Lincoln Middle School
501 South Washington Street
Carbondale, IL
Jackson County

PRESENTATION - FORMAT IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. COVER SHEET
- 2. IL HABS/HAER OUTLINE FORMAT TEXT
- 3. SITE PLAN
- 4. FLOOR PLAN
- 5. DRAWINGS
 - A. ELEVATIONS
 - **B. DETAILS**
 - C. MECHANICALS
- 7. PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION SHEET
- 8. PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEW KEY
- 9. MOUNTED PHOTOGRAPHS

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

IL HABS Number J-2006-1

Location:

501 S. Washington Street

Carbondale, Jackson County, Illinois

Present Owner:

City of Carbondale, Illinois

Present Use:

Vacant

City plans to demolish the building

Significance:

The significance of this property is the site's long association with education. Beginning in 1856, when the Presbyterian Synod of Southern Illinois chose the site for its Carbondale College, this site has served Carbondale's youth. The present Lincoln Middle School (LMS) building was built in 1949 in the International Modern style. It served seventh and eighth grade students until December of 2001. At various times during the building's history, sixth grade students were also served here.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date(s) of construction: 1949; additions in 1957, 1965, and 1967.

2. Architect:

1949 Building: John Hoener, AIA Architect; St. Louis, Missouri 1957 Addition: Lee Potter Smith and Associates Architects; Paducah, Kentucky

1965 Addition: Simon, Rettberg & Garrison, Inc.; Carbondale, Illinois

1967 Addition: Simon, Rettberg & Garrison, Inc.; Carbondale, Illinois

3. Original and subsequent owners:

1949 Carbondale Elementary School District No. 952003 City of Carbondale

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers:

Edgar Stephens and Sons, Inc., Cairo, Illinois, January 1948 \$330,746.

- 5. Original plans and construction: Copies of original plans are included with this documentation.
- 6. Alterations and additions: (see attached reference plan drawings)
 - 1957 South of original building (cafeteria section)
 - 1965 South and east of original building (music/science section)
 - 1967 North of original building (classrooms)

B. Historical Context:

Carbondale was platted in 1852 by Daniel Harmon Brush along the proposed route of the Illinois Central Railroad. Educational facilities were important to the town's founder, himself a father of two children and guardian of six nieces and nephews. In 1853 two out lots were designated for educational purposes—one on the west side of the railroad tracks and one on the east side. In October of 1855 the Carbondale School District was set up under the Free School Law. A year later the first public school was opened on the west side, and in 1858 a public school opened on the east side. Various private schools were also operated in the town.

Carbondale's central location in southern Illinois and its presence along the Illinois Central Railroad led to the town's affiliation with higher education. In 1856 the Presbyterian Synod of Southern Illinois resolved to build a college in southern Illinois somewhere along the railroad. Carbondale citizens pledged over \$1,000 to successfully bring the college to its town.

The site for the college (501 S. Washington) was located a half-block east of the railroad tracks and two blocks south of the town's central square. Due to financial difficulties, unfulfilled contracts, and eventually the Civil War, the building was not usable until 1861. During the Civil War the building was used infrequently, and in 1866 it was sold to the Christian Church of Southern Illinois. The school's name was then changed to Southern Illinois College and operated under the direction of Rev. Clark Braden. By 1870 almost 300 students were enrolled.

In 1868 discussion began regarding establishing a teacher training school in the southern part of the state. In April of 1868 Governor Palmer authorized such a school to be built and Carbondale was chosen soon thereafter. The presence of Southern Illinois College helped secure Carbondale's bid. In the initial agreement, Carbondale and Jackson County agreed to bond themselves for

\$150,000 to acquire the Southern Illinois College property, make additions to the existing structure, and prepare it for use. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate the existing building was modified or rebuilt in 1870. However, the university officials decided against this plan, and chose a location on the west side of the railroad tracks instead. Southern Illinois Normal University began operations at that location in 1874.

Although the Southern Illinois College property did not become part of SINU, the city did proceed with the purchase of the building for \$15,000. After SINU opened in 1874, the building was renamed Lincoln School and operated as a public grade school until 1905. By that time public education was extended beyond the eighth grade, and the school served as a high school as well.

To support the increased number of students, a second larger, twostory building to the front (west) was added in 1906. Later, a roofed corridor was built between the two buildings. In 1923 a new high school building was constructed on the west side of town, and Lincoln School reverted back to being a grade and junior high school.

Following World War II, Carbondale's population skyrocketed and the city began to build a number of schools to meet educational needs. In 1949, when the Lincoln School building marked 89 years of use, the Carbondale School District began construction on a new school building immediately northwest of the 1906 and 1870 structures. This building contained a gym and several classrooms. At first the 1949 building supplemented the original school building, but gradually it replaced the older structures. Although documentation on the continued existence and use of the 1906 and 1870 structures is unclear, one or both structures were deemed unsafe and demolished in 1967.

As Carbondale's population continued to expand, additions to the 1949 building were frequent. In 1957 a wing was added to the south; this wing featured a new kitchen/cafeteria, home economic rooms, and classrooms. In 1965 a wing was added to the south and east; this section featured science, math, and music classrooms. Finally, in 1967 additional classrooms were added on the north side of the building. [See attached reference plan for locations of additions.] During the 1980s elevators were added to make the school accessible. During the 1990s the boilers were replaced, an asbestos abatement project was completed, and the gym roof and exterior doors were replaced.

One of the most pivotal moments in the educational history of the 1949 LMS building was the integration of black students in 1965. Prior to that time, the majority of black students attended an all-black school named Attucks School. The Attucks School was built in 1915 on one of the original out lots Brush set aside for education on the east side of town. According to Lincoln Junior High teachers, a few black students did attend Lincoln prior to integration. Ms. Mary Ellen Dillard, a language arts teacher during the period, stated that the school board hosted an open community meeting in the Lincoln gym to discuss integration. The meeting was well attended and community support for integration was widespread. Concerns were mostly voiced by the black community, who were hesitant about their children being bused throughout the city. Ms. Dillard stated that although there was some tension, integration went smoothly.

Other important facets of LMS history include its sports program, which played an important role in smoothing out the integration process and was the first to initiate girls' athletic programs in 1972 when they hired Connie Monroe to coach girls' softball. This caused other school districts in Southern Illinois to petition their school boards to establish girls' athletics. In addition the school, especially the gym, was used by the community for a variety of functions including park district activities, plays, and music concerts.

Due to the decreasing quality of the school neighborhood and community unhappiness with the quality and atmosphere of the building, the Carbondale School District launched a plan to build a new Carbondale Middle School within a school complex being developed on the eastern edge of the town. The new building, completed in 2001, cost \$14.7 million and has a brighter, more open, floor plan.

In December of 2001 the LMS building was closed and students were transferred to the new building in January 2002. The City of Carbondale purchased the Lincoln building in 2003 for \$205,000. The city plans to demolish the building and build a new police station.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a typical example of mid-twentieth century school architecture in the international style.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair to good. The building is intact, but deteriorating due to lack of maintenance and from vandalism following the discontinuation of its use as a school.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over all dimensions:

The building length is approximately 353 feet, north to south. The east to west dimension of the north portion of the building is approximately 195 feet, and of the south portion is approximately 133 feet. See attached reference plan for building dimensions.

Total Building Area: 58, 794 square feet

1949 Building: 36,677 square feet 1957 Addition: 10,816 square feet 1965 Addition: 8,718 square feet 1967 Addition: 2,583 square feet

2. Foundations:

Foundations are poured concrete.

3. Walls:

1949 Building: Exterior load bearing walls consist of 3 ¾" brick veneer exterior wythe with 8" concrete masonry units interior wythe and plaster on inside face. Total exterior wall thickness is 12 ½".

1957, 1965 and 1967 Additions. Exterior load bearing wall (minimally reinforced) consists of 4" brick veneer exterior wythe and 8" concrete masonry units interior wythe. Total exterior wall thickness is 12".

4. Structural system, framing:

Exterior Walls Construction

1949 Building: Exterior load bearing walls consist of 3 ¾" brick veneer exterior wythe with 8" concrete masonry units interior wythe and plaster on inside face. Total exterior wall thickness is 12 ½".

1957, 1965 and 1967 Additions. Exterior load bearing wall (minimally reinforced) consists of 4" brick veneer exterior wythe and 8" concrete masonry units interior wythe. Total exterior wall thickness is 12".

Floor Construction.

1949 Building. Concrete slab on grade at first floor and 2" to 2 ½" thick poured concrete slab and formed deck on open web metal joists at second floor and portions of the first floor.

1957, 1965 and 1967 additions have concrete slab on grade construction.

Roof Construction.

1949 Building. First floor classrooms, art room, boys locker room and second floor library have single-ply (EPDM) membrane on insulation system on 2" gypsum plank deck and open web steel joists. Gymnasium has single-ply (EPDM) membrane on insulation system on 1" thick +/- wood plank deck and lamella wood truss system. Second floor classroom area has tar and gravel roofing on 2" thick gypsum plank deck and open web steel joists

1957 and 1965 Additions. Single-ply (EPDM) membrane on insulation system on 2" gypsum plank deck and open web steel joists.

1967 Addition. Built-up roofing on 2" tectum deck and open web steel joists.

Interior Wall Construction.

Corridor #1, #2, #3, and #4 on first floor. 8" thick concrete masonry units and concrete brick with 12 ½" thick walls of concrete masonry units and concrete brick at the gymnasium.

Corridor #5 on the first floor and #6 on the second floor: 2x6 wood studs with metal lath and plaster each side. Steel lockers each side of corridors.

Other wall partitions on first and second floor: 2x6 wood studs with metal lath and ¾" plaster each side at classrooms and offices. Glazed tile, concrete brick and concrete masonry units at toilets, locker rooms, library, stairs, art room, drafting, wood and metal shops.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:

A broad landing, one step above grade level, provides access to the front (west) entrance. Low walls are at either side of the landing. The steps and walls are constructed of smooth limestone slabs.

Entrances to the north side of the 1967 addition are recessed and accessed by concrete steps.

Other side and rear entrances to the building are at grade level.

6. Chimneys:

There is one chimney located on the wall between the boiler room and the gymnasium stage.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is in the west façade of the 1949 building. The entrance is slightly recessed from the façade. The entrance is comprised of two pairs of doors with a divided light panel between the two pairs and a divided light transom above. At the second story level of the entrance bay, a bank of steel sash windows open into the library. The window bank is canted so that the top slopes outward to meet the masonry façade. The entry and windows are surrounded by a two-story height limestone band around the sides and top. The name LINCOLN is spelled out in metal letters between the top of the entry transom and the bottom of the canted bank of upper-story windows.

Exterior doors throughout the building are modern steel doors which were installed in the 1990s. Interior doors are wood and steel doors with flush designs.

b. Windows and shutters: Windows throughout the building are steel sash units. Portions of the windows have operable sashes.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: All roofs are flat, except at the gymnasium which has a barrel-vaulted roof created by the

- lamella wood truss system. See "Roof Framing" above for descriptions of roofing.
- b. Comice, eaves: The front (west) entrance bay has no comice or eaves. The brick façade is capped by a flush, smooth limestone coping. The remaining flat-roof portions of the building have denticulated brick comices, and no eaves. The gymnasium portion of the building has no eaves.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The gymnasium has shed dormers along the north and south sides with windows providing clerestory lighting into the interior of the gymnasium.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: There is a basement below the stage of the gymnasium. The basement was originally used as the boiler room for the 1949 building.
- First Floor: The front (west) entry to the 1949 building b. leads into a vestibule, then into the main lobby and main north-south corridor, and directly ahead to the gymnasium and stage. The school office is located immediately adjacent and to the right (south) of the entrance. The art room, originally used as the home economics classroom, is located to the left (north) of the main entrance. A corridor running east to west along the north side of the gymnasium leads from the main corridor to the drafting room, the metal and wood shops, and to the boys' locker room. The girls' locker room is located on the south side of the gymnasium, and accessed by a corridor between the front lobby and the rear entrance to the school. On either side of the corridor which leads south from the main lobby are classrooms and toilets. The 1957 addition extended the main north-south corridor to the south. A cafeteria, kitchen, sewing and cooking labs were added on the east side of the corridor. Two general classrooms were added on the west side of the corridor. A boiler room was added adjacent to the east side of the stage. The 1965 addition extended the main corridor to the east and added three classrooms, a music rehearsal room, and individual practice rooms. The 1967 addition added three classrooms adjacent to the north side of the drafting room, metal and wood shops. These classrooms

were directly accessible from the exterior on the north side and intercommunicated among the three classrooms. The overall building plan creates an irregular, partial "U" shape.

- c. Second Floor Plan. The second floor includes spaces from the 1949 building, the 1957 addition, and the 1965 addition. The second floor is smaller than the first floor. The 1949 building includes the library which is located at the north end of the second floor and above the first floor main entry, vestibule and lobby, and five general classrooms located along the central corridor which extends south from the library. The 1957 addition added four classrooms to the south of the original building. The 1965 addition includes two science labs which are at the south end of the second floor corridor.
- 2. Stairways: There are four stairways in the building. The stairways are steel pan with concrete or terrazzo treads. The stairwells are of masonry wall construction with plaster ceiling. The stairwells are not enclosed at the tops and bottoms.
- 3. Flooring: Painted exposed concrete, terrazzo, resilient tile, carpet and linoleum. The gymnasium has a wood floor.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish:

Walls. Painted plaster, painted concrete masonry, and glazed tile.

<u>Ceilings.</u> Painted plaster, lay-in acoustical ceiling tile with metal grid; painted composition board in the gymnasium.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors:

Doorways are plain openings in the masonry walls and interior partitions. The 1949 building has profiled wood casings around the openings. The 1957, 1965, and 1967 additions have plain hollow-metal frames set into the masonry openings. A few doors have clear glass transoms.

b. Windows:

Windows are steel sashes with single pane glazing.

6. Decorative features and trim:

The 1949 building has wood baseboards and trim at doors. The 1965 addition has built in coat racks in the classrooms. The coat racks have open fronts and intermediate supports with tapered profiles.

7. Hardware:

The door hardware is simple steel and brass knobs and rose locks of varying profiles. Exterior doors have panic bar hardware.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

The building is heated by hot water heated by a gas-fired Weil-Mclain cast iron boiler, installed in 1991, circulated to fan-coil units, unit heaters, and fin-tube radiation units throughout the building. The building is air conditioned with window units, roof top units and split systems in the classrooms, cafeteria and all offices. Exhaust fans are located in Kitchen #35, Gymnasium #44, Stage #56, Science Rooms #71 and #72, Art Room #1, Shop Rooms #47, #48, #48B and all toilet rooms.

b. Lighting:

Lighting is a combination of stem mounted fixtures with school-house type glass shades, and fluorescent box fixtures.

c. Plumbing:

Plumbing includes restrooms with standard mid-twentieth century, porcelain lavatories and water closets. Individual shower stalls are provided at the girls' locker room. Multihead column showers are provided at the boys' locker room.

d. Distinctive Features.

1949 Building. The gymnasium roof structure is a lamella wood truss structure. It is constructed of dimensional lumber. Classroom #76 has a stage with a proscenium at

the south end of the room which is raised two steps above the classroom floor level.

1965 Addition. The music rehearsal room has a tiered floor with a curved profile creating permanent seating risers. The individual practice rooms adjacent to the rehearsal room have non parallel walls for echo control. The science labs on the second floor have built in student labs and teaching labs.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation:
- 2. Historic landscape design:

The historic landscape design was a very simple, unplanned design of shrubs along the western façade, a variety of trees around the building, and a flagpole on the west side of the building.

3. Outbuildings:

Outbuildings included 1) 1870 and 1906 brick school structures, which were torn down by/in 1967; 2) one or two metal-sided Quonset hut(s) (prior to 1949 it was used as a Teen Town for Carbondale youth, after that time, it was used for storage until being torn down during the early 1990s), and 3) hand-hewn log school (noted as first schoolhouse in Carbondale, it was moved to the Lincoln School grounds and was used as a teaching facility for historic pageants/history lessons. It was later removed.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

On file at the Carbondale City Hall, 200 S. Illinois Avenue

B. Early Views:

Published early views of the Carbondale College/Southern Illinois College are found in the 1905 City Directory. Annual school year books show views of the exterior and interior of the LMS building.

- C. Interviews:
 - 1. Helen Deniston, student at Lincoln School building, 12 June 2006, Carbondale, Illinois.
 - 2. Mary Ellen Dillard, teacher at LMS1964-1985, 27 June 2006, Carbondale, Illinois.

- 3. Carl Jones, teacher at Lincoln School in1939 and at LMS 1952-55, principal at LMS 1962-1966, assistant superintendent 1966-1980, I0 July 2006, Carbondale, Illinois.
- 4. Larry Jacober, teacher at LMS 1962 1965, 1980-1987; principal at LMS 1970 1980; superintendent 1987 1995; 10 July 2006, Carbondale, Illinois.

D. Bibliography:

I. Primary and unpublished sources:

Carbondale Schools Vertical File and Photograph Collection, Jackson County Historical Society, Murphysboro.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Carbondale School District No. 95. Lincoln Junior High School Yearbooks, 1972-1991.

- Maycock, Susan E. <u>An Architectural History of Carbondale, Illinois.</u> Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1983.
- Mitchell, Betty. <u>Carbondale: A Pictorial History.</u> St. Louis, G. Bradley Publishing, 1991.
- Sanborn Map Company. <u>Carbondale, Jackson County,</u>
 <u>Illinois [Property Insurance Map]</u>. Pelham, New
 York: Sanborn Map Company, 1906, 1913, 1929,
 Rev. 1938, rev. 1946.
- Sanborn-Perris Map Company. <u>Carbondale, Jackson</u>
 <u>County, Illinois [Property Insurance Map]</u>. Pelham,
 New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1899
- Southern Illinoisan. <u>150 Years of History: A Pictorial</u>
 <u>Celebration of Carbondale's Sesquicentennial.</u>
 Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinoisan, 2002.
- Wright, John W. D. <u>A History of Early Carbondale</u>, <u>Illinois</u>, 1852-1905. Murphysboro, Ill.: Jackson County Historical Society, 1977.
- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:
 Southern Illinoisan newspaper articles, 1948-2001

Lincoln Junior High School Yearbooks, 1949-1971

PART IV. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

A. Research Strategy:

- 1. Preliminary investigation of the property through on-site visit.
- 2. On-site interviews with former students, teachers, and administrators.
- 3. Records search at Jackson County Historical Society, Murphysboro.
- 4. Review of Southern Illinoisan newspaper articles from 1949 and 2001
- 5. Review of published histories and available yearbooks.

B. Actual Research Process:

The research process followed the strategy above. However, no significant Southern Illinoisan newspaper articles or early yearbooks were found.

C. Archives and Repositories Used:

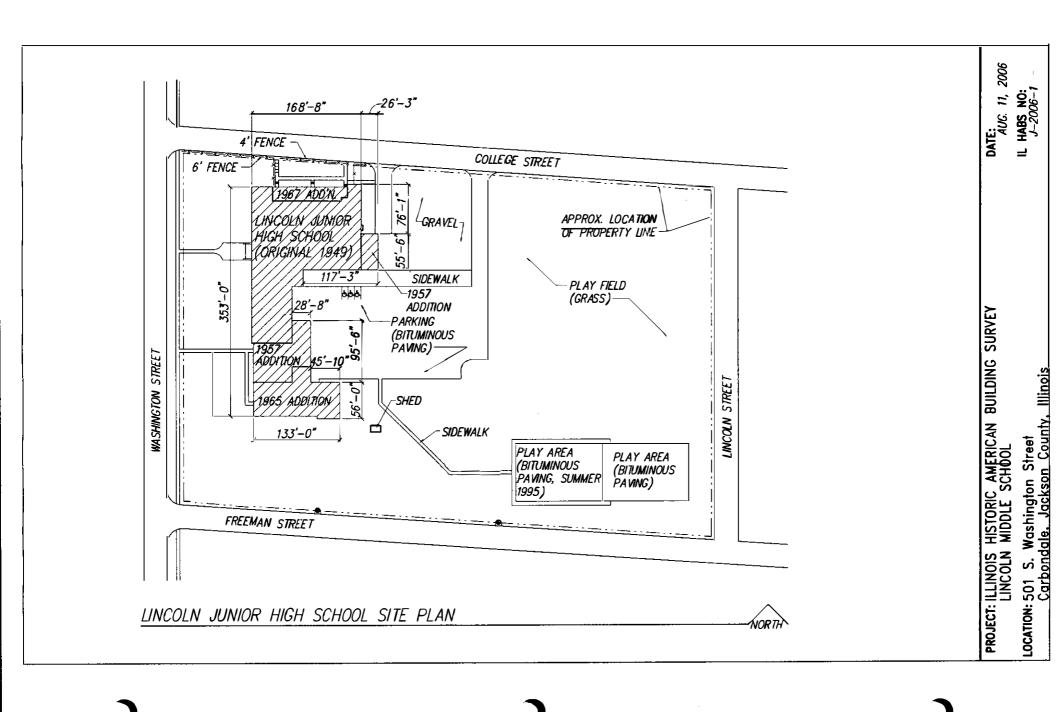
Carbondale Community School District Archive, Carbondale. Jackson County Historical Society, Murphysboro.

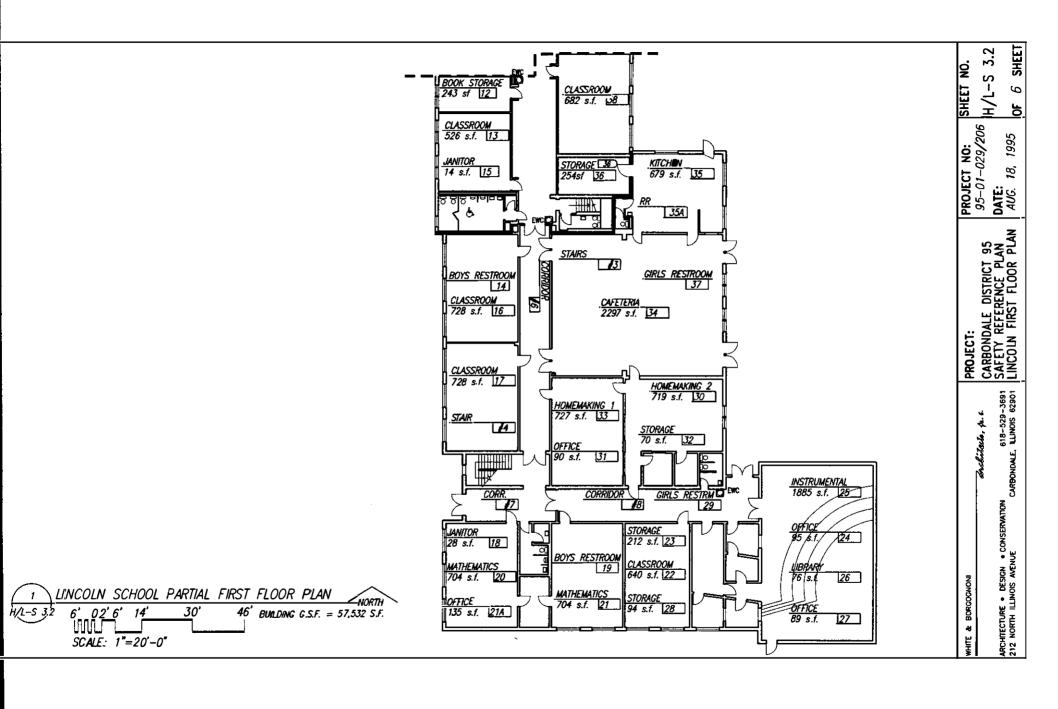
D. Research Staff:

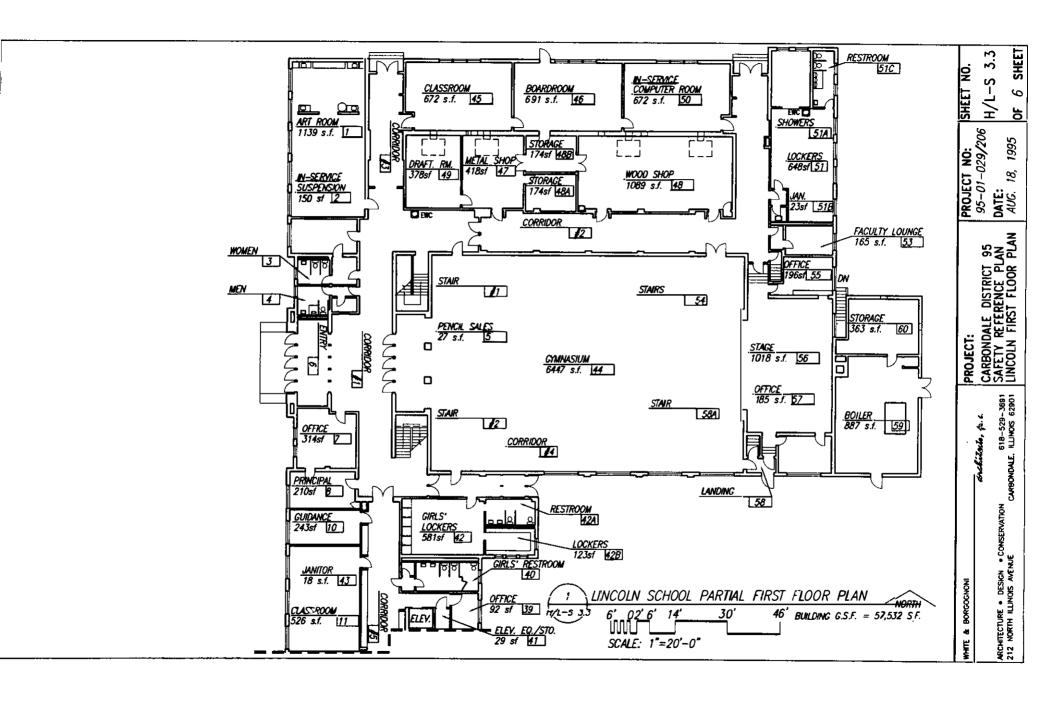
- 1. Primary Preparer: Name, Title Organization Gail White, White & Borgognoni Architects; Carbondale, Illinois
- 2. Photographer: Name, Title, Organization Benjamin Halpern, Photographer; Champaign, Illinois
- 3. Delineator: Name, Title, Organization White & Borgognoni Architects; Carbondale, Illinois
- 4. Additional Staff: Cynthia Baer, Historian, White & Borgognoni Architects; Carbondale, Illinois

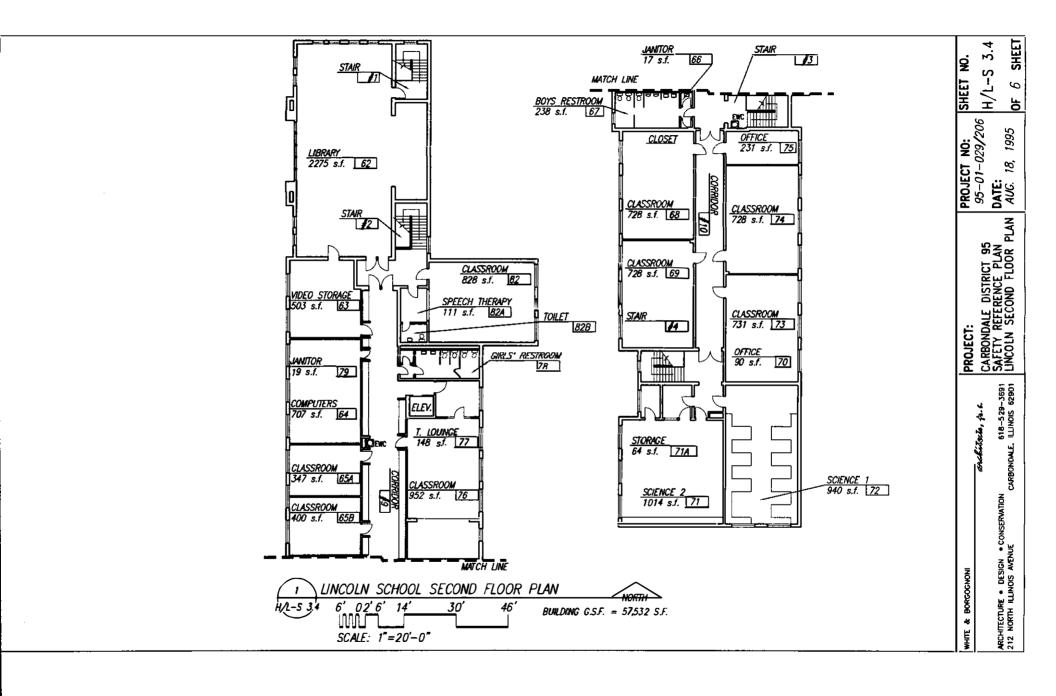
PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

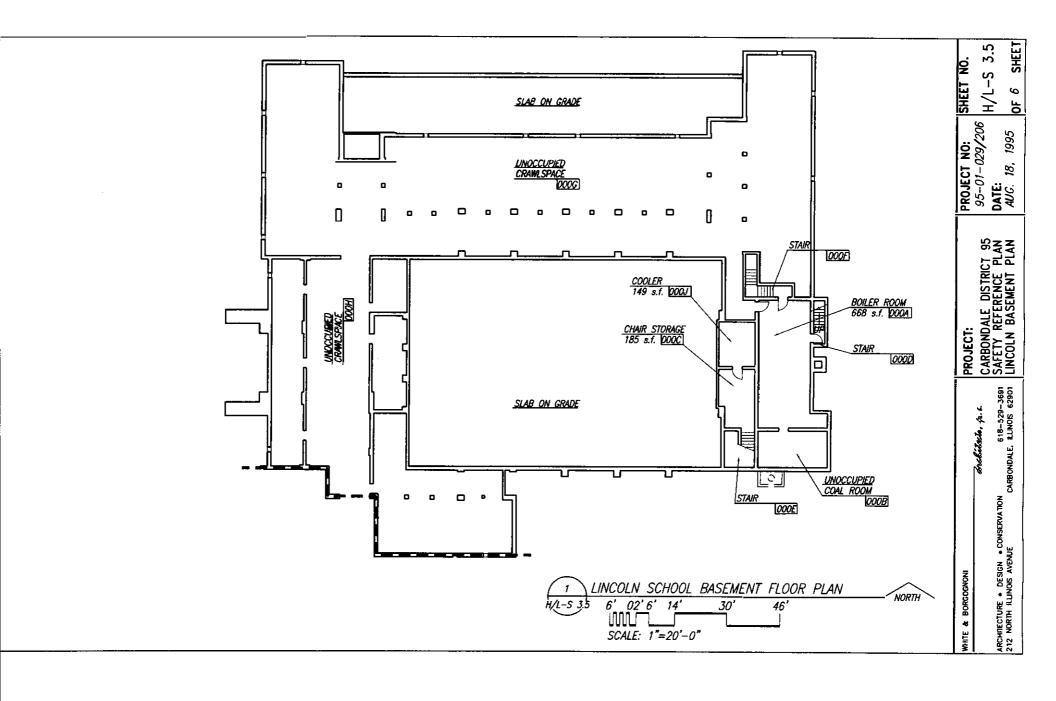
(Provided by IHPA)

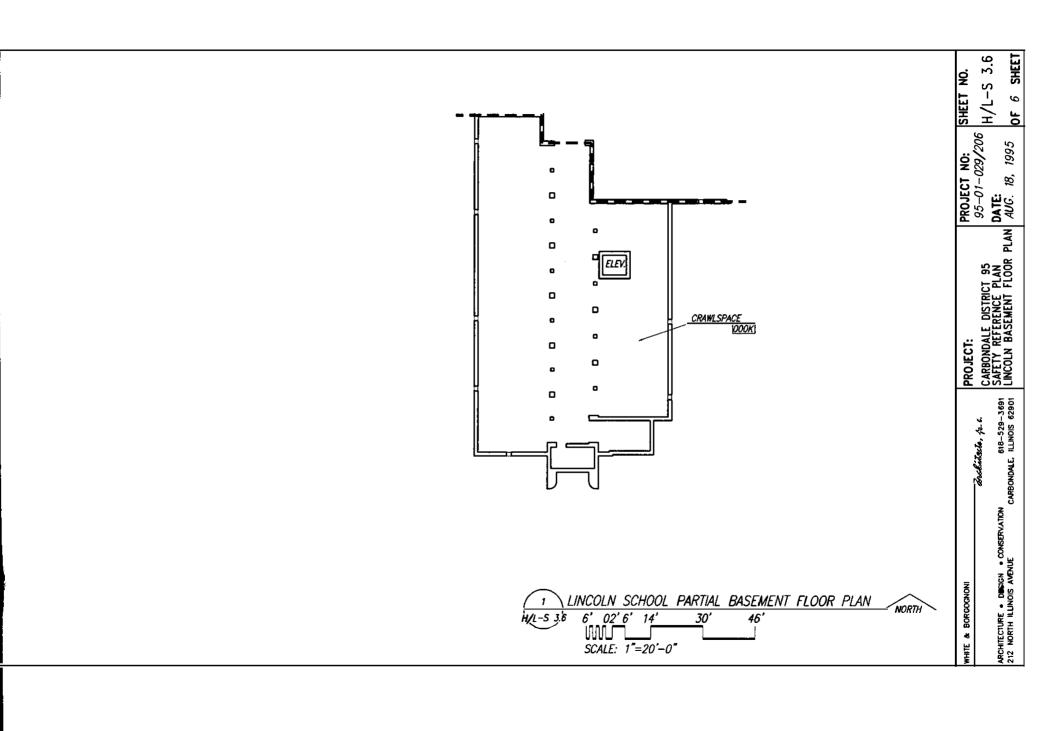












Index to Photographs

Illinois Historic American Building Survey Lincoln Middle School - Carbondale, IL IL HABS Number J-2006-1

*All Photographs Taken By Benjamin Halpern, Photographer; Champaign, Illinois

Photograph	Photograph Caption
Number	
J-2006-1.1	North and West elevations of building, taken from the North-West
J-2006-1.2	South and West elevations of building, taken from the South-West
J-2006-1.3	East Elevation of Building, taken from the South-East
J-2006-1.4	East Elevation of Building, taken from the North-East
J-2006-1.5	North Elevation and partial West elevation, taken from the North-West
J-2006-1.6	Basketball Court, taken from the South looking toward East elevation of school
J-2006-1.7	West Entry into original building, taken from the North-West.
J-2006-1.8	West Entry into original building, taken from the West
J-2006-1.9	Window Detail, East side of West entry into original building, taken from the West
J-2006-1.10	Ornamental light fixture, East side of West entry into original building, taken from the West
J-2006-1.11	Window detail at West side elevation of original building, taken from the West
J-2006-1.12	Scupper and Masonry Detail, taken from the West
J-2006-1.13	Window Detail at West side elevation of two story 1957 addition, taken from the West
J-2006-1.14	South elevation of 1965 addition, taken from the South-East
J-2006-1.15	Gym exterior at East elevation, taken from the South-East
J-2006-1.16	Gym entrance at East elevation, taken from the South-East
J-2006-1.17	Main Entry Foyer, taken from the South-West corner of Main Entry Foyer
J-2006-1.18	Gymnasium, taken from the West doorway of Gymnasium

Photograph Number	Photograph Caption
J-2006-1.19	Trusswork detail at Gymnasium Ceiling taken from the Gymnasium Floor
J-2006-1.20	Art Classroom, taken from the South wall of the Art Classroom
J-2006-1.21	Art Classroom work area, taken from the South-West corner of the Art Classroom
J-2006-1.22	Boys locker room, taken from the South doorway of the Boys locker room
J-2006-1.23	Classroom 45, taken from the West wall of Classroom 45
J-2006-1.24	Cafeteria, taken from the South-East corner of the Cafeteria
J-2006-1.25	Homemaking 2, taken from North-West corner of Homemaking 2
J-2006-1.26	Classroom 11, taken from the South wall of Classroom 11
J-2006-1.27	Classroom 22, taken from the North doorway of Classrom 22
J-2006-1.28	Band Room, taken from the South doorway of the Band Room
J-2006-1.29	2 nd Floor Corridor, taken from the North doorway of the 2 nd floor corridor looking toward the South doorway of the 2 nd floor corridor
J-2006-1.30	Library, taken from the South-East doorway of the Library
J-2006-1.31	Classroom 76, taken from the North-East corner of Classroom 76
J-2006-1.32	Classroom 73, taken from the South-East corner of Classroom 73
J-2006-1.33	Science Room #1, taken from the South-East corner of Science Room #1

