

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 Baden School

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

2. Location

Street & number 8724 Halls Ferry Road

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Saint Louis

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County St. Louis [Independent City] Code 510 Zip code 63147

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D

B. K. Le DEPUTY SHPO 8-8-07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

Baden School
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Jacobethan/Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone
walls: BRICK
CONCRETE
roof: STONE: Slate, SYNTHETICS: Composite
other: METAL: Cast Iron
TERRA COTTA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Baden School
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

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: MO History Museum Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1907-08

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ittner, William B. (Architect)

Wall Brothers (Builder)

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.7

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.717662 -90.236380 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrew B. Weil/ Executive Director

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date 11/12/21

street & number 3115 S. Grand Blvd. Suite 700 telephone 314-421-6474

city or town St. Louis State MO zip code 63118

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**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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.

Baden School

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Baden School**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis**

County: **St. Louis Independent City** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Andrew Weil**

Date

Photographed: **9/3/21**

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

- 1 of 36: primary elevation facing northwest
- 2 of 36: east elevation and schoolyard stairs facing northwest
- 3 of 36: schoolyard and north elevation facing southwest
- 4 of 36: front (south) yard fence and gymnasium facing northwest
- 5 of 36: side (east) yard and fence facing south
- 6 of 36: gate at northwest corner of west yard
- 7 of 36: primary entrance, central block, facing north
- 8 of 36: primary elevation, central block, octagonal tower facing northwest
- 9 of 36: east elevation facing west
- 10 of 36: north elevation from schoolyard facing southwest
- 11 of 36: north elevation detail facing south
- 12 of 36: north elevation facing northwest
- 13 of 36: connection between school and gymnasium, primary elevation, facing northeast
- 14 of 36: west wall of gymnasium, facing east
- 15 of 36: north wall of gymnasium, facing southeast
- 16 of 36: east wall of gymnasium, facing west
- 17 of 36: south wall of gymnasium, facing west
- 18 of 36: east stair, first floor, facing south
- 19 of 36: transverse corridor, second floor, facing east
- 20 of 36: primary entrance stair, first floor, facing northwest
- 21 of 36: first floor classroom facing south
- 22 of 36: first floor woodwork window frame detail, central block, facing north
- 23 of 36: first/second floor entry window frame detail, central block, facing south
- 24 of 36: first floor woodwork window frame detail, central block, facing northwest
- 25 of 36: second floor, southeast classroom, facing north
- 26 of 36: first floor, northwest classroom, facing north
- 27 of 36: second floor, northwest classroom, facing north
- 28 of 36: second floor classroom, east half of building, facing east
- 29 of 36: ground floor entrance to octagonal tower stair, facing southeast
- 30 of 36: first floor transverse corridor, facing west
- 31 of 36: first floor transverse corridor, facing east
- 32 of 36: first floor stair, facing south
- 33 of 36: third floor lecture hall facing north
- 34 of 36: third floor lecture hall facing northeast

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35 of 36: third floor lecture hall beam and corbel detail, facing northeast

36 of 36: third floor lecture hall, facing north

Figure Log:

Figure 1: Boundary Map (St. Louis City Assessor's Office)

Figure 2: Location of Baden School within St. Louis City (Google Earth)

Figure 3: Setting of Baden School (Google Earth)

Figure 4: Historic Rendering of Baden School, Annual Report of the St. Louis Public School Board, 1908-09

Map 1: Plan of Baden School noting locations of exterior photographs (Urbanwerks Architecture)

Map 2: Existing Grade Level Plan noting locations of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architecture)

Map 3: Existing First Floor Plan noting locations of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architecture)

Map 4: Existing Second Floor Plan noting locations of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architecture)

Map 5: Existing Third Floor Plan noting locations of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architecture)

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Baden School
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State
St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

Baden School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE under the multiple property document Form (MPDF) "St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner."¹ There are three contributing resources: The school itself (one building), the original school parcel footprint, which includes the school yard, multiple walkways and terraced front yard landscaping (one site), and the historic cast iron boundary fence (one structure). The school is an excellent example of an "E-Open Plan" property type that clearly meets the registration requirements outlined by the MPDF. Baden represents a significant example of the property type executed by Ittner near the end of his tenure with the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS). The building was designed by architect William B. Ittner between 1906 and 1907, and completed in 1908. The masonry and reinforced concrete school is an example of Jacobethan Revival design mixed with Gothic and Tudor Revival elements. The school is situated in the Baden neighborhood of north St. Louis City atop a terraced lot that slopes down (southward) toward Halls Ferry Road. The building is a dominant presence in the neighborhood that evokes the feeling of a castle on high ground looming over the surrounding residential streets. The nominated resource is defined by a dominant central block that is reminiscent of a medieval keep with a recessed central entry, crenellated "battlements" and an engaged octagonal tower (complete with circular stair) that rises through the roofline. Tudor Arches are carried throughout the interior and exterior design vocabulary. While the classrooms and circulation spaces are generally utilitarian and are suffering from abandonment, original design elements are relatively intact. Interior oak window frames and built-in book cases are common as are original glazed brick wainscoting at the basement level. Baseboards and door surrounds of Tennessee Marble can be found throughout and newel posts clad with Italian Marble terminate the stair railings. The building is crowned with an elaborate third floor great hall auditorium with massive timber roof trusses reminiscent of the "Hammerbeam" construction found in English Gothic churches. Generally reserved for high schools, the MPDF asserts (and present research confirms) that auditoria are rare features among Ittner's elementary-level facilities; indeed such auditoria made their first appearance with Baden and Humboldt Elementary Schools in 1908.² The presence of auditoria in buildings is unfortunately not recorded on a building by building basis in the existing survey of Ittner Schools.³ The author is aware of auditoria present in: Baden, Humboldt, Oak Hill, Walnut Park and Mark Twain elementary schools, as well as Central and McKinley high schools.⁴ Alterations to Baden School consist primarily of blinded windows at the level of the raised basement and the addition of a non-historic one-story gymnasium addition that stands apart from the main building and is connected by an enclosed hallway or "hyphen". Baden School possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Setting

¹Cynthia Hill Longwisch, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document: The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner. Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service, Lynn Josse amendment 2000. Np.

² Ibid., p. E-10

³ Landmarks Association, "Final Report, Ittner Schools Survey". St. Louis, MO: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987.

⁴ Ibid., Andrew Weil, National Register of Historic Places Nomination: National Register of Historic Places: Mark Twain School. Washington, D.C.: US Department of Interior/National Park Service, 2011. : "Finnegan Orders Schools Checked for Fire Hazards" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 26 July, 1939.

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Baden Elementary School is located in the Baden neighborhood of far north St. Louis City (Figures 1-3). The school, along with the neighborhood, was named for the City of Baden, Germany, from whence many of its early residents emigrated.⁵ The neighborhood had its beginnings as a small crossroads town through which farmers from north St. Louis County passed on their way to the markets of St. Louis.⁶ The town grew in the mid 19th century a result of mass German migration to the area and came to be known unofficially as “Germantown”.⁷ Annexed by St. Louis City in 1876, Baden remained far-removed from the core of St. Louis’ settlement at the time and most residential development didn’t begin in earnest until the first decades of the 20th century.⁸

The surrounding neighborhood is dominated by residential subdivisions dating to the early 20th century with commercial corridors along North Broadway (formerly Bellefontaine Road) and the eastern end of Halls Ferry Road, historically the two most prominent roads in the town (Figure 2). The school is situated along the north/northeastern side of Halls Ferry Road on the high ground of the Mississippi River Bluffs just northwest of the North Broadway business district (Figure 2). It is mostly surrounded by single-family brick homes dating to the first decades of the 20th century as well as a cluster of substantial (contemporaneous) institutional buildings including two churches (New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist and Mt. Heron Baptist Church) and larger, modern healthcare and adult housing facilities including the descendent of what was originally the historic Baden Lutheran Altenheim to the south of the school at 8721 Halls Ferry Road (Figure 3).

The school sits on its original lot and the primary elevation faces Halls Ferry Road (Figures 1 and 3). The building is centered on a large triangular parcel flanked by Veronica Avenue (N), Newby Street (E), and Halls Ferry Road running on a northwest-southeast diagonal (Figures 1 and 3, Map 1, Photo 1). Situated at one of the highest points in the area, Baden school’s parcel slopes south downward toward Hall’s Ferry Road and the Broadway/Riverview commercial areas beyond. The school’s surrounding site (contributing) itself is relatively flat except for the terraced front yard (an original and intentional landscaping feature designed by Ittner) and the southeastern corner of the lot, which both follow the natural topography and slope downward toward the intersection of Newby and Halls Ferry (Photo 2-3). An original cast iron fence (contributing structure) with square pickets and square cast iron vertical posts surrounds most of the schoolyard (Photo 4-6).

