

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Emerson, Ralph Waldo, School

other name/site number: n/a

2. Location

street & number: 5415 Page Boulevard

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Louis

vicinity: N/A

state: Missouri county: Independent City code: 510 zip code: 63112

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - local

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: St. Louis, Missouri Public Schools of William B. Ittner

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date 16 July 1992

Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet. _____

___ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____

___ See continuation sheet. _____
___ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____

___ removed from the National Register _____

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____ Date _____
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION _____ Sub: school _____

Current : EDUCATION _____ Sub: school _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Tudor Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE/limestone roof STONE/slate
walls BRICK other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1901

Significant Dates : 1901 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ittner, William Butts

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately one and one-half acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>736880</u>	<u>4282840</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Cynthia Hill Longwisch, Research Associate

Organization: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. Date: 4/19/90

Street & Number: 917 Locust 7th Floor Telephone: 314-421-6474

City or Town: St. Louis State: MO ZIP: 63101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 1

SUMMARY: Ralph Waldo Emerson School is located at 5415 Page in St. Louis, Missouri. William B. Ittner designed the Tudor Revival style school in 1901; it occupies half of City Block 3801E. An example of Ittner's attempt to formulate a successful "open" floorplan using a corridor with one exterior wall, the Emerson School meets the registration requirements for the E ("Open")-Plan Elementary Schools property type. Limestone trim and a slate roof distinguish the school, which also features decorative brickwork. The building is in good condition with few alterations and retains a high degree of integrity. The two-story school is built above grade with a landscaped lawn enclosed by an original iron fence; many of the plantings appear to be original and the lawn is well maintained. Emerson School is located on a busy multilane thoroughfare in an area of mixed residential and commercial use. A one-story c. 1960s rear addition extends from the west wing of the school; its presence is quite unobtrusive and neither obscures much of the school nor entailed a major alteration to it.

NARRATIVE: Emerson School features two stories and an attic; a high foundation of quarry-faced ashlar limestone features stone-linteled basement windows (some bricked in) and is topped by a stone water table. The site slopes downhill to the east and north, exposing most of the foundation at the east end of the rear addition. A stepped limestone retaining wall visually divides the front lawn from this rear exposed section. Brown brick walls are laid in Flemish double-stretcher bond with cull headers in alternating courses, creating a tapestrylike effect. A cross-gabled grey slate roof is crowned with red clay ridge tile. The school is distinguished by extensive stone trim. All front and side elevation windows have stone surrounds, the smaller ones having ogee arches. Most of the classroom windows are four-over-four, double-hung wood sash grouped in units of five. The notable exceptions are those shorter windows, particularly in the gable ends of the wings, built above blackboards. These occur singly or in pairs and have stone surrounds with ogee arches. The center gable of the primary elevation and the side-facing gables have decoratively carved wooden bargeboards and curving brackets. The remaining gables have stone coping and a three-window unit with stone lintel course. Non-gable eaves overhang and feature exposed, profiled rafter ends. A first-floor bay window unit with stone surround and quoining projects from the center wing on the primary elevation. The stone-surrounded entrance is beside the center wing in the body of the building. Access is gained by a flight of steps flanked by ashlar limestone walls that extend from the foundation.

The rear of Emerson School, the spine of the "E," is fifteen bays across. Stone-coped gables are formed by the wings at either end. This elevation lacks the lavish stone trim and other detailing of the front of the school. Most of the windows are paired, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash. A row

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 2

of tiny, three-paned, sideways-sliding windows provide light and ventilation to the attic story of the center block of the building. A short chimney rises from the center of the rear elevation. A low, one-story c. 1960s addition to the school extends toward the rear alley from the end of the west wing. This brick, flat-roofed building has overhanging eaves; its lower half is decoratively laid with headers punched out from the flush surface for a knobby effect. Because of the slope of the property, the addition is located at the high foundation of the school, somewhat below street grade. It obscures little of the school's basically unornamented rear elevation; while it is not desirable, it is not excessively obtrusive.

The exterior of Emerson School, while in need of trim paint, is in good condition. Some tuckpointing has been executed in some of the gable ends, causing sections to appear lighter. This does not compromise the integrity of the building. The main alteration is that some of the basement windows have been infilled with brick. Otherwise, the building appears to remain very much as built.

The front lawn of the school slopes down to the sidewalks. Several mature oaks and other deciduous trees shade the school, and the grounds are dotted with several species of evergreen trees and shrubs. Although no historical photo was available to compare, the landscaping is consistent with Ittner's ideas; the mature trees and evergreens are almost certainly original plantings that maintain the integrity of the grounds. The rear grounds of the school are asphalted to provide a play area, also consistent with Ittner's policies.

Interior trim and materials are mostly intact; the primary exceptions are interior replacement doors and acoustical tile in classroom ceilings. Hardwood floors in hallways and classrooms are trimmed with pink marble baseboards. Oak door trim remains, as do oak stair rails and picture molding. Emerson has the most architecturally interesting interior detailing of the early Ittner schools. All interior openings are ogee-arched: transoms over doors open under blind ogee arches; ogee arches lead to stairways and wings; and classrooms have tiny, ogee-arched, oak casement windows high in interior walls to allow light in from hallways. Some hallway windows are diamond-paned, double-hung sash. The entrance surround of the kindergarten is of clear leaded glass with a center medallion etched with the letter E. Probably the most unusual feature is the tunnellike ogee-arched vaulted foyer of the westernmost of the main entrances; green vitreous brick up to shoulder height gives way to brown brick above. It is completed by a marble floor. The classroom, office and other spaces are being used as shown in the original plans (Figure 1). The interior of Emerson school is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity despite replacement elements mentioned above.

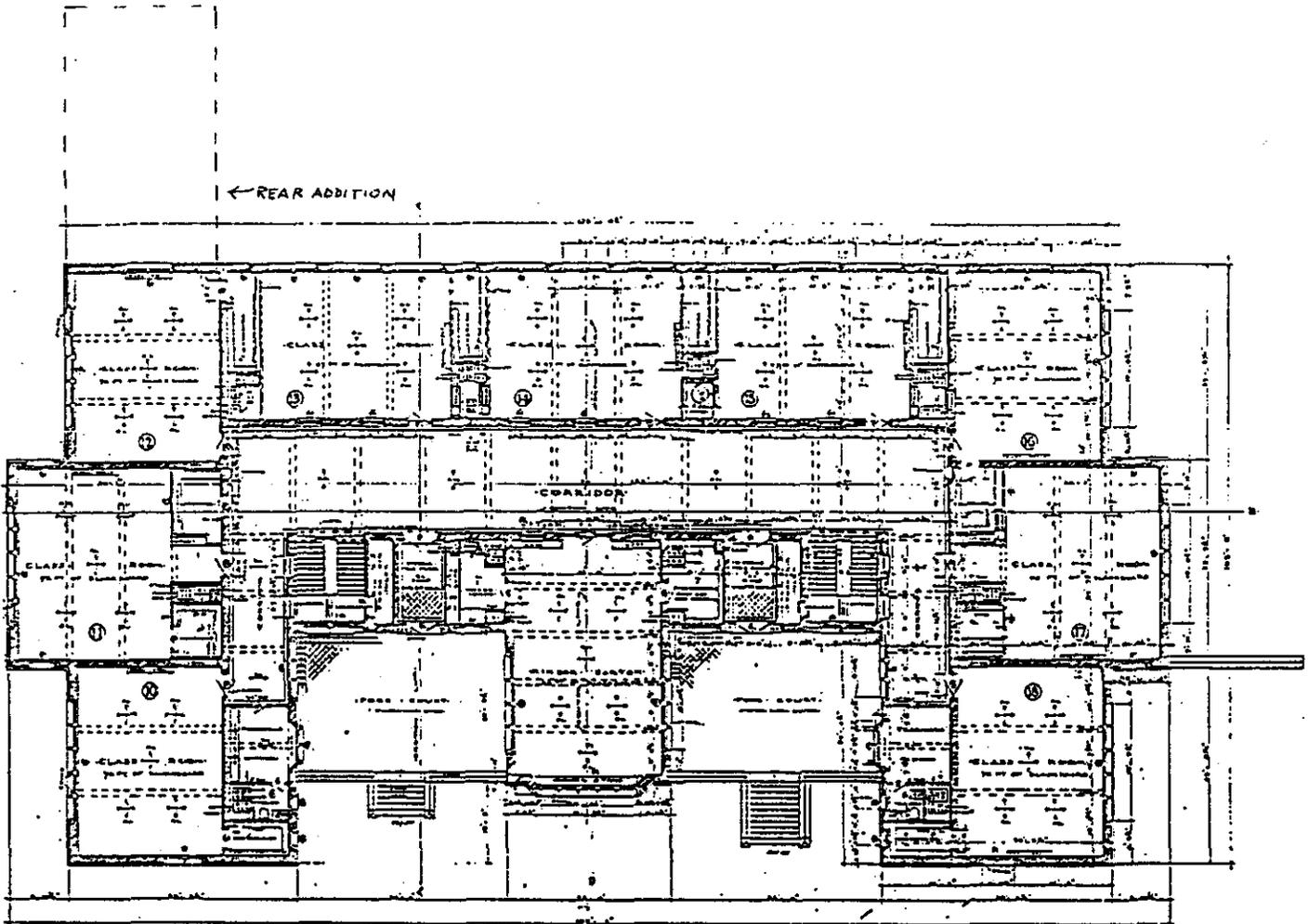
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 3



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

---	WALL
---	DOOR
---	STAIR
---	...
---	...

First Floor Plan, Emerson School, 1901 (St. Louis Board of Education).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 1

SUMMARY: The Ralph Waldo Emerson School, 5415 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, is significant under Criterion C for its architecture and architect. William B. Ittner, F.A.I.A., St. Louis architect and Commissioner of School Buildings for the Board of Education, designed this Tudor Revival school in 1901. An example of the E ("Open")-Plan Elementary School property type, its slightly modified E plan is a classic example of Ittner's evolving school design theory (see "St. Louis, Missouri, Public Schools of William B. Ittner" MPS).

NARRATIVE: Emerson School, named for poet/essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), was built by Hiram Lloyd. Lloyd, a member of the Master Builders' Association, built the school for \$122,392; the school's building permit was issued in July, 1901.

Using an extended E shape, Ittner fully realized the "open plan" concept in Emerson School, his third school designed to that plan. Corridors have classrooms on one side only to provide diffused sunlight to the side of the rooms not directly lit by natural light. Wings extend south from the center block to receive exposure from three sides; rooms lining the north (rear) elevation of the school feature special corridor windows to enable teachers to take advantage of sunlight entering south-facing windows opposite their classrooms. The result of this plan is that the interior throughout the school is quite bright from natural light alone, certainly a primary Ittner goal.

Virtually every element of the exterior of Emerson School is embellished with Jacobethan detailing. Fine stonework ornaments each of the many windows on the primary and side elevations. A great attention to detail was lavished on this school, making it an outstanding example of Ittner's Jacobethan interpretation.

The siting of this school is fortuitous; the large, sloping lot provided landscaping opportunities and plenty of rear playground space, additionally accomodating a large school building without feeling cramped. Mature deciduous trees, original plantings, grace the property at intervals; the lawn is rolling, providing visual interest; evergreens of varying sizes soften the lines of the school; and the whole is given a slightly formal note with the additions of an iron fence and limestone walls flanking the front steps and defining the side yard. The green space in front of the school serves as a buffer between the building and busy, multilane Page Boulevard, and the paved playground is safely tucked behind the school to eliminate visual impact. The grounds are in very good condition and appear to be much as originally designed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 2

Emerson School has been in continuous use as an elementary school since it opened. It is very well maintained. The school's primary alteration is the addition of a c. 1960s long, narrow, one-story rear addition constructed perpendicular to the axis of the original school (Photo #15). This building, visually almost below grade, obscures very little of the rear view of the school (from the west only) and does not compromise the integrity of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 1

"Facts Concerning One Hundred Years of Progress in the Public Schools of St. Louis," Public School Messenger 35. St. Louis: St. Louis Board of Education, 1938.

Ittner, Marie Anderson. Footprints. St. Louis: John S. Swift, 1955.

_____. "William B. Ittner: His Service to American School Architecture," American School Board Journal (January 1941)>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description: Emerson School is located at 5415 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, and occupies approximately the south half of City Block 3801E, City of St. Louis, as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the west right-of-way of Arlington Avenue and the south property line of 1331 Arlington Avenue, proceed westwardly along said property line to the east right-of-way of Semple Avenue; then proceed southwardly along the right-of-way of Semple Avenue to its intersection with the north right-of-way of Page Boulevard; then proceed eastwardly along the right-of-way of Page Boulevard to its intersection with the west right-of-way of Arlington Avenue; then proceed northwardly along the right-of-way of Arlington Avenue to the south property line of 1331 Arlington Avenue, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries described above encompass that portion of the city lot which has been historically associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs

Ralph Waldo Emerson School

Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Ralph Waldo Emerson School
5415 Page
2. St. Louis [Independent City], MO
3. Cynthia Longwisch
4. April 1990
5. Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.
7th floor, 917 Locust
St. Louis, MO 63101

Photograph #1: Primary elevation; camera facing northwest

Photograph #2: Rear elevation; camera facing southeast

Photographs were renumbered to #1 and #2 on the Ittner Schools nominations prior to sending to Washington, B.C. Copies of photographs sent to Washington, D.C are filed behind the nomination in front of HPP's set of photographs.



ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF WILLIAM
B. ITNER

4283 Eugene Field School,
4466 Olive,
St. Louis, mo
ZONE 15
EASTING 738970
NORTHING 4281020

4282 Ralph Waldo
Emerson School,
5415 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, mo
ZONE 15
EASTING 736880
NORTHING 4282840

EUGENE
FIELD
SCHOOL
4281



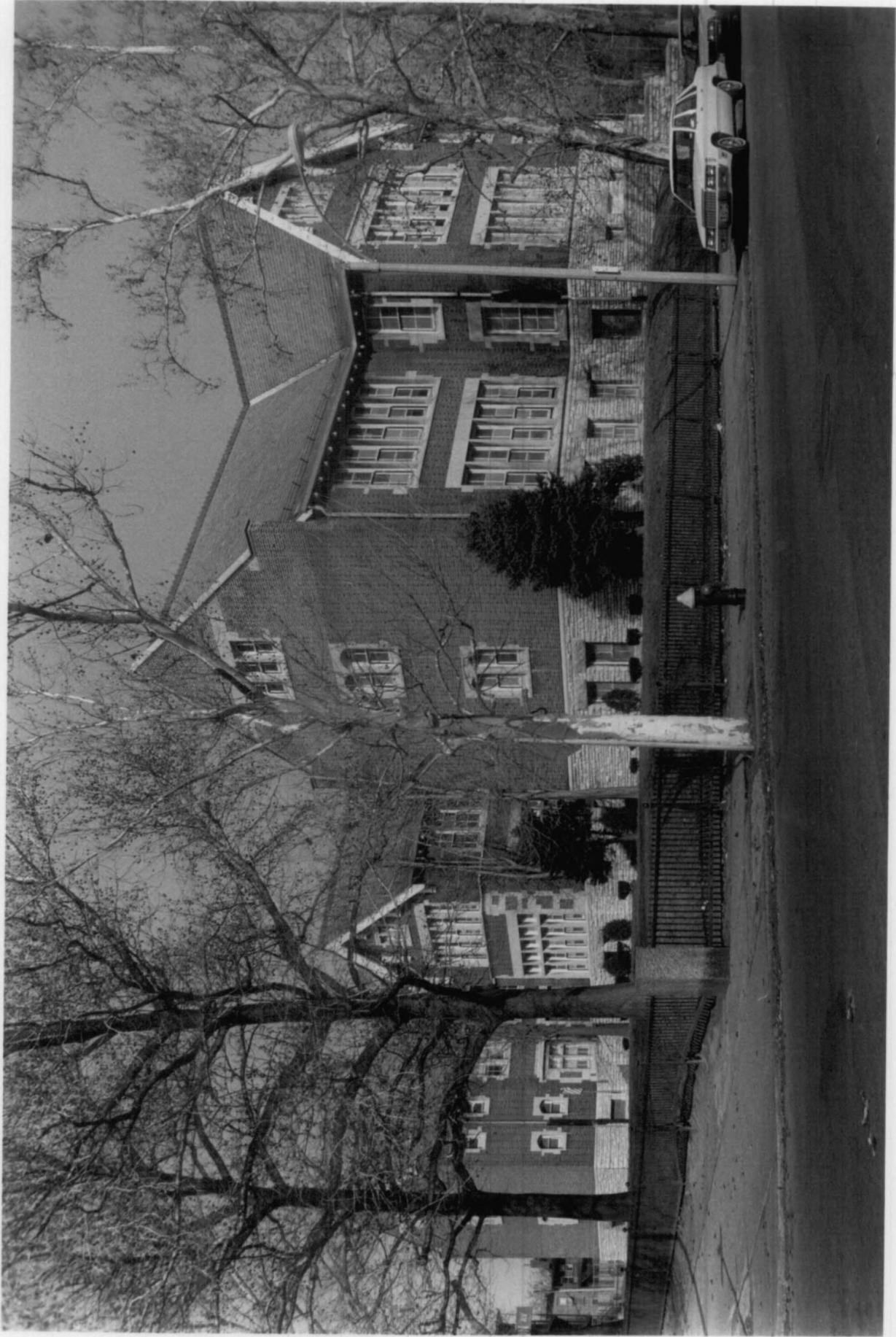
4280
4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 70
4279000m. N.

38°37'30"



#15

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF WILLIAM B. FITZNER
RALPH WALDO EMERSON SCHOOL, 5415 PAGE BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO
REAR ELEVATION, SCHOOL & PRIMARY ELEVATION, ADDITION; CAMERA FACING SOUTHEAST



#14

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF WILLIAM B. ITTNER
RALPH WALDO EMERSON SCHOOL, 5415 PAGE BLD., ST. LOUIS, MO
PRIMARY ELEVATION; CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST