildings built to serve all the needs of the children. Unless the children were placed in foster homes, they stayed at the school until the age of sixteen.

Children admitted to the school could also be placed in indenture under written contract to persons for the purpose of education or teaching of a trade. The practice of indenture was ended in 1923, when it was replaced by a wage contract that allowed children to receive fair wages and ended the abuses of the indenture contract.

⁸ Berthrong, 224.

⁹ Thomas Crafer, "The Administration of Poor Relief in Wisconsin and Minnesota: A Comparative Study," (Unpublished Ph.D. diss., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1910).

¹⁰ Berthrong, 226-227.

¹¹ Bennett O. Odegard and George M. Keith, A History of the State Board of Control of Wisconsin and the State Institutions, 1849-1939 (State Printer, Madison, 1939), 125.

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Initially, the state school only admitted children of sound mind and body. For example, in 1894, a boy with a temporary weakness in one leg as a result of an operation was sent from Milwaukee to the State Public School. The law explicitly stated that only children of sound mind and body could be sent to the State Public School; thus, the boy was denied admittance and returned to Milwaukee County. These policies spurred Milwaukee County into establishing its own institution for dependent children in the late nineteenth century.

By 1901, the state legislature enacted a law allowing "children who were crippled or deformed or suffering from any disease that might cripple or deform, and whose condition could be remedied or cured by surgical or other means" to be sent to the State School at Sparta.¹² However, appropriations were not given to carry out this mission until 1911.

After 1911, the mission of the State School was expanded to fulfill three functions. First, the school served as a clearinghouse for children who were dependent or neglected in the state where efforts would be made to find a foster home. Second, crippled children under the age of 21 were temporarily housed. Third, the insane, feeble-minded, and epileptic children who had been abandoned or neglected were admitted. Mentally ill children often stayed until they reached maturity and were then transferred to the state hospital at Mendota or to a county asylum.¹³

In 1907, the State School had four grade school teachers and one domestic science teacher. The average enrollment was 160 children representing two-thirds of the counties in the state.¹⁴ By 1909, the complex included: a main building with offices, dining rooms for children and employees, a small assembly room and sleeping room; five cottages with the capacity for 250 students; a hospital; a building used for epidemics; a schoolhouse containing six rooms; a laundry building with heating plant; cold storage and icehouse; and farm buildings.¹⁵ A working farm was part of the school complex and male students were taught agricultural practices and supplied produce and dairy products to the school. The girls were often instructed in cooking and sewing.¹⁶

Supervision of the school was transferred to various state agencies and boards during the twentieth century. In 1939, the Board of Control was abolished and the school came under the newly created State Department of Public Welfare within the Division for Children and Youth. The facility was renamed the Wisconsin Child Center in 1947. In 1967 the center was transferred to the newly created Department of Health and Social Services under the Division of Family Services. The Center closed July 1, 1976. Portions of the complex remain occupied: the gymnasium is used by the city of Sparta; a cottage is used by the Mormon Church; and the school is used by the Sparta School District as a kindergarten.¹⁷

¹² Odegard and Keith, 132.

¹³ Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, (Madison, Wisc.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Volume 3: 7-12.

¹⁴ Crafer, 40.

¹⁵ J.D. Beck, The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin, (Madison, Wisc.: Democrat Printing Co., State Printer, 1909), 653.

¹⁶ Wyatt, Vol.3: 7-12 and 7-13.

¹⁷ Portions of the complex have been demolished, including the administration building.

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Milwaukee County's Care of Dependent Children

Early on, the State School at Sparta did not accept children under the age of three or children with medical problems or learning disabilities; therefore, the Milwaukee County Board saw a need to provide local care for their poor and dependent children who did not qualify for state care. This led to the establishment of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children in 1898. Since the state facility at Sparta provided services for the entire state, it was unusual for a county to establish its own facility. However, Milwaukee County had a large population, a demand for additional services for dependent children, and the financial resources to provide its own care.

Prior to the establishment of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children, the problems of impoverished children in Milwaukee County had been addressed through various measures. In 1852, the Gregg family farm, located west of Wauwatosa, was purchased for use as a farm for the indigent of Milwaukee County. Six years after the poor farm opened, a combination school and orphanage building was constructed.¹⁸ This facility served the dependent children of Milwaukee County until 1876, when the State Board of Control enacted a statute (Chapter 142, Laws of 1876) prohibiting children between the ages of 4 and 16 from being placed in almshouses or poor farms.¹⁹ The passage of this legislation resulted from reports of abuse and neglect in houses throughout the state. Children were then sent to private homes or orphanages with the county paying the orphanages for the care of the children.²⁰

Milwaukee County's dependent children were kept in the private orphanages until 1892, when a temporary home for dependent children was established on the county grounds.²¹ The use of this temporary home and the placement of children in private homes continued until the permanent home was established in 1898.

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children

In 1897, the Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County authorized the establishment of a home for dependent children on 21 acres of the former Falbe Farm, part of the Milwaukee County Grounds.²² The board stated the home's purpose as follows: "The object of the institution is to give a 'temporary home' to children under 16 years of age, who are residents of Milwaukee County and dependent on the public for support."²³ The Milwaukee Home for Dependent Children operated in a similar fashion

¹⁸ Alice Karmgard, "Early Days of County Institutions," Historic Wauwatosa vol. 11, April 1979.

¹⁹ The Administration of Medical and Welfare Services in the Government of Milwaukee County. (Milwaukee: Milwaukee County Historical Society, 1987), 1-2 and Odegard and Keith, 121.

²⁰ Eugene Warren Garner, "Wisconsin Mother's Aid Legislation Prior to 1935," (Unpublished master's thesis, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1951), 34-35.

²¹ Works Progress Administration, "County Government," (Washington, D.C.: WPA, 1940), 11.

²² Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1905, 9.

²³ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1910.

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to the State School at Sparta and the home was intended to provide temporary care for children until their families could resume care or the children could be indentured or placed in foster homes.

On July 7, 1897, plans and specifications were adopted for the new facility. The contract for buildings was let on August 10, 1897, and the buildings were completed by February 25, 1898.²⁴ The new facility consisted of four buildings – a main administration building, boys' cottage, girls' cottage, and heating plant. The Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children was the county's first permanent facility to provide care for dependent children.

During the first year of operation, the home served an average of about 50 children daily. August F.W. Kringel was named the first superintendent of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children in 1899 and served as superintendent for 39 years. Mr. Kringel, born in Milwaukee in 1858, was trained in the teaching profession. Following 13 years of teaching in both Richmond, Virginia, and in Milwaukee, Kringel became employed by the Milwaukee Monument Company. Kringel had been active on the County School Board, and, in 1899, he was asked to fill the position of superintendent of the newly constructed Home for Dependent Children.²⁵ Kringel was responsible for the management of the home under the direction of the Board of Supervisors and its Committee on Penal and Charitable Institutions, which was shifted to the Board of Trustees in April of 1899. Kringel retired as superintendent in 1938. During his leadership of the institution, the number of children cared for grew and so did the physical size of the facility. Kringel was largely responsible for the park-like setting of the grounds, as he took charge of their beautification through landscaping.

