

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 14 1975**

DATE ENTERED

**SEP 5 1975**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bethel A.M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

Bethel A.M.E. Church

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

200 South 6th Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

177

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_ STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_ SITE
- \_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_ IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_ AGRICULTURE
- \_\_\_ MUSEUM
- \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_ PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- \_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_ MILITARY
- \_\_\_ OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Board of Trustees of Bethel A.M.E. Church

STREET & NUMBER

200 South 6th Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office,

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse, 4th & Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972-74

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. Exterior Bethel A.M.E. Church is a one story cruciform plan bearing wall brick church having a cross-gabled roof. A 2 1/2 story bell tower with pyramidal roof is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of the arms and shaft of the cross. It is the entry to the church as reconstructed in 1892-94. The arms and east end of the shaft of the cross have triple arched Palladian type windows with round-headed arches filled with stained glass. These were added in the 1892 remodeling. The original church as built in 1854 faced east with its principal entry on 6th Street. It was a simple Greek Revival structure. In 1892 the east entry was replaced by a triple arched stained glass window. The existing voids on the north and south sides were filled with stained glass and the west window of the church was removed and replaced by huge doors opening into the 1892 addition. The bell tower fenestration consists of 4 round arched single paned windows at the second level and 8 round arched windows on the third level below the pyramid. These voids were originally not filled with glass. The 1892 addition, which makes the arms of the cross, is of Romanesque flavor. It has buttresses at each end, and a Romanesque main cornice, which was carried across the 1854 church. The present church is largely Romanesque in appearance.

## II. Interior

A. 1854 Church The interior of the 1854 church is simple, plain and in keeping with its origin as a Methodist Meeting House. Simple architraves with corner blocks surround each door and all windows. All interior fittings such as pews and pulpit have been removed. The triple windows formerly over the altar and pulpit have been replaced by double leaf doors made to match the interior trim, opening into the 1892 church. The floor is overlaid with linoleum, underneath the linoleum is the original ash floor.

B. 1892 Church The 1892 addition is approximately cubical. It makes the arms of the cross. The interior roof is supported by groin "vaulting" manufactured from wood trusses, exposed to view. The vaults meet over the center of the cube some 25 feet above the floor. The seating plan is of the auditorium type, the floor slopes from east to west toward the altar and pulpit. The altar and choir are in a nave-like niche in the west wall. The pews seem to be original although the altar and pulpit are 20th century replacements. Interior standing trim consists of roll-moulded Romanesque architraves on all exterior doors and windows, supported by a flat back band. The 1892 addition's floor is carpeted, underneath the floor is of narrow white oak.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1854, 1892-94

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

I. Architectural Significance Bethel A.M.E. Church represents a social, religious and cultural center indigenous to free black communities in the midwest. Its architectural style in its present form is a mixture of Romanesque and Noe-classical elements, common to the late 19th century. It is a simple late 19th century structure. It is, however, an important example of Negro church architecture of the 19th century. By the end of the 19th century, Black Americans were sufficiently affluent to erect handsome permanent church buildings, which served as educational, social, political and cultural centers for the Black community. Bethel A.M.E. Church is an important survival from this period. It is important as a symbol of Black status in the late 19th century, and as representative of the type of Black church architecture of the period.

II. Historical Significance Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized by William Paul Quinn in 1836. Quinn established a training class in Richmond lead by Cornelius Overman. George Black was appointed scribe. Black's records form the history of the church for its first 25 years. In May, 1837, Gardner Mendenhall donated a lot for the purpose of erecting an African Methodist meeting house on South Marion (now 6th) Street. A 2 story frame warehouse was moved to the site and redone into a church and school. A freedom school for blacks was conducted on the second floor, the first floor being used for religious purposes. Rev. William Paul Quinn dedicated the church in October, 1837. At this time, Richmond had a substantial community of free blacks. Rev. Quinn the son of a Spanish-Honduraon-Irish father and a Sudanese mother, had emigrated to the United States in 1800. He was an early Methodist Exhorter. After a short period of alliance with dissident Quaker, Elias Hicks, Quinn was ordained a minister in the Afro Methodist Church and sent to the Midwest to establish Afro Methodist Churches and educational centers. One of his principal tasks was to provide for educational and social facilities for free blacks. Blacks were not permitted to attend schools in the Midwest at that time. In 1839, Quinn decided to make Richmond his base of operations, since it had one of the strongest free black communities in the Midwest. Quinn was made a Bishop of the Afro Methodist Church in 1844. He initiated a string of Afro Methodist Churches about one days wagon ride a part from Louisville, KY to Detroit, from St. Louis, MO to Chicago. These churches, in addition to their other functions, were shelters for fugitive slaves during the 1840's and 50's. In 1847, Rev. Robert Jones became the first resident pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church. During the years prior to the Civil War, the frame church on South 6th Street was a "freedom school" and a major place of refuge for fugitive slaves in Richmond.

In 1854 a German Methodist Congregation built a 1 story brick Greek Revival Church at the southwest corner of Market (South "A") and Marion (South 6th) Streets. The German Methodist congretation did not survive the Civil War. It merged with the English Methodist and the building was sold to the Hicksite Friends. In 1868, the Hicksite Friends completed their large new meeting house on Broadway (North "A"). Since William Paul Quinn had a strong attachment to the Hicksites, he acquired the old church on Marion St. for the Bethel Congregation, Quinn dedicated the new church in 1868,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- A. Harris, A Historical and Pictorial Survey of Bethel A.M.E. Church (1974);
- E.L. Thornborough, The Negro in Indiana History (1965);
- D.L. Payne, A History of the Afro Methodist Church (1893);
- H.C. Fox, ed, Memoirs of Wayne County (1912)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK WM 9-19-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	116	681011710	441103310
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas J. Reed

ORGANIZATION

Old Richmond, Inc.

DATE

7/23/75

STREET & NUMBER

34 S. 9th Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

# 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

Indiana

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 6, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/5/75

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

9.2.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The twentieth century history of Bethel A.M.E. Church has been relatively placid. A succession of highly qualified ministers have conducted the church's programs for its congregation. Its former educational position was obsoleted by universal free public education for blacks. Bethel A.M.E. Church was, in the 19th century, much more than a religious institution. It was the social, political and cultural heart of the Richmond free black community. This community was in great part led by its ministers, who were effective political, social and cultural leaders in the black and in the larger white community.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**NAME**

HISTORIC

Bethel A.M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

Bethel A.M.E. Church

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Wayne

STATE  
Indiana

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Griffing, Stevenson & Co., Atlas of Wayne County, Indiana

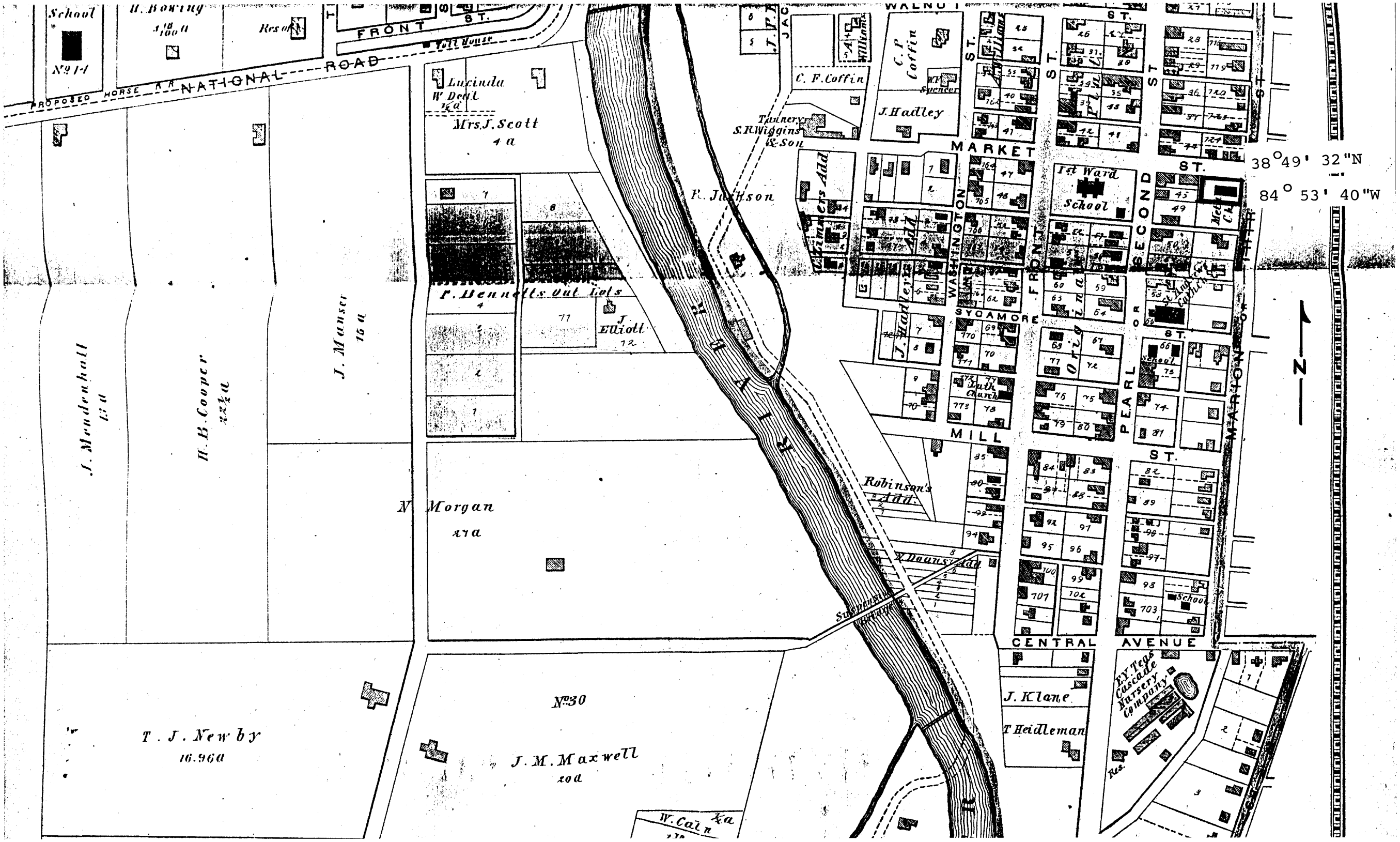
SCALE 1" = 30 rods

DATE 1874

**REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



School  
H. Bowing  
18  
100 11  
Res  
N 2 1-1

PROPOSED HORSE NATIONAL ROAD  
Toll House

FRONT ST.  
W. J. J.

Lucinda W. DeL  
Mrs. J. Scott  
4 a

C. F. Coffin  
J. Hadley  
Tannery  
S. R. Wiggins & Son

MARKET ST.

1st Ward School

38° 49' 32" N  
84° 53' 40" W

P. Jackson

P. Bennett's Out Lots

J. Elliott  
12

J. Mendenhall  
13 a  
H. H. Cooper  
22 1/2 a

J. Manser  
16 a

Morgan  
27 a

WASHINGTON ST.  
SYCAMORE ST.

MILL ST.

Robinson's Add.

Doan's Add.

CENTRAL AVENUE

J. K. Lane  
T. Heideman

EX. Tenn  
Cascade  
Nursery  
Company

T. J. Newby  
16.96 a

N 30  
J. M. Maxwell  
20 a

W. Cain  
20 a