

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Field, Eugene, School

other name/site number: n/a

2. Location

street & number: 4466 Olive

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Louis

vicinity: N/A

state: Missouri county: Independent City code: 510 zip code: 63108

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - local

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

 See continuation sheet.

Walter D. Blinnell

16 July 1992

Signature of certifying official W. Tracy Mehan III, Director

Date

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register _____

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the _____

National Register _____

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the _____

National Register _____

 removed from the National Register _____

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date
of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION _____

Sub: school _____

Current : EDUCATION _____

Sub: school _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Italian Renaissance

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE/limestone roof CERAMIC TILE
walls BRICK other TERRA COTTA

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1900

Significant Dates : 1900

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ittner, William Butts

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>738970</u>	<u>4281100</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Cynthia Hill Longwisch, Research Associate

Organization: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. Date: 4/19/90

Street & Number: 917 Locust 7th Floor Telephone: 314-421-6474

City or Town: St. Louis State: MO ZIP: 63101

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Section number 7

Eugene Field School

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SUMMARY: The Eugene Field School is located at 4466 Olive in City Block 4580N in St. Louis, Missouri. It was designed in 1900 by architect William B. Ittner in an Italian Renaissance style and is an example of the U-Plan Elementary Schools property type. The three-story, red and brown brick school is trimmed with white terra cotta and features two towers at the inner corners of the U. Exterior alterations are limited to a few infilled openings; the school is in good condition and looks very much as it did on opening day. As with most of Ittner's very early schools, the building is sited almost at the sidewalk, leaving only a small courtyard formed by its plan. A short, original iron fence encloses this paved play space; narrow, paved playgrounds are located on either side of the school, enclosed by a chain-link fence. The paved areas surrounding the school were part of the original plan, a response to the small lot. Its densely-built neighborhood of single- and multi-family dwellings intermixed with some commercial businesses retains its c. 1900 character.

NARRATIVE: This three-story school with raised basement has a one-story kindergarten extending from the rear elevation. The building is highlighted by twin stair towers located at the inner corners. These feature low hipped roofs with terra cotta-bracketed wide eaves and are topped with small vents. Three open rectilinear windows per side are divided by white terra cotta muntins; rosettes ornament their terra cotta sills. Below, terra cotta-trimmed corbeled blind arcading highlights terra cotta bull's-eye windows in the two visible sides of each tower. Below the round windows, an infilled round brick arch forms the head of the rectangular windows below. In an 1899 sketch of the proposed school printed in the Board's Annual Report, these arches are visible but appear to be blind. Because of this and the fact that the brick is a perfect match, it is believed that these arches have always been blind. The paired, stepped windows below are six-over-six pane, double-hung wood sash, the bottom sets having wide stone sills.

The gabled ends of each wing feature terra cotta coping with shield insets, three ornate terra cotta bull's-eye window/vents and a field of diaper bond brickwork of red and brown brick above a third-story terra cotta lintel course of alternating panels and shields. At the sides, overhanging eaves of the tile roof feature heavy scrolled terra cotta brackets, some paired and others occurring singly.

The dressed, ashlar limestone foundation gives way to brown brick mixed with culls. A stone sill course at the first story returns. Basement windows have triple rowlock elliptical arches with transoms and paired, three-over-three double-hung sash, interspersed with four-over-four rectangular windows. Above, paired, four-over-four, double-hung sash are divided by pilasters.

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Entrances are located in the side elevations and in matching basement-level doors; these are marked by stone inset panels bearing the name "Eugene Field School" flanked by shields. A one-story center bay forms an unused balcony with stone coping and two round stone finials.

The rear elevation faces an alley and is trimmed in terra cotta to match the front. Shorter windows can be seen in this photo; these are foreshortened to accomodate blackboards. The one-story, flat-roofed kindergarten is coped with terra cotta and features pilasters with paneled terra cotta capitals. Its paired windows are six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

The exterior of the Eugene Field School is in excellent condition and retains its integrity to a high degree. The only exterior alterations appear to be in the infilling with wood of an entrance arch on the east side (Photo #8) and similar treatment to several windows on the basement level of the west and south elevations. It is not possible to determine from the 1899 sketch whether the infilled tower windows were always that way.

The interior of the school is in good condition and appears to retain most of its original features. Hardwood hall and classroom floors have marble baseboards. Hallways feature Corinthian-capitaled pilasters approximately every 20 feet. Oak doorways have transoms; oak molding at the tops of the transoms continues the length of the hallways. Oak and iron railings are employed on the iron stairways. Basement utility and play spaces have vitreous brick wall surfaces. Milk-glass pendant fixtures provide light.

The stained and leaded glass transom above the entrance to the kindergarten depicts two female figures holding a banner reading "Eugene Field School." A foyer to the kindergarten is defined by large scrolled brackets near the ceiling. One unsolved puzzle remains in regard to a reference found in a 1925 bulletin published by the public library. It stated that the Field kindergarten "contains a frieze fifty feet long showing children at play out-of-doors."¹ The work of Clara Pfeifer Garrett, the frieze was supposedly done in 1901. There not only is no mural at this time, there is no fifty-foot expanse available in the kindergarten room, which is mostly walled by windows. Unless it were mounted on boards covering parts of the windows, it is difficult to imagine where it could have been located. The school's principal

¹Mary Powell, "Public Art in St. Louis," St. Louis Public Library Monthly Bulletin, July-August 1925, p. 215.

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and others associated with the kindergarten are unfamiliar with such a mural anywhere in the school.

With the exception of the elusive mural, the interior condition and appointments of Field School appear to remain much as built; the interior use also appears to be much the same (Figures 1, 2, 3), with a large degree of integrity intact.

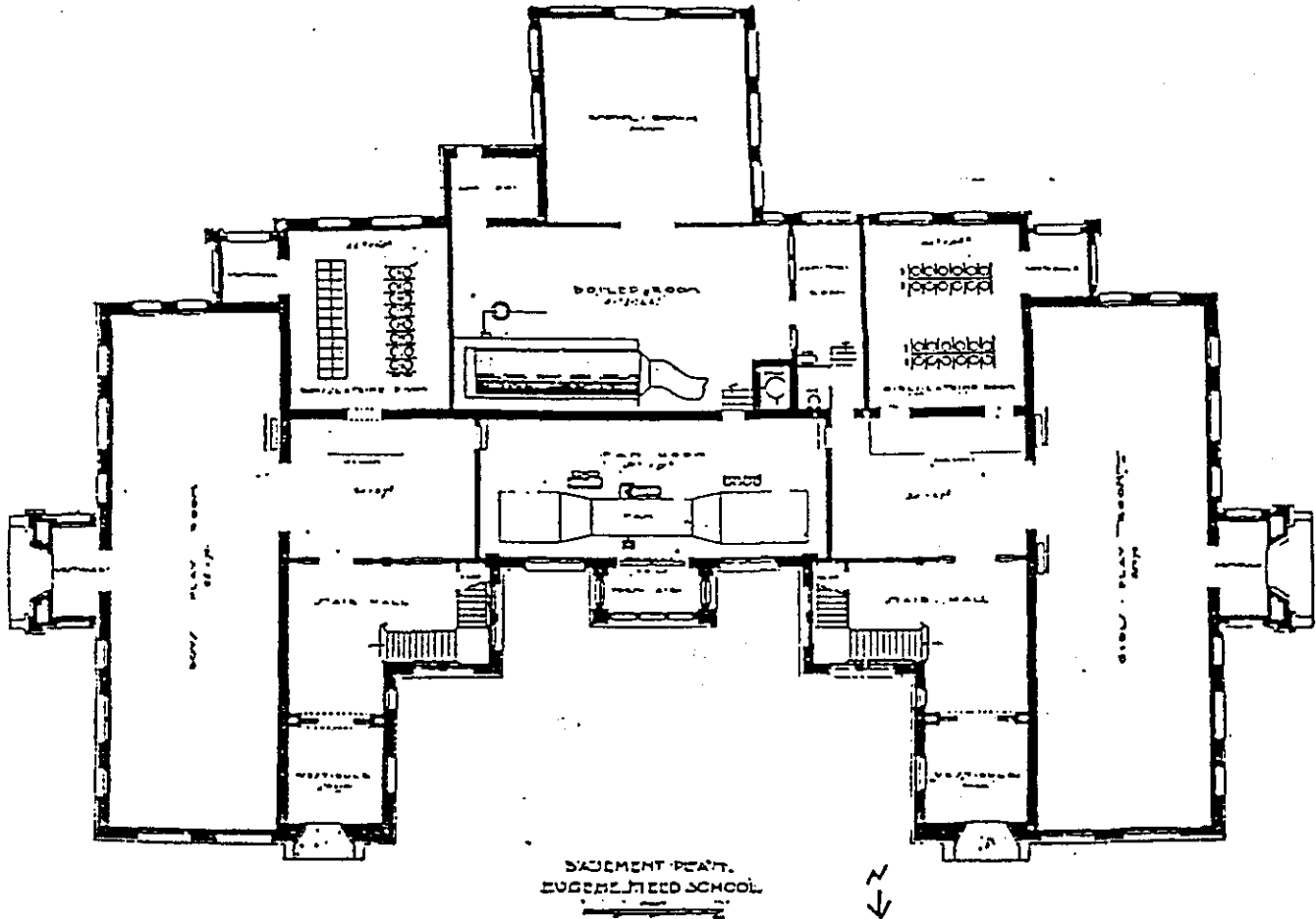
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Basement Plan, Eugene Field School, 1900 (St. Louis Board of Education).