The terracing of the school’s lot raises the primary façade well above the street, which emphasizes the dominant presence of the building amidst the more modest neighborhood buildings. The slope of the yard on the south side requires a central stair rising through two terraces to the primary entrance as well as three sets of stairs mounting three terraces at the southeast corner of the property that rise to the floor level of the building and the east schoolyard entrance (Photos 1-2). A walkway of similar heavy aggregate concrete construction on the west side of the building with brick retaining walls and stone coping once led to the west side schoolyard entrance to the building, but was truncated by the construction of the gymnasium hyphen in 1988 (Photo 13).

⁵ Norbury Wayman “History of St. Louis Neighborhoods: Baden-Riverview” <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/archive/neighborhood-histories-norbury-wayman/baden/index2.htm>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

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The two exterior stairs have heavy aggregate concrete risers situated between low brick walls capped with Bedford Limestone slab coping. These exterior walkways are considered to be a part of the contributing site rather than individual contributing structures.

A sidewalk and the original cast iron fence (contributing structure) with square pickets and square cast iron vertical posts surrounds most of the schoolyard (Photos 4-6). The fence originally had spear point finials on its posts, but almost all were sawn off at an unknown point in time, presumably by the SLPS for safety reasons. The original fence configuration survives at the northwest corner gate (Photo 6). Despite these alterations, the fence is considered a contributing structure. The fence has openings at each corner of the lot. All openings are simple breaks in the enclosure with the exception of the northwest corner, which has an original gate with decorative "C" scrolls above the top rail, the three remaining spear finials, and portions of an older brick-paved sidewalk (Photo 6). There is also a gap in the fence flanked by brick piers that provides access to the concrete sidewalk and terraced stairs that lead to the primary entrance. An original cast iron sign identifying Baden School by name was situated near the front entry and was originally considered to be a contributing object, but it was stolen presumably for scrap.

Along the eastern perimeter of the school yard is a 6ft tall chain-link fence (non-contributing and not counted—visible Photos 2 and 9). The original school yard (rear—north) would have been paved with Macadam as specified by Ittner, but is now covered in asphalt (Photo 3). The landscaped front yard is primarily grassy with a number of mature trees framing the entrance and growing in a cluster at the northwest corner of the property (Photo 1).

Form and Materials

Baden Elementary School follows Ittner's "E-Plan" (aka "Open" Plan) building form as defined by the "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner" MPDF.⁹ The school has a symmetrical façade with the exception of a single engaged tower at the east (right) hand side of its central pavilion (Photos 1 and 7). The school has a long center block (oriented east-west) paralleling Halls Ferry Road with the aforementioned central pavilion and terminal wings projecting from the wall plain (Figure 3). These projections are more pronounced at the rear (north) elevation of the building on the first and second floors (Figure 3). Following Ittner's typical Open plan, the school is two stories high with a raised basement. The central block contains a single loaded transverse corridor on the first and second floors providing access to four classrooms. Stairs are situated at either end of the building where the corridor meets the end wings (Maps 2-4). The ground floor level of contains a mix of uses and spaces including boiler rooms, restrooms, playrooms, and storage, while the upper floors contain classrooms and offices. An unusual feature of the building is a grand third floor lecture hall in the central pavilion which extends above the rest of the two story school (Photos 1, 7-8, Map 5).

⁹ Cynthia H. Longwisch, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document: The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner. Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1992. Sec F, p. 5.

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With the exception of a one-story gymnasium that is connected to the main body of the school by a hyphen (1988) the building retains its original form, materials, scale, fenestration and it is situated in its original location amidst original landscaping (Figures 1,3,4).

Roof

While many of Ittner's schools feature prominent pitched roofs, Baden's roof is mostly invisible from the street and is primarily composed of low, cross-hipped sections obscured by a surrounding brick parapet wall (Figure 3). Sloped sections of the roof (the central axis, the two terminal wings, and the central pavilion) are clad in original green slate although it is difficult to see from the ground (Photo 9).

Four rectangular ventilation shafts disguised as chimneys pierce the roof of the central block on the north side of the ridge (Figure 3). These chimneys feature complex corbelling and the distinctive "diaper" brick bond used on the upper floors of the school. They also feature limestone string courses topped by a terminal section featuring elaborate fluted brickwork (Photos 10-12). There is also a smaller, but similar exterior chimney extending from the roofline on the east side of the central crenelated block. Finally, there is a tall exhaust stack for the boiler that extends from the northeast corner of the rear, central projecting section (Photo 12). The boiler chimney mirrors the appearance of the others, but is square in plan and rises as a free standing stack for more than a story above its second floor origin.

STONE & BRICK

(Photos 1-3, 7-9) Per the specifications Ittner provided to the SLPS Board, the ground floor of the school is constructed of red, vitrified brick laid in Flemish Bond. The first and second floors are a "mix of 75% hard red brick and 25% vitrified, variegated brick mixed haphazardly as to color..."¹⁰ The third floor and the upper level of the central pavilion and the tower are "alternating courses of Flemish, Garden Wall, stretcher and header courses to created a 'diaper' effect."¹¹ Machine-dressed limestone string courses delineate each floor. Indeed limestone adds visual and textural context across the exterior with extensive use of the material as drip moulds, hoods, door and window surrounds, coping, and on the crenellations of the central pavilion. The building's stone foundation is obscured on all elevations.

WINDOWS

(Photos 7-9, 10-12) Windows are a mixture of fixed, double-hung, single-hung, and pivot, sash. All sash have wooden muntins and mullions that are a mixture of original, historic or replica replacements fabricated by SLPS carpenters/glazers prior to the closure of the district's carpentry shop in the late 20th century. Original fenestration patterns and window construction are remarkably intact as evidenced by comparison with a historic rendering of the building (Figure 4). The exception to this statement is that many of the grade level windows were blinded with brick masonry by the SLPS at an unknown time, and some others on the schoolyard (north) side were covered by protective metal screens.

Exterior: Map 1, Photos 1-17

¹⁰ Ittner, William B. "Specifications for the Erection of Baden School" (St. Louis, St. Louis Board of Education) 1905 pp 34-35.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Primary (South) Elevation

(Photo 1) The central block parallels the Halls Ferry Road with the central pavilion and terminal wings projecting slightly from the longitudinal wall plane. The façade's symmetry is interrupted only by the presence of the three story engaged tower adjacent (right) to the primary entrance. The primary façade has five distinct sections. Each section has a fenestration pattern that is carried vertically through each floor. Spaced evenly in the parapet are round scuppers from which copper downspouts have been removed.

(Photo 1) The eastern and western terminal wings project from the plane of the central block. They are identical in form and fenestration. On the ground level are two individual windows close together and centered on the wall. They are 6/6 light, double-hung wood sash. On the first and second floors in the same central location, are paired 12-light wooden pivot sash windows divided by a heavy wooden mullion.

(Photo 1) The fenestration of the two sections of the central block between the terminal wings and the projecting central entry pavilion are also identical. The ground floor contains 12 window openings, nine of which still contain 4/4 light, double-hung wood sash. Moving from the entry pavilion toward the terminal wing the fenestration pattern is as such: a pair of window openings (blind), an individual window, a pair of windows, a pair of windows, a section of blind wall followed by two more pairs of windows and an individual blind window opening.

(Photo 1) The first and second floor of the central block between the entry pavilion and the terminal wings share a fenestration pattern. Each side of the central block contains seven window bays. The bay closest to the entry pavilion contains a ribbon of three, 12 light pivot sash wooden windows beneath six light pivot sash transoms. The next bay contains a single 12 light pivot sash window. The next four bays each contain the previously described three, 12 light pivot sash beneath six light pivot sash transoms. The final bay before the projecting terminal wing contains the previously described single 12 light pivot sash window. All windows openings on the first floor are situated in flat arch bays with steel strap lintels and brick rowlock sills. Above the flat arches is a projecting limestone string course or drip cornice that spans the length of the façade. The second floor window bays have flat brick soldier course lintels and rowlock brick sills.

(Photo 7) The projecting central entry pavilion is the only asymmetrical portion of the façade. The monumental entry is situated within a 1.5 story Tudor arch with multi-light limestone surround and label mould. The entry is constructed of machine dressed limestone and its associated windows have heavy limestone mullions. Within the arch is a 3-light window with single sidelights. On either side of the entry are 3-light sidelights and a 3-light transom above. The doorway contains paired replacement doors constructed of wood and tempered glass. Above the doors, the name of the school and a quatrefoil are carved in relief.