Admission Policies and Procedures

The Children's Home was intended to be a temporary home. Children were returned to their parents once an appropriate home environment could be established. If the children could not be returned to their parents, foster homes or indentured homes were found. Reasons for admittance of the children varied, but the following justifications, applying to one or both parents, are described in the Annual Reports of the Home: deceased, ill, in State Prison or House of Correction, cannot provide care, abandoned children, deserted family, drinks, immoral, insane, cruel to children, neglects children, or cannot give proper care.²⁶

Although during the first three years of operation the home averaged fewer than 60 children per day, population increased dramatically after the turn of the century. By 1905, the average daily number of children was 136, and only 10 years later the number more than doubled to 297. In comparison, the average length of stay in 1905 was 13 months, but this decreased to 8.4 months in 1915, indicating that the number of children was not increasing due to longer stays at the institution.²⁷

²⁴ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1905.

²⁵ William George Bruce, ed., History of Milwaukee City and County (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 742-745.

²⁶ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1922-23.

²⁷ Milwaukee County Institutions Annual Reports, 1930-1940.

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Children placed in the home represented a variety of nationalities, just as Milwaukee County was diversified as a result of immigration. In 1922, children at the home represented the following ethnic backgrounds: German (158); Polish (82); English (74); Russian (54); Austrian (40); Hungarian (33); Slovenian (30); Italian (14); Syrian (17); Irish (11); French (6); Greek (5); Colored (3); Spanish (3); Dutch (3); Swiss (3); Bohemian (2); Swede (1); Norwegian (1); and Turk (4).²⁸ A small number of children at the home were foreign born. For example, in 1922 foreign born children from Syria, Austria, Poland, Germany, Hungary, and Serbia lived at the home.²⁹

In the early years of the facility, delinquent children may have been placed in the home; but in 1901, Milwaukee County established a juvenile court and a youth detention facility, which separated delinquency and dependency cases.³⁰ The Annual Reports of the early 1920s stated that no delinquent children were admitted.³¹ However, policies changed and by the 1930s delinquent children under the age of 12 were also placed in the home by the court.³²

Children were admitted to the home in the early 1920s through the Juvenile Court or the Department of Outdoor Relief for a period of 6 months.³³ After 6 months, children were returned to their re-established parental homes, or if they became permanently committed to the care and custody of the institutions, children were placed in homes throughout the state by adoption or indenture.³⁴ In the 1930s, neglected or dependent children were admitted to the home by the Judge of the Juvenile Court for a period of 3 months or until some desirable arrangement could be made for the children's care.³⁵

The number of students at the home steadily increased through the 1920s, and in 1924, a total of 952 children were provided care. In the year 1923, the length of stay for children was accounted for as follows: 63 percent stayed for 6 months or less, and of those 15 percent stayed less than 1 month; 19 percent between 6 months and only 1 year; and 19 percent over 1 year.³⁶ The daily average reached 471 children by 1930, with the average length of stay at just over 1 year. During the Depression, the

²⁸ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

²⁹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

³⁰ Steven M. Avella, "Health, Hospitals, and Welfare: Human Services in Milwaukee County," in Ralph M. Aderman, ed., Trading Post to Metropolis, Milwaukee County's First 150 Years (Milwaukee County Historical Society, 1987), 209.

³¹ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1923-24.

³² Works Progress Administration, "Physical Inventory of the Home for Dependent Children," (Washington, D.C.: WPA, 1937).

³³ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1923-24.

³⁴ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

³⁵ Works Progress Administration, "Physical Inventory of Homes for Dependent Children," (Washington, D.C.: WPA., 1937).

³⁶ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1923-24.

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
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average number of students reached a peak of 555 in 1931, and the average length of stay increased to over 1 year and up to 2 years in 1934 and 1939, respectively.³⁷

Children were discharged from the institution for the following reasons: returned to parents, returned to juvenile court, sent to county hospital, sent to Milwaukee isolation hospital, sent to other institutions, sent to relatives, absconded, died, sent to families on 30 days trial for indenture or adoption.³⁸ Between 1898 and 1922, a total of 7,538 children were committed to the Children's Home. Of these, the largest number, 5,255, were returned to their parents; 809 were placed in families for indenture or adoption, of which 276 became self-supporting; 327 died; and the remaining children were committed to various institutions or sent to live with friends or relatives.³⁹

Adoption and Indenture (Work Homes)

Children who were permanently admitted were placed for adoption or indenture. Children under the age of 10 had to be adopted, but children over the age of 10 could be adopted or taken on the indenture plan. Adopted children became heir to the family's property with equal rights and privileges as a child of the family. Children were placed in families under a 30 day trial period after which families were required to notify the superintendent of their intention to retain or return the child. Field officers supervised the cases of children who were placed in outside homes.⁴⁰

In the case of indenture, the child remained with the family as a member of the family until 18 years old, but did not become an heir to the property. Indentured children attended school until they were 16 or completed eighth grade. Children between 14 and 16 worked for wages, which were paid directly to the home.⁴¹ From their wages, the home deducted clothing costs and gave a small amount to the children for spending money. The balance of the money was held by the Board of Trustees of Milwaukee County and turned over to the child at the age of 21. However, at the age of 18, half of the wages received were given to the child to be used to buy clothing. Supervision remained with the Children's Home until the child was of age.⁴²

In 1937, the Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of a separate division to locate foster homes for the children, thus reducing the number of children receiving institutional care. In the division's first year of operation, 1939, 233 children were placed in foster homes and their care was paid by the institution.⁴³

³⁷ Milwaukee County Institutions Annual Report, 1939.

³⁸ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1910.

³⁹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

⁴⁰ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1923-24.

⁴¹ The 1912 Annual Report lists the age for indentured students to be paid a wage as 14, but by 1923 the age had been raised to 16.

⁴² Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1923-24.

⁴³ Works Progress Administration, "County Government," 18.

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Facilities and Staff

Over the years of operation, the four original buildings of the home housed a number of facilities. The two cottages, one for boys and one for girls, served as dormitories for the children with a few rooms for staff.⁴⁴ The Administration Building contained all the necessary rooms for a functioning children's home. By 1937, the basement was used for a laundry, a children's dining room, kitchen preparation areas, and washrooms. The large open spaces allowed for the serving of a number of children. The main floor contained all offices, a kitchen, sewing room, faculty dining room, and a reception area. Faculty living quarters were found on the second floor, and the third was used for storage and auditorium space. The boys' cottage, located just west of the Administration Building, was connected to the Administration Building by an underground tunnel leading to the children's dining room in the basement. The girls' cottage to the east of the Administration Building was connected to the main building by an enclosed walkway.

In 1904, the staff included the superintendent, head matron, assistant matrons, day and night nurse, seamstress, head cook and kitchen help, two laundresses, three engineers, fireman, janitor, and two teachers. The increase in the number of children after 1910 created a demand for additional space, and plans for a new dormitory building were considered. Construction began in 1911 and continued through 1914. The new dormitory for infants and children under 6 years of age opened in 1915 and was located east of the girls' cottage.

Medical care for children was always a concern for the home. During its first year of operation, 30 children died in the home because not enough money had been allotted for health care.⁴⁵ For the first 10 years of the home, the children were treated for their ailments in house by the home's doctor or at the Milwaukee County Hospital; but by 1910, it was decided that a hospital on the grounds of the children's home was needed for isolation and observation purposes. Appropriations were approved and a new hospital opened in 1912. A physician visited the institution daily to provide medical care and sick children were cared for by graduate nurses. All serious cases and operations continued to be conducted at the Milwaukee County Hospital on the County Grounds. In 1921, the county purchased the Blue Mounds Sanatorium and converted it into a preventorium for the care of children afflicted with or exposed to tuberculosis. Two dentists visited the home three times per week in the 1930s to provide dental care.⁴⁶

In 1928, the Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, located on the Milwaukee County Grounds (approximately 1,500 feet northwest of the Children's Home) closed. The facility had been constructed in 1911-12 as a specialized high school. The complex included an administration building, dormitory building, agricultural engineering building, dairy building, and horticulture building. In 1932, the complex was remodeled to become an annex to the Home for Dependent Children. During the 1930s, the buildings housed the younger children and the original complex was used for the older boys and girls. The annex was able to accommodate the increased population of the Children's Home.

⁴⁴ Historical use of the rooms of the building was obtained through a 1937 WPA inventory of items in the home. Some of the original uses may have changed between 1898 and 1937.

⁴⁵ Marlon D. Dykas, "The Breadless of Milwaukee County at the Turn of the Century," (Unpublished master's thesis, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1974) 58.

⁴⁶ Works Progress Administration, "Physical Inventory of the Home for Dependent Children."

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The annex administration building retained its use with a dining room in the basement, classrooms, and a chapel and Sunday school were added to the second level. The horticulture building was reused as the Girls' Cottage and the dairy building was remodeled to serve as the Boys' Cottage. The dormitory building became the residence for the matrons and staff and the agricultural engineering building was remodeled for use as the school and temporary residence for new arrivals.⁴⁷ During the 1930s, grades 1 through 4 were held in the annex administration building. The annex administration building was connected to both the girls' and boys' cottages by underground tunnels. The annex complex also contained a playground and orchard.⁴⁸

The majority of construction on the grounds of the home occurred during the early decades of the twentieth century. A school was built in 1924 and expanded in 1947 to increase its capacity. The only other additions to the Home for Dependent Children complex were four modern brick cottages built in 1959 to serve as dormitories for the children.

A number of the original buildings of the home have been demolished since the closing of the institution. The original Boys' Building, located west of the Administration Building, was demolished in 1972 but had been vacant since 1969.⁴⁹ The girls' dormitory, infants' dormitory, and hospital have all been demolished within the last 20 years. The infants' dormitory was torn down in the early 1990s after a fire made the building uninhabitable.

The Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Administration Building, school, and other remaining buildings of the complex were evaluated collectively as a potential historic district. However, a number of modern cottages constructed between the Administration Building and the School are intrusive elements, and the heating plant of the original 1898 complex has undergone changes diminishing its integrity. In addition, there is not a spatial relationship between the Administration Building and the School. The buildings are not oriented towards each other – both face Watertown Plank Road – and they are separated by a distance of about 1,500 feet. Therefore, the Administration Building and the School are individually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Education at the Children's Home

Although children on average stayed only a few months, education was an important part of daily life in the home. Students between the ages of 5 and 16 were required to attend school daily, where they were taught the basic subjects. The curriculum of the school was identical to the city schools so that children returning home could re-enter their neighborhood school without a loss in credit. After the age of 16, children were usually indentured although some were allowed to continue their education at city high schools, vocational schools, Girls' Technical High, and even college.⁵⁰ Originally, all classes were held in the main

⁴⁷ Katherine Rankin, "Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy Historic District," National Register Nomination, July 1997.

⁴⁸ Interview with Joseph Cieminski, 14 July 1997.

⁴⁹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Reports, 1972.

⁵⁰ Works Progress Administration, "Physical Inventory of the Home for Dependent Children."

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building of the home with two teachers conducting lessons in reading, writing, math, language, spelling, geography, history, and singing.⁵¹

By 1922, the classroom curriculum had expanded to include domestic work, sewing, cooking, manual training, dressmaking, and gymnastics.⁵² In 1924, the average daily population was 327 children and a separate school building was needed to accommodate the students. The 1925-26 school year began in a new school building located northwest of the home on the county grounds. The eight-classroom structure held classes for grades 1 through 8 and also had a library and offices. One of the classrooms was used as a kindergarten for the smaller children.

The second year the school was open there were 174 students, with 24 kindergarten students. Nine teachers and one kindergarten teacher taught a range of subjects, including reading, writing, arithmetic, language, geography, history, singing, civil government, domestic work, cooking, sewing, dressmaking, manual training, and gym.⁵³ In 1933, the average daily number of students had increased to 296 with 30 kindergarten students, who were instructed by twelve teachers and one kindergarten teacher.

The average daily number of students at the school between 1930 and 1939 fluctuated between 283 and 333 with 25 to 34 kindergarten students.⁵⁴ A former resident recalled that during the 1930s only grades 5 through 8 were held in the separate school building, and classes for the smaller children, grades 1 through 4, were held in the annex administration building.⁵⁵

In 1947 an addition was constructed to the rear of the school, including a gymnasium, a pool, four additional classrooms, and a 105 seat auditorium. The basement contained workrooms and a storage room, which was later converted into a roller skating rink.⁵⁶

*Life at the Home in the 1930s*⁵⁷

An interview with an individual who resided at the Children's Home in the 1930s offers a description of daily life at the home during this period. A typical day included rising early, dressing, making the bed, and then forming a line to the dining room in the Administration Building for breakfast. Ten children were seated at a table with an older boy at the table assigned to monitor

⁵¹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1905.

⁵² Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1922.

⁵³ Milwaukee County Institutions Biennial Report, 1927-28.

