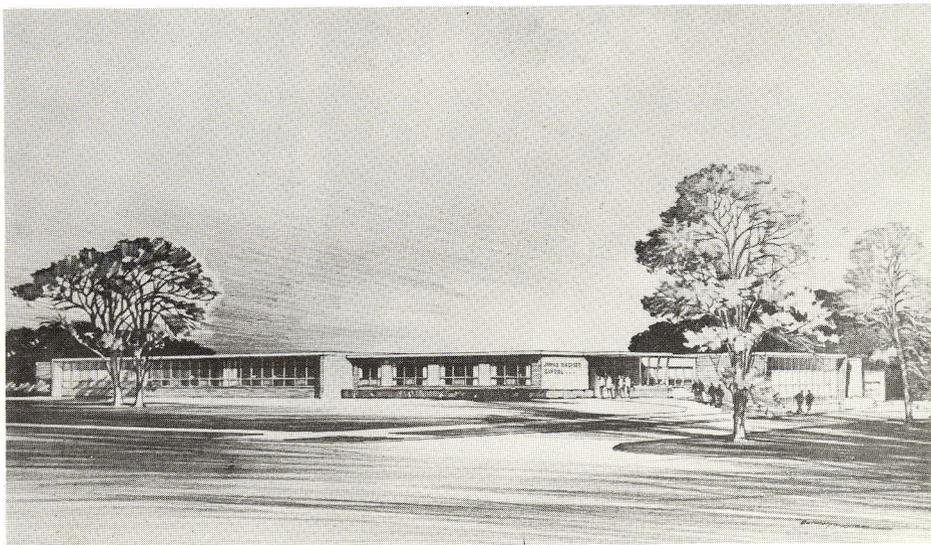


1872

Madison SCHOOL HISTORY
MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN



1955

A History of the Madison School

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

by

Mc Kinley School Junior Historians
Pupils of Jos. J. Rappel's Sixth Grade

Board of Education Members

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Madison School History

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Old-timers of our city in reminiscing about the Northside School mention the Second Ward School, the Park School and the Northside High School. To us "youngsters" this is a bit confusing since they seem to be referring to three different school buildings and grounds. The fact of the matter is that there was just one school---the one located between Sixth and Seventh Streets on State.

The first "Madison" school district originally consisted of the entire Manitowoc township. It was set up as a school district by the County Commissioners of County Schools and was called the Mill School District No. 2. In 1852, the area north of the Manitowoc River became Manitowoc Joint School District No. 1.

When Manitowoc became a city in 1870, the Northside area became the Second Ward and so the present Madison School was called the "Second Ward School." This school was always located next to Union Park and therefore was often referred to as the "Park School." Before the days of a centralized high school, before 1910, each city school district had its own high school. Thus this school was also very commonly known as the Northside High School, even though the grade children went to this school also.

The very first school started in our county in the Winter of 1837-1838 was located in Manitowoc. It was a private school and the teacher's salary was paid by the parents having children in school. A Mr. S. M. Peake was the first teacher. School was held in the Jones' warehouse at the corner of Sixth and Commercial Streets. School was in session only during the winter months.

---County's First Schoolhouse---

The first schoolhouse built in Manitowoc County was built in 1839 on the present Madison school grounds. It was a small private school building and stood facing Sixth Street. There were only twelve pupils attending the first winter. This school was taught by S. M. Peake and all costs of running the school were paid by the parents.

The Madison School grounds between Sixth and Seventh Streets on State Street was laid out as a part of the original Manitowoc plot in 1837 by William Jones, Levi Beardsley and others according to Records of Deeds, Vol. B, pp. 133-134 on file in the Register of Deeds office. This "Record" shows that that area was set aside as a "Common School" ground in 1837. At the same time the Union Park area was set aside as a future park.

It was not until 1844 that the Manitowoc area was officially set up as a common school district, known as District No. 2, the Mill School District. That was the time when all of our county was divided into three school districts by the County School Commissioners. In 1847, it became District No. 1, Manitowoc.

By 1847, too, Manitowoc was becoming a bigger village. The first little frame school was becoming over-crowded. In 1848 the state Legislature gave the district the power to levy a tax of \$350.00 for a new schoolhouse. The money was raised and in 1849, a two story frame building was erected facing North Seventh Street.

---Two Schoolhouses Sold---

Two frame school buildings stood on the present Madison School grounds from 1849 to 1873 when the present three story, brick Schoolhouse was built.

Then the two frame buildings were auctioned off to the highest bidders. We found this notice in the Manitowoc Pilot, Vol. 14, No. 49 about the auction: -----two schoolhouses for sale, both on school grounds, one facing 6th Street and the other, the larger one, fronting on 7th street will be sold to the highest bidder at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Thursday, July 10th, 1873. Terms of sale: Cash.

Dated the 29th day of June, 1873.

John Lantry, District Clerk

The small frame schoolhouse, built in 1839, was auctioned off to the First Lutheran Church parish and moved to the church grounds, corner Eighth and State Streets by August, 1873. No record was found as to the price paid for the building. The First Lutheran Church records show that they used the old school for "church purposes." Very likely these "purposes" were for a parochial school.

This second location for the first schoolhouse built in our county was not the last. In 1920, the Jewish people of Manitowoc, desiring a church building of their own, purchased the little frame school building from the First Lutheran Congregation for the sum of \$100.00. They moved it across the Manitowoc River on a scow to its final site at 1221 South 13th Street. Members of the congregation remodelled the frame schoolhouse into a synagogue. In 1925 it was torn down to make room for the new brick building erected on the site. Thus after two journeys and 86 years of varied uses, the first county school building became only a memory.

---Second Schoolhouse More Modern---

The second frame schoolhouse built in 1849 on the present Madison School grounds was a two story frame building. This was the first graded school set up in our county. A map of the city published in 1868 has a picture of this schoolhouse. The picture shows two front entrances with many narrow, high windows on each side, both downstairs and upstairs. The building was about 30 x 50 feet. It had a belfry which a storm tore off in 1859 and dropped in the nearby park. It was then discovered that the belfry had never been really well-fastened to the roof.

The two schoolhouses had none of our modern conveniences. Two large outdoor toilet buildings were located between them. Large wood stoves heated the schoolrooms. Neither school building had a basement. The pump furnished drinking water distributed by a common dipper. Lamps were lighted whenever there were programs or community affairs in the evening. Home-made desks were replaced by patented double desks and blackboards were hardly more than "black" boards.

The two story frame school building erected in 1849 was sold to the highest bidder at the auction on July 10, 1873. No written records could be found stating who bought the building and how much was paid for it. Our appeals for information about the disposal of this building finally brought this unofficial oral statement from Edwin Krejcie whose father owned and operated one of the first auto repair shops in Manitowoc on Commercial Street, between Eighth and Ninth Streets:

"Captain Carus, a well-known lake captain, in his retirement days, often visited my father at his shop and talked about the early days of Manitowoc. He usually pointed his cane across the street to the present Glenn Inn and said, 'There stands the old Northside High School.' The outside appearances have changed, it is true, but that's because the building has been bricked and false fronts have been erected. A close examination of the exterior shows many features of the old school remaining." We, the Junior Historians, hope that this information may be officially confirmed some day."

---Present Madison School Erected---

The present three-story brick Madison School was erected during the years of 1872 and 1873. Building contracts stated that the school was to be ready by early 1873. The contract to build the school was let to Mr. Windiate, the owner of the well-known Windiate Hotel in Manitowoc, for the sum of \$30,000. Through some oversight that sum did not cover the cost of completing the third story. That oversight caused much wrangling and hard feelings throughout the district.

The cornerstone of this magnificent school was laid in August, 1872. The ceremony was preceded by a parade from the Court House Square to the school grounds. There was an eloquent speech by James Anderson of the local Masonic Lodge, one in German by Hubert Falge, and one in Bohemian by Frank Hess. The dedication exercises were attended by neighboring Masonic Lodge members, the members of the fire department, and the Sons of Herman.

The order of parade from the Court House was as follows:

Local Manitowoc Band
Badger Fire Engine No. 1
Town Officers
Mayor and Common Council Members
School and City Officials
County Board of Supervisors Members
County Officers
Members of the Bar
Sons of Herman
Odd Fellow Lodge Members
Members of Bohemian Education Society
Scandinavian Society Members
Members of Masonic Lodge

The Rev. F. R. Haff gave the Invocation.

Mr. Windiate completed the building, except for the third floor, by the time school opened in September 1873. The Manitowoc Pilot of November 14, 1872, states among other things that "there will be few buildings in our state which will be constructed in such a thorough manner when completed." The new school was opened with a community celebration on September 8th, 1873. The school board felt that the children should be made to realize that the building was built for their special benefit. The ladies of the district arranged a Pic Nic for the afternoon of the 8th.

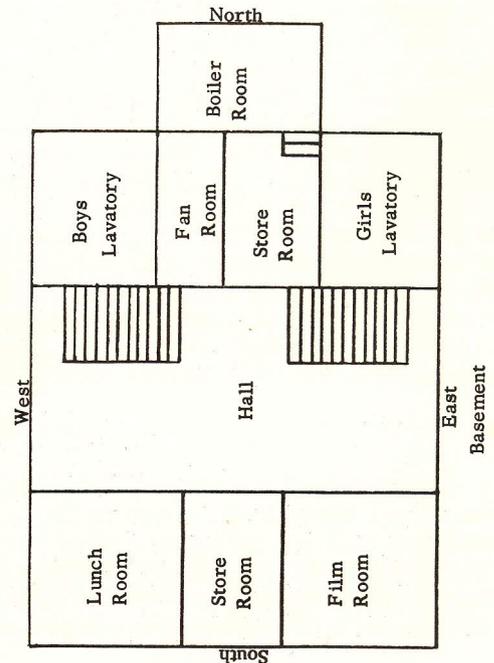
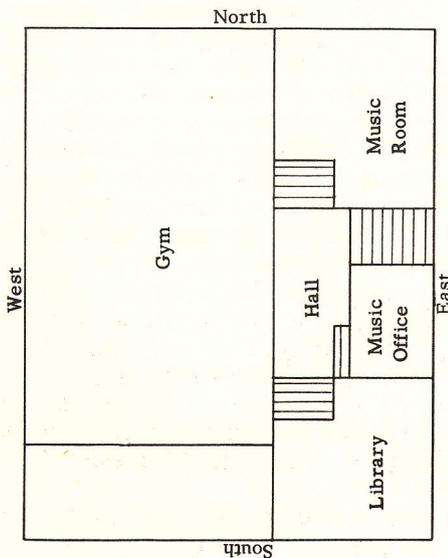
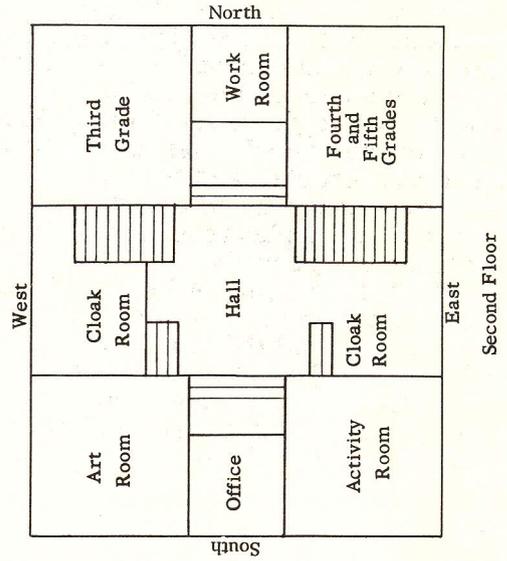
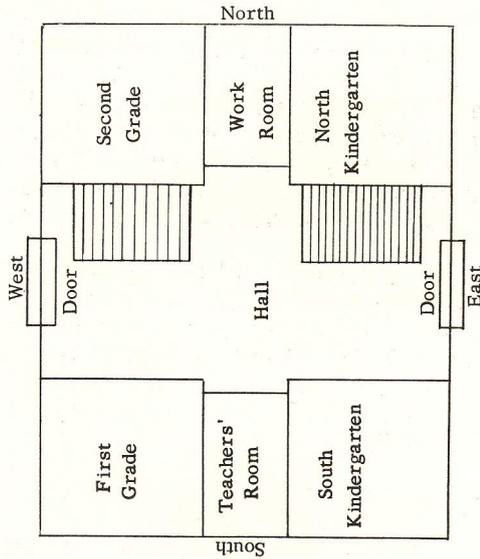
All patrons of the school were invited to attend the opening to listen to an address "befitting the occasion of dedicating this magnificent temple of learning." The school board urged a large turnout at half past one at the Park adjoining the school grounds. A procession formed there and marched to the school to listen to an address given by Supt. Michael Kirwan. After that all present enjoyed a big community picnic. The first principal of the new school was I. N. Steward.