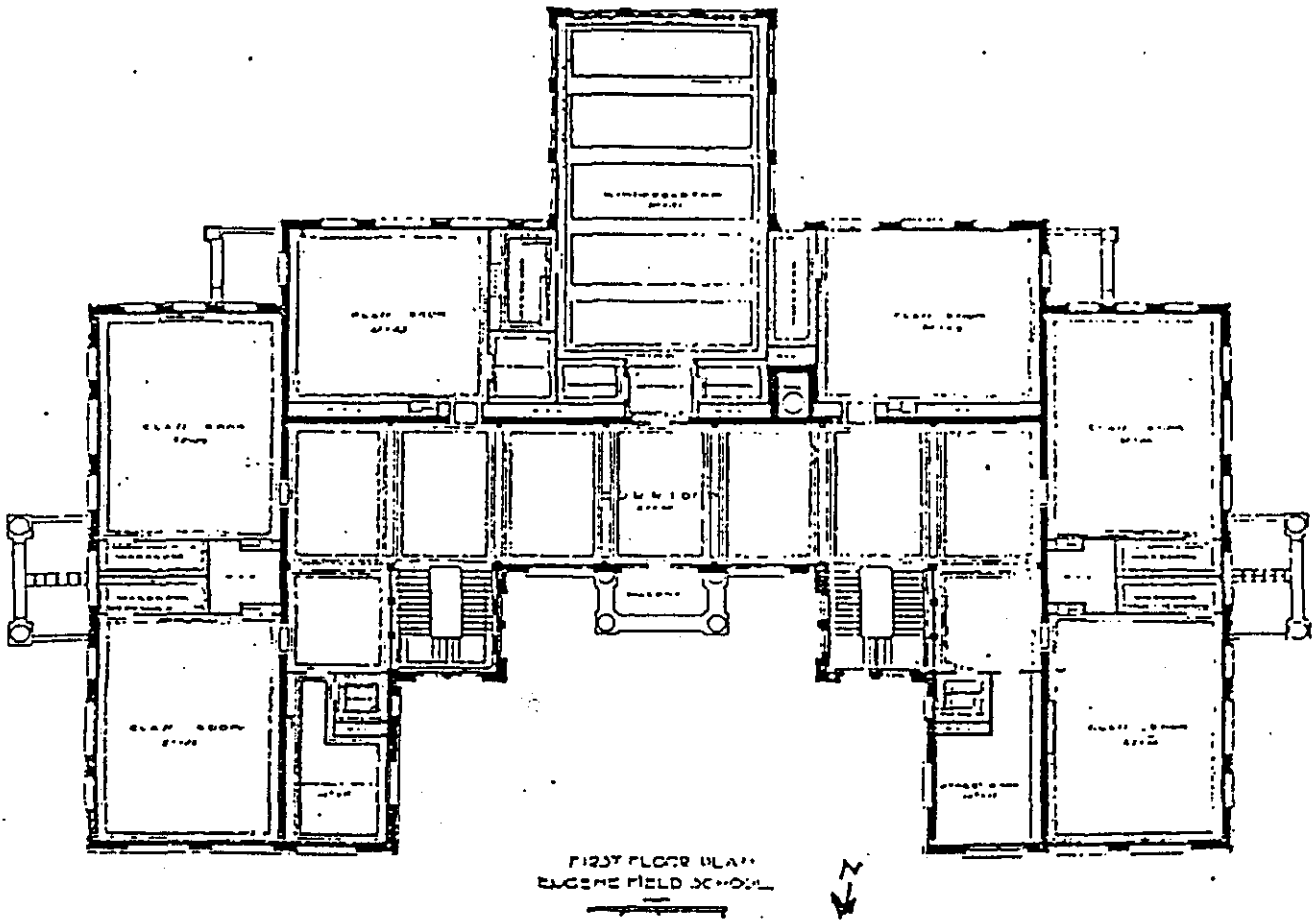
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First Floor Plan, Eugene Field School, 1900
Source: St. Louis Board of Education