⁵⁴ Milwaukee County Institutions Annual Reports, 1939 and 1940.

⁵⁵ Joseph Cieminski, interview with author, 14 July 1997.

⁵⁶ The roller skating rink is currently used for storage.

⁵⁷ Joseph Cieminski, interview with author, 14 July 1997.

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
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the younger boys. Meals were served family-style. Following breakfast, children washed up in the washrooms of the basement of the Administration Building. Chores were then completed two to three times per week. Typical chores for boys included sweeping, scrubbing, washing windows, raking leaves, or cutting the grass.

Boys and girls were kept separated in their activities except for school and occasional outings. They had separate dorms, areas of the dining room, and even playgrounds. Sunday diversions included walks to the County Grounds Farm or to the woods with the matrons. Other entertainment included moving pictures once a week. Relatives were allowed visitation after school hours and the first Sunday of every month.⁵⁸

Closing of the Children's Home and Contemporary Use of the Facility

From 1898 until 1972, the Home retained its function as a long-term care facility for children dependent on Milwaukee County. In January of 1972, the facility was changed to short-term care for children waiting for placement in foster homes.⁵⁹ The children were generally between the ages of 12 and 18 who could not function in their home environment or who had been in trouble with the law.⁶⁰ Although initially established as a short-term facility, the majority of these children did not leave the home until they reached the age of maturity.⁶¹

By 1982, the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children was officially closed and the children were transferred to smaller capacity, privately-owned, shelter-care facilities. The children receiving assistance were awaiting a court date or foster care placement. One of the private organizations, New Beginnings, leases three of the 1959 dormitory cottages from the county and is currently using the facilities for the shelter care program.⁶² Between 1982 and 1994, the former Administration Building was used for offices of the juvenile court and record storage. The facility is currently vacant; however, scattered storage records remain.

The on-campus school remains in use under the direction of the Wauwatosa Public School District. After the Home for Dependent Children closed in 1982, the school building was taken over by the Milwaukee County Court system. It is currently used to educate children who have been in trouble with the law and are residing in the private short-term care facility on the grounds. However, the school curriculum is managed by the Wauwatosa Public School District. The children housed in the shelter care facility attend classes in the building and use the gym and pool for recreation. The children in shelter care are awaiting placement in a foster home and generally are there for only a short period of time, with the average time spent at the

⁵⁸ Interview with Joseph Cieminski, 14 July 1997, and Works Progress Administration, "Physical Inventory of the Home for Dependent Children."

⁵⁹ Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Annual Report, 1972.

⁶⁰ Telephone interview with Ed Konkol, Director of Youth Services, Milwaukee County, 13 August 1997.

⁶¹ Telephone interview with Ed Konkol.

⁶² Telephone interview with Ed Konkol.

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school for any child being roughly 15 days.⁶³ This short stay allows classes to be small and specially oriented for the students. The curriculum is modified to allow students the ability to return to their regular school after foster care can be found.⁶⁴ On average, the school serves 4,000 students annually.⁶⁵

Two classrooms in the school are also used as an alternative school for students of the Wauwatosa East and West High Schools. This alternative school provides educational opportunities for at-risk students who may not graduate in a regular school program.⁶⁶

The Messmers: Architects of the Administration Building

The Administration Building of the Home for Dependent Children was designed by the architectural firm of Henry Messmer and Son. Henry Messmer was born in Switzerland in 1839 and studied architecture at the University of Heidelberg in Germany.⁶⁷ In 1886, he moved to Wisconsin and worked as a draftsman for several years in both Milwaukee and Madison, before opening his own firm in 1873 in Milwaukee. Messmer was a prominent architect in Milwaukee, designing several warehouses, churches, and private homes throughout the city.⁶⁸ His work included the Oberman and Co. icehouses, malt-house and dwelling, the Appleton Brewing Company warehouse, and Saints Peter and Paul Church. Henry Messmer died in 1899, just 1 year after the construction of the four original buildings of the Milwaukee County Children's Home.

Robert Messmer, Henry's oldest son, was born in 1870, and after his graduation from East Side High School (1887) he joined his father's firm where he received his architectural training.⁶⁹ After his father's death, Robert retained the name Henry Messmer and Son until 1910, when he changed it to R.A. Messmer and Brother. His firm specialized in plans for public buildings and hospitals and his designs included the Southern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled (NRHP), the Uniondale Sanitarium and the home for epileptics in Union Grove, in addition to all of the buildings for the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children, including the 1924 school.

Robert's brother, John, was born in 1884 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1909 with a Bachelor of Science degree.⁷⁰ He joined Robert's firm shortly after graduation and worked with him until 1928. In July of 1928, John was appointed

⁶³ Telephone interview with Steven King, Principal of Plank Road School, 21 August 1997.

⁶⁴ Telephone interview with Pat Lubke, Director of Student Services, Wauwatosa Public Schools, August 1997.

⁶⁵ Telephone interview with Steven King.

⁶⁶ Telephone interview with Steven King.

⁶⁷ William George Bruce, vol. III, 817.

⁶⁸ Frank Flower, History of Milwaukee (Chicago: Chicago Western Historical Company, 1881), 1501.

⁶⁹ Bruce, vol. III, 817.

⁷⁰ John G. Gregory. History of Milwaukee Wisconsin vol. IV. (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1931) 637-639.

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
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as Milwaukee County Supervisor of Construction and designed a number of county building projects, including the 1948 Home for Dependent Children school addition and the 1959 dormitory buildings. He remained the county supervisor of construction until his death in 1971.

Conclusion

The Administration Building of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A: Social History* for the significant role that this institution played in the care of Milwaukee County's dependent children in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The founding of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children reflects the broader state and local efforts to provide for the well-being and the education of Wisconsin's disadvantaged children. As early as 1885 the State had sought to care for dependent or neglected minors at a state school by removing them from almshouses or poor farms. The Milwaukee County Home was established to care for the growing number of impoverished and orphaned children in the Milwaukee area. The ideals of the founders of the State Public School in Sparta and of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children were those of the emerging Progressive Movement and its wish to improve society. The plight of underprivileged children was one concern of the movement. By removing children from harsh or uncaring environments, reformers hoped to give these children a chance at a more successful and productive life. The children at the County Home received a structured environment, medical care, and educational opportunities. From the opening of the institution in 1898 to 1947, the ending date for the period of significance, well over 13,000 children of Milwaukee County were cared for and educated at the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children.⁷¹ The Administration Building, which is the only significant building extant from the original complex that retains integrity, stands as an example of this locally important social institution.

⁷¹ The *Milwaukee County Institutions Annual Report for 1939* reports the average daily number of children cared for annually. The total average daily number of children from 1899 to 1939 totals 12,368; therefore, by 1947 the number of children cared for would have exceeded 13,000.

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
Name of Property

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Milwaukee County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1	<u>1/6</u> Zone	<u>4/1/5/9/9/0</u> Easting	<u>4/7/6/6/2/4/0</u> Northing	3	<u>1</u> Zone	<u>1/1/1/1</u> Easting	<u>1/1/1/1/1</u> Northing
2	<u>1</u> Zone	<u>1/1/1/1</u> Easting	<u>1/1/1/1/1</u> Northing	4	<u>1</u> Zone	<u>1/1/1/1</u> Easting	<u>1/1/1/1/1</u> Northing

 see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christina Slattery and Stacey C. Pilgrim, Architectural Historians
organization Mead & Hunt, Inc. date September 5, 1997
street & number 6501 Watts Road, Suite 101 telephone 608-273-6380
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53719

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A U.S. Geological Survey 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)

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Section 9 Page 1

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Section 9 Page 2

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Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
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Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is a rectangle approximately 148 feet by 190 feet, which encompasses the Administration Building. Beginning at the northeast corner of the boundary, proceed south 190 feet to form the eastern boundary of the property. This point is approximately 300 feet north of Watertown Plank Road. Continue west 148 feet to form the southern boundary, which runs parallel to Watertown Plank Road and follows the northern edge of the driveway. Turn north and proceed 190 feet to form the western boundary line. Continue east 148 feet to meet with the starting point. This forms the northern boundary of the property.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is a rectangle approximately 148 feet by 190 feet, which includes the immediate setting for the Administration Building of the Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children. This boundary encompasses the immediate setting of the Administration Building, excluding the modern cottages that have been constructed to the northeast and east of the Administration Building.

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Administration Building
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Section Photographs Page 1

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children Administration Building
9508 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Photographers: Christina Slattery and Amy Squitieri, Mead & Hunt, Inc., July 1997.
Negatives stored at the State Historical Society Wisconsin.

Photo 1 of 12
Overview of building.
View looking northeast.

Photo 2 of 12
Main (south) facade.
View looking northwest.

Photo 3 of 12
East facade.
View looking northwest.

Photo 4 of 12
East facade.
View looking northwest.

Photo 5 of 12
Rear (north) wing.
View looking southwest.

Photo 6 of 12
West facade.
View looking northeast.

Photo 7 of 12
Exterior view.
Detail of front porch.

Photo 8 of 12
Exterior view.
Detail of enclosed side porch.

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Photo 9 of 12
Interior view of main staircase.

Photo 10 of 12
Interior detail of staircase.

Photo 11 of 12
Interior detail of scrolled bracket.

Photo 12 of 12
Interior view of second floor room and hallway.

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Historic Photo 1
View of Administration Building and Boys' and Girls' Cottages
Photograph courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society

Historic Photo 2
Aerial view of Home for Dependent Children
Photograph courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building

Name of Property

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

County and State

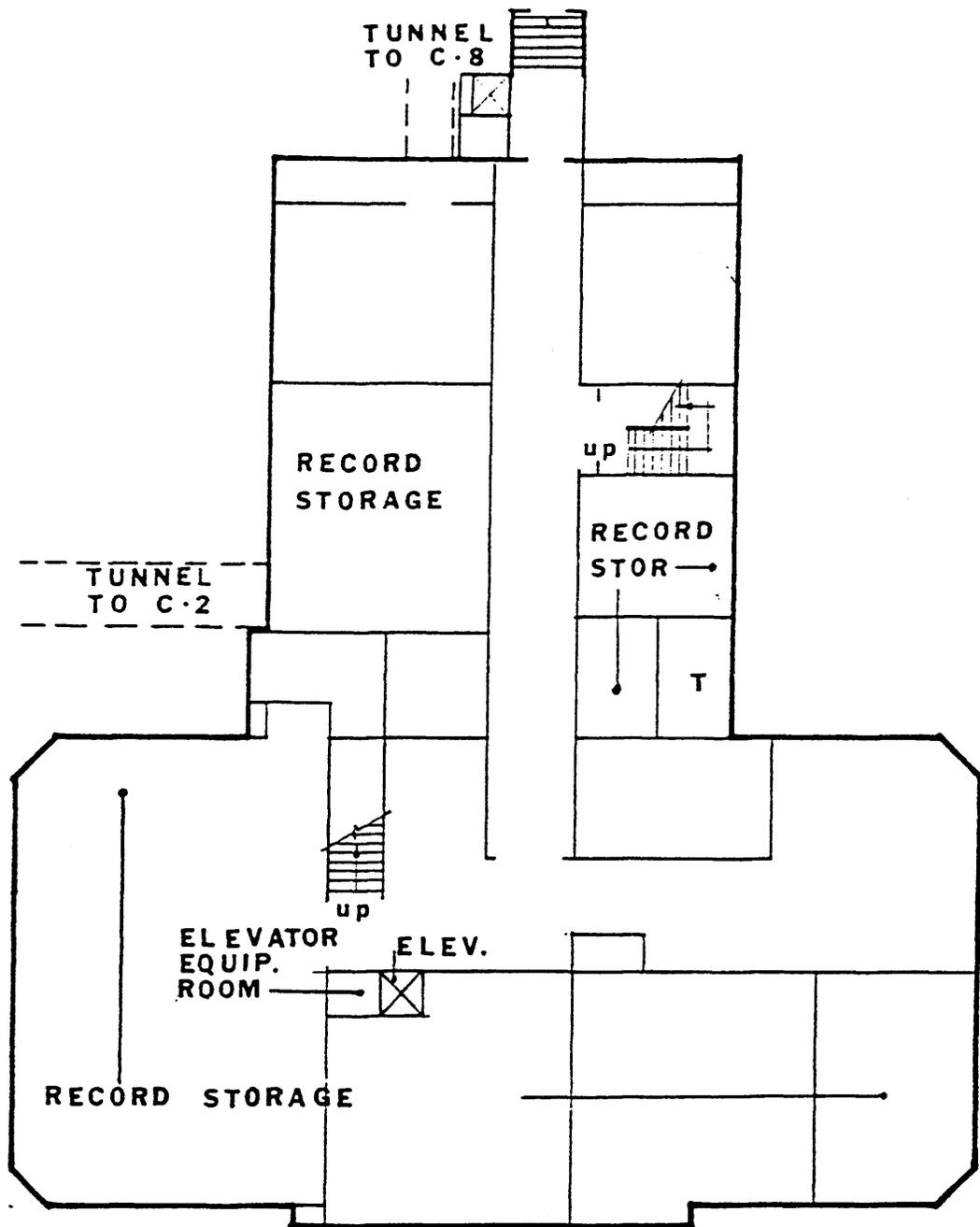
Property Owner

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

name Milwaukee County, Department of Administration
street & number 901 North 9th Street telephone (414) 257-6493
city or town Milwaukee state WI zip code 53223

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

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



**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

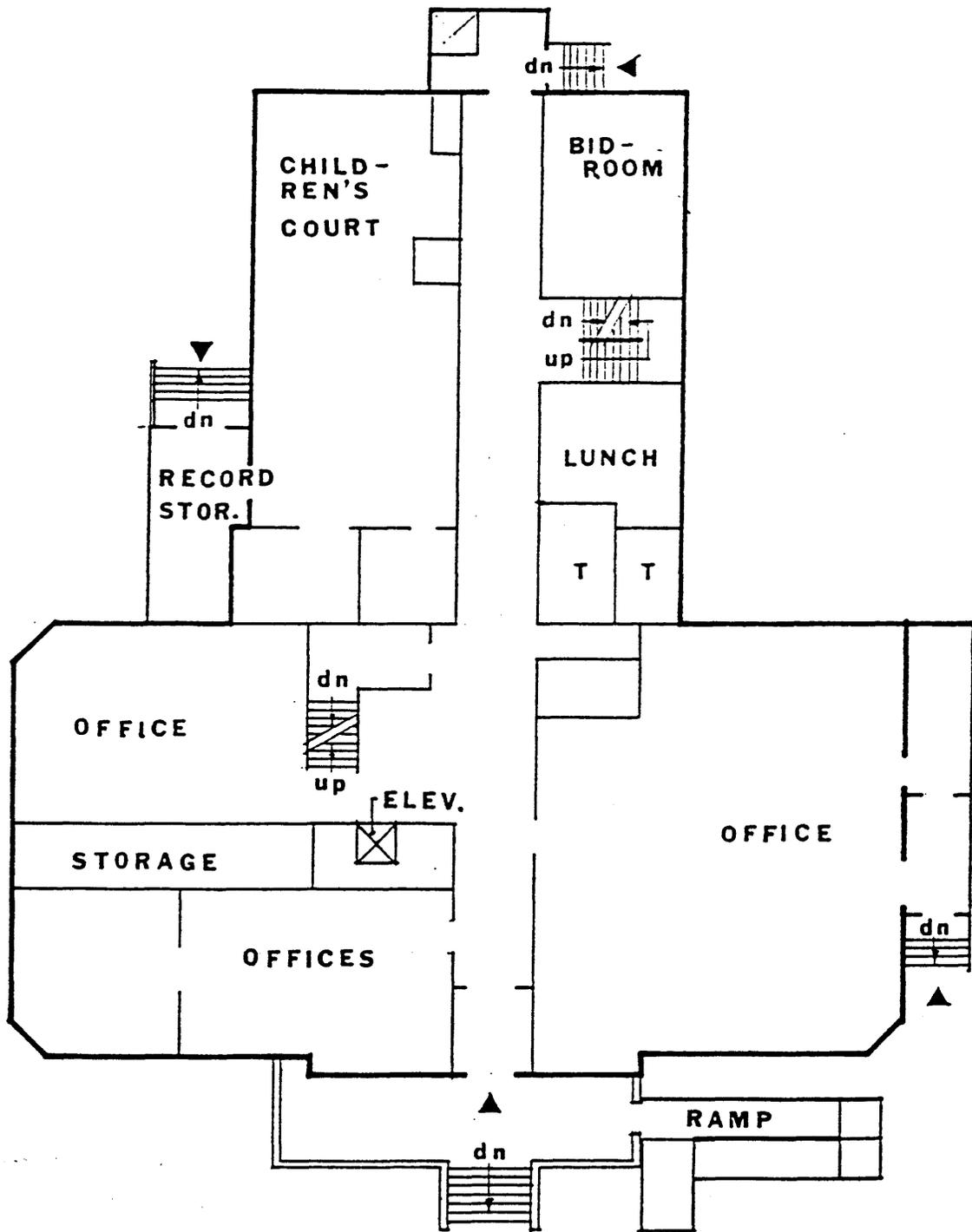
ADMISTRATION BUILDING C-1

WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

BASEMENT PLAN

1" = 20' - 0"

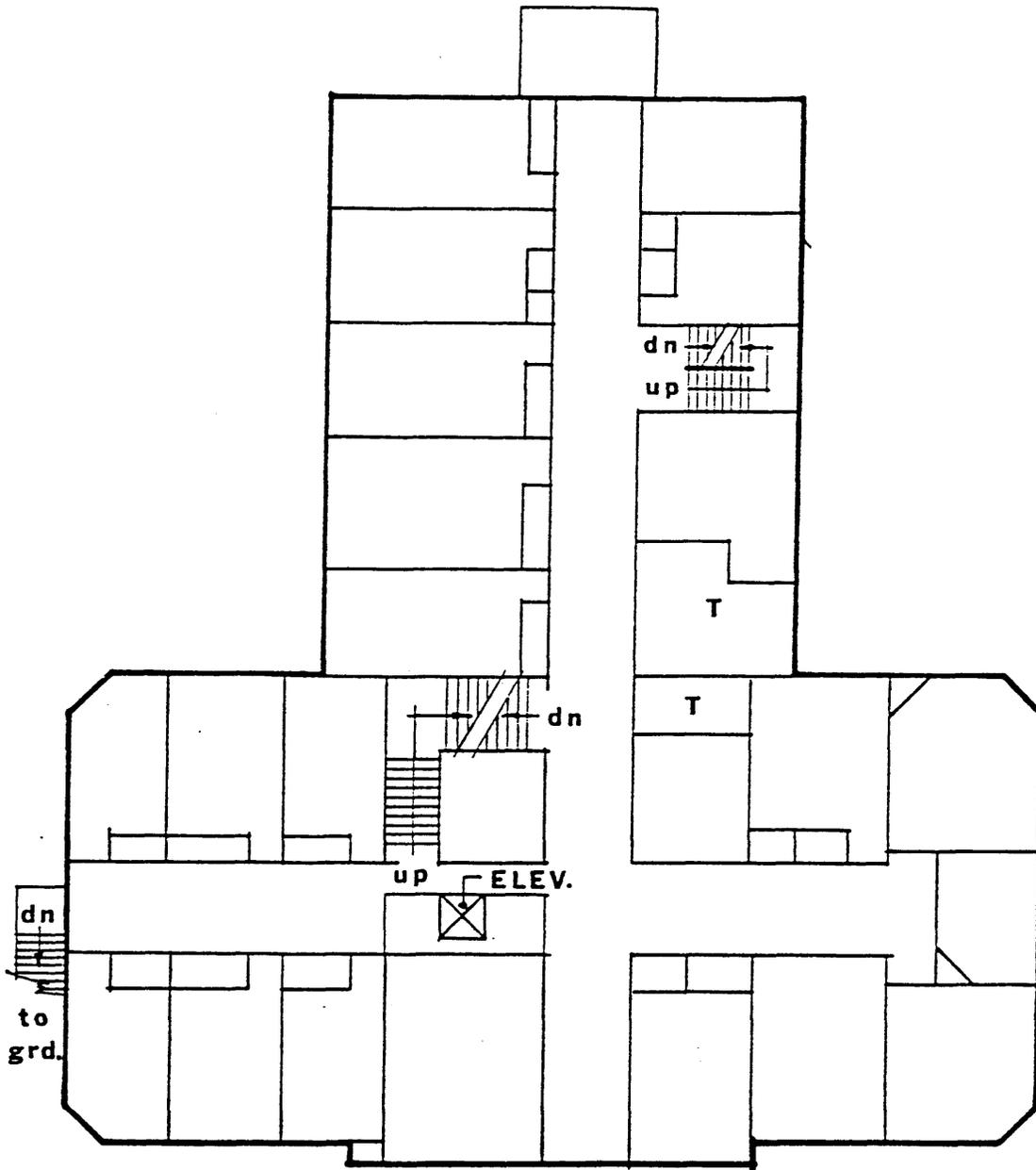




MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1" = 20' - 0"





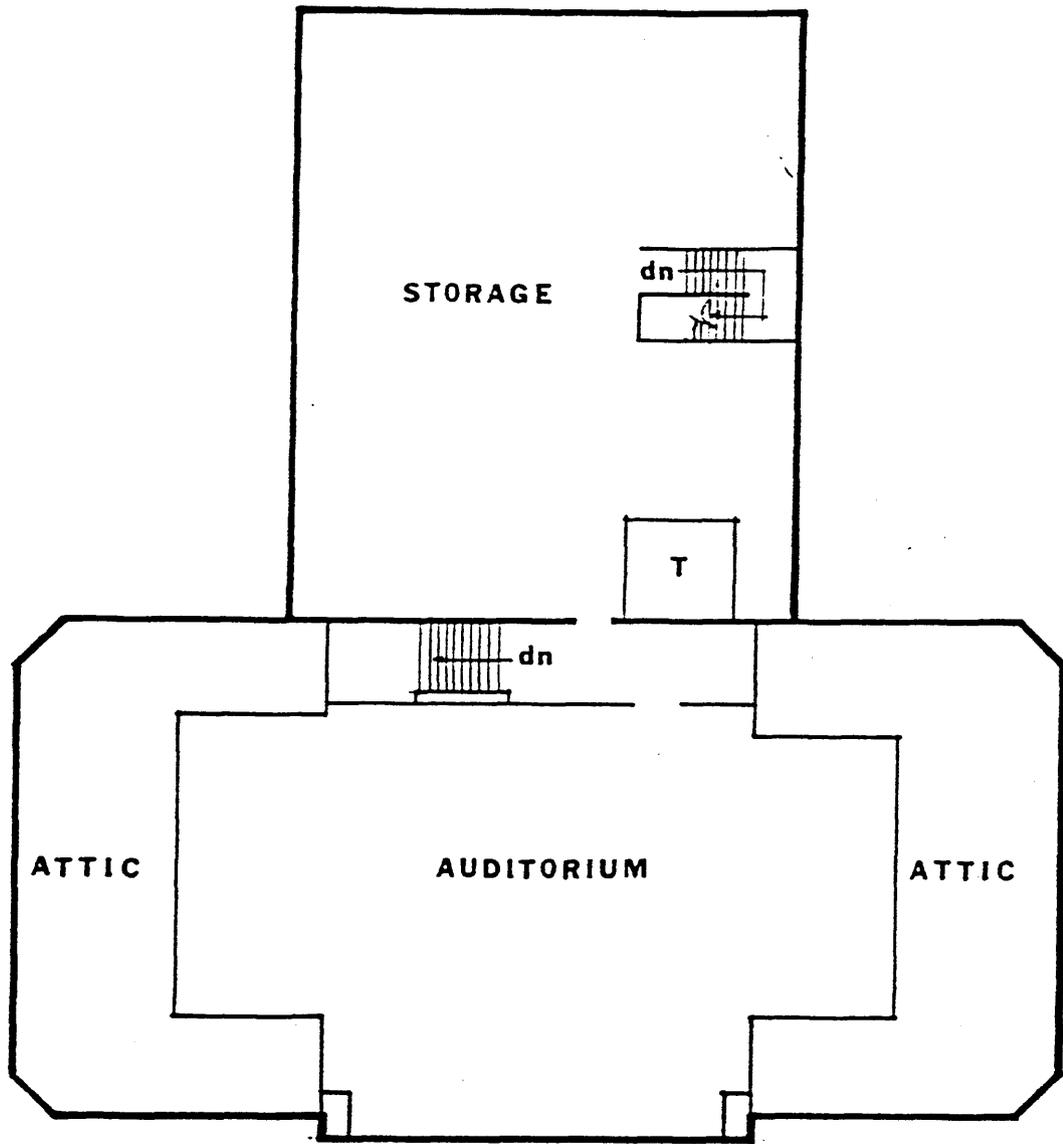
OFFICES
 PROBATION
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

1" = 20' - 0"





**MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

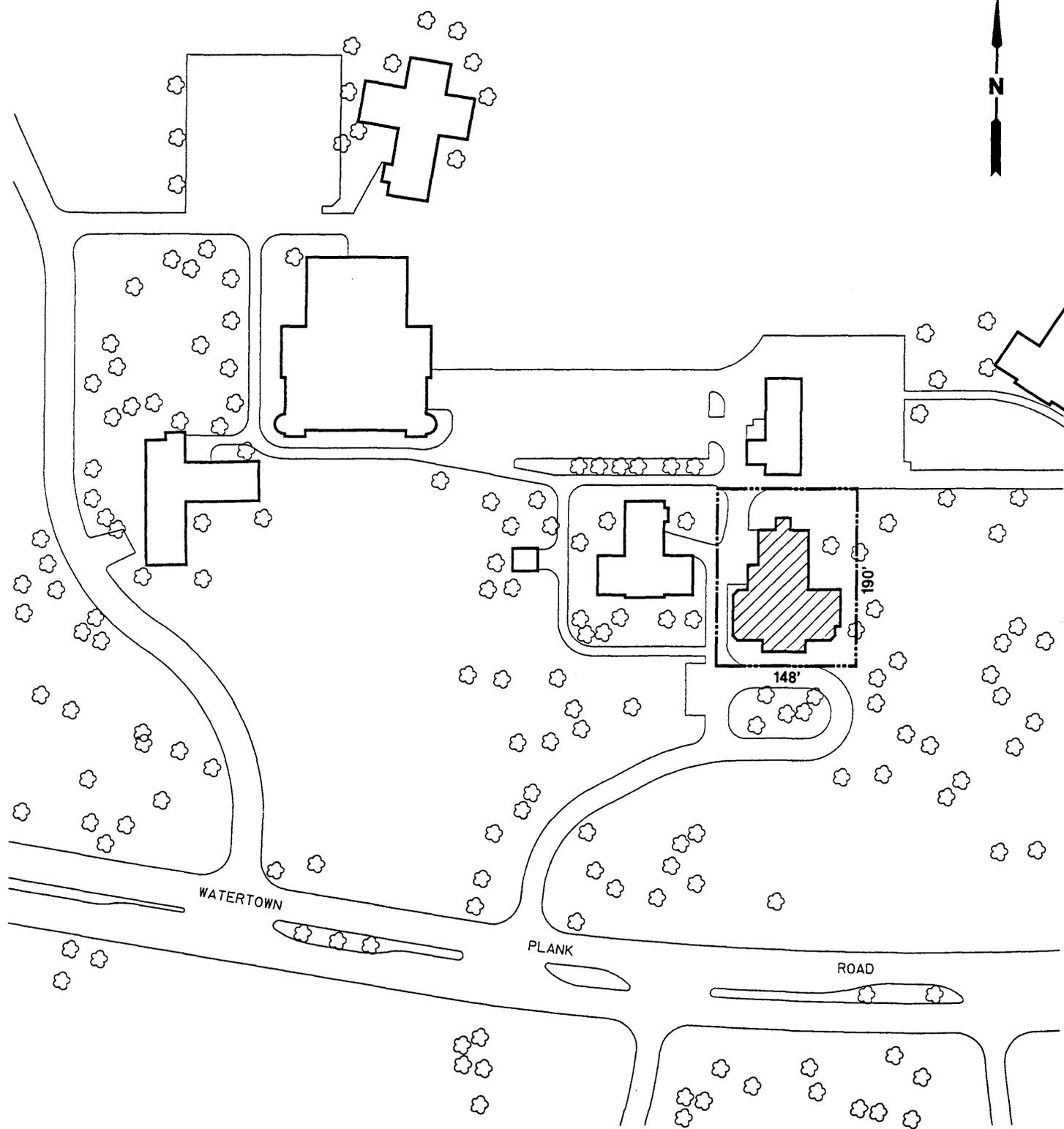
WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

1" = 20'-0"

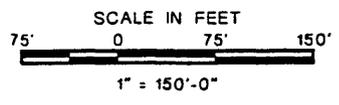


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Legend:

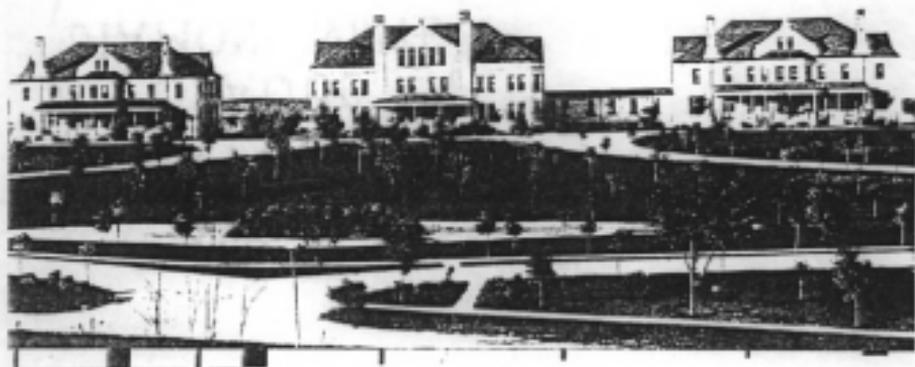
-  Administration Building
-  Historic Boundary



Milwaukee County
Home for Dependent Children
Administration Building
9508 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co., Wisconsin

MEAD & HUNT	ENGINEERS	MEAD & HUNT INC. 6501 White Road, Suite 101 Madison, Wisconsin 53719-7700 Phone: 608-273-6380 Fax: 608-273-6391
	ARCHITECTS	
	SCIENTISTS	
	PLANNERS	

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children, Wauwatosa, Wis.

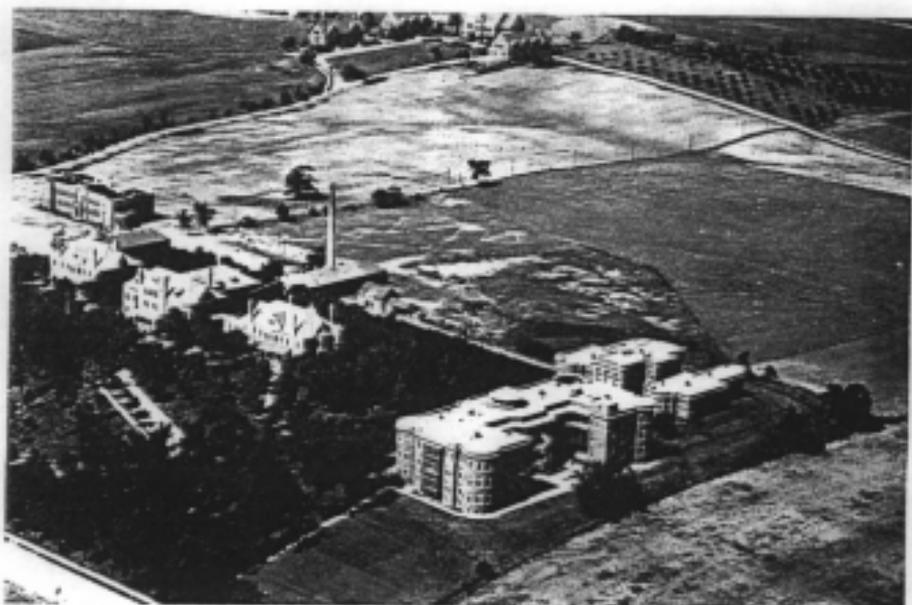


Historic Photo:

Milwaukee County Home for Dependent Children

From left to right: Boys Dormitory, Administration Building, Girls Dormitory
(Constructed 1898)

(Photo Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society)



Historic Photo:

Milwaukee County Home For Dependent Children

From upper left to lower right: School (1924), Boys Dormitory (1898), Administration Building (1898), Girls Dormitory (1898), Infant's Building (1915) with Hospital (1912) to rear. In background is the Milwaukee County School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy (1911-12) which was later converted to use as the Children's Home Annex.

(Photo Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society)