Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor 808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Wilson Elementary School And/Or Common Name: Wilson School

2. Location

Street & Number: 911 West 25th Avenue City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99203 Parcel Number: 35303.2701

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
⊠building	⊠public □both	⊠occupied	□agricultural	□museum
\Box site	□private	\Box work in progress	\Box commercial	\Box park
□structure			⊠educational	□residential
□object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	\Box entertainment	□religious
	\Box in process	⊠yes, restricted	□government	□scientific
	□ being considered	\Box yes, unrestricted	\Box industrial	\Box transportation
		\Box no	□military	□other

4. **Owner of Property**

Name: Spokane School District No. 81 Street & Number: 200 North Bernard Street City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99201 Telephone Number/E-mail: Mark Anderson – 509-354-5900 (contact)

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Street Number: City, State, Zip Code: County: Spokane County Courthouse 1116 West Broadway Spokane, WA 99260 Spokane

6. **Representation in Existing Surveys**

Title: N/A

Date:	□Federal	□State	\Box County	□Local	
Depository f	for Survey Re	cords:	Spol	ane Historic Prese	rvation Office

7. Description			
Architectural Classification	Condition	Check One	
	⊠excellent	□unaltered	
	\Box good	⊠altered	
	□fair		
	deteriorated	Check One	
	□ruins	\boxtimes original site	
	□unexposed	moved & date	

Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places criteria: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- \square 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 history.
- E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.72 AcresVerbal Boundary Description:
Street, 25th Avenue, MonroeJEROME PK L1TO12B14. Bounded by LincolnVerbal Boundary Justification:Nominated property includes entire parcel and
urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Jim Kolva, owner Organization: Jim Kolva Associates, LLC Street, City, State, Zip Code: 115 South Adams Street, Suite 1 Telephone Number: 509-458-5517 E-mail Address: jim@jimkolvaassociates.com Date Final Nomination Heard:

12. Additional Documentation

Additional documentation is found on one or more continuation sheets.

13. Signature of Owner(s)

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed:

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing:

Landmarks Commission decision:

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing:

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

Megan Duvall City/County Historic Preservation Officer City/County Historic Preservation Office Third Floor – City Hall 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane, WA 99201

Attest:

City Clerk

Date

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Summary Paragraph

Wilson Elementary School is in the southwest quadrant of the City of Spokane, within the Manito-Cannon Hill Neighborhood, and occupies the entire block bounded by 25th Avenue, Lincoln Street, 26th Avenue, and Monroe Street. Designed by master architect Loren L. Rand, and built in 1926 with elements of Renaissance Revival design, the building is richly articulated in variegated brick and terra cotta moldings. The one-story building is strongly horizontal in elevation with additional emphasis provided by a terra cotta water table, cornice, and coping courses. Facing north, the main entry suggests a Tudor tower as it projects above the parapet wall. Terra cotta pedestals within the brick field of the parapet wall extend between the cornice and coping courses to suggest crenellations. Behind the parapet is a flat roof.

Flanking each side of the prominent entry are wall sections divided by vertical terra cotta moldings into five window bays. A square blank wall salient anchors each end and wraps the outside corners. Although each bay contains identical window bay configuration, they are arranged asymmetrically.

Two wings, both additions, extend south from the original building. The 1961 classroom addition in the southwest corner is of contemporary design, while the 1999 addition along the east side mimics the design style and detailing of the 1926 building. A multi-purpose room was added in 1961 and is connected to the original building by an enclosed breezeway.

Current Appearance

Front – North Facade

The one-story building, brick and terra cotta, faces north along 25th Avenue. Rising from a concrete foundation and partial basement, the building is on a site that slopes down to the northwest. Its orientation is strongly horizontal in elevation with emphasis provided by a terra cotta water table, cornice, and coping courses. Facing north, the main entry suggests a Tudor tower as it projects above the parapet wall. Terra cotta pedestals within the brickfield of the parapet wall extend between the cornice and coping courses to suggest crenellations.

The front façade is essentially symmetrical and divided vertically into five segments; the central entry tower, flanking window walls, and projecting flat end salients.

The main entry is a truncated tower, formed by octagonal terra cotta pilasters set on the corners of the slightly projecting entry, reminiscent of Tudor manors in England. A straight run of broad concrete steps, with six steps to an intermediate landing, and seven steps to the approach landing, provide access to the building. Flanking the steps are low concrete buttresses that ascend at the angle of the steps to engage a concrete wall that projects from the foundation wall. Atop this wall and set back slightly from the front face is a brick wall capped with a concrete coping. This wall rises to a terra cotta water

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table course that projects slightly from the entry salient and supports the octagonal pilaster pair that frames the entry opening.

A broad three-point arch frames the recessed entry ensemble that consists of double wood and glass panel doors, multi-wood panel, and multi-transom windows. The arch is decorated by recessed panels that angle out from the intrados to the elongated bead and reel (blue) quarter round molding on the intrados of the outer compound arch.

The doorway arch supports an engaged arcade composed of flat terra cotta pilasters topped by simple corbeled capitals that support a round arch arcade and cornice. This arcade terminates at the octagonal pilasters of the corners. Centered on the arcade ledge is an antefix in a palmette motif. The corner pilasters, the arcaded cornice, and the parapet cornice frame, within a brick field, a terra cotta panel with the incised blue letters "WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL." Centered atop the name panel and projecting slightly above the parapet cap is foliated cartouche with a shell motif in blue terra cotta.

Flanking each side of the prominent entry are wall sections divided by vertical terra cotta moldings into five window bays. These walls abut a square, blank wall salient that anchors each end of the façade and wraps the outside corners. In stark contrast to the richness of the intermediate façade segments, the only adornment on the flat brick panel is, as penciled onto the elevation drawing, a frame formed by: a 4" header, 8" stretcher, and 4" header." To more clearly articulate the brick frame, the headers are a buff color and the stretchers are a red color.

The window bays are given prominence by cream-colored terra cotta moldings--pilasters rise from the terra cotta water table course and extend past the projecting terra cotta sills to a crowning architrave. The architrave heads both the single bays and joins the triple window pairs in to a single ensemble. Within the frieze are foliated medallions and cartouches joined by a curving plant stem and acanthus leaf motifs. Within the floral encrusted frames are blue eight-petal blossoms, resembling Morning Glory.

Although each bay contains identical window bay configurations, they are arranged asymmetrically. The window pattern on the east side consists, from the entry to the end, of two single bays, and three groups of paired bays, while the window pattern of the west side consists, from entry to outside, of a single window bay, three paired bays, and a single window bay. The sash is steel and divided into nine lights—three columns and three rows. Solid panels have been installed in the upper sections of the window openings, covering the top two rows of lights. It appears that the sash is intact behind the solid panel. (Within the classrooms, the upper section of the window has been covered with a wall section.) The brick wall is variegated salmon-colored rug-faced brick laid in running bond. The colors range from tan to soft red.

The low parapet extends across the window wall segments between the end salients and the main entry where the wall projects forward of the façade plane and rises above the flanking parapet walls. Each of the parapet segments is divided into five sections on each side of the main entry, and the alignment of the terra cotta pedestals corresponds to the narrow wall segment between the window bays, and thus, is not quite symmetrical.

West of the original building is the 1960-1961 addition that includes the multi-purpose room and connecting breezeway. Two classrooms from that same project year are at the rear and not visible from the fronting street. The gymnasium is composed of a two-story brick façade to which is joined on the west side by a one-story brick façade. Both facades are flat, featureless red brick resting on a concrete foundation. The gymnasium wall is divided into three sections by four concrete columns that support an exposed concrete beam. The sheet metal fascia cladding the flat roof is visible above the concrete beam.

The breezeway is low-walled and set in from the northwest corner of the original building so as not to cover or impair the triple-paired window bay ensemble. Supported by a concrete slab, the short wall section contains three vertical glass and aluminum panels that extend from grade to the bottom of the roof, a stacked stretcher brick wall of the same width, and a double-aluminum-frame glass-panel door bay over which are two fixed panel transom windows. A metal portico supported by square posts projects over the concrete entry landing. West of the door bay is a solid brick panel in running bond, and a single vertical window panel. Cladding the edge of the flat roof is a sheet metal fascia.

East Facade

The east façade, along Lincoln Street, is one-story, strongly horizontal in orientation, and is composed of the east façade of the original 1926 school, an arched bay window--a remnant of the 1941 addition, and a 1999 addition. As with the front façade, the horizontal order consists of a partially exposed concrete foundation wall (demonstrates grade slope), brick courses, a terra cotta water table, terra cotta sills, ornate terra cotta window heads, and terra cotta cornice topping the parapet wall. When constructed in 1999, the new addition that replaced a 1941 wing destroyed by fire in 1973, was touted as being historically correct—a close facsimile to the original design.