Next to the entry (offset right/east) is a three-and-a-half-story engaged octagonal tower (Photo 7). The tower's brickwork matches that of the rest of the façade with multiple bonds and floors delineated by limestone string courses some of which retain original copper coping. The tower contains a cast-iron spiral staircase that extends up to the former third floor lecture hall/library. Four 8-light wood casement

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windows illuminate the stair. Ittner's original specifications for the tower called for electric lights that were wired to be activated by the tower's doors to ensure that the steep stairs were automatically illuminated when people were present.¹² While an integral component of the aesthetic design of the building, this tower also served as an intentional alternative means of egress from the third floor auditorium that could assist in the event of emergencies.¹³

Above the central entry, on the second floor is a single large rectangular bay containing a 6x3 grid of windows (Photo 7). The bay has a brick rowlock sill and a flat brick soldier course arch under a limestone label mould. The windows are six light wooden sash arranged in six vertical columns of three windows. The lower two windows of each column are 6/6 double hung wooden sash and the upper window is a six light vertical pivot sash.

On the third story (Photo 7), there is a centered rectangular window bay containing a ribbon of four, 12-light wooden pivot sash beneath a 9-light pivot sash. The windows are separated by heavy wood mullions and rails. The window bay has a limestone sill formed by the stone string course/drip mould that encircles the entire floor. It has a flat brick soldier course arch under a limestone label mould. The top of the third floor has a limestone string course/drip mould that delineates the ceiling level from the crenelated parapets. The battlements have limestone coping. Centered on the parapet is a square, limestone relief depicting a woman and two children. The octagonal tower rises to a level above the crenelated parapet and has small rectangular window bays (unglazed) and limestone capped crenelations. The string courses/drop moulds on all levels of the central pavilion and the crenelations largely retain original sheet copper coping.

Eastern Elevation (Photo 9)

The ground floor of the eastern elevation has blind window bays with rowlock sills and arches formed by brick string courses. The windows were not originally blind. A limestone string course/drip mould spans the elevation at the first floor level. The first floor contains four window bays, each containing ribbons of three, 6/12 light, double-hung wooden sash. The window bays have brick rowlock sills and brick soldier arches. A limestone string course/drip mould delineates the first and second floors. The first floor fenestration pattern is repeated on the second floor. A flat parapet wall rises above the base of the hipped roof and is pierced by two round arch openings or scuppers through which drainpipes historically ran. Behind the parapet the hipped roof of the wing can be seen clad in original green slate.

Northern Elevation (Photos 3 and 10)

The northern elevation of the building faces the asphalt paved schoolyard and mirrors the form of the primary (south) elevation in that the two terminal wings and central pavilion project from the plane of the central school block.

The ground floor of the northern elevation contains twenty four window bays, two doors (each providing access to the stairs in the terminal wings, and two service doors that provide access to the

¹² Report of the BOE, 1908-09. P. 193

¹³ "Finnegan Orders Schools Checked for Fire Hazards", *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 26 July, 1939.

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utility rooms. The window bays all have brick rowlock sills and brick soldier arches. Ten of the window bays have been blinded with brick, one retains a pair of wooden 6/6 double hung wooden sash (the original fenestration), and twelve retain pairs of 6/6 double hung wooden sash that are obscured by non-historic metal screens. On either side of the central pavilion, the ground floor roof is capped with a low, non-historic corrugated metal fence that was probably erected to keep balls and other playground materials from getting trapped on the inaccessible roof.

Northern Elevation, Eastern Wing and Western Wings (Photos 3 and 10)

The east and west wings of the northern elevation are identical. Both contain a large entry bay with a paired non-historic security door flanked by sidelights beneath a five light fixed transom. These doors provide access to the ground floor and the stair halls. The entryways are unadorned and situated beneath brick soldier arches. Above the entries a large rectangular window bay straddles the first and second floor levels. This bay contains nine, 12-light wooden pivot sash windows that light the stair hall. A limestone string course/drip mould delineates the first and second floors. The first and second floor of each wing contains a single window bay with a brick rowlock sill and a brick rowlock arch. Each bay contains a pair of 12-light wooden pivot sash.

On either side of the wings is the first and second floor hallway block. Like the wings, both hallway sections (on either side of the central pavilion) are identical with first and second floors delineated by limestone drip mould. The hallway blocks contain four window bays on the first and second floor. These bays have brick rowlock sills and brick rowlock arches and contain four pairs of 6/12 double hung wooden sash windows.

Northern Elevation, Central Pavilion (Photo 3)

The symmetry of the north elevation is interrupted by a three story rectangular chimney with fluted cap at the left (east) corner of the central pavilion. Like the terminal wings, the central pavilion projects northward from the wall plane of the central hall block. The east and west elevations of the central block each contain two window bays on the first and second floors. These bays contain pairs of 6/12 double hung wooden sash with brick rowlock sills and brick rowlock arches (Photos 11-12).

(Photo 3) The first floor of the central pavilion contains three window bays. The central bay is a projecting box bay that rises through the first floor into the second. The first floor box bay opening is five windows wide and each compound window arrangement consists of two, four light wooden hopper sash beneath a nine light wooden pivot sash. This bay has a brick rowlock sill and a flat stone arch formed by the limestone string course/drip mould.

(Photo 3) On either side of the box bay on the first floor is a single rectangular window bay with a brick rowlock sill and flat limestone lintel formed by the limestone string course/drip mould. These bays contain a ribbon of three 6/12 double hung wooden sash.

(Photo 3) The second floor contains four window bays with brick rowlock sills and arches. Each bay contains a ribbon of three, 6/12 double hung wooden sash.

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(Photo 3) The third floor of the central pavilion is recessed from the plane of the two story portion and aligns with the wall plane of the corridor. It contains three window bays. The central bay has a brick rowlock sill and brick soldier arch and contains a ribbon of four, 9/12 wooden pivot sash. On either side of the central bay is a rectangular window bay with brick rowlock sills and arches containing a pair of 4/6 double hung sash. The third floor ceiling level is delineated from the raised parapet level by a limestone string course/drip mould. The parapet wall has brick crenelations with limestone coping. The third floor has a pyramidal roof clad in green slate. A brick ventilation shaft with fluted cap rises from the eastern portion of the third floor roof.

(Photo 3) At the roof level of the corridor sections of the building are two pairs of brick ventilation shafts with fluted caps. Three of these retain original hipped roofs covered with red terra cotta tile.

Western Elevation (Photos 13-17) is configured in the same way as the eastern elevation with the exception that is attached to the non-historic, one story gym addition. The fenestration pattern is as follows (Photo 17): the ground floor originally had ten window bays with rowlock sills and arches formed by brick string courses. The windows are blinded with brick, but were not originally blind. Of these original ground floor bays, four are obscured by the attached gymnasium (non-historic). A limestone string course/drip mould spans the remaining exposed portion of the elevation at the first floor level.

(Photo 17) The first floor contains four window bays, each containing ribbons of three, 6/12 light, double-hung wooden sash. The window bays have brick rowlock sills and brick soldier arches. A limestone string course/drip mould delineates the first and second floors. The first floor fenestration pattern is repeated on the second floor. A flat parapet wall rises above the base of the hipped roof and is pierced by two round arch openings or scuppers through which drainpipes historically ran. Behind the parapet the hipped roof of the wing can be seen clad in original green slate.

Gymnasium

(Photos 13-16) Attached to the west wing of the building by a short enclosed hallway (Photo 13) is a brick veneer gymnasium constructed in 1988.¹⁴ This gym addition has an exterior entrance featuring three doors and three, six light fixed transoms on its western elevation (Photo 13). Both the gym and the connecting hall have flat roofs and are faced in variegated brick laid in bonds that match those of the ground and first floor of the main school (Photos 14-16). The gym is devoid of fenestration and has a single exterior door on its west wall and a limestone drip cornice delineating the ground floor from the first floor levels (Photos 14-15). The gymnasium addition does not impact the form of the original school and its variegated brick exterior does not distract the eye from the primary building. In accordance with the requirements of the MPDF, the gym does not obstruct the adjoining elevation; it is one story in height and is attached to the main body of the school in an unobtrusive fashion.

Interior (Maps 2-5, Photos 18-36)

Comparison of existing conditions with Ittner's book of specifications indicates that despite a prolonged period of vacancy, the interior finishes of Baden School remain substantially intact if degraded. Details

¹⁴ Landmarks Association of St. Louis. St. Louis Public Schools Architectural Survey, 1987-1988. On file, Landmarks Association, 3115 S. Grand Blvd, Suite 700, St. Louis, MO 63118. Np.

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like marble wall trim (Photos 18-19), wrought iron (Photo 20), interior hand crafted oak window and door frames (Photos 21-24), glazed and enameled brick (Photo 25) and built-in classroom cabinetry (Photos 26-28) testify to the architect's insistence on high quality materials.

The original layout of classrooms, offices, and special use areas has not been altered (Maps 2-5). Classrooms are arranged on the south, east, and west sides of the central hallway which runs the length of the school on an east-west axis (Maps 3-4). With the exception of the portion that passes through the central block, the hallway is single-loaded. This is a feature of Ittner schools that maximizes the penetration of natural light from multiple angles as it passes through both exterior windows and hallway transoms.

