

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Le Sueur Public School

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 115 North 5th StreetCity or town: Le Sueur State: MN County: Le SueurNot For Publication:

N/A

 Vicinity:

N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date**

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: __walls: brick, roof: rubber __

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Le Sueur Public School at 115 North 5th Street is a one and two-story masonry school building located in Le Sueur, Minnesota. The original two-story brick school building with raised basement was constructed in 1930 to serve as Le Sueur's junior and senior high school. Following consolidation of the Le Sueur Independent School District with surrounding common school districts in 1951, the high school was expanded and a one-story elementary school addition was constructed in 1952 – 1953. The expanded school was the main educational facility for Le Sueur and the surrounding rural communities until 1968, when a new junior and senior high school was constructed. The Le Sueur Public School is significant under Criterion A in the area of education for its association with education in Le Sueur and the surrounding region. The period of significance is 1930-1968, reflecting the year of the school's original construction through the year when the secondary education function was relocated to the new junior and senior high. At the exterior, the building's character-defining features include, but are not limited to, the footprint and massing of the historic building components; flat roof shape; stepped and pointed parapets at the 1930 building; masonry walls; primary entrance locations; historic fenestration patterns; and stylistic details. At the interior, the building's character-defining features include the locations of historic primary vertical circulation and historic primary

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corridors, the historic open-volume high school auditorium-gymnasium, and remaining historic materials. The Le Sueur Public School retains good levels of all seven aspects of integrity to convey its history from its period of significance.

Narrative Description

Exterior (Photos 0001 – 0010)

Setting and Site (Photos 0001 – 0002)

The Le Sueur Public School is located at the east edge of Le Sueur, which is a community of approximately 4,200 individuals situated along the east bank of the Minnesota River in southern Minnesota. The school is located approximately five blocks east of the downtown commercial area, which runs parallel to the river along several blocks of North Main Street. The school is located in a residential neighborhood and is surrounded by low-scale, one and one-and-a-half story houses (Figure A). The school is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Bridge Street, a primary east-west thoroughfare in Le Sueur, and North 5th Street.

The property currently owned by the school district, stretches east of the nominated boundary, and is comprised of an irregularly-shaped, oversized block with generally flat grade bounded by Bridge Street and the city-owned Legion Park to the south, North 5th Street to the west, Swan Street to the north, and South Park Lane to the east (Figure B).¹ The east half of the block is a large grass recreation field with non-historic baseball diamond, non-historic playground areas, and non-historic paved basketball courts currently associated with the school. The property was not owned by the school during the period of significance. However, based on an original 1930 site plan, aerial photographs, and newspaper articles, the south half is known to have been functionally related to the school during the first two or three decades of the period of significance. More specifically, the school used the south half of the current field as a football field and baseball diamond, as well as for outdoor physical education and some school events, during the 1930s and 1940s. Electric flood lights were added to the field in 1937. By 1948, baseball games were relocated to the city's newly developed baseball diamond across Park Lane to the southeast of the school; by 1957 the football field had been relocated there as well. The extent to which the current recreation field was utilized for school-specific purposes during the late 1950s and 1960s, rather than as an extension of the American Legion Memorial Park to the south (which was developed in 1939), is unknown. City conveyance records show that the school district purchased the entire recreational field area in 1992. Today, the south half of the field contains non-historic paved basketball courts, a non-historic playground area, and a non-historic baseball diamond (in non-historic location based on the 1930 site plan), and does not retain its electric floodlights. The existing non-historic features reflect the building's conversion after 1968 to elementary-only education, and the field does not retain integrity – especially integrity of

¹ For ease of reference, plan rather than true directions are used throughout this narrative. True northeast is plan north, true northwest is plan west, etc.

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feeling or association – with its confirmed historic function of high school athletic field. Because this area does not retain integrity, it is excluded from the historic site boundaries.²

The east edge of the historic boundary is marked by a paved drive that runs north-south between the recreation field and the historic school building. The school's current property also includes a parking lot at the northwest corner of the block; this parcel held a small house until at least 1977 and is likewise outside of the historic boundaries.³ The school's primary, west façade is oriented to North 5th Street, its secondary elevations face Swan Street to the north and Bridge Street to the south, and the rear elevation faces the paved drive and recreation field to the east.

Within the historic boundaries, the school is set back from the public rights of way and is surrounded by a grass lawn interspersed with trees, as it was during the period of significance.⁴ Concrete walkways connect public sidewalks that border the property with the various building entrances. The paved drive along the east side of the site facilitates vehicular access from Swan and Bridge Streets to the non-historic loading dock addition at the school's southeast corner and to a garage and rear elementary gymnasium entrance along the east side of the 1953 elementary school addition. A metal flagpole is located at the west side of the property in the front lawn. Aerial photographs from the period of significance indicate that with the exception of the parking lot and minor changes to the locations of paved walkways, the general pattern of circulation reflects the historic configuration.⁵

High School (Photos 0001 – 0005, 0009 - 0010)

The school has two primary components: 1) a two-story 1930 high school with 1952 addition and one-story 1953 east wing and 2) a one-story, 1953 elementary school addition that extends to the east and north of the high school (Figure B). The two-story, Collegiate Gothic Revival-style high school is a brick building with a raised basement and a flat rock-ballasted roof with mechanical equipment and prominent brick chimney. The high school's east wing is a Midcentury Modern-style brick addition composed of two, one-story blocks with flat rock-ballasted roofs. Together, the original 1930 high school and its later additions form a roughly "C" shaped building footprint, with the interior of the "C" facing east.

The two-story Collegiate Gothic Revival building is composed of a large gymnasium-auditorium at the north side (hereafter referred to as the gymnasium) and classrooms at the west and south components. The walls are reddish-brown brick laid primarily in English and common

² See Statement of Significance below for source citations. School district purchase of this field in 1992 is documented in Deed 227676, City of Le Sueur to Independent School District No. 393, January 10, 1992, on file at the City of Le Sueur.

³ Larry C. Randen, ed., *Le Sueur: Town on the River: A Bicentennial Horizon History Project Prepared in Conjunction with Our Nation's 200th Anniversary* (Le Sueur Bicentennial Book Committee, 1977), 171.

⁴ See for example aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1964, Minnesota Historic Aerial Photographs Online, Borchert Map Library, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://apps.lib.umn.edu/mhapo/>.

⁵ See for example aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1964, Minnesota Historic Aerial Photographs Online, Borchert Map Library, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://apps.lib.umn.edu/mhapo/>.

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bond, with variations in coursing that create ornamental patterns in the façade. Most elevations feature stone ornamentation such as string courses and parapet caps. Typical elevations feature regular patterns of window openings that generally have stone sills and multi-light fixed aluminum windows or glass block; doors are flush hollow metal doors or metal doors with lights. With the exception of some glass block that dates to the period of significance, all windows and doors at the two-story building have been replaced, likely after 1980 (Figure C). The school's original multi-light wood and steel windows were replaced with the existing multi-light aluminum systems; original wood and metal doors were replaced with the existing metal doors. The windows and EIFS (exterior insulation finishing system) panels at the one-story 1953 east wing were also likely installed after 1980.⁶

West Elevation (Photos 0003 – 0004)

The west façade is the school's primary elevation and features its most elaborate ornamentation; the overall design of the façade matches the school's historic appearance as originally designed in 1930 (Figures C and D).⁷ At this elevation, the 1930 gymnasium block at the north is visually distinguished from the 1930 classroom block at the west and south through differences in fenestration patterns, though both components are unified by a precast base, two stone string courses, and a stone parapet cap that run the length of the façade. The classroom block is flanked by two identical entrances set in stone entrance portals at the north and south ends, which mark the locations of historic vertical circulation at the interior. Each entrance is raised above grade and accessed via concrete steps with brick wingwalls with stone caps and non-original metal handrails. The prominent stone entrance portal has a carved stone entablature and pilasters that flank a Gothic-arched opening. The south entrance portal has a sign composed of individual metal letters reading "2397 District Office" attached to the entablature. At each entrance, the arched opening holds a set of non-historic metal doors with lights beneath a fixed triple-light aluminum transom window. Above each entrance at the second level, a six-part Gothic-arched window opening with stone mullions and stone surround holds fixed single and multi-light non-historic aluminum windows. Between the two entrances, window openings are spaced evenly across the west elevation at the lower, first, and second levels and recessed slightly into the façade. The four lower-level window openings have glass block (installed at an unknown date after 1955), while the ten first level and ten second level openings each hold a multi-light, non-historic aluminum window with one operable awning-style light centered at the bottom of the window. Between the first and second level windows, variations in brick coursing are used to create decorative panels that are also recessed slightly from the façade. To the south

⁶ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 171; George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Project No. 473, Sheets 8 and 13, February 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (hereafter cited as NAA); ca. 1980 photographs, "Le Sueur High School - 1989," Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA. The glass block at the gymnasium appears in historic photographs of the property. See for example photos in *Gianteens* (school yearbook), 1958, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

⁷ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Sheet 5, February 1930, NAA.

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of the south entrance, the masonry wall has no fenestration and features decorative brick coursing and inset stone pieces that create a two-story panel design. A metal sign reading “Le Sueur-Henderson Public Schools” is attached to this portion of the façade. Along the top of the west elevation, the flat parapet rises to a point and is capped with metal above each entrance and at the center of the elevation, where a carved stone plaque reads “Le Sueur Public School.”

At the north end of the west elevation, the façade of the gymnasium block protrudes out beyond the classroom block. The gymnasium façade is symmetrical in design and is divided into three visual bays. The central bay stands proud of the rest of the gymnasium’s façade and holds a two-story stone entrance portal, which has the word “Auditorium” carved into the stone entablature at the top. The portal has a large arched opening that holds three non-historic metal doors with lights beneath a fixed, multi-light aluminum transom window. Above the entrance, the parapet is stepped and rises to a point. To either side of the central bay, each flanking bay has a small multi-light fixed aluminum window at the ground level. Above each window, the two-story panel design created through decorative brick coursing and inset stone pieces is repeated.

North Elevation (Photo 0005)

The north elevation of the high school faces Swan Street and is the north elevation of the gymnasium block, which was constructed in 1930 and expanded to the east in 1953 (Figure E). Like the school’s west façade, the north elevation features a precast base, stone string courses, and a stone parapet cap. It is divided into four visual bays via patterns of fenestration and variations in the wall plane. At the west side of the elevation, the first bay features the two-story panel design created by decorative brick coursing and inset stone pieces. Moving east, the next bay stands proud of the rest of the façade and features a large window opening with decorative brick coursing surrounding and beneath the window; the opening holds a non-historic multi-light aluminum window. At the top of this bay, the parapet is stepped and rises to a point, and has a metal cap. The next bay to the east holds two large window openings with historic glass block and two inset glazed panels in each. At the first level, a secondary entrance with set of flush metal doors is accessed via two concrete steps with metal handrails. The final bay is divided from the rest of the façade by a two-story bump-out, which appears to mark the junction between the original 1930 gymnasium and the 1953 addition and stores a folding wall. This bay holds two large window openings, also with historic glass block and glazed panels. At the first level, there is a single flush metal door accessed via two concrete steps. The 1953 elementary school addition is attached to the far east side of the high school’s north elevation.

South Elevation (Photo 0010)

The south elevation of the high school faces Bridge Street. It consists of the two-story classroom block constructed in 1930 and expanded to the east in 1952, as well as a one-story 1953 addition at the far east side of the elevation (hereafter referred to as the high school’s “east

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wing”; Figure F). Like the other elevations of the high school, the south elevation of the two-story block has a precast base, stone string courses, and a stone parapet cap. At the lower level, there are two glass block windows above grade and five concrete window wells with metal handrails, each sheltering a louver or fixed aluminum window that is below grade. At the first and second levels, the elevation is divided into eight window bays (four bays at the 1930 building and four bays at the 1952 extension) with window openings recessed slightly into the façade. First and second level openings each hold a multi-light, aluminum, non-historic window, most with an operable awning-style light centered at the bottom of the window. Between the first and second level windows, variations in brick coursing are used to create decorative panels that are also recessed slightly from the face of the façade. At the east side of the two-story block, the 1952 extension features a one-story brick entrance vestibule with flat-roofed canopy supported by two metal posts. The entrance holds a metal-framed entrance system with set of non-historic metal doors with glazing, sidelights, and transom. Above the entrance, a tall window opening holds glass block, marking the location of historic vertical circulation at the interior.

At the east side of the south elevation, the one-story high school east wing is composed of two, flat-roofed blocks with metal coping. The western block (which is attached to the east elevation of the 1952 addition) has brick wing walls that extend to the top of the façade and support the overhanging eave of the flat roof, which has a stucco soffit. The upper portion of the façade features non-historic EIFS panels and aluminum windows, some fixed and others sliding. A concrete area well with metal handrails runs the length of the façade and shelters five, below-grade, fixed aluminum windows. Moving east, there is a small, non-historic, brick loading dock installed sometime after 1984.⁸ To the east of the loading dock, the eastern block of the one-story east wing has a blank masonry wall with EIFS infill in five former window openings near the top of the façade (Figure B).⁹

East Elevation (Photos 0001, 0009)

The east elevation faces the recreation field to the east of the school. At this elevation, the north and south ends of the “C” shaped footprint of the two-story block are obscured at the first level by the 1953 high school east wing and the 1953 elementary school addition (Figure G). At its east elevation, the high school east wing is primarily a blank masonry wall, with the exception of the non-historic loading dock. The loading dock has a loading entrance raised above grade and sheltered by an overhanging eave finished with EIFS or stucco. The entrance includes an overhead metal door and secondary entrance with flush painted metal door accessed by a set of concrete stairs with simple steel railings. The north elevation of the east wing has one metal overhead garage door, one painted, flush metal door, and a bay of fixed and sliding non-historic

⁸ Aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1984, Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerial Viewer, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>.

⁹ Audrey Baumann and Donna Jones, eds., *The Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Four Gianteens of Le Sueur High School*, 1954, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

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aluminum windows beneath a band of EIFS paneling and overhanging eave finished with stucco. Above and beyond the east wing, the second level of the two-story 1952 high school addition is visible and holds one window opening with non-historic multi-light aluminum window.

To the north of the east wing, a one-story, non-historic brick entrance addition, installed sometime after 1984, that links the 1953 east wing with the 1953 elementary school addition to the north, creating an enclosed courtyard at the interior of the high school's "C" shaped footprint.¹⁰ The non-historic entrance addition consists of an entrance vestibule with hipped metal roof and flat-roofed, enclosed corridors that extend to the north and south of the vestibule. The entrance on the east elevation has a flat-roofed canopy finished with EIFS panels and supported by stucco-covered pillars on brick bases. It consists of a metal-framed entrance system with set of painted metal doors with glazing, sidelights, and transom. Fixed aluminum windows with what appear to be stone lintels and sills are located at the corridors to either side of the entrance vestibule.

Within the courtyard, the south elevation of the two-story high school gymnasium is a blank masonry wall with brick pilasters. At the first level, there is a one-story entrance block with non-historic metal entrance system and metal, hip-roofed canopy, as well as a one-story, flat-roofed corridor that connects the 1953 elementary addition to this entrance block. The east and north-facing courtyard elevations of the two-story high school classroom block feature a stone string course, stone parapet cap, and regular pattern of multi-light aluminum windows at the first and second levels. At the north-facing courtyard elevation, there are four below-grade windows sheltered by concrete window wells with metal handrails; at the east-facing courtyard elevation, former lower-level window openings are now below grade and were infilled at an unknown date.¹¹

To the north of the courtyard, above and beyond the 1953 elementary school addition, the east elevation of the high school gymnasium is visible and features four glass block windows, each with an inset glazed panel.

Elementary School (Photos 0001 – 0002, 0006 – 0008)

The one-story, 1953 elementary school addition is attached to the east elevation of the high school gymnasium. It has an extended "U" shaped footprint with parallel east and west wings that extend to the north. The addition has brick walls and a flat, rock-ballasted roof of varying heights, and metal coping. The roof holds mechanical equipment and vents and has a brick chimney at the east wing. At most elevations, the upper portion of the façade is composed of EIFS panels and aluminum windows with combination of fixed and sliding lights, which

¹⁰ Aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1984, Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerial Viewer, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>.

¹¹ See photos in *Gianteens* (school yearbook), 1958, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library; George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Sheet 5, February 1930, NAA.

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appear to have replaced the original glazing sometime after 1980.¹² Most elevations have overhanging eaves finished with stucco or EIFS as well. Entrance doors match the style and materials of doors at the high school building, and it appears likely that these were installed after 1980.¹³

West Elevation (0006)

The west elevation of the west wing holds the primary entrance to the elementary school addition. The entrance is located at the south side of the elevation and features a prominent entrance canopy with hipped metal roof, EIFS fascia, and stucco clad pillars on brick bases. A sign composed of individual letters reading “Park Elementary” is attached to the canopy fascia. The entrance itself is recessed back from the façade and consists of two sets of painted metal doors with glazing set in a metal entrance system with sidelights and transom. The existing entrance canopy was installed sometime after 1984 and replaced the original entrance design at this location.¹⁴

North Elevation (0007)

At the north elevation, the north ends of the east and west wings are identical in design. Each has a brick façade with centrally placed entrance. Each entrance consists of a set of painted metal doors with glazing in a metal entrance system with sidelights and transom, all beneath a flat-roofed canopy supported by metal posts. At this elevation, the addition’s “U” shaped footprint creates a courtyard that is surrounded by the addition on the east, south, and west sides. At the east-facing courtyard elevation, the wall slants back and forth, creating a “zig-zag” effect when viewed in plan view. The north-facing courtyard elevation is a brick wall with unique fenestration pattern composed of fixed aluminum glazing system and a central painted metal door with glazing.

East Elevation (0007, 0008)

At the east elevation of the elementary school, there is another secondary entrance near the south end of the east wing. The entrance is recessed back from the façade and consists of a metal-framed entrance system with set of painted metal doors with glazing, sidelights, and transom. To the south of this entrance, the height of the addition is raised slightly, marking the location of the elementary school gymnasium at the interior. The gymnasium block has a blank

¹² Ca. 1980 photographs, “Le Sueur High School – 1989,” Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

¹³ Ca. 1980 photographs, “Le Sueur High School – 1989,” Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

¹⁴ Aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1984, Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerial Viewer, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>.

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masonry wall at its east elevation. A small portion of its north elevation is exposed and holds another secondary entrance to the building, a set of painted flush metal doors.

South Elevation (0008)

At the south elevation of the elementary school addition, the south elevation of the gymnasium is a blank masonry wall, except for a glass block ribbon window and strip of EIFS paneling at the top of the façade. To the west of the elementary gymnasium, the south elevation of the connection between the east and west wings holds another secondary entrance, a set of painted flush metal doors. A small, one-story, free-standing brick structure, possibly housing mechanical functions, was historically located to the south of the connection between the east and west wings; this was removed sometime after 1980.¹⁵

Interior¹⁶ (Photos 0011 – 0025)

High School (Photos 0011-0021)

At the interior, the lower through second levels of the high school are connected via two historic stairs at the west side of the 1930 building (located immediately inside the building at the primary west entrances), and another historic stair at the southeast corner of the 1952 addition (located at the secondary south entrance), and an elevator located at the east side of the 1930 building.¹⁷ Historic stairwells have historic terrazzo stairs and landings, historic plaster walls (with some wood trim that appears historic), and historic plaster and non-historic dropped ceilings. Each level is generally organized around double or single-loaded corridors as described below. Throughout the 1930 building, 1952 addition, and 1953 auditorium expansion, windows have interior glazed brick sills that are likely historic.¹⁸ Most interior doors are wood doors in metal frames that appear to be non-historic.

Lower Level (Photos 0011-0012)

The lower level is limited to the “L” shaped footprint created by the lower level of the 1930 building (not including the gymnasium, which has no lower level) and 1952 addition and the western block of the 1953 high school east wing. In addition to the main vertical circulation

¹⁵ Ca. 1980 photographs, “Le Sueur High School – 1989,” Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

¹⁶ Due to classes being held in the building at the time this application was prepared, the authors of this report were unable to access all spaces at the interior. The following description is based on review of representative spaces and floor plans prepared as part of an early 1990s remodel, which appear to generally reflect existing conditions at the property.

¹⁷ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, “Le Sueur School,” Sheets 1-3, February 1930, NAA.

¹⁸ See for example photos in Audrey Baumann and Donna Jones, eds., *The Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Four Gianteens of Le Sueur High School*, 1954, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library; *Gianteens* (school yearbook), 1955, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

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described above, vertical access to the lower level includes one flight of historic terrazzo stairs in the northeast corner of the 1953 east wing and another set of historic stairs overlain with rubber treads at the northeast corner of the 1930 classroom block.¹⁹

The lower level is organized around a centrally placed corridor that extends the length of its L-shaped footprint. At the west portion of the lower level, which falls entirely within the footprint of the 1930 building, the corridor is a narrow, double-loaded corridor finished with resilient flooring; painted concrete, painted, concrete block and plaster walls; and painted clay tile at the ceiling. Comparison of the original 1930 building lower-level floor plan with the existing layout suggests that the corridor is in the historic location of what was originally a partial corridor and elevated concrete walk. The concrete walk was originally open to unexcavated space on the west side of the floor plate that is now excavated, separated from the corridor via a painted concrete block wall, and utilized as storage rooms.²⁰ The corridor is flanked by mechanical and storage spaces and locker rooms. Though layouts and partition walls have changed since 1930, the approximate location of the locker rooms reflects the 1930 lower-level floor plan (Figure H), and mechanical rooms to the east and west are also in their original locations. According to the 1930 floor plan, the mechanical room to the south of the corridor was originally unexcavated space; based on school board meeting minutes, some lower-level spaces may have been excavated in 1935.²¹

Building systems are generally exposed at the west corridor and mechanical and storage spaces, which are generally unfinished or have a utilitarian finish – observed materials in these spaces included concrete floors; painted and unpainted concrete and clay tile walls, some with a plaster finish; painted and/or plaster-finished concrete columns and beams; and concrete and clay tile ceilings, some also with a plaster finish. To the west of the corridor, the concrete floor steps up at the west side of each storage room.

A ramp with plaster walls, non-historic resilient flooring, and non-historic dropped acoustical tile ceiling connects the west corridor to the corridor at the south section of the lower level, which includes the footprint of the 1952 and 1953 additions. This corridor is finished with non-historic resilient flooring, non-historic ceramic tile wainscot, and non-historic dropped acoustical tile ceilings.²² To the south of the corridor, two open plan cafeteria spaces are open to

¹⁹ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Sheet 1, February 1930, NAA.

²⁰ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Sheet 1, February 1930, NAA.

²¹ School board meeting minutes from February 1935 record board approval to construct "floor and vault in the southwest basement room of the school." See "Special Meeting," February 13, 1935, and "Special Meeting," February 15, 1935, Box 2, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393 (hereafter cited as the ISD No. 393 Records), LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota (hereafter cited as MNHS).

²² The same type of non-historic resilient vinyl tile flooring and ceramic tile wainscot, and the same two types of dropped ceilings, are present throughout the majority of the interior in both the 1930 school and the 1950s additions. While these finishes cannot be dated with certainty, it appears likely that they were installed during the 1990s remodel, based on 1) relatively good physical condition, which suggests a post-1968 installation date and/or 2) presence at the second level media center, which was built out during the 1990s remodel.

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the corridor. These spaces have similar floor and ceiling finishes; exterior walls and concrete columns are finished with plaster. On the north side of the corridor, there is a kitchen with non-historic finishes including a dropped ceiling, fiberglass reinforced paneling (FRP) at walls, and quarry tile floors. Historic photographs from the 1960 and 1963 yearbooks suggest that the cafeteria and kitchen might be in their approximate historic locations, though this cannot be confirmed in the absence of historic lower-level floor plans from the 1951 - 1953 expansion.²³ Restrooms and a staff cafeteria are also located to the north of the corridor.

First Level (Photos 0013-0019)

The first level is organized around a double and single-loaded corridor that makes a complete loop through the 1930 building and additions, running north through the 1930 building, east along the south side of the gymnasium and 1953 gym expansion, south through the post-1984 entrance vestibule addition and into the 1953 east wing, and then west through the 1953 east wing and 1952 addition to reenter the 1930 building. The corridor is flanked by classroom, office, and other secondary spaces like restrooms and storage rooms. Schematic floor plans for the first level included in the 1954 annual school board report indicate that the corridor locations in the 1930 building and 1952 and 1953 additions are generally aligned with the historic locations, and that the school retains the same general level of subdivision in the flanking classrooms and offices as it did historically (Figures I and J).²⁴

The first level is at grade in portions of the school and raised above grade at others. To accommodate these changes in floor height, ramps are located in the corridor along the south side of the gymnasium and a set of terrazzo stairs is located in the 1953 east wing. The corridor features a historic terrazzo floor (in the 1930 building) and non-historic carpet and resilient flooring, metal lockers, non-historic ceramic tile wainscot, and a non-historic dropped ceiling. Above the wainscot, corridor walls appear to be a combination of plaster and gypsum board. First level entrance vestibules at the primary west entrances to the 1930 building have plaster walls and ceilings and wood trim that appears historic. In the post-1984 entrance addition, walls are composed of painted concrete block; metal structure and roofing is exposed at the ceiling of the entrance vestibule. To either side of the corridor, classroom spaces in the 1930 building and 1952 addition generally have non-historic resilient and carpet flooring and non-historic dropped acoustical tile ceilings. Some plaster was observed at exterior classroom walls.

At the north end of the 1930 building, the combination auditorium-gymnasium is accessed via the first level corridor as well as from a primary entrance at the west elevation. That entrance leads to an entry lobby with non-historic carpet flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, and what appear to be historic wood trim and built-ins (including a historic wood ticket booth). Two doors at the east wall of the lobby lead to the auditorium seating area. Two historic concrete

²³ See for example photos in *Gianteen for 1963: Le Sueur High School*, 1963, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library and "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 13, 1953, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

²⁴ Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

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stairs are located at the north and south ends of the lobby; these stairs lead to a second-level balcony with additional seating.

The seating area occupies the western one-third of the double-height, combination auditorium-gymnasium area. It features a historic concrete floor, historic plaster walls with wood trim and coved wall-ceiling connection, rows of non-historic folding theater seats, and ceiling panels with layout matching the original “insulating board” ceiling shown on historic drawings.²⁵ Restrooms located at the northwest and southwest corners are accessed from the first level seating area. The second-level balcony is supported by two metal columns at the first level; it has a concrete floor and steps with additional folding theater seats and the original “picture booth” at the rear.

To the east of the seating area, the remainder of the space functions as the stage of the auditorium and as a gymnasium. The floor of this area is raised above the height of the first level seating area and is accessed via a non-original ramp with metal handrail at the north side of the seating area and a partial flight of wood stairs at the south side. The gymnasium appears to maintain most of its historic finishes, including a wood floor, plaster walls with historic brick wainscot and non-historic acoustic panels, and a plaster ceiling. At its west edge, the stage area features a curved wood apron and a rectangular proscenium. Near the center of the gymnasium’s north wall, a folding wood panel wall and a change in the color of the brick wainscot marks the connection between the original 1930 gymnasium and the 1953 addition which expanded the gym to the east. Wood benches are located along the south and north walls of the gym. Doors at the east side of the gym provide access to associated storage rooms.

Second Level (Photos 0020-0021)

The second level is limited to the “L” shaped footprint created by the 1930 building and 1952 addition. The level is accessed by the elevator and three historic stairs described previously. The west portion of the second level, which is located entirely in the original 1930 building footprint, is occupied by the school’s media center, which was likely built out as a remodel in the early 1990s.²⁶ The media center consists of a central open-plan space with computer lab, media classroom, and other smaller spaces along the east side and a non-historic corridor along the west side. Per the 1930 floor plans (Figure K), this area of the 1930 building was originally a large study room (which interrupted the central corridor), a laboratory, and several smaller recitation rooms. Today, finishes are generally non-historic and include carpet flooring; gypsum board, wall covering, and ceramic tile wainscot at walls; furred out columns; and dropped acoustical tile ceilings with gypsum board soffits. Plaster was observed at the exterior west wall of the corridor, and behind non-historic wall covering at the exterior east wall of the media center.

²⁵ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, “Le Sueur School,” Sheet 10, February 1930, NAA.

²⁶ Vetter Johnson Architects, “Park Elementary School Remodeling,” Sheet A9, July 1991, courtesy of Rebound Partners; George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, “Le Sueur School,” Sheet 3, February 1930, NAA.

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The south portion of the second level, which spans the 1930 building and the 1952 addition, is organized around a double-loaded corridor flanked by classrooms, restrooms, and offices. Comparison of the original 1930 building floor plans with the existing layout indicates that the corridor is in its historic location at the 1930 building, though the layouts of flanking classroom spaces have generally been altered from their original layouts (Figure K). No second-level plans from the 1951-1953 expansion were available to determine the layout of the second level at that time.)²⁷ The corridor has a non-historic carpet floor; what appears to be a combination of gypsum board and historic plaster as well as non-historic ceramic tile wainscot at walls; metal lockers; and a non-historic dropped acoustical tile ceiling. Finishes observed in classrooms and offices include non-historic dropped ceilings, carpet, and resilient flooring; plaster was observed at exterior walls and at the interior walls of a small storage room.

Elementary School Addition (Photos 0021 - 0025)

The 1953 elementary school addition has only one level at grade. At the interior, the elementary school is organized around central corridors that run the length of the extended “U” shaped building footprint, connecting all interior spaces and providing access to interior entrance vestibules leading to building exits at all elevations. In the east and west wings, the corridor is double loaded and flanked by classrooms and offices. Restrooms are located in the east and west wings; some classrooms also contain a small restroom. At the connection between the east and west wings, the corridor is single loaded and provides access to the mechanical room and elementary gymnasium to the south of the corridor. Schematic-level floor plans for the addition included in the 1954 annual school board report indicate that the corridor locations are historic, and that the school retains the same general level of subdivision in the spaces flanking the corridors as it did historically (Figure J).²⁸

Finishes in the elementary school addition include non-historic resilient flooring and carpet, non-historic dropped acoustical ceiling tile at ceilings, and what appears to be a combination of plaster and gypsum board at walls. The corridors have non-historic ceramic tile wainscot and metal lockers; non-historic laminate windowsills were observed at classrooms. Interior doors are generally wood slabs in metal frames and appear non-historic. Doors at entrance vestibules are non-historic metal doors with glazing. At some exterior walls, historic steel pipe columns are exposed at the interior, as they were historically.²⁹

Unique spaces include the mechanical room, which is located in the link between the east and west wings and is partially sunken below grade. It is accessed via a partial flight of concrete steps from an adjacent storage room; both the mechanical room and storage room feature a concrete floor, concrete block walls, and a historic plaster ceiling. The gymnasium features a

²⁷ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, “Le Sueur School,” Sheet 3, February 1930, NAA.

²⁸ Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

²⁹ See photos in “Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program,” December 13, 1953, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

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non-historic resilient floor, historic glazed brick wainscot and painted concrete block and non-historic acoustic panels at walls, and what appear to be original metal panels with exposed metal structure at the ceiling.³⁰

Integrity

The Le Sueur Public School retains sufficient levels of all seven aspects of integrity to convey its history from its period of significance, 1930 - 1968. The school has not been moved and retains integrity of location. The school retains its historic setting in a residential neighborhood and retains its historic relationship to the adjacent Bridge and North 5th Streets. The park and municipal ball field to the south and east were also present during the period of significance and contribute to integrity of setting.³¹

The school also retains integrity of design. At the exterior, this includes the footprint and massing of the historic building components; flat roof shape; stepped parapets at the 1930 building; primary entrance locations; and fenestration patterns at the two-story high school. While most of the original fenestration patterns at the 1953 elementary addition have been replaced with EIFS panels and new windows, the panels were installed within the original glazing area, which allows one to read the historic extent of the glazing. The post-1984 entrance addition and loading dock are small additions located at the rear of the school complex and have a minimal impact on integrity of design. At the interior of the 1930 building and 1952 addition, the school retains historic primary entry sequences, primary vertical circulation, and much of the historic corridor circulation. The historic open-volume high school auditorium-gymnasium with balcony seating area also contributes to the integrity of design.

The school retains sufficient historic materials to convey integrity of materials. At the exterior, though most windows and doors have been replaced, the school retains its historic masonry walls and ornamental masonry details such as the stone entrance portals at the west elevation, stone string courses, and decorative brick work. At the interior, historic materials at the auditorium-gymnasium are largely intact, and the school retains historic terrazzo flooring, brick window stools, and some plaster at walls and ceilings. While interior doors are non-historic replacements and much of the historic floor and ceiling finishes in classrooms and offices have been obscured or replaced by dropped ceilings and resilient and carpet flooring, current finishes are consistent with the general level of historic finish visible in historic interior photos.³²

The school retains integrity of workmanship. At the exterior, this is expressed in the masonry detailing, in particular the carved stone entrance portals and stone plaques at the 1930

³⁰ See photos in "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 13, 1953, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

³¹ See for example aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1964, Minnesota Historic Aerial Photographs Online, Borchert Map Library, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://apps.lib.umn.edu/mhapo/>.

³² See for example "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 13, 1953, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS and Marilyn Sunderman and Jim Greeno, eds., *The Nineteen Hundred Fifty-Three Giants of Le Sueur High School*, 1953, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

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building's west elevation. At the interior, historic wood trim at the primary entrance vestibules to the 1930 school building, historic wood trim and built-ins at the high school auditorium-gymnasium, and terrazzo floors also contribute to integrity of workmanship.

The existing features and materials at the property clearly convey its historic function as an educational facility, and the property retains integrity of feeling as a school. As a property that continued to function as a local public school until approximately 2023, the building retains integrity of association with education in Le Sueur.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1930-1968

Significant Dates

1953

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Pass, George
Rockey, Paul
Rose and Harris
Kleinschmidt & Sons
Ramsdell, Charles
Corwin, Eugene D.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Le Sueur Public School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education for its association with education in Le Sueur. From its construction in 1930 until 1968, the school functioned as the only junior and senior high school for Le Sueur residents. Following consolidation of the Le Sueur school district with the surrounding rural school districts in 1951, two additions were constructed which expanded the high school facilities and added an elementary school to the property. The building served as the consolidated district's main educational facility until the construction of a new junior and senior high school in 1968. The period of significance is 1930-1968, reflecting the year of the school's original construction through the year when the new junior-senior high school was constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

A Brief History of Le Sueur³³

The earliest permanent Euro-American settlement in the area now known as the City of Le Sueur began in the 1850s, following the 1851 treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota by which the United States government claimed ownership of millions of acres of land in southern and western Minnesota occupied by the Sisseton, Wahpeton, Mdewakanton and Wahpekute bands of the Dakota people.³⁴ The county of Le Sueur was established in 1853, and two early settlements, Le Sueur and Le Sueur City, were incorporated in 1858. In 1867, the two villages were merged into one town, and in 1871, the Le Sueur *township* was incorporated into the *town* of Le Sueur as well. Le Sueur was designated as a city in 1891.³⁵

Le Sueur's location along the Minnesota River and related steamboat traffic supported its early development, but water transportation was quickly surpassed by railroad transportation when the Minnesota Valley Railroad branch line arrived in 1867.³⁶ Early residents engaged in a variety of agricultural pursuits, focusing on field crops (particularly wheat) around the 1870s. Initially, the local economy was supported by milling and the harvesting of natural resources,

³³ Most of this section on the history of Le Sueur is quoted directly from the Le Sueur Theatre National Register Property Evaluation prepared by the author of this report and Alex Young in 2022. Original sources for the information in that evaluation are cited below.

³⁴ Eric Weber, "Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, 1851," MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society, last modified March 3, 2022, <https://www.mnopedia.org/event/treaty-traverse-des-sioux-1851>; Randen, *Le Sueur*, 26-31.

³⁵ William G. Gresham, ed. *The History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties, Minnesota: Their People, Industries and Institutions*, Vol. 1 (Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Company, 1916), 420 – 424.

³⁶ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 76-85.

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including timber, limestone, and sandstone; after 1903, the Minnesota Valley Canning Company (later known as the Green Giant Company) became the major economic driver in the Le Sueur area.³⁷

By 1880, Le Sueur had a population of 1,414 individuals.³⁸ The 1885 map of the town produced by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map company includes six blocks, with a commercial center that extended approximately from Second Street on the southeast to the Minnesota River on the northwest and from Smith Street on the southwest to Swan Street on the northeast.³⁹ Aerial photographs and later fire insurance maps suggest that this area continued to function as the commercial center of Le Sueur in subsequent decades. The commercial core was surrounded by residential areas to the south, east, and north, which grew outward from the city center.⁴⁰ From 1890 until 1940, the town's population remained relatively constant, fluctuating between approximately 1,700 and 1,900 residents before increasing to 2,302 in 1940.⁴¹

During the mid-twentieth century, Le Sueur's population continued to grow, reaching 3,310 by 1960. Economically, the community functioned as a farm trade center, drawing business from farmers located in the surrounding area, and provided employment for residents in manufacturing, business, and service industries. A comprehensive plan for the town prepared in the mid-1960s indicated that agriculture was still the largest source of local employment, but that employment in manufacturing had increased by 50% between 1952 and 1962. In addition to Green Giant, the largest employer, other local manufacturing firms included the Le Sueur Foundry (aluminum and zinc castings), Gopher State Silica (industrial silica), and the Le Sueur Creamery (cultured products).⁴²

Le Sueur's continued vitality during the 1960s and 1970s was evidenced by physical changes to the community's downtown core. During the 1970s, the city partnered with the federal government and local housing authority board to implement a downtown urban renewal

³⁷ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 56-57.

³⁸ Department of the Interior Census Office, *Statistics of the Population of the United States at the Tenth Census (June 1, 1880)* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1881), Appendices, Table III, "Population of Civil Divisions Less Than Counties in the Aggregate at the Censuses of 1880 and 1870," 227.

³⁹ Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, *Le Sueur, Minn.*, January 1885 (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1885), Sheets 1 and 2.

⁴⁰ See for example Sanborn Map Company, *Le Sueur, Minn.*, December 1902 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1902), Sheet 1; Sanborn Map Company, *Le Sueur, Le Sueur County, Minnesota.*, January 1931 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1931), Sheets 1 – 7; aerial photographs available on the Historic Aerials Viewer, Nationwide Environmental Title Research, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>.

⁴¹ United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States*, Vol. 1, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1942), Table 4, "Population of Counties by Minor Civil Divisions: 1920 to 1940," 544, <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/population-volume-1/33973538v1ch06.pdf>; United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910*, Vol. 2, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913), Table 1, "Population of Minor Civil Divisions: 1910, 1900, and 1890," 973, <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1910/volume-2/volume-2-p9.pdf>.

⁴² Midwest Planning and Research, Inc., *Planning Report No. 1: Survey and Analysis*, prepared for the City of Le Sueur, January 1965, pg. 1 – 14.

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plan, which included the replacement of some downtown buildings with a new enclosed shopping mall and the construction of a public library and other buildings. In 1975, the city of Le Sueur was one of 20 finalists chosen from across the United States in the “All-American Cities competition.” The purchase of Green Giant by the Pillsbury Company in 1979, and subsequent relocation of jobs out of Le Sueur, was a blow to the community, though the city’s population remained relatively steady through 1990 and has increased in recent decades.⁴³

Early Public Education in Minnesota and Le Sueur (1855 – 1929)

Early Public Education in Minnesota

The establishment of state-sponsored public education in Minnesota in the mid-nineteenth century was encouraged by federal legislation passed decades earlier in the 1780s. Nancy Kober and Diane Stark Rentner of the Center on Education Policy explain,

Although the main responsibility for schooling rested with states and localities, federal ordinances passed in 1785 and 1787 gave substantial acreage of federal lands in trust to new states entering the union, as long as the states agreed to set aside a portion of these lands for the support of public schools. These federal “land grants” not only supported the creation and maintenance of schools in each of the townships carved out of former territories, but also helped to build stable communities across the country, each with a local government and education system.⁴⁴

Kober and Rentner note that “while some Northeastern communities had already established publicly funded or free schools by the late 1780s, the concept of free public education did not begin to take hold on a wider scale until the 1830s.”⁴⁵ During this decade, Massachusetts legislator Horace Mann encouraged the establishment of public schools that “would be universally available to all children, free of charge, and funded by the state” – known as “common schools.” During the 1800s, public schools gained traction throughout the country, with urban areas and the Northeastern states leading the way.⁴⁶ By 1870, about 78% of children between the ages of 6 and 14 were enrolled in a public school, and it was not until the late 1800s that public elementary schools were available to children in most parts of the country.⁴⁷

⁴³ “Pillsbury Tries to Ease Major Giant Step,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 7, 1980, pg. 3B and 5B; Eric W. Weber, “Green Giant Company,” MNopedia, Minnesota Historical Society, last modified November 7, 2018, <https://www.mnopedia.org/thing/green-giant-company>; Randen, *Le Sueur*, 208 – 220; *Le Sueur 2040 Comprehensive Plan*, adopted October 24, 2016, “Le Sueur Factbook,”

<https://www.cityoflesueur.com/DocumentCenter/View/911/Full-Draft-Community-Factbook>, pg. 20; Susan Feyder, “Giant Takes New Step Out of Le Sueur,” *Minneapolis Star*, July 31, 1981.

⁴⁴ Nancy Kober and Diane Stark Rentner, “History and Evolution of Public Education in the U.S.,” Center on Education Policy, Graduate School of Education & Human Development, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED606970.pdf>, accessed June 25, 2024, p. 2.

⁴⁵ Kober and Rentner, “History and Evolution of Public Education,” 3.

⁴⁶ Kober and Rentner, “History and Evolution of Public Education,” 3-4.

⁴⁷ Kober and Rentner, “History and Evolution of Public Education,” 4.

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When Minnesota became a state in 1858, the state constitution established a permanent public school system. County and township commissioners were tasked with creating school districts, retaining teachers, establishing the school calendar, and holding school board meetings. Limited state money was provided to these new public schools, and local governments were responsible for the bulk of school district funding.⁴⁸ In 1865, the state established a two-class system for school districts: common districts and independent districts. Common districts were located under the control of the county commissioners and were generally served by one-room schoolhouses that provided education through the eighth grade. In this era before automobile transportation, schoolhouses were constructed in locations and densities that would allow children to easily walk to school. Incorporated cities, towns, and villages could create independent school districts, so named because they operated independently of the county.⁴⁹ Independent districts had more direct control over their own district than the common districts, including the power to levy the school tax directly through the school board and the ability to establish high schools.⁵⁰

In the 1850s, few students achieved more than an eighth-grade education. However, as the American middle class grew, so did interest in a high school education. The State of Minnesota established a High School Board and provided an annual appropriation to each qualifying high school in 1878 and created an inspector of high schools in 1893. By 1902, Minnesota had a total of 114 high schools, in addition to 119 graded and 387 semi-graded and one-room schools.⁵¹ Still, across the United States, high school attendance lagged behind primary education. In 1910, only 14% of Americans of at least 25 years of age had completed high school.⁵²

Beginning around the turn of the twentieth century, school consolidation became a key issue facing the state's educational system. In 1900, there were approximately 8,000 school districts across the state, which created a huge burden on state officials tasked with maintaining contact with each district. The state attempted to encourage consolidation through several pieces of legislation in the early 1900s. The most successful was a 1911 law that allowed newly consolidated districts to receive state funds for constructing a new school building as well as regular annual aid, provided that they maintained an 8-month school term and provided student transportation where necessary. Between 1911 and 1916, over 170 of Minnesota's school

⁴⁸ Annette Atkins, "Learning in the Land of Lakes: Minnesota's Early Education History," MNopedia, last modified July 30, 2021, accessed June 26, 2024, <https://www.mnopedia.org/learning-land-lakes-minnesota-s-educationhistory>.

⁴⁹ Dr. Perry Buffie, "A History of ISD 883," 1982, Rockford Area School District 883, accessed June 30, 2024, <https://www.rockford.k12.mn.us/district/history>.

⁵⁰ Minnesota Department of Education, *A History of the State Department of Education in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota State Department of Education, 1968), 9; Frances Elizabeth Kelley, *Public School Support in Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1920), 9.

⁵¹ Annette Atkins, "Learning in the Land of Lakes: Minnesota's Early Education History," MNopedia, last modified July 30, 2021, accessed June 26, 2024, <https://www.mnopedia.org/learning-land-lakes-minnesota-s-educationhistory>.

⁵² Kober and Rentner, "History and Evolution of Public Education," 4.

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districts consolidated; however, it was not until the 1940s that significant statewide consolidation would occur.⁵³ In 1920, the vast majority of funding for schools continued to be local, through taxes levied by school districts and bonds issued by school districts or counties, as well as other sources.⁵⁴

During the early twentieth century, shifts in educational philosophy led to new practices in public education, such as standardized curricula and revision of school programs from the 8-4 plan (eight years of elementary education and four years of secondary education) to the 6-2-4 or 6-3-3 plan (six years of elementary education, two or three years of transitional education, and three years of secondary education), creating the basic outline of the elementary, junior high, and senior high division that exists today. Federal legislation (the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, the George-Reed Act of 1929, the George-Ellzey Act of 1934, and the George-Deen Act of 1937) provided federal support for integration of vocational training into the standard public educational program. New ideas about education emphasized learning through hands-on experience, rather than by rote memorization. School curriculum was expanded beyond the purely academic to include vocational and practical subjects, and schools added manual training for boys and domestic science classes for girls. Physical education also became a key component of school programs.⁵⁵

Schools constructed during the early twentieth century (a time period often referred to as the “Progressive Era”) reflected these progressive ideas and theories in educational practice, as well as an increased emphasis on safety and sanitation in school design.⁵⁶ In their Multiple Property Documentation Form on schools in Kansas City, Missouri, authors Rachel Nugent and Elizabeth Rosin provide a helpful summary of key characteristics of Progressive Era schools:

Construction materials (brick, concrete, clay tile) and finishes (glazed tile, polished concrete) were chosen for their fireproof and hygienic qualities. Technological advances in ventilation and electricity were widely publicized and readily incorporated. A more linear, rather than square, building form was adopted as the standard for Progressive Era schools, creating long double-loaded corridors on the interior. Wide concrete corridors and stairwells provided better egress in the event of a fire. Educational philosophy recognized the importance of physical activity and play in creating balanced individuals

⁵³ Minnesota Department of Education, *A History of the State Department of Education in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota State Department of Education, 1968), 10.

⁵⁴ Frances Elizabeth Kelley, *Public School Support in Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1920), 14-20, 29.

⁵⁵ Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel (Consolloy) Nugent, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Properties Documentation Form* (2012), E-3; Elizabeth A. Gales, “Winona High School and Winona Junior High School,” *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (2003), Section 8, p. 2, 4, and 6.

⁵⁶ Brenda A Spencer, “Historic Public Schools of Kansas,” *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Properties Documentation Form* (2005), E-21; Rosin and Nugent, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District,” E-29.

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and an enticing environment, and designers focused more attention on recreational areas both within and immediately surrounding the building.⁵⁷

Early Public Education in Le Sueur

Le Sueur's earliest schools were established before Minnesota became a state and were not true public schools, as they were supported by contributions and tuition paid by parents.⁵⁸ The first school building in Le Sueur was constructed in 1855.⁵⁹ A second building was constructed between Main and Second Streets in 1857 and had an attendance of approximately 20 students. As attendance increased, classes were also held in local churches.⁶⁰ A school district was organized in circa 1872, and the community constructed its first true public school, the two-story Union School (not extant), at the north edge of the city. It appears likely that this first district was classified as an independent school district, since Le Sueur established a high school in 1878.⁶¹ By 1881, the Union School had 6 teachers and 269 students divided between the primary, grammar, intermediate, and high school grades.⁶²

Increasing enrollment made construction of another school building necessary. The Washington School (not extant) was built in 1889 at the south edge of Le Sueur.⁶³ The two-story masonry school functioned as the upper grade school and high school, while the lower four grades remained at the Union School.⁶⁴ The Washington School was enlarged in 1904.⁶⁵ In 1911, the school district replaced the original Union School with a new school building in the same location. The new Union School (not extant) continued to serve the lower grades until 1953, and again as an overflow location for elementary students from 1958 to 1968.⁶⁶

⁵⁷ Rosin and Consolloy, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," E-5.

⁵⁸ "School to Open for 74th Year," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 28, 1929, p. 34.

⁵⁹ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 169.

⁶⁰ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 169.

⁶¹ "New School Dedicated," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 5, 1930.

⁶² Randen, *Le Sueur*, 169; "School to Open for 74th Year," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 28, 1929, p. 34; Sanborn Map Company, *Le Sueur, Minn.*, December 1902 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1902), Sheet 1.

⁶³ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 169; Sanborn Map Company, *Le Sueur, Minn.*, December 1902 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1902), Sheet 5.

⁶⁴ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 170.

⁶⁵ "Our Public Schools Need Your Support," ca. 1929, Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

⁶⁶ Randen, *Le Sueur*, 170; Sanborn Map Company, *Le Sueur, Minn.*, July 1924 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1924), Sheet 1; "Union School Closes for Third Time after 96 Years," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 5, 1968.

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The Le Sueur Public School (1930 – 1968)

Construction

By the late 1920s, Le Sueur's Washington School was inadequate to continue to meet the community's educational needs, both in physical condition and capacity.⁶⁷ A circa 1929 publication by the district's school board asserted that the community's educational needs had evolved significantly since the construction of the Washington School in 1889, noting that "our educational courses have changed greatly, all of our standards of living have changed greatly, [and] a far greater proportion of our children go on through high school."⁶⁸ As that quote suggests, a driving factor in the push for a new school was increased high school enrollment, which had increased by fifty percent from 1921 to 1929. Enrollment included both Le Sueur residents and non-resident students in common districts surrounding Le Sueur, where a high school education was not available.⁶⁹

The 1929 district publication outlined a long list of deficiencies at the Washington School: insufficient numbers of recitation rooms; an inadequate laboratory; unsanitary toilet rooms; a library, manual training department, and cooking-sewing department that were below minimum state standards; "below standard" amounts of window glazing; a deficient heating plant; an undersized gym; and a building that was not fireproof and lacked an auditorium.⁷⁰ Based on newspaper articles in the *Le Sueur News-Herald*, it appears that the gymnasium was actually housed in a separate facility a mile from the school, limiting the students' physical education opportunities.⁷¹ Perhaps most crucially, the State of Minnesota had threatened to remove its annual allocation of state aid from the district if the building condition did not improve. This funding supported the school's manual training and domestic science courses and covered the tuition costs for non-resident high school students.⁷²

Initial proposals called for combining students from both the new Union School and the Washington School into a single building, but conversations quickly shifted to providing a school for junior and senior high students only.⁷³ A January 1929 article in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* tied the importance of the new school to the high school facilities specifically and the resulting opportunities for students, noting that "equipped with a high school education, a boy or girl has a fair start in whatever they undertake to do." At a January 1929 meeting of the PTA, a

⁶⁷ "Parent Teachers Have Important Meeting," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 28, 1928; "Looks As Though Le Sueur Would have New School," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 23, 1929; "School Talked Over Monday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1929.

⁶⁸ "Our Public Schools Need Your Support," ca. 1929, Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

⁶⁹ "Our Public Schools Need Your Support," ca. 1929, Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA; "School Talked Over Monday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1929.

⁷⁰ "Our Public Schools Need Your Support," ca. 1929, Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

⁷¹ "Looks As Though Le Sueur Would have New School," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 23, 1929; "School Talked Over Monday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1929.

⁷² *Le Sueur News-Herald*, December 5, 1928; "Looks As Though Le Sueur Would have New School," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 23, 1929; "P.-T. Association Met Monday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, February 20, 1929.

⁷³ "Parent Teachers Have Important Meeting," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 28, 1928.

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member of the school board presented the key features that should “be emphasized in the construction of a new building according to the most approved methods.” These features included “one building, centrally located, building with a vision, so that the building may be enlarged to meet any emergency which might arise in the future, plenty of playground space, with a well-equipped gymnasium and auditorium, which could be used for public purposes, this besides proper accommodations for special work including the laboratory, manual training, and domestic science room.”⁷⁴

After working with two or three architects to study the cost, size, and structure of a new school, the School Board announced to Le Sueur residents in October 1929 that a new building would cost \$136,000, plus an additional \$10,000 auditorium seating, stage equipment, laboratory equipment, school desks, and other equipment.⁷⁵ Articles in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* called for local voters to approve a bond for \$146,000 to construct the school, noting that voters would still be faced with property tax increases even if the new school were not built (since the district would have to make up for a loss of state aid).⁷⁶

The 1929 bond vote passed by a ratio of roughly 2 to 1.⁷⁷ Following the bond approval, the school board identified a site for the new school at the corner of 5th Street and Bridge Street. In the November 11, 1929, issue of the *Le Sueur News Herald*, the board outlined the reasons for the site. These included its central location between the north and south ends of the city; ability to accommodate outdoor activities and future additions to the school building; ease of connection to existing utilities; minimal grading required; and reasonable acquisition cost.⁷⁸ Initially, the site was intended to encompass lots 1-4 and 11-16 in Block 3 (approximately 1 acre) as well as the south 5 acres of Out Lot 6 directly to the east (approximately the south half of the current-day recreational field), a large area that would “allow for a complete school building, with ample play-grounds and space for recreational activities.”⁷⁹ While this site was apparently approved in a vote by district residents in late November 1929, property conveyance records on file at the City of Le Sueur indicate that only the lots in Block 3 were acquired, and that the 5 acres of Out Lot 6 were excluded from the purchase.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ “Looks As Though Le Sueur Would have New School,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 23, 1929.

⁷⁵ “Some Facts, Relative to the New School House, for the Voters Attention,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 16, 1929; “School Talked Over Monday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1929.

⁷⁶ “Voters! Attention!,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 16, 1929; “Some Facts, Relative to the New School House, for the Voters Attention,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 16, 1929.

⁷⁷ “New School House for Le Sueur – Bonds Carry by Vote of 443 to 227,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 23, 1929.

⁷⁸ “The New School Site,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 13, 1929.

⁷⁹ “Editorial,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 27, 1929; “The New School Site,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 13, 1929.

⁸⁰ “The New School Site,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 13, 1929; John Flaherty and wife to Independent School District Number One, of Le Sueur, Minn., Instrument No. 69330, Deed Record No. 83, May 14, 1930, on file at the City of Le Sueur; John McConnell and wife to Independent School District No. One, of Le Sueur, Minn., Instrument No. 69066, Deed Record No. 83, March 4, 1930, on file at the City of Le Sueur. This land was sold to

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In the fall of 1929, the School Board selected George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey of Mankato, Minnesota as the architects for the new school. The architectural firm was established by George Pass Sr. in Mankato around 1887. George was eventually joined by his son, George Pass Jr., who continued the firm after the senior George's death in 1931. Paul Rockey joined the firm in 1921 and became a partner in 1927.⁸¹ The firm specialized in school building design; at the time that they received the Le Sueur school commission, Pass and Rockey had already designed schools at Plainview, St. Charles, Mankato, Spring Grove, Fairmont, Blue Earth, St. Peter, Belle Plaine, St. James, and Lake City.⁸² The design team for the Le Sueur school also included the firm of Rose and Harris, mechanical engineers based out of Minneapolis.⁸³

Pass and Rockey designed a two-story, Gothic Revival masonry school building that reflected Progressive Era trends in education and school design (Figure D). Large windows and three skylights provided access to natural light and fresh air. A combination gymnasium-auditorium was situated at the north end of the building; the rest of the school was organized around corridors flanked by classroom space (Figures H, I, and K). Some classrooms were dedicated to practical and vocational subjects, such as the cooking room, sewing room, paint shop, practice dining room, and manual training room. First and second level classrooms also included recitation rooms, grade rooms, a laboratory, a study room, a book room, a teacher's room, and offices. Locker rooms, a boiler room, and a fan room were located at the lower level, which encompassed only a portion of the building's footprint.⁸⁴

In March of 1930, the School Board awarded construction contracts for the new school. Kleinschmidt & Sons of Mankato was selected as the general contractor, L. A. Kepp of Rochester as the electrical contractor, and D. C. Cuddy of Mankato as the plumbing and heating contractor.⁸⁵ The building's cornerstone was laid on April 23, 1930, with a ceremony that included musical performances by school children and the high school band and speeches by members of the project team, the School Board President, the President of Gustavus Adolphus College, and others.⁸⁶

As construction on the building progressed, landscape architect Charles Ramsdell of Minneapolis was hired in August of 1930 to prepare a design for the surrounding grounds.⁸⁷ While Out Lot 6 was apparently not owned by the school, a landscape and site plan dated

the school district in 1992. See Deed No. 227676, City of Le Sueur to Independent School District No. 393, January 10, 1992, on file at the City of Le Sueur.

⁸¹ Alan Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, 2010), 170-171, 186-187.

⁸² "Our Public Schools Need Your Support," ca. 1929, Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA; "Mankato Architect George Pass Dead," *Winona Daily News*, February 10, 1959.

⁸³ "School Building-Bids Close," in Board Minutes, p. 30, July 1926 – July 1934, Box 2, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

⁸⁴ George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Sheets 1-8, February 1930, NAA.

⁸⁵ "Contracts Let for New School House \$134,000," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 5, 1930.

⁸⁶ "Laying Corner Stone of Le Sueur's Magnificent New School Building," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, April 23, 1930; "Placing Corner Stone of the New School House," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, April 30, 1930.

⁸⁷ "School Board," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 20, 1930.

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September 1930 shows basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, a large football field and baseball diamond with grandstand, and a 140-car parking lot in this area (Figure S). Directly east of the school, at the rear of the 1930 building, a smaller, 70-car parking lot and children's playground were planned. Areas of grass lawn bordered the school to the north, west, and south.⁸⁸ Newspaper articles and aerial photographs from the 1930s – 1960s (Figures T and U) indicate that the full design intent for the athletic recreational area, including the grandstand, was not realized. An article in the October 29, 1930, edition of the *News-Herald* indicated that school parking lot had already been installed and that the playground was anticipated, and that the intent was to utilize the adjacent property to the east as “a free open and clear space for large games and crowds of spectators.” The gravel parking area located in the southeast corner was designed to accommodate future use as a skating or hockey rink. The other playfields and grandstand on Ramsdell's plans were identified as future projects that could be constructed if funding became available.⁸⁹

Construction concluded in the fall of 1930 and the school was dedicated on November 3, 1930, as the Le Sueur Public School, with a dedication program that included a speech by James Phillips, State Commissioner of Education.⁹⁰ An article in the November 5, 1930, edition of the *Le Sueur News-Herald* described some of the details and amenities added to the new school, noting that

A phone is installed in each room, perfect ventilation is secured by the heating and ventilation system. Light proof curtains, seats that will wear the life of the building, private lockers, [and] shower baths [have been installed], everything to add to the beauty and practicability of the building...The grounds, where the various sports and games will be played are said to be the finest in the state. Parking space is allowed for cars, besides ample room for any game that is desired.

“The dedication of the new school gives Le Sueur one of the finest school buildings in the state,” the *News-Herald* asserted. “It will enable our children to have the best educational advantages that can be offered. It will give added prestige to our town, besides bringing out of town trade, and many pupils from other places. It will provide a community center for gatherings, which

⁸⁸ Charles Ramsdell, “A General Plan for the High School Grounds and Children's Playground with Athletic Field,” September 6, 1930, in Pass and Rockey Collection, NAA.

⁸⁹ Aerial photographs of Le Sueur, 1937 and 1938, Minnesota Historic Aerial Photographs Online, Borchert Map Library, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://apps.lib.umn.edu/mhapo/>; “School Grounds Landscaped,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 29, 1930; aerial photographs of Le Sueur, 1955, 1957, and 1964, Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerial Viewer, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>. The 1937 aerial shows a grassy field with gravel parking area at the southeast corner and what appears to be a baseball diamond at the southwest corner. The 1955 photo depicts the south half of the current recreational field as an open field. One or two baseball diamonds are shown on the 1967 aerial photograph.

⁹⁰ “Dedication of New School Building,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 29, 1930; “Adjourned Meeting,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 18, 1930.

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heretofore was not held, or were held in private homes. It will promote a general feeling of well being among the citizens of the towns, and those who shall come into it.”⁹¹

1930 – 1951

For approximately the next four decades, the Le Sueur Public School served as the community’s only secondary school for seventh through twelfth grade students. A 1932 article noted that the high school was ranked a “Class B” school out of a three-class system established by the State of Minnesota, which provided “limited enrichments” to students in addition to the basic courses of study. That year, the school offered courses that aligned with the Minnesota State Department’s recently revised curriculum, including English, business relations and occupations, various science, math, and history courses, general industrial training, geography, home training, Latin, and various electives.⁹² By 1941, the school had 11 teachers and one principal, and offered a range of courses that included English, social studies, science, mathematics, geography, home economics, music, industrial arts, physical education, business relations, history, typing, Latin, bookkeeping, and shorthand.⁹³ The school appears to have provided a wide range of extracurricular activities and club opportunities for students. In 1944, for example, these included the Athletic Association, the Student Council, the Junior Red Cross, the student newspaper *Le Hi Ho*, Rifle Club, and Pep Club.⁹⁴ With the exception of a slight drop in enrollment in the 1936-37 and 1940-41 school years, attendance grew steadily, increasing from 250 in 1935 to 317 in 1949.⁹⁵ By the 1948-1949 school year, there were 15 teachers in the junior and senior high school. New courses added that year included a Driver Training Course for high school seniors and an art class for juniors and seniors.⁹⁶

The school’s auditorium-gymnasium was a valuable amenity for school events. Articles in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* advertised numerous extracurricular uses of this space, including plays, basketball games, band concerts, glee club performances, and award ceremonies.⁹⁷ The auditorium-gymnasium also served the broader community as a space for social gatherings, performances, and events. Less than three weeks after the school’s dedication, the auditorium hosted one of its first community performances, the Scandinavian Bell Ringers. According to the

⁹¹ “New School Dedicated,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 5, 1930.

⁹² “School Opens Next Tuesday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 31, 1932.

⁹³ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1941, p. 5 and 18, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

⁹⁴ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1941, p. 15 and “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” July 1, 1944, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

⁹⁵ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1941, p. 17, and “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1948-1949, p. 17, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

⁹⁶ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1948-1949, p. 10, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

⁹⁷ See for example “‘A Corner of the Campus’ Makes Hit,” *Le Sueur News Tribune*, December 17, 1930; “Alumni vs. High School Basketball Game,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, December 10, 1930; “Milk Fund Stunt Program on Friday” and “Farmers Night,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, February 15, 1939; “Over 100 Members Swell Ranks of L. S. High School Glee Club,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 5, 1947; “Tews Gives Gold Footballs...” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 14, 1948.

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Le Sueur News-Herald, “the program, the first of its kind to be sponsored by the Parent Teacher’s Association, will establish a precedent, where by it may sponsor other entertainments which will be equally well attended and enjoyed.”⁹⁸ Into the 1960s, the space hosted a variety of programs and events that ranged from musical performances by traveling artists like the “Balkan Artist Troupe;” events by local organizations like the 4-H Club and Boy Scouts; programming for area farmers like the “Farmer’s Night” hosted by the Le Sueur Commercial club; and other events.⁹⁹ For example, the February 7, 1940, edition of the *Le Sueur News-Herald* advertised three separate events at the auditorium on the front page alone, including a presentation by the Ministerial Association on American neutrality in World War II, the showing of the “Headliners” movie, and a gathering of the Farmers’ Institute that included 700 attendees and a live news broadcast by WCCO.¹⁰⁰

Newspaper articles from the 1930s and 1940s indicate that the open area to the east of the school was utilized as an athletic field, primarily for baseball and football, and for some physical education classes and school events. Electric flood lights were added to the field in 1937.¹⁰¹ Meanwhile, the area to the south and east developed as a public park and recreational area: the Legion Memorial Park and Swimming Pool opened to the public in 1939 and a municipal baseball diamond was developed to the east of the park in 1948.¹⁰² Newspaper articles and aerial photographs suggest that the school’s baseball games were moved to the municipal diamond in the late 1940s and that the football field was moved by 1957.¹⁰³

District Consolidation and School Expansion: 1951-1953

By the late 1940s, the Le Sueur school district was once again facing a shortage of school space. The district’s 1948-1949 annual report noted that while school facilities had not been expanded since the Le Sueur School was constructed in 1930, the elementary, junior, and senior

⁹⁸ “Le Sueur Liked Bell Ringers,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 19, 1930.

⁹⁹ See for example “See Mrs. Martin Otto’s Dancing Trio...” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 27, 1935; “Commercial Club Joins U. S. Chamber of Commerce,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 12, 1949; “Balkan Artist Troupe Booked for Appearance at Le Sueur July 13th,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, July 11, 1934; “Coming Events,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1935; “Record Crowd at 4-H Jamboree Thursday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, February 11, 1942.

¹⁰⁰ See for example “Farmers Institute to Be Held Thursday, Feb. 15,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, February 7, 1940.

¹⁰¹ See for example Milt Swanson, “Batting Around,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 4, 1947; “Physical Education,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, May 10, 1944; “Blue and Gold Tripped in First Tilt of Season,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 25, 1935; “Le Sueur to Construct Illuminated Athletic Field,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 11, 1936; “About 2000 Attend Football Opener,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 22, 1937.

¹⁰² “Legion Votes to Buy Property for Pool-Park,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 17, 1938; “As usual Le Sueur...” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 30, 1939; “Site Near Park Is Proposed Thursday for Le Sueur Baseball Diamond,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 3, 1948; “Booster Day Buttons Offered for Sale to Local Fans; Get One,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, July 14, 1948.

¹⁰³ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1948-1949, p. 6, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; aerial photograph of Le Sueur, 1957, Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerial Viewer, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://historicaerials.com/viewer>.

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high schools had increased by 100 students since 1943, creating a “condition that is crowded to the extreme.”¹⁰⁴ In 1945, voters approved a \$200,000 bond to construct an addition that would double the size of the existing school. The planned addition was designed by Minneapolis architect Eugene D. Corwin to include a dozen classrooms, a kindergarten, more gymnasium space, a lunch room, music room, and other facilities.¹⁰⁵

Construction was slated to begin as soon as construction materials were available. Unfortunately, restrictions on building materials in the postwar era delayed the project for several years.¹⁰⁶ Enrollment in the fall of 1950 surpassed estimates, with a total of 539 students across all grades and record enrollments in almost every class. Predicted estimates for the next several years showed that the district would be unable to accommodate students in its existing buildings.¹⁰⁷ Meanwhile, a new state attempt to encourage district consolidation added additional pressure to the need for school space. In 1947, the Minnesota State Legislature created a state advisory commission on school reorganization and local survey committees to provide recommendations for district reorganization. In the Le Sueur area, these committees recommended creation of a joint school district that would encompass Le Sueur, Sibley, and Nicollet Counties. When the first proposal for a consolidated district was narrowly defeated by rural voters, the Le Sueur Independent School District proposed to reject non-resident pupils (whom the district was not technically required to serve) from enrolling, in order to relieve overcrowding. A second vote for consolidation passed by an overwhelming majority and the county superintendent established the Joint Independent Consolidated District No. 112 within the three counties on March 20, 1951. The district encompassed Le Sueur and over 100 square miles of the surrounding area, 18 common school districts with a total population of 6,000 individuals. School District No. 55 in Scott County was added to the consolidated district in 1954.¹⁰⁸

Following consolidation, the buildings and property of the common districts were sold, and construction began on an addition to the Le Sueur High School, using the bond funding previously approved in 1945. According to the school board’s 1954 annual report, this addition was designed by architect Eugene Corwin and included seven classrooms, a hot lunch kitchen, and a dining room. Floor plans in a circa November 1951 publication show that the addition was located at the east elevation of the 1930 high school and included an additional school entrance along Bridge Street to the south (Figure L). Construction began in 1951 and was completed in 1952.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁴ “Le Sueur Public Schools Annual Report,” 1948-1949, p. 18, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹⁰⁵ “Le Sueur Plans \$300,000 Building Project,” unknown newspaper, 1945, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹⁰⁶ “School Board Still Awaits Final Approval from NPA,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 13, 1951.

¹⁰⁷ “School’s Record Enrollment Stirs Building Addition Talk,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 13, 1950.

¹⁰⁸ Minnesota Department of Education, *A History of the State Department of Education in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota State Department of Education, 1968), 10; Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program,” December 14, 1953, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹⁰⁹ Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Our Schools,” ca. 1951, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

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Next, voters approved a \$750,000 bond to finance construction of an elementary addition, further expansion of the high school facilities, and a school bus garage. According to the 1954 annual report,

the elementary building included 18 classrooms, a gymnasium, a combination elementary library and audio-visual room, administrative offices, and nurse's quarters. The high school alterations entailed remodeling and modernizing the home economics and business education departments, remodeling and enlarging the boy's dressing rooms and the gymnasium-auditorium and an addition...to the hot lunch dining room. New quarters were provided for music, girls locker and dressing rooms, [and] agricultural and industrial arts.¹¹⁰

Construction on this second addition began in 1952. The elementary wing (named Park Elementary in 1958) was completed in spring 1953, and the high school expansions appear to have been completed sometime in fall 1953.¹¹¹ The school was formally dedicated with a ceremony and open house on December 13, 1953. First level floor plans for the additions (Figures J and L) show that the project included expanding the 1930 high school building to the east and constructing a one-story elementary wing that extended north and east of the high school. The east and west branches of the one-story elementary wing featured double loaded corridors flanked by classrooms, restrooms, and two library/conference rooms; the south end of the wing included a play room/small gymnasium, boiler room, and storage room. Superintendent and general offices were located near the main entrance at the addition's west elevation. Photographs of the elementary school addition in the 1954 school yearbook indicate that the addition was designed in the Midcentury Modern style, with brick façade, simple, clean lines, cubic massing, and curtain wall glazing (Figures E, F, M – O, Q, R). The expansion of the high school auditorium-gymnasium (Figure P) included a girls locker room, a gymnasium office and storage rooms, and a band area across the hall from the gymnasium. The high school expansion also included a one-story addition at the east elevation of the 1952 addition, which included classrooms, a laboratory, and a shop room.¹¹² With the opening of the new addition, the new Union School was decommissioned and leased to the Green Giant Company for office space.¹¹³

¹¹⁰ Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹¹¹ "Construction Work Is Resumed on New High School Addition," *Le Sueur News Tribune*, June 11, 1952; "Here's Le Sueur's Newest..." *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 11, 1953; "West Wing Nearly Ready, Remainder 'On Schedule,'" *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 4, 1953; "Expanded School System, Curriculum Will Greet Students on Opening Day Tuesday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 2, 1953; "Le Sueur PTA Meets," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 22, 1958.

¹¹² "Our Schools," ca. 1951, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹¹³ "City Schools First Taught by Sarah Randolph in 1856, Cyrus Myrich in 1857," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, July 22, 1953.

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The opening of the new school facilities in fall 1953 corresponded with expansions and modifications to Le Sueur's educational program. An article in the *News-Herald* noted that the school had "expanded its curriculum in several fields and added teaching personnel to handle the wider variety of training and instruction." This included the establishment of a vocational agricultural department, which would "revolve around the Future Farmers of America movement." The industrial arts and home training departments were expanded to include instruction for grades seven through twelve, and physical education was made a mandatory course for both junior and senior high students. Additionally, the school's guidance office assumed "a more specialized role in the academic program."¹¹⁴

In 1953, the district had 951 enrolled pupils, over half of whom were transported to school by an improved bus transportation system.¹¹⁵ Between 1954 and 1968, total enrollment increased steadily: 1,000 in 1954, 1,059 in 1959, 1,115 in 1964, and 1,253 in 1968. By 1968, the school had 75 faculty serving the elementary and secondary programs.¹¹⁶ During the 1963-1964 school year, subjects and courses offered to junior and senior high students included the courses of the "commercial department" (such as shorthand, office practice, typing, and bookkeeping), social studies, language arts, home economics, instrumental music, mathematics, science, and vocal music. The school provided counseling and guidance services, and opportunities for students to participate in numerous clubs and organizations such as drama club, Latin club, speech club, biology club, camera club, Future Farmers of America, and the student honor society. In 1963, the school received a "6-3-3 rating" from the State Department of Education, making its junior high "more established as a separate area of the school program."¹¹⁷ In 1965, the high school received accreditation by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, a marker of the school's high-quality educational standards.¹¹⁸

Annual reports for the mid-1960s record several improvements, repairs, and alterations to the school facility, including installation of new lighting and ceiling tile in the "old wing" of the high school and modifications to the school grounds such as repaving of the roadway, new sidewalks, planting of trees, and sodding.¹¹⁹ The auditorium-gymnasium continued to serve as a space for both school and community events, ranging from homecoming and class plays to the

¹¹⁴ "Expanded School System, Curriculum Will Greet Students on Opening Day Tuesday," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 2, 1953.

¹¹⁵ Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112, 1954, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; "School Board Orders Four More Buses; Plan to Transport All Rural Pupils," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 5, 1952.

¹¹⁶ "Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1963-1964," p.1, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; "Independent School District #393, Le Sueur Public School, Le Sueur, Minnesota: A Public Hearing on the 1971-1972 Budget," September 27, 1971, p. 2, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹¹⁷ "Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1963-1964," Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹¹⁸ "Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1964-1965," p.1., Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; "HS Being Evaluated for Membership in N. C. A.," *Le Sueur News-Herald*, December 11, 1963.

¹¹⁹ "Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1964-1965," p.6, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; "Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1963-1964," p. 4, Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

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annual Le Sueur “Corn on the Curb” celebration, speaker programs, and musical performances.¹²⁰

Park Elementary: 1968 – 2023

Within just a few years of the 1953 school expansion, it was clear that additional space was needed to accommodate rapidly increasing enrollment totals. In 1958, the Union School (not extant) was reopened to provide needed classroom space for elementary students, and the name “Park Elementary” was adopted for the elementary school wing of the Le Sueur School complex, to distinguish this location from the other re-opened Union School.¹²¹ The re-opening was apparently intended to be a temporary measure until a permanent expansion of school facilities could be constructed; however, continued rejection of bond proposals for new school construction forced the district to continue classes at the Union School through 1968.¹²² During the 1958-1959 school year, the school housed a portion of district students in grades one through four, an arrangement which appears to have continued through the mid-1960s. According to the elementary school principal’s annual report for the 1959-1960 school year, 87 out of a total of about 535 children attended Union School, most of whom were rural children living outside of Le Sueur. Elementary students were bused to Park Elementary for lunch. The school was occupied by sixth grade students in 1967 and by fourth grade students in 1968.¹²³ By 1967, over 300 elementary students were also attending classes in churches and other temporary facilities.¹²⁴ Though the district was forced to utilize the Union School and other gathering spaces as a stop-gap measure to accommodate rising enrollment, the Le Sueur Public School retained its prominence as the district’s main purpose-built educational facility, as evidenced by its much larger capacity: the Union School could only accommodate 100 – 120 students, while total attendance for the district was 1,059 in 1959 and 1,253 in 1968.¹²⁵

Initial conversations about new school facilities explored the option of constructing another addition at the existing Le Sueur Public School. However, this was deemed infeasible

¹²⁰ See for example “Pat Schlegel Reigns at Homecoming,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 6, 1954; “Plans for Halloween Party Well Advanced,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 17, 1956; “Senior Class Play Next Tuesday Eve,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 12, 1958; “State Education Leader to Speak in Le Sueur Monday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, May 14, 1958; “Gustavus Choir to Be Here Sunday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 20, 1960.

¹²¹ “Name Your School,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, September 17, 1958; “Le Sueur PTA Meets,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 22, 1958.

¹²² “Committee Formed to Plan School Building,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 13, 1957.

¹²³ “School Board Proceedings,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 4, 1958; Annual Report of the Le Sueur Public Schools, 1959-1960,” p. 34, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS.

¹²⁴ “Folkerds: Room Shortage Is Fast Becoming Critical,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 28, 1962; “New Le Sueur High School Progressing Right on Schedule,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, December 6, 1967; “Union School Closes for Third Time after 96 Years,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 5, 1968.

¹²⁵ “Independent School District #393, Le Sueur Public School, Le Sueur, Minnesota: A Public Hearing on the 1971-1972 Budget,” September 27, 1971, p. 2, Box 6, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Union School Closes for Third Time after 96 Years,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, June 5, 1968; “Mickelson...” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, January 11, 1956.

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because it would compound the problem of too little playground space, which according to the district superintendent was (by 1962) already “inadequate by state department of education standards.” Additionally, the 1953 elementary addition was not designed to accommodate a second-level addition.¹²⁶ In 1964, the school district purchased 40 acres of land for a new junior and high school, to the southeast of the Le Sueur Public School along the north side of the Ferry Street, and selected the architectural firm of Bissel, Belair & Green to design the school. In 1965 and 1966, voters reject three separate bond proposals for the new school, but a \$1,500,000 bond issue was finally approved in November of 1966.¹²⁷ Kratochvil Construction began construction around August of 1967, and the school was dedicated on October 26, 1968.¹²⁸

While the new facilities were being constructed, the district began making plans to remodel Le Sueur Public School to serve elementary students only. The remodel was also designed by the architectural firm of Bissel, Belair & Green; work began in 1967 and was completed during the 1968-1969 school year.¹²⁹ The remodel focused on the former high school; by August 1968, an article in the district’s monthly newsletter noted that “the former high school has undergone extensive remodeling and students will find considerable physical change in this area.”¹³⁰ More recently, remodeling occurred in the early 1990s. The exact scope of the 1990s renovation is unknown, but a bulletin produced for the school’s open house indicates that the rear entrance addition was constructed during the remodel, and “before” photos included in the bulletin suggest that the windows were replaced at this time.¹³¹ In 2022, voters in Le Sueur approved a \$39.9 million bond to construct a new elementary school adjacent to the junior and senior high school, bringing an end to nearly 100 years of public education at 115 North 5th Street.¹³²

¹²⁶ “Folkerds: Room Shortage Is Fast Becoming Critical,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 28, 1962.

¹²⁷ “Le Sueur Public Schools: Annual Report, 1963-1964,” p.4., Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Sample Ballot: Special Election,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 10, 1965; “School Bond Vote Defeated,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, March 30, 1966; “Voters Approved New School 1119 to 442,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, November 30, 1966.

¹²⁸ “High School Dedication Sunday,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, October 23, 1968; “Contracts Awarded for New Junior-Senior High School,” *Le Sueur News-Herald*, August 2, 1967.

¹²⁹ “Independent School District #393 Le Sueur Public School, Le Sueur, Minnesota, Annual Report, 1967-1968,” p.2, and “Independent School District #393 Le Sueur Public School, Le Sueur, Minnesota, Annual Report, 1968-1969,” p.4., Box 5, ISD No. 393 Records, MNHS; “Elementary Remodeling Plans Taking Shape,” *The 393* 2, no. 7 (February 1968): 3; “Park School to Be Remodeled,” *The 393* 2, no.5 (December 1967): 1.

¹³⁰ “Student Visitation Day Aug. 30,” *The 393* 3, no.1 (August 1968): 1.

¹³¹ Vetter Johnson Architects, “Park Elementary School Remodeling,” July 15 1991, courtesy of Rebound Partners; “Park Elementary Open House,” 1992, on file at the Le Sueur County Historical Society. A complete architectural drawing package from the remodel was unavailable to the authors of this report and the few available sheets do not clearly distinguish between pre-existing and proposed layouts and features.

¹³² Sofia Martinez, “Voters in Le Sueur-Henderson school district approve bond referendum,” August 10, 2022, KEYC News Now, accessed July 3, 2024, <https://www.keyc.com/2022/08/10/voters-le-sueur-henderson-school-district-approve-bond-referendum/>.

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Conclusion

The Le Sueur Public School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with education in Le Sueur. From 1930 until 1968, the school was the only junior and senior high school available to residents of Le Sueur and some of the surrounding communities; in 1953, the campus was expanded to include primary education and remained the main public educational facility in Le Sueur until 1968. The property retains good integrity to its period of significance and continues to convey its historic significance as the Le Sueur Public School.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Le Sueur Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): LE-LSC-00035

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

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3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15T Easting: 427682 Northing: 4923320

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic property is comprised of an irregularly-shaped area bounded by Bridge Street to the south, North 5th Street to the west, Swan Street to the north, and South 6th Street to the east (Figure B).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic property boundaries were selected to encompass the property associated with the school during the period of significance that also retains historic integrity. As documented in Sections 7 and 8, the recreation field to the east that is today associated with the school was not owned by the school during the period of significance. While the south half of this field is known to have been functionally related to the school during the first two or three decades of the period of significance, it does not retain integrity to its historic function as a high school athletic field and is therefore excluded from the historic boundaries. The parking lot to the northwest of the school was not functionally related to the school during the period of significance and is also excluded from the historic site boundaries.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lauren Anderson, Director and Shannon Storey, Associate Director
organization: New History
street & number: 575 Southeast 9th Street, #215
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55437
e-mail: anderson@newhistory.com
telephone: 612-843-4146
date: July 1, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: Le Sueur Public School

City or Vicinity: Le Sueur

County: Le Sueur

State: MN

Photographer: Lauren Anderson

Date Photographed: 2023; June 2024, March 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 25: View of the entire building, looking northwest. Courtesy of Loopnet.
- 2 of 25: View of the entire building, looking east. Courtesy of Loopnet.
- 3 of 25: View of the west elevation of the 1930 High School, looking northeast. Courtesy of Loopnet.
- 4 of 25: View of the west elevation of the 1930 High School, looking southeast.
- 5 of 25: View of the north elevation of the 1930 High School, looking south.
- 6 of 25: View of the west elevation of the west wing of the 1953 Elementary Addition, looking southeast.
- 7 of 25: View of the north elevation of the 1953 Elementary Addition, looking southwest.
- 8 of 25: View of the south and east elevations of the 1953 Elementary Addition, looking northwest.
- 9 of 25: View of non-historic entrance addition and north elevation of the high school east wing, looking northwest.
- 10 of 25: View of the south elevation of the 1952 High School Addition and 1930 High School, looking northwest.
- 11 of 25: View of the cafeteria at the basement level of the 1952 High School Addition, looking northwest.
- 12 of 25: View of a storage room at the basement level of the 1930 High School, looking northwest.
- 13 of 25: View of the southwest stair and main corridor in the 1930 High School at the first level, looking northwest. Courtesy of Loopnet.

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14 of 25: View of the southwest entrance in the 1930 High School at the first level, looking northwest.

15 of 25: View of the northwest stair in the 1930 High School at the first level, looking west.

16 of 25: View of the south corridor in the 1952 High School Addition at the first level, looking east.

17 of 25: View of a classroom in the 1952 High School Addition at the first level, looking northwest.

18 of 25: View of the high school gymnasium at the first level, looking northeast. Courtesy of Loopnet.

19 of 25: View of the auditorium seating in the 1930 High School at the first level, looking northwest.

20 of 25: View of the south hallway in the 1930 High School at the second level, looking southeast.

21 of 25: View of the media center in the 1930 High School at the second level, looking southeast. Courtesy of Loopnet.

22 of 25: View of corridor in west wing of the 1953 Elementary Addition at the first level, looking north.

23 of 25: View of classroom in east wing of the 1953 Elementary Addition at the first level, looking northeast.

24 of 25: View of elementary gymnasium in the 1953 Elementary Addition, looking southeast. Courtesy of Loopnet.

25 of 25: View of corridor in east wing of the 1953 Elementary Addition, looking north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Figure A. Aerial view of Le Sueur showing the location of the Le Sueur Public School, 2021. Courtesy of the Beacon Schneider Corporation.

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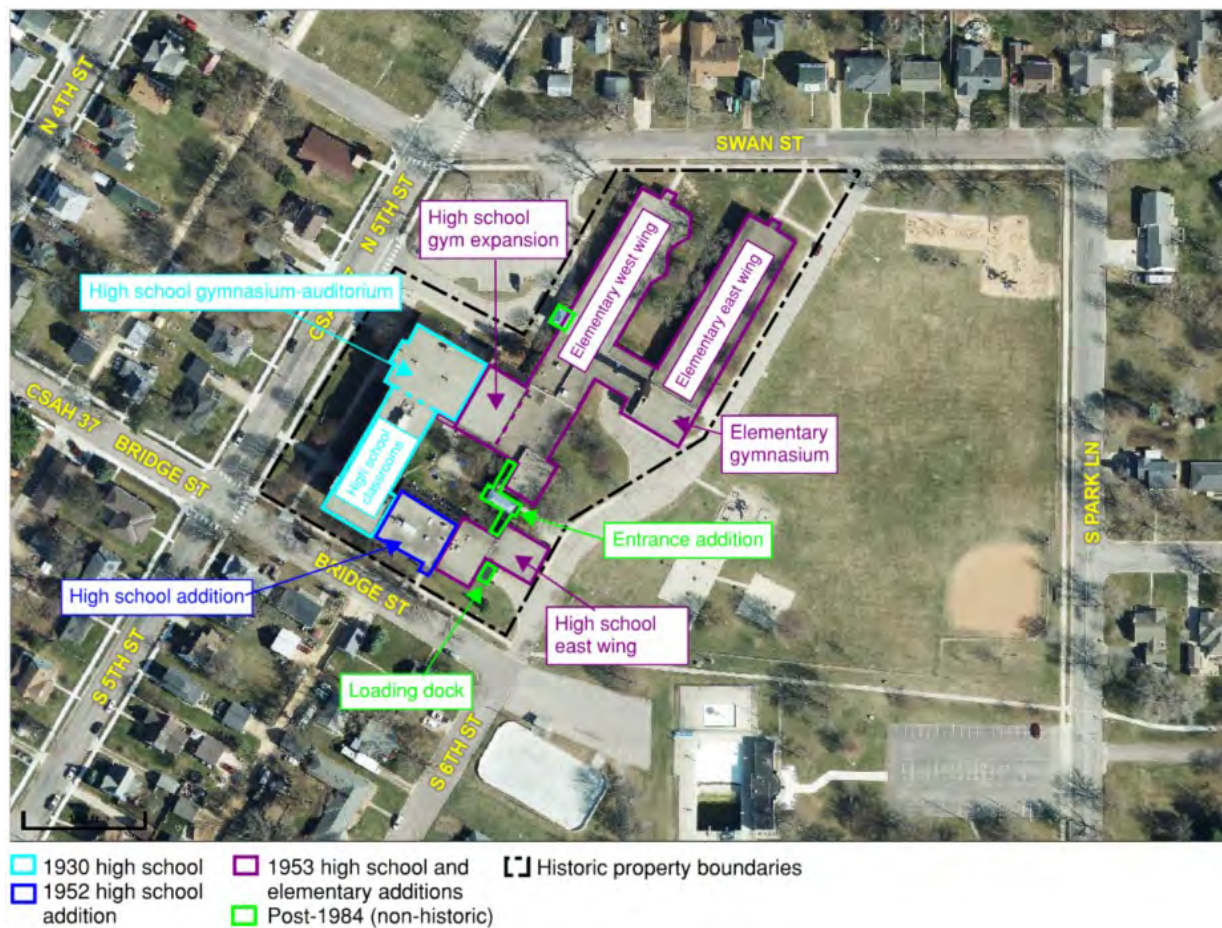
Section number Additional DocumentationPage 2

Figure B. Site development diagram. Background aerial image courtesy of the Beacon Schneider Corporation.

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Figure C. Photo of Le Sueur Public School, looking northeast, ca. 1941. Photo courtesy of Ebay.

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Figure D. Drawing of west (front), north, south, and east (rear) elevations of the 1930 Le Sueur Public School, 1930. George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Project No. 473, Sheet 5, February 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Figure E. Photo of Le Sueur Public School, looking southeast, 1965. Photo taken from 1965 Le Sueur school yearbook *Gianteens*, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.



Figure F. Photo of the south and east elevations of the Le Sueur Public School high school, including 1952 addition and 1953 east wing addition, looking northwest, 1955. Photo taken from 1955 Le Sueur school yearbook *Gianteens*, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

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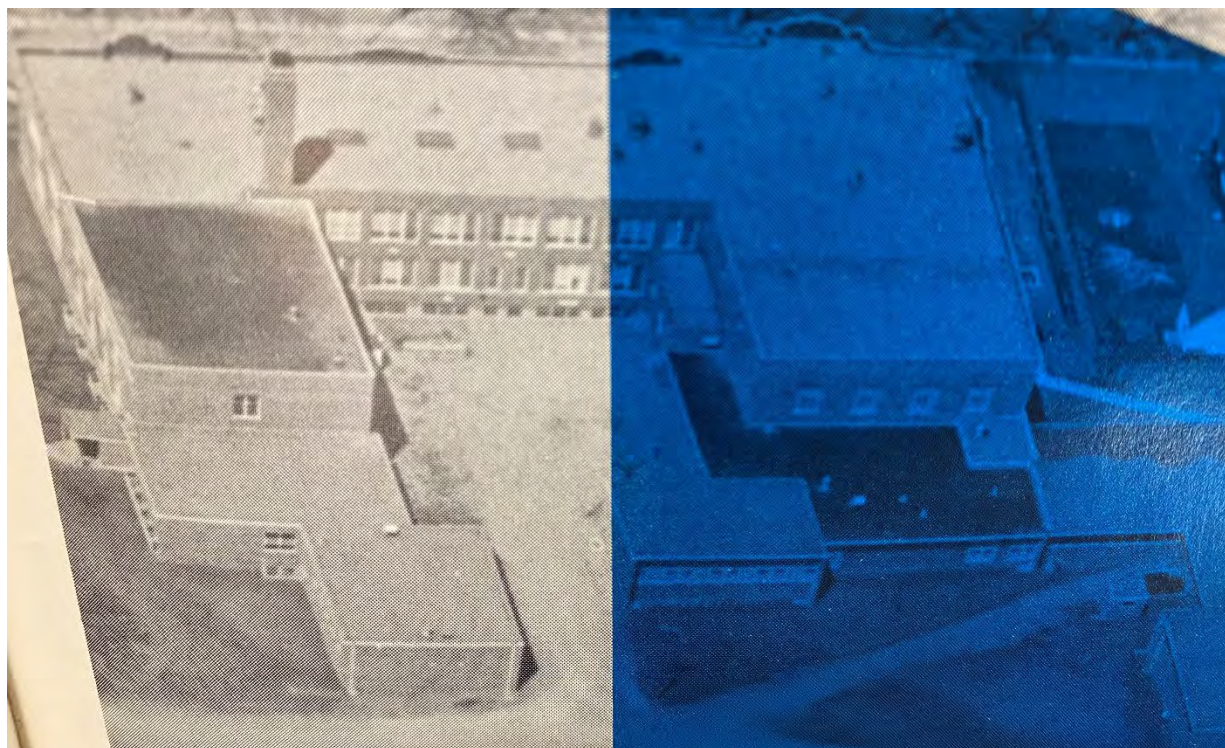


Figure G. Aerial photo of the Le Sueur Public School high school, including 1952 addition, 1953 east wing (both at left of photo) and 1953 gymnasium-auditorium expansion (at right of photo), looking west. 1958. Photo taken from 1958 le Sueur school yearbook *Giantens*, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library (blue overlay is part of yearbook graphics).

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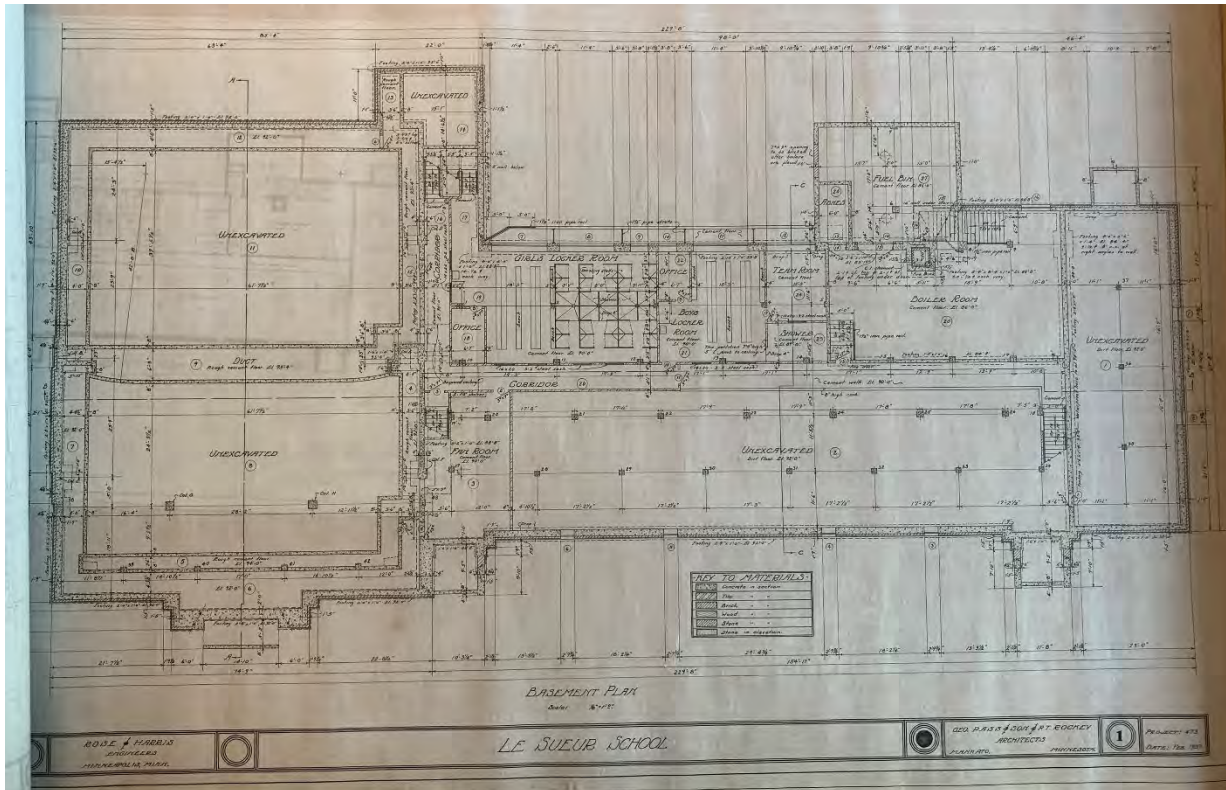


Figure H. Lower level floor plan of the 1930 Le Sueur Public School, 1930. George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Project No. 473, Sheet 1, February 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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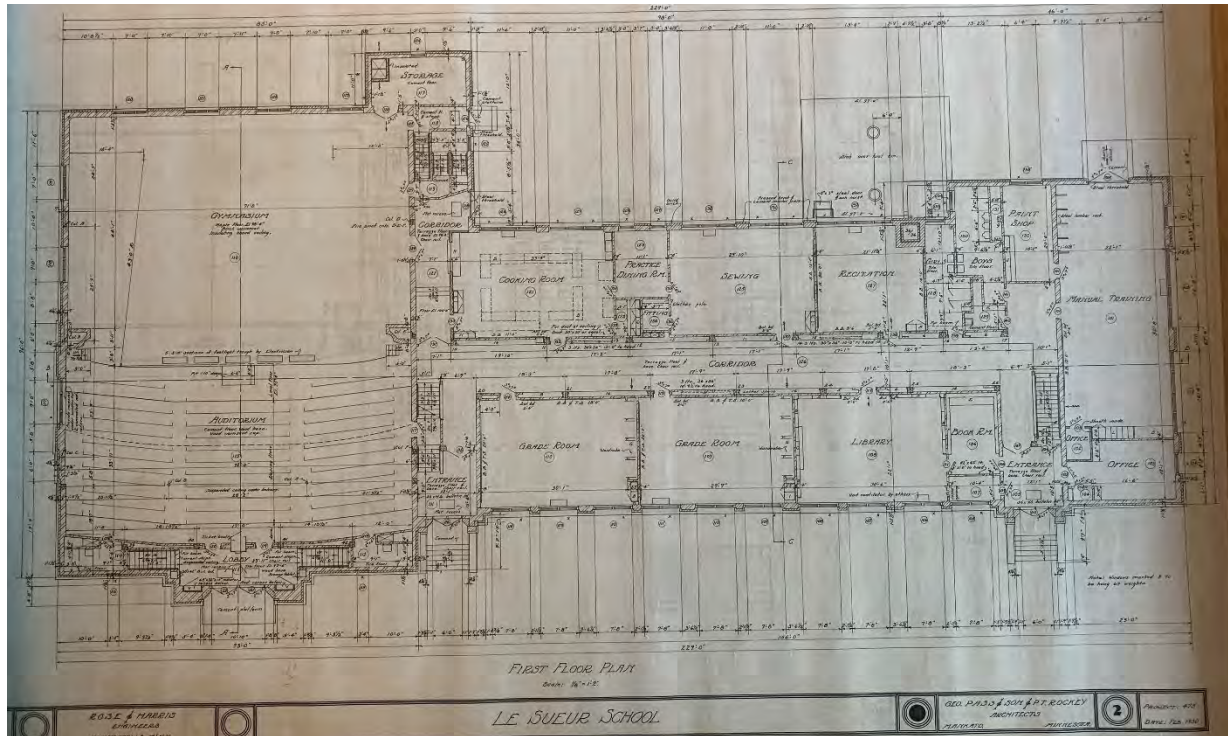


Figure 1. First level floor plan of the 1930 Le Sueur Public School, 1930. George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Project No. 473, Sheet 1, February 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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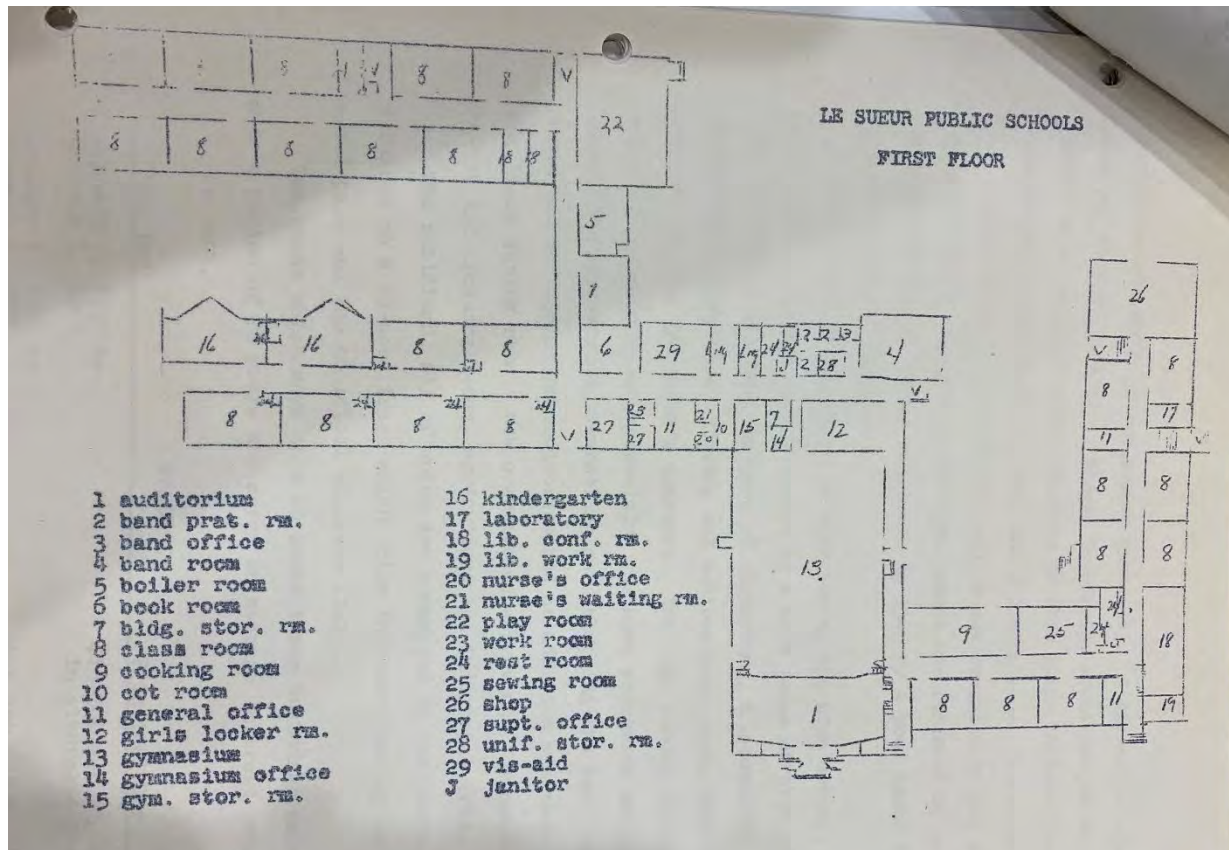
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Figure J. First level floor plan showing 1953 additions, ca. 1954. Taken from "Annual Report for the Joint Independent Consolidated District #112," 1954, Box 5, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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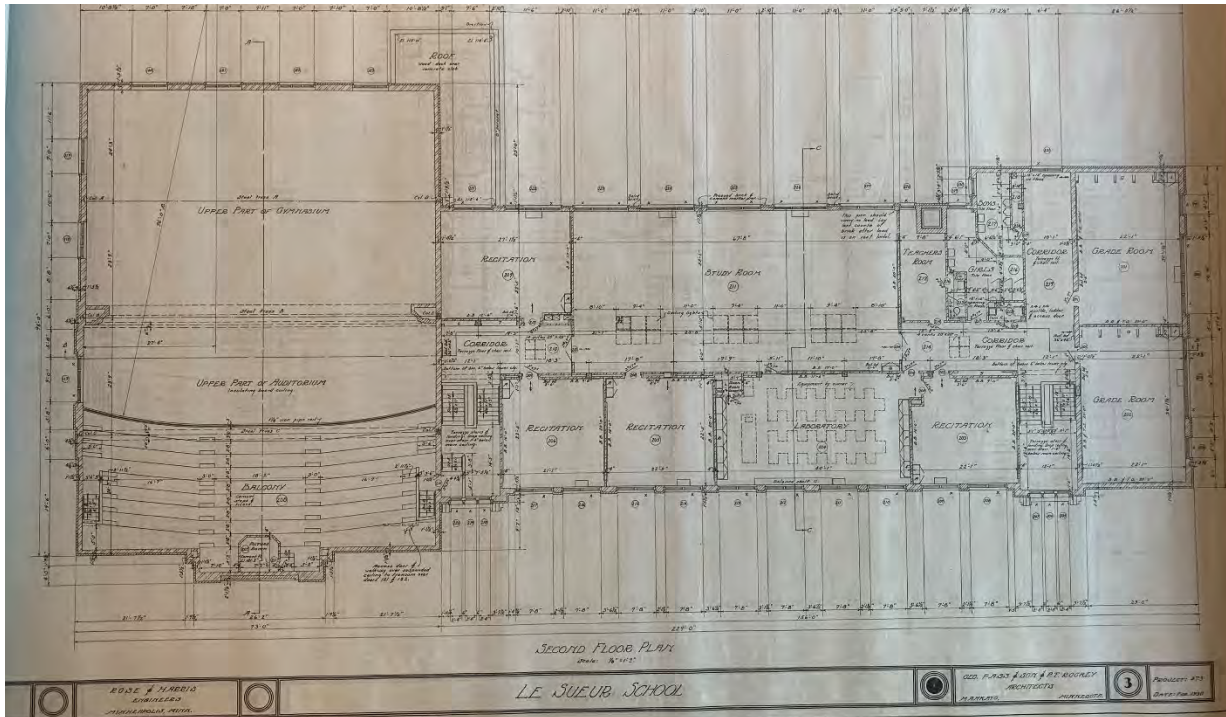