The original wing is divided into four bays, that are grouped from front to rear, into paired bays comprised of a triple-pair, paired singles, and triple pair. The same ornate window head architraves that crowned the front façade window bays are replicated on the east façade.

The 1941 library bay, a bowed window bay framed in terra cotta (or cast concrete), contains five windows divided by wide wooden mullions. The sash is wood and 9-over-9 light, double-hung. The brick wall, in a slightly different color palette than the two facades it joins, emphasizes the arched bay. The foundation is concrete, and separated from the brick field by a projecting water table course. The terra cotta pilasters, at the juncture of the curved bay and flat walls, rise from the water table to the ornate window architrave. The wall section behind the bay extends above the bowed bay to the same level as the parapets of the flanking wall sections.

South of the bowed window section is the 1999 addition that carefully matches the details of the original design. The design differs in material but is almost identical in detail. First, the variegated brick is slightly different in color; second, the detailing of the water table, window trim and cornice although essentially the same as the original is of cast concrete as opposed to terra cotta; and third, the window sash is double hung vinyl with internal plastic grids attempting to represent 9-over-9 lite sash. From north to south the façade is configured in a window pair, a pair of single windows, a triple pair, and a pair flanking a single bay door/transom window opening near the southeast corner.

It might be noted that the terra cotta trim, as discussed by the architect and school board when the building plans were being approved, is much crisper and livelier in color than the cast concrete of the 1999 addition.

South Facade

The south façade consists of the end of the east wing, the rear of the original building, and the rear of the west wing, and the south façade of the multi-purpose room and connecting breezeway.

The rear of the east wing is composed of a blank wall section similar to the end salients of the front façade and two double-paired window bays. The cast concrete detailing is the same as for the east façade addition. A short segment of the original rear façade shows a bay of double-paired windows with the original detailing.

The west wing addition is lower in height than the original façade and includes two classrooms. Each classroom wall section consists of eight vertical aluminum-frame glass and lower concrete-board panels, and a solid flat slab door. The glass panels alternate between single panels and two-section windows with a lower casement window. The low foundation wall is painted concrete. A flat brick wall panel separates classroom sections. The corners of the addition are brick that extend above the classroom roof and wrap around to form solid west and east walls. The flat roof overhangs to the south, and is clad with horizontal metal fascia.

Joining the original west façade and the multi-purpose room is a low-wall breezeway. The wall section consists of vertical aluminum-framed glass and pebble-surface aluminum panels, divided by flat brick panels, and topped by a flat roof clad with horizontal metal fascia. From west to east, the wall has a single glass panel, narrow brick panel, double-glass panel, double-width brick panel, and a triple-glass panel.

The multi-purpose room is composed of a one-story horizontal wing that extends south and west of the two-story gymnasium. The wall section is composed of solid brick for the width of the gymnasium, an alcove about seven feet in depth, and a short wall section with a single flat metal slab pedestrian door in the west corner. The south wall of the alcove is solid brick with two louvered vent panels; the facing walls each contain double flat slab metal doors. A sheet metal fascia covers the edge of the slightly overhanging flat roof that ties the wall segments together. Rising above the roofline is the gymnasium that is flat brick divided into three equal sections by four vertical concrete columns that support a horizontal concrete beam. The sheet metal fascia of the flat roof is visible above the concrete beam.

West Facade

The west façade of the east wing is detailed identically to the east and south facades. From south to north up to the intersection with the original building, the façade is divided as follows: flat brick panel, projecting entry bay with double door and window openings in the recessed wall, two paired window bays, narrow wall section, and two paired window bays and two additional paired window bays within the recessed wall section.

The west façade of the multi-purpose room is composed of the one-story wing fronting the west wall of the two-story gymnasium. The detailing is the same as for the south façade. Within the concrete block wall of the one-story section is a centered high window opening. The window, framed by slightly projecting jambs that extend from grade to bottom of roof and sill, contains three vertical glass panels divided into two sections by horizontal mullions in the lower one-third. The exposed wall section of the gymnasium is essentially the same as described above.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The 1926 Floor Plan by Loren L. Rand shows a rectangular building oriented along 25th Avenue, looking essentially the same as today. Exterior dimensions are 166'-2" along the front and 78'-5" along the sides. Flanking the centered entry vestibule at the top of the stairs were the principal's office on the west side and the teacher's office on the east side; both rooms had a restroom and two closets.

Double doors opened to a short vestibule that intersected the central east-west hallway. At each end, the hallway turned south to form a U-shape. On the east side was classroom No. 1 with a door on the north side of the hall. At the east end of the hall was a door to classroom No. 2 in the northeast corner and a door to the girls' toilet along the west wall of the south hallway. The hall turned to the south to provide access to classroom No. 3 along the east side, then continued to step down to a landing and exit to the playground on the south side of the building.

The classrooms were 32 feet in length and 24 feet in width; each had a coatroom, closet, built in cabinets, shelves, and blackboards. Each coatroom had doors at each end, and a window on the exterior wall. The girls' toilet had a service room, six toilets and four sinks. The drawing also showed skylights in the middle and ends of the central hallway. Classroom No. 6 along the north side, classroom No. 5 in the northwest corner, and classroom No. 4 in the southwest corner were essentially a mirror image of the east side. The boys' toilet was along the east wall of the south hallway and contained five toilets, seven urinals, and two sinks. The assembly room was located within the south middle of

the building with access at the middle of the central hallway. The assembly room was 58 feet by 32 feet in dimension and included an elevated 16-foot by 12-foot stage at the west end, flanked on the north and south sides by 10-foot by 8-foot dressing rooms. On the south side, just east of the exit stair is a stairwell that provides outside access to the basement.

1941 Addition – Library and Classrooms (Plans by Whitehouse & Price, 1/16/1941)

The 1941 plans show the addition of a library (arched exterior window bay that marks the juncture of the original building and added wing) and four new classrooms (each 24' by 40') extending along a double-loaded corridor from the south end of the east wing (94' long by 60'-4" wide) to the existing building. The hallway stepped down to an exit on the south façade of the addition. Additionally an exit was in the southwest corner that stepped down from the corner classroom to the playground. Each classroom had a wardrobe, toilet, base cabinet with sink, and upper cabinets.

A health room and two classrooms on the west side of a single-loaded corridor extended the west wing 95' long by 35'-6" wide. The hallway stepped down to exit at the south end to the playground. The classrooms were configured the same as in the new east wing.

<u>1961 Addition – Multi-Purpose Room and Classrooms (Eddy, Carlson, and James, 5/1/1960))</u>

This project reconfigured the central and west ends of the original building, and added two classrooms adjacent to the southwest end, and a new multi-purpose room on the northwest corner of the school campus. A new opening in the west façade of the original building was connected by a short breezeway to the new multi-purpose room. Based on the plans, and lack of demolition plans, it does not appear that the west classroom wing proposed in the 1941 addition had been constructed.

In conjunction with the additions, the interior of the original building was reconfigured. The teachers' and principal's offices that flanked the main entry vestibule were reconfigured and repurposed. A reception area filled the vacated space on the west, and an dministrative office on the east. The double doors between the vestibule and central hallway were removed. The assembly room was divided into a new classroom on the east side and a new library on the west side. The three classrooms in the west wing were reconfigured and a new corridor, slightly offset from the central corridor, was extended to a new door in the west wall that provided access to the breezeway connecting the multipurpose room.

The hallway to the south now stepped down to a new corridor that provided access to a new storeroom on the west side, and to a double-door exit to the rear of the building on the east side. The new corridor also provided access to the two new classrooms that extended the west wing. The new classroom addition was 30'-7" long on the east side, 41'-3" long on the west side, and 74' wide.

The breezeway corridor spans 32' in length and is 7'-2" in width before stepping down to the multi-purpose room. The two-story central core of the multi-purpose room is 64'-8" by 44'. One-story wings wrap around the south wall and southwest corner and include shower and drying room, and boys' and girls' and toilet room, storage rooms, and kitchen. At the south end of the Multi-Purpose room was a folding stage and curtains.

<u>1999 Classroom Addition to Southeast Wing (Pacific Design Group, Jerry Ressa,</u> <u>6/15/1998)</u>

This addition replaced and added to the four classrooms destroyed in the 1973 fire. The new wing extends 131 feet from the south façade of the original building and is 82'-6" in width. The east corridor was extended to an "L" that turned to the west to exit into the playground. Three new classrooms were located on the west wall of the south corridor, and two new classrooms along the south wall of the west corridor. A kindergarten room was added in the southeast corner of the addition with a door from the hallway, and a door to the outside. Between the kindergarten and former library (now converted to a staff room) was a music room, girls' toilet, janitor closet, boys' toilet, and a workroom along the east side of the hallway.

A separate project in 1999, also designed by Ressa, resulted in the enlargement of the library that had moved to the former assembly room in the 1960s remodel. The library was expanded to the east into a classroom also created in this space during the 1960s remodel.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION

The existing Wilson School has fifteen classrooms, a library, multi-purpose room/gymnasium/kitchen, staff lounge, resource room, two sets of boys' and two sets of girls' toilet rooms, principal's office and a variety of storage, essentially the same configuration that existed at the completion of the 1999 expansion and remodel.