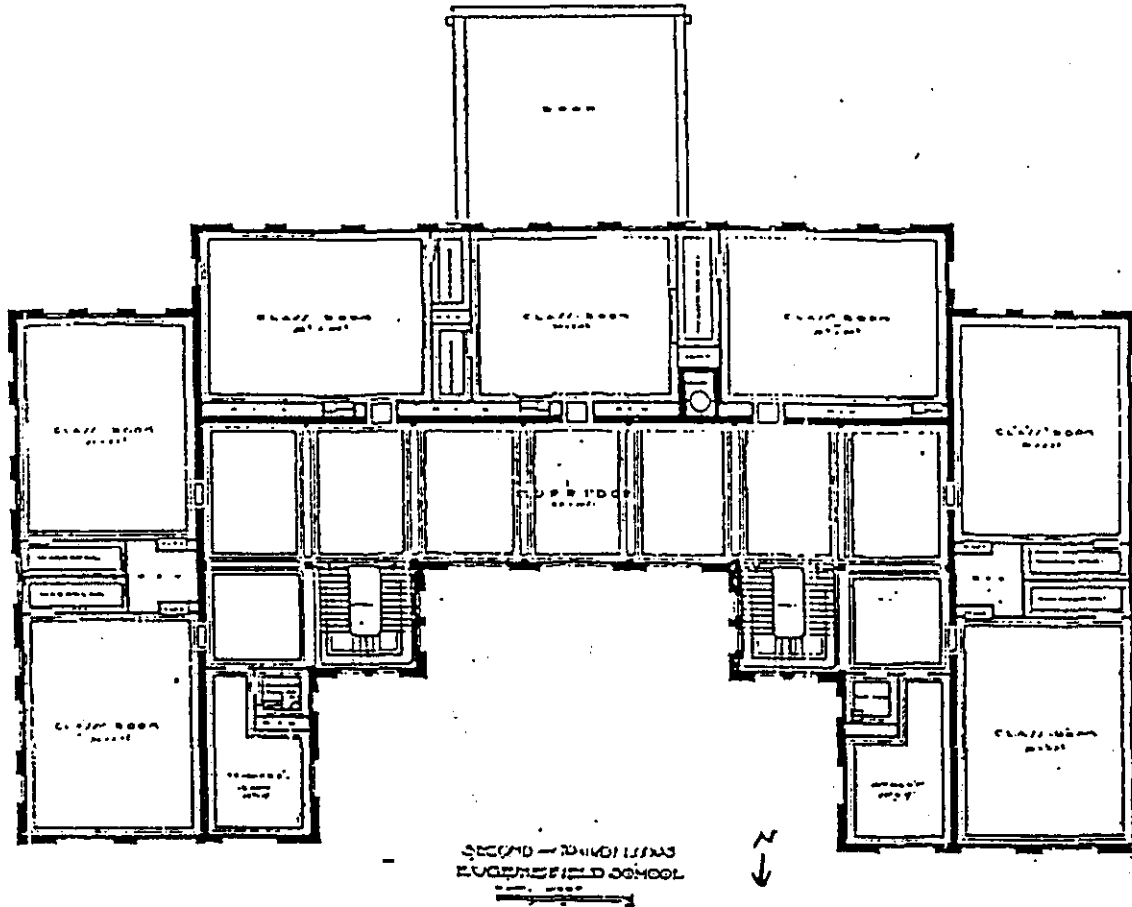
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Second and Third Floor Plan, Eugene Field School, 1900 (St. Louis Board of Education).

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Eugene Field School

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SUMMARY: The Eugene Field School, 4466 Olive, St. Louis, is significant under Criterion C for its architecture and architect and is an example of the U-Plan Elementary Schools property type. St. Louis architect William B. Ittner, F.A.I.A., designed the school in the Italian Renaissance style in 1900. The U-shaped plan of the school marks another step in the evolution of Ittner's "open plan," as the architect sought to develop the most comfortable, efficient school possible without sacrificing architectural beauty. Built during the first years of his tenure as Commissioner of School Buildings for the St. Louis Board of Education, Field School is a transitional link in the long chain that was revolutionizing school design at the turn of the century (see "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner").

NARRATIVE: Field School was built by Hiram Lloyd, a member of the Master Builders' Association, at a cost of \$122,268; the building permit was issued in February of 1900. Eugene Field (1850-95), the school's namesake, was a St. Louis poet. The school houses grades kindergarten through five.