Figure K. Second level floor plan of the 1930 Le Sueur Public School, 1930. George Pass & Son and P. T. Rockey, Architects, "Le Sueur School," Project No. 473, Sheet 1, February 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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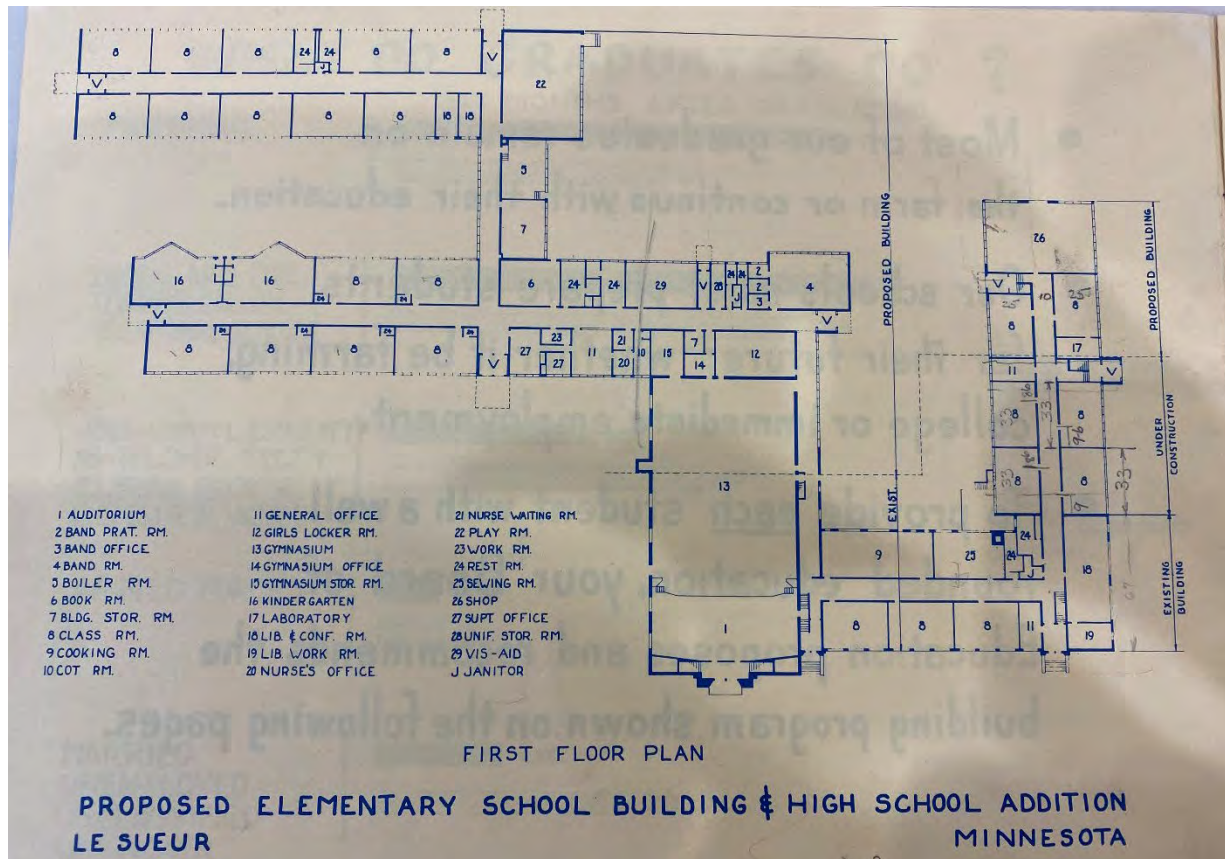


Figure L. Proposed floor plan for 1952 addition (shown as under construction) and 1953 elementary and high school additions, ca. 1951. Image taken from "Our Schools," ca. 1951, Box 6, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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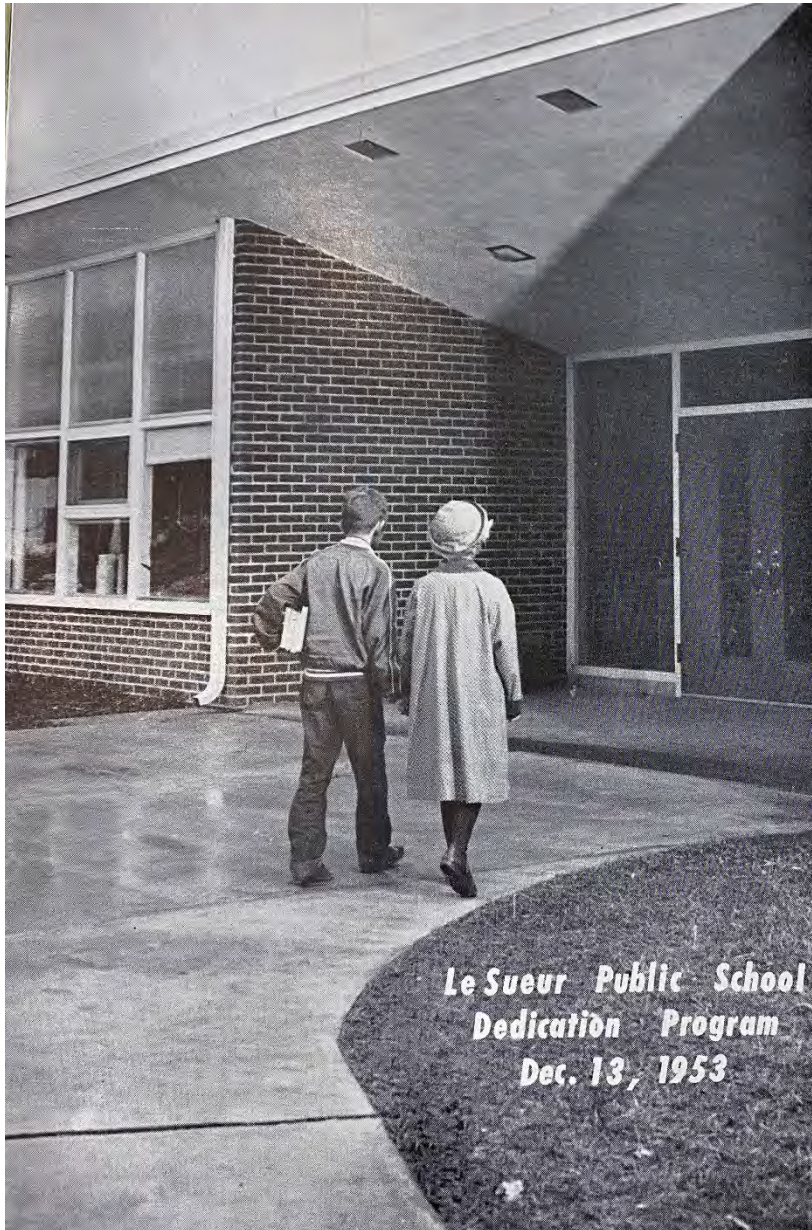


Figure M. View of west elevation of 1953 addition, looking northeast, 1953. Photo taken from "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 14, 1953, Box 6, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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Figure N. View of south and east elevations of elementary addition, looking northwest, 1953. Photo taken from 1955 Le Sueur school yearbook *Gianteens*, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.



Figure O. View of west elevation of elementary addition, looking southeast, 1953. Photo taken from 1955 Le Sueur school yearbook *Gianteens*, on file at the Le Sueur Public Library.

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 14

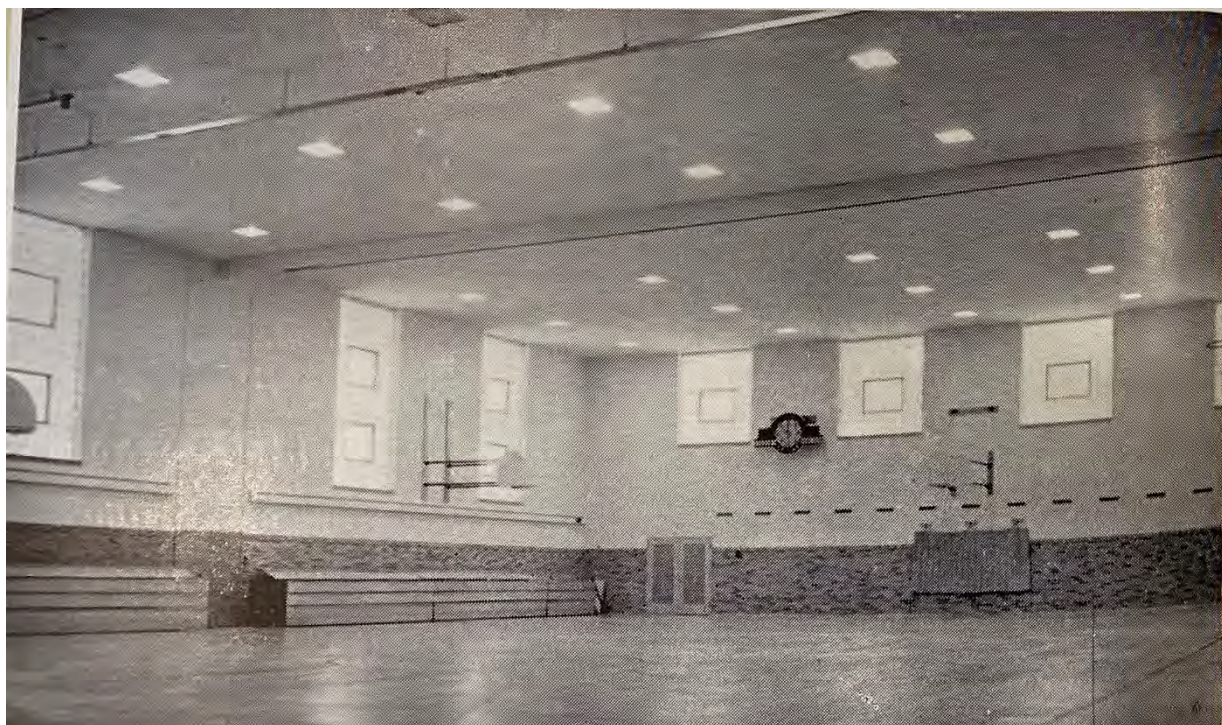


Figure P. View of expanded high school gymnasium-auditorium, looking northwest, 1953. Photo taken from "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 14, 1953, Box 6, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Le Sueur Public School

Name of Property

Le Sueur, Minnesota

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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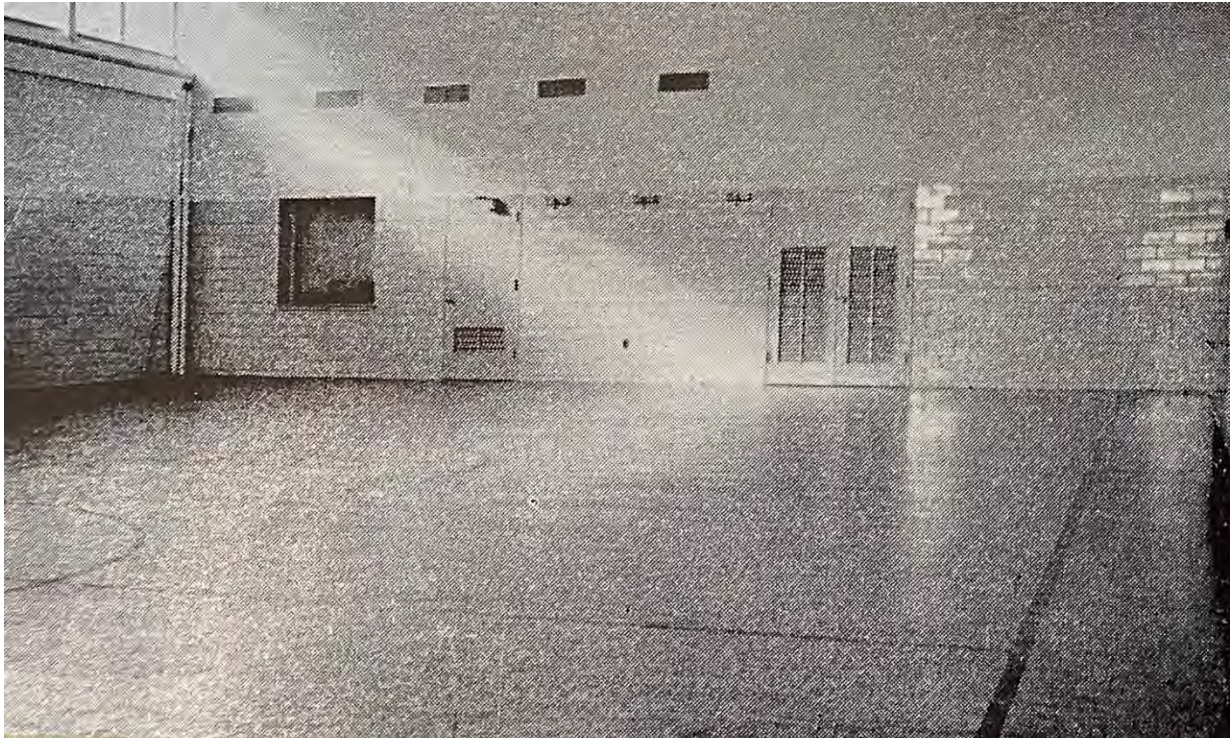


Figure Q. View of elementary gymnasium in 1953 elementary addition, looking southwest, 1953. Photo taken from "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 14, 1953, Box 6, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES



MAIN CAFETERIA

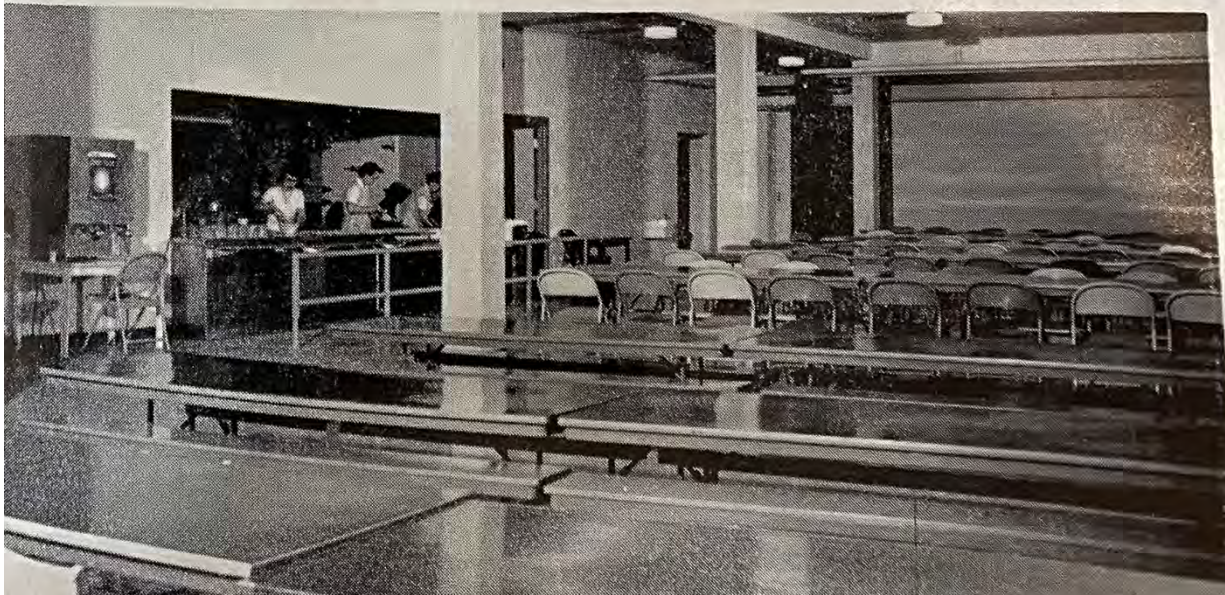


Figure R. View of kindergarten room in 1953 elementary school addition and cafeteria (likely at lower level of the high school), 1953. Photo taken from "Le Sueur Public School Dedication Program," December 14, 1953, Box 6, Records of the Le Sueur County Independent School District No. 393, LeSueur, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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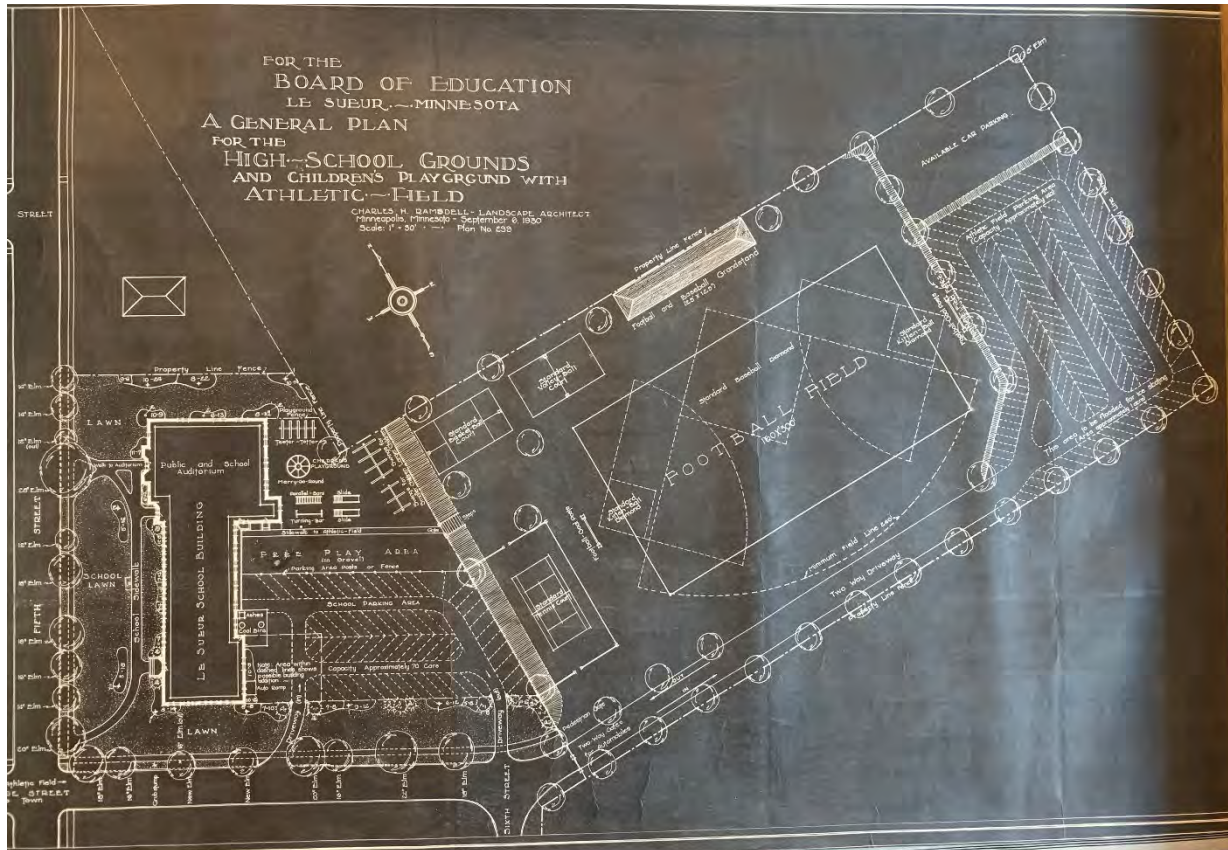


Figure S. Unrealized Landscape Plan of the 1930 Le Sueur Public School, September 1930. Charles Ramsdell. Pass and Rockey Collection, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure T. Aerial view of the Le Sueur Public School, 1937. Minnesota Historic Aerial Photographs Online, Borchert Map Library, University of Minnesota, <https://apps.lib.umn.edu/mhapo/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Le Sueur Public School

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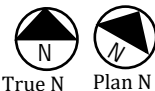


Figure U. Aerial view of the Le Sueur Public School, 1957. Nationwide Environmental Title Research Historic Aerials Online, <https://www.historicaerials.com/>.

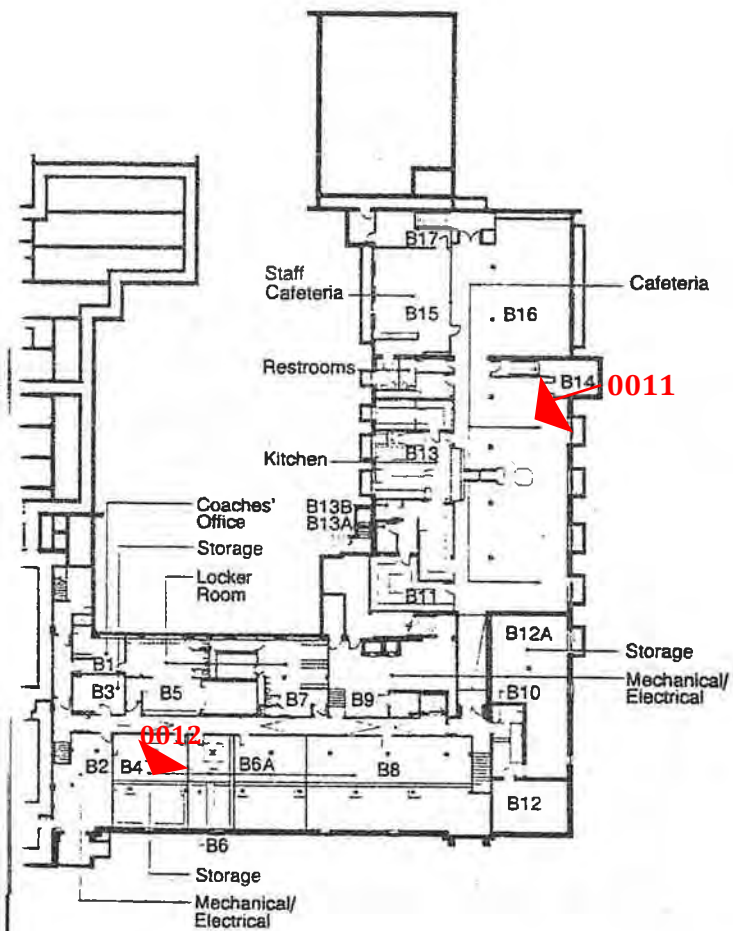
Le Sueur Public School



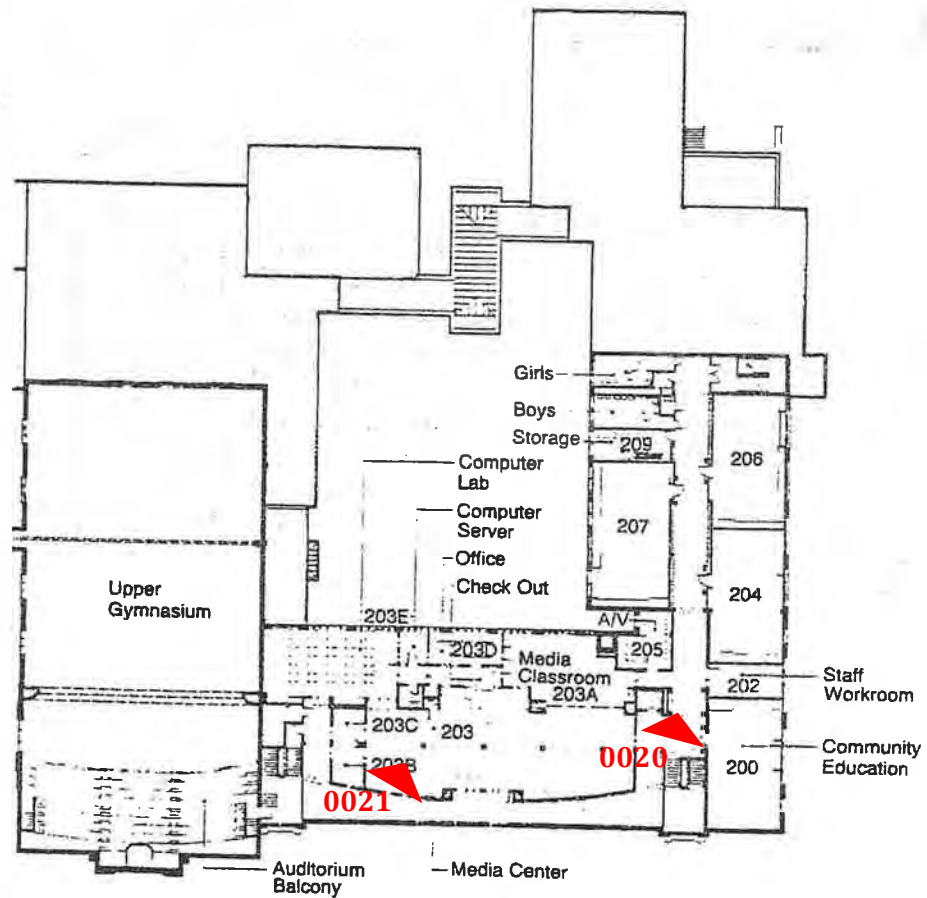
- 1930 high school
- 1952 high school addition
- 1953 high school and elementary additions
- Post-1984 (non-historic) additions
- Historic property boundaries



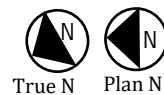
Le Sueur Public School
Exterior Photo Key



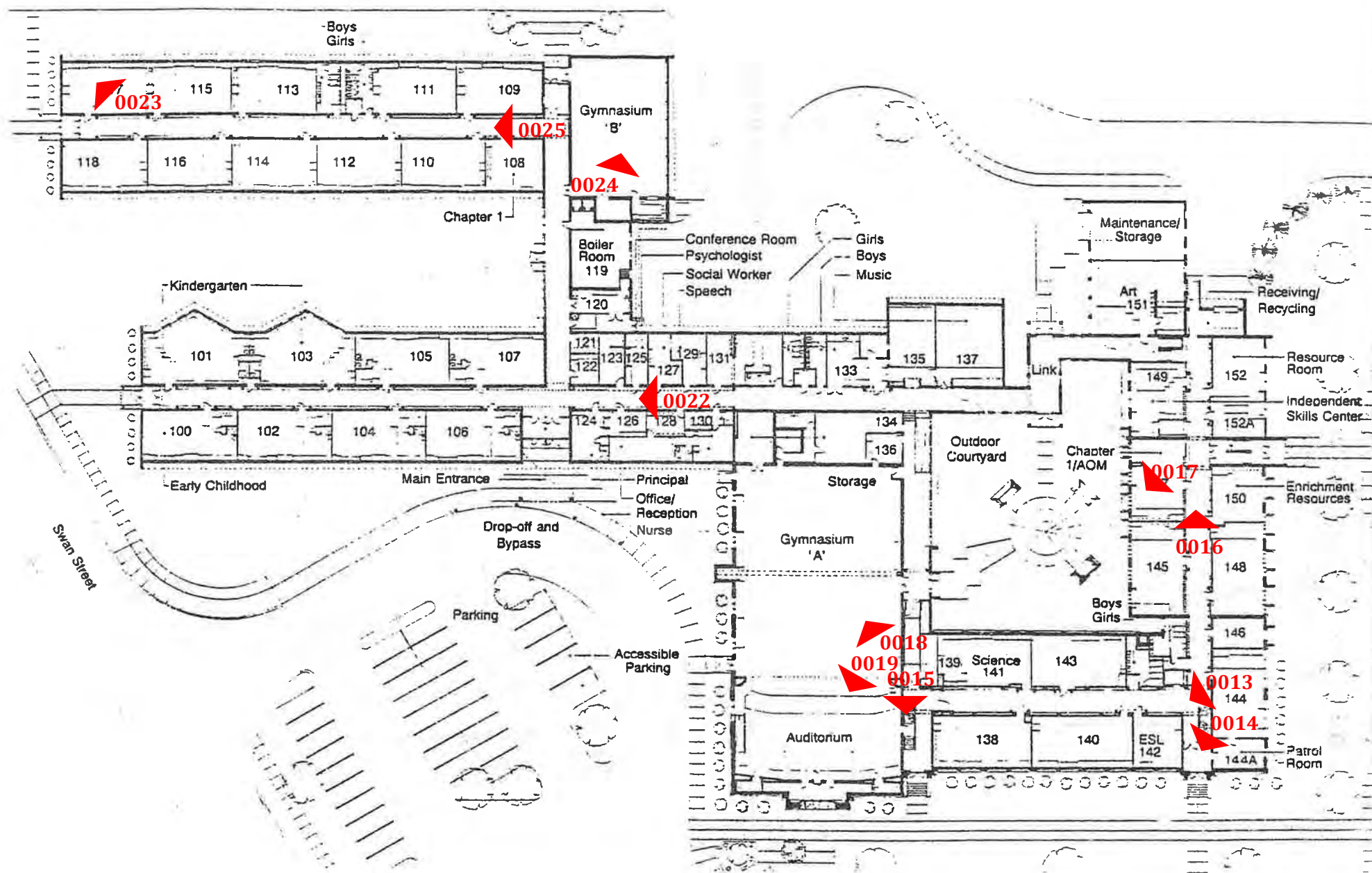
BASEMENT PLAN



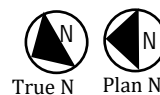
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



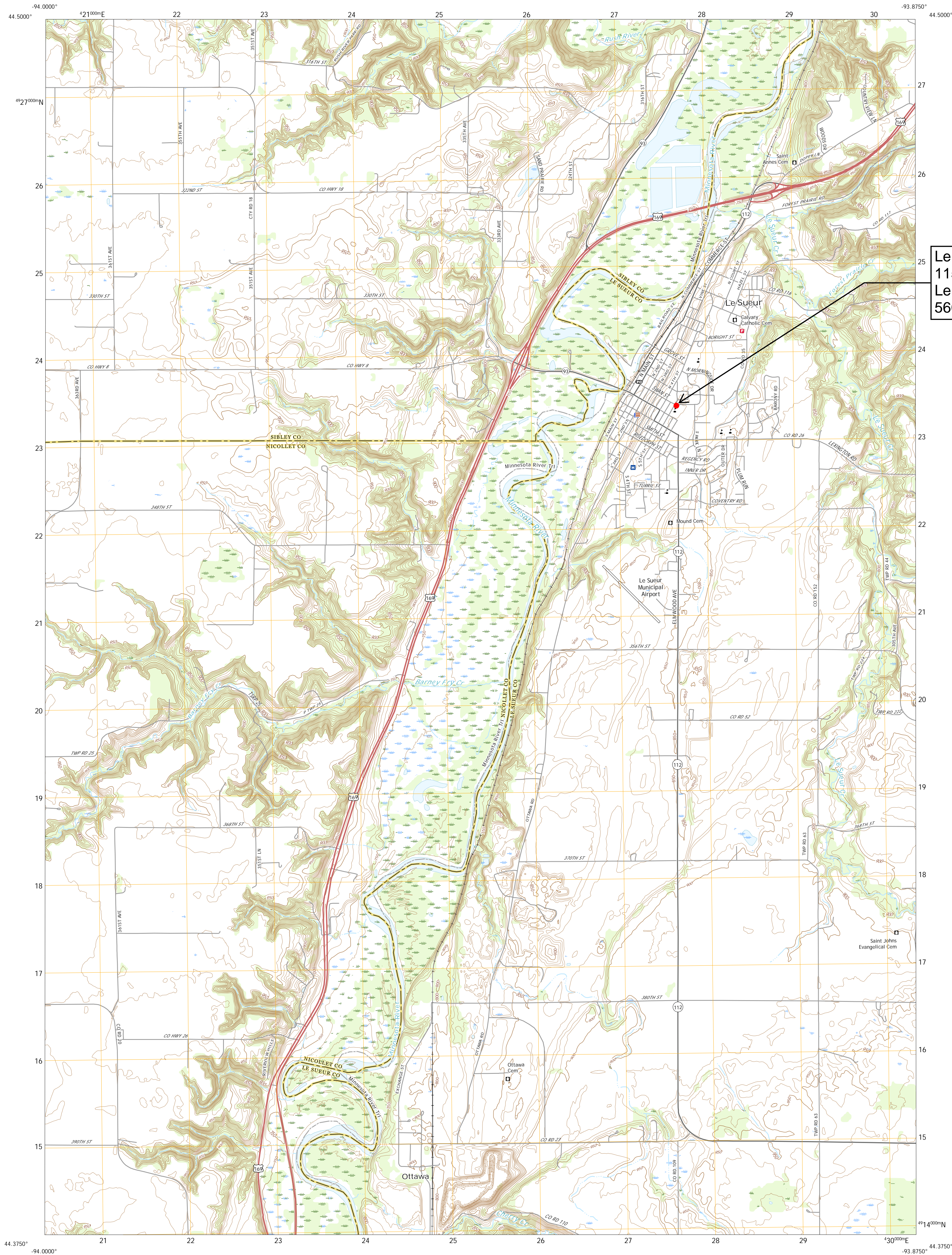
Le Sueur Public School
Lower and Second Level Photo Keys



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

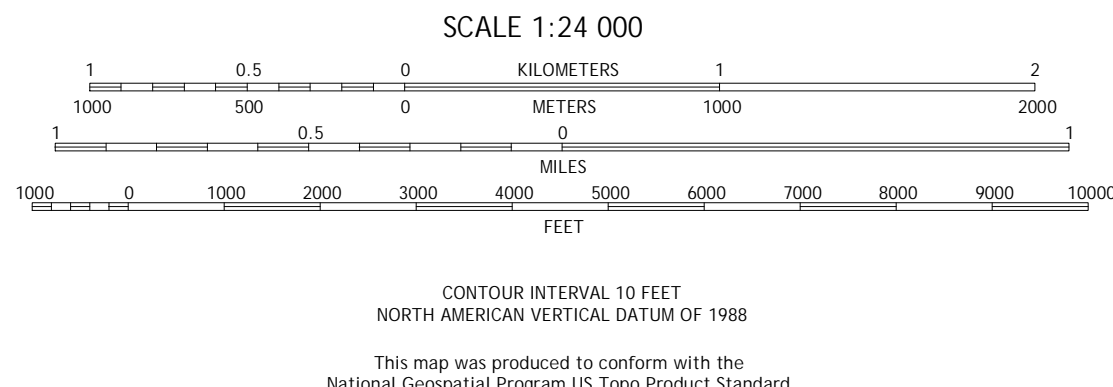
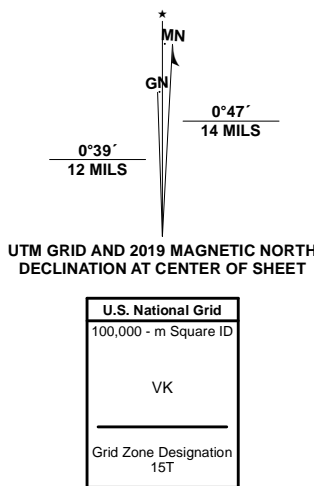


Le Sueur Public School
First Level Photo Key



Le Sueur Public School
115 5th Street North
Le Sueur, Minnesota
56058

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1 000-meter grid/Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15T
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.
Imagery.....NAIP, August 2017 - November 2017
Roads.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2016
Names.....GNIS, 1980 - 2021
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2003 - 2019
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2016
Boundaries.....Multiple sources: see metadata file 2019, 2021
Public Land Survey System.....BLM, 2020
Wetlands.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 2010 - 2011



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Arlington
2 Henderson
3 Belle Plaine South
4 Horseland
5 Saint Thomas
6 North Star
7 Saint Peter
8 Cleveland

