

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Lowell School

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town 1409 E. Linton N/A not for publication

city or town St. Louis N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (Independent City) code 510 zip code 36107

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles 04 April 2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- 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:) _____

Lowell School
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description
Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals
Jacobethan Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
Stone
Slate
roof Slate
Terra cotta
other _____

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Lowell School
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Milligan, Rockwell M.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Lowell School
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.88 acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 7/4/2/7/9/7 4/2/8/4/4/4/4
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Wooldridge & Melinda Winchester

organization Lafser & Associates date October 4, 2006

street & number 2285 County Road 316 telephone 573-243-6965

city or town Jackson state MO zip code 63755

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

name/title Stanley H. D. Equities

street & number 1428 Washington Ave. telephone 314-436-9000

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63103

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

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

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Summary:

The Lowell School, located at 1409 East Linton Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, is a two-story elementary school building with a raised basement designed by prominent architect Rockwell M. Milligan in 1926. Constructed of multi-color red and brown brick, this H-shaped Jacobethan Revival style building is accented with Bedford limestone ornamentation, carved brick detailing and steep roof gables. The building measures approximately 157' x 177' and is divided into six bays including two projecting ends. The primary façade is asymmetrical with a two-gable corner entrance wing balanced by a single-gable corner bay capped with white terra cotta stone and finials. The off-center primary entrance faces East Linton Street and has an elaborate stone arch surround with pointed arch relief sculpture and decorative tracery. "LOWELL SCHOOL" is engraved in stone directly above the front doors. Stone steps with overhanging capped piers lead up to the main doors. The fenestration across the façade is symmetrical with a set of three wood six-over-nine pane windows in the center flanked by a series of five wood six-over-nine pane windows. The building sits on a large lot which includes a front yard with iron fence, school name plaque and a large play yard in the rear. A two-story gymnasium was added in 1992, but does not detract from the historical appearance of the school because of its location at the rear of the original building. The exterior and the interior of the original building appear much as they did at construction with the exception of the removal of a front stone railing and some boarding up of lower windows and doors to prevent vandalism. The Lowell School is in excellent condition and continues to retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association, and feeling from its period of significance.

Elaboration:

Site:

The Lowell School encompasses the entirety of City Block 3387, bounded by Zealand Street on the west, East Linton Avenue on the south, Von Phul Street on the east, and East College Avenue on the north. The property measures approximately 245' x 520', enclosed by an iron fence and bordered by concrete sidewalks. The site includes the main school building measuring approximately 157' x 178', including the 1992 rear addition, and a 33,000 square foot asphalt play yard on the north side of the building (See Figure 1). The surrounding area is comprised of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings. (Photos 1-5)

Exterior:

The footprint of Lowell School is a modified H-plan; a central block with two

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

perpendicular wings on the east and west ends. A multi-colored brick addition is located at the rear, with corridors that connect to the wings of the original building, creating an interior courtyard between the two structures. The exterior walls of the school are multi-colored brick with a stone belt course dividing the raised basement from the upper levels. (Photos 1, 6-12) The slate shingle roof is side gabled with red terra cotta ridge capping, broken by half timbered dormers and cross gables found on the wings and over the main entrance. A clustered stack stone-coped chimney can be seen projecting from the northeast corner of the original building. (Photos 1, 5-13)

The primary south facing façade is asymmetrical, with two projecting end bays with parapeted gables; the southeastern bay is divided into two parapeted gables. The inner gable is slightly lower than the outer gable and contains the main entrance into the school. The main entrance features decorative stone quoining and an elaborate stone arch surround with pointed arch relief and decorative tracery. "Lowell School" is engraved in stone directly above the front doors. A pair of wood doors and the transom have been boarded up for security reasons. Bedford limestone steps with decorative overhanging capped stone piers lead to the main entrance. This railing originally continued along the front of the school directly below the windows. The stone balustrades of the railing were removed in 1988 due to vandalism and deterioration, but the stone piers are still in their original location and in fair condition. A six-over-six double hung wood window with a stone drip lintel and stone sill is centered above the entrance on the second floor. The gable is outlined with a terra-cotta coping. (Photos 5 & 6)

The fenestration of the south elevation is identical on the first and second floors. The third and fifth bays of the main façade consist of a set of five six-over-nine wood double hung windows with soldier lintels and stone sills. The fourth bay has a set of triple-banded windows with a single fixed six-pane wood window directly to the east. Below the stone belt course of the third through fifth bays, the window fenestration is symmetrically spaced to match the sets of window units on the upper floors. The west and east projecting bays contain three six-over-six double hung wood windows with soldier brick lintels and stone sills. A half-timbered gabled dormer with projecting eaves and a set of three six-over-six wood windows with a stone sill is located on the roof above the fourth bay. (Photos 5, 6) The gable end of each projecting bay is complemented by diamond patterned brickwork and a projecting terra cotta coping with a finial adornment. A fixed six-pane arch wood window with an arched dripstone lintel and stone sill is located within the gable ends. (Photos 5, 6 & 7)

The east and west elevations are identical. Stone steps lined with brick and terra cotta walls lead to a central pair of metal doors beneath a shed roof, just below the stone belt

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

course. The window fenestration is symmetrical on both the first and second floors. A set of five banded windows adorns the south side of the doorway, and three windows are evenly spaced to the north. Above the door, breaking the belt course, are three banded six-over-six double hung wood windows. Triple banded six-over-nine windows are centered above the door between the first and second floors. Five banded six-over-nine windows adorn the first and second floor on either side of the central windows. A half-timbered dormer contains a six-over-six window beneath a gabled roof. To the north, set back on the new addition, is a set of metal doors below the belt course. Above the entry, on the first and second floor, are triple banded six-over-nine double hung windows. (Photos 9 & 10)

The north elevation (rear of original building -See Figure 2) reflects a similar window fenestration as the front. Each projecting wing contains a fixed six-pane arch wood window with an arched dripstone lintel and stone sill within the gable end. The overhanging terra cotta coping continues on this elevation with an identical finial. The third through fifth bays of the raised basement contains windows banded in a set of three flanked by a set of five banded windows to the east and three single double hung windows to the west. Two sets of five banded six-over-nine wood windows and two single windows occupy the first story, and two sets of nine pane fixed windows are located on the second story. Two half-timbered dormers containing slatted wood vents are located along the roofline, with a highly ornate multi-color brick chimney to the east. When the building was constructed, bathrooms projected from the center of the building, adjacent to the interior of the wings. These extensions have been replaced by enclosed brick stairwells, which connect to the 1992 addition. This creates an enclosed courtyard between the buildings, leaving the original architectural elements of the original school building intact. (Photos 12-14).

Addition:

The north, or rear elevation, is symmetrical, and contains a red brick addition constructed in 1992. The roofline is level with an asphalt built-up roof system and a minimal stone coping. A stone belt course wraps around all elevations of the addition directly below the second floor windows. The north elevation on the basement contains four square vents and the first and second floors contain four sets of triple banded six-over-nine wood windows. (Photos 10 & 11)

The rear addition is connected to the original building by corridors built as extensions to the original bathrooms. The portion of the addition that faces the new building extends the belt course of the original building between the raised basement and upper floors. Two sets of triple banded six-over-nine wood windows are symmetrically spaced on the first and second floors, and two ventilation shafts empty into the courtyard from the

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

basement. (Photo 12)

Interior:

Main Floor:

The main floor consists of two classrooms on either side of a stairwell in the east and west wings, with classrooms and the nurse's office on the south exterior wall of the connecting corridor. The administrative and principal's offices are on the north side. Hallways east and west of these offices connect the original building to the rear wing. Restrooms and two classrooms are found on the south side of the new addition, with four classrooms on the north exterior wall. (See Figure 3.)

The main entrance is comprised of the original two sets of wood and glass double doors on the south wall. These open to a stairwell with a central iron and wood hand rail, and vaulted ceilings with arched cross beams. Well maintained stone trimming engulfs the passage, rising above the doorway to a three pane arched window. This masonry continues up the stairs into the main hallway. The stone chair rail is replaced by glazed brickwork that continues down the wide hallways, with wood doors accentuated by arches at the hallway intersections. (Photos 15-17).

The classrooms of the original building are approximately 32' x 24'. They maintain many of the features they possessed at construction. These include wood windows with built in wooden bookcases. Wood and glass cabinetry stands beside mahogany wood encased chalkboards. A cloak room is located at the end of each classroom that is decorated with glazed brick and mahogany paneled wood and the original iron and wood hangers retained. Glazed brick window sills and base boards are still intact, as well as wood and glass doors and the original flooring. High ceilings have been maintained in the classrooms, though dropped ceilings and new lighting were added. (Photos 18-23). The main office and principal's office were originally designed as a kindergarten room. (See Figure 4.) The rooms maintain the wardrobe alcoves, brick walls, cabinetry, and original leaded glass windows featuring hand-painted nursery rhyme characters (Photos 23-27). The hallways in the rear addition are concrete block with tile floors. Wood doors lead to classrooms measuring approximately 24' x 35'. These also contain wardrobe alcoves (though these are made out of concrete), dropped ceilings, and linoleum flooring (Photos 28-30).

Second Floor:

The second floor layout is similar to that of the first floor (See Figure 5). Two classrooms fill the east and west wings, with a stairwell featuring iron and wood railings

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

between them. Classrooms and a nurse's office line the south exterior wall of the main corridor, with a reading room replacing the entrance found on the first floor. The north side of the main hallway is lined with windows that look out over the roof and into the courtyard. The rear addition contains two classrooms and bathrooms on the south side. The bathrooms maintain the original tile, which endured despite the modification process when the addition was added. Four classrooms line the north side of building. The classrooms and hallways are identical to those found on the first floor, connected by arched ceilings (Photos 31-34).

Basement:

The basement contains a similar floor plan to the upper levels, with two wings on either end of the central core, and hallways leading to the rear addition. Stairwells fill the wings and also contain exit doors. The west wing contains a cafeteria on the south side, which is continued along the southern exterior wall of the main core. The north side of the west wing contains the original bathrooms (See figure 5), which have been modified to allow for two more classrooms. The same modification was completed in the east wing, where the south side contains a library that expands along the south exterior wall of the main corridor. A machine room is centered on this south wall and a machine room and a 37' x 18' kitchen, which extends from the cafeteria to the north wall of the original building, fill the area below the central corridor of the first floor. A boiler room and utility closet fill the remainder of the original floor plan. The hallways that connect to the rear addition end in exit doors and central stairwells. These stairwells access the 62' X 98' gym that fills the entire lower level of the rear addition, with open storage on the south side. (See Figure 6 and Photos 35-37)

Integrity:

The Lowell School is in excellent condition and appears much as it was originally designed and constructed in 1926, with minimal exterior changes and minor updates to the interior. Though the rear wing was added in 1992, and technical updates have been made to the building, Lowell School has sustained modifications while preserving the important elements of its 1926 construction. The rear gym is not visible from the main façade, and has minimal effect on the rear of the original building. Using the same exterior materials and similar classroom layouts, the addition does not detract from but reflects the design of Milligan's early twentieth century school. The building retains excellent integrity of setting, design, feeling, location, and association within its period of significance.

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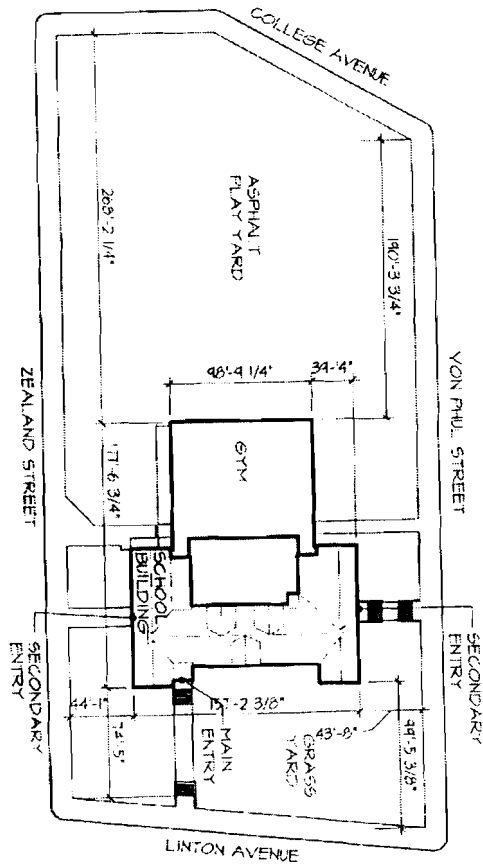
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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Figure 1: Site Plan
Source: Space Intuitions, Inc. , St. Louis, 2006.

1 MAIN LEVEL RECORD PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Figure 2: Rear Elevation
Lowell School 3rd Location 1409 Linton, Rear Elevation, 1972.
On File with the St. Louis Public School Records Center/ Archives.



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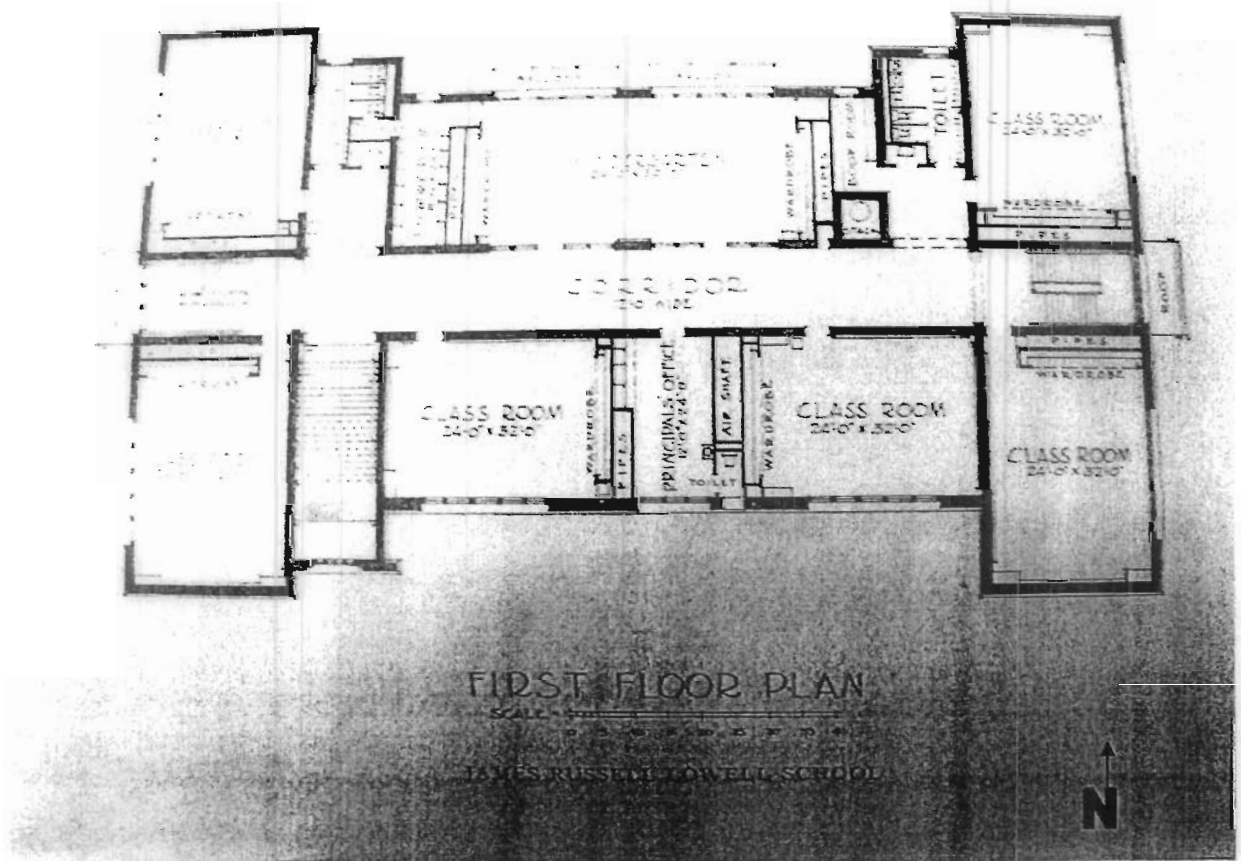
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Lowell School
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Figure 4: Original Main Floor Plan

St. Louis Board of Education, *Annual Report- St. Louis Board of Education.* (St. Louis: St. Louis City), 1927.



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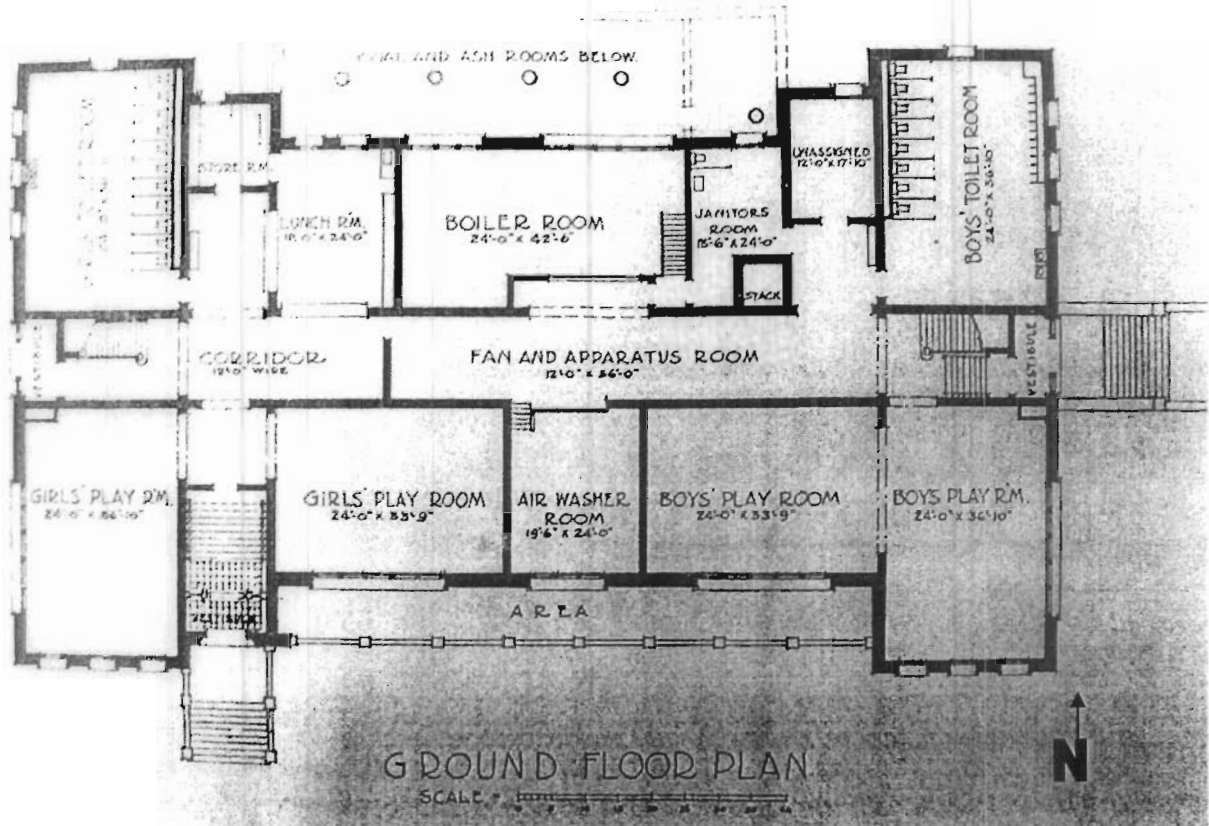
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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Figure 6: Original Ground Floor Plan

St. Louis Board of Education, *Annual Report- St. Louis Board of Education*. (St. Louis: St. Louis City), 1927.



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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Summary:

Lowell School, located at 1409 East Linton Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Following in the footsteps of William B. Ittner, whose designs transformed public school architecture in St. Louis, Rockwell Milligan had the opportunity to work with the Board of Education during a time of growth and economic prosperity. During his term as Commissioner of St. Louis Public Schools (1914-1929) he contributed to the design and construction of approximately twenty-four distinctive schools. Lowell School is an example of the H-shaped plan property type defined in the Multiple Property Submission "The St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner." Constructed in 1926, the Lowell School represents a simple Jacobethan Revival style constructed of multi-color brick with diamond-patterned designs, Bedford stone trim, and ornate tracery. The interior features exceptional architectural and artistic details of dark mahogany stairwells, trims and bookcases and interior hallway windows with leaded glass displaying hand-painted nursery rhyme characters. The Lowell School was one of Milligan's first attempts at experimenting with an asymmetrical façade on public school building designs and one of only four buildings designed in this fashion in St. Louis under Milligan's commission. A rear brick addition for a gymnasium was added in 1992 as part of a large improvements plan by the public school system. The Lowell School opened on October 5, 1927, and remained in use as an elementary school until 2003. The period of significance is 1926, the date of construction. The building retains excellent integrity of materials, design, location, feeling and association from its period of significance.

