

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 Central High School [preferred]

other names/site number Yeatman High School, Central Visual and Performing Arts High School

2. Location

street & number 3616 Garrison N/A not for publication

city or town St. Louis N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county (independent city) code 510 zip code 63107

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 at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local. Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date August 22, 2012 Missouri 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:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Central High School
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City] MO.
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William
B. Ittner

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Jacobethan

Other: E ("Open") Plan High School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/limestone

walls: Brick

Concrete

roof: Asphalt

other:

Central High School
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City] MO.
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.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902-1907

Significant Dates

1902

1904

1907

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.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ittner, William B.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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: St. Louis Public Schools Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Central High School
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City] MO.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 3.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>742,400</u>	<u>4283,360</u>	2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew B. Weil/Executive Director
organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date 3/22/12
street & number 911 Washington Suite 170 telephone 314-421-6474
city or town St. Louis State MO zip code 63101
e-mail aweil@landmarks-stl.org

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **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 St. Louis Board of Education
street & number 801 N. 11th Street telephone 314-231-3720
city or town St. Louis, state MO zip code 63101

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 18 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.

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Central High School
The St. Louis, Missouri, Public
Schools of William B. Ittner.
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Summary

Central High School is located at 3616 Garrison (preferred) although it also has the addresses 3617 Glasgow Avenue and 2900-2950 Natural Bridge Avenue in the independent city of St. Louis, Missouri. The school occupies all of city block 5217 in St. Louis' Jeff VanderLou neighborhood. Central High School is an excellent example of the "open" floor plan conceived and refined by Architect William Ittner during his tenure as architect for the St. Louis Board of Education and Commissioner of School Buildings. Central is situated to the southeast of Fairgrounds Park in the northeastern portion of St. Louis City. The surrounding neighborhood was built primarily around the turn of the century as a middle-class streetcar commuter suburb. In addition to Ittner's classic plan, the school is lavishly ornamented with abundant stone trim, red brick laid in Flemish bond, and a projecting entry flanked by twin stair towers capped with four-sided curvilinear domes (the original copper sheathing has been stolen). It retains its original terraced front yard, wrought iron fence, and sparse, but orderly landscaping in keeping with Ittner's specifications. The interior of the school retains many original features including much of its original maple flooring, wooden banisters, marble stairs, marble wainscoting, and a marble plaque dedicated in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The school is one of two high schools that Ittner was tasked with designing early in his career with the St. Louis Public Schools. Through the process of designing these schools, the architect not only refined his concept of the "open plan," but also tested progressive features that would later become standards of his designs such as upper-floor restrooms, shower facilities, auditoria and purpose-built gymnasias.

Elaboration

The school building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond with abundant stonework used to accent bays and corners. This bond was frequently used by Ittner in schools of this period and was specified as a component of the overall aesthetic. Further ornament is provided by elaborate stone reliefs adorning the projecting entry, and curved domes atop the paired stair-towers flanking the front door. The school's form is a variation on Ittner's "Open" Plan and represents the development of the architect's ideas regarding school design. Designed by Ittner in his capacity as Commissioner of School Buildings as one of two flagship high schools to supplement a single high school already in existence, the architect was given wide leeway to explore his ideas. As such, the school was used as a proving ground for costly features such as bath facilities, a gymnasium and large central auditorium, that later became standards of the architect's work. Having served the students of St. Louis for 100 years, Central High School closed following the 2003-04 school year as a component of measures designed to deal with declining enrollment.

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Central High School
The St. Louis, Missouri, Public
Schools of William B. Ittner.
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Physical Description

Central is situated at the north end of a highly intact early 20th century neighborhood dominated by substantial brick residences. The school is surrounded by its original wrought iron fence and retains its landscaped yards on the west and north sides. The south side of the school is located close to the sidewalk property line and the rear (original school yard) contains a courtyard that is formed by two pairs of north and south wing additions dating to 1907 and 1967 respectively. The school's primary façade faces Garrison Avenue and is fronted by a landscaped and terraced yard.

The school itself is a three-story (plus raised basement) Jacobethan style building constructed beginning in 1902. The building is composed of a dominant four-story central block flanked by five-story stair towers and three-story wings. Each wing terminates in a three-story block that is pulled out beyond the plane of the central block. To the east (rear) each wing has a one-story plus raised-basement addition dating to 1907. Each of these wings are in turn connected by an enclosed raised hallway to brick and concrete additions dating to 1967. The 1907 additions are identical and were part of the original school design (though their construction was delayed) matching the bond and limestone details of the rest of the school. The 1967 additions are similar, but not identical. They are both one story buildings faced with red brick laid in Flemish Bond. The southern addition has exposed cast concrete structural elements; the northern addition does not express structural components.

The central entrance to the school is situated beneath a massive limestone portico consisting of Doric columns with entablature. The frieze is ornamented with the name "Yeatman High School." The top of the entablature forms a shallow balcony at the second floor. A limestone balustrade with heavy pedestals outlines the balcony. At the second and third story levels of the projecting entry tower are boarded window bays. The bays at both levels have carved limestone surrounds and mullions and are framed with engaged limestone Ionic columns supporting entablature and carved limestone friezes. Above the third story frieze is a segmental pediment with a central shield adorned with a "Y" (for Yeatman) flanked by griffin heads. The parapet wall above the third story contains a string of three carved limestone panels with geometric designs on either side of a central limestone relief depicting a male and female figure flanking a central shield. The central panel is capped with limestone finials.

Brick quoins edge the outside corners of the building. All elevations of the building (with the exception of the 1967 additions) have a raised basement faced with rusticated limestone.

The stair towers contain three, front-facing window openings at levels of the first, third and fourth (attic) floors. The windows are boarded, but have stone surrounds with quoins and

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Central High School
The St. Louis, Missouri, Public
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mullions that divide the openings into a two-over-two configuration with the upper two openings smaller than the lower two. The window openings have flat arches and sills and hood moldings all executed in limestone. At the attic level, the window opening contains a single fixed or casement window in a flat limestone surround with a limestone pediment. At this level on the sides of the stair towers (facing north and south respectively) is a single round porthole window with a limestone surround. The towers are capped with the wooden frames of square-based cupolas with sweeping convex sides. The cupolas were originally covered with copper. Finials of an indeterminate metal are intact.

The central block of the school extends to the north and south on each side of the central projecting entry. On both sides of the entry, the block contains two window bays at each floor. Each bay has a flat limestone surround with stone quoins and mullions. Mullions divide each bay into five window openings; all are boarded. Above the bays, the parapet wall is formed by a limestone balustrade. Between the bays, the parapet wall is simply an extension of the brick wall. The parapet level is delineated from the top of the third story by a limestone belt course. Another limestone belt course delineates the second floor from the third, as well as the raised basement from the first floor. The raised basement contains two sets of paired windows with flat limestone surrounds, quoins, and stone mullions. The windows pass through the rusticated limestone basement facing and the limestone water table and penetrate the brick portion of the façade.

At either end of the central block are projecting wings. Centered on each wing is another projecting section at the levels of the raised-basement, first floor and second floor. This secondary projection contains the window bays at these levels. The secondary projection is accented with limestone quoins and contains two window bays at the basement level and one window bay at the first and second level. All window bays have flat limestone surrounds with quoins. The bays on the basement level contain a single boarded window opening. The bays on the first and second level contain five windows openings separated by stone mullions. The top of the second story of the projecting section forms a shallow balcony. A limestone balustrade with heavy pedestals outlines the balcony. On the third level, the bay is flush with the wall of the wing and contains a bay with five window openings separated into a one-over-one configuration by vertical and horizontal stone mullions. The limestone belt courses of the main block wrap the projecting wings. The wings have a flat brick parapet walls. The roof of the school is flat.

Integrity

The MPDF “The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner” specifies that Ittner schools listed in the National Register “must retain characteristically-shaped plans, scale, roof-

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Central High School
The St. Louis, Missouri, Public
Schools of William B. Ittner.
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

shape, and fenestration in order to convey a clear sense of historic character.”¹ Central High School meets these requirements. The school exhibits original materials, its original characteristically-shaped plan, scale, roof shape, and fenestration (though it is currently boarded). The physical condition of the school is good, though copper elements have been stolen and water infiltration is evident in some areas. Likewise, the interior is largely intact, though 100 years of updates coupled with eight years of vandalism and vacancy have modified aspects of the interior appearance. Modifications and decay are mostly cosmetic (e.g. banks of modern lockers, peeling paint, rotten sections of flooring, drop ceilings, HVAC soffits, African mask murals in the auditorium, firewalls enclosing stair landings, and linoleum floor coverings). Despite these modifications, original wood floors, doors, and restroom partitions can be found throughout as can marble wainscoting and wooden interior partition windows. While the glazing of many exterior windows has been damaged by vandals, many windows are intact and boarded. Importantly, stone mullions in window openings appear to be completely intact. The two 1967 rear additions (containing a gymnasium, lockers, and classrooms) that project eastward from the south and north wings respectively do not have a major impact on the building’s form. Their scale is such that they are clearly subordinate to the main school building. Their design allows for identification as later additions, but does not damage the coherence of the original school form. Because they are each connected to the original design by a narrow raised passageway that enters an original, though altered bay, and cannot be seen when viewing the primary façade, Ittner’s plan remains essentially intact.

The MPDF further states that “Schools must be in their original locations, landscaped approximately in their original fashion. The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good.”² The school is in its original location and retains minimal landscaping surrounding its primary façade, as well as its north façade facing Natural Bridge Avenue in keeping with Ittner’s ideas. The school sits above street grade atop an earthen terrace and is approached by a stone stairway and balustrade.

¹ Cynthia H. Longwisch, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Documentation Form: *The St. Louis Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner*. (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1992), F 7.

² Ibid.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Summary

Central High School is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. William B. Ittner designed the school in 1902 in his capacity as Architect and Commissioner of School Buildings for the St. Louis Board of Education. **The building is being submitted for registration under the “St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner” Multiple Property Document within the sub-context “Refining of the ‘Open Plan’ in the St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910.** Ittner became nationally and even internationally recognized for his ideas regarding educational architecture during and after his career with the St. Louis Public Schools in particular for his “Open Plan” design of which Central is an excellent example. The school was originally named Yeatman High School (renamed Central High School [preferred] in 1927) after James Yeatman, a local banker and philanthropist who served as president of the St. Louis Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. The school was designed in 1902, opened in 1904, and expanded per original plans in 1907 resulting in a period of significance from 1902-07. The neighborhood surrounding the school at the time was a rapidly developing streetcar commuter suburb on St. Louis’ north side. Constructed simultaneously with McKinley High School on the south side of the City, Yeatman was a lavish investment in the City’s burgeoning school system with state-of-the-art facilities for students including a purpose-built gymnasium, 1,000-seat auditorium, restrooms on upper floor levels, and shower/bath facilities. These two schools were constructed to alleviate crowding at the original Central High School, which had previously drawn students from all across the City. After 100 years of service, the school building was closed after the 2003-04 school year. Because the school was known variably as Yeatman and Central through the years, this nomination uses the names interchangeably depending on the period being discussed.