The raised basement (Map 2, "grade level") historically contained playrooms, support functions (janitorial), restrooms, and mechanical equipment. Understanding that dark basement rooms with poor ventilation and furnace/boiler machinery had traditionally posed a fire threat, Ittner favored raised basements because they allowed for large windows which furnished light, air, and potential means of emergency egress and Baden is no exception. While many of the original basement windows are now blinded with masonry infill, the fenestration pattern remains intact. The MPDF is silent with regard to the impact of blinding windows on "E-Plan" buildings, but on the similar "H-Plan" buildings it states that such alterations to the basement level are "unfortunate, but reversible".¹⁵

The primary entrance is centered on the building and features a grand interior stair that connects the raised basement level to the first floor hallway. At the southeast corner of the primary entrance is a doorway that leads to an intact cast iron spiral stairway which provides access to the top of the round tower (Photo 29).

Central transverse hallways run across the first floor (Photos 30-31) and second floor (Photo 22). These hallways possess original wooden floors although they are not in good condition. Classrooms are situated off of both of these corridors (Photos 26-28). The corridors terminate in stairs that pass from the first to the second floor. The stairs (Photos 18 and 32) have marble treads and risers and original wooden coping on balustrades. Original quarter-sawn red oak doors, trim, cabinetry, mullions, wardrobes, and chalkboard surrounds are abundant (photos 21-24, 26-28). Original interior glazing has unfortunately been impacted by vandalism, but wooden window frames and cabinetry casing remain intact.

The third floor is (Map 5) is essentially one large lecture hall with a remarkable wooden ceiling (Photos 33-36). The room's dominant feature is this ceiling, which is reminiscent of a Medieval English Gothic chapel with impressive hammer beam construction. Hammerbeam construction is a type of roof truss system that allows for large interior spaces to be spanned using assemblies of relatively short beams. This is accomplished by using curved braces that project from wall pockets or corbels and extend into the vaulted ceiling space to support the structural beams. These beams in turn support the roof rafters.

¹⁵ Cynthia H. Longwisch, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document: The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner. Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 1992 (Revised, 2000).p. F 7

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This kind of construction allowed early architects and carpenters to span large spaces without relying on enormous tie beams that were large enough to span the entire space themselves. Baden's lecture hall features carved stone corbels that support such a roof system allowing the full volume of the space to remain open and flooded with light from floor-to-ceiling windows.

Integrity

Alterations to Baden School are minor; the exterior of the building remains almost completely unaltered as evidenced by comparison with a historic rendering (Figure 4). The most substantial exception to this assessment is the 1988 gymnasium addition that connects to a portion of the western elevation with a narrow hyphen. The SLPS enacted a program to update almost all of its schools with small gymnasium additions in the 1980s and 1990s, but the buildings were designed to be unobtrusive and in most cases went to significant lengths to match the brick walls of the main building in terms of both color(s) and bond. Baden's gym falls into the category of a careful addition in that it does not distract from, overwhelm, or substantively impact the design of the main school building.

Baden's original organization of interior space and many original details and finishes are intact, though in varying states of disrepair. Inspection of historic interior woodwork (specifically interior windows and cabinetry) indicates that while many glass lights are broken, the woodwork itself remains sound.

Exterior windows are a mix of original wooden sash and replica multi-light wooden sash fabricated by SLPS staff craftsmen prior to the closure of the System's carpentry shop in the late 20th century. Windows seem to have been replaced on an "as needed" basis with wooden sash that copied the originals. Differentiation of historic and replacement sash is difficult in many cases as materials remain consistent and hardware was sometimes reused, but levels of "wear and tear" vary from sash to sash. With that said, Figure 4 provides evidence of how well the primary elevation at least reflects original fenestration.

Some window bays, particularly on the ground floor, have been blinded with masonry. These alterations were made by the SLPS when the building was actively being used as a school. It is unclear why these bays were sealed, but it was likely for security purposes. Interior alterations essentially consist of acoustic drop ceilings in some (but not all classrooms), some replacement of original doors, and covering of some (but not all) floor treatments with non-historic products. Vandalism and neglect have caused damage to the interior of the school' broken glass, peeling paint, and water damage abound. Still, the interior design, form, and materials remain largely intact and salvageable.

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Statement of Significance

Baden School, located at 8724 Halls Ferry Road in St. Louis, Missouri is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C for Architecture with a 1907-1908 Period of Significance. Designed by William B. Ittner, construction began in 1907 and was opened in 1908. Baden is an excellent example of an "E Plan" school as defined by the "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner" multiple property document ("The MPDF").¹⁶ The building is associated with the context "Refining the Open Plan, 1902-1910" and represents Ittner's arrival at his preferred and ultimate school form after years of study and experimentation. Constructed just two years before Ittner left his position as St. Louis' Superintendent of School Buildings, (his career with the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) lasted from 1897- 1910) Baden incorporates design concepts that the architect evolved through years of constant study, evaluation and revision of both his own designs for the SLPS, for whom he executed 50 works, and school buildings he toured across the United States, England, and continental Europe.¹⁷ By focusing on things like natural lighting, ventilation, sanitation, safety, the incorporation of progressive technologies like air purification systems, central heating, indoor plumbing, fireproofing, and classroom telephones, Ittner revolutionized school design in St. Louis and beyond. A consummate designer, he situated his innovations in form and function within attractive buildings on landscaped lots which were intended to inspire and generate a sense of awe among students. Having never designed a school when he was hired by the SLPS in 1897, Ittner went on to design approximately 500 schools nationwide during his career and became an influential force in American institutional architecture.¹⁸

Elaboration

The MPDF documents Ittner's efforts to refine school design and identifies four school building subtypes found in St. Louis; these subtypes are defined as "H., U., Cruciform, and E-shaped" plans. Collectively these designs reflect the lessons the architect learned while working for the SLPS and culminated with his ultimate "E, Open" plan embodied by Baden. The exact number of "E, Open" plan schools in St. Louis is not noted by the MPDF, and given the age of the document and the ongoing loss of the City's historic school architecture, a new survey would be required to ascertain this information.

However, the MPDF does state that late in his SLPS career, such schools became his preferred design, the plan for which he became most widely known, and the plan which was recognized and emulated across the country.¹⁹

To date, fourteen of Ittner's St. Louis school designs have been listed in the National Register for architectural merit under the aegis of The MPDF. Currently three examples of his early "U-shaped" buildings have been listed along with two "H-shaped", two "Cruciform" and seven "E-shaped" schools, although one (Hempstead) suffered a major fire and is likely to be demolished.²⁰ Baden School

¹⁶ Longwisch, 1992 revised 2000 pp. 3-4

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 3-4,4-6

¹⁸ Ibid., Section F. p.1

¹⁹ Ibid., Section F.p. 5-6

²⁰ The existing E, Open Plan SLPS buildings that are listed in the National Register are: Central High School (1902), Harris Teacher's College (1905), Hempstead (1906, to be demolished), Mann (1901), Mark Twain (1910-12),

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represents an “E-shaped” form indicative of Ittner’s most fully evolved design concepts of form, function, and aesthetics.²¹ All of these E-Plan listings represent primarily aesthetic stylistic variations upon a common system of form and function which is defined by the listing requirements in the MPDF (elaborated below).

The building reflects the architect’s signature aesthetic eye with elaborate brickwork, stone coping and stringcourses, fluted chimneys, landscaped grounds, and a sense of scale and dignity that commands respect. Individually, Baden is unusual in that it is reminiscent of a medieval keep with a massive recessed central entry beneath a Tudor Arch, crenelated “battlements” and an engaged octagonal tower (complete with circular stair) that rises through the roofline (Photos 1, 7-8: Figure 4). Tudor Arches are carried throughout both the interior and exterior design vocabulary (Photos 20-24). While the classrooms and circulation spaces are generally utilitarian, the building is crowned with an elaborate third floor great hall with timber roof trusses reminiscent of the “Hammerbeam” construction found in English Gothic churches (Photos 33-36). The building retains its characteristic plan, scale, roof shape, fenestration, materials, landscaping and possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Surviving St. Louis Public School Building Context (1868-1929)

Between 1987 and 1988, the Landmarks Association of St. Louis conducted a comprehensive architectural survey of all the city’s extant public school buildings constructed prior to World War II.²² This survey identified defining characteristics, typologies, and periods that help to organize St. Louis’ school architecture. The intent of the survey was to provide baseline data that future scholars could continue to use in their studies of St. Louis’ school buildings. Baden School falls into the latter period of William Ittner’s career when his ideas about pedagogical architecture were fully fledged. This period is defined by the MPDF as the period in which the architect was “Refining the Open Plan.”

The following is a short overview of the manner in which the survey of the City’s schools, and the subsequent MPDF that focused narrowly on Ittner, categorized St. Louis’ school buildings prior to Ittner’s tenure and during it. Because Ittner designed the largest group of extant school buildings and was the by far the most influential SLPS architect, the survey was divided into three sections: “Pre-Ittner designs,” “Ittner designs,” and “Post-Ittner designs.”²³ This overview relies upon the first two categories in an effort to provide context for where St. Louis school buildings were when Ittner arrived, and the changes he effected during his career.

Pre-Ittner Schools

The survey identified twenty six schools constructed prior to the beginning of Ittner’s career with the SLPS, which began in 1897. Prior to Ittner’s arrival, most of the city’s schools had been designed on a building by building basis (with instruction from the Board of Education) by a variety of different

Wyman (1900) and Baden’s “sister school” Walnut Park (1909). <https://mostateparks.com/page/84916/st-louis-city-national-register-listings> viewed on 2/13/22.

²¹ Longwisch, 1992 revised 2000 p. 2

²² Landmarks Association of St. Louis. St. Louis Public Schools Architectural Survey, 1987-1988. Np.

²³ Ibid.

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architects.²⁴ Buildings dating to this period have frequently been listed based on a temporal typological classification as “Early St. Louis School Buildings.”

The surviving early “Pre-Ittner” school buildings in St. Louis are two or three stories in height (* this does not take into account the many existing warehouses, tenements, and institutional buildings that were purchased or rented for expedient school purposes).²⁵ They are universally constructed of local red brick and generally had four rooms per floor connected by a central hall.²⁶ While the buildings are essentially rectangular in plan, their primary façades frequently have a projecting central section that either contains a door or is flanked by doors.²⁷ The central section usually has a pediment and dentil cornice.²⁸ As historian Ni Ni Harris notes, the early schools, or “school houses” as they were known were utilitarian, but dignified and intended to be monuments to learning.²⁹ Most of these schools survive in altered states because they were expanded by later architects as student populations grew, but have still been recognized as eligible for listing in the National Register as examples of early St. Louis school types. For context on “Pre-Ittner” school buildings and how they were enlarged by later architects, see Weil, 2016.³⁰

Examples from this period include the original Lyon School, which dates to 1868 and is a contributing component of the National Historic Landmark campus of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery (NR and NHL 11/13/66). Des Peres School (NR 9/2/82, c.1873), Carondelet School (NR 3/21/07, c.1871), Irving School (a contributing resource in the Hyde Park Certified Local Historic District, c.1871) and the Adams School (c. 1878).³¹ Examples from the 1880s include two buildings that H.W. Kirchner designed in 1882: Blair (NR 2/10/83) and Gratiot (NR 4/19/16).³²

Ittner Buildings

William B. Ittner is regarded as a highly influential architect of American educational buildings.³³ A native of St. Louis, he made significant strides in the evolution of school design while serving as Commissioner of School Buildings for the SLPS from 1897-1914. In all, he designed approximately forty nine schools in St. Louis as well as an estimated 500 other institutions nationwide.³⁴ Landmarks’ school survey led to the creation of a Multiple Property Registration Document in 1992 entitled “The St. Louis Public Schools of William B. Ittner” which identified a number of types and significant characteristics of Ittner’s schools. According to the document:

²⁴ Longwisch 1992 revised 2000 p. F. 2

²⁵ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987-88

²⁶ Ni Ni Harris, “Rare School Houses.” *Carondelet Historical Society Newsletter*, Summer, 2014, p.1

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Andrew Weil, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Gratiot School*. (Washington D.C.: Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 2016).

³¹ Ibid., p.9

³² Ibid.

³³ Longwisch, 1992 revised 2000 p. E 5-6

³⁴ Longwisch, 1992 revised 2000 p. F 1

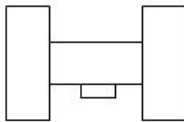
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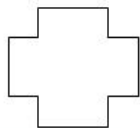
William Ittner's St. Louis schools were designed in several categories or subtypes, beginning with the H-plan elementary schools and continuing with the cruciform, U-plan and finally the E-plan elementary schools. These were followed by high schools and colleges, in which he continued his basic tenets of design while significantly expanding the scale. While the first two plans were early concepts for Ittner and little used afterward, the U- and E-plans were employed extensively throughout the rest of his career. These subtypes were modified as Ittner refined his concepts according to need, becoming more sophisticated in conception as he evolved as a designer.³⁵

The MPDF defines the following eligible subtypes of Ittner Schools:



H Plan:

"A three story block paralleling the front of the property. On either side, perpendicular wings provide the 'legs' of an H shape. Two smaller stairwells terminate the [central longitudinal] corridor replacing the single large center stairway...On each floor, two classrooms in the center block face the front of the building; on the opposite side of the corridor, the kindergarten room is centered on the first floor...Each wing is divided in two by stairwells with one classroom on either side (front and rear elevations)...The primary entrance is centered on the front elevation with secondary entrances located in the centers of the side elevations..."³⁶



Cruciform Plan:

"[The three story cruciform plan]...was essentially a long center block paralleling the front of the property with a short center wing and a longer rear wing, also centered. Rooms have windows on three sides. They are 'stacked' one on top of the other in each of the four arms of the school. A center corridor receives natural light only through rooms and via north-facing windows in the two stairwells...the plan could potentially house twelve classrooms; on the first floor the east wing is divided into administrative offices...two entrances flank the front wing..."³⁷

³⁵ Ibid

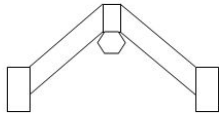
³⁶ Ibid., p.2

³⁷ Ibid., p.2

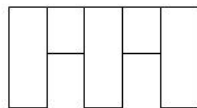
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U Plan: “U-Shaped, the school has a one-story kindergarten attached to the rear elevation. A center block parallels the front of the property...the flanking wings are pulled forward to form a squared U shape...The three story school has two classrooms per floor per wing separated by a stairway...across the front of the center block [is] a corridor with exterior windows. On the other side of the corridor across the rear elevation are two classrooms and a kindergarten on the first floor; three classrooms cross the rear side on the second and third floors. The two stairways are located in the inside front corners formed by the U Shape...”³⁸



E Plan: “The basic idea [of the E Plan] is a long center block paralleling the street; three wings project from the body of the school. These are typically located one at either end and one in the middle...Two or three classrooms are typically located in each wing per floor; the center wing is often reduced in size and accommodates a kindergarten or entrance stairway. A one-sided corridor runs the length of the center block usually having stairwells at either end in the corners formed by the wings. Classrooms are located across the opposite side, also running the length of the block, usually four in number. The E Plan schools are usually two stories high...with raised basement. Entrances vary, the front elevation usually having either one...monumental entrance in the center, or two smaller entrances flanking the central wing.”³⁹

While Ittner preferred Jacobethan motifs for school exteriors, his schools employ a wide range of styles including Classical, Renaissance Revival, Craftsmen, Gothic, as well as eclectic mixtures of multiple idioms.⁴⁰ Architectural themes that define Ittner’s school work include the use of one of the aforementioned building forms, symmetrical bay arrangements, variegated brick for exterior wall material generally laid in a combination of Flemish and Garden Wall bond, stone string/belt courses, drip cornices, and water tables, and the use of a mixture of limestone and terra cotta for ornamentation like label moulds, grotesques, bay surrounds, corbels, and columns.⁴¹

Historical Context for Baden School

³⁸ Ibid., pp. 4-5

³⁹ Ibid., p.5-6

⁴⁰ Ibid.,p. 11

⁴¹ Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1987-88

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Baden School was constructed as part of the SLPS' campaign to ensure that it was serving the City's expanding student population with the most modern and safe schools possible at the turn of the 20th century. Superintendent Ittner was hired in 1897 to design new buildings to replace aging or obsolete existing facilities. This was certainly the case with Baden, which was designed to replace an earlier school building nearby at the intersection of Church Road and Bittner Street.⁴²

Originally constructed as a three room school house sometime prior to 1881, the old school building that Ittner replaced with Baden was recorded as having no electricity and just three rooms for a student population that ranged from first through seventh grade.⁴³ A scathing report issued by the City's Health Commissioner in 1896 (the year before Ittner was hired) took the previous school board architect August Kirchner to task with a comprehensive review of existing school buildings. This review found that "most of [...the schoolbuildings were] in a disgracefully unsanitary and unhealthy state."⁴⁴ The Commissioner's report outlined problems ranging from shortcomings in ventilation and lighting, a leaking roof, unsanitary conditions including overflowing vault toilets, exterior cesspools, the use of cisterns for drinking water, and the use of ad-hoc, inappropriate buildings as schools including rented homes, churches, and storefronts.⁴⁵ The old Baden school was not immune to these problems and it was noted that there was "only one vault" (toilet) for the entire student population, used by girls and boys alike.⁴⁶ The Health Commissioner stated bluntly that "...affairs in the public schools are so disgracefully managed that the health of the children is gravely menaced."⁴⁷ It was into this landscape of disorder that William Ittner arrived and immediately set about the monumental task of bringing the SLPS facilities into the 20th century with modern standards that he largely set.

In an effort to rectify the unsuitable and outdated learning environment of the old Baden School, the Board of Education (BOE) purchased a new school site on Halls Ferry Road during the 1904-05 school year and quickly erected three portable school buildings on the land.⁴⁸ The contract for the new twenty two room school was let in March of 1907; of eight new schools under construction during the 1906-07 fiscal year, Baden was the most expensive with a total cost of \$190,385.⁴⁹ Unlike its predecessor, the new school was fully electrified, fireproof, conditioned by heating and ventilation systems costing nearly \$22,000, and served by new indoor plumbing tied to the municipal water system that had been upgraded to accommodate the water needs of the 1904 World's Columbian Exhibition (World's Fair).⁵⁰

When constructed, the new school building was perhaps the largest building in the Baden Neighborhood of far north St. Louis. The cost of the land where the building was constructed was a fraction of the

⁴² St. Louis Board of Education. Report of the St. Louis Board of Education 1908-09. (St. Louis, St. Louis Board of Education 1909). P.101

⁴³ "Teacher in Baden School to be Honored" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 31 May, 1934

⁴⁴ "Mr. Kirchner Will Not Talk, School Board's Architect has no Defense to Offer" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 2 October, 1896.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Report of the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, 1908-09. pp. 42, 68

⁴⁹ Ibid., p.41

⁵⁰ Ibid.

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prices paid for the other school properties listed by the BOE. This speaks to the fact that compared with neighborhoods closer to the urban core, the Baden neighborhood was relatively undeveloped at the time.⁵¹ Set amidst landscaped grounds with an “outdoor gymnasium” on the macadamized school yard, the building was an early example of Ittner’s new “E” plan that maximized natural lighting and cross ventilation. During Ittner’s tenure, he designed replacement schools for existing urban areas as well as new schools for areas of the City that were in the process of rapid development. While the schools that had to fit into urban contexts were somewhat limited in space that was available for landscaping and large school yards, schools that served “suburban” neighborhoods where land was abundant took advantage larger lots. Baden, set within a residential context that was on the verge of rapid growth enjoyed a large footprint on a sloping lot that both allowed for spacious grounds and necessitated terraced landscaping (extant) in order to facilitate access to its primary entrance. A showcase of progressive educational architecture, which was, among other things highly concerned with fire-safety, Baden’s broad halls and paired stairs allowed for rapid egress while reinforced concrete construction ensured that conflagrations would have little fuel to consume.

Construction of Baden School

While detailed plans and specifications for all St. Louis’ City Schools have not survived, Ittner’s spec book for Baden is among those that have come down through the generations and is preserved in the collections of the Missouri History Museum’s library.⁵² This document provides a window into the level of detail with which Ittner planned his school designs.

After establishing portable schools on site to allow students to vacate the older deteriorated school nearby, Ittner let contracts for “general work,” plumbing, heating and ventilation, and electricity with Wall Brothers serving as the general contractor.⁵³ Construction began with the process of grading and terracing the grounds along Halls Ferry Road as well as the schoolyard to the north of the building; both of these features remain intact in terms of dimensions, relationship to historical use, and in their ability to reflect the way the site was modified by Ittner for school use, and are counted as a “contributing site” by the current nomination.⁵⁴ Because the school relied heavily on structural concrete for fire-proofing, Ittner ordered a “cement house” be built on site “for storage and testing” of materials.⁵⁵ Never one to shy away from micromanagement, Ittner detailed specifications for specific gravity, tensile strength, setting time, fineness, consistency, volume, aggregate and chemical composition for the school’s concrete.⁵⁶ He went into the same level of detail with regard to stone, brick, wood, windows, ventilation covers, metals, roofing, lights, clocks, bells, telephones and finishes even specifying the design of a weathervane, cast iron hitching posts, brass newel posts, and “foot scrapers” at the doors.⁵⁷

⁵¹ St. Louis Board of Education. Report of the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, 1906-07. (St. Louis, St. Louis Board of Education 1907). Pp. 101-03

⁵² Ittner, William B. Specifications for the Erection of Baden School (St. Louis, St. Louis Board of Education 1907) np.

⁵³ Ittner, 1907. pp. 42-43

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 21

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 22-23

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 26-28

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 26-193

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It's interesting to note the period of technological transition during which the school was constructed. It took advantage of the relatively new technology of reinforced concrete for a structural system, was fully electrified, and even featured air purification systems and internal telephones.⁵⁸ At the same time, the rendering that Ittner published of the building showed a carriage drawn by a team of horses rushing eastward along Halls Ferry road (visible at the left side of Figure 4).

On September 6, 1908 the St. Louis Post Dispatch announced that three new schools including Baden were slated to open when the term began on the 8th.⁵⁹ The other two, Shaw and Oak Hill, were also elementary schools, but were located far away on the south side of the City.

The article anticipated that the 1908 school year would represent a high water mark for enrollment in the SLPS system with an anticipated student body of 85,000 students.⁶⁰ It also noted that the three new elementary schools would be "better equipped" than any currently in service and gave a nod to the attention that Ittner's designs paid to the interests of public health.⁶¹ It also noted that 1908 would be the first year that vaccinations would be compulsory for all students.⁶²

Criterion C: Baden as an example of an "E-Open" subtype

According to an article co-written by Emily Grant Hutchings of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* and William Ittner himself, the basics of the E Open plan derived from buildings that Ittner encountered during his studies of European schools in the late 1890s.⁶³ The idea of classrooms situated along a single loaded central hall, which Baden so elegantly displays, was apparently based on buildings like the Johannes School in Stockholm and the Gemeindeschule 204 in Berlin, which Ittner visited in person shortly after obtaining his position with the SLPS.⁶⁴

After experimenting with both "U" and "H" shaped plans that both took advantage of this central hall concept, Ittner settled on the "E Open" plan as the most versatile and suitable for the needs of the SLPS.⁶⁵ By situating wings and staircases at either end of the hallway with administrative functions clustered around a central block, such schools allowed for excellent circulation, lighting, safety, and management of the student body.

The MPDF describes the form of Baden exactly noting that the significant "E Open" plan school is a fireproof building that is typically two stories high with a raised basement.⁶⁶ It notes that entrances vary, but that such schools either have two small entrances in their terminal wings or, as in the case of Baden, have a "...monumental, embellished entrance in the center..."⁶⁷ Such schools are designed to

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ "Three Commodious new Public School Buildings that will be Ready for St. Louis Children when the Fall Term Opens on the 8th" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 6 September, 1908.

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Longwisch, 1992 amended 2000, p. E4

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid., E5

⁶⁶ Ibid., E6

⁶⁷ Ibid.

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overawe their patrons in terms of scale and quality of design and while interior features may change from building to building (for example, Baden's Tudor/Gothic arches, crenellations, tower, and dramatic hammer beam lecture hall), the basic form remains the same. In such schools spaced is organized with playrooms, restrooms, mechanical and storage space in the basement, classrooms situated on the first and second floors along the single-loaded central corridor and in the terminal wings, stairs at either end of the hall, and administrative functions within a central block.⁶⁸

As noted by the MPDF, such schools represented the culmination of Ittner's design concepts and became the standard by which other schools in St. Louis and across the country were judged.⁶⁹ Buoyed by the success of designs like Baden late in his career with the SLPS, just two years after the school was completed, Ittner launched a career designing schools all over the United States.⁷⁰

Conclusion

Baden School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE as an "E-Open Plan" elementary school per the registration requirements set for by the National Register Multiple Property Document "The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner."⁷¹ The MPDF identifies the following criteria as registration requirements:⁷²

1. "...Ittner-designed schools must first retain their physical integrity, exhibiting original materials (with possible exception of roof material)." Baden complies.
2. "Schools must retain characteristically-shaped plans" Baden complies with the acknowledgement of a small one story addition and hyphen.
3. "The schools must retain...scale, roof shape, and fenestration..." Baden complies, with the acknowledgement that some ground floor level windows have been blinded.
4. "The schools...must be in their original locations, and landscaped in approximately their original fashion." Baden Complies.
5. "The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good." Baden complies.
6. "Original materials in Ittner's schools include pressed-brick exterior walls, stone foundations and slate roof in the case of hip designs. Replacement brick of a different color or pattern from the original is unacceptable; tuckpointing must be of the same color as the original mortar and a mix approximating the content of the original mortar." Baden retains all of its original brickwork and the SLPS has done a good job ensuring that tuckpointing was done with an appropriate mortar—no evidence of inappropriate mortar composition (i.e. spalling brick or concrete mortar joints projecting or falling from exterior walls) is in evidence. Baden complies.
7. "Replacement sash ideally would be of painted wood matching the original dimensions..." Baden complies.
8. "The shape of the plan should be retained." Baden complies.
9. "Any additions should not obstruct the adjoining elevation and should be attached to the original building in a minimal and unobtrusive manner." While it is impossible to attach an addition to a building without obstructing the adjoining elevation in some way, the use of a hyphen has reduced

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Longwisch, 1992 amended 2000

⁷² * all following enumerated references refer to Longwisch, 1992 amended 2000, p. F.7

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the impact of the gymnasium on the west addition and constitutes a sensitive and unobtrusive approach toward adaptation for school use in the 1980s.

10. "Additions should be limited to one story in height; their location ideally would be at the rear of the school, although a non-obtrusive addition on a side (preferably the least-visible side) elevation is permissible." Baden complies. The triangular shape of the lot means that any addition will be visible from at least two streets, but the western corner of the building is, in the author's opinion, the least visible elevation. The addition does not impact the ability of the primary school building to convey its original form and design.
11. "The scale of the building should not be altered by any means, including changes in the façade, roof height, or architectural detailing; the original height of the three stories should be retained." Baden complies.

Baden School possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is an excellent example of an "E-Open" plan school property type as defined by the MPDF and meets all applicable registration requirements. Furthermore, the building is an venerable example of the storied history of educational architecture in St. Louis and an irreplaceable component of the intact historic neighborhood where it has stood for well over a century.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated resource is defined by the St. Louis, MO Assessor as a single parcel described as City Block 5446 Veronica. 2.7 Acres Bellevue Addition.

Boundary Justification

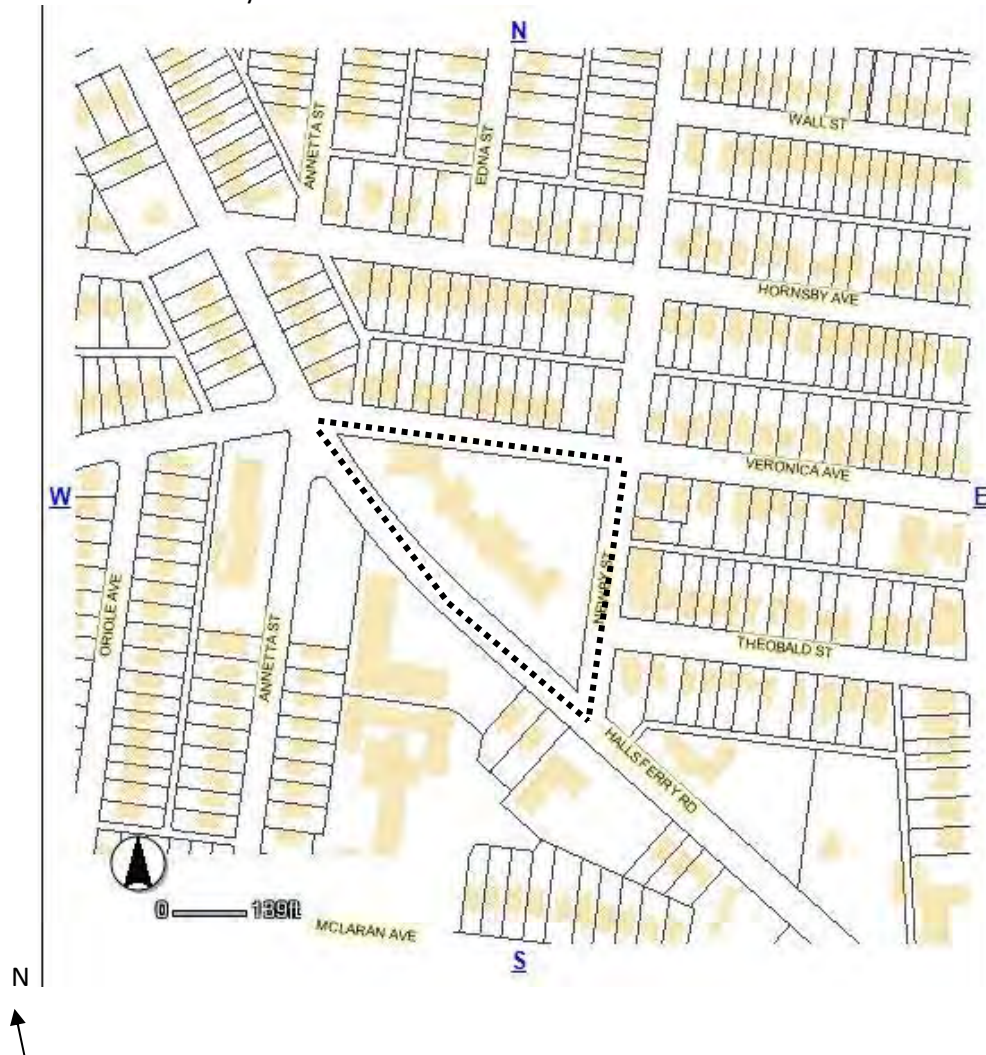
The boundary of the nominated resource is the original footprint of Baden School and its associated grounds.

Figure 1: Boundary Map: Boundary of nominated resource.

38.717662 -90.236380

Latitude Longitude

Source: St. Louis City Assessor

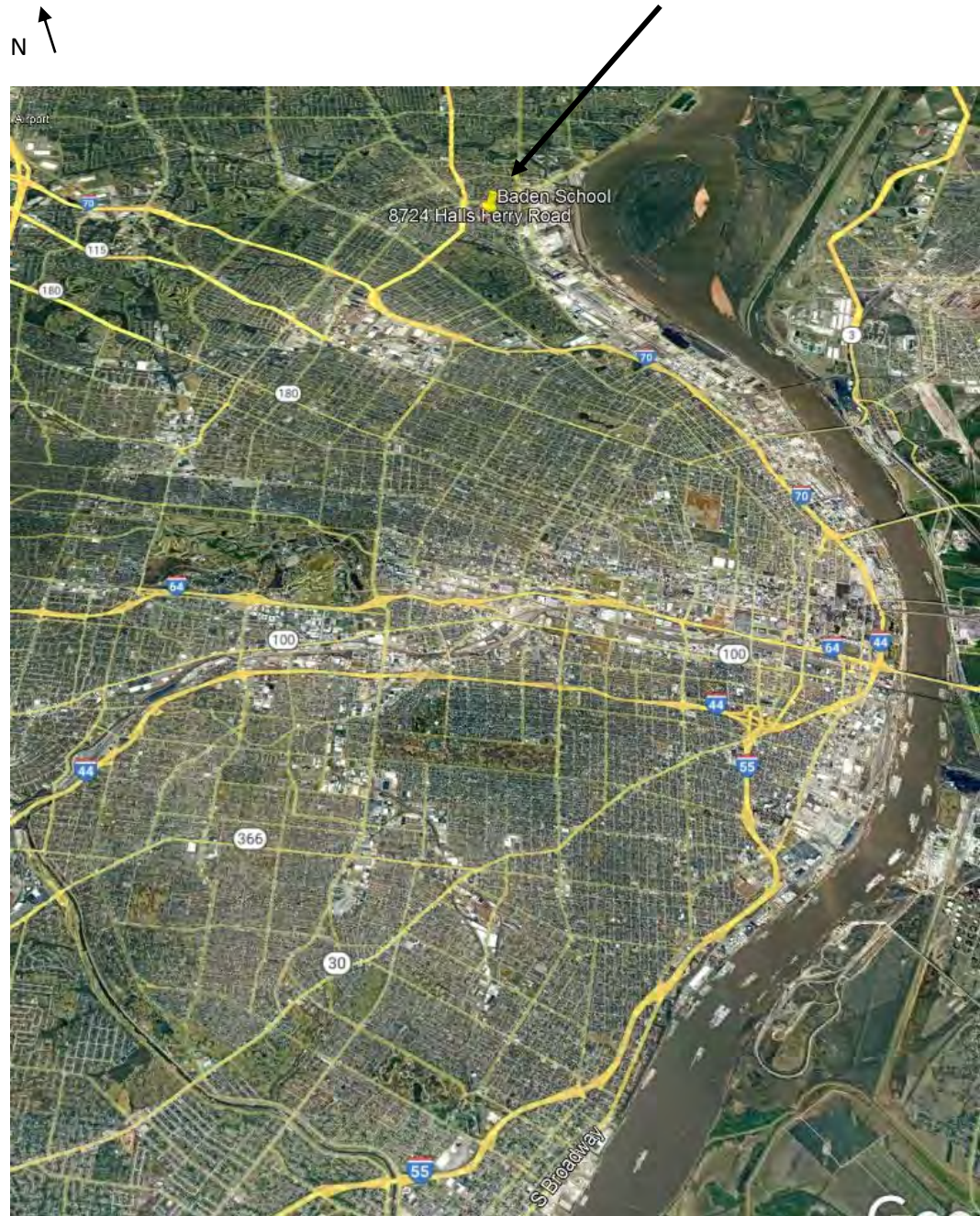


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Figure 2: Baden School in Context of St. Louis. Source: Google Earth



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Figure 3: Setting Baden School: Source Google Earth



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Name of Property

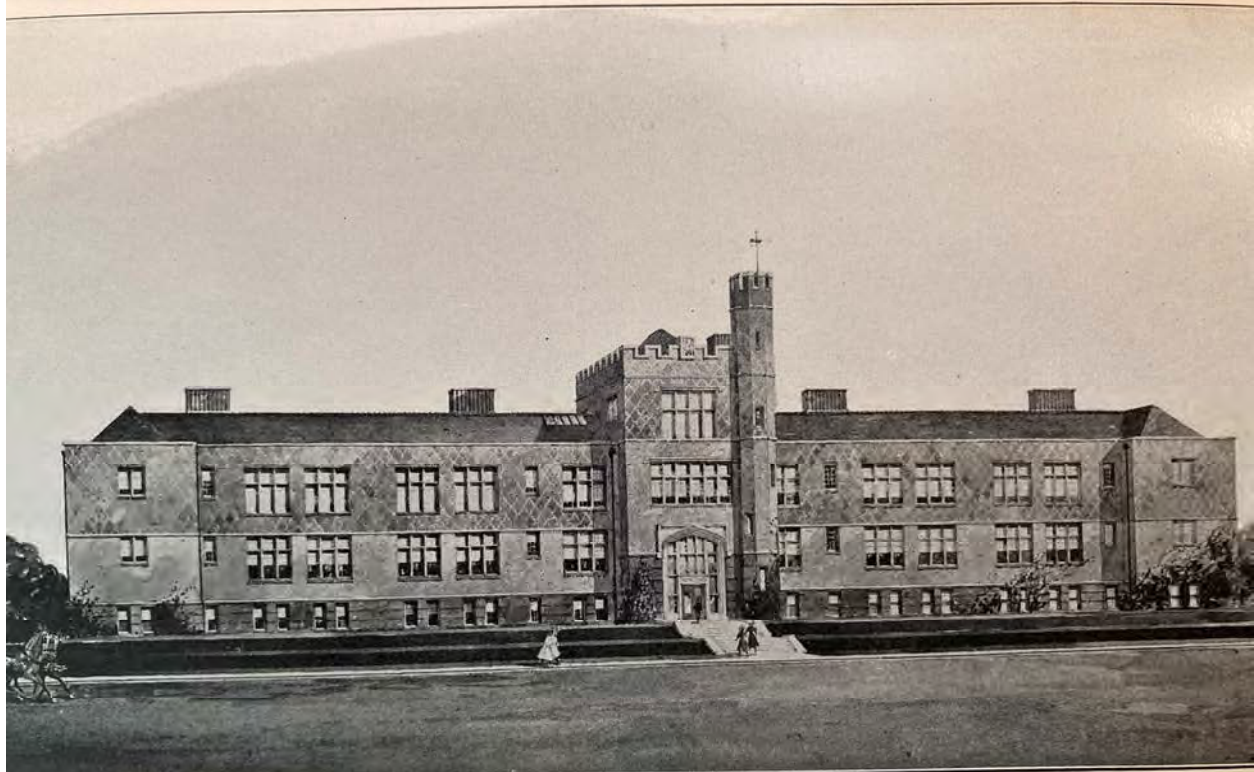
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Figure 4: Historic rendering Baden School, Annual Report, St. Louis Board of Education 1908-09



BADEN SCHOOL, NEWBY STREET AND HALL'S FERRY ROAD.

Map 1: Plan of Baden School showing location of exterior photographs (Urbanwerks Architects)

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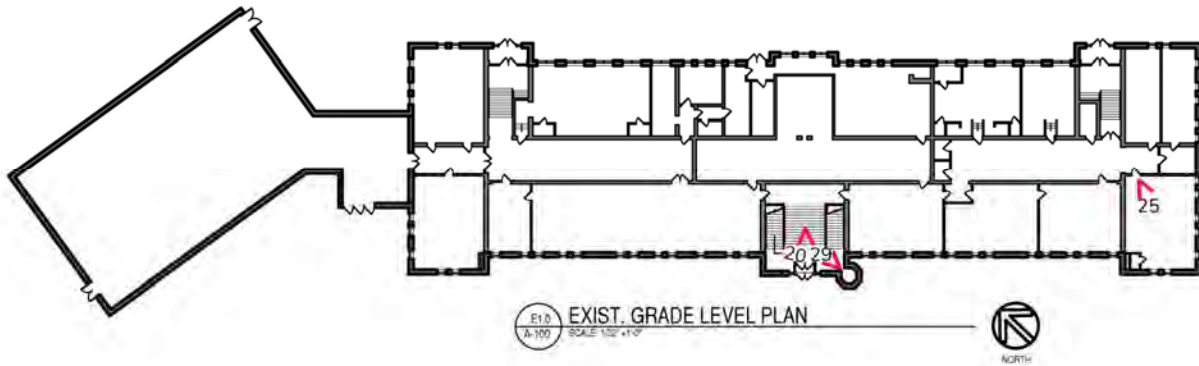


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Map 2: Existing Grade Level Plan showing location of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architects)



Map 3: Existing First Floor Plan showing location of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architects)

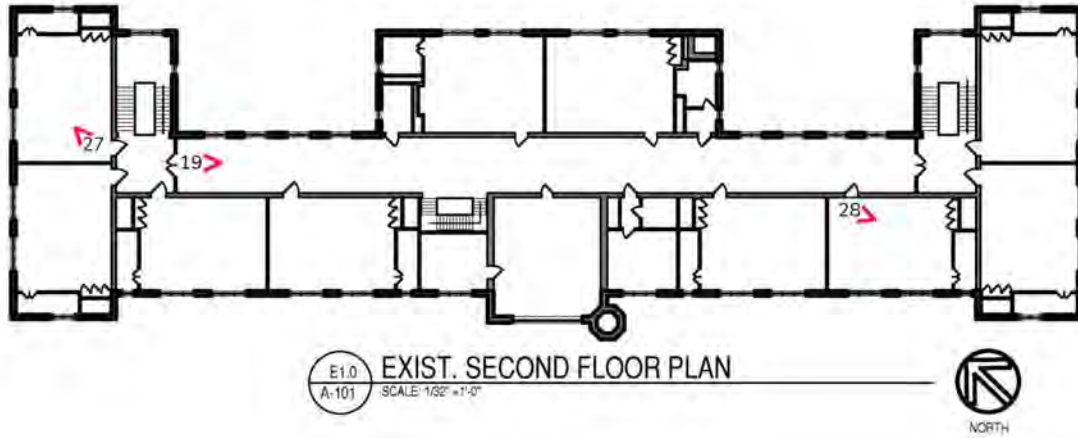


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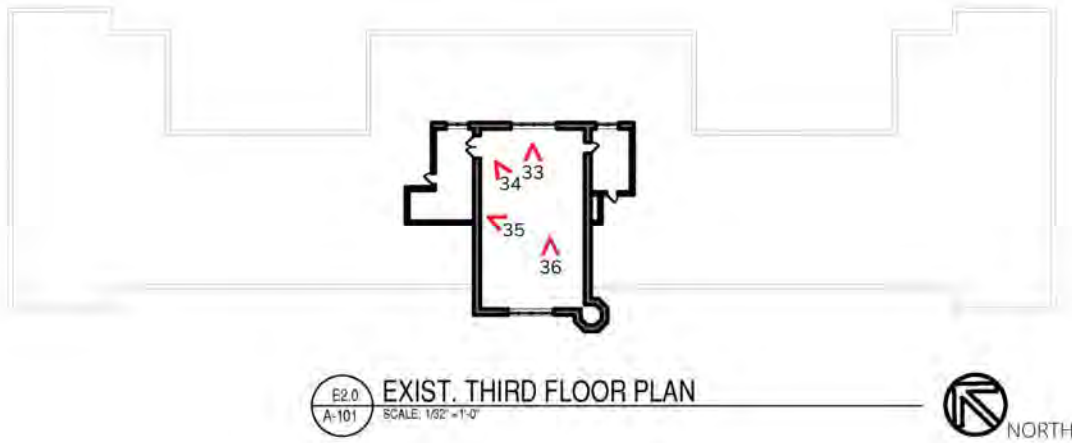
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Map 4: Existing Second Floor Plan showing location of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architects)



Map 5: Existing Third Floor Plan showing location of interior photographs (Urbanwerks Architects)







































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