

COPY

United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Longfellow School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1010 Chandler Street N/A not for publication

city or town Madison N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53715

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

Longfellow School  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
County and State

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

|  | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.<br>___ See continuation sheet.                  | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register.<br>___ See continuation sheet.     | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.<br>___ See continuation sheet. | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.   | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)   | _____                   | _____          |

#### 5. Classification

| Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box)       | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count) |                 |            |
|--|---|--|-----------------|------------|
|  |   | Contributing   | Noncontributing |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>1</u>   | <u>0</u>        | buildings  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local     | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-state                | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-federal              | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>0</u>   | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>1</u>   | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

#### 6. Function or Use

| Historic Functions<br>(Enter categories from instructions) | Current Functions<br>(Enter categories from instructions) |
|--|---|
| <u>EDUCATION: School</u>                                   | <u>HEALTH CARE: Hospital</u>                              |
| _____  | _____   |
| _____  | _____   |
| _____  | _____   |

#### 7. Description

| Architectural Classification<br>(Enter categories from instructions) | Materials<br>(Enter categories from instructions) |
|--|---|
| <u>Tudor Revival</u>   | foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>                        |
| _____  | walls <u>BRICK</u>                                |
| _____  | roof <u>ASPHALT</u>                               |
| _____  | other <u>LIMESTONE</u>                            |

#### Narrative Description

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from  
instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1917-1938 (architecture);

Significant Dates

1917  
1924  
1938

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is  
marked above)

N/A

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

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

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Law, Law, and Potter

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

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

Longfellow School  
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin  
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Previous Documentation on File (NPS):  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State Agency  
 Federal Agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository:  
WI Inventory of Historic Places

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property two acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |            |                    |                      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | <u>1/6</u> | <u>3/0/4/3/8/0</u> | <u>4/7/7/0/5/8/0</u> | 3        | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> |
|   | Zone       | Easting            | Northing             |          | Zone     | Easting  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | Northing |
| 2 | <u>/</u>   | <u>/</u>           | <u>/</u>             | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> | <u>/</u> |
|   | Zone       | Easting            |                      |          | Zone     | Easting  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | Northing |

\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Consultant (608-233-5942) for  
organization Madison Trust for Historic Pres date 11-15-1994  
street & number P.O. Box 296 telephone 608-251-4615  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53701

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Longfellow School

Dane County, Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**Property Owner**

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Board of Education, Madison Metropolitan School District  
street & number 545 W. Dayton Street telephone 608-266-6070  
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

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

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

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Longfellow School  
Madison, Dane County, WI

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INTRODUCTION

Longfellow School is located on the west side of South Brooks Street between Chandler and Mound Streets in Madison's Greenbush neighborhood. It was designed by Madison architects Law, Law and Potter. The north end of the school was built in 1917. Longfellow was expanded in 1924, and again in 1938. Despite the fact that it was designed and built over a period of twenty years, Longfellow School presents a unified appearance. It is a two-story flat-roofed brick building in the Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival subtype of the Tudor Revival style. The interior plan consists of a central corridor with a series of rooms opening off of it. Longfellow School retains excellent integrity.

DESCRIPTION

Longfellow School is a two-story Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival structure and was built in three phases. The original (north) section was designed by Madison architect James R. Law in 1917.<sup>1</sup> In 1924 James and Edward Law prepared plans for an addition (the central section) that matched the design of the original section.<sup>2</sup> A second addition (the south section) was designed by Law, Law and (Ellis) Potter in 1938.<sup>3</sup>

The east (main) facade is more or less symmetrical about the projecting central section (see sketch attached). The building has a reverse L-shaped plan and its main facade measures approximately 275 feet north to south, 60 feet along the north elevation, and 105 feet along the south elevation. The 1938 gymnasium, one tall story, forms the tail of the L. The walls are load-bearing red brick in running stretcher bond (1917) and structural clay tile with brick veneer (1924 and 1938). The 1917 section has a raised basement. Because the site slopes down toward Chandler Street, the

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<sup>1</sup>Plans for Longfellow School dated May 1, 1917.

<sup>2</sup>Plans for Addition to Longfellow School, dated February 14, 1924.

<sup>3</sup>Plans for Addition to Longfellow School, dated July 22, 1938.

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basement becomes the ground floor in the 1938 section. The foundation is poured concrete. The school's flat built-up roof is hidden by a crenellated parapet finished with a limestone coping. Other details include a limestone water table separating the basement and the first floor, and a limestone string course running around the building above the second floor windows, except on the central projecting section on the main facade. On this section, a limestone string course, enriched with six grotesques in human form, aligns with the parapet coping of the flanking sections, and is surmounted by a tall parapet with a stepped, curvilinear central pediment and pierced stone strapwork ornamentation. There is a stone cartouche in the central gable. Two brick ventilation stacks rise on the west (rear) elevation in the central section.