In designing Field School, William Ittner had the advantage of the largest budget allotted a St. Louis public school up until that time, but he also had the disadvantage of a relatively small lot. The challenge of this design was therefore twofold: to implement a plan that met all his physical requirements and which would make successful use of the available space. His solution was to pull the wings of his H plan forward to create a U, leaving the one-story kindergarten still attached to the rear elevation. In doing so he implemented a critical change in the plan: he gave the corridor an exterior wall (Figures 1, 2, 3). Enough light was gained through corridor windows to give classrooms a diffused light from this new, second source. The old plan of a hallway lined on both sides with rooms came to an end with Ittner in this school. This innovation coincided with Ittner's return from a reconnaissance trip to Europe in which he reportedly saw a German school that featured a corridor with rooms only on one side.¹ A transitional design, the U-shaped plan had not quite been developed into his standard E-shaped "open plan," but it was very close, and it represents an important step in Ittner's progress in school design.

¹"Art and Artists," Daily Globe-Democrat 9 February 1936. Interestingly, Ittner made no mention in Board records of having seen this innovation. Most written material about the topic assumes that the one-sided corridor was original with Ittner; his contribution was to take the seed of an idea and develop it to its fullest extent.

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While dealing with matters of layout and size, Ittner gave equal consideration to the appearance of his schools, and Field is no exception. Twin stair towers and handsome detailing at the attic draw the eye upward, helping to dispel the cramped feeling that results from the crowded streetscape and narrow school lot. Again, Field School was his first design after a tour of European architecture, and it is easy to see the recent influence in the Italianate elements of this building. In the course of his career, Ittner drew on many historical precedents for design ideas, adapting the Jacobethan mode eventually for the majority of his schools. At this point in his career, he had not yet begun to use the English style.

In his theories regarding school landscaping, Ittner felt strongly that schools should be fronted by a lawn with trees and shrubs. In practice, this was not always an option. For the Eugene Field School, it was not possible to provide an adequately sized school with a lawn and sufficiently large playground; indeed, the lot barely provides room for the school and a minimal play area. The paved courtyard formed by the arms of the U is the primary playground for this school. Opening to the north and shadowed by the towering building, this space is somewhat gloomy even on bright days. Narrow areas on either side of the school and between the sidewalk and the wings form additional play areas; the open area available for children is nonetheless inadequate. In this case, as with several of his early schools, the ideal could not be met due to extenuating circumstances.

Field School has been in continuous operation as an elementary school since its opening. It has been well-maintained and retains a high degree of integrity.

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"Facts Concerning One Hundred Years of Progress in the Public Schools of St. Louis," Public School Messenger 35. St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Education, 1938.

Ittner, Marie Anderson. Footprints. St. Louis: John S. Swift, 1955.

_____. "William B. Ittner: His Service to American School Architecture," American School Board Journal (January 1941)>

Powell, Mary. "Public Art in St. Louis," St. Louis Public Library Monthly Bulletin, July-August 1925, p. 215.

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Eugene Field School

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Verbal Boundary Description: Eugene Field School is located at 4466 Olive in City Block 4580N as follows: beginning at the point of intersection of the west property line of 4466 Olive and the south right-of-way of Olive, proceed southwardly along said property line to its point of intersection with the north right-of-way of the east-west alley of City Block 4580N; then proceed westwardly along the right-of-way of the alley approximately 225' to its point of intersection with the west property line of 4466 Olive; then proceed northwardly along said property line to its intersection with the south right-of-way of Olive; then proceed eastwardly along the right-of-way of Olive approximately 225' to the west property line of 4466 Olive, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries described above encompass the that portion of the city block which has been historically associated with the property.

