

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received **FINAL**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic LOUISE WHITE SCHOOL

and/or common Louise White School

**2. Location**

street & number Southeast corner Washington Ave. & State St. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Batavia \_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_ congressional district U.S. #15

state Illinois code \_\_\_ county Kane code \_\_\_

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Citizens National Bank, as Trustee under Trust #2316, dated 10/22/79  
beneficiaries are Robert O. McGinnis, Martin C. Hambel, Richard Marker  
street & number 5300 Main Street

city, town Downers Grove \_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_ state Illinois 60515

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Recorder

street & number 719 Batavia Avenue

city, town Geneva state Illinois

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_ state \_\_\_

# 7. Description

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

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Louise White Public School building was constructed in 1893 to replace an existing wood frame school building built in 1856 that was destroyed by fire in early 1893. In 1927 an addition was added. The school building occupies two-thirds of a city block bounded by Wilson Avenue on the south, Washington Street on the west, State Street on the north and Van Buren Street on the east. It is located in Block 8 of the Original Town of Batavia Subdivision. The building is placed high on a hill on the east side of the Fox River and commands a view visible from the entire downtown area of Batavia. The Louise White School is perhaps the best example of the Romanesque style of architecture that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th Century remaining in Kane County.

The two-story building is rectangular in plan with the main entry oriented to the west. A second entry faces north. Four classrooms with twelve foot high ceilings occupy each level. The attic with its twenty foot high ceiling is framed in heavy timber and reflects the structural integrity of the building's 45 degree sloped hipped roof.

The exterior of the school is constructed of two foot thick limestone and masonry bearing walls. The entry ways and windows are neatly arched masonry vaults typical of the Romanesque style of architecture. The windows are eight feet high and consist of two separate window frames stopped into the same masonry opening to create a very effective, early vintage double glazed system of insulation. On the exterior of the building three large masonry shafts extend the entire height of the building and are vented into each classroom to provide air circulation in a manner typical of the construction period. The exterior facade is illustrative of the beautiful art of the stone mason as each stone of the entry is keyed to create the beauty of the structural vault. The white limestone exterior has changed very little from the original construction. The masonry is in remarkably good condition and both the mortar joints and limestone need no repair after 85 years of active use as a public school.

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Continuation sheet Louise White School

Item number #7

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In 1927, a two-story yellow brick addition was added to the east side of the original school building to provide additional classroom space. It is connected to the original school by a two story limestone faced connecting passage. It is included in the nomination due to its physical connection to the original school and does not possess architectural significance.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

## LOUISE WHITE SCHOOL

The Louise White School should be included on the National Register. It educated and informed the population of the community as it grew from a small farm market to a flourishing suburb (home of the most advanced nuclear accelerator laboratory in the world, the Fermi Laboratory). Many of the current residents of Batavia attended the Louise White School as did their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers before them. The school and its grounds also served as home of the Chatauqua movement in north central Illinois. Many prominent persons appeared on these grounds on behalf of the Chatauqua. Also, the school is one of Batavia's two finest examples of the Romanesque style of architecture that flourished in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The white limestone block exterior is characterized by the powerful vaults and arches of the Romanesque style. The exterior is in excellent condition and is unaltered since 1893 with the exception of a connection passage to the 1927 addition (~~not being considered for National Register listing at this time~~).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

*White School*

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name ADORA NORTH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 16 391750 463810  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached boundary survey and plat book survey

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Marker, Architect

organization Richard Marker Associates, Inc.

date November 15, 1979

street & number 5300 Main Street

telephone 312-968-5936

city or town Downers Grove

state Illinois 60515

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Doris Kenney

title Director, Ill. Dept of Conservation

date 4/1/80

For NCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Ch. Clerk

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

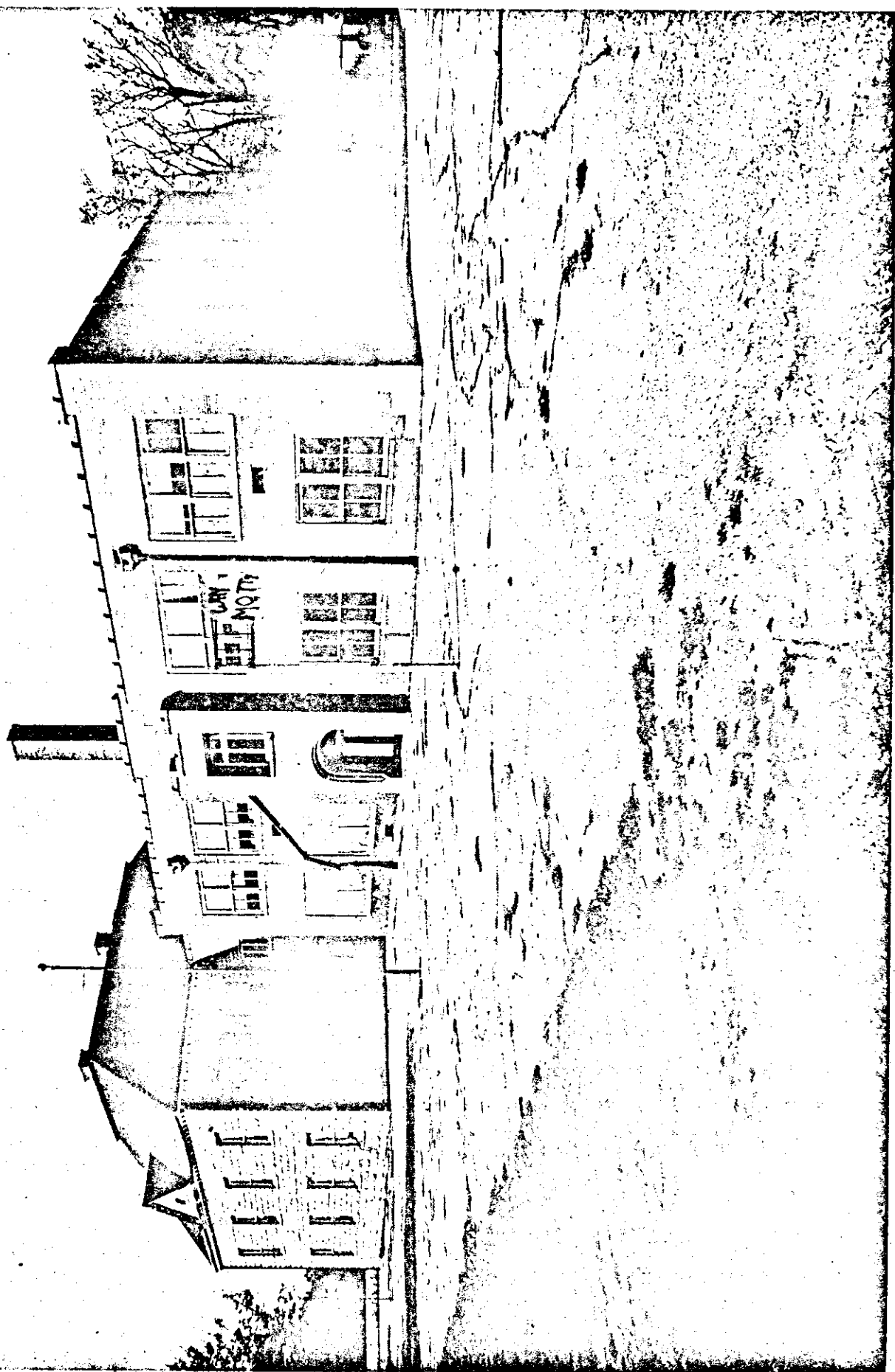
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Louise White School  
Batavia, IL ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 and 4 (except the Southerly 6.0 feet of said Lots); the Easterly 4.0 feet of Lot 3, and the Southerly 6.0 feet of the Easterly 4.0 feet of said Lot 4, all in Block 8 of the Original Town of Batavia, on the East side of the Fox River, and also Lot 1 (except the South 92.0 feet) and all of Lots 2, 3, and 4, all in Block 8 of Judge Wilson Heirs' Addition to Batavia in the City of Batavia, Kane County, Illinois

(signed) *David Kenney* 6/19/8 (dated)  
David Kenney  
State Historic Preservation Officer



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered      NOV 7 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
First Universalist Church	Elgin Kane County
United Presbyterian Church	Keithsburg Mercer County
White, Louise, School	Batavia Kane County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Robert McClory  
Honorable Tom Railsback  
Honorable Tom Corcoran

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.