

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Monnier, Peter, School

Other names/site number Monnier, Peter, Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 13600 Ward Ave. not for publication

city or town Detroit vicinity

State Michigan code MI county Wayne code 163 zip code 48227

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official

Date

Michigan State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register _____

determined eligible for the National Register _____

determined not eligible for the National Register _____

removed from the National Register _____

other (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
1	0	Total

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

Public Schools of Detroit, Michigan

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Other

other: Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Peter Monnier School occupies almost an entire city block bounded by Ward Avenue, Schoolcraft Avenue, Sorrento Avenue, and West Davison Avenue. It is located just north of the Ford Freeway (I-94) and Grand River Avenue in the City of Detroit, about eight miles northwest of downtown. The school building occupies an irregular, approximately U-shaped footprint on the southern half of the parcel, while a playfield is located to the north. Extremely simple in style, the school building features decorative brickwork, arcaded window bays, and a prominent masonry cartouche.

Narrative Description

Monnier School faces west onto Ward Avenue. The building is two stories tall, faced with tan-colored stretcher bond face brick and bearing a flat roof. Its primary façade is asymmetrical in its massing. A two-story classroom section to the north is located about fifty feet back from the street, behind a grassy lawn. It features a projecting, three-faceted bay of windows flanked on each side by single window bays. A stone sill course wraps around this section of the building at the first floor level. A simple frieze of bricks laid in alternating diamond and soldier patterns lies above the second floor windows. A cornice highlights the eaves of a roof which, though mostly flat, slopes downward near the building's façade to give the appearance of a side-gabled roof. The projecting, central bay of this section is topped by a tall, flat parapet wall bearing a stone cartouche featuring a crest of three books upon a chevron.

To the south, extending closer to the street, is a two-story section featuring a gymnasium and auditorium. The façade is divided into seven bays by tall, arcaded, round-arched window openings, an arrangement common to more monumental buildings of the Italian Renaissance style. However, looking at this building in its entirety makes it difficult to assign it a style. This section of the building bears a flat roof and features a simple brick cornice consisting of a soldier course of brickwork interrupted by a diamond pattern located above the margin between each bay of windows. The gymnasium and auditorium section is articulated into seven bays, the northernmost containing a rectangular door opening surmounted by a simple, classical entablature bearing the name "MONNIER SCHOOL."

Classroom wings extend rearward from the building's north and south ends, resulting in an approximately U-shaped plan. A blank wall on the building's north elevation suggested the structure was designed with expansion in mind. A rectangular, brick smokestack rises from the building's east elevation, and bears a trio of diamond-shaped medallions near its top on each face.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1923-1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance includes the building's construction and its annexation by the City of Detroit.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Monnier School is locally significant under National Register *Criterion A* as one of an example of a Greenfield Township school building now owned by the Detroit Public Schools.

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

Starting with the inception of the Greenfield Township school district in 1834, a school known as Monnier existed on the northwest corner of Grand River Avenue and what is now Schaefer Highway. The name was likely taken from the surname of a family that settled the area and owned some of the nearby farms.¹ The building was replaced in 1907 and used until 1924 when the present Monnier School building was constructed. The old, 1907 building was used as a library for some time before eventually being demolished.

This new building was formally named after Peter C. Monnier (1830-1922), an early resident of Greenfield Township who immigrated from France in 1834. Construction began in 1923, and Greenfield Township was annexed by the City of Detroit before the building was completed. The Detroit Board of Education continued the project and the building was completed and opened in 1924. The school's capacity of 1,500 was not reached for several decades, and students from crowded schools in nearby sections of the city were often transported to Monnier School by bus.

Monnier School is one of only two extant Greenfield Township public school buildings. The other is North Strathmoor School, built in 1923. Although Renaissance-inspired public school architecture was not particularly common, a handful of Detroit schools in this style were produced: Southeastern High School (1915), Priest and Sherrill Schools (two identical structures completed in 1923 and 1924, respectively), and Foch Intermediate School (1925).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

¹ Detroit, City of, Board of Education, 866.

Monnier School
Name of Property

Wayne, MI
County and State

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____ Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.76
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>321162</u> Easting	<u>4694996</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

W SORRENTO 190 THRU 209 223 THRU 242 AND VAC ALLEY ADJ CEDARHURST SUB L34 P52 PLATS, W C R 22/57

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries described above include the entire parcel historically associated with Monnier School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy Boscarino
organization City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board date March 25, 2009
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city or town Detroit state MI zip code 48226
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity: Detroit

County: Wayne

State: MI

Photographer: Timothy Boscarino

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of

Monnier School

Name of Property

Wayne, MI

County and State

this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

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Bibliography

Detroit, City of, Board of Education. *Histories of the Public Schools of Detroit*. Detroit: Board of Education, 1967.

Sanborn Map Company. *Detroit, Mich.* Vol. 17, Sheet 41. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 2003.