

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Jefferson</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>FEB 23 1972</b>

1. NAME	
COMMON: <b>First Kindergarten</b>	Congressmen to be notified: <b>Sen. William Proxmire</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>First Kindergarten in America</b>	<b>Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson</b> <b>Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier</b>

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>919 Charles Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Watertown</b>			
STATE <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>53094</b>	COUNTY: <b>Jefferson</b>	CODE <b>055</b>

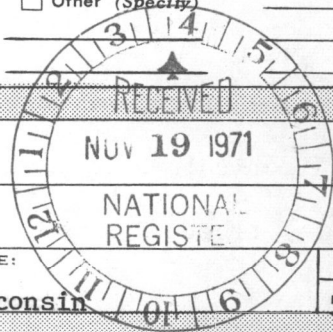
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Watertown Historical Society</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>919 Charles Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Watertown</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <b>Jefferson County Courthouse</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Jefferson</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings</b> <i>NO</i>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>Not known</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**COUNTY:  
**Jefferson**FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

**FEB 23 1972**

# 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A simple 1 1/2 story, gable-roofed frame building, the First Kindergarten is located on a gently sloping hillside on the grounds of the Richards Octagon House. Cornices are boxed, with common metal eaves along the sides. Siding is of clapboards, and all openings have plain board trim. Windows are plain, wood-muntined, double hung sash. The building is small, approximately 18 feet wide and 24 feet long. It is well maintained and in reasonably good condition. Its continued preservation is assured.

In the years prior to 1956 the building had seen a variety of uses, the most recent being that of a store. The front gable end had been much altered to make it a store front. Original clapboarded sides had been covered with a simulated brick sheathing. What interior modifications might have occurred are not known.

Because the building faced demolition in late 1956 it was moved by the Watertown Historical Society to a permanent location on the Octagon House grounds and faithfully restored to its original state. The interior is one large room, furnished as a kindergarten school room would have appeared when it was used for that purpose--a living room used as a classroom--and, with manikins, portrays a kindergarten class in progress.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1856

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Margarethe Meyer Schurz, when but a girl of sixteen in Hamburg, Germany, had been greatly influenced by a series of lectures presented by the noted German educator, Friedrich Froebel. The lecture course dealt with " 'the new education,' as it was then called and of which the kindergarten was the first step."<sup>1</sup> Margarethe's sister, Madame Ronge, and her husband Johannes Ronge had an active interest in the kindergarten, and when Madame Ronge later<sup>2</sup> had a kindergarten in London, Margarethe assisted her for a brief time.

In 1852 Margarethe Meyer married Carl Schurz, who was to become known as "the most famous German-American in U.S. History,"<sup>3</sup> and sailed with him to the United States. After living in Philadelphia for a time, they moved to Watertown, Wisconsin in August 1856.<sup>4</sup>

Later that year Margarethe started her kindergarten in her new home, with the Schurz's three year old daughter Agatha and four of her little cousins as pupils. When "the children of other relatives and friends wished to join the group...Mrs. Schurz opened a kindergarten in the little building in town, as it was easily accessible to the children there. Thus was created the first kindergarten in America in November or December 1856."<sup>5</sup> That this was indeed the first kindergarten in the United States was documented by the Library of Congress.<sup>6</sup> The original little building, authentically restored and furnished, marks the point of beginning in America of what we now consider a vital phase of children's education.

1. Jenkins, Elizabeth, "How the Kindergarten Found Its Way to America," 49.
2. Ibid, 50
3. Thielke, Rosemary, "A German Who Became a Great American."
4. Jenkins, Elizabeth, op. cit., 51
5. Ibid, 52
6. "Research by Library of Congress Proves City had First Kindergarten in U.S.," "Watertown (Wis.) Daily Times, August 24, 1956



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jenkins, Elizabeth, "How the Kindergarten Found Its Way to America,"  
Wisconsin Magazine of History, 14:48-52, 1930.  
 Thielke, Rosemary, "A German Who Became a Great American," The Bridge,  
 Hamburg, Germany, 5 (4):3, April 1961.  
 "Research by Library of Congress Proves City had First Kindergarten in U.S.,"  
Watertown (Wis.) Daily Times, Kindergarten Centennial Edition, August  
 24, 1956, 4-6.  
 Vandewalker, Nina C., The Kindergarten in American Education, Macmillan, New  
 York, 1908, 12-16.

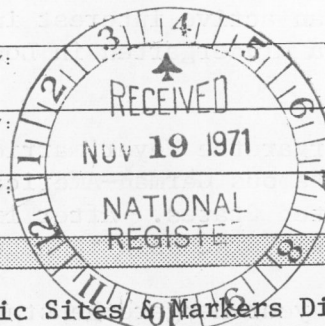
# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 43°	11'	04"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W 88°	42'	26"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE  
 October 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
 Madison

STATE  
 Wisconsin

CODE  
 55

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

James Morton Smith

Title

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date

NOV 12 1971

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

*Ernest A. Connally*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:

*William J. Hamstra*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

FEB 11 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Jefferson

RECEIPT

PROPERTY

First Kindergarten

STATE

Wisc.

DATE OF RECEIPT

11/19/71

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER NUMBER:

FEB 23 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

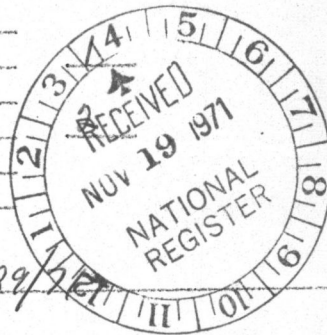
LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RESUBMIT

11/19/71

leak ok jlj 12/29/71



REVIEW

HISTORIAN

Marginal integrity, but okay on history.

Ok: Sales 2/1/72

ARCHAEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

Ok Chambers 1-31-72

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

Ok Wynn 2/11

WRITER/EDITOR

Ok Marston 1/24/72

CHIEF, OAHF

OK 2-23

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

ok CD 2/9/72

Federal Register Entry

4-4-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

FEB 23 1972

Card

FEB 23 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER: 11.19.71.7

Hon. Robert W. Kastenmeier





First Kindergarten, on Richards Octagon House Grounds, Watertown, Wisconsin, August 3, 1971. East elevation

Photo by Donald N. Anderson

State Historical Society of Wisconsin



NPS Number 2/23/72.  
Title: First Kindergarten  
Loc. Jefferson Co. Wis.  
East Elevation

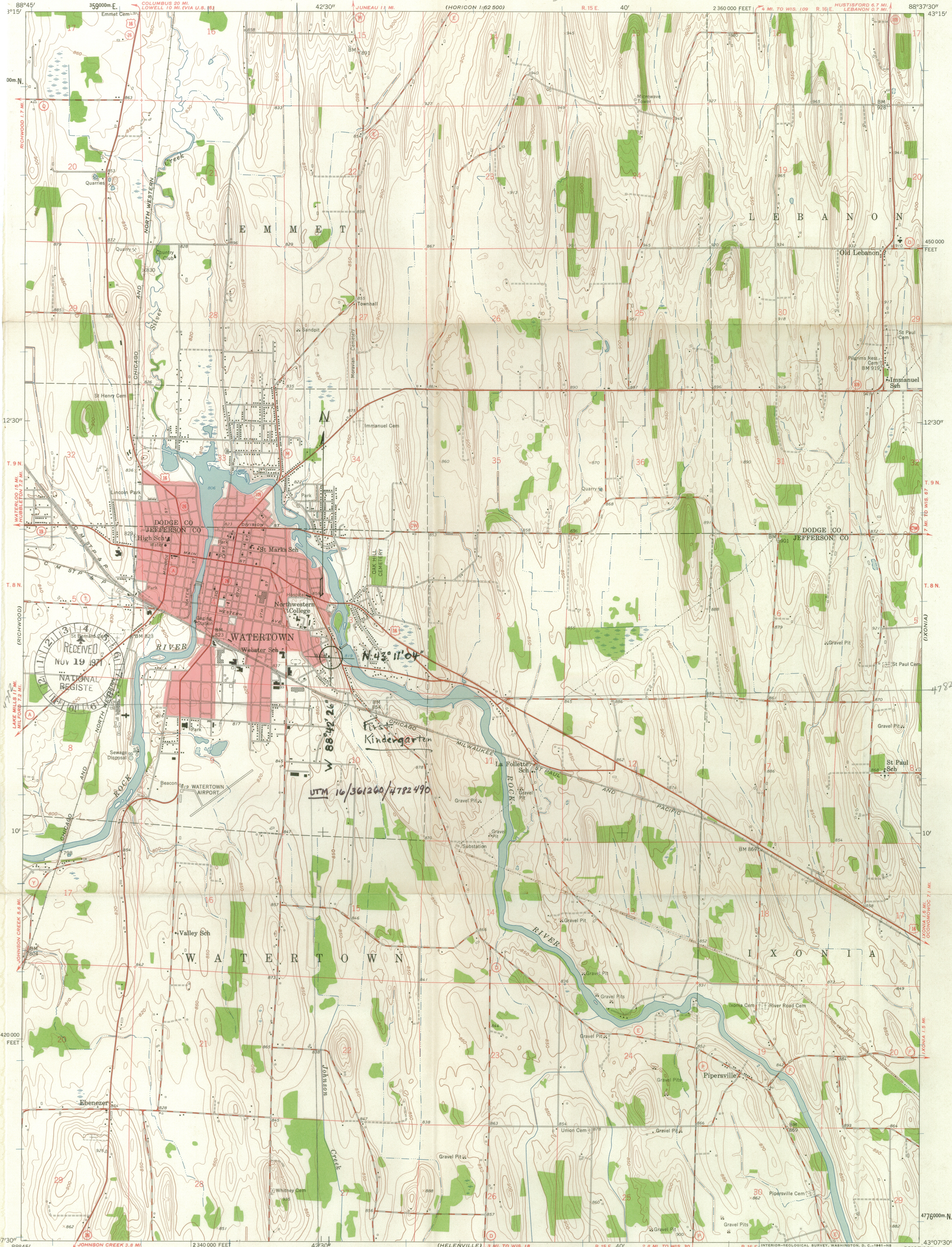
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

t/hl



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WATERTOWN QUADRANGLE  
WISCONSIN  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW 1/4 WATERTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1954-1955. Field check 1959

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1959

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
AND BY THE WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON 6, WISCONSIN  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

WATERTOWN, WIS.  
NW 1/4 WATERTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 4307.5—W 8837.5/7.5

1959



DATE OF LAST CORR.	STATE TRUNKS	DODGE CONN. STREETS	COUNTY TRUNKS	LOCAL STREETS
1-1-67	2.21	2.04		19.04
1-1-68	2.21	2.04		19.04
1-1-69	2.21	2.04		19.04
1-1-70	2.21	2.04		19.31
1-1-				
1-1-66	2.21	2.04		18.72

DATE OF LAST CORR.	STATE TRUNKS	JEFFERSON CONN. STREETS	COUNTY TRUNKS	LOCAL STREETS
1-1-67	2.44	3.77	0.28	49.92
1-1-68	2.44	3.77	0.28	50.01
1-1-69	2.45	3.71	0.28	50.13
1-1-70	2.45	3.71	0.28	50.42
1-1-				
1-1-66	2.44	3.77	0.28	48.98

CERTIFIED AS CORRECT

CITY CLERK



CITY OF  
**WATERTOWN**  
TOWNS EMMETT & WATERTOWN  
COUNTIES DODGE & JEFFERSON  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways

471

6

7

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9

10







Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

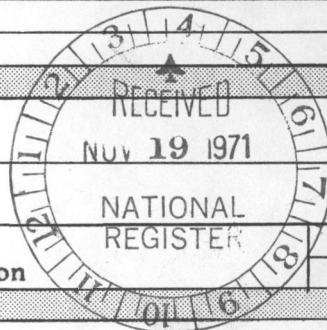
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME			
COMMON:		First Kindergarten	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		First Kindergarten in America	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
919 Charles Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Watertown			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Wisconsin		55	Jefferson
			CODE
			055
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Wis. Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Highways map: Watertown, Wis.			
SCALE: 1:12000			
DATE: 1/1/66 corrected to 1/1/70			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE WISCONSIN

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Damon (Lowell) House	Wauwatosa Milwaukee County
Church (Benjamin) House	Milwaukee Milwaukee County
Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin	Nashotah Waukesha County
Bradley (Harold C.) House	Madison Dane County
First Kindergarten	Watertown Jefferson County
St. John Chrysostom Church	Delafield Waukesha County
St. Augustine Church	New Diggings (Benton P.O.) Lafayette County
Mitchell-Bountree House	Platteville Grant County
Hawks Inn	Delafield Waukesha County

Also Notified

Hon. William Proxmire	State Liaison Officer
Hon. Gaylord Nelson	Mr. James Morton Smith
Hon. Glenn R. Davis	Director
Hon. Henry S. Reuss	State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Hon. Robert W.astenmeier	816 State Street
Hon. Vernon W. Thomson	Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Director, Northeast Region

HR

NRowland:mmm

2/15/72