The fenestration pattern is almost the same for each floor, and symmetrical except on the south elevation. Nearly all the windows are wood, multipaned double-hung sash with limestone sills. The north elevation features three of these windows. On the south elevation, the south entrance is set off-center. It is composed of a Tudor-arched doorway with a pair of Tudor-arched doors, stone quoining and a label hood mold. Above the doorway is a rectangular stone panel which reads "Longfellow," and above this is a pair of fixed leaded-glass windows. One depicts a boy seated at a desk, the other a boy playing basketball. These are surmounted by a pair of stone spandrels, each decorated with a raised four-petaled Tudor rose, and a pair of triple-hung windows. Above is a stepped, curvilinear gable inset with a stone panel featuring the Tudor rose in a circle, superimposed on a cross. On the gymnasium section (west of the south entrance) brick buttresses divide the double-hung windows into three pairs. Each window is surmounted by a stone panel with an incised square motif. East of the south entrance are two bays of double-hung windows.

On the east facade, the central section features five double-hung surmounted by triple-hung windows, flanked by a curvilinear bay with a single set of double- and triple-hung windows. The second floor windows in this section are set in quoined architraves. There are stone spandrels with raised Tudor roses between the first and second floor windows. North of the central section are two sets of five double-hung windows. On either end of the north section, as well as just south of the auditorium, is a projecting

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entrance pavilion. All three are identical. Each is capped by a curvilinear gable inset with a stone diamond. A short flight of concrete steps, framed with low brick wing walls capped with stone, leads up to each entrance. The entrance is composed of a pair of double doors with a transom, framed in a Tudor arch with a label hood mold, the whole surmounted by a rectangular stone panel that reads "Longfellow." Above is a pair of double-hung windows, surmounted by stone spandrels decorated with raised shields, and another pair of double-hung windows. On the east facade of the south section, there are three sets of double-hung windows.

On the west (rear) elevation, the north section has two sets of five windows, flanked on either side by a single column of windows in a narrow projecting bay with a gabled parapet, corresponding to the entrance porches on the east facade. The central section features two sets of double doors, with stone quoins, under a single label hood mold. There are two sets of five thermal pane windows, in quoined architraves, in this section. The south section, excluding the gymnasium, has three sets of five windows, except in the basement, which features a large bay window. The gymnasium has two pairs of wood double-hung windows facing north and a single door with a label hood mold in the west face.

On the interior, the plan consists of a central corridor running north-south with a series of rooms opening off of it. There are three stairhalls placed at irregular intervals east of the corridor, and a fourth at the south end of it. All four are dog-leg staircases of poured concrete with terrazzo treads and landings. Longfellow originally included the following special purpose rooms: a sunken gymnasium, locker rooms with showers, and manual training rooms in the basement of the 1917 section; a nurse's office and a lunchroom in the basement, a library and an auditorium on the first floor, and industrial arts and nature study rooms on the second floor in the 1924 section; a gymnasium with locker rooms and showers, and dentist and physician's offices on the ground floor, an expanded library on the first floor, and a music room on the second floor (1938 section). These spaces are all intact, with the exception of the 1917 locker room.

Interior wall finishes include exposed and painted brick (1917), plastered structural clay tile (1924 and 1938), tile (1938) and



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Longfellow School  
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plastered wood and gypsum partition walls. The flooring in the classrooms is wood. In the corridors and basement/ground floors the finish is linoleum (1917) or terrazzo (1924 and 1938). The terrazzo may have been supplied by the Lumina Terrazzo Company, a neighborhood business that was located on Regent Street.

The sloping floor of the auditorium is concrete. The original ceilings throughout most of the building, excluding the auditorium and gymnasiums, are now concealed with dropped acoustical tile and hanging fluorescent lights. The auditorium retains its original plaster cornice with alternating shield and floral motifs. Above the stage's flat-arched proscenium opening is a plaster frieze and panel decorated with plaster figures in classical dress, flanked by swags and wreaths. Most of the interior doors are panelled wood with a glass pane in the upper half. Built-in cupboards, closets and cabinets are found throughout the building. In the 1917 section many of the classrooms retain original air-pump clocks and tiny intercom-phones, and the restrooms have original wood stall partitions and doors.

Alterations to Longfellow School's exterior have been confined to the replacement of some of the original windows on the rear elevation. The window openings are unchanged. On the interior, temporary partitions have been installed in a few classrooms, and to restrict access into the basement gymnasium.