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Section number Photographs

Eugene Field School

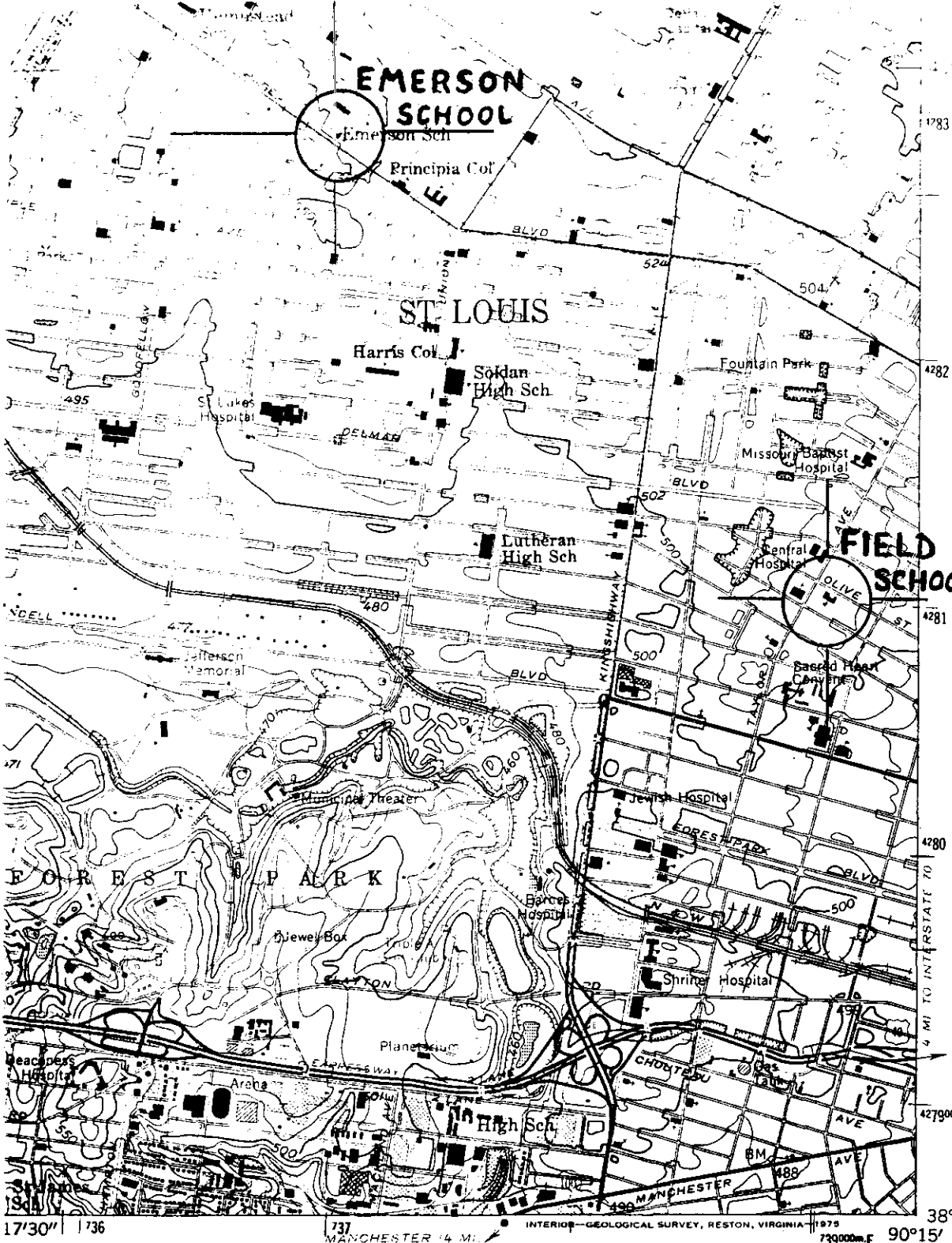
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The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Eugene Field School
4466 Olive
2. St. Louis [Independent City], MO
3. Cynthia Longwisch
4. April 1990
5. Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.
7th floor, 917 Locust
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Photograph #1: Primary Elevation; camera facing southwest

Photograph #2: Side and rear elevations; camera facing northeast



ST. LOUIS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF
WILLIAM B.
ITTNER, 1897-1901

17°30' 1736 737 MANCHESTER 1/4 MI. INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1975 739000m E 90°15' 38°37'30" 4279000m N. 4 MI TO INTERSTATE 70

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	
	Interstate Route		U. S. Route
	State Route		



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CLAYTON, MO.
N 383' W 9015/7.5

Revisions shown in ... compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1968 and 1974. This information is not checked.

Photographs were renumbered to #1 and #2 on the Ittner Schools nominations prior to sending to Washington, D.C. Copies of photographs sent to Washington, D.C are filed behind the nomination in front of HPP's set of photographs.



8 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF WILLIAM B. ITTNER
EUGENE FIELD SCHOOL, 4466 OLIVE, ST. LOUIS, MO
PRIMARY ELEVATION; CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST



#9 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF WILLIAM B. ITNER
EUGENE FIELD SCHOOL, 4466 OLIVE, ST. LOUIS, MO
SIDE & REAR ELEVATION; CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST