National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property		
historic name Marshall School		
other names/site number <u>n/a</u>		
2. Location		
Avenue A. C. considerate A.		[n/a] not for publication
city or town St. Louis		[n/a] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county St. L	ouis [Independent City code 51	0 zip code <u>63113</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Prese [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meet National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedura opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)	rvation Act, as amended, I hereby certify s the documentation standards for regist I and professional requirements set forth Il Register criteria. I recommend that this	that this ering properties in the in 36 CFR Part 60. In my property be considered
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blac	kwell/Deputy SHPO Date	Aug \$ 1999
Missouri Department of Natural Resources State or Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the No. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)	ational Register criteria.	
Signature of certifying official/Title		
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date
[] entered in the National Register		
See continuation sheet []. [] determined eligible for the National Begister		
See continuation sheet [].		
National Register See continuation sheet []. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register		
National Register [] other, explain		
See continuation sheet [].		

5.Classification					
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of R Contributing	Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing		
[] private [X] public-local [] public-State	[X] building(s) [] district [] site	1	0	buildings	
[] public-State [] public-Federal	[] structure [] object	0	0	sites	
	,	0	0	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		1	0	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing. Historic and Architectural Resources of the		Number of con previously liste Register.	_		
Ville, St. Louis [Independent Louis, Missouri, Public School B. Ittner		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Function Education/school		Current Functions Education/school		- - -	
				- -	
		·		_	
7. Description					
Architectural Classificatio Classical Revival	n .	Materials foundation stone walls brick			
		roof <u>asphalt</u> other <u>terra cotta</u>		<u> </u>	
	· ·				

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

8.Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history	Ethnic HeritageBlack Architecture
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
[X] 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.	Periods of Significance
[]D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1918-1947
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
Property is:	1918
[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
[] B removed from its original location.	Significant Person(s)
[] C a birthplace or grave.	n/a
[]D a cemetery.	
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Outhornal Affiliation
[]F a commemorative property.	Cultural Affiliation
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	1/0
	Architect/Builder Ittner, William Butts/unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation)	ation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographic References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing thi Previous documentation on file (NPS):	s form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	[X] State Historic Preservation Office
(36 CFH 67) has been requested [] previously listed in the National Register	[] Other State Agency
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register	[] Federal Agency
[] designated a National Historic Landmark	[] Local Government [] University
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	[X] Other:
# [] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	Name of repository: <u>Landmarks Association of St. Louis.</u> Inc.: St. Louis Board of Education

10.Geogr	aphical Data					
Acreage (of Property 2					
UTM Refe	erences					
A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing	
15	739820	4282290				
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing	
Verbal Bo	oundary Desc e boundaries of the	eription ne property on a continua	ution sheet.)	[] See co	ntinuation sheet	
Boundary (Explain why	/ Justification the boundaries v	1 vere selected on a contir	uation sheet.)			
11. Form	Prepared By					
name/title	see continua					_
organizati	on			date		
street & n	umber			telephone	9	_
city or tow	/n		state	zip code_	 	
Additional Submit the	al Documenta e following iter	ition ms with the complet	ed form:			
Continua	tion Sheets					
		minute series) indicating ic districts and properties	the property's location. having large acreage or r	numerous resourc	ces.	
Photogra Repres		nd white photographs o	f the property.			
Additiona (Check		or FPO for any additional	items)			
Property (Complete the	Owner nis item at the rec	uest of SHPO or FPO.)				
		n of the City of St. L	ouis			
street & n	umber <u>911 Lo</u>	ocust Street		telephone	e 314/231-3720	
city or tow	/n <u>St. Louis</u>		state MO	zip code	63101	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

Summary: Marshall School, 4342 Aldine Avenue, St. Louis, is a four-story, brick, Classical Revival style school building representing the Institutional Buildings property type in the associated cover document, Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis and the property type "St. Louis Public Schools of William B. Ittner", subtype E ("Open")-Plan Elementary Schools, under the MPS St. Louis, Missouri. Public Schools of William B. Ittner. Its modified E-shaped plan is capped by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. Walls are finished with red brick trimmed in limestone and terra cotta and the foundation is limestone. A cupola tops the school, which has a terra cotta cornice under wide overhanging eaves and exposed, shaped rafter tails. Sited almost on the sidewalk, a narrow yard and a short iron fence separate the building from the public walk. On the rear elevation, three wings extend to the south from the primary block; the east and west wings are truncated, while the center wing, extends approximately fifty feet beyond the main block (photo 4). In later versions of the E-plan, the three wings would be of more equal size. A one-story, 1965 red-brick all-purpose room addition is connected to the school's west elevation near the street (Photo 3). Thirteen narrow bays with limestone surrounds define its primary elevation; sides and rear are infilled or blind. Located separately near the southeast corner of the school is Marshall Brnach School (elementary), a 1952 red-brick one-story building (Photo 4, right). An asphalted playground surrounds the school on three sides, extending to Martin Luther King Drive (a major thoroughfare) to the south and N. Newstead on the west. Marshall School is located at the edge of the residential neighborhood known as the Ville. The building is in very good condition and the exterior has been altered very little; the school retains a high degree of integrity.

Narrative: Marshall School was designed in a stolid Classical Revival idiom, presenting a fifteen-bay wide facade to residential Aldine Street. The center nine bays of the school's primary (north) facade (Photos 1 & 2) project slightly from the block of the building; the roofline above these bays is somewhat higher than the flanking roof; all are hipped. A rusticated brick ground floor is topped with a limestone water table/sill course. Centered in the primary elevation is the main entrance, flanked by rusticated, engaged, square, brick pilasters supporting a heavy terra cotta entablature bearing the name "John Marshall School." A double-string terra cotta sill course at the third story returns to include the first five bays of each side's rear elevation. The center wing features instead a limestone sill course at each of the third and attic stories. The window of the attic story on this wing as well as the front elevation of the center pavilion are extremely narrow, with three panes in a horizontal row. Auxiliary doors (one of which is boarded up) on either side of the center block and at the east side feature terra cotta entablatures decorated with swags. Doors on the rear elevation are strictly functional, with no entablatures. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung wood sash and have flat arches and limestone lug sills. Third-story windows on the primary and side elevations are separated by engaged pilasters capped with ionic terra cotta capitals; those on the center bay additionally are highlighted with decorative terra cotta brackets at the sills. Above these windows, round inset arches feature eight-armed cast-iron vents. The octagonal, louvered, copper-roofed cupola is a 1952 replacement of the original, which was destroyed by fire. The present design is presumably essentially a replica of the original, although that could not be verified.

Designed by William B. Ittner in 1900, the school, unlike its nineteenth-century predecessors, features a substantial rear wing extending toward the south from the rear elevation of the block of the building. It is this feature, which presaged his eventual formalization of his Open Plan schools, and the fact of its chronology in Ittner's series of schools, that distinguishes the building architecturally from those before and after it.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

Commercial and/or commercial/residential buildings formerly located along Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at the rear of the school were all razed in 1952, according to Board of Education records, although the Board apparently bought the real estate in 1931.¹ The land was paved with asphalt to form one of the largest school playgrounds in the city. Marshall School is a handsome 21-classroom building that has had very little alteration. The one-story addition on the west was a standard plan added to several public schools in the 1960s (see also Simmons School in this MPS). It is connected to the school by a narrow passageway (Photo 3) which provides ample visual separation between the main building and the addition. It covers only the first floor of the west elevation, and is not high enough to block most views of the main building. While the modern design of the 1960s room does not complement the original school, neither does it substantially detract from its integrity in that it is brick, low-rise, and simply executed. Moreover, it is quite minimally attached to the school proper and could, in fact, be removed without leaving much damage. Well maintained, the school retains a high degree of integrity and serves as an important, extremely visual anchor at the southwest corner of the Ville.

¹Miscellaneous undated loose records, Board of Education Archives. These materials are literally in unlabeled cardboard boxes at the St. Louis Board of Education "archives" facility at 1615 Hampton Avenue. While clearly produced by the Board of Education, these materials were not dated or always clearly identified at the time of research.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

Summary: Marshall School, 4342 Aldine Avenue, St. Louis, is significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK and ARCHITECTURE. Under the MPS Historic and Architectural Resources of The Ville, St. Louis [Independent City], it represents the "Institutional Buildings" property type. Its cultural significance relates to the context "The Ville as a Center for Black Culture, 1910-1950." Marshall became an intermediate school for blacks in 1918 and is an integral part of the educational ensemble that served to make the Ville unique in its role in the history of African-Americans in St. Louis. Marshall School also represents the property type "St. Louis Public Schools of William B. Ittner", subtype E ("Open")-Plan Elementary Schools, under the MPS St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner. The school was designed in 1900 by nationally-known St. Louis architect William Butts Ittner, F.A.I.A., in his capacity as the first Commissioner of St. Louis School Buildings. Designed five months before the Wyman School (NRHP 1992), generally regarded as the first completed example of the E-plan school, the Marshall School may have been Ittner's first tentative expression of that plan, often regarded as Ittner's most significant contribution to school design. The Classical Revival style building is in prominent view of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, a major thoroughfare, and serves as one of the pivotal buildings in the Ville neighborhood both visually and psychologically. The period of significance is circa 1900, representing its architectural significance, and 1918-1949, reflecting the date Marshall became an African-American institution and the threshold of the 50-year period beyond which extraordinary significance must be proven.

ETHNIC HISTORY

The original Marshall Elementary School (1863) was located in a rented building at 16th and Walnut Streets, a commercial area near Union Station in western downtown. Like all St. Louis public schools at the time, Marshall School had only white students (blacks in the city were officially prohibited from receiving education from 1847 to 1865). Named after American jurist John Marshall, the school was relocated to a more residential site on the edge of the Ville, still a predominantly white neighborhood in 1900. In its first years, Marshall remained a white elementary school as the African-American population of the Ville gradually increased.

As race-restrictive covenants in other north side neighborhoods in the late teens encouraged more blacks to move to the Ville, additional educational facilities were needed. In 1918, Marshall became an intermediate school for black children. This, with the relocation nearby of Sumner High School for blacks in 1910 and the 1914 addition of Harriet Beecher Stowe Teachers' College there, allowed the Ville to become the only neighborhood in St. Louis in which black residents could complete their education through college just a few blocks from home - something possible for few black students anywhere in Missouri at that time. Marshall continued to operate as an intermediate school until 1927, when it was returned to use as an elementary school for black students; it continues to be used as an elementary school today. In addition to education, which would continue to be of primary importance to the middle-class blacks living in the Ville, these schools provided community gathering places for social events. Marshall School served, as did Simmons Elementary School and Sumner High School, as a significant social focal point for African-Americans in the neighborhood; as with any neighborhood schools, they served as sites for plays, PTA meetings, organized and casual sports, festivals, fund-raisers, lectures, open houses, scout and club meetings, holiday celebrations, and the like. These community gathering

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Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

places were particularly important in an era before television and computers began to undermine the importance of such entertainments. At a time when education was limited for black people, the only St. Louis high school which accepted black students was located nearby, followed by the only hospital which would train black physicians (Homer G. Phillips Hospital, NR 1982), and the first teachers' college for black students in the city; Marshall School took its place in that educational continuum, encouraging the beginnings of the rich community life which characterized the Ville in the twenties, thirties and forties.

ARCHITECTURE

William Butts Ittner was born in St. Louis in 1864 and graduated from Cornell University School of Architecture in 1887. Elected a Fellow, American Institute of Architects, in 1891, he became known as a prominent, civic-minded St. Louisan. He accepted an offer from the newly-reorganized St. Louis Board of Education in 1897 to become the first Commissioner of School Buildings. Disorganization, corruption, and political in-fighting had left the Building Department in disarray, and it was left to lttner to both organize his office and staff and to begin immediately to upgrade the terribly inadequate state of existing school buildings. When, in 1898, Ittner was given the job of designing for what was to be the new era of St. Louis schools, he took it very seriously, devoting a great deal of time and effort studying various contemporary school designs worldwide. Trips around the United States included visits to Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Detroit and Springfield, Illinois and involved viewing and sketching various extant schools as well as consultation with many educational experts. He also made at least one trip to Europe very soon after his appointment, particularly concentrating on schools in England and Germany. A one-sided corridor plan was known to have been used in Sweden as early as 1891 using an H-shaped configuration. It is possible that Ittner was familiar with it, or with the Gemeindeschule Number 204 in Berlin, which was under construction during his visit and used a similar plan, because the first school he designed upon his return (Field, NR: Ittner MPS) incorporated the one-sided corridor in a U shape. The shapes of his floorplans and his use of extra corridors simply for light would be the basis for new lttner school designs that would be studied and imitated by school systems nationwide.

Ittner concluded early in his analysis of existing school buildings that older St. Louis designs were largely inefficient and not well suited for their intended use. Light was of extreme importance in the classroom, he felt, for reasons both physical and psychological: the blocky buildings in use were mostly built in the latter half of the nineteenth century and failed to provide students with the light, ventilation, and heat necessary for a healthy learning environment.³ Ittner began experimenting with what would later become known as

¹Edmund March Wheelwright, School Architecture, Boston: Rogers & Manson, 1901, p. 56.

²Cynthia Hill Longwisch, *St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner.* Multiple Property National Register Nomination, 1990, p. E-3.

³Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. in 1987-88 conducted a State-grant-sponsored survey of all existing St. Louis public schools that included the 47 lttner schools within the St. Louis City Limits and 68 schools built before and after lttner's tenure. [There are also a number of lttner schools in St. Louis County and surrounding municipalities

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Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

the "open (or E-) plan," one that would provide much more exterior wall space overall (and therefore more windows) than had previously been seen in St. Louis. This was done in two ways: first, by running a corridor with exterior windows down one length across a joined row of rooms, each room having a door onto the corridor and exterior windows. Such a design replaced older plans that relied on stairwell windows to light interior spaces. Secondly, Ittner planned schools with a central block and projecting wings at either end and sometimes in the center as well. Classrooms in the wings had windows on three sides, making them light, airy, and dry. Ittner's innovations also included vastly improved indoor plumbing, superior ventilation systems forcing in fresh air to rapidly replace stale air, fireproofing, dry basement playrooms, and large, tree-shaded lawns to cool the buildings and provide beauty. There can be no doubt that his contributions vastly improved the educational experience for generations of St. Louisans and others.

Marshall School was the ninth of more than fifty lttner would eventually design in the St. Louis area. It is a transitional design, beginning to exhibit those elements that he was to later explore more fully, yet having a primary elevation not unlike its nineteenth-century predecessors. Marshall School quite literally bridges the gap between the old and the new.

The exterior design of the facade of Marshall School is quite similar to the elementary schools already familiar to turn-of-the-century St. Louisans. The north elevation (Photo 2) rises four stories with only a narrow space between the building and the sidewalk. The expansive, landscaped campus of later schools was not a consideration here; the lack of any front lawn is very much in the mid-nineteenth century St. Louis building tradition. Typically, local schools prior to lttner's tenure were two or three stories tall, with four classrooms per floor, a central stair hall, and a central entrance in a slightly projecting center bay. Many of those still extant have had later additions that alter the basically square footprint, often resulting in modified T- or E-shaped plans not entirely unlike later lttner designs. It is possible that his inspection of schools in use when he began to work for the Board of Education early in 1898 helped to form his concept of schools built with projecting wings. In fact, very many of the additions to the older schools were turn-of-the-century designs by Ittner himself; he often added flanking wings to extant buildings. Much of his time early on was necessarily devoted to enlarging existing schools to immediately alleviate overcrowding. At his urging, the Board of Education began an aggressive land-acquisition program and began an unprecedented building surge.

While the dense massing and Classical Revival detailing of Marshall School's north elevation could have been designed by any of Ittner's predecessors, the rear elevation (Photo 4) provides a clue that the

that are not included in the survey.] Information in this nomination summarizing characteristics and giving information about other schools comes from this survey.

⁴See Benton Park, Old North St. Louis or Columbia Brewery District National Register nominations for confirmation.

⁵lttner designed 41 St. Louis public schools between 1900 and 1914 alone.

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Section 8 Page 6

Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

architect was attempting something different. In it, we can see the design process clearly as Ittner worked out his ideas. One of the early forms of the E-shaped "open" plan Ittner was still formulating in 1900, the long, centered, perpendicular rear wing provides an additional classroom per floor, each provided with natural light from three directions. Also, three bays of each side of the center block extend out a short distance perpendicular to the body of the building (this is difficult to see in Photo 4) in a suggestion of the full-blown E-shaped plan to be used so extensively later, beginning with Wyman School. Designed in June of 1900, Marshall School predates the design of Wyman School by five months and clearly represents, as do Field and Wyman Schools a major step in the evolution of the open plan. Each of the three is quite unlike the two in plan, and none are exactly replicated later. In particular, the single rear center-wing plan of Marshall was never used again by Ittner in St. Louis. Looking at Ittner's schools chronologically, one can see that the architect used his unique opportunity in history to experiment, hone, and evolve his conceits. The products of his research and skill served as living laboratories; features that were failures were eliminated in subsequent designs.

By about 1903 Ittner's school plans had begun to solidify, and while there would always be some variation in plan and much fanciful and beautiful variation in ornamentation, the E-plan dominated his St. Louis elementary school designs from then on. While Marshall School may not have been the ideal school design to William Ittner's way of thinking, it does essentially represent a moment in time when the great designer was struggling to express his innovative ideas in brick and stone; it gives us insight into how he worked and what his goals were.

Marshall School proved too small for the number of students in the Ville by the 1930s, requiring the use of three steel portable buildings. These were sold and removed in 1940. A 1951 bond issue resulted in the construction of Marshall Branch School, a free-standing, precast concrete skeleton with brick walls, built on the grounds southeast of the main school building in 1952. The utilitarian, flat-roofed building uses a combination of glass brick and regular glass windows and holds eight classrooms. A multi-purpose room addition was added to the west side of the main building in 1965. The single, high-ceilinged room is reached by a narrow corridor attached to the main building. The flat-roofed addition obscures the first floor of the west elevation of the building but does not otherwise interfere with its design. The school has remained in continuous use since its completion in 1901, providing generations of Ville residents with primary education.

⁶Cynthia Hill Longwisch, *St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner* National Register Nomination, 1990.

⁷Field School (NR-Ittner MPS), 4466 Olive (now closed), designed 2/1900, has forward-projecting wings in a U-shaped plan. Wyman (NR-Ittner MPS), 1547 S. Theresa, designed 11/900, has the rear center wing and two projecting rear wings to form an E-shaped plan. Marshall, designed 6/1900, falls between them.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Marshall School St. Louis [Independent City], MO Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

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Marshall School
St. Louis [Independent City], MO
Historic and Architectural Resources of the Ville, St. Louis
and St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner

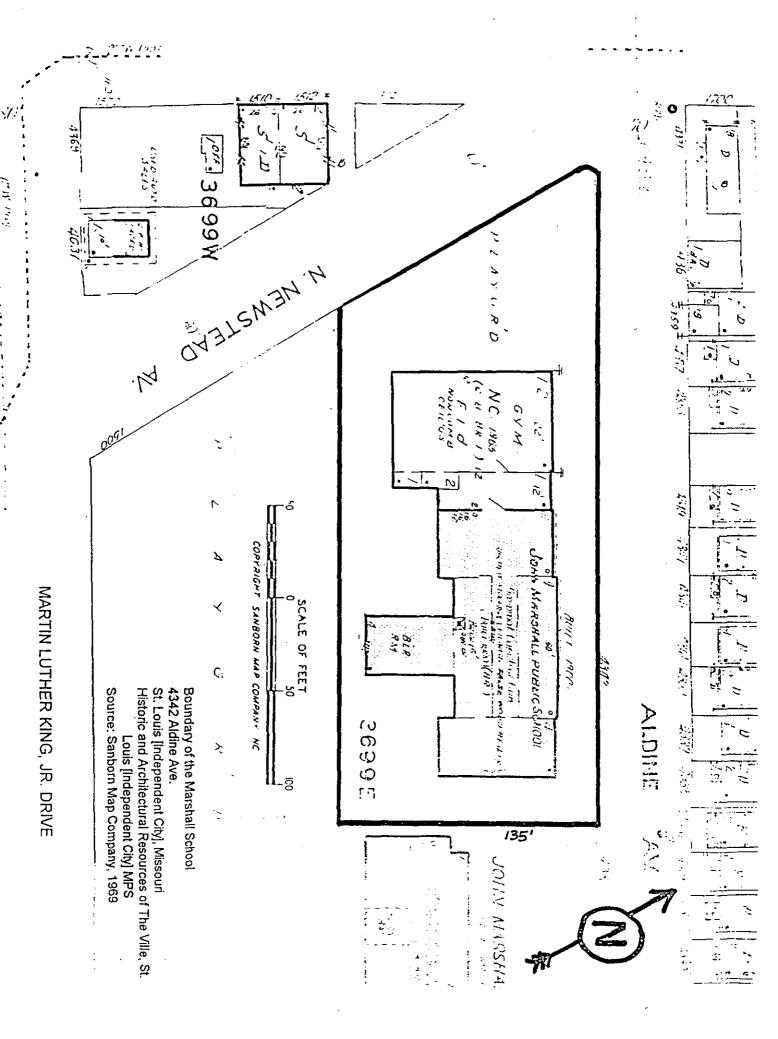
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by the solid heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Boundary of the Marshall School," scale 1"=50'.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are drawn to include only the Marshall School building; the Marshall Branch School to the east was constructed in 1952, and the playground to the south has been extensively altered. Neither the branch school or the playground were part of the original parcel which included the school.

11. Form Prepared By

- Cynthia Hill Longwisch
 Assistant Director
 Landmarks Association of St. Louis
 917 Locust Street, 7th floor
 St. Louis, MO 63101-1413
 314/421-6474
 January 1998
 original draft nomination, items 1-11
- 2. Steven E. Mitchell
 Assistant Director
 Historic Preservation Program
 Division of State Parks
 Department of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 176
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 573/751-4692
 July 1999
 editor and revisions, items 1-11.



HISTORICA & AFPORTECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE VILLE, FACING E/SE; WEST ENDOF THE ESUILDING NEE LANDMARKS ASSOCIOF ST, LOWIS, INC. ST LOUIS (HDEPENDENT CITY) MO ST. LOWIS (INDEDENDENT CITY) EST: CYNTHIA LONGWISCH 4342 ALDINE AVENUE があるまなろ めのものし DARE: 9/1997



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HISTORICK ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF THE VILLE (INDEPENDENT) FACING SE PRIMARY ELEVATION SHOWING NEC LANDMARKS ASSOC. OF ST. VOWS, INC. ST. LOUIS (INDEPENDENT OFF) MO ATTACH ME NT OF ADDITION 4347 ALDINE AUENNE BY CYNTHIA LONGWISCH DATE 12/1996 サンダム



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