North of Longfellow School, across Mound Street, is the former Madison General Hospital Nursing School and Residence, a Law, Law and Potter design from the 1930s. South across Chandler Street is a residential area composed of two-story frame late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses. Most were originally single family homes, but were subdivided into rental units in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the residents are students at the University of Wisconsin. East of Longfellow is the sprawling Meriter (formerly Madison General) Hospital complex. Behind (west) the school is an asphalt surfaced playground and parking lot. Beyond are additional homes such as those south of the school.

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Longfellow School  
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**SUMMARY**

Longfellow School, built in three sections between 1917 and 1938, is significant at the local level under criterion C. It is architecturally significant as a fine local example of the rare formal brick Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival subtype of the Tudor Revival style; as an excellent example of the work of the prominent Madison architectural firm of Law, Law and Potter; and as a school building representing the evolution of elementary education during the early twentieth century. The building has been associated with, and is a symbol of, Madison's ethnically-rich Greenbush neighborhood. The period of significance for architecture extends from the construction of the first section of the building in 1917, to the erection of the second addition in 1938.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The original plat for the Village of Madison was surveyed by John V. Suydam for James Duane Doty in 1836. Doty named the village in honor of the fourth President of the United States. Madison's first public school opened in March, 1838 in the front end of a log cabin. The first structure actually built as a school house was erected in 1839, with two rooms and one teacher. Public schools showed little improvement until Damon Kilgore settled in Madison in 1854. A firm believer in the views of Horace Mann, noted advocate of public education, Kilgore was appalled to find 1,500 school age children in Madison and only one schoolhouse with a seating capacity of about 40. Kilgore lobbied the legislature for the passage of a bill to establish a Board of Education in Madison. In 1855, the state enabled the city's first Board of Education and the Madison School District was incorporated. Kilgore was appointed the first Superintendent of Schools and he launched a vigorous campaign promoting public education. When Madison became a city in 1856, Kilgore convinced the first Common Council to earmark funds for a bond issue to build four schoolhouses, one in each ward. In 1857, two of the new schools were built. However, a nationwide depression that year placed the city in financial straits and prevented additional school construction. Kilgore continued to press for more school buildings, but was unsuccessful. Kilgore left Madison in 1860, leaving behind growing community support for

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public schools.<sup>4</sup>

It was not until after the Civil War that public schools enjoyed consistent strong financial commitment from Madison. Between 1865 and 1880, the Common Council put more than one out of every four dollars levied for city purposes toward school operations and schoolhouses.<sup>5</sup> Between 1865 and 1900, eight new schools were built.<sup>6</sup> A school for the Greenbush neighborhood was one of these.

The Greenbush neighborhood takes its name from its legal plat: the Greenbush Addition. Recorded in 1854, this 80 acre plat was owned by Dr. Chandler B. Chapman (1815-1877) and his partner, newspaper publisher and editor John Y. Smith (1807-1874): The name may have been inspired by the characteristics of the land: swampy marsh with a thick undergrowth of shrubs and weeds. The area was bounded on the north by Regent Street, on the south by Erin Street, on the east by South Murray Street, and on the west by South Mills Street. Early settlement was concentrated in the southwest corner of the plat, where the land was dry. This part of the Greenbush Addition quickly became a German enclave. The rest of the plat had to be filled to be developed. Parts of the plat were filled with gravel from a nearby ridge, but much of it was filled by dumping garbage to a level just slightly above the water table, and spreading dirt on top. The neighborhood, known popularly as "the Bush," would also eventually include Pregler's Addition, 19 adjacent acres popularly known as the "Triangle." Platted by George Pregler (1854-1930) in 1901, the Triangle runs east of the Greenbush Addition to the intersection of Regent Street and West Washington Avenue. Pregler's Addition was also a marsh. He filled it with ashes and moved in many old structures from other parts of the

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<sup>4</sup>David V. Mollenhoff, Madison: A History of the Formative Years, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1982), pp. 20, 36, 56, and 106-109.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., pp. 155-156.

<sup>6</sup>"Always Bursting at the Seams," Wisconsin State Journal, September 24, 1939, sec. 3, p. 4.

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city.<sup>7</sup>

In 1869, anticipating that a new school would soon be needed, the City of Madison purchased Block nine of the Greenbush Addition for \$3,000 from Dr. Chapman and his wife Eugenia.<sup>8</sup> Growth in the Bush was slow until about 1875. Between 1875 and 1910, population in the Bush increased at more than twice the rate of the city as a whole. The ethnic composition was primarily German and Irish until the mid-1890s.<sup>9</sup> In 1891, the city conveyed block nine to the Board of Education, "for a schoolhouse thereon," for one dollar.<sup>10</sup> The Board of Education sold lots 5 through 8, which face South Mills Street, to raise money to build the school.<sup>11</sup> Greenbush Public School was erected at Chandler and South Brooks Streets, on the southeast corner of the present Longfellow site, and opened in the fall of 1892. According to the 1902 Sanborn-Perris Map of Madison, it was a two-story brick building, measuring about 40 by 50 feet, with a shingle roof.

