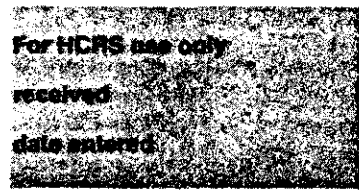


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mount Pleasant School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4528 Nebraska Avenue not for publication

city, town St. Louis vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant school

4. Owner of Property

name Mount Pleasant Partnership

street & number c/o Mark Dotzler
P. O. Bx 720

city, town St. Louis vicinity of state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street at Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

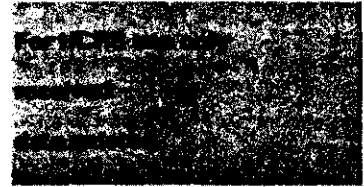
title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mount Pleasant School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4528 Nebraska Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town St. Louis ___ vicinity of ___ congressional district

state Missouri code 29 county City of St. Louis code 510

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<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant school

4. Owner of Property

name Mount Pleasant Partnership

c/o Mark Dotzler

street & number P. O. Bbx 720

city, town St. Louis ___ vicinity of state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

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street & number Market Street at Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mount Pleasant School is a three story, classical revival building constructed in 1896-99 and located on St. Louis' south side. Masonry bearing walls rest on a stone foundation. The exterior is finished in red brick in stretcher bond and embellished with red terra cotta. (Photo's #1-4) Rusticated red-brown brick faces the raised basement. Elongated, carved wood brackets support the overhang of the low pitch hipped roof and add a Craftsman touch.

The building fronts on Nebraska Avenue facing west. Play yards adjoining the building at each side. (Fig. 1) An iron fence borders the school grounds in front. The building is essentially square in plan. (Fig's. 2 & 3) There is a wide central corridor with two classrooms on each side. The interior of the school is virtually unornamented.

Fenestration of the primary, multi-planar facade establishes nine bays grouped in three-bay sections. The main entrance to the school is centered in a projecting pavilion and accentuated with a molded terra cotta surround. Wide piers, slightly battered at the first story, flank the entrance. Single windows, enriched with segmentally arched terra cotta pediments and consoles, and with terra cotta sills and sill brackets, are set in each pier. An entablature, also of terra cotta, completes the first story of the pavilion. At the second and third stories, triple windows are centered over the entrance and single windows are set in the piers at each side. Above the third floor and a terra cotta lintel course set with disks, shaped terra cotta lintels crown the piers.

The north and south sections of the primary facade are identical. (Photos #2 & 3) There are groupings of three windows at each story; terra cotta lintels with consoles embellish the first story windows. Lintel and sill courses at the second and third stories continue across the entire primary facade returning to continue along the sides of the building. (Photos #1-3) There are several small, single, rectangular attic windows.

At the north and south sides of the building, groupings of windows and ornamentation echo the primary facade. There is a small, one story addition on the south side. (Photos #1,2, & 3)

Large, multi-light windows illuminate the stair tower at the rear of the building. (Photo #4) A molded terra cotta cornice wraps around the one story gymnasium recalling the ornamentation of the main building. (Photo ##3 & 4)

The school was built in 1896-97 as a one story, four room structure. In 1899, the second and third stories were added. (Photo #5) Although drawings from 1899 show a flat roof, the existing bracketed, low pitch roof appears to be original and may have been the product of a last minute, on site revision of the plans. At the latest, as illustrated in photo #5, the bracketed roof was in place by 1906.

In 1913, a one story addition was constructed on the south side of the school. (Photo # 1 & 2) The entrance on the primary facade (west elevation) was altered to provide safety doors at the exterior. (Compare photos # 5 & 6) The large stair tower at the rear of the school (east elevation) was erected then also. (Photo #4 illustrates the stair tower; there is no historic photograph of this view.) The gymnasium was added at the rear of the school (east elevation) in 1928. At an unknown date, the set of stairs at the east end of the corridor, south side, were removed and the second and third floors extended across that opening. (Fig's. 2 & 3) The progression of window closures on the primary facade that have occurred over the years may be observed by comparing photos # 5, 6, & 2.

Although there has been some minor, spot deterioration of the interior the building is structurally sound. The exterior is in good condition.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-28	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896-99, 1913, 1928 **Architect** A. H. Kirchner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mount Pleasant School is a small, well preserved grammar school located not far from the Mississippi River in south St. Louis. Designed in 1896 by School Board Architect A. H. Kirchner in traditional local materials of brick and terra cotta, Mount Pleasant is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good representative example of the prototypical nineteenth century St. Louis neighborhood school. Integrating the typical, four room, square plan with more progressive features such as grouped windows, wide, well illuminated corridors, and smaller classrooms, Mount Pleasant represents the end point in local, nineteenth century, neighborhood school design and foreshadows twentieth century advances in school design.

The earliest St. Louis public schools were constructed to conform to the Lancasterian system of education in which there was a large study hall supervised by a head teacher with one or more small adjacent classrooms monitored by assistant teachers.¹ In 1857, the Board of Education of St. Louis (hereinafter, Board) adopted a graded system and promulgated "principles of school construction" which were to dictate school design in St. Louis for the next four decades. The principles called for schools of "uniform specifications" to be built throughout the City as needed. In "thinly settled districts," schools were to be one-half or one-third full size and "constructed with a view to receiving additions when needed."² The Board recommended that each school follow a square, four room per floor plan. Vertical additions would provide second and, if necessary, third floors. A three story, four rooms per floor school would accommodate twelve classrooms then thought to be the optimum number for one administrator.³

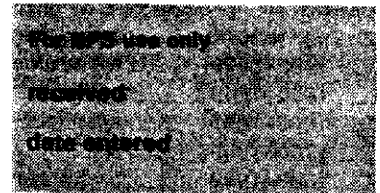
Not only did the change to multi-room schools with grade classifications make sense from an administrative and educational perspective, it equipped the Board with a flexible planning tool. In theory, the four room expandable school allowed the Board to provide each neighborhood with no more than the number of seats required and to increase the number of seats only if and when an increase in the population of the district so warranted. In practice, schools in densely populated areas often grew well beyond the prototypical twelve room building.⁴

Although the Board had established the basic principles, other factors influenced public school design. During the 1860's and 1870's, cost was of primary importance.⁵ Consequently, rooms were large to accommodate as many students as possible. Corridors, to spare expense, were narrow and dimly lit by few windows. There were generally no more than four windows per classroom.⁶ By the 1880's many educators expressed a growing concern for good learning conditions and the health of the teachers and students. This national trend is reflected in the Board's Annual Report for the 1898-9 school year. The Annual Report emphasized correct window treatment and stressed that classrooms and corridors should be well illuminated. Classrooms were to be not too wide so that even the seats farthest from the windows would receive plenty of light.⁷

Architect A. H. Kirchner's design for Mount Pleasant illustrates both the neighborhood school prototype developed by the Board in 1857 and the late nineteenth century design improvements. Well illuminated, wide corridors virtually eliminate the dreary interior associated with earlier schools. (Fig's. 2 & 3) Smaller classrooms created better conditions for teachers and students. Groupings of large windows filled the

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Item number 8

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classrooms with light. (Photo #1, 2 & 3) This last was especially important for schools such as Mount Pleasant which originally were not equipped with artificial lights.⁸

Kirchner's experience in school design began in the 1880's while working with his brother H. W. Kirchner during the latter's term as School Board Architect. Together the brothers designed numerous public schools for the Board. When an expanding practice drew his brother "out west", A. H. Kirchner applied for and received an appointment as Board Architect. Under his direction, thousands of seats were added yearly to the school system in an effort to accommodate the growing population.⁹

School Board records indicate that the small district served by Mount Pleasant was carved out of a larger, crowded district in 1895. Finding, in 1896, no immediate need for a full size school, Kirchner designed a four room, one story, square plan school capable of receiving up to two additional stories. By 1899, the demand for seats had outgrown the existing school and an eight room, two story addition was built over the original structure. This addition was under the supervision of William B. Ittner who had replaced Kirchner as School Architect in 1897.

Since the traditional four rooms per floor plan included classrooms only, space for auxiliary activities was provided by means of additions to the main building. Two such additions to Mount Pleasant were built.

The first addition, in 1913, created supplementary space in a classroom newly designated for use as a kindergarten; the extra space was needed to accommodate traditional kindergarten activities and equipment. Designed by William B. Ittner, the addition complements the main building. Groupings of windows and the use of carved wood brackets similar to but smaller than those of the main building, echo features of the original design. (Photo #2; Fig. 2)

In 1928, at the request of the Mount Pleasant School Patron's Alliance, a one story gymnasium was constructed.¹⁰ Under the direction of School Architect R. M. Milligan, careful attention to size and scale, and the use of matching red brick and molded terra cotta unified the main building and the gymnasium. (Photo #3 & 4)

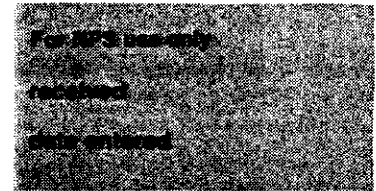
Although the Board might have remained committed to the traditional neighborhood school indefinitely, several events combined to cause a precipitous change in policy. In 1897, a City ordinance went into effect requiring that all schools thereafter constructed be fireproof. Anticipating increased costs associated with building "numerous small schools" of fireproof construction, the Board promptly adopted a new policy of building eighteen room schools. The practice of building small schools with a view to expanding was dropped entirely.¹¹

Another event that occurred in 1897 was the reorganization of the St. Louis Board of Education under a new State law. Before the close of the 1896-97 school year, a newly formed Board appointed William B. Ittner to succeed A. H. Kirchner as School Architect. Ittner, following extensive travel across the country researching school design, soon initiated the modified "E", sometimes referred to as the modified "H" plan in his designs. Mount Pleasant School, however, was completed according to Kirchner's design. Until 1980, when it was closed pursuant to a system-wide desegregation plan, Mount Pleasant remained in use as a neighborhood school.

Many schools once comparable to Mount Pleasant have been demolished. Of the

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National Park Service**

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schools that remain, most have been altered to such an extent that they have lost their integrity of design. Mount Pleasant is one of the very few schools designed before 1897 that retain integrity of design and convey the intangible qualities associated with this particular period and tradition of school design. The school is located in an area that has remained stable for many years. Mount Pleasant remains in good condition and the new owners have plans to convert it to apartments.

Footnotes

1. Board of Education of St. Louis, Out of the Past, St. Louis, 1939, P. 4.
2. Board of Education of St. Louis, Public School Messenger, vol. 35, Jan. 1938, Pp. 104-05.
3. Ibid.
4. Troen, Selwyn K., The Public and the Schools: Shaping the St. Louis System, 1838-1920, Columbia, 1975, P. 148. It was not uncommon for a school that was originally four rooms to expand into a twelve room school and then to double in size to a twenty-four room building.
5. Board of Education of St. Louis, Out of the Past, St. Louis, 1939, P. 5.
6. Board of Education of St. Louis, Annual Report for the School Year 1869-70, St. Louis, 1870, Pp. 86-87.
7. Board of Education of St. Louis, Annual Report for the School Year 1895-96, St. Louis, 1896, Pp. 23-24.
8. Records on file in the Building Division of the Board of Education indicate that gas lights were installed in Mount Pleasant in 1901.
9. St. Louis Star-Sayings, The City of St. Louis and its Resources, St. Louis, 1893, P. 142.
10. Board of Education of St. Louis, Official Proceedings, Printed Record, vol. 34, St. Louis, 1928, Pp. 981 & 1394.
11. Board of Education of St. Louis, Annual Report for the School Year 1895-96, Pp. 19-22.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Board of Education of St. Louis, Annual Report, (St. Louis, various years 1857-1938)
 Board of Education of St. Louis, Public School Messinger, vol. 35, Jan., 1938, (St. Louis)
 Troen, Selwyn K., The Public and the Schools: Shaping the St. Louis System, 1838-1920,
 University of Missouri Press, (Columbia, 1975)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Cahokia, ILL-MO.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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1	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is approximately 200' x 125' in size and occupies lots 13-20 inclusive in City Block 2718.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1: Deborah B. Wafer

organization na

date December 20, 1984

street & number 4425 Laclede Place

telephone (314) 652-3135

city or town St. Louis

state Missouri 63108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John Hand

title Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Parks and Historic Preservation

date 3/21/85

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

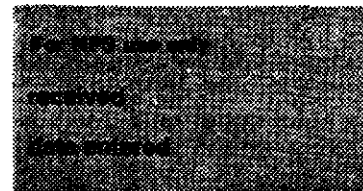
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

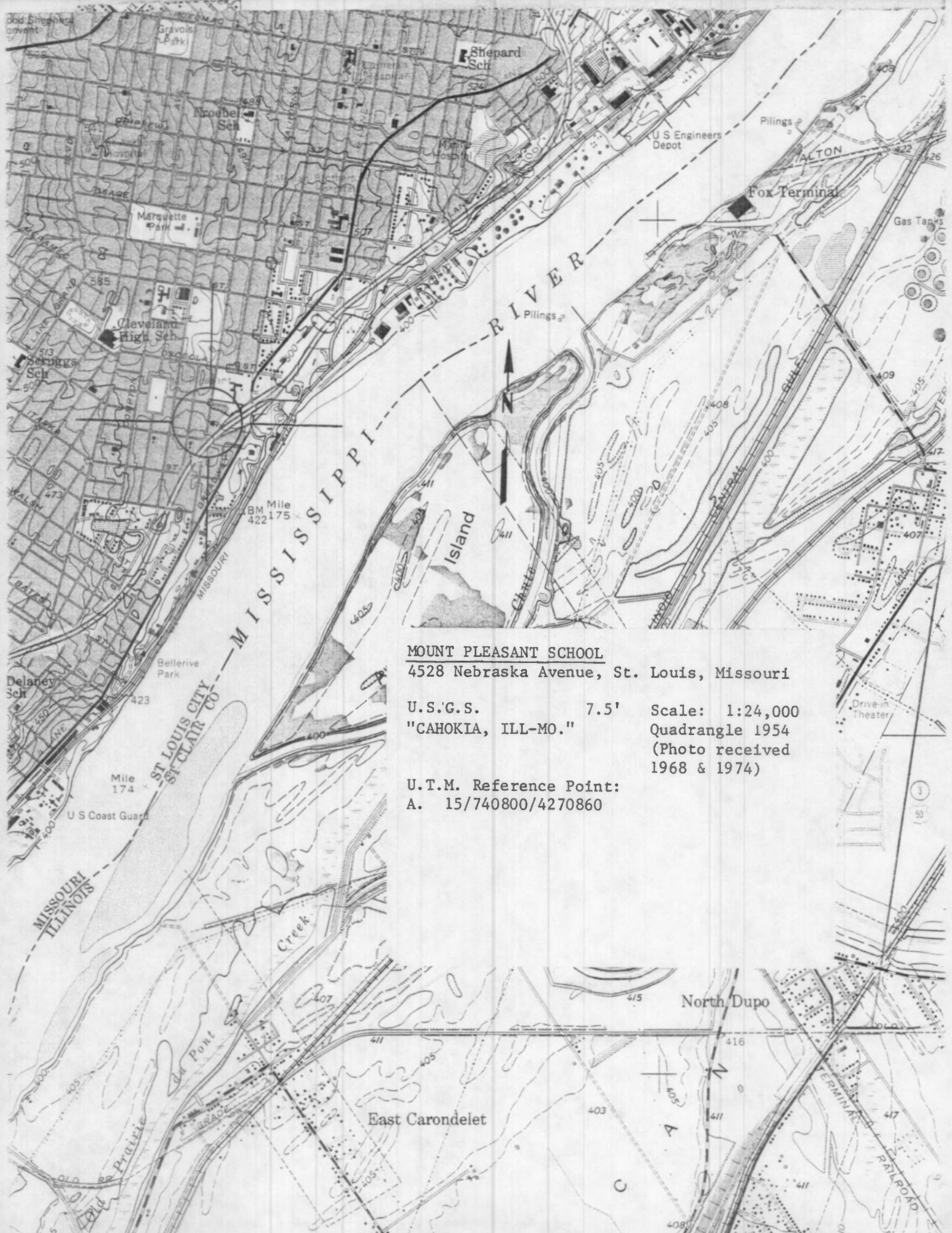


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Page 1

2. James M. Denny
Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 314/751-4096
Date: March 15, 1985



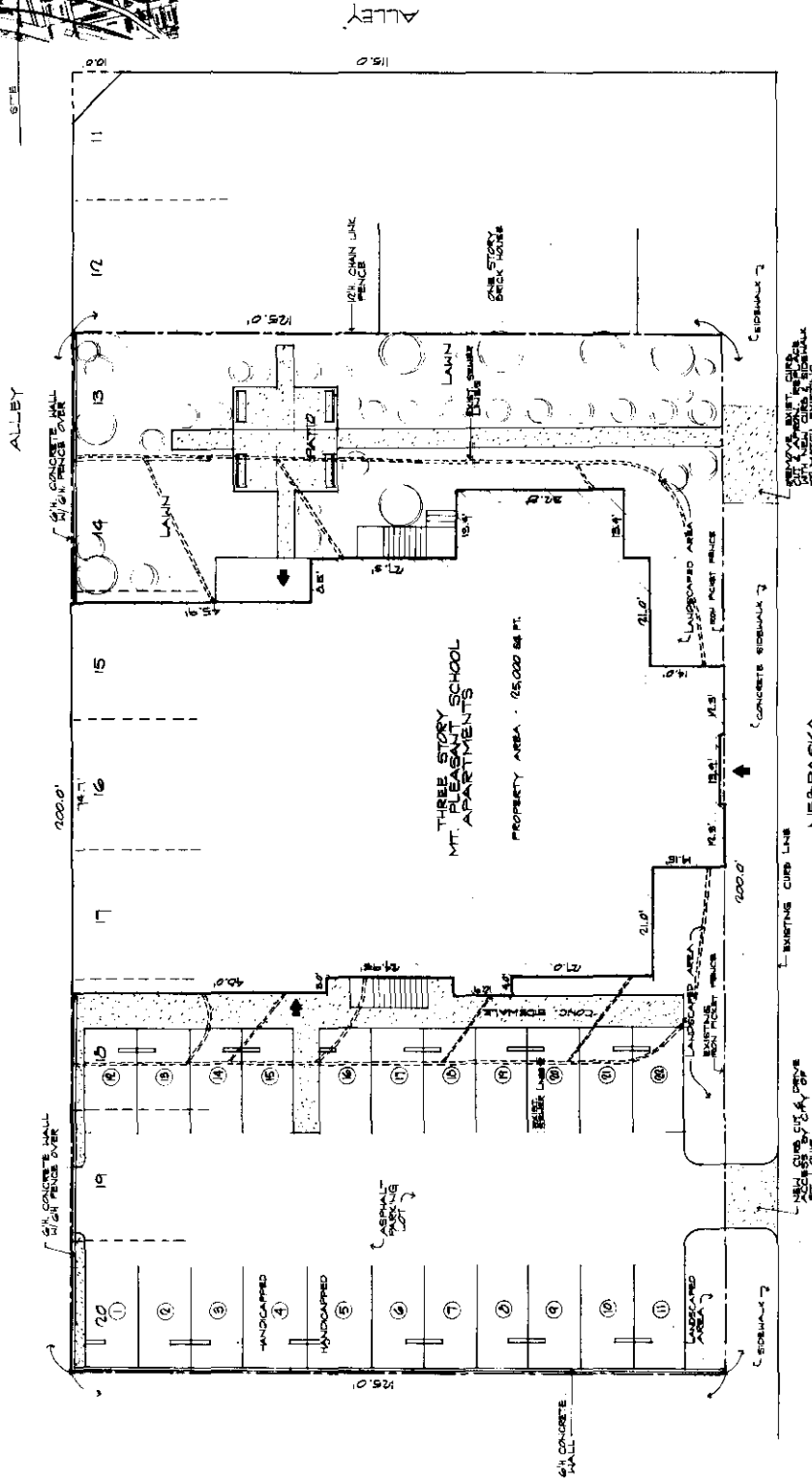
MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL
4528 Nebraska Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale: 1:24,000
"CAHOKIA, ILL-MO." Quadrangle 1954
(Photo received 1968 & 1974)

U.T.M. Reference Point:
A. 15/740800/4270860

MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN



MOUNT PLEASANT APARTMENTS
 4520 NEBRASKA, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63111
 DEVELOPER: MOUNT PLEASANT PARTNERSHIP

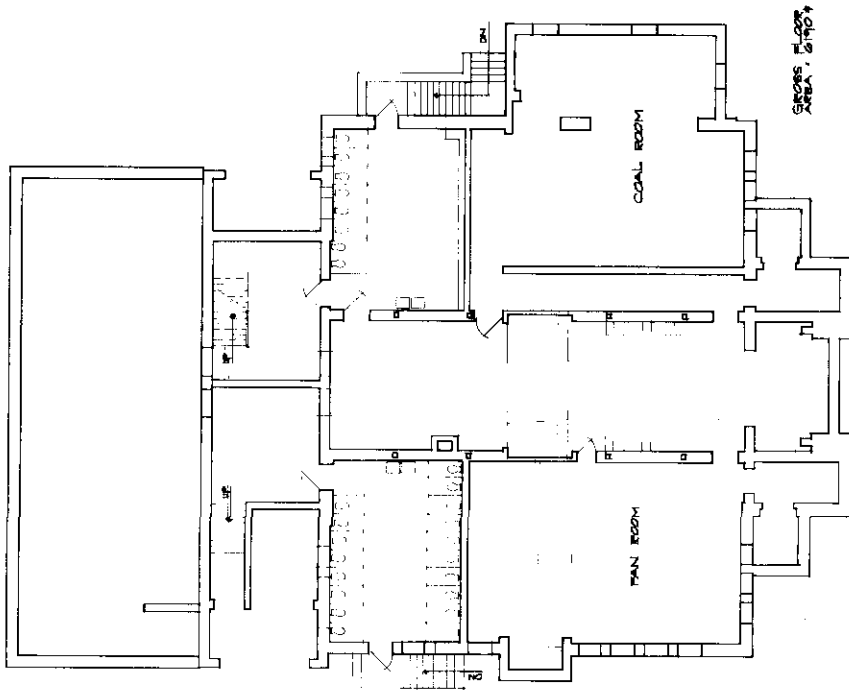
SITE PLAN
 SCALE: 1" = 10'

CITY BLOCK 0110
 LOTS 13-20
 CITY OF ST. LOUIS

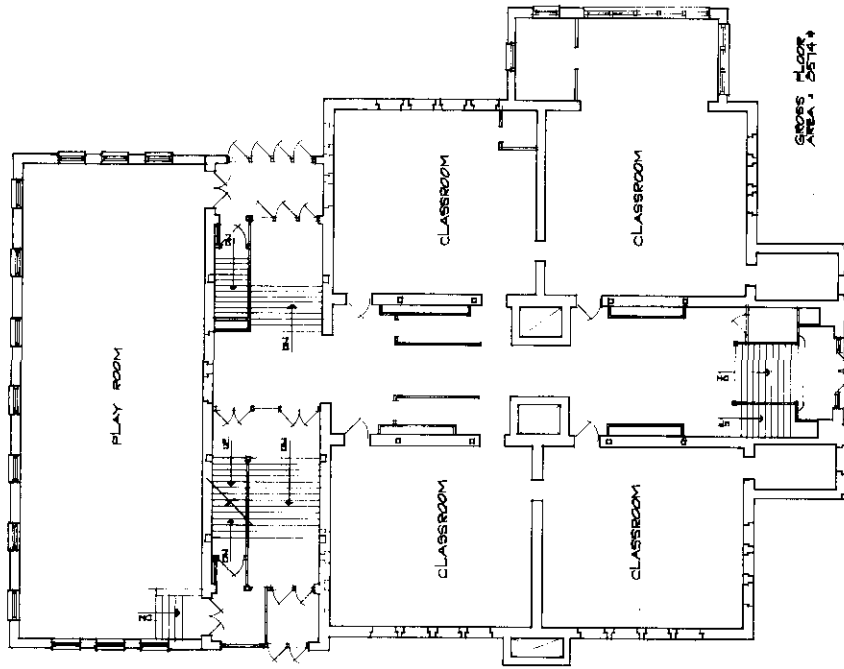


MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

FIGURE 2: BASEMENT & FIRST FLOOR PLANS



EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

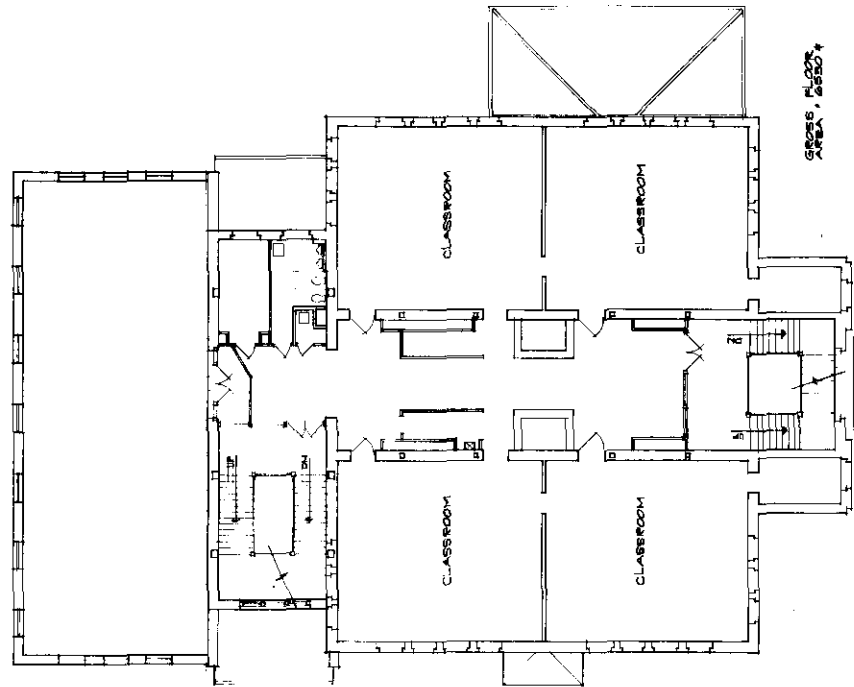


EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

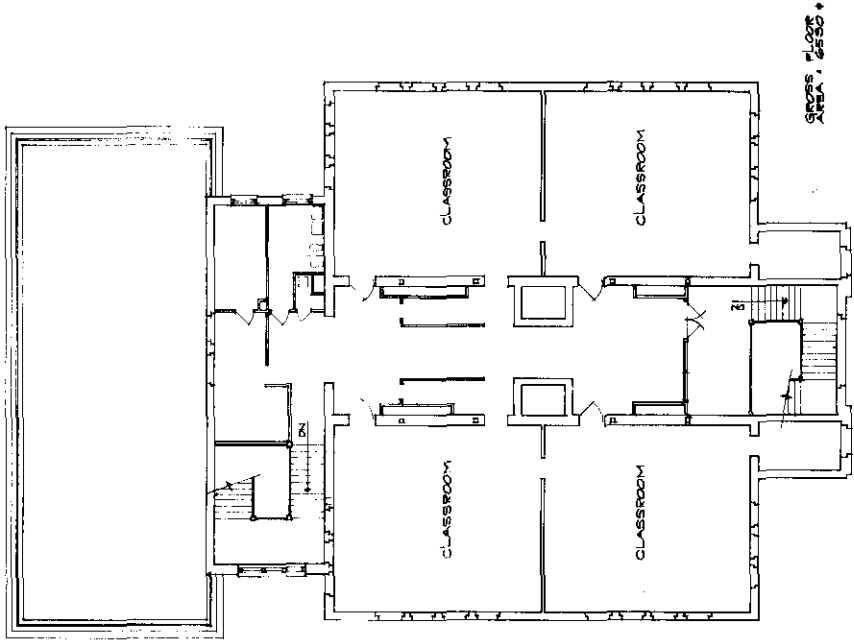
MOUNT PLEASANT APARTMENTS
4520 NEBRASKA, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63111

MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

FIGURE 3: SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR PLANS



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

MOUNT PLEASANT APARTMENTS
4570 NEBRASKA, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63111

MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #1

St. Louis, Missouri

Photo by: Debby Wafer

Negative: 4425 Laclede Place, St. Louis,
Missouri 63108

View: East side of Nebraska Ave.,
camera facing northeast.

Date: November 1984



MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #2

St. Louis, Missouri

Photo by: Debby Wafer

Negative: 4425 Laclede Place

St. Louis, Mo. 63108

View: West elevation, camera facing
northeast

Date: November 1984



MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #3

St. Louis, Missouri

Photo by: Debby Wafer

Negative: 4425 Laclède Place

St. Louis, Missouri 63108

View: North elevation, camera facing
southeast

Date: November 1984



MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #4

St. Louis, Missouri

Photo by: Debby Wafer

Negative: 4425 Laclede Place

St. Louis, Missouri 63108

View: East elevation, camera facing
southwest

Date: November 1984



MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #5

St. Louis, Missouri

Photocopy from: Board of Education of
St. Louis, History of the St. Louis

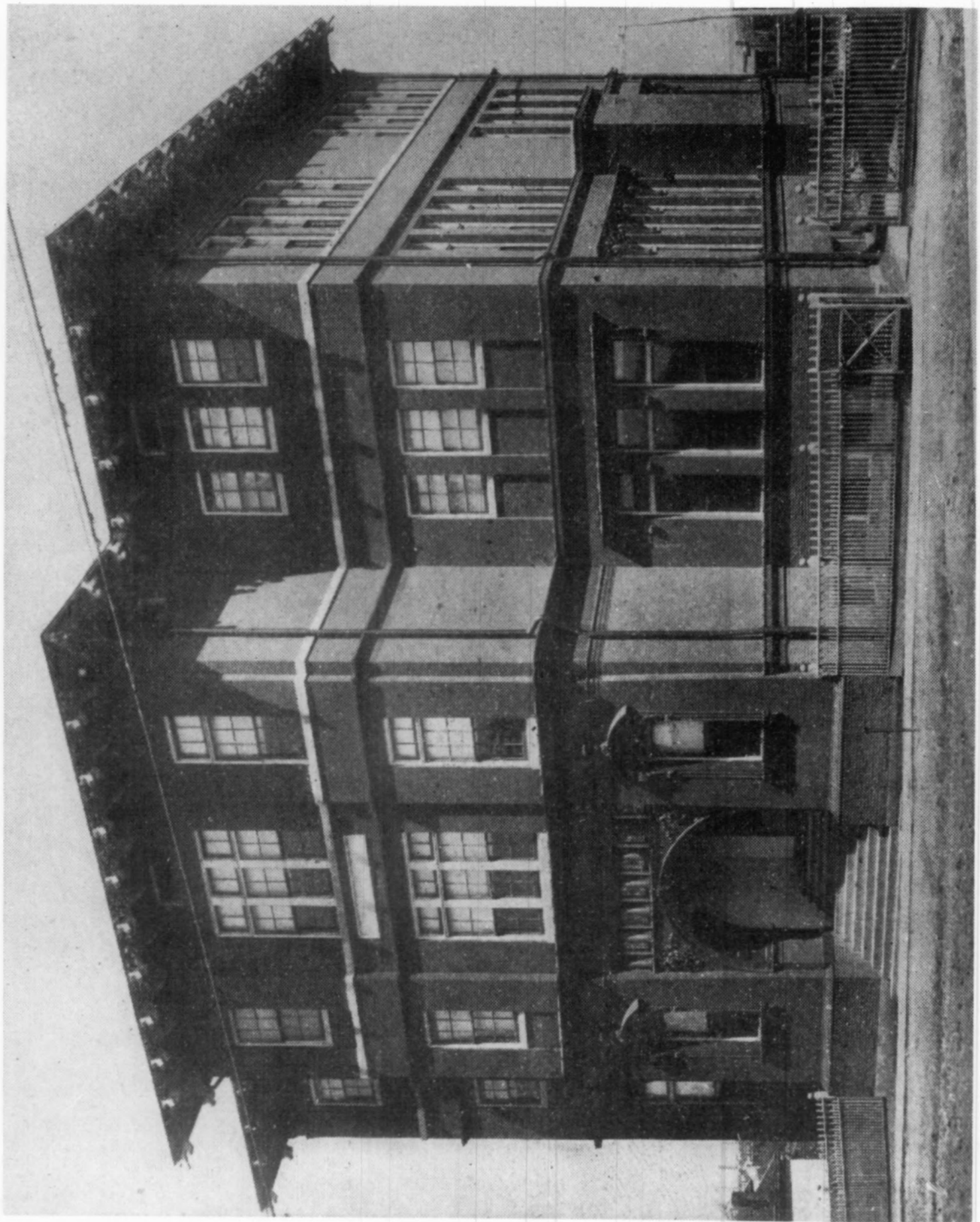
Board of Education, (St. Louis, 1906)

Negative: Missouri Historical Society

Date of original photo: c.1906

Date of copy: December 1984

THIS PICTURE MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT
PERMISSION OF THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

Photo #6

St. Louis, Missouri

Photocopy from: St. Louis Public

Schools Patron's Alliance, Souvenir:
Public Schools and Education,

(St. Louis, 1921)

Negative: Missouri Historical Society

Date of original: c.1918

Date of copy: December 1984

THIS PICTURE MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT
PERMISSION OF THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

