

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 Carstens, Hattie M., School

Other names/site number Carstens, Hattie M., Elementary School

## 2. Location

street & number 2592 Coplin St.  not for publication

city or town Detroit  vicinity

State Michigan code MI county Wayne code 163 zip code 48215

## 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 Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
Title 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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:)	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

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

<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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Public Schools of Detroit

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Arts and Crafts

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

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roof: Asphalt

other: Stucco

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### **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**

Hattie M. Carstens School is a superior example of a school building designed with Craftsman style influences from 1915. It has concrete floors and ceilings, brick walls, and a low, flat hipped, wood roof. Two stories tall on a high, fenestrated basement, Carstens School features an original section with a symmetrical façade, and an addition extending it southward, built circa 1920. The front façade faces southwest onto Coplin Avenue just north of Vernor Avenue on the city of Detroit's east side. Decorative detail in brick, tile and terra cotta is focused around the central entrance and spandrels between floors. The school building occupies the center of its block long site; there is parking to the northwest and play yards towards Charlevoix Avenue to the north. On its south is unimproved vacant land where a building once stood.

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### **Narrative Description**

Carstens School is a red and gray brick building covered with a flat hip roof. Regularly arranged, individual, multilight, windows comprise the fenestrated bays of the long, front façade facing Coplin Avenue. The projecting end of the front of the south addition is also covered with a hip roof. The spandrels between floors have stucco-faced panels outlined in brick with diamond motifs. Ornamental terra cotta lintel bands over second story windows, continuous sills at the first floor level, the bands of closely spaced windows, and the masonry water table with terra cotta belt courses tie the façade together horizontally.

The entrance pavilion projects slightly from the rest of the front façade, and rises up through the roofline, culminating in a hip roof with a small, barrel vaulted dormer window. The steel, double-door entrance is recessed within a round arched head opening faced in alternating brick and stone voussoirs, and containing a multi-light transom. At the springers of the arch are stone panels that extend to the corners of the bay, framed in brick on end, and bearing the name of the school, "HATTIE CARSTENS SCHOOL," on one side and its date in Roman numerals, "ANNO DOMINI MDCCCXV," on the other. Surrounding the arch is a rich pattern of brick-framed, diamond-shaped motifs containing tiles with depictions of open books alternating with four-petal floral motifs on a stucco background. Above the entrance, at second story level, is a red terra cotta balconet with curvilinear motifs and ornamental moldings. Four engaged, masonry, strapped columns frame and divide the three recessed, triple part, multi-light windows that rise to panels of red terra cotta ornamented with the same stylized floral and linear motifs as the continuous lintel band that runs across the entire front façade above the second story windows. Three brick arches spring from the columns, forming an arcade with tympanums that are filled with stucco having brick-outlined diamonds within.

The gymnasium was located in the basement of the northern ell before a later one was installed in the basement of a wing that also houses the tall, single story auditorium.

**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)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1915-21

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1915, 1919, 1921

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Malcomson & Higginbotham

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 coincides with the building's construction dates.

**Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)**

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

Hattie M. Carstens School is locally significant under National Register *Criterion C* for its exceptional Arts and Crafts style design by Detroit's foremost school architecture specialists, Malcomson & Higginbotham. The Arts and Crafts style was popular in the second decade of the twentieth century, as evidenced by the design of Nichols School (1910); Breitmeyer School (1915) and Harms School (1917).

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

This school, completed in 1916, was named after Hattie M. Carstens, an activist who served a variety of social causes in the city until her death in 1915. An addition in 1919 added six homerooms, a gymnasium, and an auditorium. A second addition, in 1921, added nine more homerooms. Several basement classrooms were added around 1960.

The Herbert M. Rich School, named after a secretary of the Detroit Tuberculosis Society, was built on these grounds in 1927. Although no longer standing, it was described as "a four room bungalow-type with a dormitory and exposures on three sides." In 1957, this building was converted into a unit for girls enrolled in the special education program from Carstens School, and opened the following year.

The Arts and Crafts style was popular in the second decade of the twentieth century, as evidenced by the designs of Nichols School (1910); Breitmeyer School (1915) and Harms School (1917), all designed by Malcomson & Higginbotham. It was considered to be a suitable style to fit in with the domestic architecture of residential neighborhoods. A few years later, Collegiate Gothic would prevail for its references to the great educational institutions of Great Britain.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 9.91  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>339069</u> Easting	<u>4693808</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)

E COPLIN 80 THUR 110 AND REAR LOTS 113 THRU 143 AND VAC ALLEY BET SD LOTS INCL FREDERICK W SWIFTS SUB L25 P26 PLATS, W C R 21/335

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries described above include the entire parcel historically associated with Ann Arbor Trail School.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Deborah M. Goldstein  
organization City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board date March 25, 2009  
street & number CAYMC, 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 204 telephone (313) 224-3487  
city or town Detroit state MI zip code 48226  
e-mail cc-historic@detroitmi.gov

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

Carstens, Hattie M., School

Name of Property

Wayne, MI

County and State

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**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.

See continuation sheet.

**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 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**

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**Bibliography**

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

Detroit, City of, Buildings and Safety Engineering Department. *Building Permit Card Index*.

Sanborn Map Company. *Detroit, Mich.* Vol. 11, Sheet 011. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 2003.



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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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**Photographs**

Photographer: Timothy Boscarino

Date: November 2008

Paper and Ink: HP Premium Plus Glossy Photo Paper, HP Vivera Ink

1. West (Coplin) elevation.  
(MI\_Wayne\_CarstensSch0001.tif)
2. Main entrance on west elevation.  
(MI\_Wayne\_CarstensSch0002.tif)
3. West and north elevations.  
(MI\_Wayne\_CarstensSch0003.tif)

# Hattie M. Carstens School Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