Greenbush Public School was renamed Longfellow around 1902. In 1909, a second school building was erected on the Longfellow site, to the north and west of the 1892 building. The 1909 structure was probably designed by the prominent Madison architectural firm of (Louis) Claude and (Edward) Starck, best known for their Prairie

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<sup>7</sup>Mollenhoff, pp. 352-53; and Timothy F. Heggland, The Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood: A Walking Tour, (Madison: Madison Landmarks Commission and the Brittingham-Vilas Neighborhood Association, 1991), pp. 1 and 4.

<sup>8</sup>Dane County, Register of Deeds, vol. 144, p. 137.

<sup>9</sup>Elizabeth L. Miller, "The History and Adaptive Use of the Longfellow School", (Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1984,) pp. 7-9.

<sup>10</sup>Dane County, Register of Deeds, vol. 144, p. 157.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., vol. 144, p. 265.

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School buildings.<sup>12</sup> When the 1909 building was completed, it was called Longfellow School, and the 1892 building was renamed the Longfellow Annex.<sup>13</sup>

In 1911, the Madison School District began recording annual enrollment figures. That fall, Longfellow had 361 elementary students. Between 1911 and 1917, Madison's elementary school enrollment increased 41 percent, while Longfellow's increased 76 percent.<sup>14</sup>

Burgeoning enrollment led to the construction of the north section of the present Longfellow School in 1917. Designed in the Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival subtype of the Tudor Revival style by Madison architect James R. Law, the two-story brick structure was called, in concert with the 1892 structure, the Longfellow Annex. It opened in the fall of 1917, at which time the Longfellow complex served 700 students, a figure that would remain fairly constant until 1930.<sup>15</sup>

In 1924, the central section of the present Longfellow School was constructed. It was designed by James and Edward Law to match the original section. The expanded building continued to be known as the Longfellow Annex, the 1892 schoolhouse became Longfellow School, and the 1909 building became Longfellow Junior High School.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Gordon D. Orr, Jr., "Louis W. Claude: Madison Architect of the Prairie Style," The Prairie School Review, vol. XIV, final issue, 1981, p. 6.

<sup>13</sup>Madison City Directory: 1914, (Madison: G.R. Angell and Co., 1914).

<sup>14</sup>Madison Metropolitan School District, enrollment figures.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., and James R. Law, plans for Longfellow School, May 1, 1917.

<sup>16</sup>James and Edward Law, plans, February 14, 1924; and Wright's Madison City Directory: 1925, (Madison: Wright Publishing Co., 1925).

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The Depression caused many children in the Bbush to drop out of school to help support their families. By 1934, Longfellow's enrollment had dropped to 462 students, a level that was maintained into the 1940s.<sup>17</sup> Longfellow's enrollment declined dramatically in the fall of 1930, falling by one-quarter over the previous year. At the same time, Madison's overall student enrollment increased slightly.

In the face of this decline, the 1892 building was razed in 1938, and the south section of the present Longfellow School was built as a Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) project. It was designed by (James) Law, (Edward) Law and (Ellis) Potter to harmonize with the remainder of the building. The 1909 junior high building at the rear of the site was demolished about 1940.<sup>18</sup>

Longfellow Elementary School, as the school was known after 1900, maintained student enrollment of between 350 and 475 from 1939 until the City of Madison inaugurated an urban renewal program in 1957. Despite considerable opposition from Greenbush residents, 52 acres in the Bush, including all of the Triangle, were razed between 1962 and 1965. Between 1966 and 1980, Longfellow's elementary student enrollment fluctuated between 160 and 250 students. Beginning in 1972, there was an alternative high school program in the north end of the building, which added about 125 students. Longfellow's use as a public school was discontinued in 1980. Since that time, the School Board has leased it to Meriter (formerly Madison General) Hospital. The hospital's employee and community education programs, CPR center, data processing and computer training are now housed in the school. In addition, the original gymnasiums are now used for employee exercise. The School

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<sup>17</sup>Madison Metropolitan School District, enrollment figures.

<sup>18</sup>Law, Law and Potter, plans, July 22, 1938; and Wright's Madison City Directory: 1940, (Madison: Wright Publishing Co., 1940)

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Board retains one educational program in the building.<sup>19</sup>

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Longfellow School is architecturally significant as an excellent local example of the rare Tudor Revival subtype, Elizabethan-Jacobean Revival; as a fine design by an outstanding local architecture firm, Law, Law, and Potter. It is significant as a property type as a school building representing the evolution of elementary education in the U. S. during the early twentieth century.

