

**305 S Chestnut Avenue**  
**Architectural Style: Gothic: "Collegiate Gothic"**  
**The Purdy**

Built in 1919, & designed by Childs & Smith, Chicago, the Purdy (Wisconsin's 1<sup>st</sup> junior high) was named after a local soldier who died in World War 1. Originally it was the rectilinear part with buttressed corners facing W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The addition on Chestnut & 4<sup>th</sup> was added in 1926-27 by Parkinson & Dockendorff, La Crosse, increasing its size 3 fold. The auditorium along 4<sup>th</sup> has been demolished. The facades have soldiered brick courses every 5<sup>th</sup> row. Double hung windows, with fixed opaque sash transoms, have soldiered brick lintels & narrow concrete sills; 1 section along Chestnut has transparent transoms. Projecting tower bays, edged with angled stepped buttresses & outlined with decorative concrete, rise above the rest of the building & house entries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> St. entry, with fluted outlined, is recessed.



\* \* \* \* \*

**DESCRIPTION  
OF NEW SCHOOL**

**3 STORIES HIGH, 112x56 FT.,  
OF DARK COPPER BROWN  
COLORED BRICK.**

**Fireproof—To Face Third Street  
—Building Operations To  
Start Soon.**

Krasin brothers, the successful bidders for the contract to erect the new Vocational and Junior High School building, to be located on the Hatteberg corner at West Third and Chestnut streets, figure on starting building operations within a week or two.

The building, which is of an exceptionally attractive architectural design, will be fire-proof and modern in every respect. That it will be constructed in a first-class manner goes without saying as the Krasin contracting firm has a well earned reputation for doing such kind of work.

The structure will have a 112-foot frontage, facing Third street, and a depth of 56 feet and will be three stories high. The foundation will be of concrete. The exterior of the walls will be rough texture face brick of a dark copper brown color, trimmed with Bedford stone, while the roof will be of composition material on a concrete slab.

There will be re-enforced concrete floors throughout, all finished in wood excepting those in the corridors, halls and toilets which will be finished in cement. The stairs also will be re-enforced concrete, with ornamental iron railings. The plaster will be on fire-proof Jypsum blocks, taking the place of studdings and lath. The interior woodwork will be of birch, the window and door frames of white pine.

The basement or first floor plan calls for quarters for the heating plant, a hot air system; the woodshop, electrical laboratory, drafting room, machine shop, and a class room, all, excepting the heating plant quarters, for manual training work.

On the second floor are to be the principal's office, a spacious assembly hall, four class rooms, two recitation and two toilet rooms.

The third floor has been divided into class and stenographic rooms, two of each, and a teachers' restroom, sewing room, kitchen, dining room, toilets and a corridor.

**WARNING! BE PRESENT  
AT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEETING TONIGHT.**

Tonight is the time when the meeting of the electors of the school district of Marshfield will be held to consider the matter of purchasing lot No. 4, Block 80, of the city, known as the Dr. Doege office premises, for the enlargement of the original site for the Junior High and Vocational school, which is to front on West Third street.

The taxpayers who objected to bonding the city when the \$60,000 bond issue was authorized for this school, and who failed to attend the meeting at which the bond issue was put over, should not fail to attend tonight's meeting and make themselves heard if they are not in favor of further running the city into debt, otherwise they should forever keep silent as then there will be no cause for blaming anybody else but themselves.

It is claimed that this year's Marshfield tax rate is among the highest in the state.

One of our citizens said:

"It was reported that the plans of the new school building call for a building with a frontage nearly as long as the site. When the steps to purchase the present site were authorized an impression went out that it would be sufficiently large enough for the school. Is the school board trying to 'slip something over' the taxpayers?" We don't think so; we don't think

they are men of a mind of that kind. We believe they are of the progressive class of men—men who, realizing the need of additional educational facilities, are bent on providing them and keeping the educational system abreast with the city's growth and up-to-date otherwise. But in their zeal-ousness to do so, it appears they have overlooked the majority wish of the taxpayers by taking it for granted that because the taxpayers did not make themselves heard as numerous-ly as they should have, they, the board, were expected to go ahead to suit themselves.

Those who are criticizing the board in the light of the recent develop-ments do not deny the need of another school building, but are at a loss to understand why men of the far-sighted intelligence of the board member did not foresee when the bond issue was asked for, how much money or how large a site would be needed for the building they had in mind. The citizens in question de-clared they thought the district had done its part in full when the bond grant was made and that all that re-mained to be done was for the board to deliver a finished school; but upon awakening, as one put it, they discovered they had to dig down again. He predicted the new school building, including the site, would cost about \$100,000 when completed. This, in view of the already high taxes, he con-tended was going too far.

The high school is the place of the meeting.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin 10 Apr 1919, Thu • Page 1



## TO ENLARGE SITE

### Electors Unanimously Vote To Buy Doege Lot For New School Grounds.

The fellows who were grumbling and kicking about the school board incurring too much expense in promoting the project of the proposed Junior High and Vocational school didn't make themselves heard at the special meeting of the district in the high school Thursday evening, or else weren't present, so the principal proposition of the board, that of buying the Dr. Doege lot for the enlargement of the site of the building, went through without a word of opposition.

The meeting was exceptionally well attended. It was called for the purpose of considering the matter of authorizing the board to buy the Doege lot, to dispose of the dwelling thereon and to dispose of the dwelling on the Jefferson school grounds. C. B. Edwards called the meeting to order, after which he was elected chairman of the meeting on account of the president of the board, E. E. Finney, being out of town. Clerk P. J. Kraus was elected secretary.

After the call of the meeting had been read, Mr. Edwards explained the necessity of acquiring additional land, saying the state department was against putting up school buildings on sites cramped for space, and close to other buildings, also that the state authorities had complimented the board for its excellent choice of a site in regard to location.

The matter of purchasing the Doege lot was brought to a vote by a resolution which was adopted by a unanimous vote. In regard to the disposition of the building on the lot, it was voted to sell it at either a public or private sale or lease it to the city if desired by the city, for a restroom or other public purposes. The board was also authorized to sell the dwelling on the Jefferson school grounds.

W. D. Connor spoke a few words in regard to incorporating the community center idea in the proposed new school building, principally the features of a large auditorium, a gymnasium and a swimming pool, for the use of the citizens in general, which was well received. Treasurer Poad of the board replied that the building had been designed with just such an object in view. Chairman Edwards supplemented Mr. Poad's remarks to the effect that the board would be glad to carry out Mr. Connor's suggestions as soon as the district votes the necessary money.

### Notice.

BIDS WANTED, for the frame dwelling situated on Lots 9 and 10, Block 5, High School 2nd Addition, known as the "Mangold house" and on the brick building situated on Lot 4, Block 80, formerly occupied by Dr. K. W. Doege as an office.

Above two buildings are for sale, to be removed, the Doege building, within fifteen days from acceptance of bid. Bidders are required to send with sealed bid a check for ten per cent of the amount of their bids as a guarantee of good faith.

All bids must be in Clerk's hands not later than 12 o'clock noon, on April 30th, 1919. The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated April 17th, 1919.

35t1 P. J. KRAUS, Clerk.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
24 Apr 1919, Thu • Page 6

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
17 Apr 1919, Thu • Page 1

## CITY COUNCIL

### Very Busy Session—Considering Doege Building For Restroom.

The regular May session of the city council Tuesday evening was one of the busiest since before the war, due to an unusually large number of special matters for attention.

J. C. Marsh, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce traffic committee, recommended that the police be provided with more of the rules-of-the-road cards for distribution to vehicle drivers and that the paved street crossings be marked to indicate the pedestrians' right of way. Referred to the public works board.

Secretary Lamson of the Chamber of Commerce apprised the council of the school board's offer to turn over to the city the Doege residence on West Third street for public uses, rather than dispose of it at a sacrifice or raze the same. A contractor's estimate, as given by Mr. Lamson, placed the value of the building at \$5,000 to \$6,000 and the probable cost of setting it on a new site, if not over a few rods away, fully restored to its present condition, at \$1,400 to \$1,700. The public works board was requested to investigate the advisability of accepting the offer. It is to make a report at an adjourned session of the council Saturday evening.

George Wallace, president of the J.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
17 Apr 1919, Thu • Page 1

### . Purdy School.

The Chamber of Commerce bulletin of the past week contains the suggestion that the memory of W. D. Purdy, who heroically sacrificed his life in France, be honored by naming the Junior High and Vocational school the Purdy school.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
27 Mar 1919, Thu • Page 1

Memorial by the Common Council, of the city of Marshfield Wisconsin.

During the trying period of the worlds war the City of Marshfield, gave freely of her noble sons who so bravely distinguished themselves on the field of battle, with honor to themselves and our City, and especially Sergeant Willard D. Purdy, Co. A, 127th Infantry, who deliberately sacrificed his life that his comrades might live; now we, the Marshfield City Council, believing as we do, that it is the wish of the citizens of our city, that we pay honor to the deceased Sergt. Willard D. Purdy for his noble act of bravery and self sacrifice, which will go down in history with honor to our City, by naming our new Vocational School the Purdy School. The Mayor is hereby authorized to present this Memorial to the Honorable School Board of the City of Marshfield, Wisconsin.

The above was presented by Alderman John Juno.

Motion made by Alderman Juno seconded by Alderman Campbell that the above be adopted by a rising vote of the Council.

Motion carried by a rising vote of the council.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
14 Aug 1919, Thu • Page 12

# JUNIOR HIGH NAMED PURDY

NAMED CHANGED TO HONOR  
YOUNG MAN FOR NOBLE DEED ON FRENCH  
BATTLEFIELDS.

He Is the Late Willard D. Purdy—History of the School Naming Movement.

Franklin was discarded and Purdy substituted as the name of the new Junior High and Vocational school building at a well attended special meeting of the school district in the high school Monday evening.

C. B. Edwards was elected secretary and E. E. Finney chairman of the meeting. The latter called the meeting to order.

The next order of business was a resolution reading as follows:

"Be it resolved that the action of the annual school meeting and the action of the district board naming the new Junior High School "Franklin" be and the same hereby is rescinded."

Mr. Edwards moved for an amendment to strike out the words, "and the action of the school board," on the grounds that the name was chosen at a district school meeting and not at a school board meeting. Major Connor took issue with Mr. Edwards and moved that the resolution remain unchanged. The vote was in favor of the adoption of the resolution as introduced.

Before the voting, and in support of Mr. Edward's contention, Chairman Finney gave a brief history of the school naming movement. Originally the school board decided on the name Garfield. Later the name Purdy was suggested and grew rapidly in popularity. Then the board rescinded its action with the object of letting the district electors choose the name, in the belief that this method would be the most satisfactory. At the district meeting, attended by only three or four besides the board, the vote was in favor of Franklin.

After the adoption of the above resolution, this resolution was introduced: "Be it resolved that the new Junior High School of the city of Marshfield be and the same hereby is named Willard D. Purdy in commemoration of the heroic self-sacrifice of Sergeant Willard D. Purdy, a late member of Company A, 127th infantry." It was adopted and the meeting adjourned.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
25 Sep 1919, Thu • Page 1

At the annual meeting of the electors of School District No. 1, Marshfield, in the high school Tuesday evening, officers were elected as follows: I. P. Tiffault, treasurer, succeeding Dr. W. T. Poad; Dr. W. G. Sexton and Charles Pors, members of the board, succeeding Amos Roll and Mrs. R. E. Andrews. The terms of the retiring officers had expired. By a unanimous vote "Willard D. Purdy School" was adopted as the official name of the vocational school building.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
08 Jul 1920, Thu • Page 7

# SCHOOL BOARD'S YEARLY REPORT

**BUDGET FOR THE ENSUING  
YEAR'S SCHOOL EX-  
PENSES CALLS FOR  
\$94,692.75.**

**Amount to be Raised \$89,635—  
\$1,567.10 Needed to Com-  
plete Purdy School.**

Following is the annual report of the school board of District No. 1, city of Marshfield, as submitted to the recent meeting of the electors:

The amount of money received during the year ending June 30, 1920, has been \$109,375.80. To this sum should be added the balance on hand July 1, 1919, amounting to \$69,370.30, making a total of \$178,746.10. From this amount \$167,052.92 have been disbursed for teacher's salaries, new school building and other expenses, leaving a balance on hand, in the treasury, July 1, 1920, general fund \$5,057.75, building fund \$6,635.43, total \$11,693.18.

The total bonded indebtedness of the district is \$99,000, this item having been reduced by the payment of \$3,000 on March 1, 1920.

The estimated cost necessary to complete the Willard D. Purdy school building is \$8,202.53. Deducting \$6,635.43 balance on hand in this fund, leaves amount of \$1,567.10 to be raised for said work.

It will be necessary to raise for the payment of bonds numbered 7-B, 8-B, and 9-B., falling due on March 1, 1921, the sum of \$3,000, also all interest on outstanding bonds which fall due on December 1, 1920, \$3,000, January 1, 1921, \$1,025, March 1, 1921, \$300 and on July 1, 1921 \$625.

We recommend that nine and one-half months constitute our school teaching period for the ensuing year.

We recommend that each newspaper in this city publishing proceedings of the annual school meeting receive \$5 therefor.

We recommend that the hour of the next annual school meeting be fixed at eight o'clock P. M.

After making a careful estimate of the expenses anticipated for the ensuing year, we beg leave to submit the following itemized statement covering amounts needed.

Teachers' salaries -----	\$60,000.00
Janitors' salaries -----	5,940.00
Clerk's salaries -----	500.00
Treasurer's salaries -----	200.00
Wood and fuel -----	7,500.00
Repairs to buildings and grounds -----	4,000.00
Furniture and supplies ---	5,250.00
Amount required for completing Willard D. Purdy building	1,567.10
Bonds numbered 7-B, 8-B, 9-B -----	3,000.00
Int. on bonds due Dec. 1, 1920	3,000.00
Int. on bonds due Jan. 1, 1921	1,025.00
Int. on bonds due Mar 1, 1921	300.00
Int. on bonds due July 1, 1921	625.00
Incidentals -----	1,785.65

**\$94,692.75**

Deducting \$5,057.75, the amount of balance now on hand in the general fund, from above total estimate of \$94,692.75 leaves a balance of \$89,635, which should be raised by taxation.

We, therefore, recommend that the sum of \$89,635 be provided for the purposes mentioned, to cover the running expenses of the ensuing year, and offer the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, That there be and is hereby levied and assessed upon the taxable property of School District No. One of the City of Marshfield, Wood county, Wisconsin, the sum of \$89,635.00 to defray said running expenses for said school year, and also pay bonds numbered 7-B, 8-B, and 9-B, in addition to all interest that becomes due on December 1, 1920, January 1, 1921, and July 1, 1921, in accordance with the recommendations above set forth.

**SCHOOL BOARD.**

The report was adopted.

## VACATION ENDED

### Schools Re-open Monday—7th, 8th and 9th Grades in Purdy School.

All the city schools are to begin next Monday, August 30. The following should be noted by parents whose children attend the public schools.

1st. All children in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades will attend the Junior high school in the Willard D. Purdy school building on Third street, just west of Central avenue.

2nd. There will be a kindergarten opened on the North Side in the St. John's parochial school building. This kindergarten is a part of the public school system.

3rd. All children under six years of age are advised to attend one of the kindergartens.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
26 Aug 1920, Thu • Page 1

The dedicatory exercises of the William Purdy school will be held in the Purdy school at 8 o'clock this evening. The program will be given under the auspices of the school board co-operating with the Rotary club, American legion post, the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial school board.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
11 Nov 1920, Thu • Page 8

## ENROLLMENT TONIGHT FOR EVENING SCHOOL

Tonight is the last opportunity for enrolment in the evening school in the Purdy building. The hours of registration are 7 to 8 o'clock. The enrollment fee is \$1. This fee will be returned if the student attends 80 per cent of the time. The school will open for the new year October 11. All students 16 years old or over are eligible to this school.

Classes will be organized in the following subjects if 10 or more persons enroll: shorthand, beginning and advanced; typewriting, bookkeeping, penmanship, business English, business arithmetic, machinshop, forge, drill press and sheetmetal work, drafting including mechanical, machine and architectural drawing and blue print reading; woodwork consisting of elementary bench work; cabinet and pattern making, woodturning and carpentry; automobile work consisting of a study of frames, axles, springs, wheels, transmission clutch, engines, batteries, tires, etc.

There will also be a class for those who wish to learn to read and write the English language.

The home economics department will offer special courses in sewing and cooking. Here is an opportunity to save a big dressmaking bill by renovating last winter's garments or making new ones.

Time will also be given to Christmas novelties.

An excellent course in which the principles of cooking are applied in the preparation of meals will be given.

The Citizenship club will resume sessions for the new year in the Willard D. Purdy school October 15.

The above information was given out by Roy J. Carver, director of the vocational school.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
07 Oct 1920, Thu • Page 2

# PURDY SCHOOL

City's Newest Institution of  
Learning to be Dedicated  
Tonight.

The Willard D. Purdy school will be dedicated with appropriate exercises in this school building at 5 o'clock this evening. The program will be given under the auspices of the school board co-operating with the Rotary club, the American legion post, the industrial school board and the Chamber of Commerce. Efforts were being made to get a prominent out of town man for the principal speaker, but at this writing the arrangements for one had not yet been consummated. Other numbers will be the unveiling ceremony of a bronze tablet presented to the school in memory of Sergt. Purdy, musical numbers, and a talk by Dr. W. G. Sexton with reference to the significance of the tablet, which comes as a gift to the school from the

citizens of Marshfield. It probably will be placed in the assembly room of the school.

Later—The program was issued Tuesday. It follows:

Prayer, Rev. Fred J. Jordan.

Song, America, audience.

Opening remarks, E. E. Finney.

Address, Rev. Father Peter Johnson of St. Francis, Wis., department chaplain of the American legion.

Song, selected, Mrs. William Davies.

Unveiling of tablet, Dr. W. G. Sexton.

Presentation of portrait of Sgt. Purdy, Rev. Henry A. Link.

Acceptance address on part of school board, Charles Pors.

Star Spangled Banner, audience.

The portrait of Sgt. Purdy is a gift from the American Citizenship club.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin  
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
11 Nov 1920, Thu • Page 8





At the close of the world war, the board decided to proceed with the new junior high school building project, and the lowest bid came from Krasin Brothers, who proposed to do the construction for \$51,458. The heating, plumbing and lighting bid was approved at \$13,859. When construction was completed one year and nine months later, the total labor and construction cost came in at only \$65,311, well below an estimate of \$100,000 estimate.

Equipment was also needed for the new school, and the board was authorized at the annual meeting on July 7, 1919 to borrow an additional \$24,000. Voters also chose to change the name to Franklin as originally proposed. A large number of people in the community resented the name change, and suggested the building be named the Willard D. Purdy school in honor of the World War I hero from Marshfield.

The city council took action to have the school board change the name after petitions were presented urging reconsideration. A meeting of the school district was scheduled for September 22, 1919. A unanimous motion was passed to name the school after Sergeant Purdy who died when he threw himself on a live hand grenade and saved others in his company from injury or death.

The building was occupied in the fall of 1920, with formal dedication taking place on the evening of November 11, 1920. Total enrollment in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades was 290 pupils, and the vocational school enrollment of 100. Since the first day it was occupied it was not large enough for all the students. School officials had estimated the building could accommodate 240 students at best.

A bronze plaque was placed in the entry of the building, the cost of which was donated by private citizens. The plaque read: "This building is dedicated to the memory of Sergeant Willard D. Purdy, Company A, 127th Infantry. On July 4, 1918, in Alsace Lorraine, France, Sergeant Purdy died to save the lives of seven other Wisconsin soldiers. 'Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends,' serves as an inspiration to the many who attend this school and the visitor who enters the building."

**Excerpted from the Marshfield History Project, Volume 1, "The Marshfield Story, 1872-1997: Piecing Together Our Past", Page 137.**

Also see related story, "Purdy Retirement Community":

[http://hstrial-marshfieldare.homestead.com/Purdy\\_Retirement\\_Community.pdf](http://hstrial-marshfieldare.homestead.com/Purdy_Retirement_Community.pdf)

For additional information on this building from the Wisconsin Historical Society:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55481> and  
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/NationalRegister/NR1251>