Historic Background:

The present school building is the third Lowell School to serve the College Hill neighborhood in North St. Louis. Rural settlement of the area began in the 1830s along Bellefontaine Road. In 1849, the land was subdivided with the unincorporated town of Lowell bounded by Adelaide Avenue, Broadway, East Prairie Avenue and the Mississippi River. The development of the Bissell Point Water Works in 1869 encouraged industrial development along the waterfront, which has continued to the present. In 1876, the town of Lowell was incorporated into the expanded boundary of the City of St. Louis. The settlement of the area remained strong until the closing of the water works in 1960. Population then began to deteriorate, and as a result many of the buildings in the area are vacant, with crime, specifically



*Original Lowell School-On file with the
St. Louis Public School Record Center
and Archives.*

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

vandalism, lowering property values in the neighborhood. ¹

Named for American poet James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), the first school with this name opened at Bulwer and Adelaide Avenues c. 1873. The Lowell School moved out of this three-room building in 1882, and into a new facility at 5335 Belleview. The Lowell School remained at this location until completion of the current school in 1926². Neither of the previous Lowell Schools is extant, having been replaced by a parking lot and Interstate 70, respectively³.



*Second Lowell School- On File with
the St. Louis Public School Record
Center and Archives*

The current Lowell School was constructed in 1926 as one of 106 elementary schools in the St. Louis Public School District. It was designed by Rockwell Milligan with 14 rooms and a pupil capacity of 630 kindergarteners to fifth graders. Total construction costs for the building, including general, plumbing, sewerage, gas fitting, heating, ventilating, vacuuming, and electric work were \$210,272.64. This was almost \$90,000 under the contract price agreed upon on March 9, 1926. ⁴ The 1927 school's service region was roughly bounded by O'Fallon Park to the north, the Mississippi River to the east, St. Louis Avenue to the south, and Clay Avenue to the west⁵. Children within the Lowell School district were educated in the building until 2003, when it was closed due to financial constraints on the St. Louis Board of Education.⁶

Architectural Background:

Prior to 1857, the architecture of the St. Louis Public School system was sporadic, with classes held in any vacant building and schools constructed of one or two rooms. The design of these schools followed the educational philosophy of the Lancaster/Monitorial System, in which one teacher would explain a lesson to two or three students, who in turn taught the other students. But the inception of the normal school, in which prospective teachers learned from their peers, called for a re-evaluation of both the educational philosophy and the architecture of school design. Superintendent Ira Divoll employed the guidance of St. Louis teacher William Torrey Harris, in designing a floor plan that contained approximately 700 students in twelve classrooms. These schools utilized the graded system, with the most advanced students found on the top floor of the three-story building, and those of lowest achievement on the first level.⁷

School buildings were designed in this fashion by many architects, contractors and carpenters, who would compete for one-to-three year architectural appointments by the

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Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Board of Education. In 1897, Professor Calvin Woodward and Superintendent Louis Soldan reformed the charter to incorporate at large members to the Board of Education, reducing the corruption of gerrymander districts. Financial and functional effectiveness resulted from this restructuring, as did the appointment of William B. Ittner as the first Commissioner of School Buildings. Ittner reorganized the Building Department, and with significant success.⁸ During his time as Commissioner, Ittner revolutionized instructional architecture, by turning from the previously mandated square school design to fire proof buildings that allowed significantly more air and light passage to the interior.⁹

Ittner maintained his appointment as Commissioner until 1910, when his aspirations for other work resulted in his resignation. He continued to contract with the board as a consulting architect.¹⁰ At this time the Building Department of the Board of Education was re-organized, with a separate department for the architect and drafting room.¹¹ After his departure from the Board of Education, Ittner's schools were recognized for their dignified design and construction, and noted to be economically well-organized and an architectural asset not only to St. Louis, but beyond.¹² Ittner continued to work for the St. Louis Board of Education until 1915.

Chosen from nine competing architects as second Commissioner of Schools, Rockwell M. Milligan jumped at the chance to follow in Ittner's footsteps.¹³ Milligan was born in Canada in 1868. He studied at Garfield University in Wichita, Kansas, and moved to St. Louis in 1884.¹⁴ After helping form the St. Louis Architectural Club,¹⁵ he worked with Isaac Taylor and George R. Mann, and started an architectural firm, Milligan and Wray, which constructed several hospitals and institutional buildings.¹⁶ Milligan was an ample replacement for Ittner, having worked for Ittner as a draftsman from March of 1897 to September of 1898.¹⁷ Milligan became Commissioner in 1914.¹⁸

By the time he designed Lowell School in 1926, Milligan had undertaken almost twenty projects for the Board of Education. His first significant work was a branch of Sumner High School in 1916, and the same year he designed Lowell he also designed Vashon High School (presently Harris Stowe State College) and the Gallaudet School. In all he designed two dozen schools for the St. Louis Board of Education, with five completed after his death.¹⁹ Milligan continued the superb design tradition William Ittner established as commissioner, while implementing his own elements into the buildings, and making them uniquely his. Some of these elements include the use of eyebrow windows in on the front façade, embellished stone columns on main entrances, and the incorporation of painted glass story book characters in the kindergarten windows.²⁰

Lowell School is an example of the H-plan subtype established in the multiple property document "The St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." Ittner's initial design upon designation as commissioner was an H-plan, with two legs on either side

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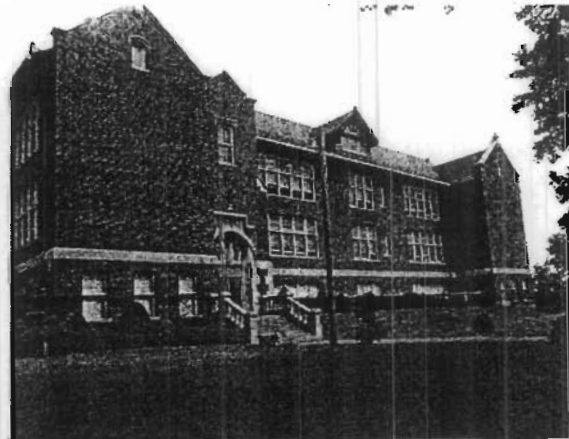
Lowell School
St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

of a central core, and a kindergarten room at the rear.²¹ As Commissioner Milligan copied this floor plan in five of his buildings, and modified it in ten others.²²

The Lowell School is significant as a reflection of architect Rockwell M. Milligan's versatility, for Lowell School's plan deviates from the archetypical H-plan school in its asymmetrical façade. The typical H-plan school design consists of a long central corridor, with classrooms on either side, and perpendicular wings on each end, which also contain classrooms. The H-plan characteristically incorporates a main central doorway²³, an element Milligan embellished on many of his buildings. The main entrance on Lowell School is located just to the east of the western projecting wing, under its own gable, stressed by stone arches and a name plate. Lowell is one of four schools constructed in this fashion while Milligan worked as Commissioner of Schools for the St. Louis Board of Education (1917-1929). The other three are Wilkinson (constructed in 1926), Scullin (constructed in 1927) and Lindenwood (constructed in 1928 and National Register listed 6 May 2005)²⁴.

The Lowell School is constructed in the Jacobethan Revival style, an architectural style occurring in most of Milligan's school buildings.²⁵ These structures feature brick walls with stone trim, parapeted gables, tall chimneys, and multi-light rectangular windows.²⁶ Though noted as a residential architecture type, the Jacobethan style "had its greatest impact proportionally" on educational architecture.²⁷

Milligan continued his use of fine materials on the interior of Lowell School, pulling the stone in through the main entrance and up the passage to the first floor. Elegant carved wood and leaded glass doors and windows fill the interior, allowing air to pass through the well lit classrooms into the glazed brick corridors. Hand painted characters in the leaded glass windows of the original kindergarten room were found in more than one of Milligan's schools. Milligan also continued his use of oak and glass in bookcases and cabinetry throughout the school.



Lowell School 1972- on file with the St. Louis Public School Records Center and Archives

As part of an improvements plan by the St. Louis Public School System, an addition was constructed at the rear of the building in 1992²⁸. Although clearly an addition, it mimics the original structure, constructed of multi-colored brick, with six-over-nine

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double hung windows, and a stone belt course separating the basement from the upper floors. The appendage connects to the 1926 edifice by two enclosed stairwells that were once outdated bathrooms. The location of the new stairwells is such that the majority of the original rear façade is still intact, visible from the courtyard between the two buildings. The interior reflects the floor plan Milligan instituted, including wardrobes, classroom dimensions, wooden doors and windows. The placement and size of the 1992 addition keeps it hidden from view when facing the main façade. The similar architectural and interior design elements reflect the original structure, and do not detract from its historical character. The building has retained integrity from its period of significance, despite minimal interior updates and alterations, and is an excellent intact example of Milligan's modified H-plan Jacobethan style schools.

Milligan's death on September 3, 1929 came just as unexpectedly as the Great Depression that hit the country the same year. The school district had flourished tremendously between 1897 and 1929, with 116,202 pupils registered and a budget of \$13,265,358.86 for the Board of Education in 1930.²⁹

But the Depression was hard on the Board of Education, and the architects to follow, George W. Sanger and Ernest T. Friton, shared work with a tight budget over the next ten years. Faced with a lack of funding, and designing in minimalist Art Deco or traditional forms, the schools of these two men fail to continue the revolutionary architecture William Ittner instituted and Rockwell Milligan maintained and reflected. Milligan added unique elements of his own, but was so skilled in Ittner's style, that distinguishing between the works of the two architects can be challenging to even the most studied student of architecture.

Though less well known, Rockwell M. Milligan's school architecture represents the same distinctive principles expressed by Ittner's designs. In spite of the 1992 addition, the historical character of the Lowell School has been retained, and the interior's original elements still speak to the artistic and architectural distinction the school possessed at construction. As a Jacobethan Revival style school with an asymmetrical façade, the Lowell School is an outstanding example of Rockwell M. Milligan's modification of the H-plan, and retains excellent integrity of materials, design, location, feeling and association from the period of significance.

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Notes:

- ¹ Norman L. Wagman. History of St. Louis Neighborhoods- Bissell/ College Hill. <http://stlouis.missouri.org/neighborhoods/history/bissell/text4.htm> (Accessed October 15, 2006).
- ² Lowell Fact Sheet (On File with the St. Louis Public Schools Records Center/ Archive September 24, 2004).
- ³ 1409 E Linton St. Louis, MO-Google Maps. <http://www.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl&q=1409%20E%20linton%20st.%20louis%20mo> (Accessed October 15, 2006.)
- ⁴ St. Louis Board of Education, *Annual Report- St. Louis Board of Education* (St. Louis: City of St. Louis, 1927).
- ⁵ Public School Review. Lowell Elementary School- St. Louis, Missouri,/ MO- Public School Profile. www.publicschoolreview.com/school_ov/school_id/47673 (Accessed October 15, 2006.)
- ⁶ Jake Wagman, "District Details School Closings in City," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 14 July 2006, sec. News, p. A1.
- ⁷ Board of Education, *Public School Messenger* (St. Louis: Department of Instruction of the St. Louis Public Schools, 1938), 100-107.
- ⁸ Elinor Mondale Gersman, "Progressive Reform of the St. Louis School Board, 1897," *History of Education Quarterly* 10 (Spring 1970): 3-21.
- ⁹ Cynthia H. Longwisch, *St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner* (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, 1992).
- ¹⁰ Elke Murphy and Larry, *Lindenwood School* (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, 2005).
- ¹¹ Board of Education.
- ¹² *Western Architect* (Minneapolis: Western Architect Publishing Company, 1916), January 1916.
- ¹³ Built St. Louis, Built St. Louis: the Ittner/ Milligan Legacy, <http://www.builtstlouis.net/schools/ittner00.html> (Accessed 15 October 2006).
- ¹⁴ M. L. Van Nada, *The Book of Missourians: the Achievements and Personnel of Notable Living Men and Women of Missouri in the Opening Decade of the Twentieth Century* (St. Louis : T.J. Steele, 1906).
- ¹⁵ Murphy.
- ¹⁶ Van Nada.
- ¹⁷ Murphy.
- ¹⁸ City of St. Louis Planning and Urban Design Agency St. Louis Historic Preservation (http://stlcin.missouri.org/history/peopledetail.cfm?Master_ID=1999)(Accessed 15 October 2006).
- ¹⁹ St. Louis Public Schools Listing of Rockwell M. Milligan School Buildings (On file

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with the St. Louis Public School Records Center/ Archives).

²⁰ Observations made from Built St. Louis: the Ittner/ Milligan Legacy.

²¹ Longwisch.

²² Cynthia H. Longwisch, *Architectural/ Historic Survey of St. Louis City Schools* (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office 1989). This includes Buder as a modified H-plan, though the survey refers to it as an E-shape. This is because it mimics several of the other modified H-plan schools.

²³ Longwisch, *Architectural*.

²⁴ Longwisch, *Architectural*.

²⁵ Longwisch, *Architectural*.

²⁶ Virginia McAlester and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 356.

²⁷ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. (M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England, 1969), 181.

²⁸ Building Permits (On file with Central File, City of St. Louis).

²⁹ Board Of Education.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Lowell School is located at 1409 East Linton Avenue on a lot comprised of the entirety of City Block 3387 as follows: at the intersection of East Linton Avenue and Van Phul Street proceed southwest on East Linton to its intersection with Zealand Street; then proceed northwest on Zealand to its intersection with East College Avenue; proceed northeast to the intersection with Van Phul Street; proceed southeast on Van Phul to the intersection with East Linton Avenue, the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The selected boundaries are those historically associated with the Lowell School, including the school itself and its fenced lot.

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St. Louis (Independent City) County, MO

Photograph Log:

The following information applies to all photographs:

Lowell School

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Photographer: Cary Winchester

Date: 6 June 2006

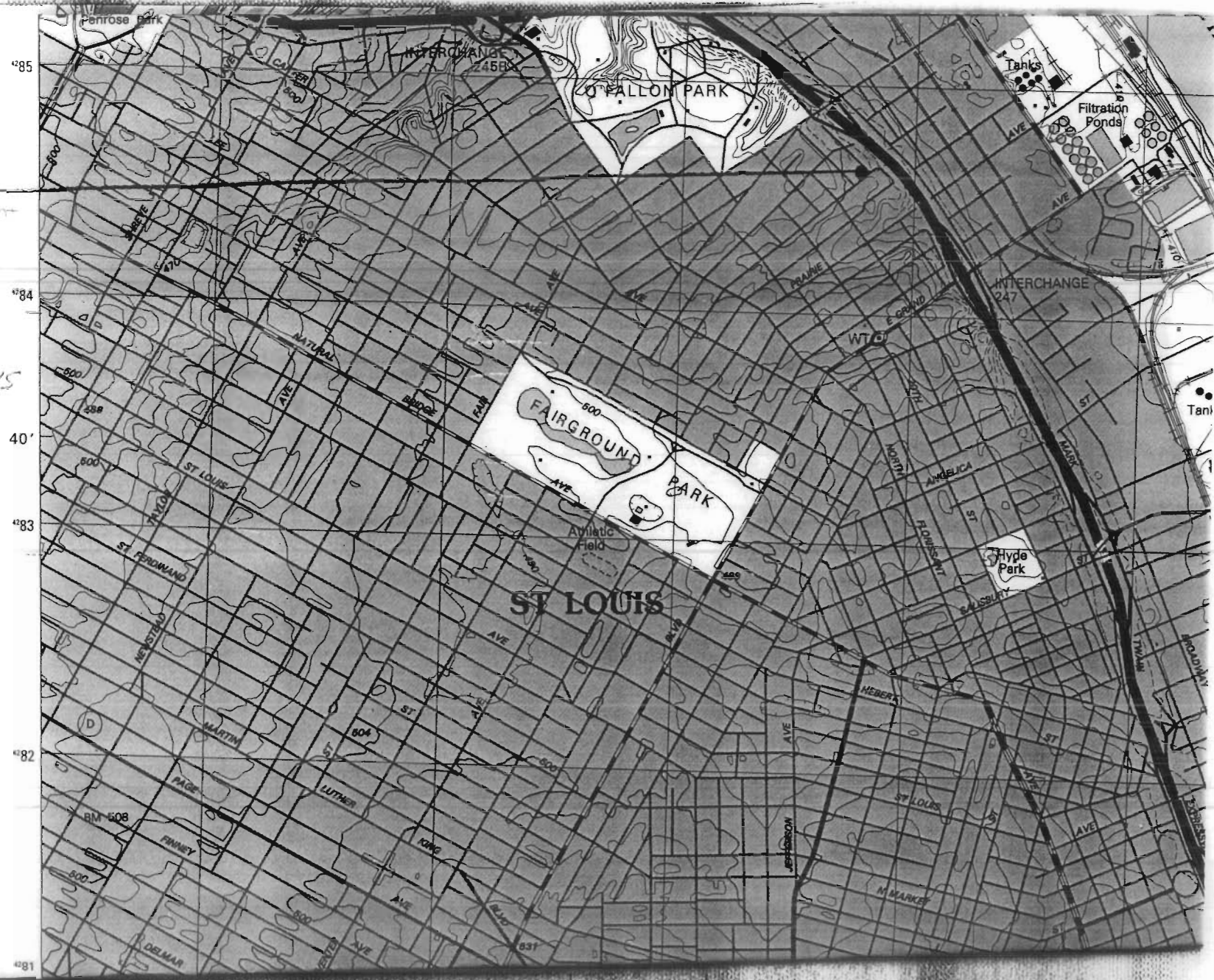
Negative Location: Lafser & Associates
2285 County Road 316
Jackson, MO 63755

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View:</u>
1.	Front Façade from Linton
2.	Southeast down Zealand from East College
3.	Northwest down Von Phul
4.	Southeast down Von Phul from East College
5.	Front façade from southwest corner of property
6.	Main entrance, west side of front façade
7.	"Core" of the front façade
8.	Diamond pattern in the gable of the façade's west wing
9.	Southeast corner from Von Phul
10.	Rear (Northwest) elevation from the Northwest corner of property
11.	Rear (Northwest) elevation from Northeast corner of property
12.	In courtyard, looking west, original building on left
13.	In courtyard, chimney on east corner of original building
14.	Rear of original building
15.	Main entrance interior doors
16.	1 st floor main corridor
17.	1 st floor hallway toward east stairwell
18.	Example of classroom 1 st floor- original building
19.	Example of classroom cabinetry 1 st floor
20.	Example of classroom 1 st floor- original building
21.	Example of classroom 1 st floor- original building
22.	Example of wardrobe in 1 st floor classroom
23.	Door from original building found on 1 st floor classroom
24.	Main office- former kindergarten
24.	Main office- former kindergarten
26.	Cabinetry- Principal's Office
27.	Example of kindergarten windows
28.	West corridor 1 st floor-addition
29.	Example of classroom 1 st floor- addition
30.	Example of classroom 1 st floor- addition
31.	East stairwell or original building
32.	2 nd floor main corridor looking west
33.	2 nd floor bathroom in addition
34.	Main corridor of the original building looking west toward exit stairwell, 2 nd floor
35.	Basement Library
36.	Basement Library
37.	Gymnasium facing south

Lowell
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St. Louis (Independence
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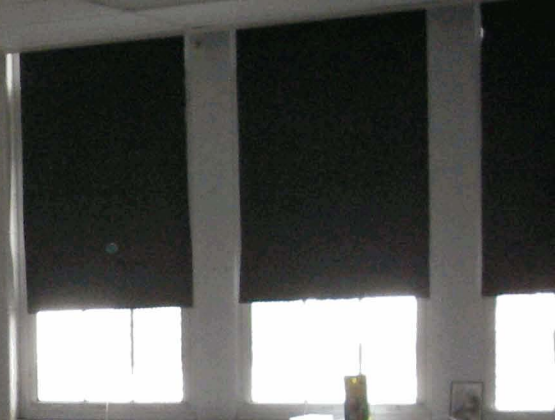






















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CLOSE IN SUMMER OPEN IN WINTER









LOWELL SCHOOL