Background

The area surrounding Yeatman High School was primarily agricultural until development began in earnest after the Civil War. Immediately to the northwest of the school is Fairgrounds Park, a site that began hosting the Mississippi Valley Agricultural and Mechanical Fair in 1856.³ The land was purchased by the City from John O’Fallon and used for a grand annual exhibition of agricultural products and mechanical inventions in addition to horse racing and livestock shows. By the time the fair began, Natural Bridge had become a plank road, a feature which no-doubt facilitated the festivities.

³ James Neal Primm, Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri 1764-1980 (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1998), 242.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

The presence of an excellent road and abundant undeveloped land also led to the establishment of Benton Barracks adjacent to the Fairgrounds during the Civil War. Organized by General John C. Fremont, the barracks housed as many as 23,000 recruits at a given time.⁴

Most of the Fairgrounds and all of the Barracks were located just west of the City limits, which had been extended to a line 660 feet west of Grand Avenue in 1855. The future site of Yeatman School however was located within the City proper by 1855.

The Compton and Dry map of St. Louis in 1875 shows homes on the future site of the school, with agricultural land stretching to the north on the opposite side of Natural Bridge Avenue.⁵ The area was still a mix of clusters of homes and expansive farms, though the Fairgrounds had evolved into quite a spectacle featuring a permanent horse track, amphitheater, art gallery, lake, halls for all manner of commodities and products, band stand and offices.⁶

St. Louis' population grew quickly around the turn of the century, increasing by more than 75,000 residents between 1890 and 1900, and by more than 111,000 between 1900 and 1910.⁷ While many new elementary schools were constructed during these years, until McKinley and Yeatman were completed in 1904, a single high school was responsible for the secondary education of the entire district population. When Ittner was hired by the St. Louis City School Board in 1898, the need for new high schools in both the northern and southern portions of the City was acute.

In the first two years of the 20th century, crowding stress on the City's single high school was resulting in extreme measures in the classroom and a disturbingly low high-school attendance rate compared with other cities.⁸ According to the MPDF "The St. Louis Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner" (the MPDF), in his annual report for 1899-1900, Superintendent Louis Soldan discussed the City's low high school enrollment rate and blamed it on the fact that the system contained only one school for white pupils.⁹ Referring to what was then known as Central High School in what is today known as Midtown, he noted that students from the farther reaches of what was at the time a city covering 66.2 square miles and containing nearly 600,000 people, found it difficult to simply get to the school.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Camille N. Dry and Richard J. Compton, Atlas of the City of St. Louis, Missouri (St. Louis: Western Engraving Company, 1875), 75.

⁶ Ibid., 81.

⁷ Board of Public Service, Rapid Transit for St. Louis, 1926 (St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Public Service, 1926), 30.

⁸ St. Louis Board of Education, 48th Annual Report of the St. Louis Board of Education 1901-02 (St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing Co., 1903).

⁹ Longwisch, 1992, E 9.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

In an ironic twist, the other major problem with the school that was described as “too difficult to get to” was overcrowding. The next year, he once again addressed the access issue and then illustrated the crowding problem with a description of “double time sessions” at the high school in which two teachers would simultaneously teach an entire day’s lessons in half of a day before repeating the process with a second afternoon class.¹⁰

In 1902, the Board of Education decided to act upon the need for new branch high schools; one in the northern part of the City and one in the south. Designed to facilitate access, the sites chosen for the schools were embedded within dense, though still developing neighborhoods with excellent streetcar service. Unlike the system of neighborhood elementary schools, which largely drew from the population in their immediate vicinities, the high schools had to be accessible to students who lived throughout the City.

The site chosen for Yeatman (Central) was situated along the busy east-west thoroughfare of Natural Bridge Avenue. Sited to serve the City’s older north side neighborhoods immediately to its south and east, and many of the rapidly developing “suburban” neighborhoods immediately to its west and north, Yeatman (Central) was accessible to both older and new residential districts. Instructions for site selection took into consideration both the cost of land and proximity to at least one existing grammar school. In the case of Yeatman (Central), this school was the William Greenleaf Eliot School (extant), located one half mile to the north along Glasgow Avenue.

Elaboration

Ittner drew up plans for both McKinley and Yeatman (Central) High Schools in 1902 and by January 1, 1903, advertisements for “shovelers and teams” wanted to prepare the site of the school for construction had begun to appear in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.¹¹ Work appears to have progressed quickly and by the middle of March, Ittner was advertising for masons.¹² Construction of Yeatman (Central) and its sister school McKinley began roughly at the same time, though it appears that Yeatman may have progressed more rapidly as the building was described as nearing completion when McKinley’s cornerstone was laid.¹³ The school opened on September 6, 1904.¹⁴

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “Shovelers and Teams Wanted,” *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 1 January, 1903, 14.

¹² “Masons Wanted,” *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 15 March, 1903, A 3B

¹³ “New High School Exercises,” *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 22 October, 1902, 5.

¹⁴ “Post Dispatch Answers,” *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 19 August, 1904, 10.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

The exterior of Yeatman (Central) reflects specific aspects of Ittner's philosophy of design, although its level of stonework ornament seems somewhat more elaborate than that which the architect described as ideal in his 1905 report to the School Board. As noted in the MPDF:

[Ittner] described his use of hard red brick 'mixed as to color and laid up with a large bed joint in the garden wall or Flemish bond. Stone is used sparingly...and no attempt is made to accent any part of the building except the main entrance, which is generally dignified by fitting architectural treatment.'" However, the document does note that "[t]he stair towers on Ittner's schools were also often the subject of architectural embellishment – frequently taking the form of projecting Tudor towers"...
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It seems that with McKinley and Yeatman (Central), Ittner was still refining his opinions about ornament as both are lavishly adorned with stone trim surrounding every bay and stone quoins on every corner.

Ittner's design philosophy is however accurately reflected in the stylistic idiom of Yeatman (Central). He publicly stated that he believed "the old English Architecture" to be "the best" for school buildings, seemingly coming to this conclusion following a research sabbatical in Europe which ended immediately prior to his assignment to build the high schools.¹⁶ As noted in the MPDF, it was after 1900 that Ittner,

[f]ully developed the range of 'Jacobethan' motifs for which he became so well known. His first Jacobethan school design was the Wyman School in 1900 and beginning in 1901, Jacobethan became his preferred mode of design. Fully two thirds of the Ittner Schools contracted between 1901-1910 use some variation of this eclectic mix of Tudor and English Renaissance elements.¹⁷

Ittner's embrace of the Jacobethan style is clearly evident in Yeatman's towers, abundant stone trim, quoins, parapet balustrade, and ornamental brick bond.

Yeatman thrived in its first few years though enrollment in its first year (400 students) was markedly below its capacity of 1,000. However, the Board of Education's presumption that the

¹⁵ Longwisch, 1992, E 10.

¹⁶ "New Ideas in This St. Louis School House," St. Louis Post Dispatch, 11 November, 1900, A 14.

¹⁷ Longwisch, 1992, E 11.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

improvement in classroom conditions brought on by the expansion of the high school system would result in increased enrollment was correct with 1,300 students enrolled in the two schools in the 1904-05 school year.¹⁸ Enrollment quickly reached capacity and in 1907, two identical two-story rear additions were constructed extending eastward from the north and south wings. These additions were designed to house manual training courses, though the school itself was tasked with providing instruction in various trades as well as a science and humanities curriculum.¹⁹

In addition to general classrooms, the gymnasium, auditorium, lunch room, kitchen and library, the plans show the presence of classrooms dedicated to shorthand and typewriting, mechanical drawing, art, business, photography, machine and blacksmith shops. Of note, it appears that the 1907 rear additions were actually components of Ittner's original design whose construction was delayed for an unknown reason. Both appear on the original linens labeled as "future shop." The massive 1,000 seat auditorium and purpose-built gymnasium that Ittner included in Yeatman (Central) and McKinley, as well as the bathing facilities and restrooms located in upper floors were essentially all experimental concepts that the architect was testing. Later, these features would become standard aspects of Ittner schools. As such, in addition to the architect's adherence to exploring the advantages of the "Open" plan, with the high schools, he also used the opportunity to test and refine the design and placement of amenities that would become standard aspects of his future schools.

In the first decades of the 20th century, the population of the City boomed. Between 1900 and 1920 St. Louis grew by nearly 200,000 residents and the neighborhood surrounding Yeatman (Central) developed rapidly. Need for another high school in the vicinity was addressed by the construction of Beaumont High further to the west along Natural Bridge. For reasons that are unclear, Beaumont replaced Yeatman (Central) and all students and teachers were transferred to the new school when it opened in 1926.²⁰ This transfer proved to be incredibly timely because at the beginning of the next school year, a tornado swept across the north-central portion of St. Louis and severely damaged the original Central High School on North Grand. At this point, the students and faculty from the damaged, original Central were moved into the underutilized Yeatman, bringing the name of their former school with them. From 1927 onward, Yeatman became known as "Central" and the original Central was subsequently demolished."²¹

¹⁸ St. Louis Board of Education, 52nd Annual Report of the St. Louis Board of Education (St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing Co., 1906).

¹⁹ Longwisch, 1992, E 9.

²⁰ Norbury Wayman, History of St. Louis Neighborhoods, Fairground, (St. Louis: St. Louis Community Development Agency, 1982), 38.

²¹ Ibid.

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Conclusion

As an Ittner design conceived in 1902 and completed by 1907, Central High School is eligible to be considered under the Multiple Property Document *The St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner*, under the sub context “Refining of the ‘Open Plan’ in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910.” It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture. The school is an excellent example of a prototypical Open Plan and a superior specimen of educational architecture dating to the period when the St. Louis public schools served as a model district for cities across the nation. Ittner designed four monumental high schools in St. Louis; Central and its sister school McKinley were the first two and the only two that date to this period when the architect was refining his design ideas prior to 1910. As such, the assignment to design Central played an important role in allowing the architect to explore expensive and experimental features such as huge auditoria, purpose-built gymnasias, restrooms on upper floors and bath facilities in his design. These features would later appear in other Ittner-designed schools having proved their utility in the high schools.

Today, the St. Louis public schools of William B. Ittner are a source of pride for the neighborhoods in which they stand. Thankfully, while many are no longer in service as schools, their quality of design and construction enables them to be repurposed for a diverse array of modern functions. This adaptability ensures that the buildings will continue to grace St. Louis’ beautiful historic neighborhoods for generations to come.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

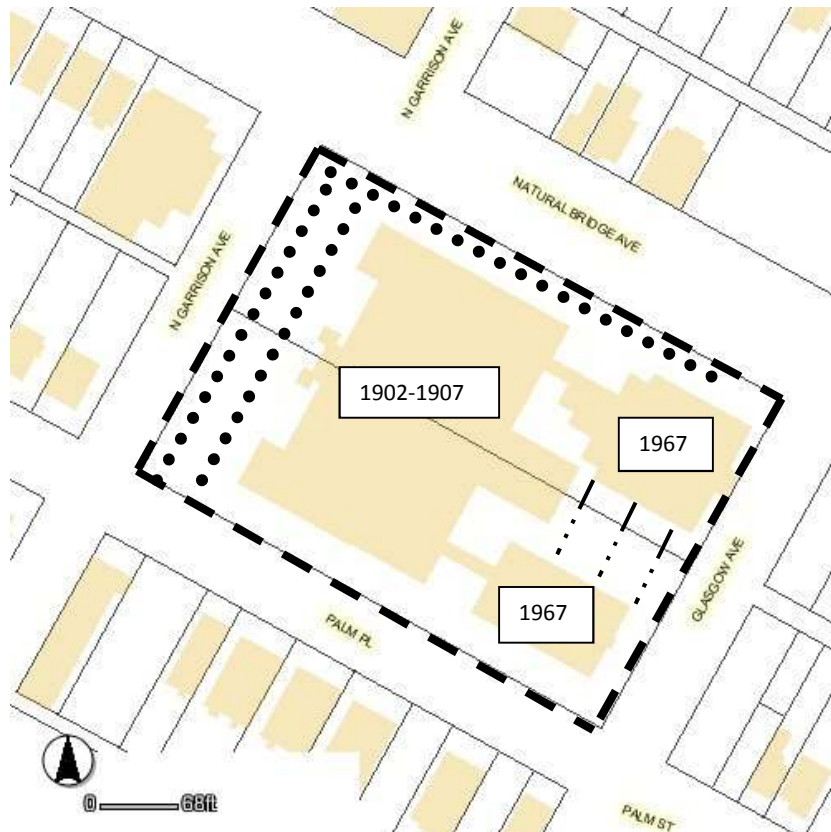
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Central High School
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools
of William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description: Central High School is located at 3616 Garrison Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, and occupies all of city block 5217. The parcel is bounded on the west by Garrison Avenue, the north by Natural Bridge Avenue, the east by Glasgow Avenue, and on the south by Palm Court.

Boundary Justification: The Boundaries described above encompass the city block that has been historically associated with Central School since its purchase by the St. Louis Public Schools in 1902.

- Landscaped area ●●●●●●●●●●
- Paved parking — · · · · · — · · · · ·
- Nominated to the National Register - - - - -



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Log Page 13

Central High School
St. Louis Public Schools of
William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

All photographs are of Central High School, located in the independent city of St. Louis, Missouri. All photographs were taken March 28, 2012 by Andrew B. Weil of Landmarks Association of St. Louis. Digital negatives are on file with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, MO.

Photo 1: Central Projecting Entry, Camera facing E

Photo 2: Primary Façade, Camera facing E

Photo 3: North Wing Façade, Camera facing SE

Photo 4: South Wing Façade, Camera facing NE

Photo 5: East Façade, 1967 South Addition (rear), Camera facing W

Photo 6: East Façade, 1967 North Addition (rear), Camera facing W

Photo 7: Rear of Main School Block between South and North 1967 Additions,
Camera facing W

Photo 8: Connection between 1967 North Addition (rear) and Main School, Camera facing NE

Photo 9: Entry Interior, Camera facing NE

Photo 10: 2nd Floor Classroom, Camera facing W

Figure list:

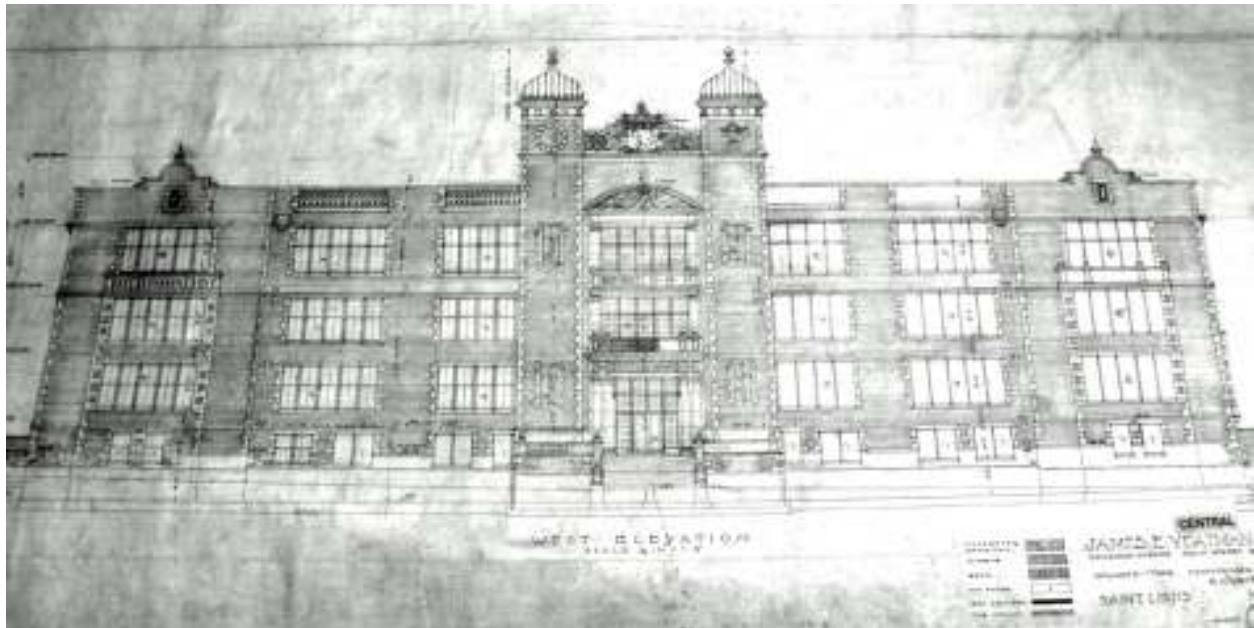
Primary elevation, plan drawing
Central entry, plan drawing
South wing, plan view
Third floor plan

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Central High School
St. Louis Public Schools of
William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

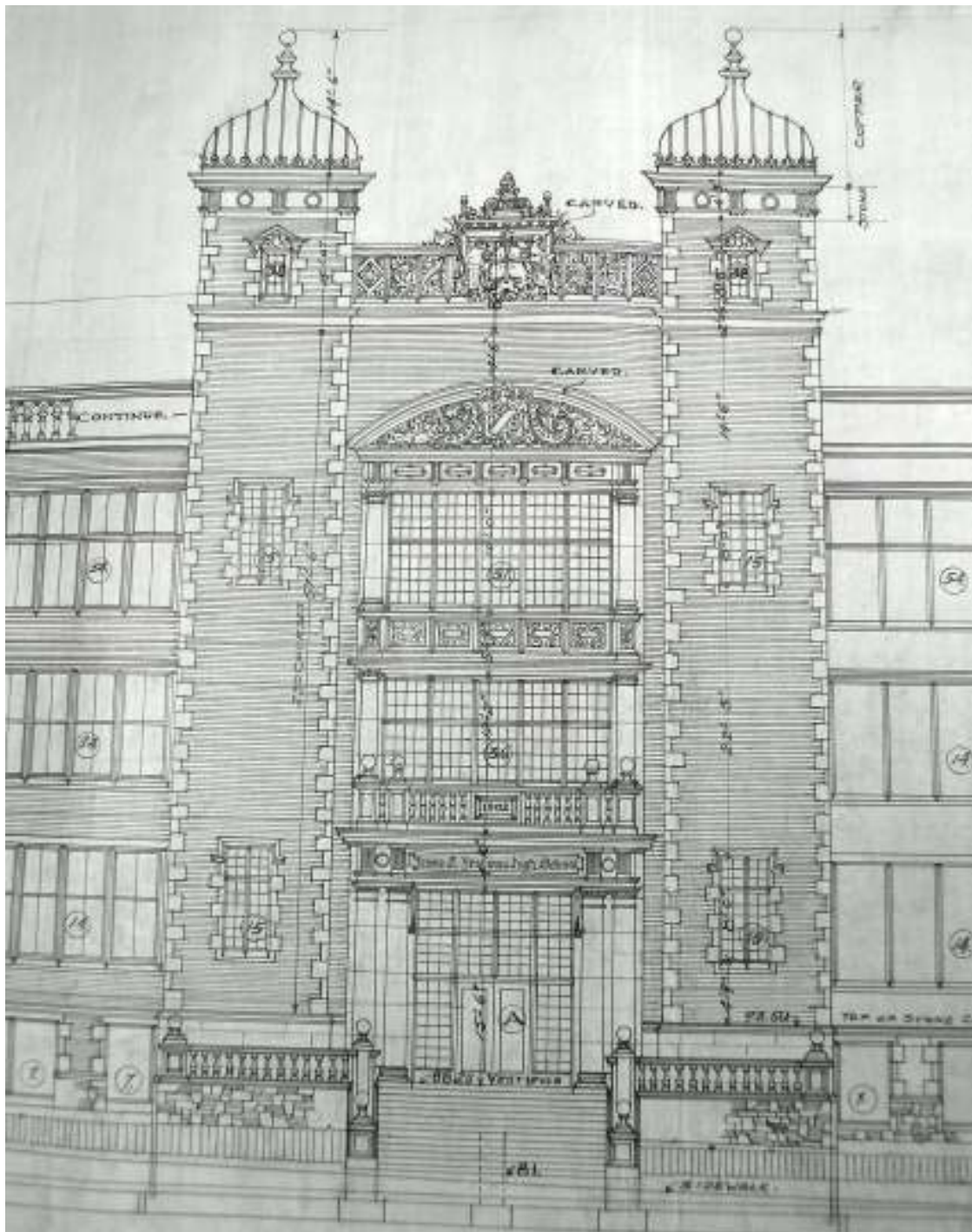
Primary Facade, Facing East.



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Continuation Sheet

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Central High School
St. Louis Public Schools of
William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri



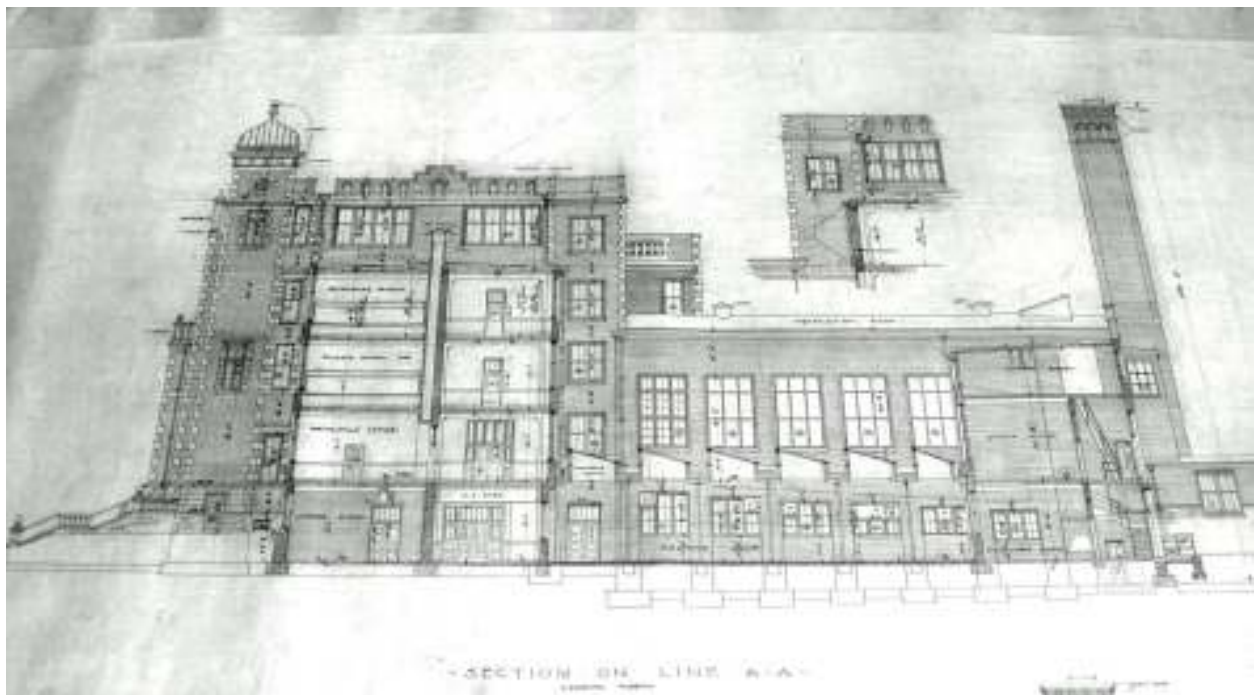
Central Entry, Primary (West) Facade

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Central High School
St. Louis Public Schools of
William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

South Wing, Plan View Facing North

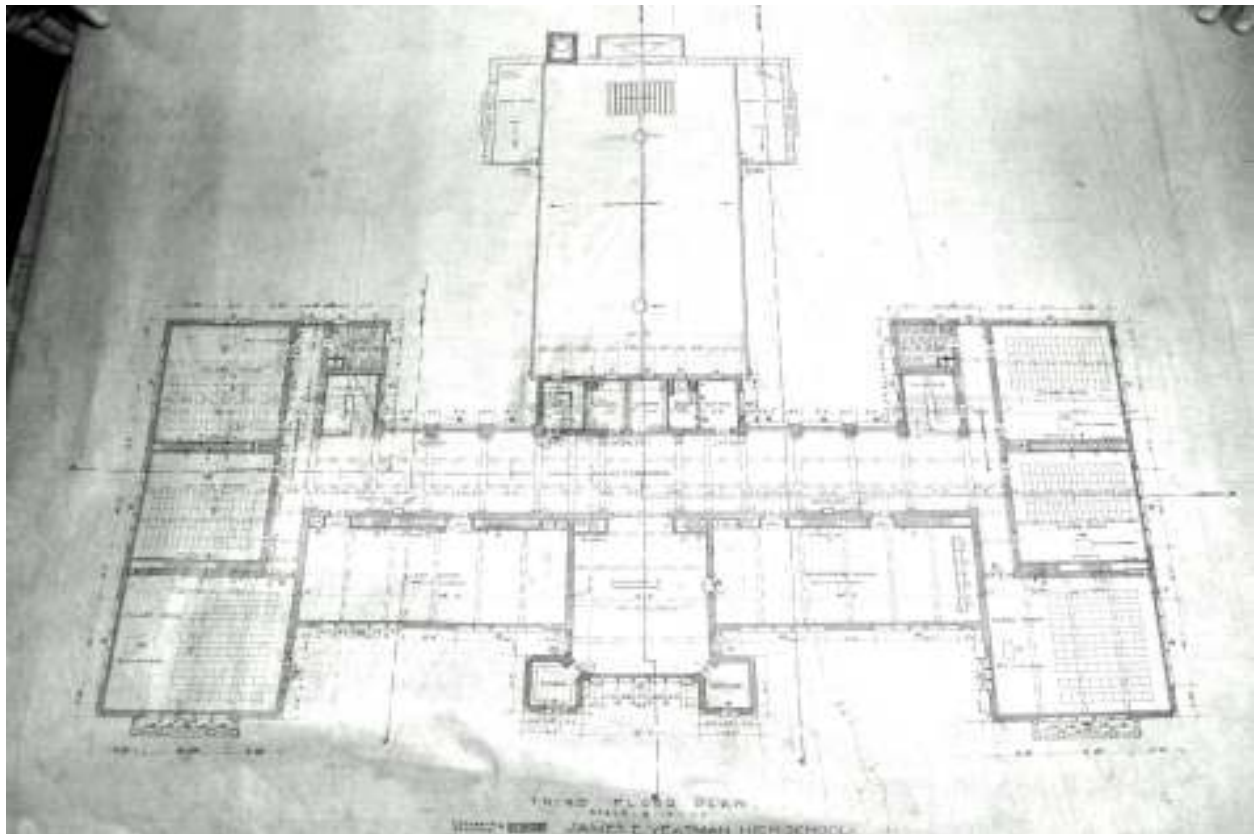


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

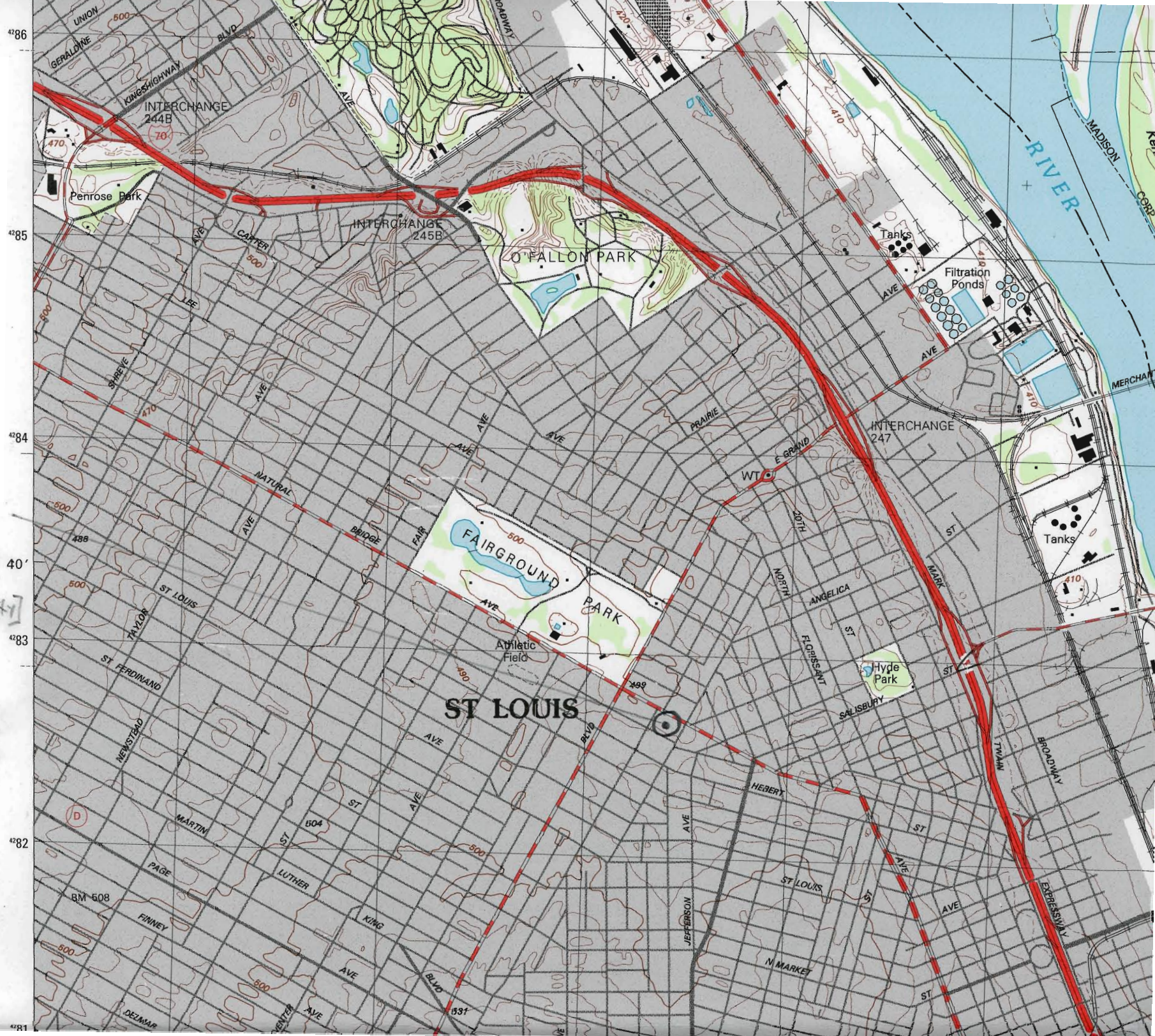
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Central High School
St. Louis Public Schools of
William B. Ittner
St. Louis, Independent City, Missouri

Plan View



Central
High school
3616 Garrison Ave.
St. Louis [Independent city]
Missouri
ZONE 15
Easting: 742,400
Northing: 4283,360





Westman High School

1902

















