United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

   historic The New Fifth Ward School
   and/or common Washington School (preferred)

2. Location

   street & number 818 West Lorain Street
   city, town Appleton
   state Wisconsin code 087

3. Classification

   Category district x building(s) public
   building(s) private
   structure both
   site
   object
   Public Acquisition in process
   being considered
   N.A.
   Status occupied x unoccupied
   work in progress
   Accessible yes: restricted
   yes: unrestricted
   no
   Present Use museum
   agriculture
   commercial
   educational
   entertainment
   government
   industrial
   military
   X other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

   name Richard Flintrop and Allan Beatty
   street & number 3631 Shangri-La Road
   city, town Oshkosh
   state Wisconsin 54901

5. Location of Legal Description

   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Outagamie County Courthouse
   street & number 410 South Walnut Street
   city, town Appleton
   state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

   title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? x yes no
   date 1977
   depository for survey records State Historical Society
   city, town Madison
   state Wisconsin
7. Description

Condition

excellent ___ deteriorated ___
X good ___ ruined ___
___ fair ___ unexposed ___

Check one

unaltered ___ altered X

Check one

original site ___ moved ___ date ___

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Washington School is a single, detached structure, rectangular in plan measuring 80' x 120'. The south facade or main facade, had a single, extended center tower, projecting approximately 4.5 feet from the plane of the mainframe. The tower has been truncated (prior to 1930) from its original 95' spire configuration. Aside from the tower reconfiguration the visual integrity of the school remains as it did upon construction.

Exterior material rests on a squared-hewn Duck Greek limestone. Foundation walls are laid in regular continuous courses that rise nine feet above grade; except over the main entrance where the limestone blocks extend to a height of fifteen feet. The remaining exterior wall material is Menomonie red pressed brick laid in a stretcher bond. Decorative wall design and details include engaged pilasters, three rock-faced limestone belt courses, and stone characters giving the construction date and statement of purpose on the tower.

Parapet gables, two on both the east and west sides and one on both the main and northern facades, extend from the medium-hipped roof. Three single stack chimneys pierce the roof. Two of the chimneys are located along the center with one on the front slope and the other on the rear slope. The remaining chimney is offset right on the side slope. The roof trim is closed eaves that do not project over the vertical walls.

The main windows are set in a large two-story segmental opening. The window head is of rock-faced limestone in an arched arrangement with radiating voussoirs. The individual windows within the opening are two sash, double-hung. Four windows, two set in a semi-circular opening with a rock-faced limestone arch with radiating voussoirs, are present in the tower. The main door is located offset right of the main facade. The door is set in a semi-circular opening with an arched head with radiating voussoirs. The original door has been removed and replaced with an unobtrusive double leaf glass door.

Originally, the building had eight class rooms, store rooms, principal's office, dining room, a 1,200-seat auditorium, all on the first two floors. The basement held three large playrooms and two restrooms. The interior of the building has been remodeled several times. The most severe alterations coming in the mid-60's when the school was reopened for a brief period as an experimental learning center. Beyond the basic spatial arrangements of the original plan little remains of the historical integrity of the interior.

The building is the only building on the block and is sited in the center. On surrounding streets facing the school are middle-class single-family residences that date from the school's construction. While the neighborhood has suffered some intrusions, it is basically intact with the Washington School serving as its visual anchor.
8. Significance

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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<td>commerce</td>
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Specific dates 1895

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Washington School is an important Appleton building because it embodies distinguished characteristics of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in a public educational building.

As stated in a preliminary determination of eligibility from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Washington School "stands as one of the best examples of historical design in the city." With its richly contrasting brick walls and flared, cut-stone foundation, elegant, two-story bow windows set into gabled pavilions, and tower asymmetrically integrated into the front facade, the school is a well resolved composition of standard elements of Richardsonian Romanesque design and latter nineteenth century influences, including the Queen Anne.

As a product of 1890's large-scale school construction, the Washington School is bolder and more elegant, more expressive of Richardsonian Romanesque period influences than other comparable schools in Appleton. The Lincoln School, Columbus School, and St. Joseph School, all designed in the same decade, are less lively in form and less coloristically rich. Broken into larger parts, the Washington School is more strongly reminiscent of libraries and academic buildings designed by master H. H. Richardson. Its irregular silhouette speaks more forcefully of the late Victorian era. Contrast with later schools, like the "Collegiate Gothic" Roosevelt Jr. High School, strengthens the significance of the Washington School as the preeminent interpretation of Richardsonian form in Appleton.

Frank Shaver Allen lived in Joliet, Illinois, when commissioned to design the school building. His work has been identified throughout the Midwest and southern California, yet the most representative examples of his work are in the Joliet area. Allen's work shows his familiarity with Richardsonian principles. His more representative commissions include the Barber Building, Central High School (placed on the National Register 1979), and his former residence, all in Joliet. Allen was selected by the school board to design Washington School to replace the original Washington School, which was located adjacent to the site. The original school was considered too small for Appleton's expanding school population. It should be noted that classes were held in the original school up to a week prior to opening of the new school. At that time a fire, believed to be arson, consumed the original school.

1 Appleton Post, 22 August 1895.
9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Magnificent Building." Appleton Post, 22 August, Sec. 1, p. 3.
"School House in Ashes." The Daily Post - Appleton, 21 October 1895, Sec. 1, p. 3.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 2.3
Quadrangle name: Appleton, WI
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification: The Washington School is located on an entire block in the city of Appleton bordered by Bennett Street to the west, West Elsie Street to the north, Locust Street to the east, and West Lofain Street on the south.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard Flintrop
organization: N/A
date: November 8, 1983
street & number: 3631 Shangri-La Road
telephone: (414)235-3390

city or town: Oshkosh
state: WI

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national __ state ___ local __

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]
date: May 1, 1984

title: Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW
date: 6/7/84

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Keeper of the National Register: [Signature]
date: 6/7/84

Attest: [Signature]
date: [Date]

Chief of Registration: [Signature]
WASHINGTON SCHOOL. 735 W. Lo- rain St., Appleton, Outagamie County, WI. Photo by Dean Hoffman, November, 1983. Neg. supplied.

View from southwest. Photo # 4 of 7.
WASHINGTON SCHOOL. 735 W. Lorain St., Appleton, Outagamie County, WI. Photo by Dean Hoffman, November, 1983. Neg. with owners. View of interior: a classroom, all twelve classrooms (6 on each floor) are of a similar floorplan and decorative treatment. Photo #6 of 7.
WASHINGTON SCHOOL.  735 W. Lorain St., Appleton, Outagamie County, WI. Photo by Dean Hoffman, November, 1983. Neg. supplied. View of interior: the northern stairway, one of two stairways between the first and second floors. Photo #7 of 7.