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin (Wyatt), the Elizabethan/Jacobean subtype of Tudor Revival is rare in Wisconsin. Both the Tudor and Elizabethan/Jacobean Revivals were inspired by British late medieval architecture, built during the reigns of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and James I (1603-25). While a hallmark of Tudor Revival design is ornamental half-timbering infilled with brick or stucco, it is unusual in Elizabethan/Jacobean buildings, which are commonly constructed of brick with stone detailing. Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival designs are generally more formal and were used for larger projects. Built primarily between 1895 and 1915, characteristics of this style include Flemish shaped gables and ornamental strapwork; parapets, often castellated and/or with finials; large elaborate chimneys; Tudor-arched doorways enriched with stone, especially quoining; Tudor and Renaissance ornamentation; and grouped windows. Longfellow School incorporates nearly all of these elements.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Madison Metropolitan School District, enrollment figures; John Arthur Valentine, "A Study in Institutionalization: The Assimilative History of the Italian-American Community of Madison, Wisconsin," (Master's thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1967), p. 73; WHA, "The Triangle: A Three-Cornered Circle," December, 1983; and Miller, pp. 16-17.

<sup>20</sup>Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), vol. 2, p. 2-30; and Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pp. 354-70.

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The half-timbered Tudor Revival style was relatively popular in Madison during the 1920s and 1930s. There are numerous fine residential examples of the style, especially in the Vilas, University Heights and Nakoma neighborhoods. One of the finest examples of this style is the Leo Crowley House at 1110 Edgewood Avenue, also designed by Law, Law and Potter. There is a school building in Madison in the half-timbered Tudor style: Randall Elementary School (1906, NRHP). The other early 20th century Madison elementary schools are either in the Prairie School (Doty, 1907, and Lincoln, 1915); Mediterranean Revival (Lowell, 1916); or vaguely Collegiate Gothic (Emerson, 1919; Franklin, 1924 and Dudgeon, 1926) styles. Examples of Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival buildings are rare in Madison. To date, only two have been identified: Chi Phi fraternity and Chi Omega sorority houses. Both are associated with the University of Wisconsin, and like Longfellow, were designed by Law, Law and Potter. Although Chi Phi House has round rather than Tudor arches, it does feature label moldings, quoining, ornamentation with Tudor roses, and a castellated parapet. Chi Omega House does not have Tudor arches either, but it does have Flemish shaped gables with finials. Like Longfellow, both are good examples of Elizabeth/Jacobean Revival and retain excellent integrity.

James R. Law (1855-1952), Longfellow's principal architect, was born in Madison. In 1901, he went to work in the architectural office of (Louis) Claude and (Edward) Starck. He later enrolled in the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1909. He returned to Madison and worked for Arthur Peabody, then University of Wisconsin Architect. Law founded his own firm in 1914, and made his brother Edward his partner in 1919. Ellis Potter joined the firm in 1926. Law's firm executed many commissions, including the Gay Building (1915) on the Capitol Square, Madison's first "skyscraper." Other Madison projects included the Tenney Building, the Wisconsin Power and Light Building, the First Congregational Church, two wings of Madison General Hospital, West High School, Marquette and Shorewood Elementary Schools, many residences and several fraternities. The firm was also active outside of Madison in southern Wisconsin and



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northern Illinois.<sup>21</sup>

As a school building type, Longfellow reflects the changes taking place in elementary school curriculum in the early twentieth century. During this time, the curriculum expanded beyond the "three Rs." Attention was directed at developing well-rounded individuals with the inclusion of "manual training" in metal and woodworking, and sewing. A rising concern for health and nutrition led to the inclusion of a gymnasium, lunchroom, and nurse's, physician's and/or dentist's offices in state-of-the-art schools. Auditoriums were also included, reflecting a new view of the role of the elementary school serving as a community center. Libraries also came into vogue during the early twentieth century.<sup>22</sup> Longfellow's design incorporated all of these ideas. Although Longfellow apparently was not based on a model school design, several publications promoting model elementary school designs were available during the early twentieth century. These included William George Bruce's School Architecture, which contained specifications for corridor width, classroom size, and the location of the manual training rooms, gymnasium, auditorium and library;<sup>23</sup> and a series of articles by Walter Kilham that appeared in the magazine, The Brickbuilder.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>"Rites Set Sunday for James Law, Highway Chairman, Former Mayor," Wisconsin State Journal, March 15, 1952; and "James R. Law-Temple Builder, Public Servant," Masonic Digest, April 1952, pp. 3-4.

<sup>22</sup>Miller, pp. 44-45.

<sup>23</sup>William George Bruce, School Architecture, (Milwaukee: Johnson Service Company, 1903).

<sup>24</sup>Walter Kilham, "The Modern Schoolhouse," The Brickbuilder, 24 (1915), pp. 2-7, 39-42, 59-62, 93-98, 107-110, and 141-144.

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## HISTORIC BACKGROUND

From the mid-1850s until the mid-1960s, The Bush maintained a concentration of ethnic mini-communities, unmatched by any other Madison neighborhood. In the nineteenth century, Irish and Germans predominated. During the 1890s, Russian Jews, escaping the pogroms of their mother country, began immigrating to the United States. Entire families and villages often came together, forming close-knit communities in America. In Madison, they clustered along Mound Street near South Park Street. In the early years, Russian Jews in the Bush tended to concentrate in the peddling, junkshop, blacksmith and produce businesses. In 1904, Agudas Achim Synagogue was built at Mound and South Park Streets.<sup>25</sup>

Between 1900 and 1915, many Italian immigrants settled in Greenbush. Most were unskilled laborers, digging ditches for the Madison Gas Company or working on the railroad. Many purchased homes in the Triangle from George Pregler, who sold them for \$5 down and \$5 to \$10 a month. Fully 99 percent of the Italians that settled in Madison during this period were from Sicily. One third were Albanian-Italians who had migrated to Italy in the late 15th century to escape persecution from invading Turks during the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. A fierce rivalry existed between the Albanian-Italians and their compatriots, each supporting separate churches and clubs. An Albanian-Italian Methodist church was built at Milton and South Lake Streets in 1916. The same year, St. Joseph's Catholic Church was begun at South Park and Regent Streets. Each group also organized its own mutual aid society in 1912. The Albanian-Italian's society clubhouse (1922) is still standing at 914 Regent Street.<sup>26</sup>

During the teens, living conditions in the Bush became a concern of the citizens of Madison. At that time, the Bush was home to some members of Madison's small African-American community, numbering some 10-12 families, as well as the German, Russian-Jewish and

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<sup>25</sup>Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky, From Generation to Generation, (Madison: n.p., 1955), p. 41.

<sup>26</sup>Miller, pp. 11-12; Heggland, p. 4; and Valentine, pp. 79-86.

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Italian communities. One-third of all the homes had no city water connection and more were overcrowded. In 1916, a national housing expert, speaking to Madison's Civics Club, reported that the Bush had all the aspects of a large city slum. He became the first to advocate urban renewal for Greenbush.<sup>27</sup>

By 1920, the ethnic composition of the Bush included approximately 20 percent each of Germans, Russian-Jews and Italians, and six percent African-Americans. These ethnic mini-communities would remain an integral part of the Bush until urban renewal.<sup>28</sup>

In 1957, the City of Madison inaugurated an urban renewal program. Despite considerable opposition from Greenbush residents, 52 acres in the Bush, including all of the Triangle, were razed between 1962 and 1965. As a result, half of the Italian community and four-fifths of the neighborhood's African-American community was relocated.<sup>29</sup>

While much of the housing stock of Greenbush's German enclave remains today, and some remnants of the Italian community are evident in the restaurants and groceries along Regent and Park Streets, all vestiges of the Jewish and African-American communities have disappeared.

In conclusion, Longfellow School, built in three parts between 1917 and 1938, is architecturally significant as a fine local example of the rare Elizabethan/Jacobean Revival subtype of the Tudor Revival style; of the work of the prominent local architecture firm Law, Law and Potter; and as a school building representing the evolution of elementary education during the early twentieth century.

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<sup>27</sup>Mollenhoff, pp. 352-53; Henry Barnbrock, Jr., "Housing Conditions of the Italian Community in Madison," (Senior thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1916), p. 7; and Wisconsin State Journal, May 20 and 21, 1916.

<sup>28</sup>Miller, pp. 14-15.

<sup>29</sup>Madison Metropolitan School District, enrollment figures; Valentine, p. 73; WHA; and Miller, pp. 16-17.

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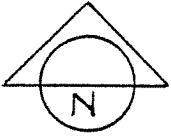
#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Longfellow School is located on Lots 1-4 and 9-12, Block 9, Greenbush Addition, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, a parcel encompassing 2 acres.

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Longfellow School.

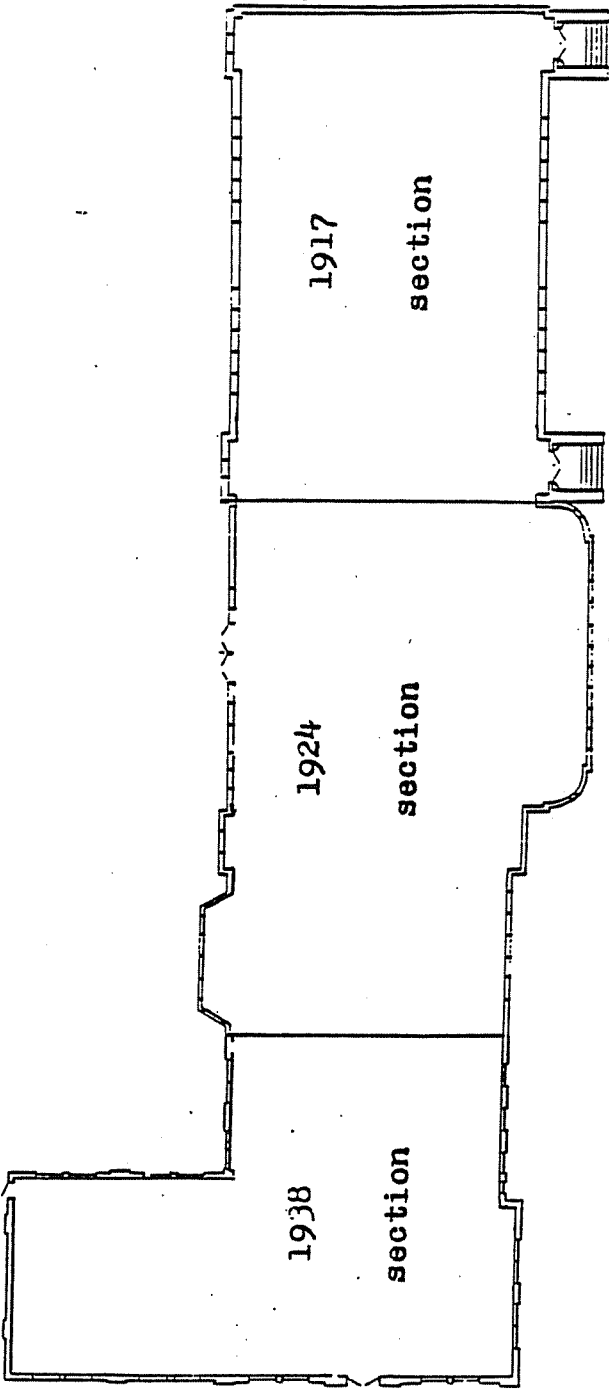
Longfellow School  
Madison, Dane Co., WI  
No scale



MOUND STREET

240'

316.50'



S. BROOKS STREET

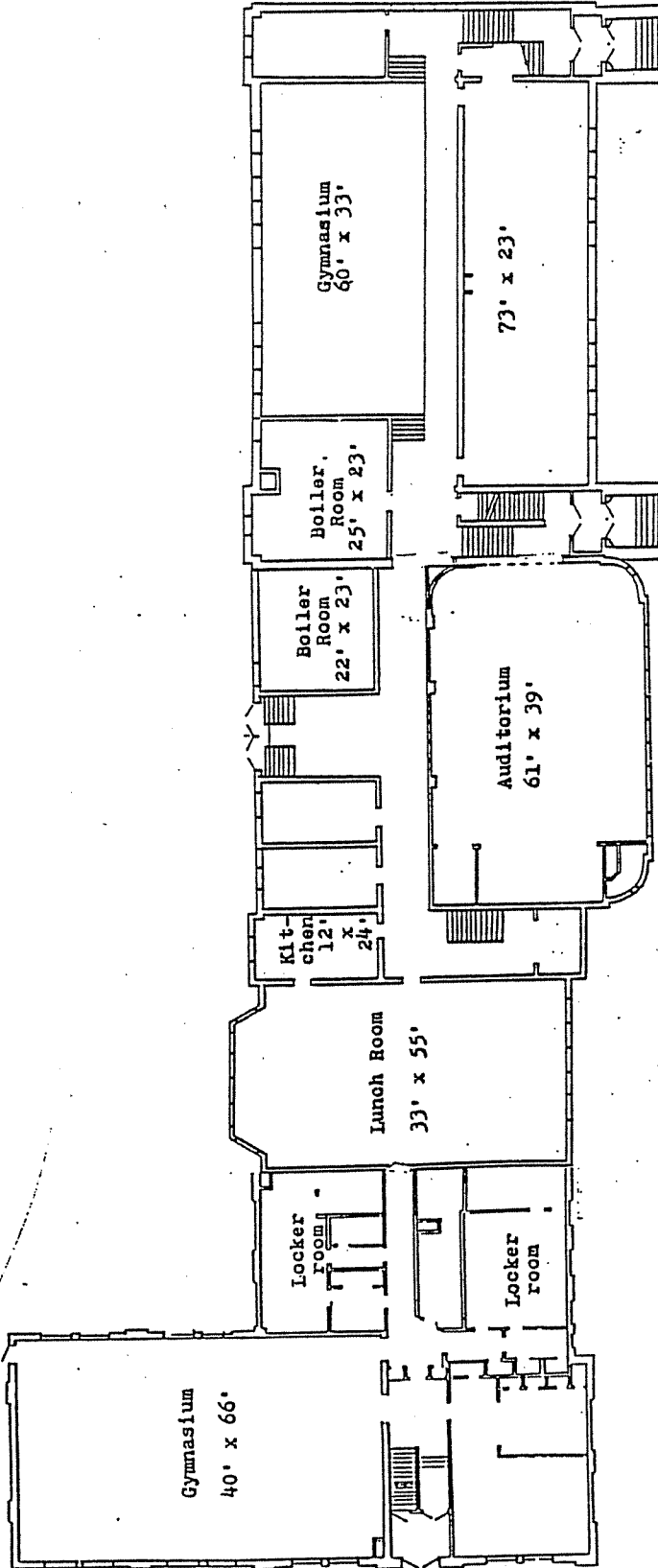
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BROOKS STREET

PROPERTY LINE

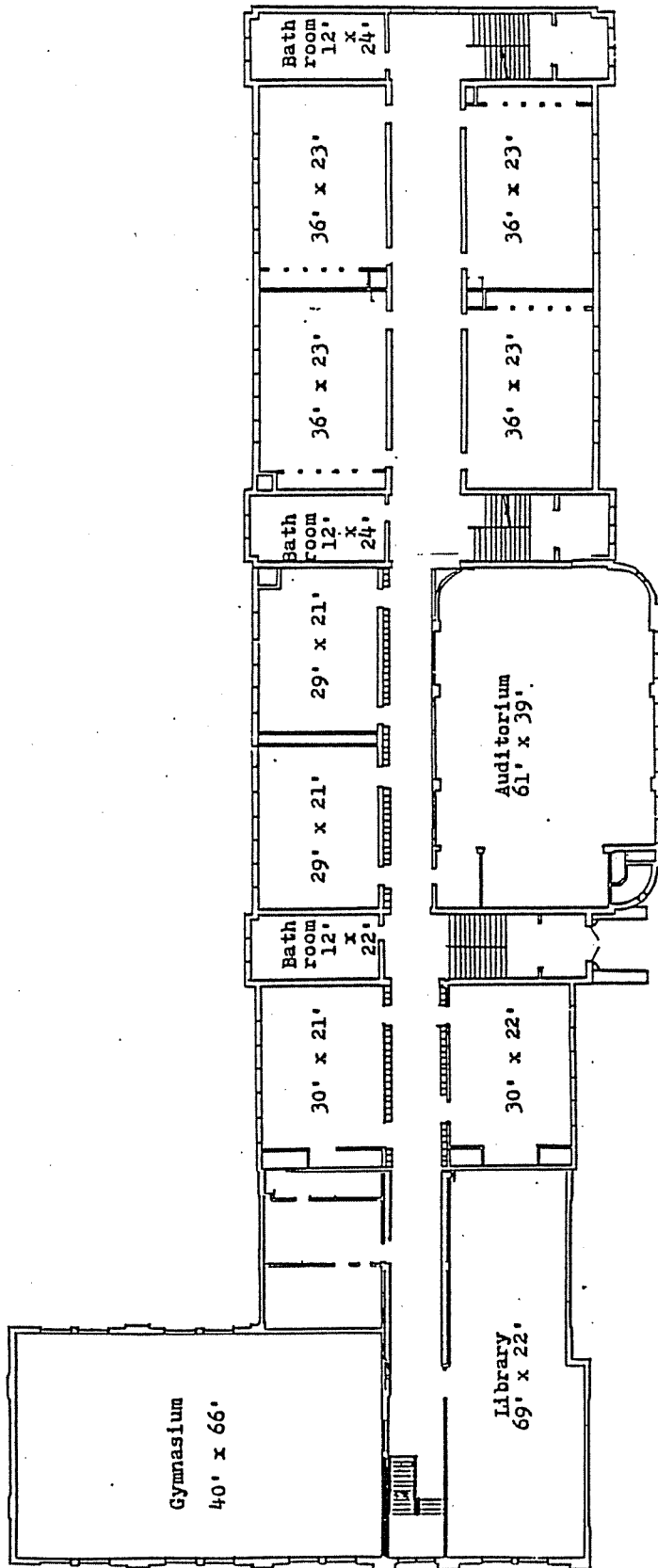
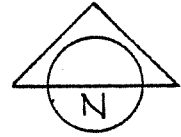
CHANDLER STREET

Longfellow School  
Madison, Dane Co., WI  
Basement/Ground Floor Plan  
No scale





Longfellow School  
Madison, Dane Co., WI  
First Floor Plan  
No scale



Longfellow School  
Madison, Dane Co., WI  
Second Floor Plan  
No scale