---New Schoolhouse Commodious---

The present Madison School was a well-built, three-story structure, but it had none of the present day conveniences. Outdoor toilets were still the rule as there were few indoor lavatories even in the best homes. "Black" boards, kerosene lamps, double desks, and pump and common dipper were considered modern in 1873. It was not until the early 1900's that modern plumbing and school equipment were installed.

The school is three stories high plus a full basement. The building is 84 1/2 feet long and 66 1/2 feet wide. The schoolrooms have an average height of 14 1/2 feet. A large bell tower housed the school bell which called the students to their classes for many years until an electric bell system was installed. The building has three entrances---one to the east, one to the south and one to the west. There are four classrooms on the first floor, four classrooms and a small office on the second floor, and two classrooms and a large assembly room on the third floor. This assembly room was the central room for the high school students when the school served as a Northside High. Today this room is used as a gymnasium-auditorium.

FLOOR PLANS



---Further Additions and Improvements---

The new brick schoolhouse, with its unfinished third floor, had hardly opened its doors when a movement was started to finish and use that part of the new building. Special meetings were held during 1873 to raise more money to complete the third floor. One meeting held in May of that year resulted in the voters voting "nary a cent to finish the third story of the magnificent school." The Manitowoc Pilot of May 14, 1874, has a notice to contractors for bids to complete the unfinished part of the building. The notice was signed by Clerk John Lantry, Treasurer Chas. Luling, and Director L. J. Nash. Finally at the annual school meeting held on July 16, 1874 the electors voted the sum of \$4,220 to finish and furnish the third floor. No record was found as to who got the contract and when the job was completed.

Records from the Manitowoc Pilot show that the voters of the district were always interested in maintaining a good school building and grounds. As early as 1860, suggestions were offered to enclose the site with a suitable fence, to grass over the grounds, and to plant fine shade trees. Pictures of the school taken in the 1870's and 1880's show that a fine wooden fence was erected and that the shade trees were quite large and full-grown. Both the wooden fence and the trees were removed in the 1900's to make way for better playground facilities. An approved woven wire fence now encloses the grounds.

With the coming of indoor plumbing, the unsightly and unsanitary outdoor toilets were removed. Electric lights were installed and slate blackboards replaced the "black" boards. Single, adjustable desks and seats took the place of the scarred and initialed double desks which served several generations. Coat upon coat of paint was put upon the walls and ceilings to keep the rooms cheery and attractive. An electric fire alarm system was installed by the Buerstatte Company in 1902.

---First Teachers and Principals Listed---

The first teacher in the new settlement begun by Jones was S. M. Peake who taught his first classes in the Jones' warehouse. When the small frame schoolhouse was built in 1839, some of the first teachers were S. M. Peake, Louise Dunham, a Mr. W. Waldo, J. W. Walker, and Joseph Vilas. One of the first principals in the new two story structure built in 1849 was Joseph Vilas. He was succeeded in 1856 by O. R. Bacon who stayed until 1862 when he entered the Union army as paymaster. By 1860 Principal Bacon had two assistant teachers---a Miss Butler and a Miss Norris.

About that time there was some talk about enlarging the school accommodations by using the vacant one room school building, still on the site. This was never done, but the first schoolhouse was used shortly thereafter for added rooms. In looking over the teaching personnel list for this school for the 1860's and early 1870's, we found that the list always mentioned the East Building and the West Building teachers.

School news articles in the Manitowoc Pilot of that era were carefully scanned for information about the Northside or Park School during the years prior to the building of the new brick schoolhouse. One item stated that by 1866 the Northside school was so crowded that the primary department was divided and taught by Mary Shove and C. M. Barnes in two private homes on North Sixth Street. Schoolrooms in private homes continued, very likely, until the new building was finished because by 1872 there were 415 pupils enrolled!

During the later Civil War years, the Park School was in charge of the Misses Warbass, Burrit, Squires, and Burnett. It is impossible to list all of the teachers who taught at the Park School, but it might be of

interest to know who the teachers were when the present building was ready for school purposes. They were:

Prin. I. N. Stewart: Ass't. Emma Guyles
Grammar grades: Prin. Sarah Burnett, Josie Young
Intermediate: Prin. Mary Stewart, Ella Sackett
Primary (East Bldg.): Fannie O'Connor, Annie Nagel
Primary (West Bldg.): Gertie Sibree

---Later Park School Principals---

It was not until the school year 1867-68 that a man was again appointed as principal when O. H. Martin was hired. The complete list of principals for this school from that year on was made by the Junior Historians. Names and dates were carefully checked to avoid errors. The list and dates of service as compiled is as follows:

1868-69 D. F. Brainerd
1869-71 J. F. A. Greene
1872-74 I. N. Stewart
1874-77 Hosea Barnes
1877-79 J. P. Briggs
1880-81 Prof. Mc Mahon
1881-83 J. M. Rait
1883-90 E. R. Smith (Later Co. Supt.)
1890-92 C. Freidel (Had one arm)
1892-1902 H. J. Evans
1902-1910 Paul G. Kellar
1910 -11 Estelle Armstrong
1911-14 Matena Tollefson
1914-16 H. P. Miller
1916-17 Carroll F. E. Nelson
1917-1921 E. R. Ellian
1921-28 C. H. Matravers
1928-31 R. C. Warburton
1931-45 Laura Roepke
1945-47 Wilbert Taylor
1947- Eugen Krejcarek

---Building Uses Varied---

The Park School buildings were the community gathering places for Northside community affairs. Way back in the early 1850's the school house served as a church building for several of the denominations which built church edifices later on at Eighth and State Streets. This was particularly true of the First Lutheran and of the Episcopal congregations.

The Pilot of 1874, Vol. XV No. 52 had an article stating that the School Board granted the use of the new school to St. James Congregation for worship services on Sundays.

One of the first county teachers' organizations was called to meet in September of 1872 in the Park School. The purpose of the organization was to promote bi-monthly meetings for city and county teachers. This meeting was called to order by C. F. Viebahn who was later elected president with W. A. Walker as vice president and Emma Guyles as secretary.

There seems to be reason to believe that advanced courses above the eighth grade were being offered as early as 1872-73. The faculty at that time had teachers who were not teaching the grades as in the case of the principal and assistant principal. It was not until the year 1879 that a full, state approved high school course was begun. The first Northside

High School graduation was held in the spring of 1881. The members of the first graduating class were: Misses Dell A. Shove, Alice W. Emery and Mr. John F. Sims. Miss Mary Nelson took part in the exercises as she was the first pupil of the school to complete the prescribed course, graduating in 1876. Miss Dell A. Shove's salutary address was on "Voices". Miss Emery discussed "Sleep" and valedictorian, John Sims, chose to discuss "Oliver Goldsmith".

A combination grade-high school set-up was maintained until Manitowoc voted for a central high school system. Then the Park School became a grade school enrolling pupils from kindergarten through the eighth grades beginning in 1910. In the fall of 1923 Manitowoc instituted the junior high school system. Since there were no junior high buildings, the old Northside High building was used to house the northside seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in addition to kindergarten to sixth grades inclusive for the Madison School area. This set-up continued until the Woodrow Wilson building was ready for the junior high school students in 1931. After that year the school enrolled children up to and including grade six until the school year 1951-52 when the sixth grade was transferred to the Mc Kinley School. The next school year both the fifth and sixth grades were combined with the Mc Kinley grades.

---Interesting Sidelights---

Many interesting incidents were noted as we carried on our study of the history of the Madison School. An "old-timer" informed us that in the later 1800's the boys and girls had separate playground space. The boys usually played in the Park. There was also a bob-sled slide which was very popular during the winter months.

High school graduation exercises were held in the Opera House after that building was erected and when the graduation classes were large.

F. S. Hyer of Rhinelander, who later became the first principal of the Manitowoc County Teachers' Training School, was engaged to serve as principal of the Northside High for 1900-1901. District opposition to the Board's action in refusing to rehire H. J. Evans caused Mr. Hyer to turn in his contract.

An annual report submitted by Principal Barnes in 1874 indicated an enrollment of 755 and an average daily attendance of 509.

School terms as far back as the 1870's were for ten months, the same term as we now have.

School attendance as far back as 1860 was far from satisfactory according to an editorial in the Pilot. The editorial stated that we had good schools, competent teachers but parents were neglecting to send children to school. "Playing on streets leads to vice and becoming candidates for jails and prisons," stated the editor.

Several instances were found in which school was closed for a week or two at a time because of the prevalence of some contagious disease.

Principal I. N. Steward was elected president of the Wisconsin Teachers' Association in 1881 and was the author of several educational books and articles.

Principal Hosea Barnes became a Baptist minister in later life.

It was not until 1856 that the first school on the southside of the river was opened under the direction of Dr. A. C. Gibson.

The growth of the Northside resulted in a second school site in 1892 at the corner of 10th and Huron and the building of the Luling School to relieve over-crowding at Madison School.

The old "Park School" was officially designated the Madison School by order of the Board of Education in 1916.

The entire Northside district was under the County School System

until 1910 when Manitowoc adopted the city School System.

Fire escapes were first installed in 1908.

---Private School Established---

Contacts with "old-timers" brought out the information that a private school was in session each year during the 1850's and 1860's. This school was held in the present H. C. Madson house located at 625 N. Sixth Street. Mrs. Madson reports that an examination of their attic shows evidences of a belfry having been attached to the roof at one time. Our research uncovered Pilot articles about this private school but since these do not pertain to our research topic no further mention will be made about them.

A study of the newspaper files gave us the names of many influential citizens who served as school board members, but since this can not be complete, it was deemed wise to list none of them. This project we leave for future historians to carry out. We, the undersigned, Mc Kinley Junior Historians of 1952-1953, hope that our efforts in assembling the Madison School history have recorded pertinent information about the first 117 years of this district.

---Mc Kinley Junior Historian Members---

Anderson, Vernon
Borcherdt, Robert
Brandt, David
Brown, Barbara
Carbon, David
Driscoll, Susan
Duchon, Rita
Duebner, Kathleen
Frick, William
Gulseth, Thomas
Johnson, Wayne
Klopfer, Richard
Koritzinsky, Allan
Madson, Jack
Meisnest, Marilee
Meyer, Judith

Moderhack, Raymond
Neumann, George
Prickett, Scott
Purdy, Ann
Radandt, Patsy
Rockey, James
Rower, Neil
Schmiedicke, Sue
Shaw, Robert
Sherman, Diana
Thompson, Jean
Timmers, Caryl
Troullier, Dorothy
Wiesman, Bonnie
Wilda, Dianne
Zima, Mathew

---Addenda---

The foregoing history of the old Madison School was written to include, in brief, the important events and facts of the school from 1836 to 1953. Since a new school building has replaced the structure built in 1872, it is evident that additional historical facts up to dedication day, May 20, 1956, must be recorded to complete its history up to that period. These additional facts were gathered by Principal Eugene Krejcarek and Joseph J. Rappel.

A structure built in 1870's can not meet the standards set up by seventy-five years of progress in all phases of modern living. Even though the Madison School was "one of the outstanding school buildings in the state" in 1873, it had served its purpose and usefulness by mid-twentieth century, and dissatisfaction with the building and its accommodations was heard from time to time.

It was not until the fall of 1953, though, that an organized movement began to ensure either the "modernization of the antiquated three story structure or the building of a modern school on a larger school site". This movement was backed by the newly organized Madison School Club during

American Education Week. A panel, consisting of Mrs. Karl Huebner, Mrs. George Platt, Mr. Elmer Ross, and Rev. Roland Schwandt, presented definite reasons why a new school and a new location were desirable. The old building was described as a fire trap and lacking in present day standards in lighting, safety and recreational and educational facilities. (Copies of these papers are on file in the new school.)

---Petitions Demand New School---

A second meeting of the P. T. A. group on December 2, 1953 resulted in petitions to the Board of Education and to the Council for a new school building by the fall of 1954. These petitions were taken up by the Board of Education December 8th. Some sentiment was expressed that the Madison School "can continue in use even though facilities are wholly inadequate" because of the more pressing school problems in other areas of the city.

On Tuesday, January 5, 1954, an amended petition from the Madison parents asked for a "new building by the fall of 1954 or as soon as speedy construction permits". In this amended petition the shortcomings of the old Madison School were listed. This petition was placed on file at the Board office and used in the superintendent's long range study of Manitowoc school problems. (See Herald-Times, January 5, 1954 issue)

The active interest of the parents in improving building conditions resulted in several surveys being instituted to determine the feasibility of remodeling the old Madison School building. One survey was made jointly by the Industrial Commission and the State Department of Education. The other one was made by a private firm upon appropriation of \$200 by the Board of Education for an architectural engineer's report. The State Department of Public Instruction inspection report was filed with the Board on December 18, 1953 and is on file in the new Madison School office. This report recommended the abandonment of the school and site. The private firm made practically the same recommendation to the Board.

Members of the Manitowoc City Council and the Board of Education at a joint gathering inspected the old Madison School early in March of 1954 to reach a common agreement as to the immediate needs of the school. This meeting resulted in a Council recommendation that the Board of Education engage the services of an architect to get an estimate of the cost of constructing a one-story, six classroom new Madison School. The Board of Education on May 5th selected Fredrick W. Raeuber as the architect.

---New Site for School---

Two possible sites for the new school building were considered when a new structure was assured. One was the Union Park site and the other was the Fourth Street playground area. Some city officials objected to using the Fourth Street area as a schoolground because it was set aside for park purposes. Others objected to cutting up the Union Park area for playground purposes. Debate on this subject continued all during the summer of 1954. It was not until October 4, 1954 that the Council rejected the idea of placing the new school on the old Madison School site and cleared the way for location of the new school on the Fourth Street grounds.

The next question to consider was the matter of the exact location of the building on the new site. One group favored the northwest corner of Huron and North Fourth Street. Another favored the southwest corner of the park. The latter finally was chosen by City Council action on Tuesday, November 2, 1954, after many meetings of interested citizens and officials.

The area, bounded on the north by Huron Street, on the west by Fourth Street, on the south by St. Clair Street, and on the east by the lake, contains about 10 acres.

By December 7, 1954 the City Council took the first step in providing the funds for new schools by voting authorization of a bond issue to cover costs of proposed school additions and improvements.

The architect's sketch of the New James Madison School was presented to the Board of Education by January 15, 1955. The approximate cost was \$415,000. The school, an L-shaped building with two levels facing the park area and one level on St. Clair Street, was approved and built with minor changes.

---New School Built and Occupied---

Bids for the construction of the new Madison School were opened on Tuesday, March 29, 1955. General construction went to Hamann Construction Company of Manitowoc, plumbing to R. E. Wenzel of Appleton, heating to George Rutherford of Manitowoc, and painting to Melvin Klinger of Oshkosh.

Actual construction work for the new school began on May 7, 1955, when the Hamann Construction Company moved in with its equipment. The cornerstone was laid on Friday, June 24 by President Mark L. Hooper, Board of Education representative. The ceremony was attended by school and city officials and other interested citizens. The cornerstone receptacle contains fifteen items connected with the school, parents and teachers. Although the original completion date was set for February 15, 1956, it was not until March that the structure was completed and accepted by the Board of Education.

The long awaited move to the new school came on Monday, March 12 when the pupils in Kindergarten to Grade Five inclusive assembled for the last time at the old school. A big snowstorm the night previous failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the pupils, parents, and citizens as they paraded to the new building where appropriate ceremonies initiated the new James Madison School.

So "Still sits the school house" at Seventh and State Streets, its future as yet undecided at the time this was written. The site, no doubt, will become a part of Union Park as William Jones, Levi Beardsley and others set aside this area as "Common School" ground in their Plat of 1837.

---Sources of Information---

History of City of Manitowoc Prior to 1850 - Otto Gass

History of Manitowoc County - Louis Falge

Manitowoc Pilot 1859-1900

Manitowoc Herald 1898 -1956

Manitowoc County School Annuals

History of Manitowoc County - Ralph Plumb

Seventy-fifth Anniversary Booklet - Manitowoc-Gerpen-Valders

Congregations

Congregation Anshe Pele Zedek-pamphlet 1939-1940

Francis Murphy

Jos. M. Zahorik, Reg. of Deeds

Station W. O. M. T.

Map of Manitowoc in 1868

Map of Manitowoc in 1883

Minutes of Clerks of School District on file in the Board of Education

Johanna Larson

Edwin Krejcie

Mrs. Hiram Madson

William Williamson

James-Katie Dempsey

Offices.

Principal Eugene Krejcarek and his students for building data. Manitowoc City School Directories 1911-1953.