

ADDED FEB 12, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Pike	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pittsfield East School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
400 E. Jefferson

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsfield

STATE:
Illinois

CODE: 12 COUNTY: Pike CODE: 149

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Pittsfield Community School District #10

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 E. Washington St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsfield

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Pittsfield County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 E. Washington St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsfield

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pike County Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pike County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 91

CITY OR TOWN:
Pittsfield

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Pike
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dr. H. F. Koeper of the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois has completed an architectural study of the 1862-1866 school building designed by John M. Van Osdel. The following information is from Dr. Koeper's report: The East School is the only building of Van Osdel's still standing which has not been altered. The red brick school building illustrates the Lombard Romanesque motifs (pilaster strips and corbelled detailing), much the same style used by James Renwick in the Smithsonian Institution. Van Osdel's design is grave rather than picturesque and reveals a classical sobriety which governed his designs. The building has a bracketed wood cornice and is topped with a two-stage clock tower.

Dr. Koeper describes the building as follows: "The composition of this building is broken on each face by a pedimented portion which breaks forward from the central mass. The smaller side portions conceal stairs providing each classroom with a double exit. The bearing walls rest on a limestone basement story. The windows of the first floor are segmental arched; those of the second floor round arched. A limestone string course between floors is broken by the pilasters which rise the full height. The building contains four large classrooms (approximately 30' x 40') on each floor."

The Building is in excellent condition with no masonry cracks, with sound roof timbers, and with all but one of the original windows.

2 2222 22 22222

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1862-66

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

East School was the first public school, as we know them today, built in Pittsfield. The contract price of the building was \$35,000 for which bonds were sold. The actual cost amounted to \$45,000. Leading citizens of the community, such as, Judge Chauncey L. Higbee, Colonel William Ross, and William A. Grimshaw, a lawyer, were the moving spirits toward construction of the building. The building was located in the northeast part of the city. The stone was brought from Joliet by way of the Illinois River and the brick was burned in Pittsfield.

Construction was begun in 1861, interrupted by the Civil War, and completed in 1866. At the time it was considered as one of the largest and finest examples of a modern educational building.

Van Osdel (1811-1891) came to Chicago from Baltimore in 1837 and continued in practice after the Chicago Fire of 1871. His more famous design was for the Executive Mansion in Springfield (1855). However, the East School is the only one of his buildings which has not been altered.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Willard, Dale. "Education and Educators in Pittsfield, Illinois, 1833-1963." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, MacMurray College, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 °	36 ' 36 "	90 ° 48 ' 03 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Warren D. Winston

ORGANIZATION

Pike County Historical Society

DATE

Sept 14, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

110 E. Adams

CITY OR TOWN:

Pittsfield

STATE

Illinois

CODE

12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

Dan Malkow

Title

DIRECTOR

Date

SEPT. 15, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

- Planning
- Architecture
- History

PK-H-44

N.R.

20050

1-11

1. Name of Site:
Pittsfield East School

Historic

2. Location of site:
Street and Number
 400 E. Jefferson

Wardship
TSS

Section
24

City or town Zip Code
 Pittsfield 62363

County
RYW

Direction
SE

Highway
Pike

Classification
(check one)

- District Building
- Site Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered Relict

Location (check one)

- Moved Relict

3. Ownership:

- Public
- Private

Status:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied

Vacant
use to improve

Access to the public:

- Yes Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government

- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private residence

- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other specify

4. Owner of property:

Owner's name
 Pittsfield Community School Dist. #10

Phone number

Street and number
 200 E. Washington Street

City or town
 Pittsfield

State
 Illinois

County
 Pike

Zip Code
 62363

EDUCATION



6. Description:
Condition:

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No
If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

7. Historical themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological site | (pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological site | (post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | French influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Illinois middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Famous people | (give names and dates) |

1. Specific date of site: 1862-1866

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (Pre-historic) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

Brief statement of significance: (Include all names and dates.)
Use back of page and additional sheets if necessary.

8. Form prepared by

Name and Title: Warren D. Winston Date: 2-18-70
Organization: Pike County Historical Society
Street and Number: 110 E. Adams
City or Town Pittsfield County: Pike Zip Code: 62363
Phone Number: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please list according to the following examples any published references to the site for which the form is being completed.

If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's task.

Bibliography Form:

Robertson, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Description:

Dr. H. F. Koeper of the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois has completed an architectural study of the 1862-1866 school building designed by John M. Van Osdel. The following is from Dr. Koeper's report: The East School is the only building of Van Osdel's still standing which has not been altered. The red brick school building illustrates the Lombard Romanesque motifs (pilaster strips and corbelled detailing), much the same style used by James Renwick in the Smithsonian Institution. Van Osdel's design is grave rather than picturesque and reveals a classical sobriety which governed his designs. The building has a bracketed wood cornice and is topped with a two-stage clock tower.

The composition of the building is broken on each face by a pedimented portion which breaks forward from the central mass. The smaller side portions conceal stairs providing each classroom with a double exit. The bearing walls rest on a limestone basement story. The windows of the first floor are segmental arched; those of the second floor round arched. A limestone string course between floors is broken by the pilasters which rise the full height. The building contains four large classrooms (approximately 30 feet by 40 feet) on each floor.

The building seems in excellent condition. No cracks in the masonry are visible and the roof timbers appear sound. The wood details of the cornice and clock tower are also in good condition. Only one window has been replaced with a wide horizontal one (first floor southwest). The plywood covering some of the windows has been placed there as a protection against vandalism and can be easily removed.

Significance:

East School was the first public school, as we know them today, built in Pittsfield. The contract price of the building was \$35,000 for which bonds were sold. The actual cost amounted to \$45,000. Leading citizens of community such as, Judge Chauncey L. Higbee, Colonel William Ross, and William A. Grimshaw, a lawyer, were the prime movers toward construction of the building. The building was located in the northeast part of the city. The stone was brought from Joliet by way of the Illinois River and the brick was burned in Pittsfield.

At the time of its completion, the East School was one of the largest and finest buildings of its kind in the State, and it fulfilled the requirements of a modern school plant. In it were located the grade and high schools. It contained eight large rooms. Each room had a recitation and cloak room attached. On the third floor was the gymnasium which extended the full length and width of the building. The clock and the bell in the East School were donated by Colonel Ross in 1865.

The school was built by John Houston of Griggsville. Construction was halted by the Civil War. The school was planned for 1200 students. The building has been in continual use as a school until the present time.

Significance, cont.

The architect, Van Osdel, came to Chicago in 1837 and had a long and distinguished career, practicing even after the fire of 1871. He is the grandfather figure of Illinois architecture, according to Dr. Koepfer. He also designed the Executive Mansion for the State of Illinois in Springfield in 1855.

Bibliographical References

Willard, Dale. "Education and Educators in Pittsfield, Illinois, 1833-1963." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Education, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1964.

A Report on Architecture of Pike County, Illinois, to the Advisory Panel on Architecture, Illinois Arts Council by H. F. Koepfer.