

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Horace Mann Public School #13

and/or common Horace Mann Public School #13

2. Location

street & number 714 East Buchanan Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Horace Mann, an Indiana Limited Partnership  
c/o Marvin Frank, Attorney

street & number 2 Market Square Center, Suite 1000

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City/County Building, Recorder's Office

street & number 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 1873 Horace Mann Public School #13 is a square plan two-story Italianate style building characterized by symmetry of elevations and plan. A random ashlar limestone base supports red brick walls laid in common bond, with every seventh course in header bond. Windows are segmentally arched. An intact, formed sheet metal, continuous bracket eave of three foot projection bounds a moderately sloped, hipped, slate roof which has a flat apex. The eaves are broken on each side by a centered wall dormer.

The north and south facades are nearly identical. (Photos 1, 2.) Each is eight bays wide with a central entrance which occupies the center four bays, which are slightly projected with a 1-2-1 arrangement. The south entrance is entirely smooth limestone (photo 3), while the north entrance is brick and limestone. (Photo 4.) These entrances rise to become gabled wall dormers which interrupt the eaves. The paired upper windows here are trimmed in sheet metal with a quatrefoil motif, under a brick arch trimmed with stone. The gables have metal copings.

The east and west facades are identical, nine bays wide, in a 1-1-1-3-1-1-1 pattern. (Photo 1.) The central windows are grouped below a gabled wall dormer. This gable is marked by a triangular window with stone points. The three windows below are separated by narrow brick piers and each window has its own segmental brick header arch, but in turn the three windows are under a common flush brick relieving arch.

The segmentally arched wood double-hung windows (now removed for repairs) are tall and elegant with simple projecting brick heads and limestone sills. The smooth limestone trim on the building, while sparingly used, is occasionally decorated with incised floral and leaf designs. In addition, there are inscriptions: "1873" in the north entrance gable, and "Horace Mann School" and "13" in the south entrance gable.

There were five classrooms on the main floor and four classrooms and a small gymnasium with stage on the second floor. The high ceilings are pressed metal. The stairs at each end of the center corridor are cast iron with massive newel posts and a simple "X" patterned railing. (Photos 7, 8.) Hard plaster walls have painted brick wainscot. (Photo 9.)

The school playground is on the north yard of the school, lawns are on the west and south, an alley is to the east, and there is a flagpole at the southwest corner. A 1918 two-story red brick, flat-roofed boiler house with a tall, freestanding, round brick chimney occupies the northeast corner of the site. It also provides toilet rooms and drinking fountains to the school.

Modest working class residences surround the site on the north, east, and west sides. However, the right-of-way for an Interstate highway (I-65) and its access road crowd the school on the south side but, at the same time, give it more public exposure.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1873/1918

**Builder Architect** Edwin May, Architect; Fatout Brothers, Contractors

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Horace Mann School #13 is the second oldest public school remaining in Indianapolis, and the most intact and architecturally significant of the few public schools remaining from this era. The building is a fine example of the Italianate style, retaining most of its original exterior detailing, including the bracketed cornice, segmentally arched, hooded windows, and hipped roof. The building was designed by Edwin May (1824-1880, the well-known architect of the Indiana State Capitol Building and of many county court-houses, including those in Franklin and Sullivan, Knox, Decatur and Hamilton Counties.

In May of 1873 Edwin May was commissioned by the School Board to develop plans and specifications for a basic school building with the intention that the plans would be used at three different locations. The plans for the new schools were for an eight classroom building capable of being enlarged to a 12-room facility. Ground was broken for the construction of School #13, a 12-room facility, in July, 1873. Moses K. and Joshua L. Fatout were selected as the contractors for the building, having worked for the School Board on several other early buildings and additions, including an early School #5 and School #17. The construction of School #13 was completed in the fall of 1873 at a total cost of \$32,073.41. The building was nearly identical to School #17, also erected in 1873, at 1102 North West Street (demolished 1984).

When completed, the two-story building consisted of eleven regular classrooms with a total seating capacity of 530 students plus a domestic science room, a principal's office, and a German instruction room. The building was heated with coal stoves in each room and light was provided by two gas lights per room.

In 1918 a boiler unit annex was erected on the northeast corner of the school grounds to provide steam heat for the building. The annex also contained toilets and drinking fountains. Then, in 1948, the interior of the building was remodeled, reducing the number of classrooms to nine, creating a second floor auditorium, and providing a principal's office, teachers' restroom, a small reception room, and a nurse's office.

The school, originally known as the "13th Ward School" and the "Buchanan Street School," was officially designated the "Horace Mann School" in 1904. Horace Mann, father of public education in America, had visited Indianapolis in 1854 to speak at the formation of the State Teachers Association.

The school's curriculum in the early days included reading, writing, arithmetic, physiology, drawing, music, phonics, and physical and political geography. German was taught to grades three through eight. There were separate white picket fenced playgrounds for boys and girls. The school had no shop equipment and sent the male students elsewhere for shop classes.

In later years the inner-city neighborhoods began to deteriorate, and walk-in attendance at Horace Mann dropped; land was vacated for the building of the interstate highway system and population required to support a school declined so that in 1972 the school was closed. The building is currently being renovated into 20 apartments.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Board of School Commissioners Minute Records. March, 1871, to August 21, 1874. Indianapolis Public School Administration Building, 120 East Walnut, Secretary of the Board's Transcript Vault. (Unpublished)

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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5	7	3	1	2	0
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4	4	0	0	6	1	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

D. S. Beaty Comm'r. Sub OL 200 Lots 16-22

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harriet O'Connor/Marion County Historian

organization O'Connor Research Service date January 6, 1986

street & number 4451 Central Avenue telephone 317/283-5886

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana 46205

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-29-86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Horace Mann School #13 Item number 6 and 9

Page 1

Item Number 6

School 13 is included within the boundaries of the Holy Rosary/Danish Church Historic District, for which a National Register nomination is currently under review by the National Park Service.

A Preliminary Determination for Individual Listing was issued by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service on March 15, 1985.

Item Number 9

Greiff, Glory June. Public Schools and the Neighborhood Life-Cycle. Historic Landmarks Foundation, 1985.

"History of Horace Mann School". Indianapolis Public School Administration Building, 120 East Walnut, Indianapolis, Indiana, Indianapolis Public School Library. (Unpublished.) 1948.

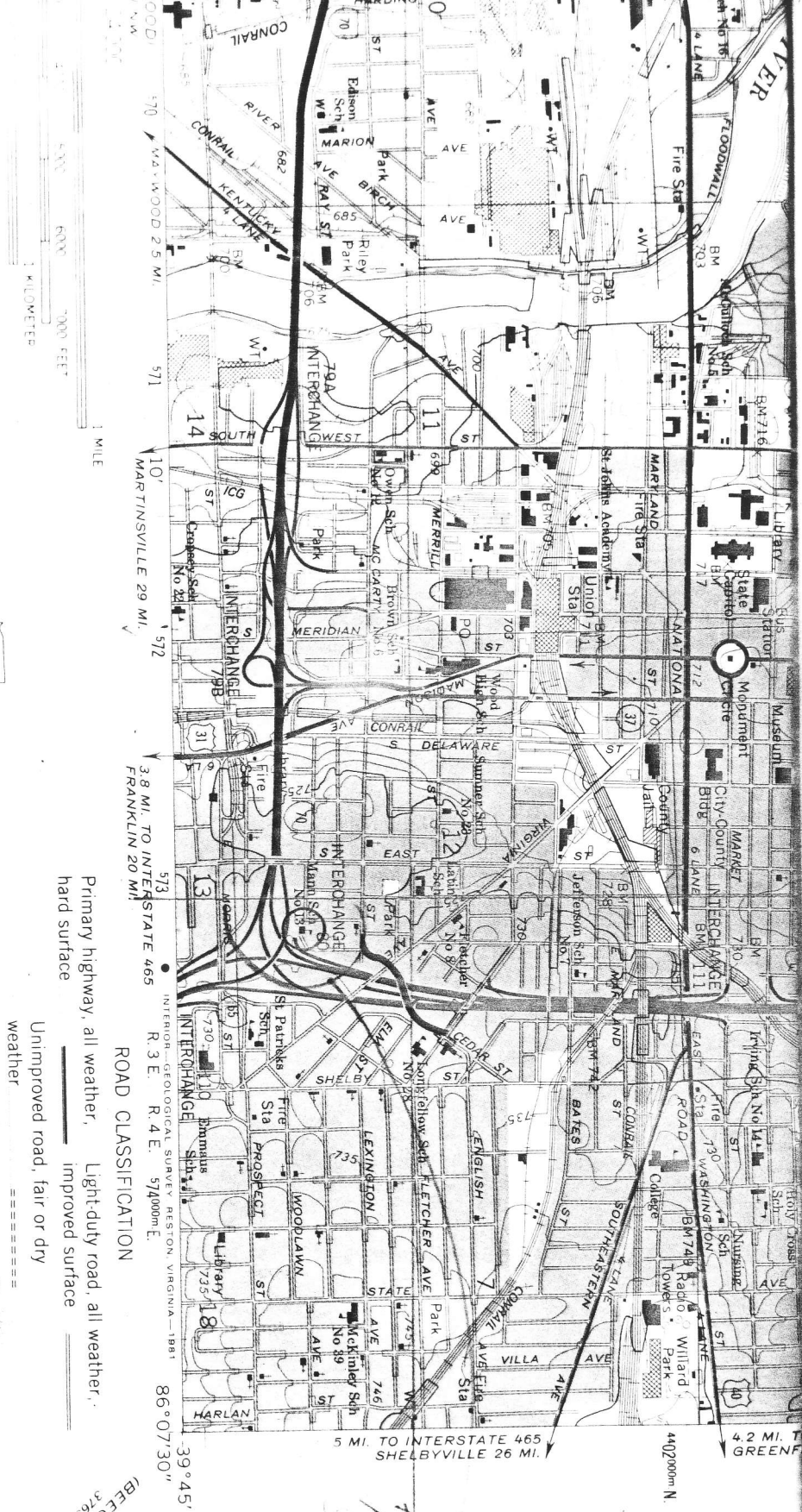
"Indianapolis Public Schools Thematic Resources", pages 76-89. (Portions available from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana State Museum Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.) (Unpublished.)

"Music is an Interesting Feature in Public School No. 13 Where Foreign Born and Native-American Children Mingle". Indianapolis News. February 26, 1923.

"74 Year Horace Mann School". Indianapolis Times. January 16, 1949.

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SCALE 5 FEET  
 GRAPHICAL DATUM OF 1929



Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

**INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.**

N3945—W8607.5/7.5

1967  
 PHOTOREVISED 1980  
 DMA 3763 I SW—SERIES V851

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
  - Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
  - Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
  - Interstate Route
  - U. S. Route
  - State Route

Horace Mann Public School #13  
 Indianapolis, IN  
 UTM Reference: 16/573120/4400610