

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

AND

GROUNDS

IN

NEBRASKA

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The Blair High School

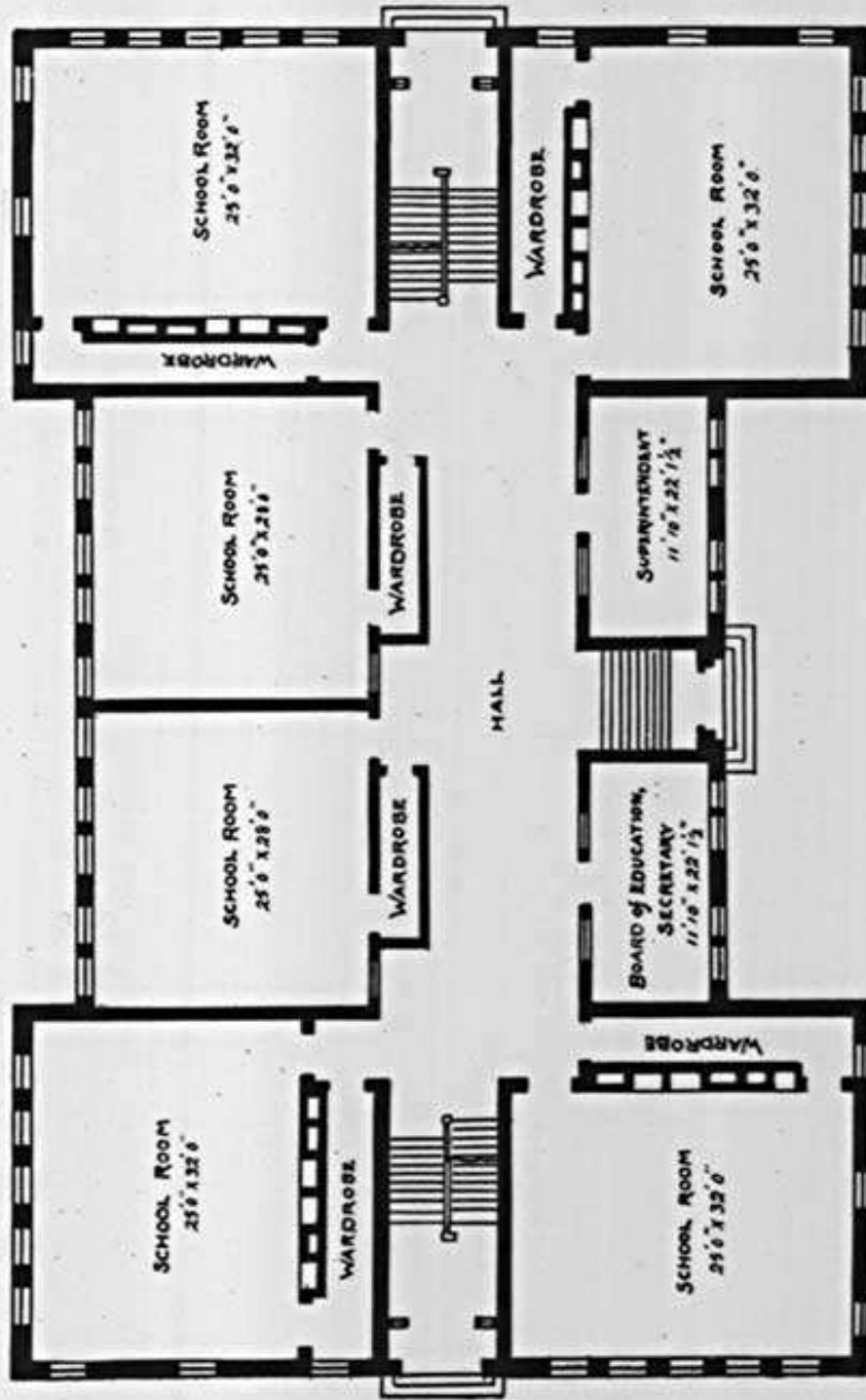
The new high school building at Blair was erected during the school year 1899-1900 at a cost of nearly \$40,000. This amount includes site, sidewalks, heating apparatus and about seven hundred dollars' worth of new furniture. Without these necessary accessories the building cost fully thirty thousand dollars. To pay for this building the School District City of Blair voted \$32,000 in bonds, running twenty years with a ten-year option, with interest at four per cent. These bonds were sold at a premium of several hundred dollars, and the entire proceeds, together with nearly eight thousand dollars in cash in the treasury of the district, were expended in the erection of this magnificent building, under the supervision of the board, the architect, Mr. John Latenser of Omaha, and a superintendent of construction in the employ of the board.

The total length of the building is 126 feet, its width is 79 feet. Each end or wing is about 34 by 79 feet, and the central portion is nearly 60 feet square. It extends east and west, facing south. The main fronts are in the south and east. It is built of dark red pressed brick, with red stone trimmings, and with slate roof. The basement contains a boiler and fuel room in the northwest corner, toilet rooms under the twenty-five by twenty-eight foot schoolrooms, and vacant rooms in the three other corners. The first floor is devoted exclusively to primary and fifth grade pupils, and the second floor to the high school. The old Central building, containing the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, is located to the northwest of the new building, but on the same block.

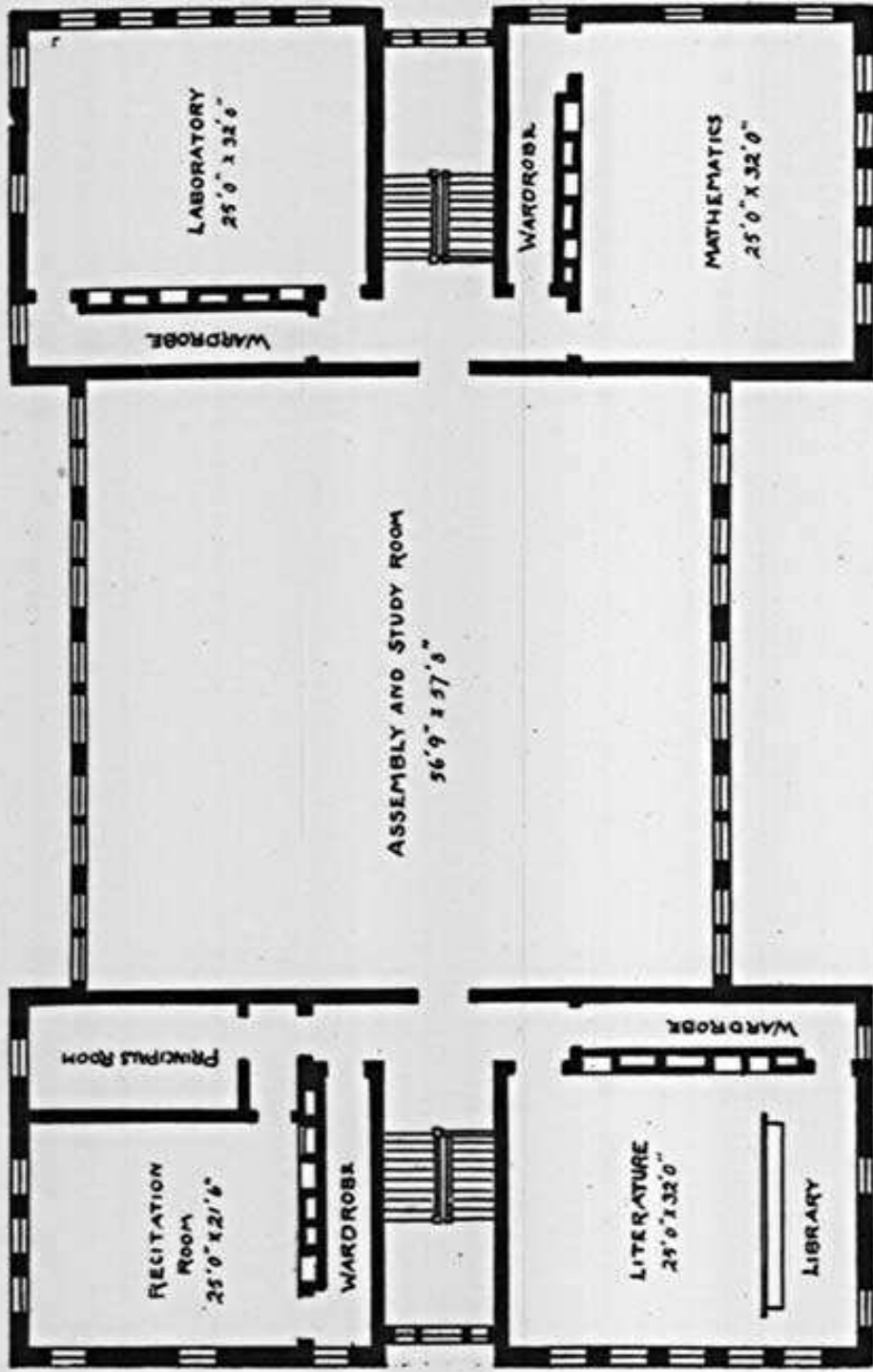
All the walls shown on the first floor plan extend down through the basement to the foundation, with the exception of those between the hall and the two wardrobes near the center of the building; and all those in and surrounding the two wings, the east and west ends, extend up to the roof. The inner walls of the central portion stop at the second floor, and the entire central portion forms on the second floor the high school assembly room. On the first floor there are six grade rooms. The two north central ones are occupied by third and fourth grades, each with a seating capacity of forty-eight pupils. In these the children face east, and each room is lighted by five windows on the north, to the left of the children, and hall and door

windows to the right. There is slate blackboard on the front and rear walls of these two rooms, three and one-half feet in width, and above the front blackboard is another blackboard three feet in width, for writing copies, drills, and practice work. In each corner room there are five windows to the left of the children and two at the rear of the room. All east, south and west windows on both floors have opaque green shades with adjustable roller fixtures, permitting the rollers to be lowered from the top. Blackboards extend across the two inner walls of each corner room, three and one-half feet wide with three feet more above in the front, and three and one-half feet wide to the right. In every room there is an unbroken front wall from corner to corner. There is a teacher's closet set into the wall to the right of the pupils. The ceilings are nearly twelve feet high. The pupils pass through the wardrobe and enter the rear of the room. The wardrobes are three feet six inches wide and have hooks numbered from one to sixty on the longer side. The steam-heated air enters each room near the ceiling, and the foul air vent is close to the floor, both openings being on the inner side wall of the room. The board of education room is used temporarily as a library. There is a drinking fountain on each floor. Each corner room has a seating capacity of fifty-four pupils. The two east ones are used for first and second grades, and the two west ones for the fifth grade. There are two other primary ward buildings in the city, but from the fifth grade up all pupils are concentrated at the new and old Central buildings.

The high school assembly and study room has a seating capacity at present of 200 pupils, which may be increased to 225, leaving ample room for aisles. All the desks in the building are single ones. The pupils face east, receiving the main light from the north and left. The north windows are a little larger than the south ones. The ceiling of the assembly room is sixteen feet high, and is a beautiful design in corrugated metal. There are no pillars or posts in the room. Ten incandescent lamps, sixteen or thirty-two candle power at option, light the room at night. Slate blackboard extends across the front of the room, except at the opening, where there are double doors. There is a platform two steps high and six by fourteen feet in the front of the room. In the rear of the room near the corners are four bookcases built into the room, two on each side, with niches above for statuary. There are two registers or openings for



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR
BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL



LABORATORY
25'0" x 32'6"

WARDROBE

WARDROBE

MATHEMATICS
25'0" x 32'0"

ASSEMBLY AND STUDY ROOM
36'9" x 27'6"

Principals Room

RECITATION ROOM
25'0" x 21'6"

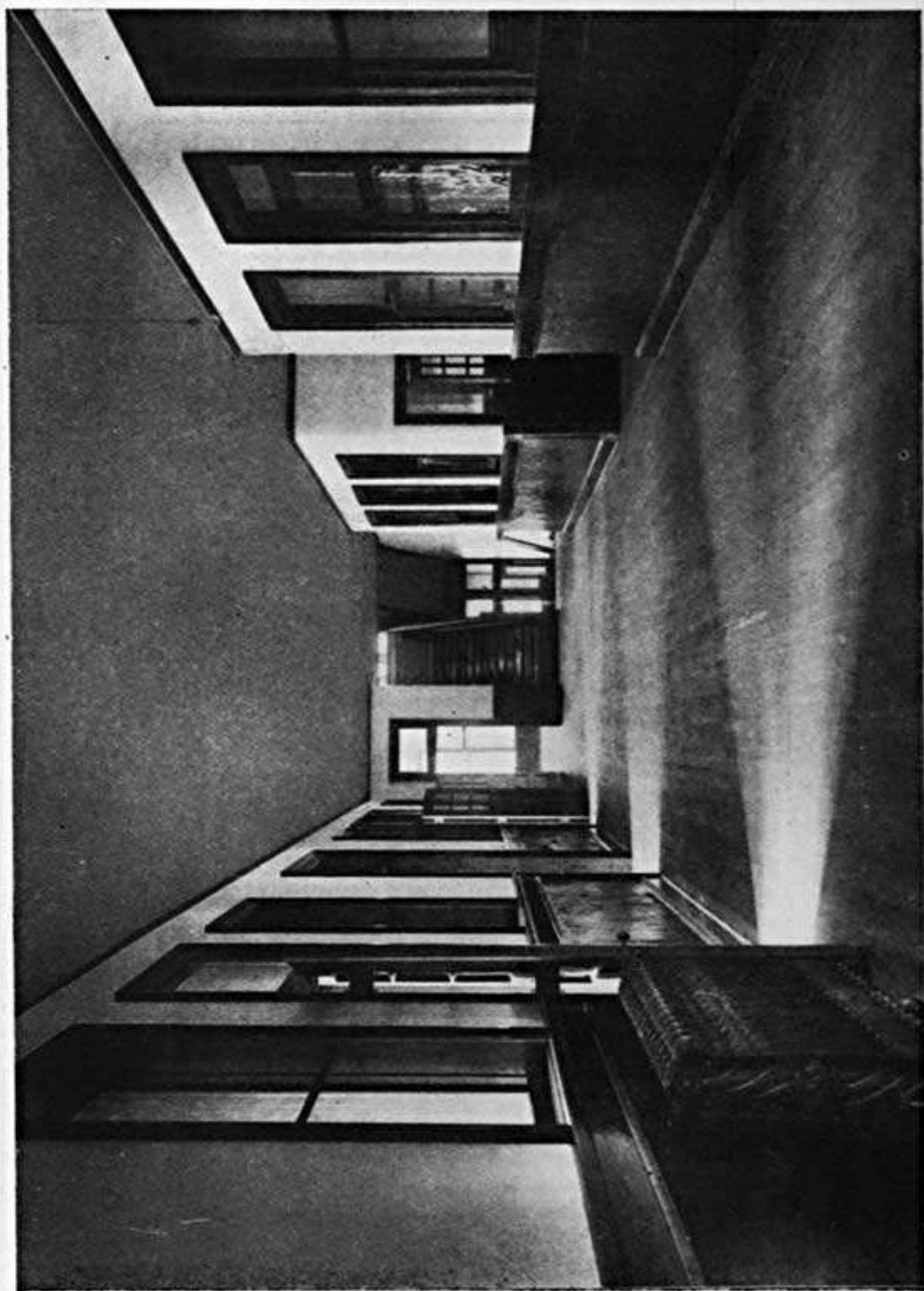
WARDROBE

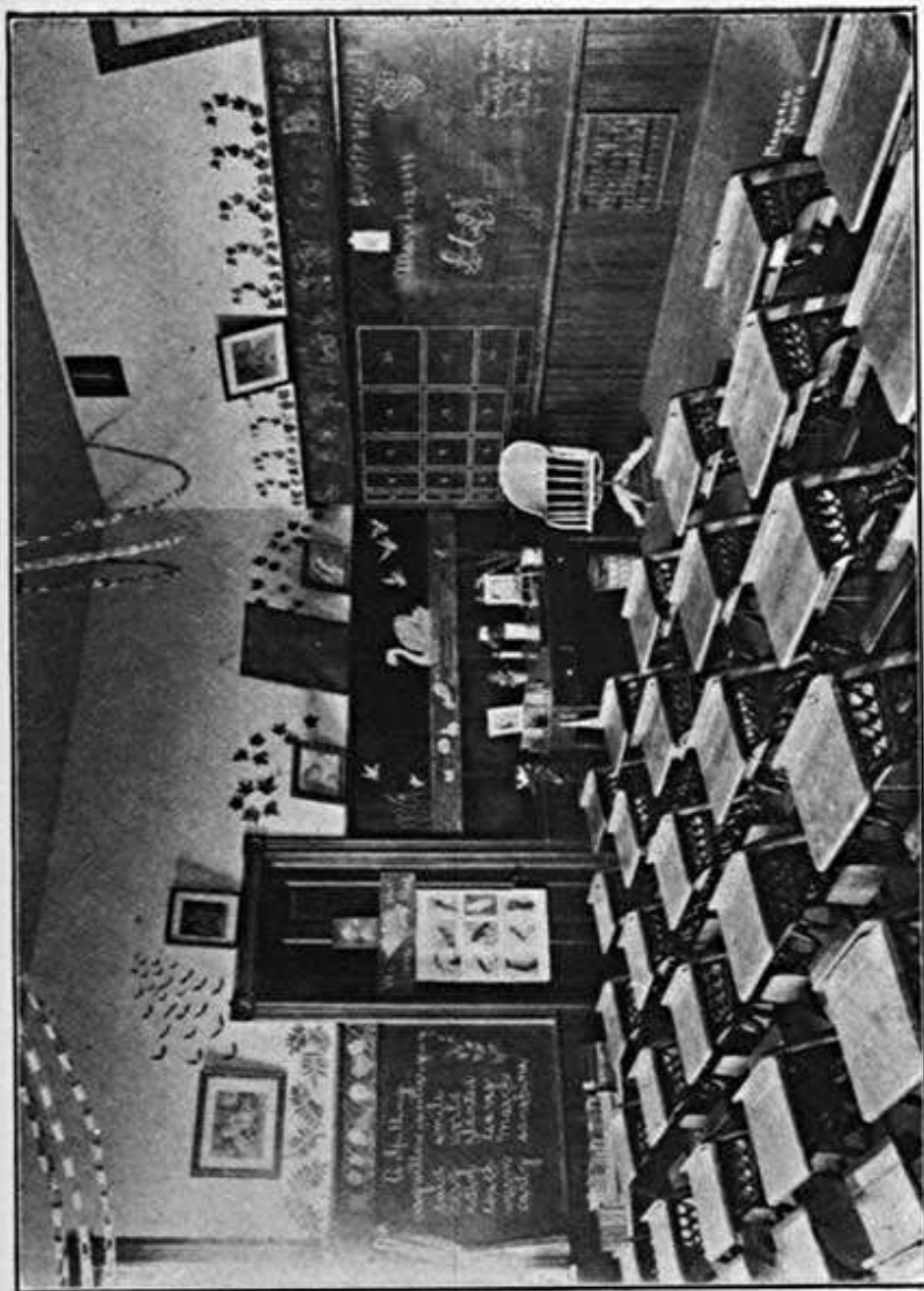
LITERATURE
25'0" x 32'0"

LIBRARY

WARDROBE

PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR
BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL





FIRST PRIMARY ROOM, BLAIR

the entrance of the steam-heated air near the center of the room, and a foul air exit in each corner.

THE BASEMENT

The girls use the east entrance to the building, exclusively, and the boys the west. After passing through the outer doors pupils may pass down to the toilet rooms in the basement in privacy, or up into the main hall. The toilet rooms also have outdoor north entrances for the use of the pupils of the old Central, and a trellis fence extends from one building to the other, dividing the grounds. As Blair has no sewerage system, an improved system of dry closets is in use in the toilet rooms. The northeast and southwest corner basement rooms may be used in stormy weather for play or dinner, by the girls and boys respectively. The building is heated with steam. Radiators have been placed in halls and offices, but for the schoolrooms the indirect system, or gravity system, of heating and ventilating is used. The rooms in the basement directly below and corresponding to the first floor wardrobes are cold air chambers. There is no opening from these into the basement rooms, but there is a door into the hall or corridor. The basement window of these cold air rooms is kept open during the day, and the cold fresh air enters, is heated as it passes over and through coils of steam pipes, and then it passes up through flues to the rooms above, which it enters above the blackboards. By crank and chain the teacher may regulate the temperature of the fresh air that enters her room without reducing the amount of air. The raising and lowering of a damper attached to the chain permits the air to pass between the steam-heated coils, or around them, or partly between and partly around them. Foul air vents or exits are near the floor line, those of the second floor rooms being directly above the first floor inlets of fresh air; the first floor outlets are built in between and divided from the two fresh air flues; thus the columns of air in the foul air flues are heated and kept rising. The foul air vents for the two middle rooms on the first floor are in the floor, and galvanized iron ducts near the ceiling of the basement carry the foul air to the southeast and southwest corner stacks. The fresh air for the central portion of the building enters through the basement windows of the rooms below the secretary's and superintendent's offices, and is conducted through tunnels under the basement floor to cold air chambers below the wardrobes in the

hall of the first floor. A flue from each of these passes up to the high school assembly room on the second floor, where the two have outlet into the room through registers fifty by twenty by thirty inches each. The foul air vents for the assembly room are in the four corners of the room, passing up and out through the ceiling and the highest parts of the roof. Steam and return pipes run from the boilers in the northwest corner to the system of direct radiation in the old Central building.