

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form - 5 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sioux City Central High School & Central Annex (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: Castle on the Hill; Vocational & Gymnasium Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1212 Nebraska Street (& 1121 Jackson Street)

City or town: Sioux City

State: Iowa

County: Woodbury

Not For Publication:  N/A

Vicinity:  N/A

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A \_\_\_ B  C \_\_\_ D

	<u>02 Aug 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>State Historical Society of Iowa</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): Accept Additional Information

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

9/19/2016  
Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public -- Federal

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**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION & CULTURE: Sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Sioux City Central High School was listed individually to the National Register in 1974. A related building directly south of the High School – the Vocational and Gymnasium Building – was not included in the 1974 nomination because at the time it was less than 50 years of age, having been completed in 1952 as an annex to the high school. Today, the Vocational and Gymnasium Building is 65 years of age and it stands as an excellent example of Moderne architecture, as well as an embodiment of evolving education trends. Because the building's historical significance is directly tied to the Sioux City Central High School, this is written as an amendment to the 1974 nomination, specifically revising the period of significance and the boundaries, to include this additional contributing property.

The four-story Sioux City Central High School, designed in the Romanesque-Gothic style, and the three-story Vocational and Gymnasium Building (Central High School Annex), designed in the Moderne style, are located north of downtown Sioux City, in an area that contains a mixture of commercial and residential buildings at the north, south, and west, and a residential neighborhood at the east. While Central High School is the only building on the north block, the Vocational and Gymnasium Building shares the south block with commercial and residential buildings, which are located south of it. The two buildings occupy two blocks bound by 13<sup>th</sup> Street at the north, Nebraska Street at the west, 11<sup>th</sup> Street at the south, and Jackson Street at the east. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, which runs between the two buildings, has a narrowed drive lane and now serves as a parking lot.

The topography of the two blocks varies considerably from a low point at the southwest corner. The grade then slopes upward as one moves to the north and east. The steepness of the site, and Central High School's siting at the highest point, makes that building, clad primarily in rough-

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faced stone, appear particularly imposing. In contrast the brick clad Vocational and Gymnasium Building, with its clean lines and emphasized horizontality, hugs the hill in a much more understated manner.

Central High School and the Vocational and Gymnasium Building are historically and physically linked. The physical link is provided via an underground tunnel that runs between the two buildings beneath the parking lot that is 12th Street at this block.

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## Narrative Description

### *Central High School Annex (Vocational and Gymnasium Building)*

The Central High School Annex is a three-story, rectangular plan brick building with stone accents. The third story only extends across the east two-thirds of the footprint. The building is oriented north toward Central High School, with the north, east and west sides of the Annex acting as primary elevations, and the south (alley) side as the rear elevation.

A light colored tan face brick laid in a running bond clads the primary elevations and stone is utilized to accentuate window and door openings and provide vertical and horizontal divisions between the walls on the primary elevations. The north elevation has more detailing than the other primary elevations. On this elevation, large brick and stone towers with limestone banding and surrounds flank the main entry to the auditorium. The face brick from the east and west elevations wraps partially around the south elevation, at its corners. The remainder of the south elevation is clad in red common brick laid in a running bond.

Window openings are of varying sizes. Most are fully or partially filled with historic glass block. Those that are partially filled with glass block have groupings of small historic aluminum framed rectangular awning windows set into their lower halves. Most of the historic windows remain intact, with the main exception being two window openings at the first story on the north end of the west elevation, which have been infilled with concrete block. The north and east elevations have groupings of metal replacement double doors at their centers while the west elevation has one pair of non-historic double doors at its center. There are also non-historic single and double entry doors at the east and west ends of the north elevation and along the south elevation. Metal replacement garage doors are located at the west end of the north elevation and the south end of the west elevation.

The building's sloping site means that visitors enter the building at different levels depending upon which direction they approach from. The highest point of entry is at the east elevation,

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along Jackson Street, which leads into the third story via three double doors, near the music practice/performance rooms. At the north elevation, which is directly across from Central High School, access is provided to the third story at the east end and to the second story at both the middle and the west end. The middle entrance is the largest, with five double doors, and leads into a lobby across from the main gymnasium. At the west elevation, access is provided to the first story into a corridor between shop classrooms. The south elevation has doors that provide access to all three stories, the third story at the east end, the second story at the middle, and the first story at the west end.

The building's understated exterior appearance belies a relatively complex structural system. Although the building appears symmetrical from the exterior, the gym is offset to the south and the main corridors are offset to the west to accommodate the large interior spaces. Therefore, the structural grid is offset in both directions as well. Further, while the building has a uniform appearance, the structure changes from poured-in-place concrete columns and beams supporting the foundation to steel beams and columns encased in clay tile supporting the upper floors. The reason for this disparity in structural systems between the levels is due to the fact that a foundation already existed at the site before the building was constructed. As shown in the architectural plans, this foundation was generally reused, with a poured in place concrete structure added above. A large bow string truss system spans over the central gym, while the lower south roof is constructed of poured-in-place concrete and the north lower roof consists of steel beams and metal decking. Figure 1 illustrates the various structural systems utilized for the Central Annex.



**Figure 1:** Men observing the construction of the Central Annex, with the building's varying structural systems shown in the background (Courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum).

### Interior

On the interior, the Annex retains much of its historic configuration, with classrooms, laboratories, shop spaces, offices, restrooms, and a large central gym still extant to indicate its vocational / educational nature.

The primary public entrances are located at the center of the north elevation's second floor and at the center of the east elevation's third floor. Both of these multi-door entrances lead into lobbies, each of which contain wood enclosed ticket booths where spectators could purchase tickets to events taking place in the large gymnasium. A secondary public entrance is located at the first floor on the west elevation, and leads into a corridor. Corridors divide the spaces at each floor and provide access to the various rooms. There are five stair towers within the building. All three floors are connected by a northeast stair and a southeast stair. The second and third stories are linked by two additional stairs – a northwest, and a southwest stair. All four of these stairs are

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located at the four corners of the large central gymnasium. The fifth stair is at the center on the west side of the building, connecting the first and second floor levels. The underground tunnel that connects the Annex to Central High School is accessed from the northeast stair.

The first floor is split into a variety of athletic facilities, classrooms, shop rooms, offices and storage spaces, which are located off of two corridors. One corridor runs east to west down the center of the building and the other runs north to south at the east side. The west two-thirds of this floor was historically used as shop spaces, including a wood shop, machine shop, and metal shop. Some elements related to these historic uses, including welding booths in the welding shop, remain extant but generally these spaces are devoid of historic equipment. The east one-third of this floor houses a 30'x75' indoor practice pool flanked by two small practice gymnasiums (one for boys and one for girls). The pool room is located at the center, with the ceramic tiled pool intact but no longer in use. The ceilings in these rooms extend up two stories. Each gymnasium has an attached locker room that contains rest rooms. At some unknown time the gyms were divided up into smaller classroom spaces and dropped ceilings have been added, obscuring the historic ceiling height.

A large gymnasium dominates the center of the second and third floors. A balcony accessed from the third floor wraps around three sides of the gymnasium. Folding wood bleachers are located along the walls beneath the balconies. Original plans show folding wood bleachers located at the balcony level also but these were removed at an unknown date, and the space they once occupied was replaced by enclosed storage rooms. An arched steel trussed ceiling extends over the entire gymnasium. The remainder of the second and third floors is taken up by classrooms, offices and storage spaces. Many of the classrooms have chalkboards on their walls, but few other features remain to indicate the historic use of these spaces. At the second floor there are corridors at the north, west and east sides of the centrally located gym. At the third floor, on the east side, a short corridor connects the gymnasium balcony to the east lobby. There are no rooms on the west side of the third floor, as this floor only encompasses the east two-thirds of the building footprint (with the roof of the second floor occupying the other third of the footprint).

The original partition walls throughout are haydite<sup>1</sup> block, either exposed or covered with plaster. Tile is used as a wainscot applied to the haydite block at the lobbies, corridors, stair towers, gymnasium, bathrooms, and some classrooms. Flooring in the second and third floor lobbies, bathrooms, and the northwest and northeast stairs is terrazzo with terrazzo base. Flooring in the gymnasiums is wood, although it has been covered in the small converted gymnasiums. Flooring in the pool room is tile. Flooring in the corridors and all other spaces is generally concrete. In some rooms, the historic flooring has been covered by carpet, vinyl tiles, or a fluid applied membrane. The ceilings at the first floor are either painted exposed concrete structure or plaster. The exposed concrete ceilings are located above the shop rooms at the west side. The ceilings throughout the second and third floors are plaster. Acoustical dropped ceilings have been added at the lobbies, some corridors, and many of the classrooms.

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<sup>1</sup> Haydite concrete blocks are favored for their strength and lightweight construction. They are made by mixing haydite aggregate with Portland Cement. DiGeronimo Aggregates, "Masonry: Haydite Masonry Unit Productivity," 2009, <http://www.digeronimoaggregates.com/markets/masonry/>.

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### **Alterations**

Central High School served as a high school from 1893 to 1972, when it closed due to the construction of three new public high school buildings nearby. In 1973 the high school was listed to the National Register of Historic Places and in 1976 it was sold to the non-profit Castle on the Hill, which operated a gift shop out of the building. In 2000, plans were made for the building's renovation into apartments and it opened to tenants in 2003.<sup>2</sup>

The Vocational and Gymnasium Building has undergone few alterations since its construction. The exterior retains much of its historic fabric, as does the interior. On the exterior, all doors have been replaced, generally with doors that have a similar appearance to the historic doors. The exception to this is a double door opening on the north elevation and a double door opening on the east elevation. Both of these have been infilled with wood boards. Glass block transoms historically located above the doors at the north, east and west elevations have been removed and the space filled in at all locations. At the east end of the south elevation, a new single entry door has been added, along with a flight of concrete steps leading to this door. The window above this, which the head of the door infringes into, has been covered with a wood board. Only two windows have been notably altered, both at the west elevation. These have been infilled with concrete blocks. At other windows, air conditioning units or fans have been added within the openings. The most notable change on the interior is to the two spaces at the northeast and southeast ends of the first floor. These spaces were historically small gymnasiums, completely open and with two story ceilings. At an unknown date, they were divided up with framing and drywall into a series of smaller rooms and dropped ceilings were added. Another interior change was the addition of a concrete ramp at the west end of the first floor, near the west entry into the building. At an unknown date the ramp was installed at the south half of a small flight of concrete steps, extending into the corridor.

### **Future Plans**

The current owner plans to rehabilitate the building for use as multi-family housing with apartments and community spaces at the interior. Federal and State Historic Tax Credits will be utilized as part of the rehabilitation, ensuring that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are adhered to.

### **Integrity**

Both the Sioux City Central High School and the Vocational and Gymnasium Building (Annex) retain sufficient integrity to illustrate their use as educational facilities. Central High School served as an educational facility for nearly 80 years. Historic tax credits were employed for its 2003 renovation into apartments, ensuring that all changes met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The building remains in its historic location and much of its original design, materials, and craftsmanship is still visible.

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<sup>2</sup> Sioux City History, "Central High School/Castle on the Hill," <http://www.siouxcityhistory.org/historic-sites/85-central-high-school>.



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The Annex served as an educational support facility from 1952 until 2009. It remains in excellent condition, capable of conveying all seven aspects of historic and architectural integrity.

*Location:* The Annex remains in its historic location.

*Design:* The building's post-war Moderne design remains intact and visible with original massing, building configuration, original pattern of door and window openings, and original ornamentation and detailing.

*Setting:* The building is surrounded by many buildings that existed during its period of significance, most notably the Central High School building to the north.

*Materials:* The building retains all of its original building materials, except for a small number of windows and doors that have been replaced or infilled. Interior alterations are minor and reflect the changing needs of the school district that utilized the building.

*Workmanship:* The workmanship of those who helped to construct the building remains visible at the exterior in the brick and stone detailing and at the interior with the retention and preservation of notable features like the ticket booths in the entry lobbies, the wood floors in the gym, and the exposed concrete ceilings at the first floor.

*Feeling:* The building retains much of its original design, materials, workmanship and setting, and is thus capable of conveying the feeling of a post-war educational facility.

*Association:* The building retains much of its historic physical fabric and would be easily recognizable by former students, faculty and staff who attended or worked at the building during its period of significance.

With so much integrity visible in both the main high school building and the Annex, these buildings will stand as monuments to the original Sioux City school system for years to come.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

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**Period of Significance**  
1892-1966

**Significant Dates**  
1952

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**  
Beuttler, William  
Klinger, W.A.  
H.S. Holtze Co.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Sioux City Central High School was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 for its significance in the areas of education and architecture. The 1974 nomination is being amended to include the Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building (Annex), which is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education from 1952 to 1966, the year of its completion to 50 years from the present. The building is also locally significant under Criterion C for its exemplification of a Modern post-war school building.

The history of the two buildings is closely linked. The Vocational and Gymnasium Building was constructed directly south of Central High School to provide vocational, athletic and musical training spaces for students and faculty of the Sioux City public school system. At the time of the Sioux City Central High School's National Register listing in 1974, the Vocational and Gymnasium building was not of an age to be considered for nomination. At present, it is well

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over 50 years old and has a strong history as an educational facility, with a direct physical and historical connection to Central High School. The original 1974 nomination for the Sioux City Central High School is thus being amended to include the closely related Vocational and Gymnasium Building.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The history of Sioux City's public school system stretches back to 1857, when the first school was established with 15 pupils. Increased enrollment led to the expansion of the school system into existing buildings. In 1868, the first permanent schoolhouse was constructed of brick at Fourth and Jackson Streets. It was initially called Central School and housed elementary and high school students, but it became dedicated solely to elementary education in 1871 and the name changed to Hunt School in 1873. In 1869, the Independent School District of Sioux City was established. At that time, the district boasted five teachers and 140 students.<sup>3</sup> The district grew exponentially in the next two decades. By 1890, the district owned 11 wood buildings and 12 brick buildings, employed 120 teachers, and had 8,000 students.<sup>4</sup>

Steadily rising high school enrollment led to the construction of Sioux City High School between 1892 and 1893. This school later became known as Central High School. It remained the district's only high school until 1925, when East High School was completed. In the coming decades two more high schools were added, each serving grades seven through twelve – Leeds Junior/Senior High School, built in 1939 with additions in 1940 and 1953, and Riverside High School, built in 1958. Elementary and junior high schools were also built.<sup>5</sup> By 1964, the district boasted 18,000 pupils enrolled in 36 public schools.<sup>6</sup> Today, the district, now known as Sioux City Community Schools, has reduced somewhat in size. As of 2015, enrollment stood at 14,331 students and facilities included 14 elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools.<sup>7</sup>

**Criterion A – Educational History**

The Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building's (Annex) significance in the area of education is directly tied to the National Register-listed Central High School building. The Annex allowed the school district to provide students from Central, and other schools within the district, with dedicated spaces for vocational training, musical instruction, and athletic activities, all under one roof.

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<sup>3</sup> H.C. Roberts, *The Public Schools of Sioux City, Iowa* (Sioux City, IA: Versteegen Printing Co., 1955), 3-6.

<sup>4</sup> Sioux City History, "First Schools in Sioux City;" <http://www.siouxcityhistory.org/historicsites/133-first-schools-in-sioux-city>.

<sup>5</sup> Roberts, *The Public Schools of Sioux City, Iowa*, 61-69, 163-178.

<sup>6</sup> Sioux City History, "First Schools in Sioux City;" Karen Luken, "Great Strides in Education Since Program Launched in 1857," *The Sioux City Journal*, August 16, 1964.

<sup>7</sup> Sioux City Community Schools, "2014-2015 Annual Progress Report," 2015, <http://lt5j3bx6im365an329t4y6d.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/APR-2014-2015-Full-Report-Final.pdf>; Sioux City Community School Schools, "Schools," <http://www.siouxcityschools.org/>.

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The Annex was constructed in the post-war era, during a time when increasing student enrollment, a return to more normalized construction prices and schedules, and changing educational philosophies were causing a flurry of construction activity at educational sites throughout the nation. The post-war baby boom resulted in an increased number of school-age children by the early 1950s and in the two decades thereafter.



**Figure 2:** The Central Annex under construction (Courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum)

As Amy F. Ogata notes in her article “Building for Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools,” enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools in the United States nearly doubled between 1949 and 1971, rising from 25.1 million to 46 million.<sup>8</sup> In order to accommodate this influx of new pupils, school districts around the nation had to construct additional schools or add to existing ones.

In Sioux City, the need for additional, or expanded, educational facilities was deeply felt. The war had put a stopper on construction activity, and with that improvements at many educational facilities went unaddressed. After the war, the Sioux City Public School system began to actively seek funding, via bonds, to finance a variety of new construction and remodeling projects. In 1947, a \$1.2 million bond issue was released that included financing for six projects. The most expensive of these was for a “combination physical education, music and speech arts, and vocational education building and a site therefor near Central High School.” The total cost for this particular project was estimated at \$700,000. Other proposed projects included the remodeling of certain interior rooms at Central High School, additions to four schools, and improvements to the district’s public stadium.<sup>9</sup>

In the coming decade, the school district succeeded in securing the 1947 bond, and other successive financing schemes, which allowed it to add or improve a variety of structures. Between 1949 and 1958, the district undertook additions to eight schools and built four new ones. Three of the newly constructed high schools required additions within five years of their construction and three more new schools were added in the 1960s.<sup>10</sup> The Central High School Annex was constructed in the midst of this educational building boom.

The decision to locate the Annex on a site adjacent to Central High School was likely made because of its central location within the city and the large number of student users who attended

<sup>8</sup> Amy F. Ogata, “Building for Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67, no. 4 (2008): 562.

<sup>9</sup> Sioux City Public Schools, “A Plan for Tomorrow” bond advertisement, 1947, Archives of the Sioux City Public Museum.

<sup>10</sup> Sioux City Community Schools, “History of Buildings,” *History of Schools*, <http://ltt5j3bx6im365an329t4y6d.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/History-of-Schools-rev2015.pdf>.

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the high school daily. In the early 1950s when the Annex was sited and built, the school district operated two other high schools in the city, East High School, in the southeast, and Leeds Junior/Senior School, in the northwest. Central High School was the most centrally located of these three schools, as well as the oldest.



**Figure 3:** View of the Central Annex's north and west facades during construction (Courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum)

A key component of the new building was the dedicated spaces for vocational training. The Sioux City Public School system began offering vocational training for students in 1908, when cooking and sewing classes were first offered at the Armstrong, a grammar school.<sup>11</sup> Early on this type of education was more commonly referred to as manual training, or industrial arts, and classes were taught to students at all grade levels. During the first few decades of the twentieth century, noteworthy information, such as new hires, the establishment of clubs, and the addition of new programs to the district's manual training department, was covered in nationally distributed education magazines, including *Manual Training Magazine* and *Industrial-Arts Magazine*.

For example, in the February 1914 edition of *Industrial-Arts Magazine*, the addition of a print shop to Central High School is covered in a short article. The article notes that participants in the program learned not only how to physically print materials, but also how to write and edit content, allowing for an overlap with the school's English department and facilitating multi-faceted learning opportunities. Also in 1914, night classes in electrical and mechanical engineering and shop mathematics were introduced at Central High School as a cooperative effort between the school district and the University of Iowa, the latter of which provided instructors.<sup>12</sup>

The manual training department appears to have been well rounded. In a 1918 article in *Manual Training Magazine* that details the formation of an Industrial Arts Club by the industrial arts teachers of Sioux City, mention is made of the various programs the club represents. These

<sup>11</sup> Roberts, *The Public Schools of Sioux City, Iowa*, 62, 75.

<sup>12</sup> *Industrial-Arts Magazines*, "Sioux City Print Shop," 1, no. 2 (February 1914):74. *Industrial-Arts Magazines*, "General News Notes: Sioux City, Ia." 2, no. 1 (July 1914):279.

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included the shop, drafting, auto repair, and printing departments of Central High School, and the industrial department of the elementary and junior high schools.<sup>13</sup>

For the Sioux City school system, these manual training classes were understood to have a variety of benefits. Foremost, they provided students, in particular those who may not be college bound or who might not thrive in a traditional learning environment, with practical skills. Vocational education advocates believed that these skills could help students find employment, would help to keep the interest of distracted students, and would be generally beneficial in creating well rounded citizens upon graduation.<sup>14</sup>

The idea of providing students with a comprehensive education, related not just to academics, but to vocational training, has its roots in the Progressive Era (c. 1890-1920).<sup>15</sup> The progressive era was multi-faceted and complex, as Lawrence C. Cremin explores in his book *The Transformation of the School*. At its most basic, the Progressive Era was a time in which educational reformers were advocating for expanding educational offerings at schools so that all students could benefit, and so that students were being both physically and mentally active during the school day.

From a practical standpoint, this type of well-rounded education would ensure that schools were producing not just a white collar workforce but an industrial workforce as well – of carpenters, draftsmen, auto repairmen, and the like. In the first few decades of the twentieth century, there was a concern amongst some that men and women were not being trained to work with their hands, and that many were outright avoiding manual labor as an undesirable employment option. In 1924, U.S. Secretary of Labor James J. Davis lamented that this was causing a void in the economic and social health of the United States. He asserted, “History has proved again and again that a nation of thinkers only cannot survive. The thinkers must be balanced by the doers.”<sup>16</sup>

At Sioux City, the variety of manual training courses offered at the public schools were not only creating skilled doers, some of the courses were also allowing the district to save money by having the students create needed items so that they did not have to be procured from elsewhere. For example, in 1925 when East High School was under construction, a newspaper article described how the district’s manual training department was creating the teachers’ desks and other office furniture for the building. The article goes on to note that H.C. Roberts, long time secretary and business manager for the Board of Education, stated that this “in-house” manufacturing would “result in a saving of from 25 to 40 percent.”<sup>17</sup>

<sup>13</sup> *Manual Training Magazine*, “Field Notes,” 20, no. 9 (May 1919): xxi.

<sup>14</sup> Sioux City Public Schools, “Vocational Advisory Committee: Interim Report,” October 20, 1949, Archives of the Sioux City Public Museum.

<sup>15</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Public Schools of Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1955, produced 2002 (Draft).

<sup>16</sup> *The Sioux City Journal*, “Too Many Men in White Collar Jobs,” January 13, 1924.

<sup>17</sup> *The Sioux City Journal*, “Prepare School Buildings for Coming Classes,” August 7, 1925.

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By the middle of the twentieth century, it appears that the Sioux City school district felt the vocational program was in need of assistance. In 1939, a vocational survey of the city concluded that “the city needed a sound vocational program.”<sup>18</sup> In 1945, the need for this type of space was brought up again during a study of the Sioux

City public school system’s educational needs. However, the vision was not realized until after the end of World War II. By that point, the school district decided it would be best to build a multi-functional facility that would serve vocational, athletic, and musical program needs. In 1950, the district employed the services of local architect William Beuttler to produce plans for a Vocational and Gymnasium Building on a site south of Central High School.



**Figure 4:** The completed north and east elevations of the Central Annex, c. 1952 (H.C. Roberts, *The Public Schools of Sioux City*, 164).

An open house and dedication for the building was held on November 12, 1952. A booklet produced for the dedication described how the building was “completely fireproof,” built of reinforced concrete, steel and brick with hadite [sic] blocks for interior walls.” Contracting work was performed by W.A. Klinger Co. and H.S. Holtze Co.<sup>19</sup>



**Figure 5:** The main gym entrance at the north elevation of the completed Central Annex, c. 1952 (H.C. Roberts, *The Public Schools of Sioux City*, 165).

On the building’s interior, the first floor contained separate girls and boys gymnasiums with adjacent locker rooms, a swimming pool, a drafting classroom, a metal shop, the advanced wood shop, an auto shop, a machine shop, and a welding shop. The second floor contained the upper portions of the small gymnasiums and swimming pool, along with a large central gymnasium, locker rooms, a wood shop, a glass shop, a crafts room, an electronics classroom and laboratory, first aid rooms and staff offices. The Girls and Boys Physical Education teachers, the Athletic Director and the Basketball Coach each had their own individual offices.

<sup>18</sup> Sioux City Public Schools, “Vocational Advisory Committee: Interim Report,” October 20, 1949, Archives of the Sioux City Public Museum.

<sup>19</sup> Sioux City Public Schools, “Open House and Dedication of the Central High School Annex,” November 12, 1952, Archives of the Sioux City Public Museum.



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The third floor contained the upper portion of the central gymnasium. The Annex's large gymnasium had a capacity for 5,000 spectators, five times as many as could be accommodated in Central High School's existing gym.<sup>20</sup> The incorporation of such a large gymnasium into the new building reflected a state-wide trend in the post-war period, when many Iowa school districts sought to provide large, dedicated gymnasiums that could accommodate large numbers of spectators for basketball games. The remaining part of the third floor was given over to the Music Department and included a band room, orchestra room, vocal room, a small theater, and classrooms and offices.<sup>21</sup>

For the next two decades, the building served its desired purposes well, providing training facilities for students seeking industrial job skills as well as musical and athletic instruction.

In 1972, the Sioux City Community School District (the successor to the Sioux City Public School system) closed Central High School and students were re-assigned to three nearby schools. The Central High School building was sold to the non-profit Castle on the Hill Association in 1976 and in 2003 it was remodeled into apartments using historic tax credits.

The Annex, on the other hand, continued to be used for educational purposes until recently. The building was renamed the Individual Learning Center and it was used by the school district for a variety of purposes, including for its GED program, ESL program, and automotive technology and auto body classes. The large central gymnasium continued to host various athletic activities such as high school basketball and volleyball matches. The district closed the Individual Learning Center at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and the building was sold to a private owner around 2010.<sup>22</sup>

### **Criterion C – Architecture**

The Vocational and Gymnasium Building (Annex) is an excellent example of the Moderne Style, as applied to a utilitarian post-war education facility. It was designed by local architect William Beuttler in a sleek, modern style emblematic of the Moderne Style. Minimal detailing is provided by carefully arranged brickwork and stone accents, with undulating rounded stone ornament located above and beside door openings on the north elevation. The building's overall plan reflects a very rational approach to design that takes advantage of the topography of the site; locates the entry points at obvious, strategic locations, including placing the main entry on the north elevation, directly opposite the high school; and incorporates many windows to provide an abundance of light, but with the addition of glass block, so that light does not hit the interior spaces directly. The building's appearance and layout reflects key aspects of modern design generally, and post-war school construction specifically.

<sup>20</sup>Amy Hynds, "Sioux City Sports History," *Sioux City Journal*, September 26, 1954.

<sup>21</sup>Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building, Building Plans, April 18, 1950; Sioux City Public Schools, "Open House and Dedication of the Central High School Annex," November 12, 1952, Archives of the Sioux City Public Museum.

<sup>22</sup>Alison Benson, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Sioux City Board of Education, telephone conversation with author, September 15, 2015.

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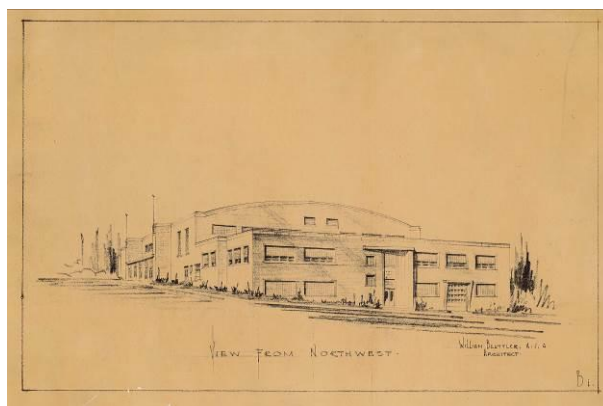
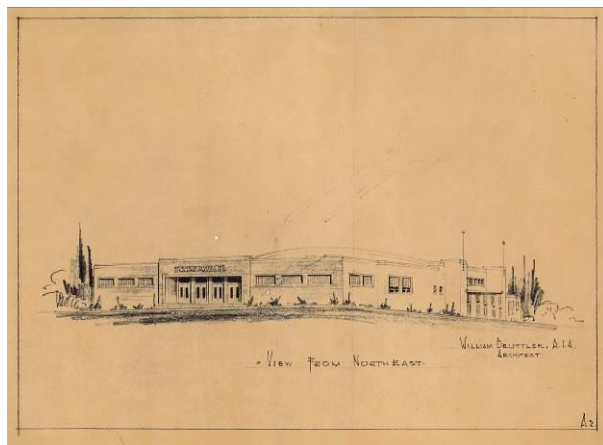


Figure 6: William Beuttler's sketches for the Central Annex. Date unknown. (Castle on the Hill Association).

The building's architect, William Beuttler, moved to Sioux City in 1911 and established his own firm, Beuttler and Arnold in 1941. The firm's name was changed to William Beuttler & Son in 1958. According to Beuttler's obituary, "the Beuttler firm was widely known in the Midwest for many outstanding architectural designs of churches, schools and public buildings." He designed a number of buildings in Sioux City including the First Methodist Church, the Y.M.C.A., and a number of buildings on the Morningside College campus. Many of these buildings appear to be extant.<sup>23</sup> The Sioux City U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, which Beuttler designed with fellow local architect Ralph Arnold in 1934, was listed to the National Register for its architectural significance as an Art Moderne Depression-era building (NR#13000485).<sup>24</sup> Beuttler's use of a similar, but more understated, design for the Annex reflects his versatility as a designer.

The post-war period was a time in which architects were exploiting technological advances to incorporate new materials, or new approaches for old materials, into their designs.<sup>25</sup> It was also a time when

developments in educational theory were resulting in not only changes to curriculum but also to how schools were laid out. Many educators and architects were amongst those who embraced modernism and the belief espoused by Modernist forefather Le Corbusier that good design could better society and advance democracy.<sup>26</sup>

Amy F. Ogata's article, which explores elementary school design in postwar America, discusses general trends in postwar school design. She notes that postwar schools typically utilized modern materials such as "steel framing [and] plate glass" and incorporated "low-rise horizontal

<sup>23</sup> IAGenWeb Project, *Sioux City Journal*, "William Beuttler 1883-1963," May 2, 1963, <http://iagenweb.org/boards/woodbury/obituaries/index.cgi?read=505529>.

<sup>24</sup> National Register of Historic Places. United States Post Office and Courthouse, Sioux City, Iowa. National Register #13000485.

<sup>25</sup> Steven Avdakov and Deborah Griffin, "Representative Architectural Elements," Ohio History Connection.

<sup>26</sup> Ogata, "Building For Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67, no. 4 (2008): 562-563.

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massing.” The Annex, with its unassuming appearance, its low lying horizontal profile, and its use of modern materials, is a prime example of postwar modern design as applied to an educational facility.

Beuttler took advantage of a sloping site to design a building that is built into the terrain. The roof lines are flat, except for the slight pitch of the trussed roof over the gym. Ribbons of windows add to the feeling of horizontality. Although three stories in height, the building feels much less prominent than the four-story Central High School building at its north. The Annex’s horizontality is further emphasized by a simple limestone band that wraps around the building at the cornice level of the primary elevations. The majority of the building’s floor structure is composed of a cast-in-place concrete system, with a steel bow string truss at the roof over the large central gym.

Window openings abound across all elevations and generally contain glass block, a popular material at the mid-century as it allowed for privacy and filtered light without the need for window coverings. Some of the windows contain a combination of glass block in the upper two-thirds of the opening, and aluminum framed operable awning sashes at the lower third of the opening. Limestone and brick detailing is thoughtfully placed near window and door openings to further add to the modern, streamlined aesthetic.

In appearance, the Annex bears a strong resemblance to the National Register listed Municipal Auditorium (NR #20060727), located one mile to the south. The Auditorium was built between 1941 and 1950 and designed in the Moderne Style by local architect Knute E. Westerlind. It is a grand building with buff brick clad walls, cast concrete accents that simulate stone, and a horizontal emphasis. The Annex is smaller than the Auditorium, and more simply designed, but the two are nonetheless both reflective of the Moderne style with the Annex representing a more understated – and economical – approach to this modern architectural style.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Sioux City Public Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** 1.75 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.502566 | Longitude: -96.402806 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

*Boundary Increase to Include:* SIOUX CITY EAST LOTS 1-2-3 & 10-11-1 2 BLK 66 N 150 FT OF N & S ALLEY E 150 FT OF E & W ALLEY AND EX N 1 FT VAC 12TH ST ABUTTING BLK 66

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the property follows the historic legally recorded boundary lines.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Caitlin Kolb  
organization: Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture  
street & number: 1516 Cuming Street  
city or town: Omaha state: NE zip code: 68102  
e-mail ckolb@alleypoyner.com  
telephone: 402-341-1544  
date: July 19, 2016

#### *Owner*

name/title: NuStyle Development Corporation  
street & number: 514 Walker Street  
city or town: Woodbine state: IA zip code: 51579

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

*\*Note: Photographs are only for the additional property to be included in the amended National Register Nomination, Vocational and Gym Building.*



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### Photo Log

Name of Property: Sioux City Central Annex (Vocational and Gymnasium Building)

City or Vicinity: Sioux City

County: Woodbury

State: Iowa

Photographer: Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

Date Photographed: As noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17: North & West Façades. Looking Southeast. April 5, 2016.
- 2 of 17: West Façade. Looking Southeast. April 5, 2016.
- 3 of 17: North Façade. Main Entry. Looking Southwest. April 5, 2016.
- 4 of 17: East & North Façades. Looking Southwest. April 5, 2016.
- 5 of 17: East Façade. Looking Southwest. April 5, 2016.
- 6 of 17: South Façade. Looking Northeast. June 29, 2015.
- 7 of 17: South Façade. Looking Northwest. June 29, 2015.
- 8 of 17: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. East Entry Lobby. Looking Northeast. June 29, 2015.
- 9 of 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. North Entry Lobby. Looking Southwest. June 29, 2015.
- 10 of 17: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Corridor looking West to West Entry. June 29, 2015.
- 11 of 17: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Corridor looking West to West Entry. June 29, 2015.
- 12 of 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Main Gymnasium. Looking Southeast. June 29, 2015.
- 13 of 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Main Gymnasium. Looking East. June 29, 2015.
- 14 of 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Historic Shop Room. Looking Northwest. June 29, 2015.
- 15 of 17: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. Classroom. Looking South. June 29, 2015.
- 16 of 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Northwest Stair. Looking West. June 29, 2015.
- 17 of 17: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Southeast Stair. Looking West. June 29, 2015.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington.

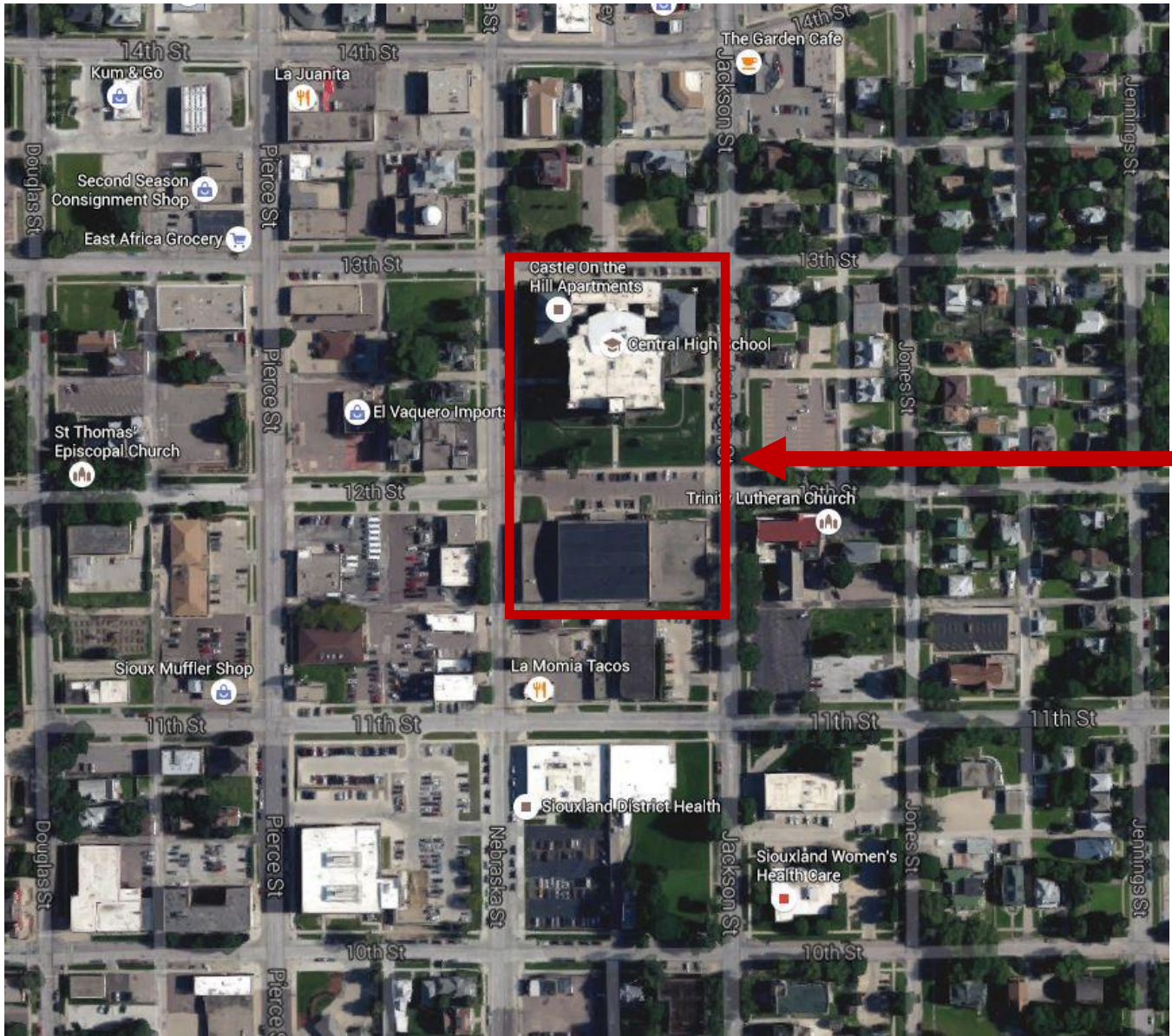
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National Park Service

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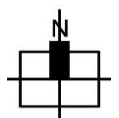
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**Figure 7:** Sioux City Central High School & Vocational and Gymnasium Building Vicinity Map. Buildings are located on two blocks bound by 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Jackson Street, 11st Street and Nebraska Street. Source: Google Maps, 2015. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.



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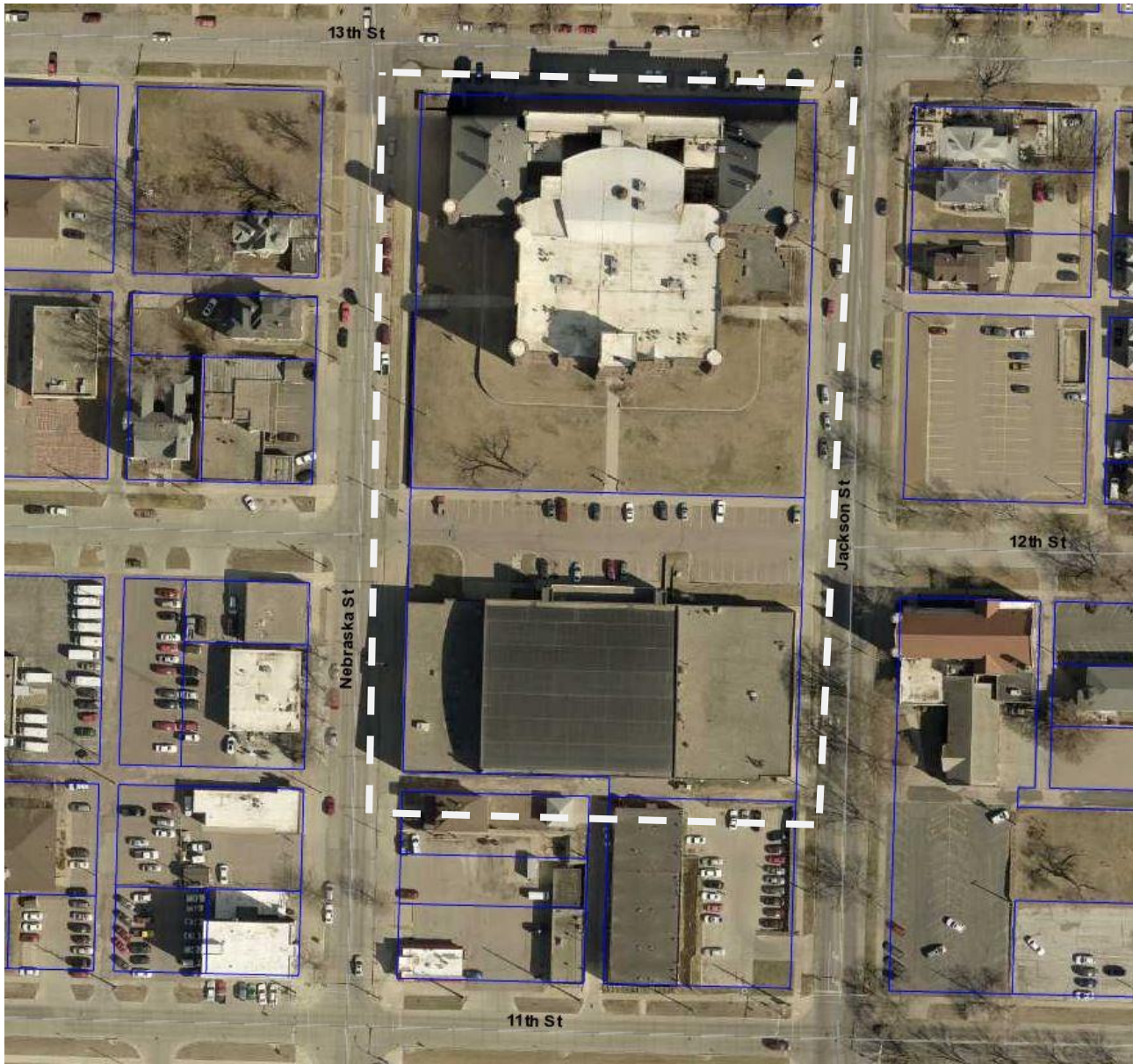
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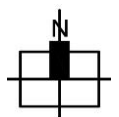
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**Figure 8:** Sioux City Central High School & Vocational and Gymnasium Building Legal Boundary Map. Buildings are located on two blocks bound by 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Jackson Street, 11<sup>st</sup> Street and Nebraska Street. At these blocks, 12<sup>th</sup> Street has been cut off to through traffic to provide a parking lot between the buildings. Dashed line indicates property locations. Source: Woodbury County Beacon website, Accessed November 24, 2015. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.



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National Park Service

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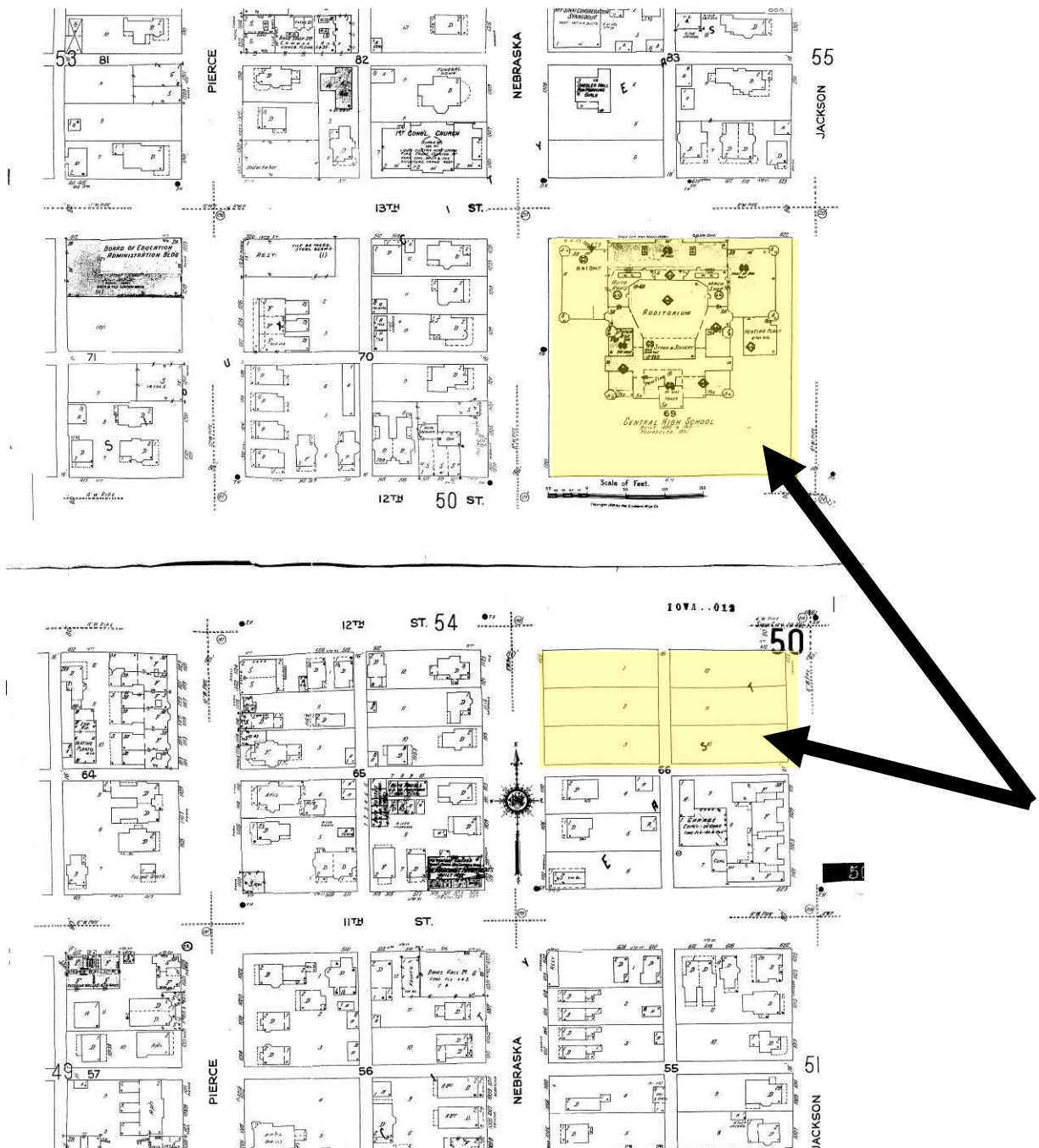
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**Figure 9:** Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Sioux City, Iowa. New York: 1949. Digital. Council Bluffs Public Library. Council Bluffs, Iowa. Shaded area indicates location of Sioux City Central High School (with additions) in 1949 as well as the future location of the Vocational and Gymnasium Building. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.

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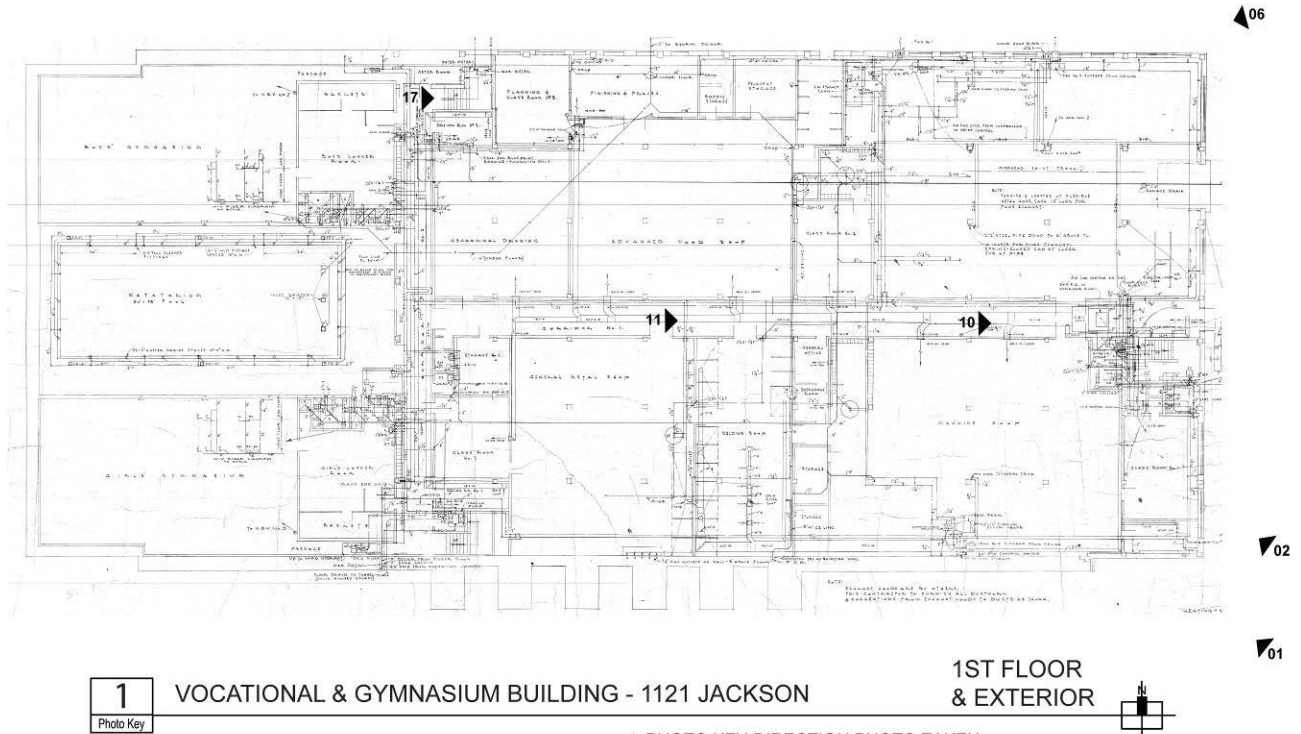
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**Figure 10:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Plan showing location of photos at 1<sup>st</sup> floor and exterior. Source: Architectural plans for Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building, William Beuttler, Architect, April 12, 1950. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.

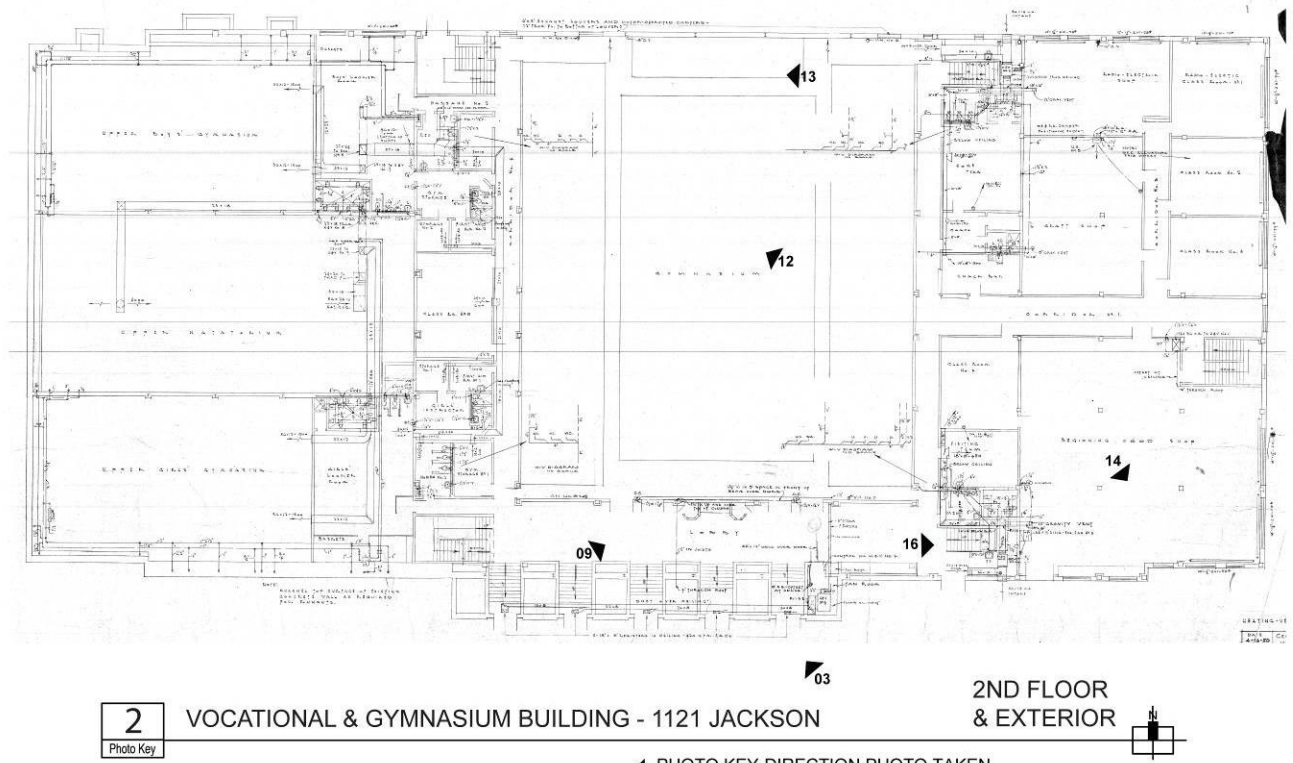
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**Figure 11:** 2nd Floor Plan showing location of photos at 2nd floor and exterior. Source: Architectural plans for Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building, William Beuttler, Architect, April 12, 1950. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.

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Name of Property

Woodbury, Iowa

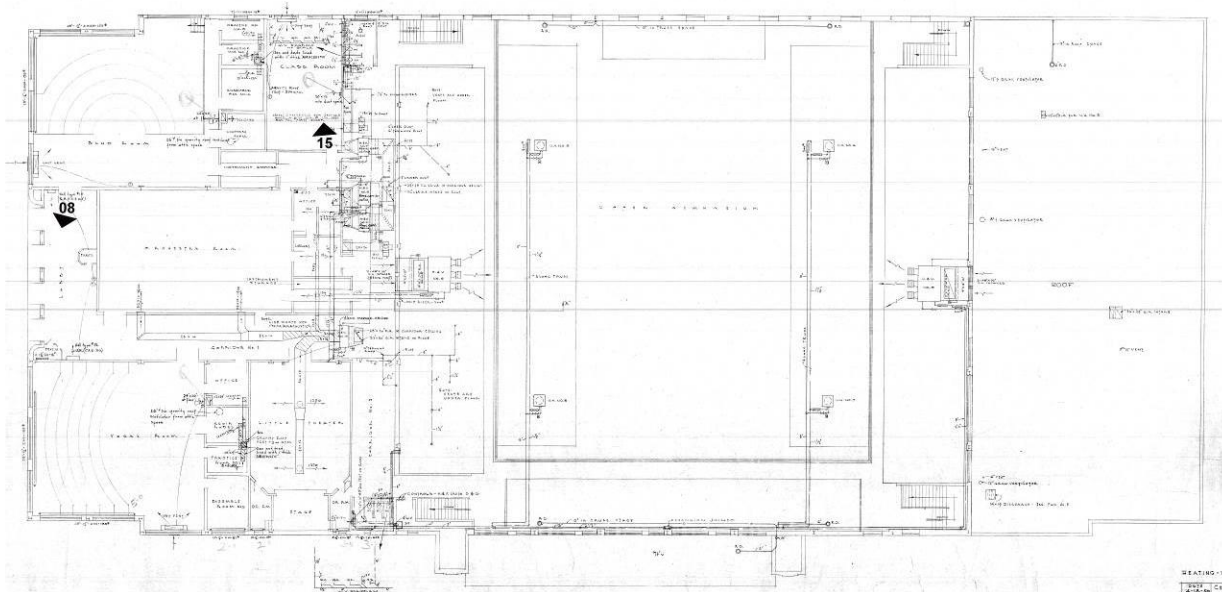
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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07



05

04

3  
Photo Key

VOCATIONAL & GYMNASIUM BUILDING - 1121 JACKSON

3RD FLOOR  
& EXTERIOR



- ◀ PHOTO KEY-DIRECTION PHOTO TAKEN
- PHOTO KEY-SHOWING FLOOR, CEILING OR WINDOW DETAIL

**Figure 12:** 3rd Floor Plan showing location of photos at 3rd floor and exterior. Source: Architectural plans for Central High School Vocational and Gymnasium Building, William Beuttler, Architect, April 12, 1950. Overlay by Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, 2016.



NO PARKING  
IN FRONT OF  
BUS STOP





CENTRAL CAMPUS







CENTRAL  
CAMPUS













ESL OFFICE







LEARNING  
CENTER











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sioux City Central High School and Central Annex (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Woodbury

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/20/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000641

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/19/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Boundary Increase and Additional Information  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrews DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 9/19/2016

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR  
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

RECEIVED 2280

AUG - 5 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

August 2, 2016

PRODUCE  
BARN

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

STATE HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM

- Sioux City Central High School & Central Annex (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation), 1212 Nebraska Street (& 1121 Jackson Street), Sioux City, Woodbury County

STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY ARCHIVES

- Hotel Whitney, 222 Chestnut Street, Atlantic, Cass County

Thank you for your consideration.

STATE  
HISTORIC  
SITES

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Foster  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa

STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
OFFICE

IOWA  
HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION