

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Rose Fanning Elementary School

Other names/site number Rose Fanning Middle School

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

## 2. Location

Street & number 3417 Grace Avenue

N/A	not for publication
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City or town St. Louis

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Independent City Code 510 Zip code 63116

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

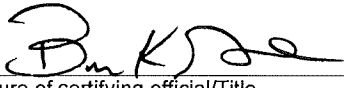
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

 Deputy SAHPD 11-16-21  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Rose Fanning Elementary School  
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		sites
2	3	structures
		objects
3	3	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick  
walls: Brick  
Stone  
roof: Terra Cotta  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Rose Fanning Elementary School  
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 87550029

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1906-1907

**Significant Dates**

1906-1907

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Ittner, William B. - Architect

Helm Building and Contracting - Builder

Rose Fanning Elementary School  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 4.9

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.595691 -90.245253 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or X NAD 1983

1 15N 739909 4275514 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sean Stretton

organization Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture date 06/28/2021

street & number 1214 Washington Avenue telephone (314) 241-4566

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63103

e-mail sstretton@eplusa-arch.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Rose Fanning Elementary School  
Name of Property

St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri  
County and State

## Photographs

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

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Rose Fanning Elementary School

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: Independent City State: Missouri

Photographer: Sean Stretton

Date  
Photographed: June 2021

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

- Photo 1. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation, view to the Southwest.
- Photo 2. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation, view to the Northwest.
- Photo 3. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation Main Entry Detail, view to the West.
- Photo 4. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation Northern Entry Detail, view to the West.
- Photo 5. Rose Fanning Elementary School Northern Elevation, view to the Southwest.
- Photo 6. Rose Fanning Elementary School Northern Elevation, view to the South.
- Photo 7. Rose Fanning Elementary School Northern and Western Elevations, view to the Southeast.
- Photo 8. Rose Fanning Elementary School Non-Historic Gate at McDonald Avenue, view to the South.
- Photo 9. Rose Fanning Elementary School Gymnasium Northern Elevation, view to the Southeast.
- Photo 10. Rose Fanning Elementary School Gymnasium Western Elevation, view to the Southeast.
- Photo 11. Rose Fanning Elementary School Western Elevation, view to the East.
- Photo 12. Rose Fanning Elementary School Western Elevation, view to the Northeast.
- Photo 13. Rose Fanning Elementary School Western Elevation Ground Floor, view to the Southeast.
- Photo 14. Rose Fanning Elementary School Western and Southern Elevations, view to the Northeast.
- Photo 15. Rose Fanning Elementary School Historic Gate at Fairview Avenue, view to the South.
- Photo 16. Rose Fanning Elementary School Southern and Eastern Elevations, view to the Northwest.
- Photo 17. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation Southern Entry Detail, view to the West.
- Photo 18. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation Light Well Detail, view to the Northwest.
- Photo 19. Rose Fanning Elementary School Eastern Elevation Upper Loggia Detail, view to the Northwest.
- Photo 20. Rose Fanning Elementary School Ground Floor Corridor, view to the Northeast.
- Photo 21. Rose Fanning Elementary School Ground Floor Girls Bathroom, view to the Southwest.
- Photo 22. Rose Fanning Elementary School Main First Floor Entry, view to the east.
- Photo 23. Rose Fanning Elementary School Main First Floor Entry Intact Leaded Glass, view to the East.
- Photo 24. Rose Fanning Elementary School Main First Floor Entry Frieze Detail, view to the north.
- Photo 25. Rose Fanning Elementary School Kindergarten Room Entry, view to the West.
- Photo 26. Rose Fanning Elementary School Kindergarten Corridor Windows, view to the West.
- Photo 27. Rose Fanning Elementary School Upper Floor Corridor, view to the south.
- Photo 28. Rose Fanning Elementary School Kindergarten Room Interior, view to the Northeast.

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### Photo Log Continued:

Photo 29. Rose Fanning Elementary School Stairway, view to the West.

Photo 30. Rose Fanning Elementary School Teachers Bathroom, view to the Southeast.

Photo 31. Rose Fanning Elementary School Classroom Blackboards, view to the Southeast.

### Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- Figure 1. Rose Fanning Elementary School USGS Topographic Map Location.
- Figure 2. Rose Fanning Elementary School Aerial Location.
- Figure 3. Rose Fanning Elementary School Original Block Plan.
- Figure 4. Rose Fanning Elementary School Original Elevation Drawings.
- Figure 5. Rose Fanning Elementary School Photograph Circa 1909.
- Figure 6. Rose Fanning Elementary School Photograph Circa 1909.
- Figure 7. Rose Fanning Elementary School Historic Street Map Images of Original Gates.
- Figure 8. Rose Fanning Elementary School Photograph Circa 1960.
- Figure 9. Rose Fanning Elementary School Original Ground Floor Electrical Plan.
- Figure 10. Rose Fanning Elementary School Original First and Second Floor Architectural Plans.
- Figure 11. Rose Fanning Elementary School 1878, 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Plat Map Showing 1855 City Limits.
- Figure 12. Compton & Dry 1876 Pictorial Map of Rural St. Louis.
- Figure 13. Edward Wyman School Floor Plans.
- Figure 14. Hempstead School Floor Plan.
- Figure 15. Mark Twain Elementary School Floor Plans.
- Figure 16. Soulard Farmers Market Photos.
- Figure 17. Downtown St. Louis Main Branch Library Photos.
- Figure 18. Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children Photos.
- Figure 19. Rose Fanning Elementary School Exterior Photo Key.
- Figure 20. Rose Fanning Elementary School Ground Floor Photo Key.
- Figure 21. Rose Fanning Elementary School First and Second Floor Photo Keys.
- Figure 22. Rose Fanning Elementary School Current Ground Floor Plan.
- Figure 23. Rose Fanning Elementary School Current First Floor Plan.
- Figure 24. Rose Fanning Elementary School Current Second Floor Plan.
- Figure 25. Rose Fanning Elementary School Current Gymnasium Building Floor Plan.

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

**Summary Paragraph**

The Rose Fanning Elementary School, located at 3417 Grace Avenue in St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri (Figures 1 and 2), occupies a full city block in the Tower Grove South neighborhood (Figure 3). The building is a 2 ½ story with two 3 story towers school building constructed of limestone and brick with Renaissance Revival stylings (Figure 4). The school was constructed in 1906/1907 (Figures 5 & 6) with a gymnasium addition made to the west side of the building in 1978. While the large windows in the front campaniles have been replaced with glass block all the other windows appear to retain their original frames, but the window sashes were replaced at some point in the 1990s.<sup>1</sup> These replacement sashes are constructed with wood that match the original window designs. There are two contributing structures both of which are brick walls that frame the front terraced area and extend from the corners of the building towards Grace Avenue (Photos 5 & 16). These walls would originally have been topped by brick and stone balustrades. There are three non-contributing structures associated with the school including one asphalt play area located to the north of the gymnasium, one parking lot located to the south of the gymnasium (Photos 11 & 14), and one raised asphalt area to the south of the southern wing of the school (Photos 14 & 16). The school is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion “C” for its association with master architect William B. Ittner and belongs to the “E” or “Open Plan” floor plan type previously described in the *St. Louis, Missouri, The Public Schools of William B. Ittner* Multiple Property Document Form.<sup>2</sup> The “E” or “Open Plan” designed by Ittner is evident at the Rose Fanning School with its long linear central corridor parallel to Grace Avenue, three wings located at the northern and southern ends along and a smaller wing with the central entry at the center. The Rose Fanning School follows a variation with the wings also extending to the rear of the school. The school also features the typical raised basement floor and a central highly decorated front entry with smaller less ornate entries in the wings. Typical interior elements of the “E” plan present at Rose Fanning School include mechanical rooms, and boy’s and girl’s playrooms and toilets located in the basement. While Ittner schools were typical designed using Jobethan style elements the Rose Fanning School stands out for its atypical use of Renaissance Revival styles. The school features a low hipped roof with overhanging eaves and decorative wood corbels. The roof is finished with red terracotta tiles. Ittner included two campanile style towers with low hipped roofs and open arcaded third floor at the interior corners of the northern and southern wings to house the northern and southern interior stairwells. Other prominent Renaissance Revival features include the loggia located at the front entry and the second-floor balcony, smaller Italianate towers that flank the central front entry, and small square double windows in arched openings with colonettes at third floor gables.

<sup>1</sup> City of St. Louis Real Estate and Land Records. Building Permit #16945.

<sup>2</sup> Cynthia Hill Longwisch, “St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner.” *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

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Rose Fanning Elementary School
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri
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## Narrative Description

### *Site Setting*

The Rose Fanning Elementary school occupies an entire city block, city block #1597, encompassing 4.95 acres in the South Tower Grove neighborhood of St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri (Figure 2). This block is bound by McDonald Avenue to the north, Grace Avenue, a brick street, to the east, Fairview Avenue to the south, and Giles Avenue to the west (Figures 2 & 3). The surrounding neighborhood is comprised primarily one- and two-story brick residential buildings constructed primarily from the 1890s through the 1940s with commercial structures on some street corners and along the major corridors of Grand Avenue, Gravois Avenue, and Arsenal Street.<sup>3</sup> The property includes the school, gymnasium, two contributing structures, and three non-contributing structures. The contributing structures are both **brick walls** that frame the front terraced grounds with stone coping that extend from the edges of the north and south wings and extend about halfway to Grace Avenue (Photos 5 & 16). These brick walls would originally have had stone balustrades. The non-contributing structures include one **asphalt parking lot** constructed circa 2000 to the rear of the school and south of the gymnasium, one **asphalt play area** to the north of the gymnasium, and one **raised asphalt covered area** to the south of the southern wing. These non-contributing structures were built after the period of significance for the school. The asphalt parking lot located to the south of the gymnasium covers approximately 16,000 square feet and includes 45 parking spaces (Photo 12). The school and front terraced manicured grounds face onto Grace Street and takes up the eastern two thirds of the block. Concrete sidewalks lead up to each of the three front entrances that have concrete walks and steps corresponding with each of the terraces in the front landscaping. Each set of steps is bordered by original low stone coping at the lower steps while the upper steps at each entry have low stone walls that originally would have been larger brick walls with stone copings and balustrades (Photos 2, 4, & 17). The block plan is unclear as to if the noted granitoid sidewalks bordering the surrounding streets are previously existing or are part of the school property or not, however, the fences along the west side of the property separate the play areas from the sidewalks indicating that they are not part of the school property (Figure 3).

The western third of the block was originally used as the boy's and girl's play yards that have since been covered in asphalt and the 1978 gymnasium addition (Figures 2 & 3). The play yard is separated from the north lawn by a low brick wall capped with a limestone coping, brick pilasters, and non-original iron fencing that extends from the northwest building corner to the sidewalk at McDonald Avenue (Photos 7 & 9). The limestone pilaster caps are missing and originally the area of iron fencing on this wall would have been stone balustrades (Photo 7). South of the main building, there is a raised asphalt area that extends from the building to sidewalk at Fairview Avenue and spans from the southwest corner of the building approximately

<sup>3</sup> Lynn Josse, "Oak Hill Historic District", *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 12 November 2010.

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Rose Fanning Elementary School
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half the length of the south building elevation (Photos 14 & 16). The raised asphalt area is surrounded by an iron fence along the western, southern, and eastern sides that sits atop a low concrete retaining wall (Photos 14 and 16). The western side has an opening and small stair down to the asphalt parking lot, but the retaining wall has been replaced with a newer precast concrete retaining wall. An original iron fence surrounds the rear of the school encompassing the parking lot, gymnasium, and play area that divides the yard from the sidewalks along McDonald, Giles, and Fairview Avenues. The fence has original openings marked by decorative iron posts on each street with a replacement gate on McDonald Avenue and half of a surviving original gate on Fairview Avenue (Photos 8 & 15). The missing half of the gate disappeared sometime between a 2009 and 2014 Google Street View and current photographs (Figure 7). The iron fencing in non-original locations appears to be of authentic reproduction or salvaged from the fence that once divided the boys and girls play areas (Figure 3).

### Building Description

Fanning Elementary School was designed as a 2 ½ story Renaissance Revival style elementary school located at 3417 Grace Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri (Photos 1-13). The school was designed by noted architect and St. Louis Commissioner of School Buildings, William B. Ittner and constructed in 1906/07. The school is topped by a gabled roof with mission style terra cotta tiles (Photo 1) while the gymnasium addition has a flat roof of composite materials (Photo 9). The exterior walls of the first and second floors are finished in brown- and buff-colored bricks laid in an alternating pattern of running bond and Flemish bond courses (Photo 1). The ground level is composed of red and brown brick in a Flemish bond where every 6<sup>th</sup> course is all header bricks (Photo 7). This ground level, whenever it is visible, is separated from the upper levels by a limestone band. The front or eastern elevation of the school is dominated by three Renaissance Revival style projecting bays, a central bay and two campanile towers located near the northern and southern ends of the building at the secondary front entrances (Photos 1 & 2). The northern elevation shows the original school and the 1977 Gymnasium Addition (Photo 5). The rear, western, elevation (Photo 11) includes an addition of a gymnasium building added in 1978 that includes additional office, classroom, and cafeteria spaces. The gymnasium addition is attached to the main school building via a corridor in the location of one of the original rear entries to the school (Photo 7). The gymnasium is composed of red brick laid in a simple running bond pattern. The southern elevation includes the original school building (Photo 16). The grounds in front of the building feature terraced landscaping that includes concrete walkways and stairs leading to the first-floor entrances (Photos 1 & 2). The original brick and limestone balustrades along the upper stairs and basement light wells were removed sometime prior to 1960 (Figure 8). All the windows are inset from the face of the brickwork in their openings and have rowlock brick sills. The double hung windows appear to be in their original frames, but the sashes may have been replaced with authentic wood replicas during exterior renovations between 1992 and 1995.<sup>4</sup> The original glass panel wood entry doors

<sup>4</sup> City of St. Louis Real Estate and Land Records. Building Permit #16945.

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also appear to have been replaced with solid panel wood doors at the northern and southern front entries (Photos 4 & 17). On the whole, the building is in excellent condition with no major structural modifications or deletions to the exterior or interior of the building from the original plans.

*Front (Eastern Elevation)*

The front or eastern elevation faces out onto Grace Avenue (Photos 1-4 & 17) and is symmetrical divided north to south at the central projecting bay with terraced landscaping, walkways, and stairs leading to the three first floor entrances. This elevation is the most elaborate with the majority of the Renaissance Revival elements. An almost three-story projecting bay along with two 3 story campaniles located at the northern and southern first floor entries at the inside corners of the northern and southern wings dominate the elevation.

The ground floor level of the school is not visible on the front elevation from the street except at the northern and southern ends of the façade. However, there is a narrow light well that is sunken and allows light to enter the basement level from windows located in those light wells (Photo 18). The light wells are constructed of brick with evenly spaced brick buttresses with limestone caps. These limestone caps have been covered by non-historic steeply sloped galvanized sheet metal. The retaining walls are capped with limestone coping and non-historic painted metal mesh fencing. There is one long light well located along either side of the central protruding bay each containing six, inset, double hung, six over six windows that are in line with the first-floor windows above.

The first-floor elevation is dominated by the central projecting bay that contains the main first floor entry and the campaniles at the northern and southern entries (Photos 1 and 2). The main first floor entry has a wide terraced concrete walkway and stair leading to it and is flanked by two Italianate towers that stand proud of the entry doors creating a loggia at the front entry (Photo 3). The loggia is faced by four full limestone columns with limestone caps that are supporting three limestone arches and has three modern electric lights on the ceiling. Above each of the outer columns is an inset lion's head figure carved from limestone. Above the central arch is a large metal sign identifying the building as the "Fanning Middle Community Education Center" (Photo 3). The main entry double doors are located behind the central arch and are topped by a bank of four tall leaded glass windows. To either side of the double doors are banks of six tall leaded glass windows that align behind the other two arches. On the northern and southern sides of the central projection bay are narrow 10-lite pivot windows (Photo 18). The lower two panes have been removed on the southern side to install a small air conditioner unit. Next to the central projecting bay on either side are a series of two bays of three pairs of windows composed two double hung 6 over 9 windows (Photos 1-2). These two bays of windows are separated by a narrow 10-lite pivot windows. Above each pair of windows is a decorative rectangular plaster panel edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows. Following outward on the elevation are the two 3 story

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campaniles that house the northern and southern front first floor entries and interior stairwells (Photos 1-2). Each of the campaniles, like the main entry, have terraced sidewalks and stairs leading to the double door entries (Photos 4 & 17). The original glass panel doors have been replaced with solid wood doors at these two locations. The doors are set within a larger recessed arched opening that have a decorative area of plaster surrounding a decorative diamond brick pattern with an inset glass mosaic above them. The inward facing sides of each tower at the first floor have a window opening that has been infilled with wood panels, but no modification has been made to the window openings themselves. The remaining sections are the northern and southern wings that extend out beyond the towers. These extensions are solid walls of brick work flanked by brick pilasters with no windows and are the only areas where the difference between the ground and first floors are visible from the street on the front elevation. Just above the stone band the separates the ground and first floors on the northern wing is a limestone corner stone inscribed with "1906" (Photo 2).

The second floor features a continuation of the central protruding bay that is set apart from the first floor by a narrow stone band (Photo 3). The narrow stone band extends beyond the face of the wall and is supported by bricks that have been set in a sawtooth arrangement and has non-historic metal drip flashing at the flanking Italianate towers. At this floor the bay has four full and two  $\frac{3}{4}$  stone columns with alternating carved and plain capitals that are supporting five brick arches that form a small open-air loggia to the interior office space. The arched sections above the stone columns are formed by row lock brick work with the interior space covered in plaster. The area behind the columns and arches is composed of a bank of five French doors with double transoms (Photos 3 & 19). The double sets of transoms above each French door are composed of two windows made up of two rows of four panes each. The lower transom above the central French door is a single pane of glass and is the only one that opens. The French doors are composed of five rows of four glass panes with a large central mullion. The outer most and central doors have split mullions and can be opened onto the loggia while the other two are fixed (Photos 3 & 15). The two flanking Italianate towers continue through the second floor. Each tower contains an inset brick panel on the front and no windows. The outward facing sides of the towers repeat smaller inset windows from the first floor. On either side of the central projecting bay the window arrangement repeats the first-floor arrangement of two bays of three pairs of windows composed of two double hung six over nine windows (Photos 1-2). These two bays of windows are separated by a narrow 10-lite pivot window. Only the side gabled tile roof continues above the second floor at these locations. Following outward is the continuation of the two 3 story campaniles that house the northern and southern stairwells (Photos 1-2). Large windows are located on the front and inward facing sides of the campaniles at the second floor (photos 4 & 17). The original windows in these openings have been replaced with glass block at some point prior to 1960 (Figures 4 & 8). The window openings were not modified when the glass blocks were installed. The remaining sections are the northern and southern wings that extend out beyond the towers. These extensions are solid walls of brick work with no windows. The first and second floors are again separated by a narrow stone band that extends beyond the face of the wall and is supported by bricks that have been set in a sawtooth arrangement. This

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narrow band only exists on the front and interior facing sides of the wings excluding the campaniles (Photos 1 & 16). The pilasters from the first floor terminate on the second floor and each is topped by decorative brick and stonework capital (Photo 4). Above the brick and stonework capital the brick work becomes flush with the rest of the wall and becomes a chimney that extends above the roof line at each end (Photo 5). On each inward facing side of the wings is located a carved limestone plaque that reads "Rose Fanning School AD 1907" (Photo 1-2). A brick ledge supported by bricks that have been set in a sawtooth arrangement sits underneath the eaves of the roof line that is supported by wooden corbels. Located slightly below the brick ledge under the eaves is a band of decorative brick work consisting of two soldier bricks and the three stacked header bricks (Photo 2).

The third floor exists as attic space only at the central bay, the campaniles, and the gabled ends of the northern and southern wings (Photos 1-2). The third floor of the central bay has a gabled roof and is set apart from the second floor by a narrow stone band that extends beyond the face of the wall and is supported by bricks that have been set in a sawtooth arrangement and has non-historic metal drip flashing (Photo 3). The gabled end has a central arched window opening that has a stone sill and three stone colonettes with stone caps that support two smaller brick arches. Two 6-lite casement windows are set within the smaller brick arched openings. The remainder of the larger brick arched opening is covered in plaster. The two Italianate towers flanking the central bay continue above the gabled roof line and are topped by individual side gabled roofs with terra cotta tiles. The front facing sides of the flanking towers each have three brick arches that contain square decorative brick panels with glass mosaics (Photo 3). The remaining arched sections above the mosaics are covered in plaster. The third floors of the campaniles are open sided and topped with red tile and a decorative finial. The open sides are composed of three decorative stone arches supported by stone columns with no windows and decorative brick work above (Photos 1 & 2). The upper end of the northern and southern wing gables contains a central arched window opening that has three stone colonettes with stone caps that support two smaller brick arches and a stone sill (Photos 5 & 17). Two rectangular windows composed of three rows of two panes are set within the smaller arched openings. The remainder of the larger arched opening is covered in plaster. In line with the stone sill is a continuation of the band of decorative brick work consisting of two soldier bricks and the three stacked header bricks. There are two decorative circular brick medallions in each end gable that intersect the decorative brick band, each containing a circular glass and tile mosaic (Photos 5 & 16). The front gabled roof lines have plain wooden barge boards supported by larger timbers that extend from the brick face.

Finally, there are two chimneys (Photos 1 and 2) that sit on the roof ridge line centrally located between the central projecting bay and each campanile. Each chimney is rectangular and oriented east to west with one decorative arched brick panel on the narrow sides and two on the wider sides. The arched brick panels have plaster panels in the arched sections. The chimneys are crowned with a limestone band and a rectangular peaked metal cap.



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*Northern Elevation*

The northern elevation (Photos 5-9) is much less ornate than the front and shows the northern wing of the school and the northern side of the 1978 gymnasium addition. The ground floor is much more exposed on this side of the building due to existing landscape contours.

The ground floor of this elevation has no entries and features eight windows in three bays delineated by cast iron drainpipes (Photo 5). The windows are all double hung 6 over 6 windows with one of the courses of row lock bricks serving as the lintel (Photo 6). The windows from left to right are 3 windows in the first bay, 3 windows in the second bay, and two windows in the third bay.

The first floor follows the three-bay pattern of the ground level with 6 pairs of 6 over 9 windows (Photo 5). Above each of these windows extending up to the second-floor windows is a decorative rectangular plaster panel edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows. There is a narrow 10-lite pivot window that separates the third and fourth pairs of windows and after the sixth pair of windows (Photo 7). There are no windows in the third bay on this side of the building.

The second-floor mimics the first floor in number, type, and arrangement of windows. Above the windows and extending across the entire façade is a band of decorative brick work consisting of two soldier bricks and the three stacked header bricks (Photo 7). Centrally located in the third bay and directly below the decorative brick band is an inverted triangular shaped area defined by header bricks that contains a glass and tile mosaic (Photo 7). Above the second floor is the roof line that has an eave that over hangs the windows and is supported by wooden corbels.

The roof has one partial gable where the north to south roof line of the school building intersects the east to west roof of this wing. The gable is decorated with half timbering and plaster with a single window opening that has been covered from the inside with wood paneling (Photo 6). On either side of the partial gable is a chimney. The chimneys are rectangular and oriented north to south with one decorative arched brick panel on the narrow sides and two on the wider sides. The arched brick panels have plaster panels in the arched sections. The chimneys are crowned with a limestone band and a rectangular peaked metal cap.

The 1978 gymnasium north elevation (Photo 9) is a single-story with a flat-roofed addition with a running bond brick facade with two single doors and 10 windows that look into the cafeteria and kitchen spaces. Moving left to right is a single flush metal door on the northeastern corner. Following the door are a series of six large single lite windows. Following the series of six windows is another single flush metal door and then a gap before the final four windows. One electric light is set above each of the groups of windows. The top of the wall is capped with a double soldier course and a sheet metal coping (Photo 9). The small corridor that connects the gymnasium is also visible on this elevation (Photo 7). The corridor is set back from the face of

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both buildings creating an alcove. The corridor has a double flush metal door on the north and south side with no windows. The corridor has a flat roof and is topped by tall metal mesh fencing.

*Western Elevation*

The western elevation shows the rear school and the western side of the gymnasium addition which partially obscures the lower floors of the school from the street view (Photos 7, 9-14). The gymnasium is wider on this side and has a stepped roof line (Photo 10). The northern section of the gymnasium is the same height with the same treatments as seen on the northern elevation. There is a central inset area that is partially sunken into the ground and houses a single metal door entry that has two windows to the south of the door. South of this inset area of the gymnasium addition the building height steps up to almost two stories in height to accommodate the gymnasium with no windows or doors.

The school building has three multi-gabled wings that extend west from the main north to south section of the school with a double gable at the north and south wings and a triple gable at the middle wing (Photos 7 & 12). Between the three wings are two sections that only include the ground floor that are topped with flat roofs. Above the single story sections the building sets back to the main north to south section of the school.

The ground floor, moving from left to right, has three evenly spaced inset 6 over 6 double hung windows in the northern wing with the second and third windows separated by a cast iron downspout (Photo 7). An electric alarm bell is mounted on the stone band that separates the ground and first floors between the first and second windows. The original entry located to the south of the third window has been incorporated into the corridor that connects the school to the 1978 gymnasium addition. This double gable section is flanked by brick pilasters. The next section is one story comprising only the ground floor of the building and has four inset pairs of 4 over 4 double hung windows that sit at the ground elevation (Photo 13). This one-story section is topped by a brick parapet wall with a limestone cap and a modern metal mesh fence that is mounted to the front face of the brick below the limestone cap. The following section is the triple gabled central wing (Photo 12). The northern most portion of this grouping is the bottom of a large chimney that extends up past the roof line and has a decorative brick cap (Photo 13). Following the chimney is a large metal air louver in a former window opening followed by an original metal door with riveted iron straps. The central portion of the wing projects slightly and includes an original pair of riveted metal doors with riveted straps leading to the interior mechanical room. In front of these doors are mechanical equipment and fencing which encloses this bay and the gymnasium. An opening in the fence leads to the parking lot (Photo 12). The southern section of this grouping has another large metal air louver in a former window opening followed by two 6 over 6 double hung windows (Photo 12). The next section is another one-story section comprising only the ground floor of the building that mimics the other one-story section, but the northern two window openings have been infilled with metal panels and man doors.

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Sitting atop the one-story section is a panel board wall that sits on top of the parapet wall limestone cap and screens HVAC equipment that is installed on the flat roof (Photo 12). The southern double gable wing (Photo 14) retains the original double door with a transom that has been boarded over. An electric light is located above the transom. Three evenly spaced inset 6 over 6 double hung windows follow south of the door the first two of which are separated by a cast iron down spout. An electric alarm bell is mounted on the stone band that separates the ground and first floors between the second and third windows. This double gable section also is flanked by brick pilasters.

The first floor (Photo 7), in the northern wing, are three pairs 6 over 9 double hung windows with a decorative inset rectangular plaster panel edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows. Next to these windows is a narrow 10-lite pivot window and then an inset section above the ground floor. The south facing wall of the north wing has two individual 6 over 6 double hung windows. The west facing wall of the inset has four pairs of two 6 over nine double hung windows with decorative inset rectangular plaster panel edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows. The north facing wall of the inset has two individual 6 over 6 double hung windows and the large chimney stack. Following the first inset section is the central wing (Photo 12). The northern portion of this section contains the continuation of the chimney stack and then two pairs of 6 over 9 double hung windows with the inset rectangular plaster panel edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows. The central section continues the projection from the ground floor and contains a window bank with a pair of 6 over 12 lite fixed windows flanking a tall out-swinging French casement with a fixed 6-lite transom. The French casement gave access to a metal balcony that has been removed (Photo 11). The projecting central bay does not continue to the second floor and is topped with a decorative limestone coping. The southern section has two pairs of 6 over 9 double hung windows and then a single smaller bank of windows composed of three 4 over 6 fixed windows. The second inset section follows with the south facing wall having a smaller bank of three 4 over 6 lite casement windows followed by a single 6 over 6 double hung window. The west facing wall of the inset area has four pairs of 6 over nine double hung windows with decorative inset rectangular plaster panels edged by soldier and stretcher bricks that extends up to the sill of the second-floor windows (Photo 11). The north facing wall of the inset has a single pair of 6 over 6 double hung windows. The southern wing has a single narrow 10 lite pivot window followed by three pairs of 6 over 9 double hung windows and is flanked by the continuation of the brick pilasters (Photo 12).

The second floor follows much the same as the first floor with a few minor differences. The windows on the north and south faces of the insets differ between the first and second floors. At the northern inset area (Photo 12), the south facing wall has two individual 9 over 9 double hung windows and the north facing wall has two individual 6 over 6 double hung windows. At the southern inset (Photo 12), the south facing wall has two individual 6 over double hung windows and the north facing wall (Photo 11) has a single pair of 6 over 6 double hung windows. At the

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ends of each double gable section the brick pilasters terminate in decorative brick and stonework capital. Above the brick and stonework capital the brick work becomes flush with the rest of the wall and becomes a chimney that extends above the roof line at each end (Photo 12). The decorative brick band composed of two soldier bricks and the three stacked header bricks that sits above the second-floor windows runs across the entirety of this façade on the school building (Photos 7 & 11).

The third floor is represented by the attic area under the roof gables. Each gable of the seven gables has a single square 6 lite window composed of three rows of two lites that are set within arched openings. The curved portion of the arched openings are covered in plaster. At each end of the wings are small chimneys that extend beyond the roof line and are capped with limestone. The front gabled roof lines have plain wooden barge boards supported by larger timbers that extend from the brick face. The large chimney at the northern end of the triple gable continues above the roof line and terminates in a decorative brick cap (Photo 12).

### *Southern Elevation*

The southern Elevation is a mirror image of the northern elevation (Photos 14, 16 & 17).

### **Interior Layout and Elements**

The interior layout of the building remains much the same as when it was constructed in 1906/1907 and follows the “E” or “Open Plan” floor plan developed by Ittner in the early 1900s as discussed in the *St. Louis, Missouri, The Public Schools of William B. Ittner* Multiple Property Document Form.<sup>5</sup> The overall floor plan of the school has not been altered apart from a short corridor that leads to the 1978 gymnasium addition. The corridor was placed in the location of an original ground floor entry at the northwest corner of the building and has not affected the overall floorplan of the school. Some minor interior changes have occurred primarily on the ground floor and some additional classroom and office partitioning on the upper floors. These interior changes have also not significantly altered the overall floor pan of the school.

The ground floor (Figure 9) as originally constructed housed the girl’s gymnasium, girl’s playroom, girl’s toilet, and the janitor’s room on the south side of the building. The north side housed the boy’s gymnasium, boy’s playroom, boy’s toilet, and the manual training room. The central area of the ground floor separated the girl’s and boy’s sides and was used primarily for mechanical equipment including a boiler room, ash pit, and air handlers. At some point in time during a mechanical equipment upgrade and remodel the original engine room had its equipment removed and a central corridor connecting the boy’s and girl’s sides of the ground floor was made out of the reclaimed space along with the two spaces identified as future boy’s and girl’s shower rooms on the original plans (Figure 9). During the corridor conversion many of the doors

<sup>5</sup> Cynthia Hill Longwisch, “St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner.” *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

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and windows that led into the boiler room and the original gymnasiums were infilled, but the openings were unchanged (Photo 20). The boy's gymnasium and playroom has subsequently also been partitioned forming additional storage spaces and adding two single toilet bathrooms in the boy's playroom and additional classrooms in both spaces. The former manual training room has been partitioned forming two equally sized rooms. One of the original doorways to the boy's toilet has been infilled and currently houses a drinking fountain. The northwest rear stair has a platform built over the southern half of the existing stairway to accept a wheelchair lift.

The first-floor (Figure 10) as originally constructed housed three classrooms and a teacher's toilet in the south wing, four classrooms on the east side and the kindergarten room on the west side in the main corridor, and three classrooms and the recitation room in the north wing. The current overall floor plan is unchanged from the original construction. The former kindergarten room was converted into a library and a vestibule was added to the interior of the space (Photos 25 & 28). The original leaded glass windows at the kindergarten room entry were removed at some point and replaced with single panes that currently have a decorative film that mimics stained glass. The classroom immediately to the north of the main entry was also modified with partition walls and converted into offices (Figure 23).

The second-floor (Figure 10) as originally constructed housed three classrooms and a teacher's toilet in the south wing, four classrooms and the principal's office on the east side and two classrooms above the first-floor kindergarten room in the main corridor, and three classrooms and a recitation room in the north wing. The overall floor plan has not been changed from the original plans, however, the classroom to the north of the original Principal Office has been subdivided into two spaces with a partition wall and a new door added to the corridor (Figure 24).

The interior of the school (Photos 20-31) is in excellent condition given its 114 years of use and conversion from an elementary school to a middle school. One of the largest factors for its preservation is that the building has been continuously occupied and used as a school since its construction. The condition issues that exist revolve around peeling paint, the general poor condition of the wood window frames that are showing signs of dry rot and missing mullions, and some missing marble floor base. Global changes to the school include the addition of drop ceilings with acoustic tiles that were added to the main corridor and all classrooms and office spaces in the 1990s.<sup>6</sup> In the locations where drop ceilings were installed all existing lighting fixtures were replaced with florescent lighting. The only areas to not receive drop ceilings are the main entry corridor and the stairwells in the north and south wings of the building (Photos 22 & 29). Lightwells were left at all window openings to allow the full height of the windows to remain uncovered. Corridors are still as original with wood flooring, marble trim, and marble base (Photo 27) and stained-glass windows at the kindergarten room corridor windows (Photo 26). The ground floor boy's and girl's bathrooms have original tiled walls and granitoid flooring (Photo 21). The teacher's bathrooms on the first and second floors retain most of their original

<sup>6</sup> City of St. Louis Real Estate and Land Records. Building Permit #16945.

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finishes and fixtures (Photo 30). Most doors appear to be non-original at the basement level and about half of upper floor classroom doors are original, however, transoms have been covered over (Photo 27). Classrooms retain their original cabinetry and chalkboards though many of the chalkboards have been covered over with white boards (Photo 31). Stairway newel posts retain their marble cladding and metal caps, and stairs retain the marble risers, marble base, and wooden handrails (Photo 29). The central formal main entry (Photo 22) retains the leaded glass panes (Photo 23), marble tile floor and marble wainscot vestibule. The main entrance corridor retains the marble floor tile and wainscot. Plaster friezes are mounted on either side of the main entry corridor as well as a plaque honoring Rose Fanning (Photos 22 & 24).

### Integrity

The Rose Fanning Elementary School exterior remains mostly intact since its construction in 1906/1907. Many of the characteristic Renaissance Revival elements remain mostly unchanged including the campaniles, columned loggia at the first-floor front entry and second floor office balcony, Italianate towers on either side of the front central protruding bay, and the small windows in arched openings with colonettes in the gabled ends. The largest changes to the original construction are the removal the large multi pane windows in the campaniles and their replacement with glass block in the original openings and the replacement of original wood window sashes with wood reproduction. The school has not been moved from its original setting, but changes have occurred to the grounds over 114 years including the construction of a separate but attached gymnasium building and asphalt parking lot to the west of the original school building and the removal of the exterior brick and stone balustrades along the walls, walkways, and steps. The gymnasium is attached to the school through a short corridor that was placed in the location of an existing rear entry to the school limiting the impact on the original school floor plan. Interior changes made to the ground level added a full-length north to south main corridor and additional classroom spaces causing the ground floor layout to follow the layout of the upper floors more closely. Many of the original finishes including wood floors, marble floor edging and base, and built-in cabinetry are intact throughout the school. Many original chalkboards are also present in the classrooms but have had white boards adhered to the original slate with few left uncovered. None of the changes to the school have changed the overall "E" shape to the floor plan that the school followed when designed by William Ittner. These characteristics include the long central corridor with wings on either end containing the secondary entrances and a central wing containing the main front entry. In total the school retains its integrity in respect to original site setting, Renaissance Revival design, and feel of a William B. Ittner designed school making it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Document Form *St. Louis, Missouri, The Public Schools of William B. Ittner*.<sup>7,8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Cynthia Hill Longwisch, "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

<sup>8</sup> Lynne Josse, "Refining of the 'Open Plan' in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910," amendment to "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 October 2000.

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### Summary Paragraph

The Rose Fanning Elementary School located at 3417 Grace Avenue in St. Louis Missouri is locally significant under Criterion "C", Architecture, for its association with William B. Ittner and the "E" or "Open" floor plan and for its Renaissance Revival styling which is an unusual style for Ittner in education buildings in St. Louis. The period of significance and significant dates are 1906-07 for the building's period of construction. The school follows the "E" or "Open Floor" plan developed by William Ittner in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "*St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner*"<sup>9</sup> and its amendment "*Refining of the 'Open Plan' in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910*".<sup>10</sup> The Rose Fanning Elementary School retains all the elements of an Ittner "E" plan school as laid out in the MPDF. The school sits in its original location and orientation and retains its original stepped landscaping. The floor plan of the school retains its long central corridor, cross wings at the ends, and the protruding central wing forming the "E" shape of the plan. The outstanding changes to the exterior are replacement window sashes that are accurate wood reproductions and replacement of the large windows in the campaniles at the north and south wings with glass block. The gymnasium addition sits behind the school and does not affect the original front viewshed of the building and does not affect the overall floor plan of the school as it connects via an existing original rear entry. The gymnasium is constructed of similarly colored brick and while visible from the other elevations is not jarring in its character or size as compared to the school. The Rose Fanning School is an excellent example of the "E"-plan school constructed somewhat late in Ittner's career and is of an architectural style rarely used by Ittner in his school buildings.

### Narrative Statement

#### *Neighborhood and School History*

The Rose Fanning School is located within the Tower Grove South neighborhood of South-Central St. Louis, Missouri. The extreme eastern most portion of the neighborhood, including the school's location, sits along the 1855 city limits (Figure 11) with the remainder fully incorporated into the city with the 1876 expansion of the city limits. The primary driver of early development of the general area came from the discovery of coal in the 1820s.<sup>11</sup> Mining of the relatively thin coal seam occurred from the 1820s until the 1870s. In 1849 a cholera epidemic decimated the population in the area closing most of the mines while the coal was starting to be exhausted. Fire clay deposits underneath coal were discovered that renewed development of the

<sup>9</sup> Cynthia Hill Longwisch, "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

<sup>10</sup> Lynne Josse, "Refining of the 'Open Plan' in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910," amendment to "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 October 2000.

<sup>11</sup>Lynn Josse, "Oak Hill Historic District", *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 12 November 2010.

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neighborhood the majority of which occurred between 1892 and 1932.<sup>12</sup> Prior to this development spurred by mining enterprises the area was primarily rural in nature (Figure 12). The discovery of the fire clay was fortuitous as the coal seams were being depleted and new building codes in St. Louis favored masonry construction over wood framing after several city fires.<sup>13</sup> The addition of industries and transportation routes to serve the fire clay mining led to an increase in population in the neighborhood at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This population growth eventually led to the need for additional schools in the area. The Horace Mann Elementary School was constructed in the neighborhood in 1901 but continued population growth required new schools to be constructed to account for the expanding number of elementary school students and to replace older outdated schools.<sup>14</sup> This period of growth from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries coincides with the tenure of William B. Ittner as the commissioner of schools and primary architect for new schools. The land that the Fanning School is built on was purchased for \$15,500.00 in 1903 when the St. Louis Public School District started looking at new locations for schools in the neighborhood.<sup>15</sup> The school itself was constructed for \$182,226.00 and opened for the 1907-1908 school year with an attendance of 592 pupils.<sup>16</sup> Rose Fanning Elementary School was posthumously named after Mrs. Rose Fanning who was a longtime and beloved educator in the St. Louis Public School System. Mrs. Fanning was the first student enrolled in the St. Louis Normal School in 1868. After graduating she soon was appointed as principal of the Eliot Branch School until she was transferred to the Pestalozzi School at 7<sup>th</sup> and Barry Streets in St. Louis in 1874. Mrs. Fanning served as principal at the Pestalozzi school until shortly before her death in 1903.

The school when constructed was located in the predominantly white and German Tower Grove South neighborhood of south-central St. Louis. The school remained predominantly white until a court order forced the City of St. Louis to bus students into and out of the district to integrate the predominantly white school districts in 1980<sup>17</sup>. For much of its history the school functioned as an elementary school being changed to a middle school in 1981/1982 School year as part of the City's desegregation plan for which it served until 2021. The St. Louis Public School system made the decision to close the school at the end of the 2020/2021 school year after 114 years of service and transferred to school to surplus property.

*William B. Ittner*

William Butts Ittner graduated from Washington University's Manual Training School in 1884, and then attended Cornell University graduating with a degree in architecture in 1887.

<sup>12</sup> Lynn Josse, "Tower Grove Heights Historic District", *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 15 July 2001.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Cynthia Hill Longswisch, "Mann, Horace, School". *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

<sup>15</sup> *Annual Report to the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis, 1902-1903*.

<sup>16</sup> "Five New Schools Opened." *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 4 September 1907.

<sup>17</sup> "School Bussing Assailed by Black and White Parents." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 25 August 1980.



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Ittner would later become become President of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1892 and was appointed St. Louis Commissioner of School Buildings in 1897 by the St. Louis School Board leaving the position in 1910.<sup>18</sup> While Ittner had become prominent in St. Louis as an architect he would not come to national renown until after he accepted the position of Commissioner of School Buildings in St. Louis, Missouri in 1897 and began building schools.<sup>19</sup> William Ittner is best known for his “E” or “Open Plan” for schools which features one sided corridors and operable windows to improve the ventilation and add more natural light into classrooms improving the conditions for students and teachers in public school buildings. William Ittner would eventually design 49 new public school buildings within the City of St. Louis as well as updating and renovating many other existing schools.<sup>20</sup> The complex of Ittner’s school buildings in St. Louis are documented in *St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner* National Register Multiple Property Submission.<sup>21</sup> Sixteen of the schools that William Ittner designed in St. Louis are now individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ittner’s influence on educational buildings would not be confined to the City of St. Louis. By the end of his career Ittner would be credited with the design of over 430 schools in 28 states many of which have also been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. William B. Ittner was also not just a school designer and is a well-known architect for other types of buildings including the Missouri Athletic Club Building in St. Louis that was listed on the National Register in 2007, The Scottish Rite Cathedral Building in St. Louis which is part of the Midtown Historic District that was listed on the National Register in 1978, and the Missouri State Teacher’s Association Building in Columbia, Missouri that was individually listed on the National Register in 1980.

*Rose Fanning School and the William B. Ittner “E” Plan*

The Rose Fanning School follows the “E” or “Open Plan” as defined in the *St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. Requirements to be eligible for listing as an “E” plan Ittner school are retention physical integrity and original building materials, the original roof line and pitch should be unchanged, characteristic floor plan must be identifiable, fenestrations should convey the original historic character of the building, and the grounds should be landscaped approximately in their original fashion. Replacement or repair of original materials must keep in style of the original materials. Any additions to the buildings should not obstruct the adjacent elevations and should be unobtrusive and of not more than one story.<sup>22</sup> A gymnasium addition is present, but it is not visible from the primary façade. The setting of the Rose Fanning School has been somewhat impacted by paving previously landscaped areas on the west side (Figures 2 & 3), however, the façade still reflects the landscaped grassy lawns. The inclusion of glass block has

<sup>18</sup> Tofts & Longwisch, “Missouri Architects and Builders: William B. Ittner,” *Preservation Issues Vol.3, No. 4* (1993): 4.

<sup>19</sup> Longwisch, *St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner*, 1992, E1-E2

<sup>20</sup> Longwisch, *St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner*, 1990, F1

<sup>21</sup> Cynthia Hill Longwisch, “St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner.” *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 July 1992.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

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likewise impacted integrity but only minimally as it is relegated to the towers. The window sashes are modern, but they were replaced in-kind. Overall, Rose Fanning Elementary School is an excellent example of the property type. Typical “E” plan features a long central block with wings on either end that house secondary entrances with a third wing in the center of the block that houses the main entrance. While wings at the end of the central block typically extend towards the front of the building they can be pushed or elongated toward the back or set at angles. The central block can also extend beyond the end wings. The end wings typically have 3 classrooms per floor. Older versions of the “E” plan had classrooms only along one side of the main corridor and windows along other side at the upper floors while later versions added kindergartens or gymnasiums opposite the classrooms in the central block. Basements typically house playrooms and toilets separated by gender, and mechanical rooms.<sup>23</sup> These configurations are evident in the floor plans for the Wyman School (Figure 13) that is noted as an example of the “E” floor plan in the MPDF.

The “E” plan of the Rose Fanning School is evident in how the front entry and northern and southern wings extend out beyond the face of the central block of the school. There are also projections to the rear of the school that house classrooms which from a strictly aerial view makes the floor plan look more like an “H” plan than the “E” plan. However, when the floor plans are viewed and when physically inside the school the “E” plan is evident in the corridor orientations. The Fanning school has many of the typical elements of an “E” plan school with the separated boys and girls side of the basement, three classrooms per end wing, and a kindergarten along the central block opposite the other classrooms on the first floor with two classrooms on the second floor above. These changes from the “classic” “E” plan are minimal and have not modified the overall floor plans of the school.

The floor plan at the Rose Fanning School is very similar to the Hempstead School (Figure 14), which was constructed in 1908. When compared to other Ittner Schools like the Mark Twain School (Figure 15) the “E” floor plan at the Rose Fanning School is more readily observable and a less modified version of the “E” plan. The Mark Twain School has two protruding stairwells that were pulled in towards the center instead of a central main entry, that along with the end wings, form four bays that protrude out from the main corridor. Additionally, the full 3 story bay sits between the two stairwells that helps to disguise the “E” plan.

*Renaissance Revival Style*

The Rose Fanning Elementary School was designed with Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance Revival elements. The Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival styles were an architectural design movement that lasted from about 1880 to 1940 in the United States and

<sup>23</sup> Lynne Josse, "Refining of the 'Open Plan' in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910," amendment to "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner." *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service, 16 October 2000.

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strive to be faithful of reproductions earlier architectural styles.<sup>24</sup> The revival period included Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Classical Revival, and Italian Renaissance Revival styles among others. Unlike the earlier Italianate period, 1840-1880, the Italian Renaissance Revival period adhered more closely to the styles and forms from 16<sup>th</sup> Century Italy<sup>25</sup>. Common features of the style are imposing scale with formal design and symmetrical facades, columns, rounded arched opening for windows and doors, balustrades, and arcades or loggia. Buildings are typically constructed of masonry, brick, or stone, with low hipped roofs covered with tile shingles and large overhangs with decorative brackets.

The Rose Fanning Elementary School was designed using Renaissance Revival elements which is unusual for a William Ittner school. The vast majority of Ittner schools are either Jacobethan or Classical Revival in character. Of the 49 Ittner designed schools that were extant when the St. Louis Public Schools were surveyed in 1987 only the Rose Fanning Elementary School is of a Renaissance Revival style.<sup>26</sup> Distinctive Renaissance Revival elements featured on the school include two large campaniles located at the inside corners of the northern and southern wings, two loggia located at the main first floor entry and at the second floor principles office balcony, two smaller Italianate towers the flank the front central protruding bay, and the double small windows with colonettes set in larger arched openings that are located in all of the gabled roof ends.

Other institutional buildings with Renaissance Revival style elements can be found around St. Louis as well. One of the most well-known is the Soulard Farmers Market located within the Soulard Neighborhood just south of downtown St. Louis (Figure 16). The Soulard Farmers Market structure features A buff colored brick walls in a Flemish bond, a large loggia at the front entry, arched window openings with colonettes, and a low hipped roof with overhanging eaves and stone corbels. Another institutional structure in downtown St. Louis is the main branch of the St. louis Public Library (Figure 17). This structure features stone walls, arched window openings and doorways, and a low hipped roof with tile shingles. Another medical institutional building is the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children on the Barnes Jewish Hospital campus at the Central West End neighborhood of St. Louis (Figure 1). This structure features Moorish inspired terra cotta work and campaniles similar to the Rose Fanning School and was also designed by William Ittner.

### *Conclusion*

Constructed in 1906/1907 the Rose Fanning Elementary School is locally significant and eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "C" for its association with master Architect William B. Ittner and for the Renaissance Revival style Ittner

<sup>24</sup> Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Collection. "Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide". 2015.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Longwisch, Cynthia H., "St. Louis Public Schools Survey" Phase I (The schools of William B. Ittner). Landmarks Association of St. Louis. 1987.

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used for the school. The school falls under the eligible criteria defined in the Multiple Property Document Form *The St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner*, under the “Refining of the ‘Open Plan’ in St. Louis Public Schools, 1902-1910.” The school retains its original setting and floor plan and stands as an outstanding example of the “Open Plan” during the latter part of William Ittner’s career as the St. Louis Commissioner of School Buildings before becoming a consultant for many other school districts throughout the United States. The Renaissance Revival style is unmistakable in the design of the school. Foremost among Renaissance Revival attributes are the low hipped roof with tile shingles, the two large campaniles at the inside corner of the front façade, and the loggia located on the first and second floors of the central front bay. The additional smaller features of the arched window openings with colonettes at the end gables further enhance the style. The building has been well maintained and retains its integrity in respect to setting, architectural style, and architectural layout following the “E” or “Open” type floor plan, and building materials.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Rose Fanning Elementary School property occupies an entire city block, block #1597, within the City of St. Louis Missouri. The block is bounded by McDonald Avenue to the North, Grace Avenue to the East, Fairview Avenue to the South, and Giles Avenue to the West.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries used are the historic property boundaries for the Rose Fanning Elementary School and include the historic school building and grounds.

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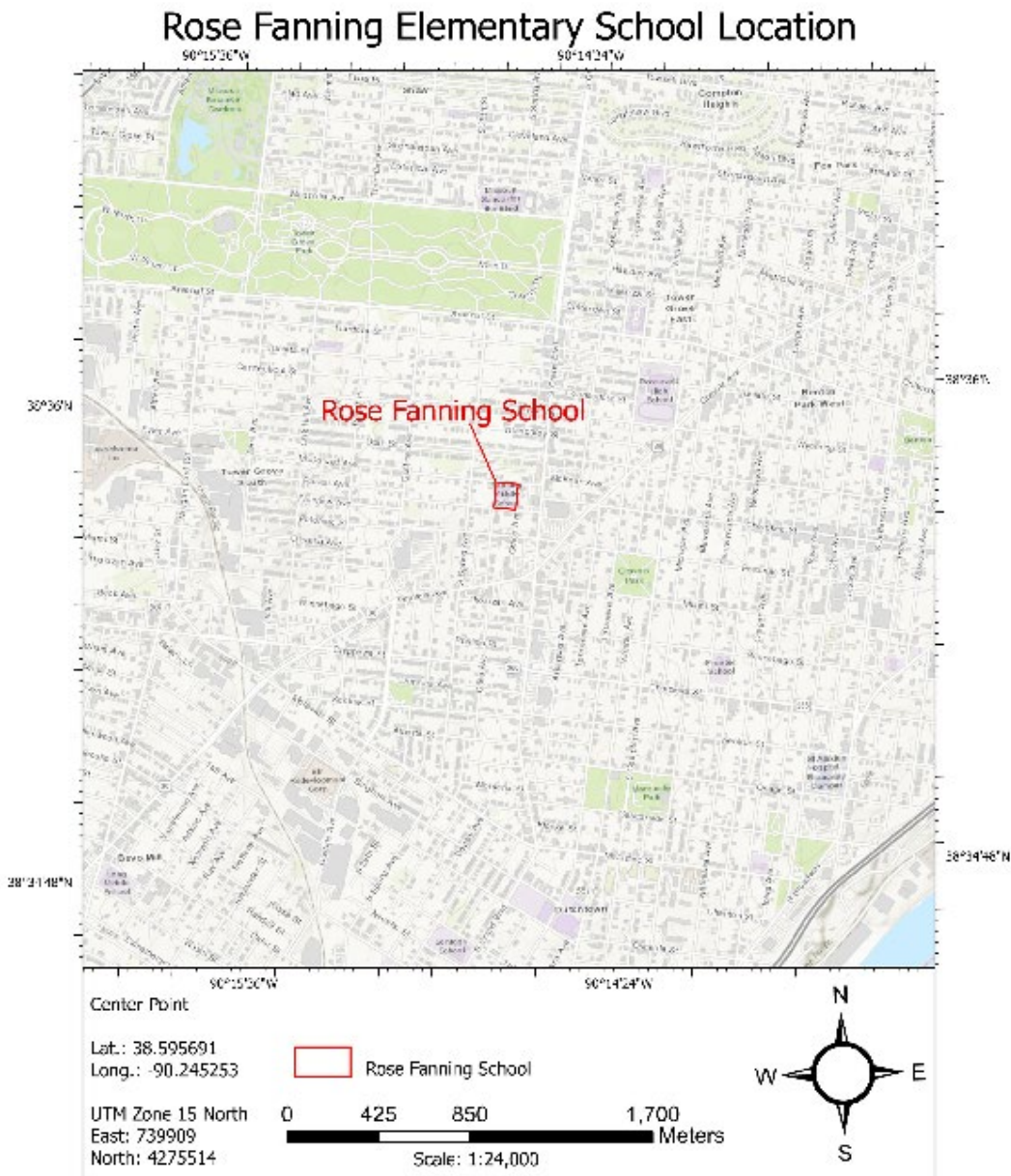


Figure 1. 7.5' USGS Topographic Map (Cahokia Quadrangle) of Fanning School and Grounds (United States Geological Survey 1993).



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### Rose Fanning Elementary School Location



Figure 2. Aerial Imagery of Fanning School and Grounds (Aerial Imagery from ESRI Online).

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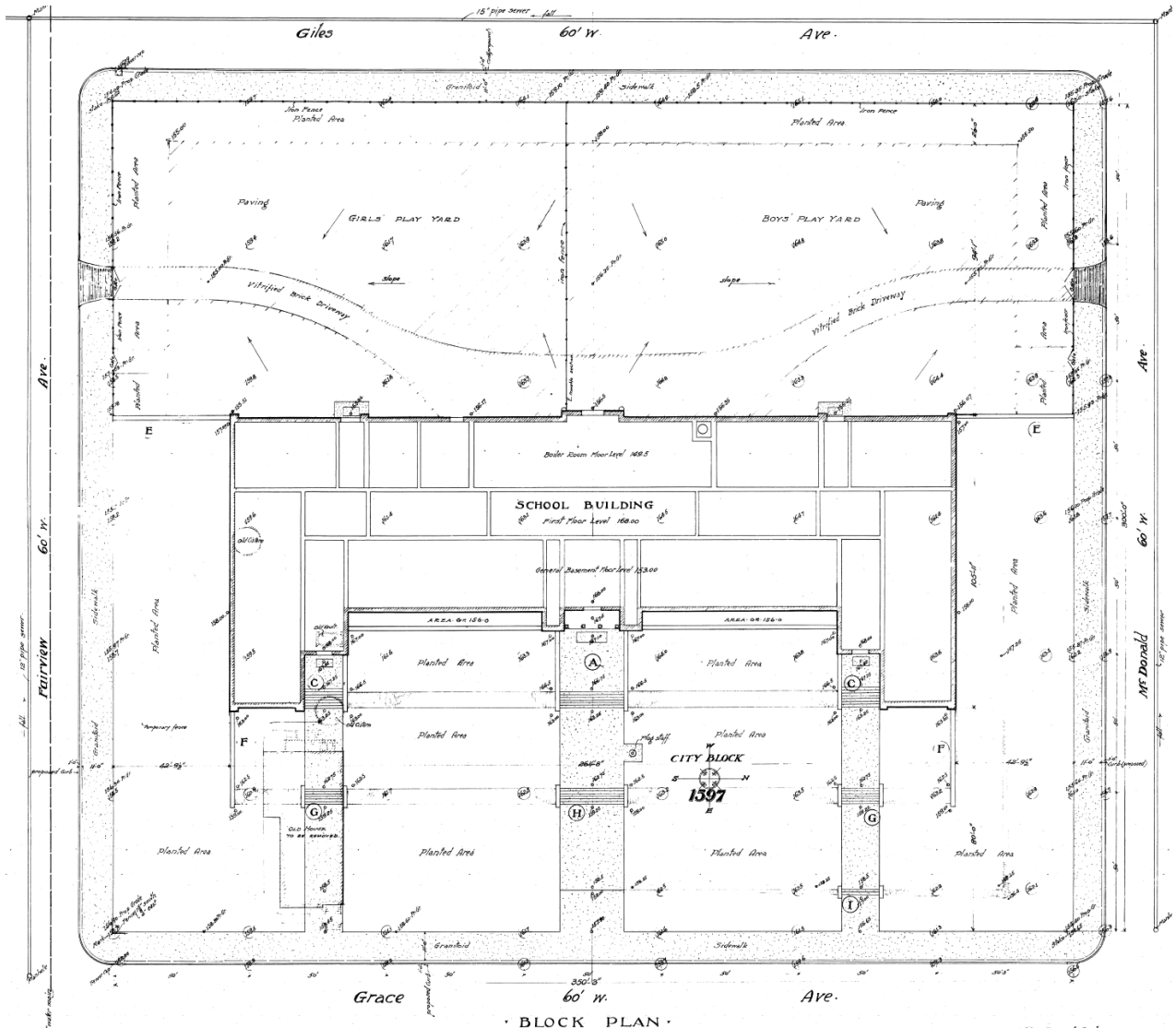


Figure 3. Original Fanning School Block Plan (Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools).

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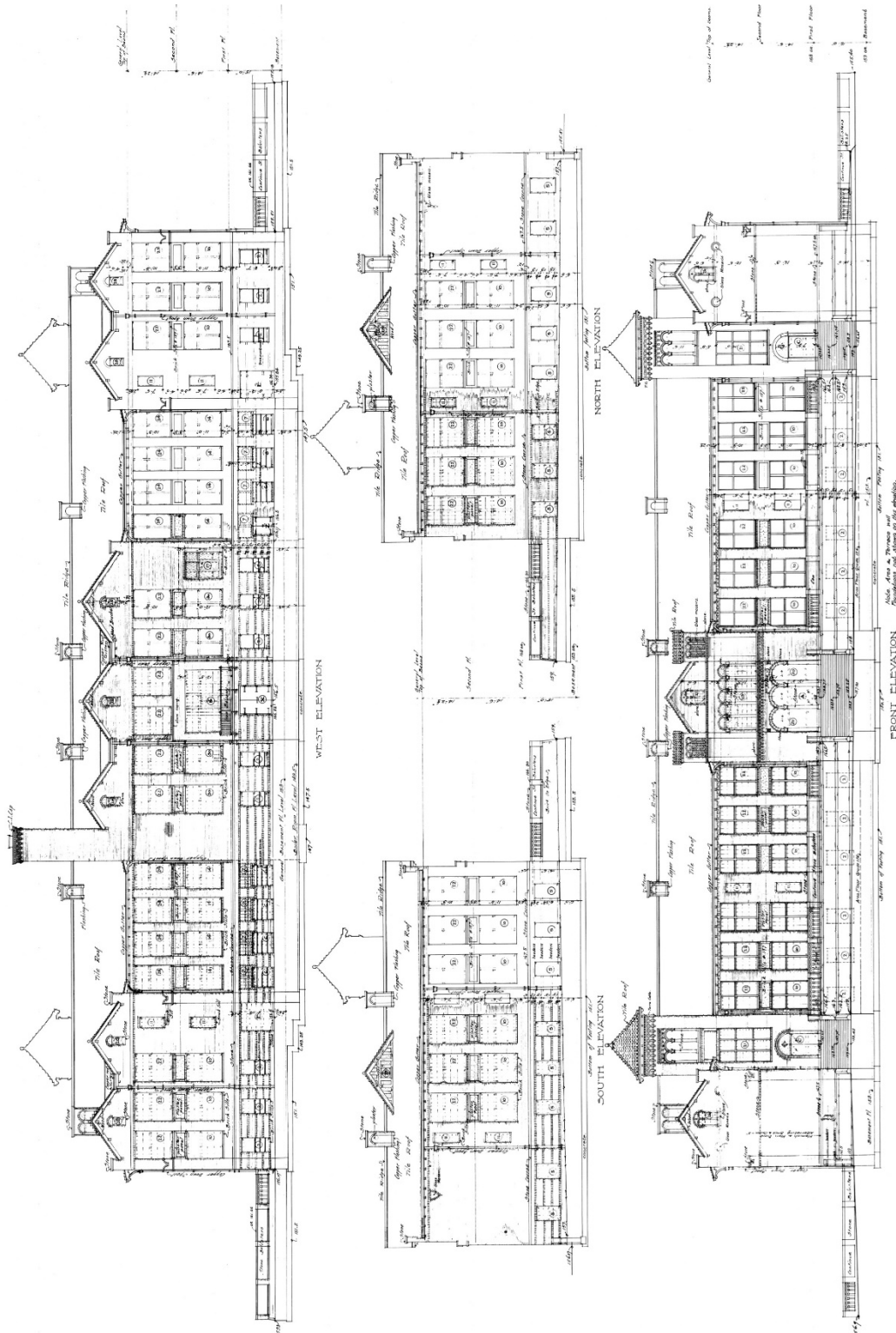


Figure 4. Original Fanning School Elevation Drawings (Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools).

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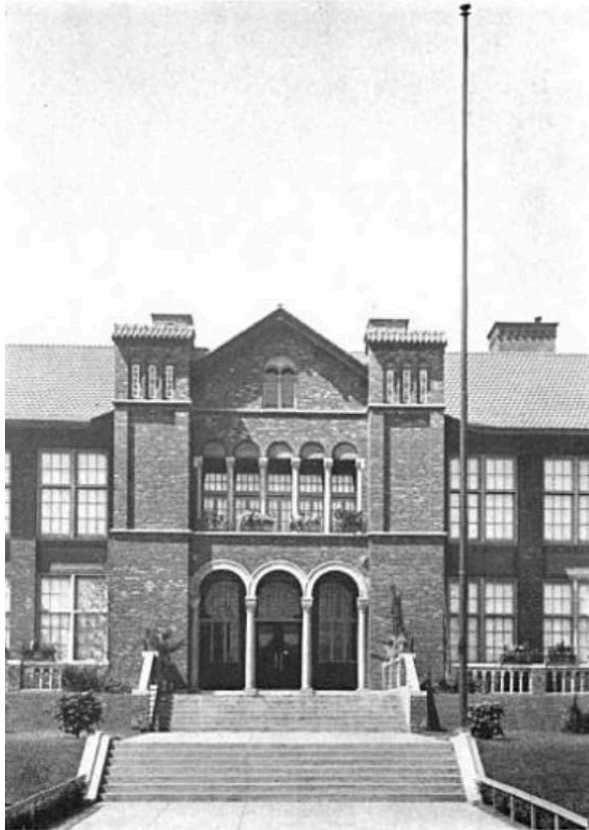
WESTERN ARCHITECT  
SEPTEMBER  
ROSE FANNING SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
WILLIAM B. ITTNER, ARCHITECT, COMMISSIONER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Figure 5. Photograph of Fanning School from The Western Architect, September 1909.

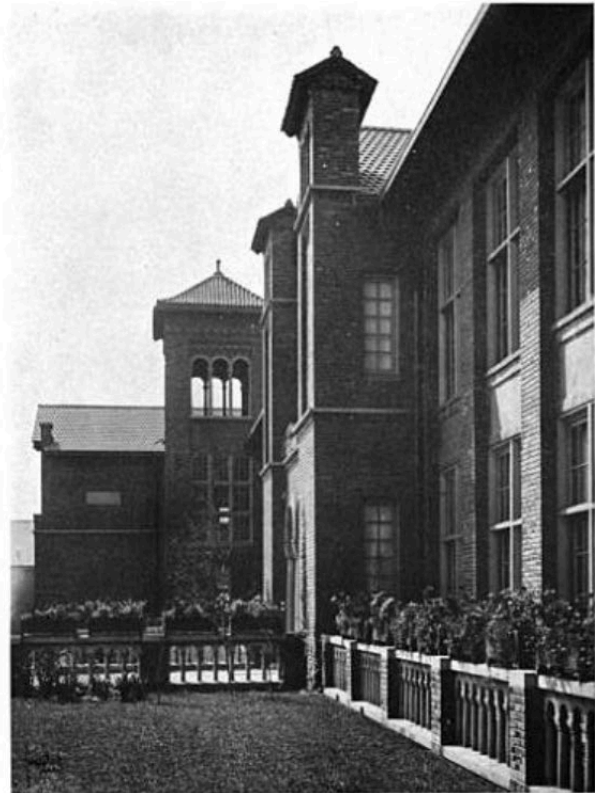
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MAIN ENTRANCE DETAIL



EXTENSION DETAIL

WESTERN ARCHITECT  
SEPTEMBER  
1909

ROSE FANNING SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
WILLIAM B. ITTNER, ARCHITECT, COMMISSIONER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Figure 6. Photograph of Fanning School from The Western Architect, September 1909.



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a. Google Street Image from 2009 Showing Both Original Gates.



b. Google Street Image from 2014 Showing Western Original Gate has been Removed.

Figure 7. Google Street Images Showing Original Gates (Google. accessed 2 August 2021).



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Figure 8. Circa 1960 Photograph of Fanning School from ZeroToSixtyinFive.com (Accessed 25 May 2021).

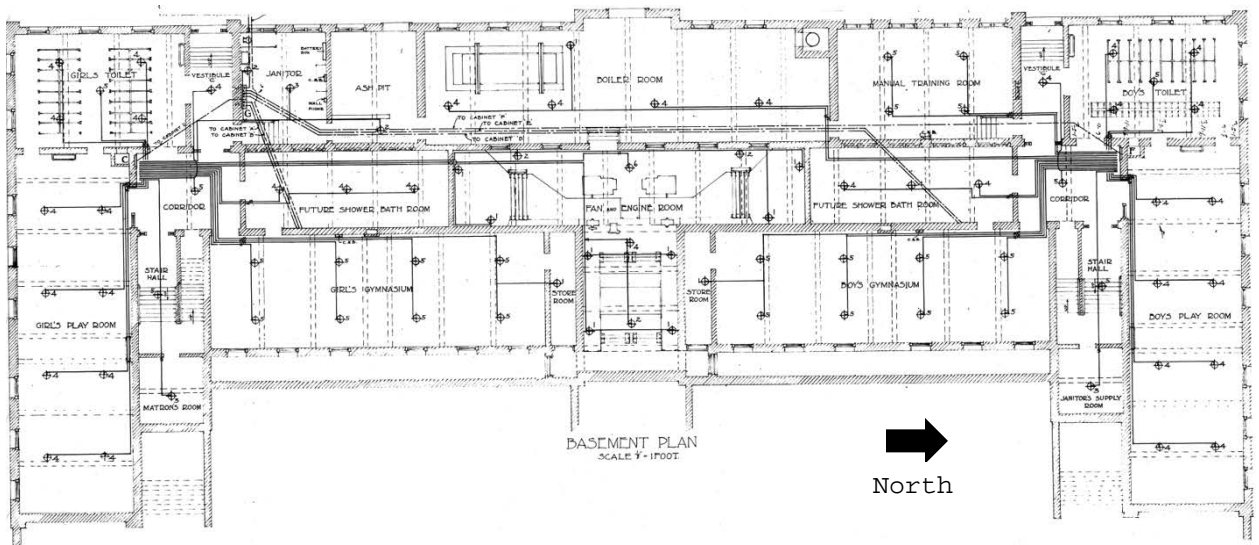


Figure 9. Fanning School Ground Floor Electrical Plan (Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools).

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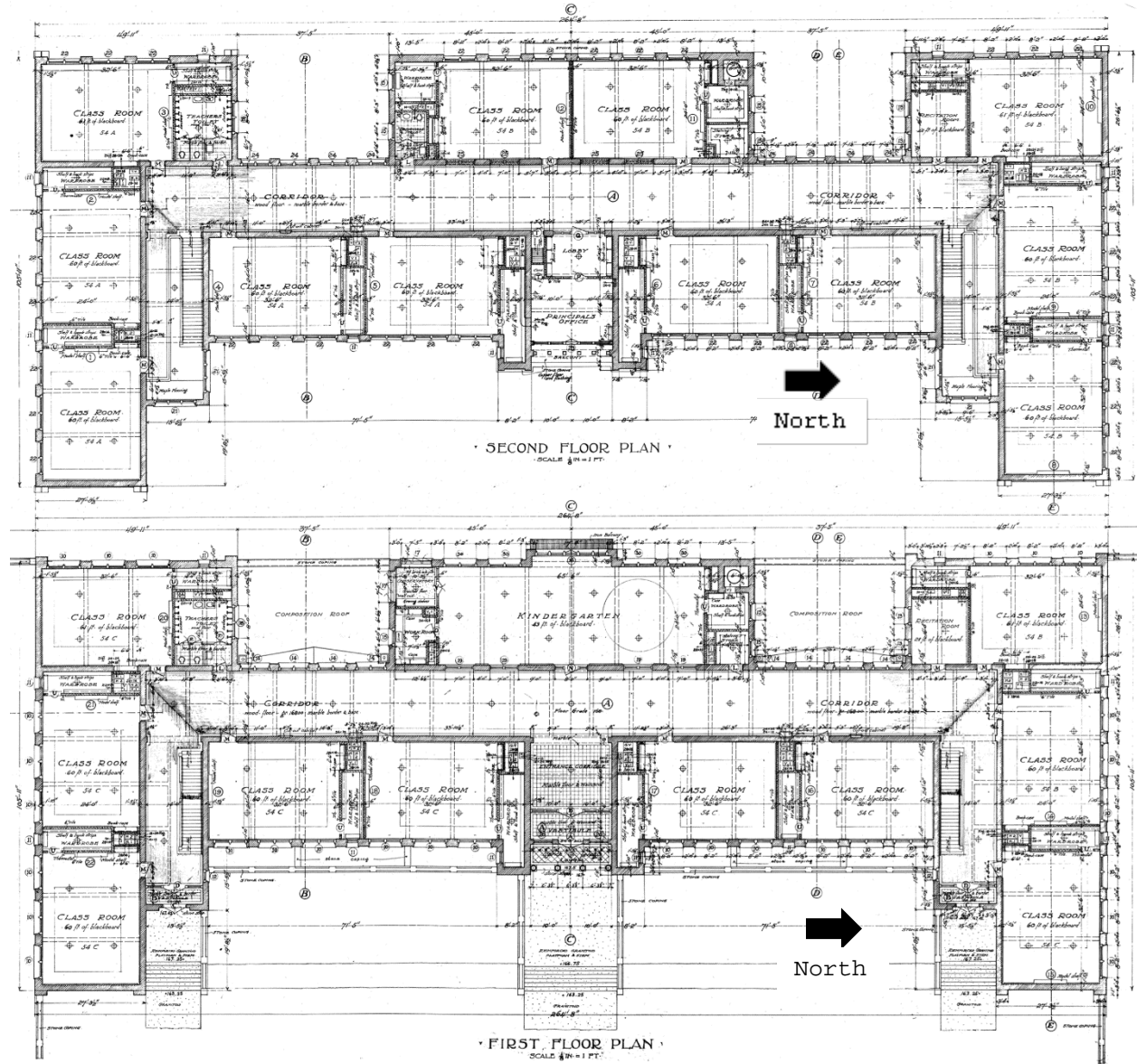


Figure 10. Fanning School First and Second Floor Architectural Plans (Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools).



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Figure 11. 1878 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Map Showing Fanning School Location and 1855 City Boundary (Pitzman's New Atlas of St. Louis 1878).

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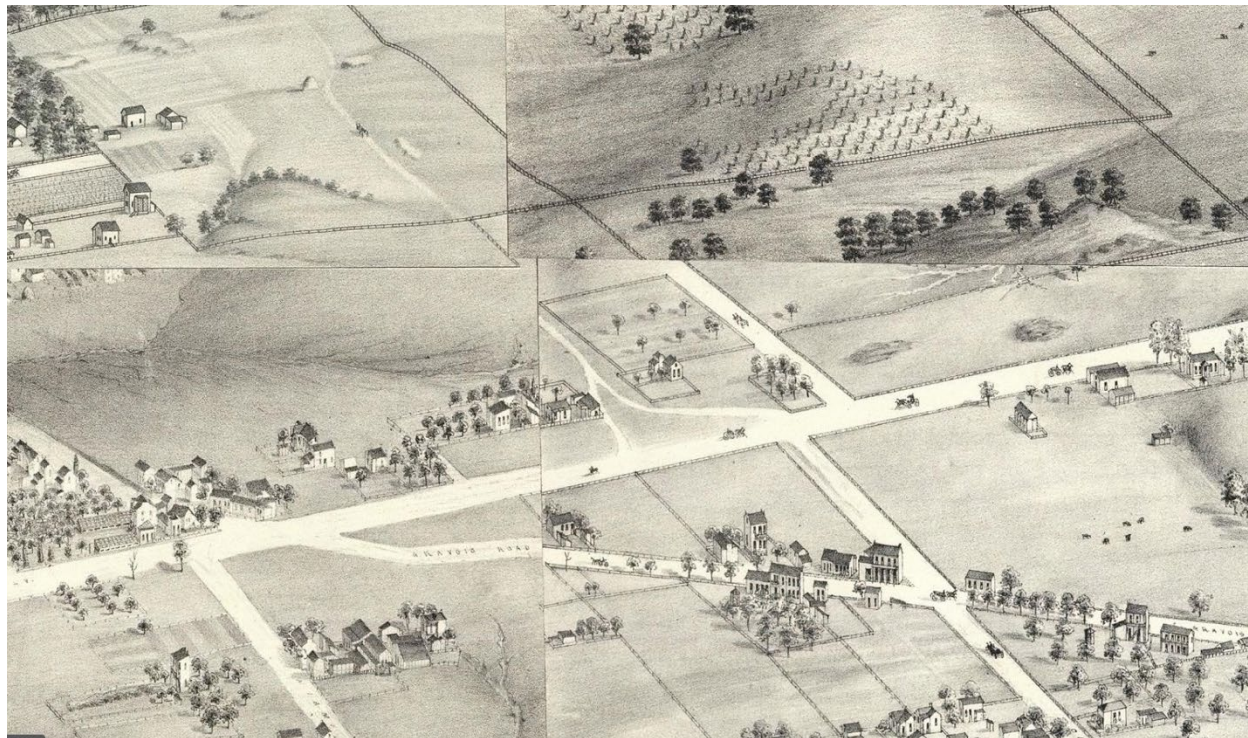


Figure 12. Compton and Dry 1876 Pictorial Map of the Fanning School Region (Compton and Dry 1876).



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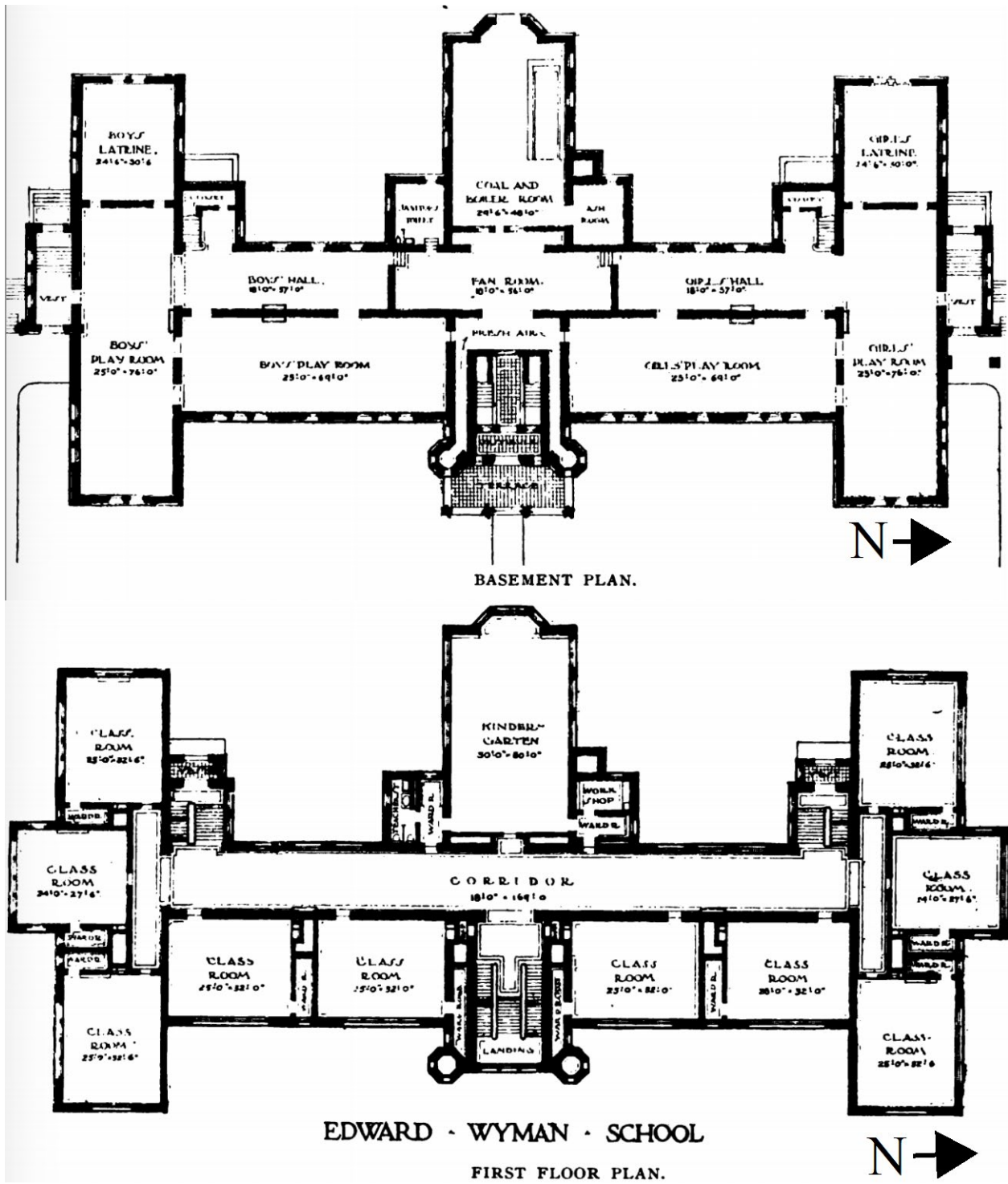
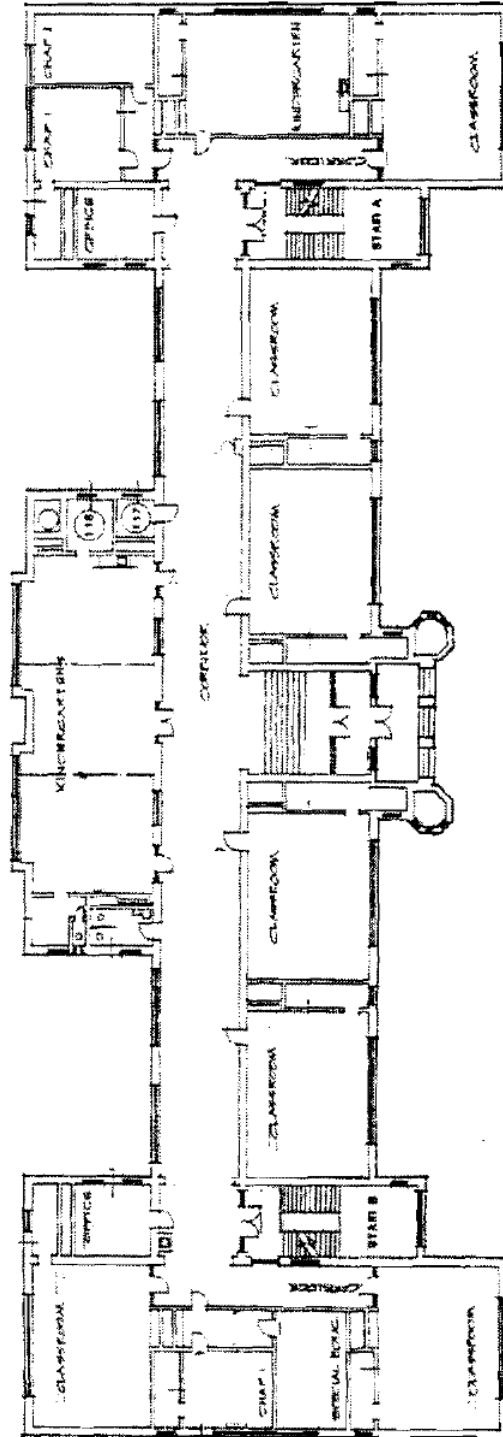


Figure 13. Edward Wyman School Floor Plans (Inland Architect and News record, 1905).

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

Figure 14. First Floor Plan of the Hempstead School (Woolridge, 2007, Hempstead School National Register Nomination).

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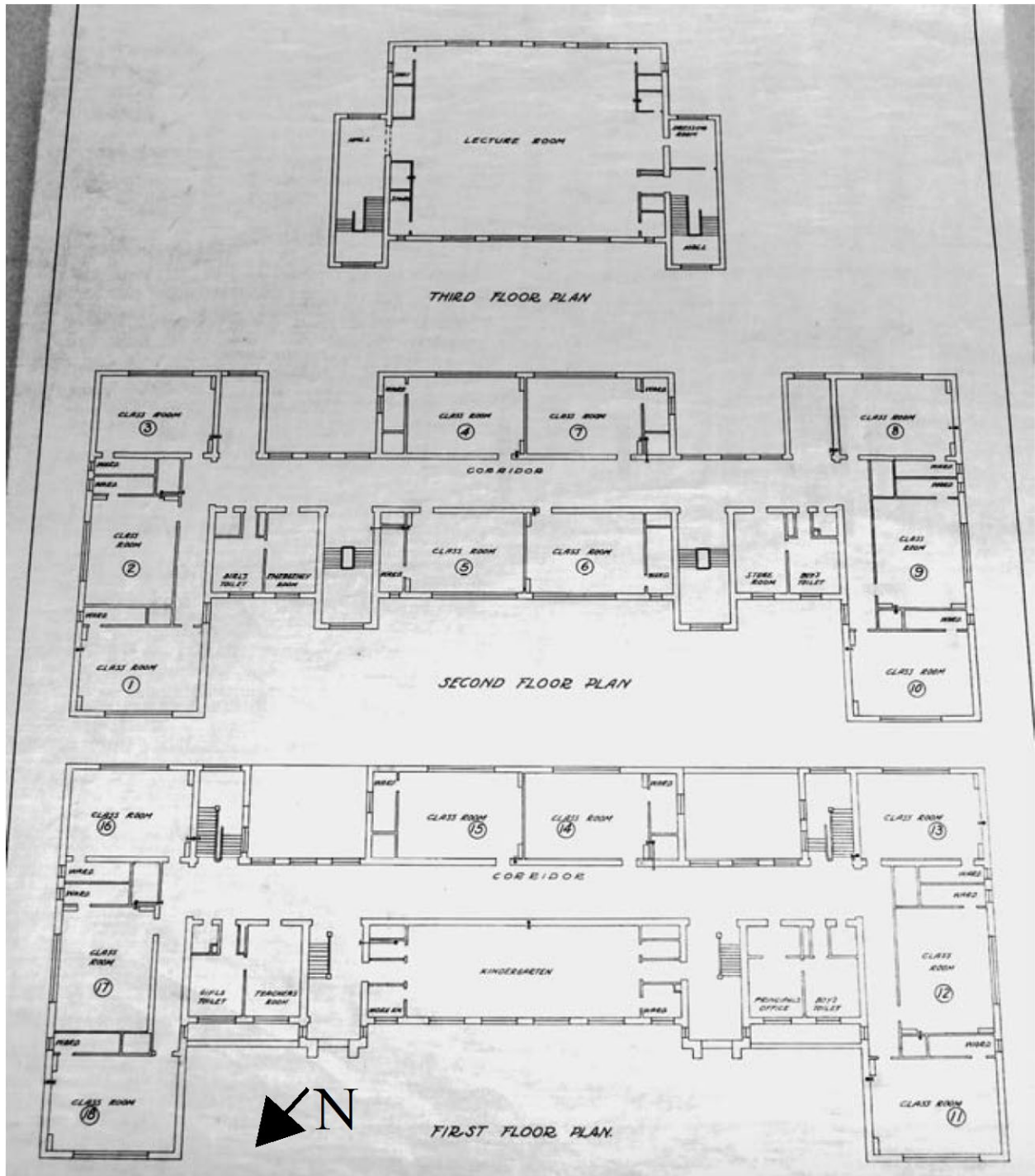


Figure 15. Mark Twain Elementary School Floor Plans (Weil and Mansell, 2011, Mark Twain Elementary School National Register Nomination).



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Figure 16. Photos of Soulard Farmers Market (Images Stretton 2021).



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Figure 17. Downtown St. Louis Main Branch Library (Images Stretton 2021).



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Figure 18. Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children (Images Stretton 2021).



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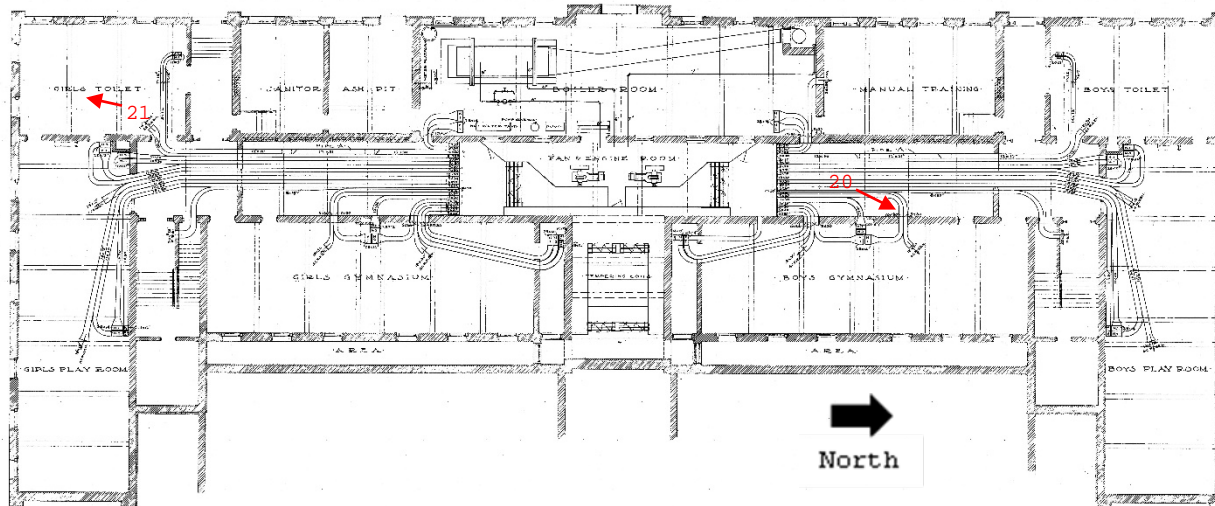


Figure 19. Exterior Photo Key (Aerial Image from Google Maps).

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PLAN OF BASEMENT  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

Figure 20. Ground Floor Photo Key (Floor Plan Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools).



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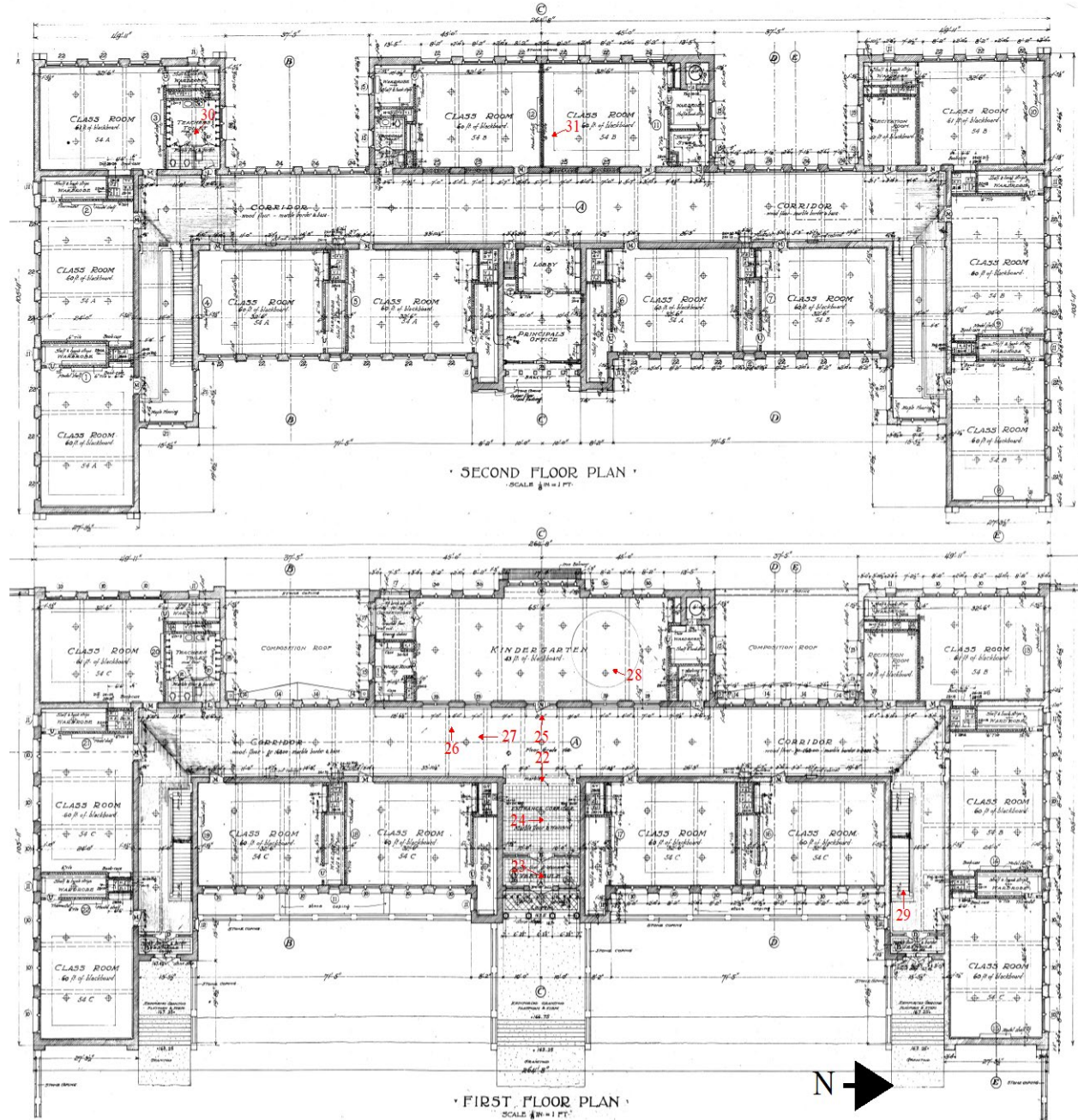


Figure 21. First and Second Floor Photo Keys (Floor Plans Courtesy of St. Louis Public Schools)

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Figure 22. Current Ground Floor Plan.

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Figure 23. Current First Floor Plan.

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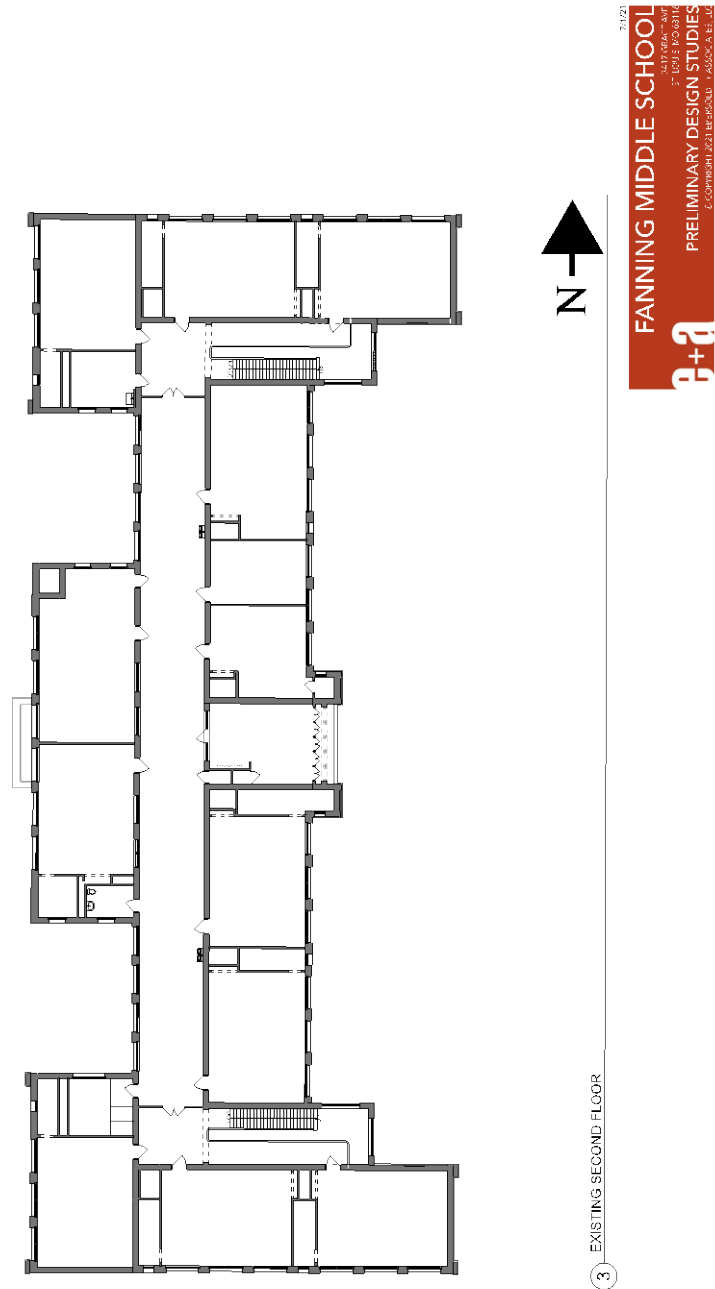


Figure 24. Current Second Floor Plan.

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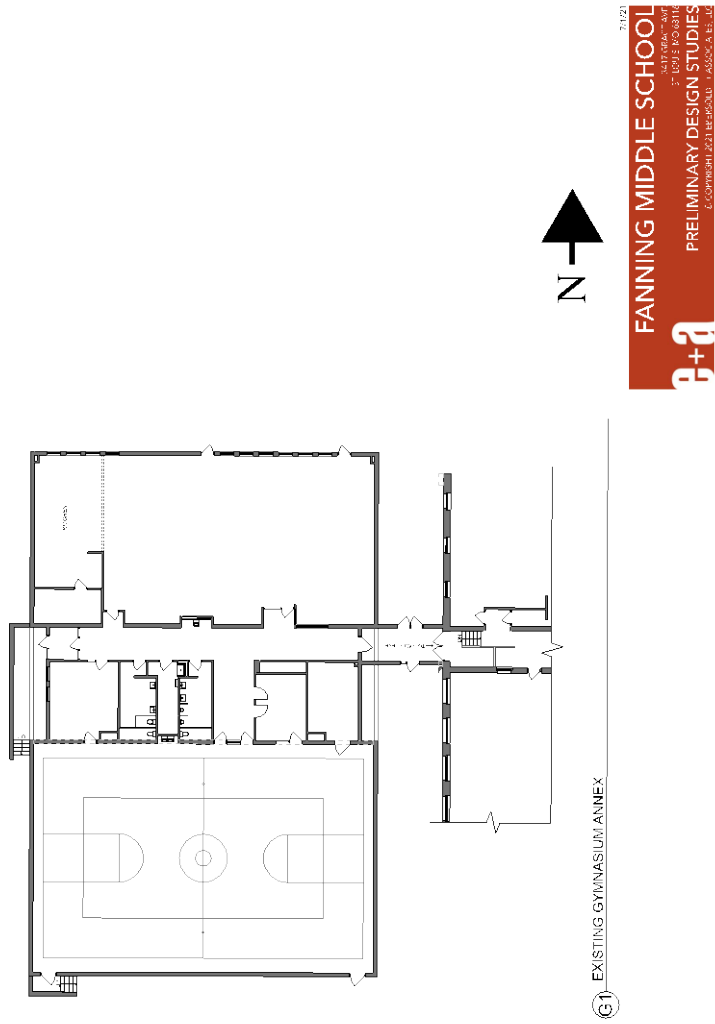


Figure 25. Current Gymnasium Plan.

































PARKING  
FOR SCHOOL

8

7

NO LITTERING  
IN SCHOOL YARD  
ORDINANCE NO. 61415





NO LOITERING  
IN SPECIAL PARTS  
STORAGE OR BAY











































EXIT











All Visitors  
Please Support  
the Police



NOTICE  
All visitors must pass through the metal detector.



BELIEVE  
IN  
YOURSELF





KEEP PUSHING  
DOOR WILL OPEN IN 40 SECONDS  
ALARM WILL SOUND AT PANEL

KEEP PUSHING  
DOOR WILL OPEN IN 40 SECONDS  
ALARM WILL SOUND AT PANEL

Please read before entering  
IF YOU HAVE





THIS SCHOOL IS NAMED  
 IN HONOR OF  
**ROSE SAWRIGHT TANNING**  
 IS FORMERLY  
 AND IN RECOGNITION OF HER SERVICE  
 AS DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
 DEPARTMENT

IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
 FROM 1911 TO 1921  
 HER DEEDS AND CHARACTER  
 ARE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION  
 TO ALL WHO KNOW HER  
 AND TO ALL WHO KNOW THE  
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
 AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



EVER  
 YOU  
 out  
 cess  
 ass  
 HER





**Safe**  
**Organize**  
**Achieve**  
**Respect**

All Visitors  
 Please Report  
 to Main Office

LIBRARY  
 106

LIBRARY  
 106



All Visitors  
 Please Report To Principal's Office  
 On The First Floor



*Falco*





Country



Everyone is WELCOME Here



Think Before You Post!





*Learning is Required Here*

*Fanning Students Change the World*

*Preparing our Students for the Future*

**Fanning**  
  
**Middle S**

















