

the problem is shown by the fact that 111 classrooms will be needed in addition to the present 266 classrooms in order to operate on the basis of 27 children per room.

(B) PROPOSED PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

For analysis of a long-range capital improvement program for Utica's public schools, the city has been divided into six geographic sections.

The 1940 population as enumerated by the Bureau of the Census is shown for each of these sections, together with estimates of population in 1948, 1960 and 1970. These are as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>
South Utica	10,295	11,873	13,800	14,440
West Utica*	21,004	20,927	19,400	17,720
East Utica	25,393	25,281	24,050	22,910
Southeast Utica	9,428	10,827	12,000	13,500
Cornhill-inner				
Sunset	29,946	33,246	32,850	31,720
North Utica	1,847	2,106	7,500	13,600

*Note - Not including Utica State Hospital

Wherever possible school grounds are proposed as playgrounds and playfields. This is a practical consideration based upon securing maximum use of the same school ground and certain portions of the building in connection with the year around municipal recreation program in addition to the regular school activities.

The plan (Plate number 29) recognizes the expanding scope of the public school program; and the increasing importance of recreation for children and adults in the complex urban life - from the standpoint of providing necessary public services as well as the stabilizing influence of adequate public areas in the neighborhoods.

School Sites.

More modern practices should be followed in regard to

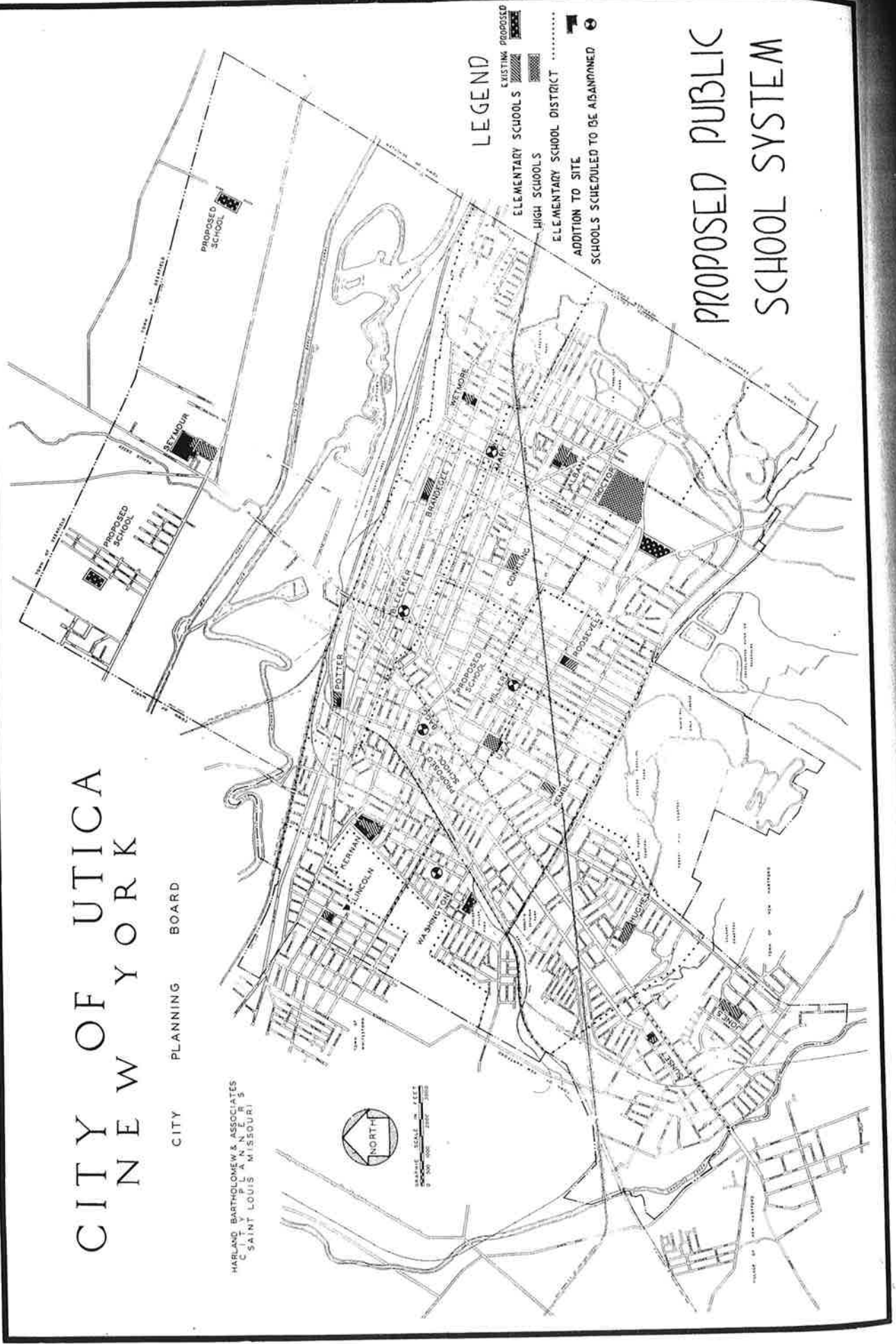
CITY OF UTICA NEW YORK

CITY PLANNING BOARD

HARLAND BARTHOLOMEW & ASSOCIATES
PLANNERS
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI



GRAPHIC SCALE
1" = 1000'

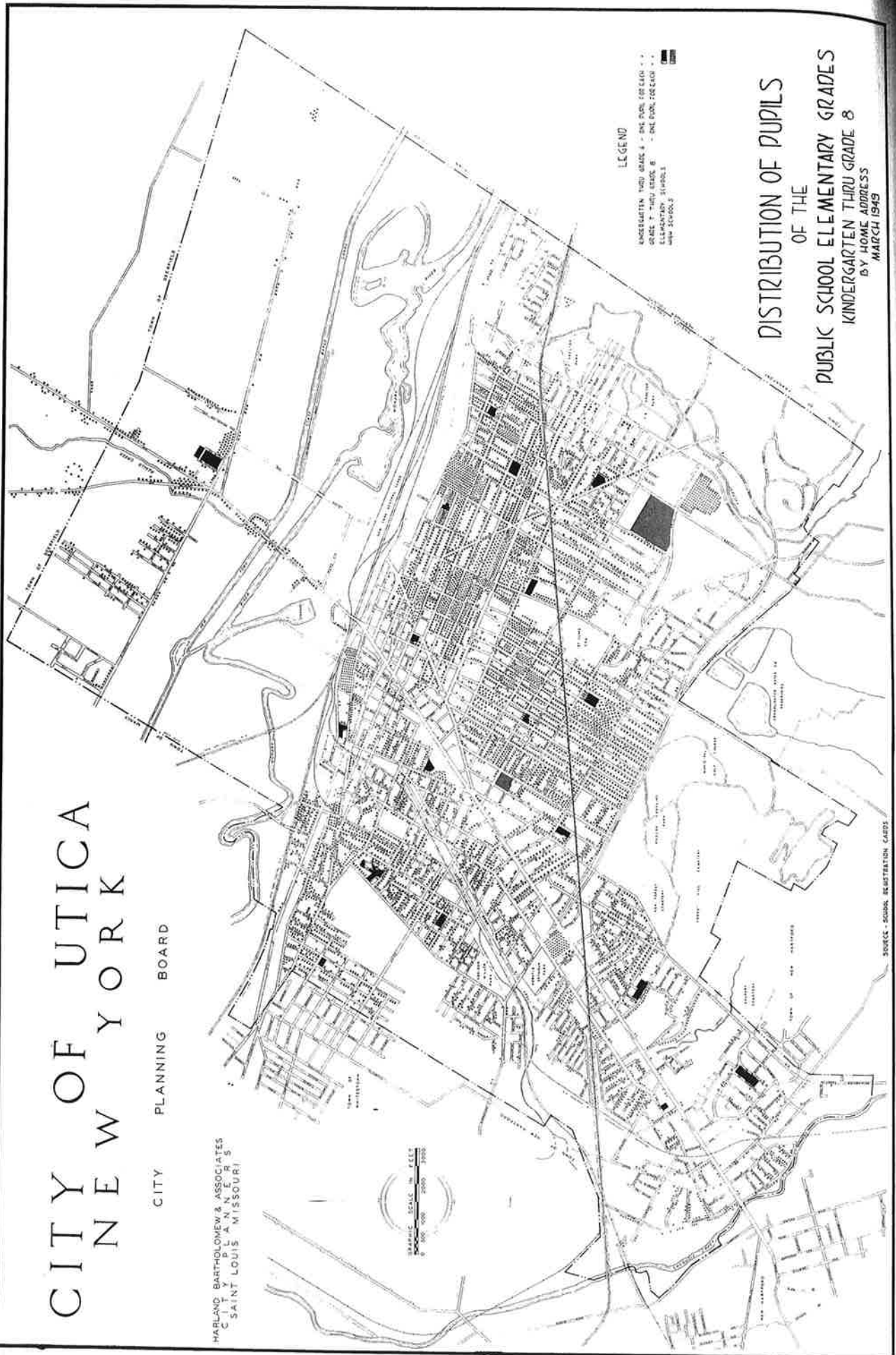


PROPOSED PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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LEGEND

- KINDERGARTEN THRU GRADE 8 - ONE DOT FOR EACH
- GRADE 7 THRU GRADE 6 - ONE DOT FOR EACH
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- NEW SCHOOLS

DISTRIBUTION OF PUPILS
OF THE
PUBLIC SCHOOL ELEMENTARY GRADES
KINDERGARTEN THRU GRADE 8
BY HOME ADDRESS
MARCH 1949

SOURCE - SCHOOL REGISTRATION CARDS

school grounds, such as the following:

New school sites should have at least five acres for elementary schools and 10 acres for high schools.

School sites should be carefully planned and developed to provide the greatest service and beauty in the neighborhood. They should be properly graded and drained. They should provide an attractive setting for the public building. They should also be developed as playgrounds for use in the educational and recreational programs of the city.

Most of Utica's school grounds are very small and there is little hope for much enlargement. It is recommended, therefore, that a site plan of each existing school be prepared showing areas to be developed for lawn, shrubs and trees; small children's play areas; surfaced areas for court games; and an area for softball and running games. In this way, greater use may be made of each school ground and each may become an attractive part of the neighborhood.

South Utica.

The portion of Utica which lies south of the Parkway and Burrstone Road is served by Hughes (K-8), Sunset (K-6), and Jones (K-3) schools.

With a total enrollment of 886 and a total capacity of 1,209, the three public schools of South Utica are being used to 73.8 per cent of capacity. The percentage of capacity use for the individual schools is: Hughes, 70; Sunset, 92; and Jones, 60. The unused capacity at Jones School is mostly in the kindergarten.

The estimated population in South Utica in 1948 was 11,873 persons. Its future population is estimated at 13,800 and future school enrollment is estimated at 1,320.

Hughes School, now 24 years old, is one of Utica's most modern schools. Its present use is only 73 per cent of its capacity. This is the central school unit for South Utica for it is the largest and the only one of the three which takes students through the eighth grade. No addition to the structure is

A DESIGN FOR THE SITE DEVELOPMENT OF KERNAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

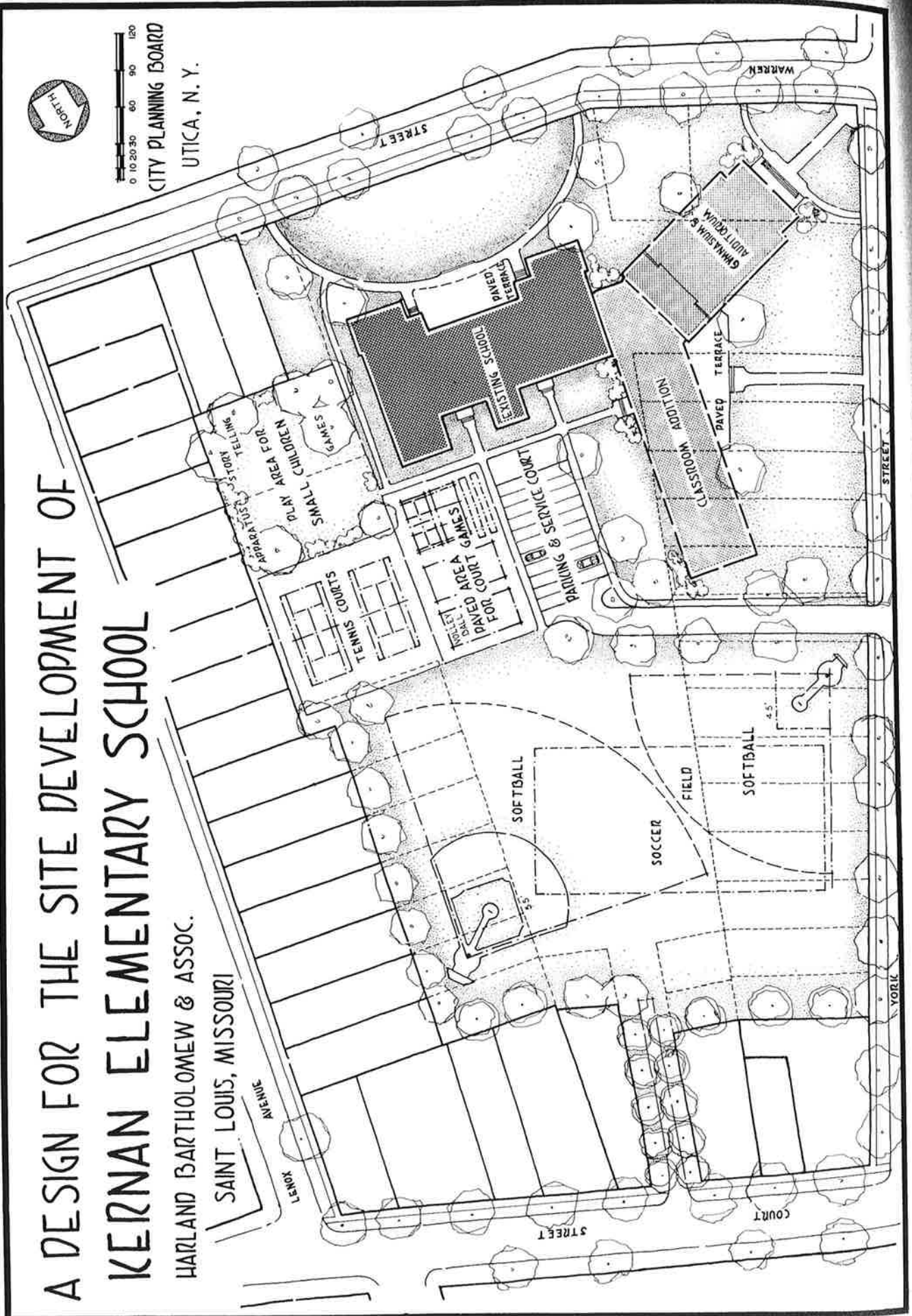
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UTICA, N. Y.



proposed, nor can the site be enlarged except at exorbitant cost.

Sunset School houses kindergarten through sixth grade on its first and second floors, and is used to 92 per cent of its capacity. The school district boundary should be relocated as the school population increases to distribute the excess pupils to other less congested South Utica schools. Addition of a combined auditorium and gymnasium as a building wing would extend the services which this school may provide. The site of less than an acre should be enlarged by acquiring the two adjoining vacant lots on the north.

Jones School. It is probable that home building construction in the Ridgewood neighborhood will soon be sufficient to necessitate completion of the unfinished space in Jones School for additional classrooms. The Jones School site contains 4.34 acres. Acquisition of adjoining vacant lots on the west would increase the area of the school grounds to about five acres.

West Utica.

There are five public schools in the area here designated as West Utica, namely Kernan, Washington, Lincoln, Bagg and Potter. Kernan is the community center, and Washington, Lincoln, Bagg and Potter are neighborhood schools in the Kernan community.

Kernan School, built in 1917, is now 32 years old and the enrollment is 129 per cent of the optimum capacity. The school ground contains 4.32 acres. On the basis of present enrollment, the area should have 12.6 acres, and on the basis of ultimate enrollment, in 1959 when the peak in this kindergarten through eighth grade school is reached, the site should have 17 acres. Although the 17 acre area is highly desirable, practical consideration of this built-up area shows that a smaller site must be accepted.

The estimated peak enrollment in Kernan School for which plant and facilities must be provided is 1,100. The 1948 enrollment is 793 in a school with a capacity of 594. The estimate is based upon the present enrollment, the rather stable enrollment during recent years, and an increase during the next decade of about 30 per cent which is indicated for

those Utica schools enrolling Kindergarten through eighth grade. The estimate also includes the school population north of Noyes Street which now attends Washington School but must be redistricted in order to prevent use in excess of capacity at Washington. (See Plate number 30 for a suggested plan of development of the Kernan School Site.)

Washington School. This school building is now 57 years old, and is used slightly in excess of its capacity. Two factors will add progressively to the present use. One is the enrollment trend based upon the normal resident births. The present enrollment of 220 in grades 1 to 6 may be expected to increase to about 300 at the peak in 1957. In addition, the York Heights area contains some of the most desirable building lots remaining in the city. If these lots are built upon to any great extent, there will be a corresponding increase in the school load. Furthermore, it is probable that home building in York Heights will continue conservatively for a decade or more, so that the enrollment peak expected in 1957 will continue for many years.

In order to accommodate the expected enrollment without building an addition on Washington School, it is recommended that the district boundary between Washington and Kernan be moved to Noyes Street, after an addition has been provided at Kernan.

When it becomes necessary and possible to abandon the Washington School, the present site should also be abandoned. It is recommended that the new school for this district should be built adjacent to the Addison C. Miller Park on the north.

Lincoln School. This school building is now 54 years old but is not used to capacity. If the general 30 per cent increase in elementary school enrollments occurs at Lincoln, the school will have sufficient capacity for the estimated need. The one acre site is inadequate and should be increased by acquisition of adjacent lots whenever possible..

Potter School. This building is 37 years old. It is very poorly located, being at the side of its district rather than at the center, and being in the industrial district. The school has a total capacity of 374 pupils, but the enrollment is only 217, or 58 per cent of capacity. At the present time, 75 of the children enrolled in Potter School live in the Washington Courts Apartments. The population in the Potter dis-

trict is subject to some reduction as the remainder of the substandard dwellings in the Municipal Housing Authority clearance area are razed.

It is recommended that the Potter School District line be moved southward to the rear of the lots on the south side of Columbia Street. This will increase the present population of Potter School to about 260.

The school site contains three quarters of an acre. For an ultimate enrollment of 360 pupils, the site should contain $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres. It is recommended that the Cooper playground be abandoned, and that all the lots in the block westward to the railroad except 17, 18, 19, 2 and 22 be acquired for a school playground. The site will then amount to $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. This area is too small to include both childrens playground use and a softball diamond. It is recommended that Bigelow Playground be kept, but that additional recreation facilities and a softball field be provided on the expanded school site.

Bagg School is 50 years old. The total capacity is 254 and the enrollment is practically equal to the capacity. The school should be abandoned within a few years. It is recommended that when Bagg School is replaced, the new school should be built in the vicinity of Noyes Street. The school district would then include the area lying between Genesee Street and the O & W Railroad; and Columbia Street and Burrstone Road. The present elementary school population in this suggested district is 375 children. The school should be large enough to accommodate between 400 and 500 children.

East Utica.

This section of the city lies generally between Rutger and Broad Streets. It includes the neighborhoods served by Brandegee, Bleecker, Wetmore and Mary Street Schools.

The population of this portion of East Utica has been declining gradually but steadily for several decades. In 1920, the population was almost 31,000. The present population is estimated at 25,000. Further decrease is indicated

for some years to come. School needs for this section of the city must be based, therefore, upon a gradually declining total population, although during the next few years there will be a large number of children of school age.

Brandegge School is Utica's largest public elementary school, having a capacity of 910 pupils. The original building was built in 1911 and an addition was built in 1922.

The Brandegge School enrollment in September 1948 was 775, or 85 per cent of capacity. Enrollments have been decreasing since 1930 and during the last ten years have decreased from 1,202 to 775. Enrollments in Brandegge School will be maintained at about capacity because of the large child population and because of recommended closings of adjacent schools.

The school site contains less than two acres, much of which is occupied by the building. A city-owned lot on Catherine Street, west of the school is used as a playground. It is recommended that the properties adjoining the school and the city-owned lot be acquired.

Bleecker School. This building is 83 years old - the oldest in the school system. Site conditions are poor, for the area consists of only two thirds of an acre, much of which is occupied by the building. The school is also poorly located in relation to the school population. The school has a total capacity for 226 pupils, and a total enrollment in September 1948 of 289. The use is 113 per cent of its optimum capacity.

Bleecker School is no longer suitably located to serve its school population and should be abandoned.

Wetmore School was built in 1900, and a large addition was built in 1914. It has a total capacity of 510, and the enrollment of 473 fills the school to 93 per cent of its capacity.

The Wetmore School area has been losing in total population and in school population for many years. It is to be expected that the trend will continue. Although the school population will increase during the next decade due to the recent high birth rate, migration from this district will probably be sufficient to keep the peak enrollment within the school capacity, and to absorb some pupils from the Mary

street School.

The school ground at Wetmore is very small - only 1.6 acres, much of which is occupied by the building. A minimum site of five acres is particularly desirable in such a congested part of the city, and acquisition of adjacent properties to add as much as possible is recommended.

Mary Street School is obsolete. The school has an enrollment of 356 and a capacity of 239 so is used at 149 per cent of its optimum capacity.

If the Mary Street school district maintains the trend of growth in school population indicated for the city as a whole, it would have a public school population of about 450 in the peak year of 1957.

It is recommended that the old part of the building be razed, and that the remainder be used as a neighborhood school for lower grades until the high enrollment period has passed. Thereafter, the school population should be redistricted to adjacent schools.

South East. Utica.

This section of the city includes the separate neighborhoods served by Albany and Conkling elementary schools, and Proctor High School.

Albany School is 53 years old and is obsolete for modern educational purposes. The school has a capacity of 239, and its enrollment is 320, so its use is 134 per cent of its optimum capacity.

The school plant program for the Albany district should be based upon facilities for about twice the present capacity. Because of the present and increasingly serious overcrowding in both the Albany and Mary Street schools, because of the extreme obsolescence of both schools, and because of the fact that half of the reasonable service area of each school overlaps the other, it is recommended that the Albany School be replaced by a modern building, and that the school district lines be changed to place part of the Mary Street district in the new Albany School district.

Conkling Street, now 25 years old is one of Utica's newest schools. The total capacity of Conkling School is 884, and the enrollment (September 1948) is 1010, resulting in use at 113 per cent of optimum capacity. Increase in the school population to about 1300 must be expected in this district, and extreme congestion will result unless the situation is relieved. The obvious relief measure is to transfer the seventh and eighth grade program from this school to Proctor. This would reduce the Conkling enrollment by 250 or 300 pupils, thus providing space for the expected increase in the elementary grades.

The Conkling School site of 2 3/4 acres is extremely small for so large an enrollment. It should be enlarged to five acres.

The Sherman Drive - East Parkway section is relatively undeveloped at the present time. This is part of the Roosevelt School district, although only 18 children (K-6) from east of Mohawk Street are enrolled in Roosevelt School. The school planning and construction program should be so arranged that when the Sherman Drive, East Parkway and Nob Hill area develop, a new elementary school will be built. It is probable that the 8 1/2 acre tract recently re-acquired by the city, and situated between Sherman and Armory Drives, is suitable for the future public school site.

Cornhill and Inner Sunset.

This section of the city includes the neighborhoods served by Miller, Roosevelt and Kemble Schools.

Miller School is the oldest school in the city except Bleecker and possesses a very inadequate site. The building is used to 114 per cent of its optimum capacity.

Miller School is poorly located in relation to the other elementary schools. Its service area is almost completely overlapped by five adjacent schools, and it lies within the proper service area of the Roosevelt School. The area is so densely developed, however, and there are so many children of elementary school age, that an elementary school in the lower section of Cornhill is necessary.

It is recommended that a new elementary school of 500

south of the Parkway and Burrstone Road to Hughes School will reduce the Kemble population by another hundred, and the proposed school in the Miller-Bleecker district may be designed so as to include some of the Kemble School pupils if necessary.

North Utica.

Seymour School is the only public school in North Utica. The addition now being built will increase the total capacity from 320 to 594 pupils. The enrollment in September 1948 was 426 children in kindergarten through eighth grade and it is expected that the School including the addition, will be filled to capacity within a couple of years. It is probable that the population of North Utica will be three or four times greater in 1960 and six or seven times greater in 1970 than at present.

It is recommended, therefore, that two additional school sites should be acquired in North Utica immediately. One of these sites should be rather centrally located between Riverside Drive, Trenton Road and the north and west city boundaries. The other should be in the vicinity of Keyes Road. The area of the sites should be from five to ten acres.

High Schools.

It is estimated that over five thousand pupils will be enrolled in Utica's high school in the peak years of 1963 and 1964. This will represent an increase of sixteen hundred pupils over the present enrollment. The combined capacity of Utica Free Academy and Proctor is 5100, so overcrowding of the two high schools is not indicated even in the peak years.

Proctor High and Utica Free Academy contrast strongly in regard to the area of their sites. The Academy covers its entire site except for limited lawn space. It provides no playfield facilities on the site, and all outdoor physical education activities are conducted at Murnane Field a mile from the school. Additional lots south of the Academy should be acquired as soon as possible.

Proctor High provides the largest school site in the city. It gives a good setting for the building, service drive

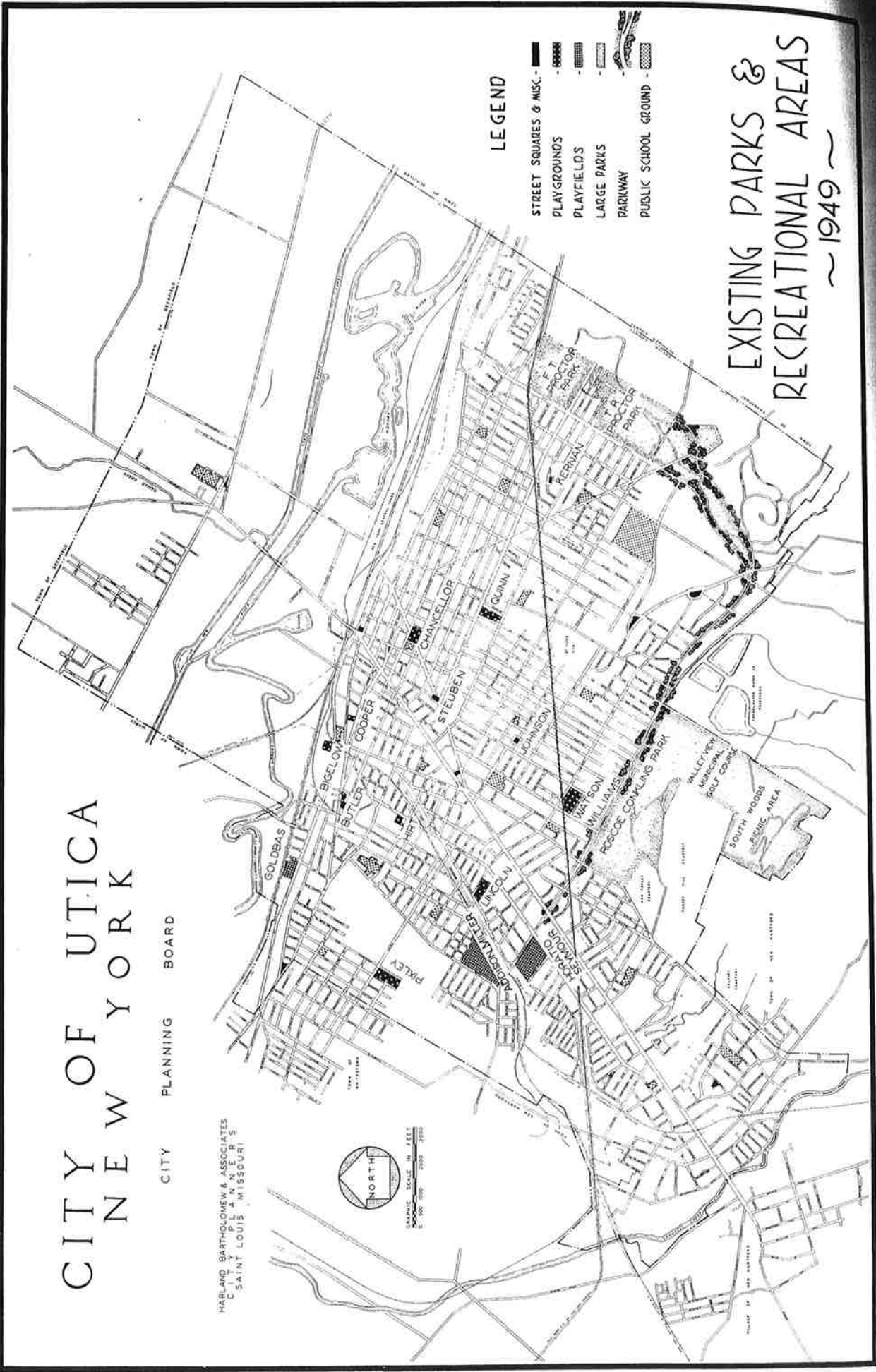
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GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
0 100 200 300 400



LEGEND

- STREET SQUARES & MISC. - [Pattern]
- PLAYGROUNDS - [Pattern]
- PLAYFIELDS - [Pattern]
- LARGE PARKS - [Pattern]
- PARKWAY - [Pattern]
- PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUND - [Pattern]

EXISTING PARKS &
RECREATIONAL AREAS
~ 1949 ~

and off-street parking, and a large athletic field. Careful planning of the grounds would permit more recreational facilities without excessive development.

A technical high school has been considered in Utica for some years. The basis of the interest in a technical high school is that the Utica public schools need to emphasize training in skills which will aid graduates to make a living in this manufacturing city; that technical courses may be improved and more varied if they are centralized in one location and in a building designed for shop use; and that basements in the two existing high schools are not the best location for shops.

It is suggested that a decision be reached by the Board of Education as to the relative importance of such a school as a unit of the educational program. It is possible that a technical high school could be included in the construction program to accommodate some of the large high school enrollment which is expected to develop. Pupils will arrive from all parts of the city, so a central location is desirable. Another possibility is to build a technical division on the large Proctor High School site.

(C) THE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Existing Park and Playground Areas.

Utica's existing parks and playgrounds are shown on Plate 31.

Playgrounds.

The conspicuous fact about existing playgrounds in Utica is that they are too little and too few. Extremely small playgrounds of an acre or two can serve only as playlots for small children. They are very important elements in the playground system, but must not be thought of as meeting the playground needs of their neighborhood. As has been previously stated playgrounds should provide space and facilities for running games, softball, and other team games. The desirable minimum area is five acres. Watson Williams is the only play-