The double-door entry appears to be original although hardware has been modernized. The original terrazzo stairs and base moldings remain in use. The office on the east (left) side has been reconfigured within the same wall plan, but a solid slab door has replaced the original recessed wood panel door which is extant in the room on the west side. The hallway floors are shiplap linoleum (original floor material, but may be a replacement). The walls and ceiling are lath and plaster. The original skylights are at the hall junctures—the central "T" and the end "Ls." A florescent lighting system has replaced the originals. Original base and chair rail moldings are along the hallways. Original doors open between the hallway and the classrooms. The original classrooms in the northeast corner are mostly intact: hardwood strip floors, wood base and chair rail moldings, blackboard moldings and wooden chalk tray, terrazzo sills on the windows, and cloak closets with shelving and light fixtures.

Areas of Significance Category A Broad Patterns of Spokane History, Education Category C Architecture Significant Dates, 1926 (original construction), 1941 addition, 1961 addition, 1973 (fire), 1999 (addition) Architect – Loren L. Rand Builder – F. E. Martin for Spokane School District No. 81

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Wilson Elementary School, named after Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the United States, was initially constructed in 1926. Additions were completed up to 1999 (with one proposed for 2019). The school is significant as a well-preserved example of the "modern" one-story school buildings and its place in the continuum of the history of Spokane Schools. The school was built to serve the expanding residential area on the western South Hill and became the center of a neighborhood of modest single-family houses.

Wilson was one of five grade schools built by the Spokane School District 81 during the 1920s to serve the expanding residential neighborhoods of the city: Hutton, also on the South Hill, was completed in 1921, Finch, near Audubon Park on the north side of the city, in 1924, and Wilson in 1926 remain in use (first class in January 1927). Arlington, in the Hillyard neighborhood, also constructed in 1926, was replaced in a major school replacement program in 1980 (thirteen elementary schools were razed and replaced by new prototype buildings). Harding Elementary School, a one-room frame building, was constructed in 1925 but served students only until 1938 when it was vacated (Harding was at 24th Avenue and Myrtle Street). These schools were the first of the "modern" school plans with a single story and all classrooms with access to the ground floor. Two junior high schools were also constructed in the 1920s: Havermale Junior High School, 1927, and Libby Junior High School, 1928.

Wilson, Hutton and Finch elementary schools are only three surviving examples from this era of Spokane school building. Each is distinctive in design and each a fine example of work from Spokane's notable architects. Wilson's architect, Loren L. Rand is also noted for his design of Lewis and Clark High School (NHR, 1911). In designing Wilson, Rand reached back and alluded to Lewis and Clark's Collegiate Gothic mode, but with a lighter touch. In Wilson, he provided a mix of classical elements that enriched the generous terra cotta detailing. In designing the "most modern school in Spokane," he bridged the progression in design between the classical revival styles of his early 1900s work and the simpler, modern work to come. It is notable that Rand, regarded as one of Spokane's leading architects, in the span between 1892 and 1926 designed sixteen Spokane elementary schools with Wilson being his final project (Rand was 75 years old at the time of this design). Rand dusted off the style he had used for Lewis and Clark and reemployed it for Wilson, again incorporating terra cotta moldings.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following narrative about the development of the Spokane school system is extracted and adapted from the National Register nomination for Franklin School (NHR-5/1/2017):

The first school in Spokane was opened by Spokane Garry, a Spokane Indian, in 1870, near the site Drumheller Springs, on the north side of the Spokane River. At that time, few people resided in Spokane Falls which had been first settled by J.J. Downing and SR. Scranton in 1871. It was not until the fall of 1874 that a school election was held in Spokane Falls in which H.T. Cowley, Cyrus F. Yeaton, and L.S. Swift were elected directors. Mr. Cowley was elected as teacher. In January 1875, Cowley began the first public school in Spokane, housed in his residence. Soon thereafter, Mrs. L.S. Swift took over teaching the first students in her home. The first annual school report, prepared by C.F. Yeaton, in November 1875, shows eleven children in the district between the ages of 4 and 21 and that there was an average daily attendance of four children. The first dedicated public school building in Spokane was built in 1878 near Lincoln Street on the former Northern Pacific right of way.

The arrival of Henry T. Cowley in Spokane coincided with the organization of the first Spokane school district in what was then Stevens County. The district designated School District No. 8, covered a large territory between Hangman Creek and the Spokane River. The superintendent of Stevens County schools at the time was James Monaghan, who later became a prominent Spokane businessman. The school founded by Henry Cowley became part of the new school district. At the formation of Spokane County in 1879, J.J. Browne was appointed superintendent of the newly designated Spokane School District No. 41. In the first Spokane County election, held in 1880, Mrs. Maggie M. Halsell was elected to succeed Browne. (Emerson, 2008)

In the year 1889, Spokane schools were reorganized as School District No. 81 and David Bemis was hired as superintendent. At this time six schools were in operation: Central School (high school and grade school), Lincoln School, Bancroft School, Bryant School, Irving School, and Logan School. In July 1890, \$250,000 in bonds were sold with which a new high school building and four elementary school buildings were erected. The Central building was removed to a new location to provide a site for a new high school, and new buildings were built for Bancroft, Irving, Bryant and Franklin schools. (Pratt, 1946)

The new high school was built in 1891 and rapidly increasing enrollment required the construction of a north side high school, North Central, in 1908. The original high school then became South Central. School bond levies of 1907 and 1909, coinciding with the rapid growth of the city, were approved to continue the building of new schools in Spokane. In 1910, fire again struck and destroyed the South Central High School. Voters

approved a bond for a new school, and Lewis and Clark High School emerged from the ashes to open in 1912. (Emerson, 2008)

As reported in "First Class for 100 Years," by 1890, Spokane had constructed six elementary schools (Central [within South Central High School], Bancroft, Lincoln, Irving, Bryant, Franklin [original Franklin was replaced in 1909]), and by 1900, Spokane had constructed eleven more (Whittier, Emerson, Logan, Longfellow, Edison, Washington, Garfield, Hawthorne, Grant, Lowell [1919, extant, privately owned], and Holmes). Eighteen elementary schools were built between 1900 and 1910, the heyday of school expansion -- McKinley, 1903 [privately owned], Adams, 1908; Jefferson, 1908, and the second Franklin, 1909, are extant. The next ten years through 1920, saw the construction of Mann, Alcott, Yardley, Rockwood, and Cowley. (Spokane Public Schools 1889-1989, 11/1989). The Rockwood School's tenure would be quite short, only four years, since it was replaced by Hutton School in 1921. Cowley School, built in 1918, is privately-owned and listed on the Spokane Historic Register. Two existing schools that followed Hutton in the 1920s include Finch (1924) and Wilson (1926).

Several of the original buildings, in addition to Wilson, remain from the early years. They include Adams, Hutton, Finch, Jefferson, and Franklin that continue to serve the children of District 81. Extant former, but privately-owned, elementary schools include Cowley, Lowell, and McKinley. Cowley is currently listed on the Spokane Register and has been converted to housing.

The following schools are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Lewis and Clark High School (11/30/2001), Rogers High School (12/21/2010), Finch Elementary School (1/8/2014), Hutton Elementary School (Rockwood District, 2/18/1997), and Franklin Elementary School (5/1/2017).

Wilson School-Chronology, History

"The Wilson school was started in the fall of 1922 in two portables." The portables were on a site at 19th and Jefferson. (Pratt 1943)

The patrons of the growing Wilson district soon began the quest for a permanent school. At the April 23, 1923 meeting of the Spokane School Board, a delegation of Wilson parents attended and made a request that a site be purchased for a new school building. During that time, the new John Finch Elementary School was also underway with site acquisition in Audubon Park, plan approval, and letting of bids for construction.

On on the South Hill, a third portable classroom unit had been approved by the School Board at its August 15, 1923 meeting. In 1924, the School Board began discussing a site for a new Wilson School, as well as the completion of Finch School. Delegations and committees from the Wilson district were regulars at Spokane School Board meetings participating in discussions about an additional

portable unit and finally, in June 1925, the securing of an option to purchase a site (at 25th and Lincoln).

On January 7, 1926, the Board approved the proposal to build a new six-room school building at Wilson to replace the portables. On January 19, a special meeting of the Board approved a bond to be placed before the voters that included a new Wilson School building, and an addition to the recently completed Finch School.

In a discussion of the district's building program, Orville Pratt, School Superintendent, stated that the most urgent need was the building of a new Arlington site [in Hillyard], a six-room school at Wilson, and a two-room addition at the Finch School. On May 17, the Board employed L.L. Rand to draft tentative plans for a six-room Wilson school building with an auditorium in a one-story and a two-story type.

At the Board's next meeting on June 1, the one-story building concept was approved. Over the following weeks, architect Rand completed plans and presented his design to the Board on June 21. The plans and specifications were approved with the following understanding: "that if the No. 1 Masonic Rug brick made by the American Fire Brick Company was considered equal to the Varsity No. 1 Mason Rug brick, and if was not equal, that the specifications call for the Varsity Brick." The Board requested that the call for bids for Wilson be advertised. At the end of June, the Board received the bids for the new Wilson School. Sixteen firms submitted for the general bid package, and on July 15, the Board discussed all of the Wilson bid elements and noted a reduction on the price of the terra cotta. Mr. Piolet of the Washington Brick Lime and Sewer Pipe Company authorized the reduction in the price of terra cotta—in the amount of \$750. The general contract in the amount of \$46,846 was awarded to F.E. Martin of Spokane.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* reported in its July 8, 1926 edition (p1:5) "**START BUILDING PROGRAM MONDAY**" "Three Schools Will Be Under Way With Expenditure of \$195,000"

Spokane's \$600,000 school building program will begin in earnest Monday evening when bids for the Woodrow Wilson school and the two-room addition to the Finch school will be opened, Robert A. Wilson secretary of the board of education announced today.

The Wilson school which is to be built on the block bounded by Lincoln and Monroe between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth, is expected to cost about \$60,000, while the addition to the Finch school will cost approximately \$20,000.

Total Expenditure \$195,000

These three buildings will cost a total of \$195,000 and are the first big steps in the school building program.

The Wilson school, for which the specifications are complete, is one of the most modern school buildings in the northwest. It will be a sixroom structure with an auditorium, stage and two office rooms built along the lines of the most up-to-date school building plans. It also will be the most beautiful school building in or near Spokane. The exterior finish will be of salmon colored brick of varying shades offset by terra cotta and polychrome of darker shades. L.L. Rand has drawn plans for the building.

The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* announced "**NEW WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL TO BE BUILT AT LINCOLN AND TWENTY-FIFTH**" with a rendering that crossed the banner of its July 12, 1926 edition. An accompanying article described the project:

SPOKANE TO HAVE ONE OF BEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NORTHWEST, New Wilson Building to Be Model of Perfection – Open Bids Monday.

One of the most complete public schools in the northwest will be in use in Spokane when the Woodrow Wilson building at Lincoln and Twenty-fifth is completed this fall.

This is the first school to be built under the \$690,000 bond issue and will be the most modern in the city. It will be a one-story structure and will cost approximately \$60,000.

L.L. Rand, architect, completed the drawings and specifications recently and the bids for the construction will be opened at the meeting of the school board Monday evening.

Salmon colored brick of varying shades will be used in the exterior finish. These will be trimmed with terra cotta, also in salmon shades. Highlights and decorations will be of polychrome of a turquoise color.

Most Complete Ever Designed

It is the most complete school building I have ever designed," [sic] Mr. Rand said. "It is the most beautiful too, for I worked for color effects as well as efficient designs when I made the drawings. I think it is the best school building I have worked on. I say this because of the many times O.C. Pratt, city superintendent of schools, and Miss Jo Boyington, principal, assisted me in the planning."

The building will have a frontage of 166 feet and will be 80 feet wide at the ends. It will have six classrooms, a principal's office, teachers' room and auditorium and stage and is designed so that six rooms more can be added to the rear when needed. "There is no school building anywhere that is like it," Mr. Rand said.

Individual Bookcases.

A feature of the building is the construction of the three primary rooms. On two sides of each of these rooms is a three-foot folding shelf and 40 individual bookcases, in addition to a teachers' bookcase and drawers in the cloakroom.

The most modern system of heating and ventilation will be used. The windows are of the Donovan schoolhouse type. These are made of steel and each section swing outward. These are not in use on any school building in the city.

In the cooler weather the pupils or teachers will be able to prepare light lunches in the serving room, in the rear of the auditorium. Arrangements have been made for the installation of a small stove, so that the foods or drinks can be served.

The Spokesman-Review reported in its July 16th edition that "WILSON SCHOOL CONTRACT IS LET," F.E. Martin to Build South Side Project for \$46,846. The Finch addition project went to Meyers & Telander.

Wilson Ready January 1

The Wilson building is to be completed by the first of the year and is to be equipped ready for use with the opening of the second semester of the year, according to plans discussed last night. Contracts awarded totals to more than \$71,000, exclusive of the architect's fee.

For the Wilson building, Fenestra steel sash were selected, making a saving on the one item of \$2049. The board was undecided as to whether to select cast stone or terra cotta for the trim and cornice. L.L. Rand, the architect, recommended the terra cotta for color effect and for lasting qualities. Fran Williamson, superintendent of buildings, said that the cast stone would answer every purpose, is quite as durable, where properly put on and represented quite a saving, which would help to hold the cost down to the original estimate of \$60,000.

A poll of the board was asked on motion of Mr. LaRue that the cast stone be used in the interest of economy. The motion was lost on a three-to-two vote. Voting "no" were Blodgett, Mrs. Simpson and Stephens. Voting "aye" were LaRue and Campbell. The motion then carried that the contract providing for the terra cotta finish be awarded. The additional cost amounts to around \$1333.

Building permit No. 28099 was issued by the city on August 9, 1926, for the construction of a new brick Wilson School at 911 West 25th Avenue. L.L. Rand was listed as architect, and F.E. Martin, as builder. The construction value was \$59,824.

Soon after construction began, it was reported in the August 23 School Board meeting that the architect had instructed the contractor to raise the building elevation eighteen inches at a cost of \$960. It was noted that this "makes a total of two and one half feet raise over the original plans."

The Spokesman-Review in December 1926 spoke glowingly of Wilson's architecture and appointments, the steel-encased plumbing, the seven shades of pink bricks with mortar to harmonize, and the French gray terra cotta, touched with turquoise. "That the school is an attraction is proven by the fact that already 12 new houses are under construction in the near vicinity," the paper stated, "started after the school neared completion." The building when first completed included six classrooms and an auditorium.

On January 25, 1927, the School Board voted to accept the new Wilson building: "Everybody considered that they have a wonderful building." The first students occupied the school on February 1, 1927.

Having had their new school for less than two years, the patrons of Wilson School again approached the School Board on March 10, 1929; this time requesting the addition of a seventh grade. A new portable was erected to accomodate the new grade. At its meeting of February 27, 1933, it was reported to the Board that a portable building had been moved from Hillyard to Wilson.

In May of 1936, the Wilson P.T.A requested additional seventh and eighth grades. Mr. Williamson, facilities manager for the school district, would check on the survey and estimate the cost of providing portables. They were placed on the campus in the following September.

Portables at Wilson were again the topic of the Board in 1938. At the February 9 meeting, the Board approved the transfer of a portable from Hamilton School to address the "big problem" caused by increased attendance. At the March 23 Board meeting, the Wilson parents were again asking for additional rooms -- "if funds were available." The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* reported the previous day's Board meeting in announcing "WILL SET DATE FOR BOND VOTE." According to the article, the Board would decide at their July 27 meeting the date on which they will

call for a bond election. Among the projects listed was a \$23,000 addition to Wilson School.

The bond issue was approved by district voters, and Harold Whitehouse was engaged to draw the plans for the Wilson addition. In the December 17, 1940, meeting of the School Board, the plans were approved and the bids called for the Wilson School addition. Mr. Whitehouse presented the plans. The original plan was for a four-room addition, but Mr. Beil presented data on the steady increase in the enrollment and the prospect for further increase in the future. "In anticipation of reduced cost under the PWA (Federal Public Works Administration) estimate on the original four rooms, Mr. Beil recommended an alternate bid be asked for an additional two rooms.

The Spokesman-Review would report on December 18, 1940, "O.K. SCHOOL JOBS TO COST \$70,000."

. . .

The Wilson school is to have four additional classrooms, on the ground floor, adjoining the present building to the south. Contractors will be asked to submit optional bids for two more rooms, also on the south, so constructed that it can be enlarged to a four-room wing.

The community is developing rapidly, it was pointed out, and the four-room wing will not do away with portables, as two such temporary structures will probably have to be used after the wing is completed. Preliminary plans have been prepared by Whitehouse & Price.

Bids were received and awarded by the Board on its February 12, 1941, meeting. Hazen & Clark had the winning general bid of \$25,115. S.T. Miller won the plumbing and heating at \$6,145, and Power City Electric at \$3,353, for a total of \$34,613. Five classrooms were added in the 1941 project.

According to the Spokane Schools' centennial history, the 1961 addition included a multipurpose room with a cafeteria/gymnasium, kitchen, storage room, and shower room. The authors noted: "Unlike the west [sic] wing, this addition was not built to match the original construction." In that regard, the same article gave credit to the school's original architect in referring back to the 1941 addition: "The foresight of Rand in designing a building to which wings could be added, and still maintain the artistic integrity of the structure, paid off in 1941 when the five classroom east wing was built, eliminating the need for portables (Spokane School District No. 81, 1989, p133).

"Flames Sweep Wilson School," captioned a photo showing the building engulfed in flames and black smoke. In an accompanying article, the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* on July 9, 1973, (page a5) reported: "Blaze Wrecks School."

The Wilson School was blackened and reeking of smoke today in the wake of a spectacular Sunday afternoon blaze.

Completely destroyed were the South Side school's east wing. The fire was controlled approximately two hours after being spotted. Forty fire fighters fought the flames.

The fire was apparently started in a trash can in one classroom by an 11-year-old boy, who was seen running from the building shortly before the smoke was observed coming from the east wing. He was referred to juvenile authorities and was later released to his parents.

Damage is expected to be \$250,000 and like will result in the temporary use of portable classrooms, District 81 officials said today.

The fire was the worst in the recent history of the Spokane Public School system, administrators said. (Article continues.)

It only took twenty-six years, but the new wing to replace the one devastated by fire and replaced by "temporary" portable classroom units, was well-received by parents, students and teachers when dedicated in the fall of 1999. "New wing matches look of original Wilson School." Reported Carlos Acevedo for *The Spokesman-Review* on June 24, 1999.

Residents new to the South Hill might be hard pressed to tell that Wilson Elementary recently received a new wing to its main building.

Only the bricks--slightly darker because they're new – give it away.

Completed in April, the south wing was designed to perfectly match the architecture of the historic school, which was built in 1927. The same brick veneer has been used, and the decorative terra cotta window treatment has been repeated in concrete on the wing. "It is exciting," says Janet Gores, Wilson's principal. "I'm sure it was more costly, but it really turned out great."

The project cost about \$1.3 million. ...

Gores said the wing has met with considerable approval from parent and neighbors, many of whom provided input at district planning meetings. "The Wilson community really wanted something that would fit the original scheme." Gores said.

Wilson Elementary has also been praised by the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, which sent the District 81 school board a letter commending it for the "careful attention to detail," particularly with the window heights and sizes, and decorative elements, such as the window treatment.

Also commended in the letter was the Pacific Design Group, the architectural firm that designed the wing. Jerry Ressa, the architect for the project, said he worked closely with Gores and the school staff to make the wing fit in perfectly.

"All of them had an input into the design and really became a part of the design team," Ressa said.

The design also took advantage of new construction materials and techniques to provide a structure superior to the original, which burned in the 1970s, and far superior to the annex, the temporary structure Wilson staff members have had to make do with for 30 years. (article continues)

Much was made of the design of the new "historic addition." Indeed, the dedication of the new wing, on September 30,1999, a quarter century after the fire and destruction of the east wing, was entitled: "Wilson Elementary Dedication of Historically Designed Addition and Remodeled Library."

Loren L. Rand (1851 – 1935) – adapted from Franklin

Loren Leighton Rand was born in Amesbury, Massachusetts in 1851. After coursework in the Boston School of Technology (forerunner of MIT), he worked as a draftsman with several leading architects in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Minneapolis, Minnesota. He arrived in Spokane in 1888, just before the Great Fire of 1889 that leveled thirty blocks of the downtown. As one of the few trained architects in the city, he was poised to receive commissions and they came flooding in. He had opened an office with John K. Dow in the Crescent Block and together they designed the Tidball Block (1889), the first four-story building constructed after the downtown fire. Other post-fire buildings included the Bump Block/Carlyle Hotel (1890); the Bennett Block (1890); and the Bank of Spokane Falls (The "Marble Bank Building," Although he had parted ways with Dow in 1892, they 1892). collaborated on the first wing of the downtown Masonic Hall Building (1905).

Over the course of his career, Rand designed several residences, many for well-to-do citizens including the former Territorial Judge Lucius B. Nash (1889, 1624 E. South Riverton, demolished); businessman and civic leader Edward L. Powell (1899, 1728 W. First Ave); one time Spokane Mayor, Horatio F. Belt (c. 1893, North Riverton, demolished); Sylvester Heath, founder of the stationery company that later became John W. Graham & Company (1899, 1017 E. Mission); and James Comstock, founder of the Crescent Department Store (1906, 1128 W. Ninth). He also designed his own home at N. 1215 Nettleton (1909) and homes for George Odell (1898, 2325 W. First); C.F. Clough (1907, 1406 W. Ninth); William Domke (1891, 1928 W. Pacific); and the Eugene Shadle family (1906, 1118 W. Ninth).

Other commercial projects include the Crescent Department Store (1899); a remodel on the Boothe-McClintock Building (1906); and the Spokane Dry Goods Building (also known as the Crescent Service Building (1908). Other notable projects included a Fraternal Hall in Coeur d'Alene (1905); and apartment for Mrs. Michael Jennings (1910; and the large Romanesque Revival style First Presbyterian Church (1910) in downtown Spokane.

Rand is perhaps best remembered though as the designer of many of Spokane's early public schools. In fact he served as the "de facto school architect" during the early part of the 20th century. His projects include Adams School (1909, altered); Audubon School (1909, demolished); Bemis School (1912, demolished); Cooper School (1908, demolished); Columbia School (1908, demolished); Franklin School (1909); Hawthorne School (1898, demolished); McKinley School (1909); Roosevelt School (1907, demolished); Sheridan School (1908, demolished); Willard School (1909, demolished); and Wilson School (1926). His best known school project though was the Lewis & Clark High School (1911) and District Administration Building (1911, demolished).

Active in the Presbyterian Church, and a variety of civic and professional affairs, Rand served as President of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, he was a member of the Oriental lodge A.F. & A.M., was a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, was a member of the Mystic Shrine, and served as Vice President of the State AIA chapter (1915, 1920).

Rand died on October 6, 1935 at the age of 83 and is buried at the Greenwood Memorial Terrace Cemetery in Spokane. (Kolva, 2016)

In 1926, Lucy Robinson wrote in *The Spokane Woman* about architect Rand:

The architect more than any other man builds his own monuments. In wood or stone he raises memorials to his own personality, his own dream made permanent. The builder of schools leaves an influence that affects the lives of thousands, in his own time and in many years to come.

Loren L. Rand has designed many buildings in Spokane, but Lewis and Clark high school is probably his finest achievement. In the desire to pass the credit for his successful piece of work to other people, Mr. Rand says that the cooperation and personal interest of the teachers in his plans made his success possible. He talked over every detail of the building. They knew the results they needed and he translated their ideas into a structure of permanent beauty and usefulness. He has designed many schools. The unit plan used by the Spokane School Board for several fine buildings is his work, adaptable to many conditions and to easy changes as a school grows. The Hawthorne, McKinley and Columbia buildings are also his work. Prominent in the downtown district, the Main Avenue building of the Crescent store is one of the business blocks designed by Mr. Rand.

To reiterate, Rand was known for his prolific work in designing Spokane schools, but most have been razed. His extant Spokane School District 81 buildings, in addition to Wilson, include Lewis and Clark High School, Adams Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Franklin Elementary School. He also designed McKinley School which is privately-owned and currently being renovated.

F.E. Martin, Builder

F.E. Martin, Spokane contractor, prior to building Wilson School, had built the Spokane Civic Building in downtown in 1921 and Finch Elementary School in 1923. He followed with the Rookery Building in 1934. (Mann, 2003)

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--. "Blaze Wrecks School. 7/9/1973. p3:1-4.

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--. "BOARD IS COLD TO SCHOOL CLUB." (article includes Wilson bids) 2/13/1941. p1:7.

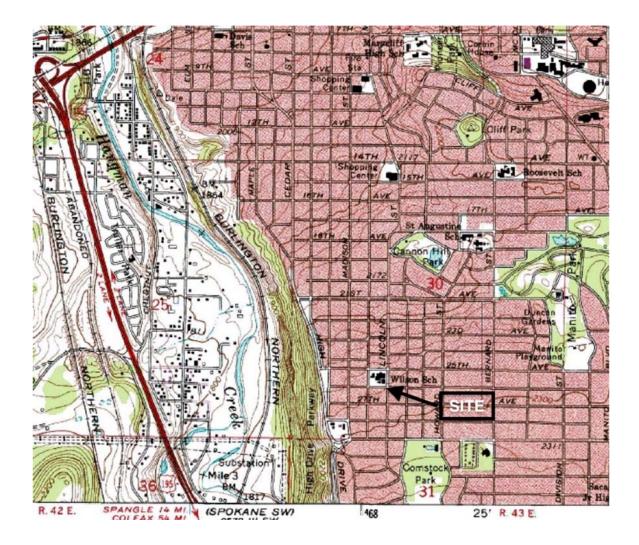
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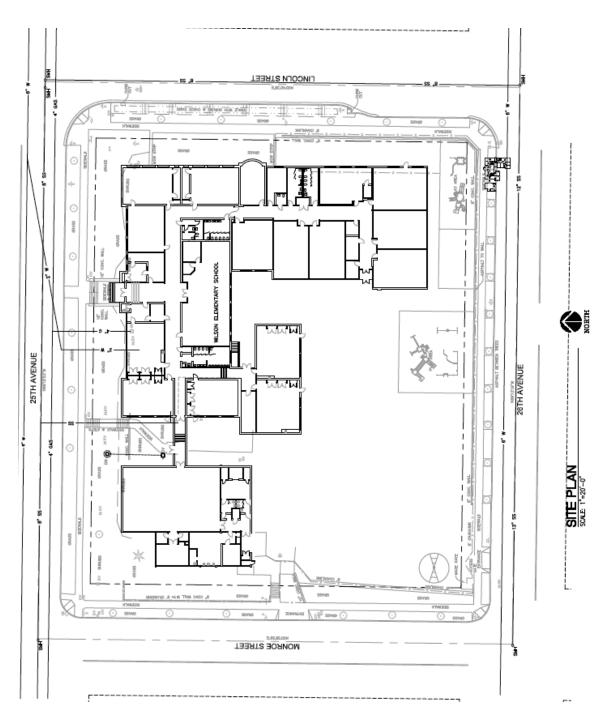
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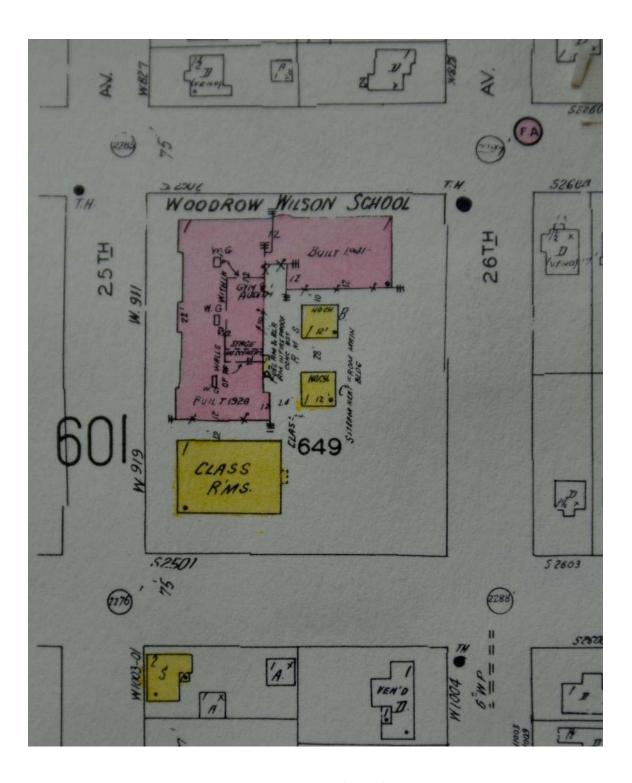
WILSON SCHOOL SITE LOCATION, USGS Topographic Map, 1974



WILSON SCHOOL AERIAL PHOTO, Spokane City Map, July 2018

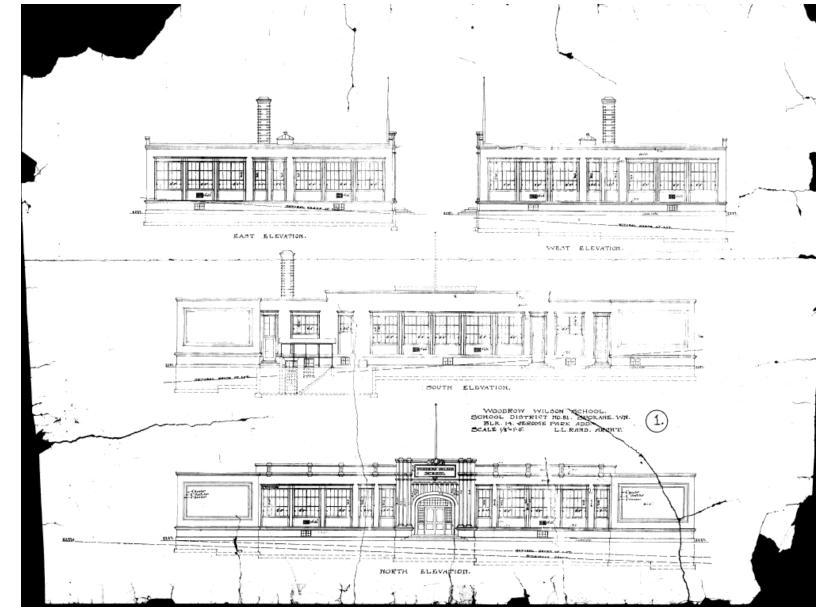


SITE PLAN 2018

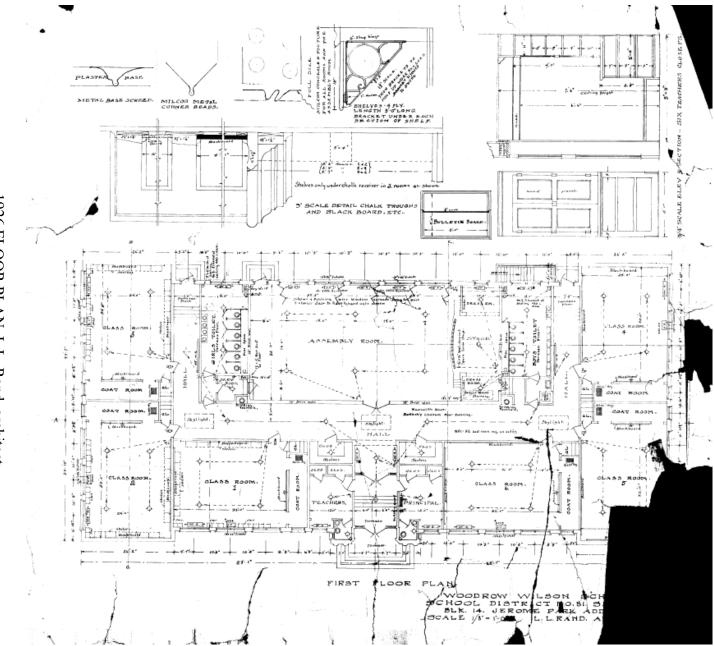


SANBORN INSURANCE MAP, JUNE[151] 1958, page 604

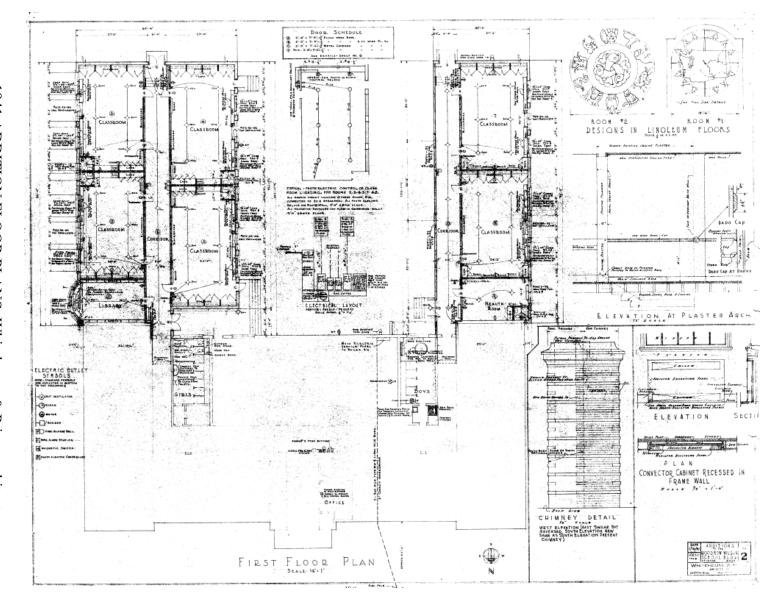


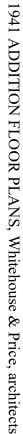


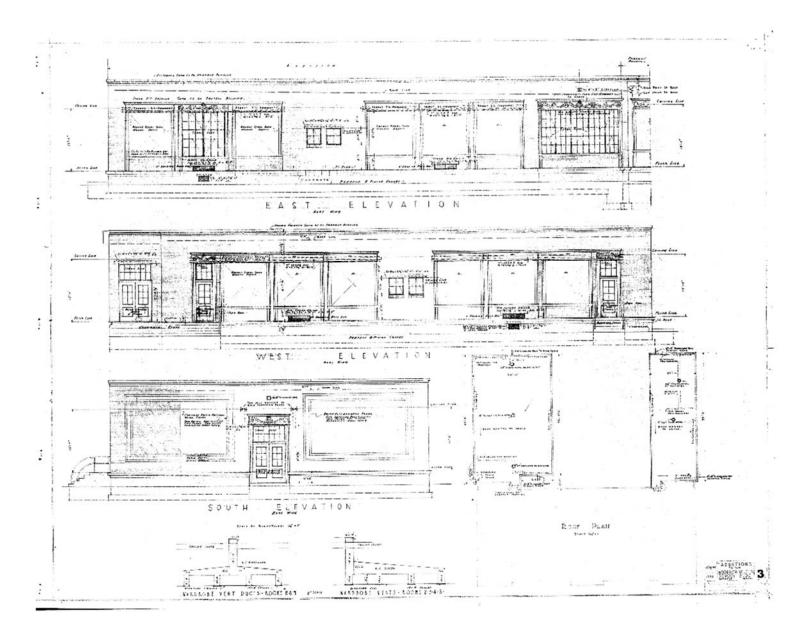
1926 ELEVATIONS, L.L. Rand, architect



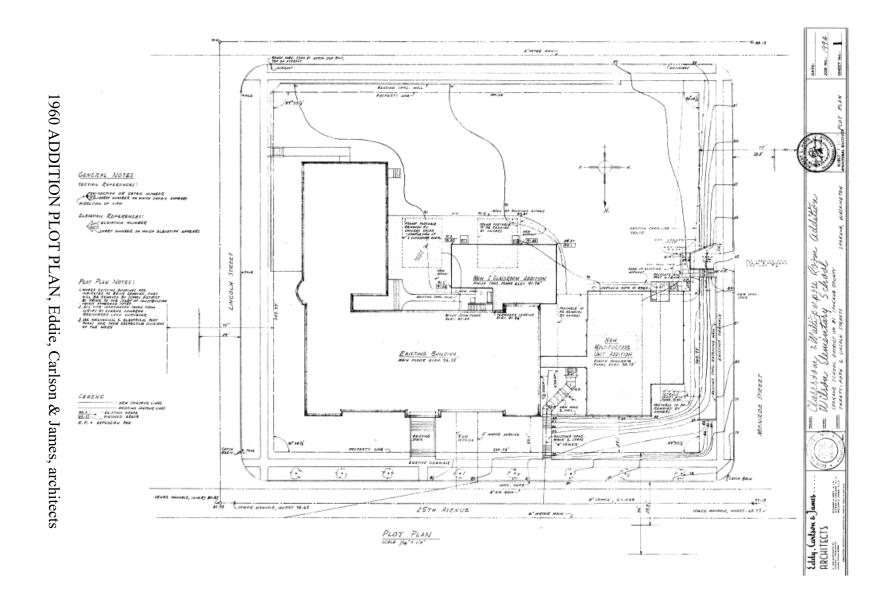
1926 FLOOR PLAN, L.L. Rand, architect

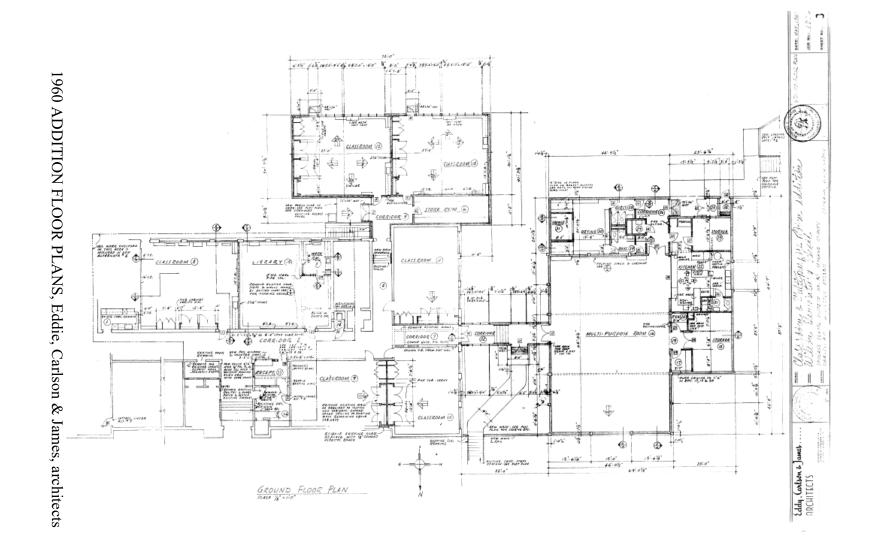




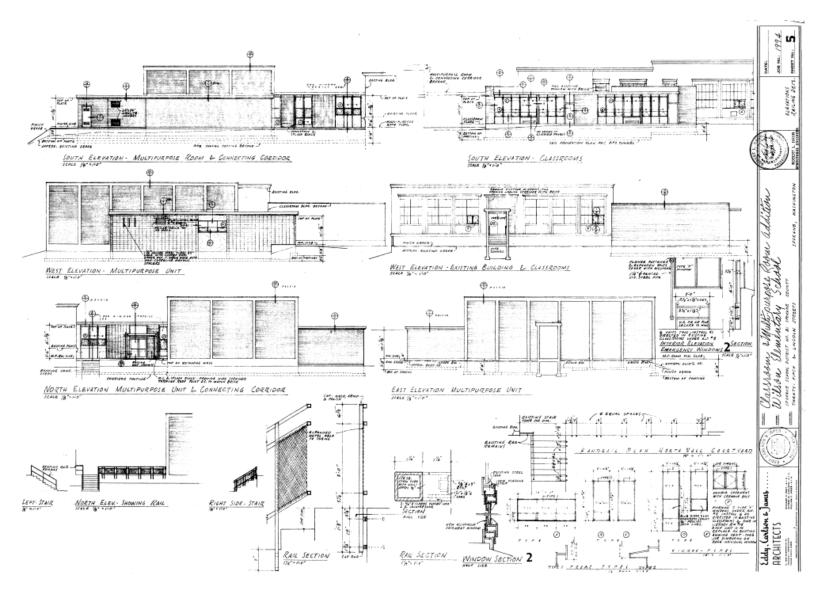


1941 ADDITION ELEVATIONS PLAN, Whitehouse & Price, architects

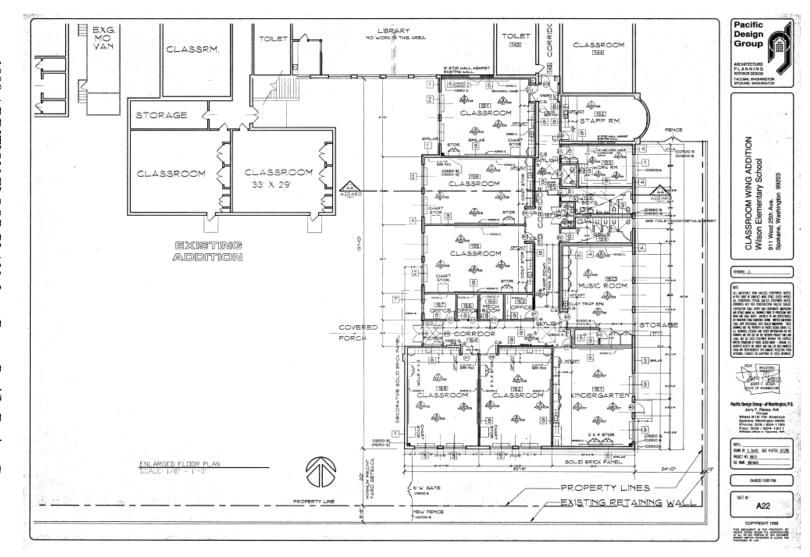


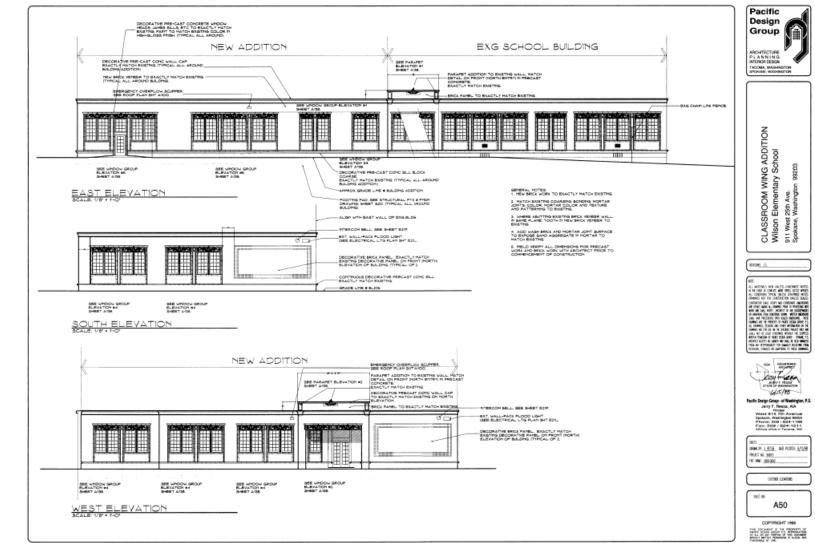


1960 ADDITION ELEVATIONS PLAN, Eddie, Carlson & James, architects



1998 ADDITION FLOOR PLAN, Jerry Ressa, Pacific Design Group





1998 ADDITION ELEVATIONS, Jerry Ressa, Pacific Design Group



1. Wilson School - context along 25th Avenue, looking west



2. Wilson School - context along Lincoln Street, looking south



3. Northeast corner - front facade along 25th Avenue, looking southwest (1)[152]



4. East facade - juncture of 1999 addition, 1941 addition, and original [153]-[154] looking west



5. Southeast corner - east facade, looking northwest



6. Playground and rear of school, looking northeast



7. Northwest corner showing multi-purpose room, looking southeast



8. Front facade and corridor to multipurpose room, looking southeast



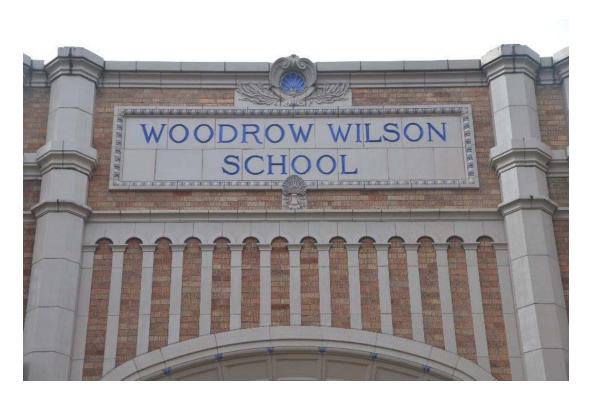
9. Front facade (north) showing main entry, looking south



10. Main entry - 911 West 25th Avenue, looking south



11. Detail of front entry on north facade, looking south



12. Detail of front entry pediment



13. Detail of window bays on front facade, looking south



14. Detail of window bays on original east facade



15. Library, 1941 Addition, looking west



16. Window head detail front facade, looking south



17. Window head detail_-[155] terra cotta[156], east facade

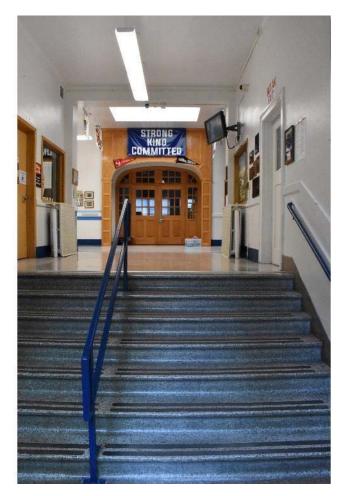


18. Window head detail_-[158]_cast concrete, east façade 1990 addition

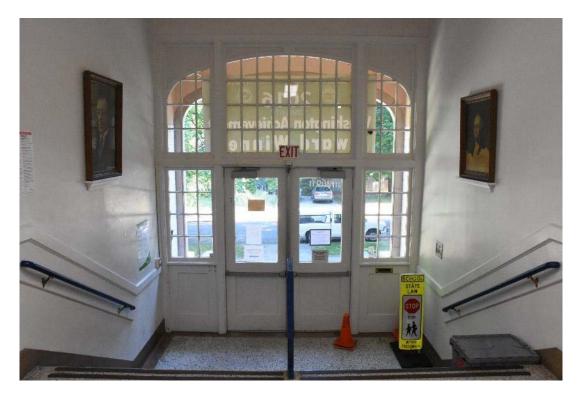


19. Looking north at south facade of 1961 addition





1. Front entry steps, looking south



2. Main entry, looking north to the outside



3. Entry to Library (former multi-purpose room), looking south



4. Main entry juncture with central hallway, looking east



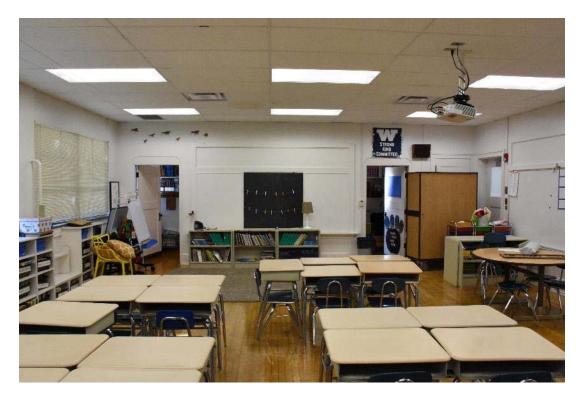
5. Main entry juncture with central hallway, looking west



6. Door to original classroom 126 in northeast corner



7. Classroom 126 (original and typical), looking north



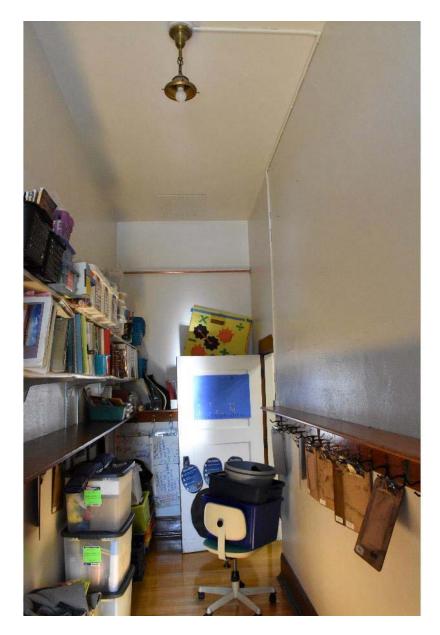
8. Classroom 126, looking south toward cloakroom



9. Detail - "Ghost of Radiators Past"



10. Detail - window latch, steel sash, and terrazzo sill



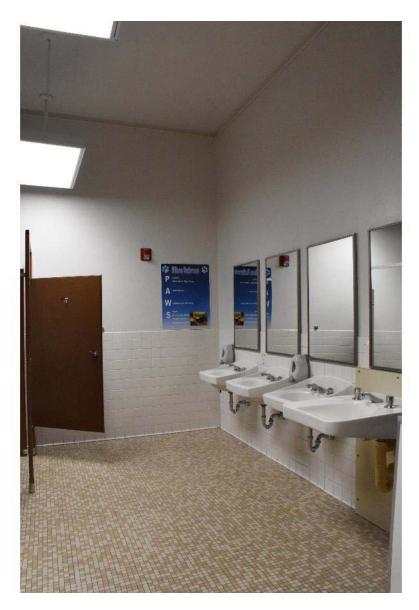
11. Cloak closet



12. Cloak closet -[160] the shelf and clipboards



13. Girls' toilet door in original building



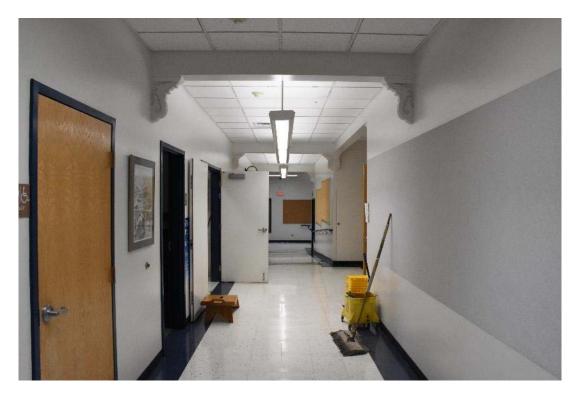
14 Girls' toilet in original building - interior



15. Faculty lounge - original 1941 library, looking east



16. Library - original multipurpose room, looking west



17. Main hall in 1999 addition, looking south



18. Looking west at entries to classrooms in 1999 wing



19. 1999 Classroom, looking south



20. Boy's Boys' toilet in 1999 addition



21. Entries to 1961 classroom wing, looking southwest



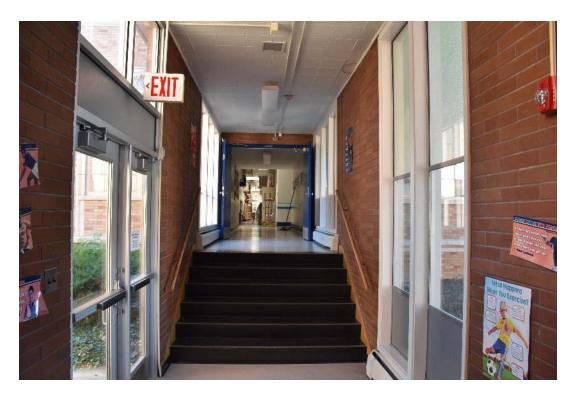
22. Classroom in 1961 addition, looking west



23. Detail - 1611 Original door and moldings in northwest corner classroom



24. Detail - Original chalk rail in northwest corner classroom



25. Breezeway connecting Classrooms and Multi-purpose room, looking east



26. 1961 Multi-purpose room-gymnasium, looking west



27. 1961 Multi-purpose room