

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. George Academy
other name/site number:

1333

2. Location

street & number: County Route 1 not for publication: N/A
city/town: St. George vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Tucker code: 093 zip code: 26287

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Susan M Pierce
Signature of Certifying Official

October 10, 2001
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 11-29-01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

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

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION & CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

OTHER: Vernacular

Foundation

Stone

Walls

Wood

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Other

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

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.

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1885-1951

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dumire, Daniel L., carpenter

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Approximately 0.75 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: St. George

Zone Easting Northing
17 612390 4335520

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

St. George Academy
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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: August 2001

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd, East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: St. George Academy Preservation Society

Street & Number: Route 1, Box 17

Telephone: 304/478-3038

City or Town: St. George

State: WV

Zip: 26287

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The academy stands in the small community of St. George. Located in Tucker County, St. George is located on County Route 1, off of State Route 72 along the banks of the Cheat River. The building stands alone on its lot on one of the main thoroughfares through town, and is easily identifiable.

Exterior:

Built in 1885, the two story clapboard building has a center projecting bay with a gable end. The front doorway is original but has a fairly new metal storm door. The doorway opening has sidelights. On the second floor are paired narrow 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Atop the projecting bay is a square tower with a peaked vent on each side. It is surmounted by a pyramid roof with a spiked finial. The windows on the building are all 6/6 double-hung sash with two to each side of the side bay. There are no windows on the two side elevations. The rear has two windows to each side of a rear first floor doorway, and five windows on the second floor. There is a dropped doorway opening on the second floor which was once part of the fire escape. There is a new handicapped assessable ramp and covered entrance on the rear of the building for the first floor. The building has a wide fascia board by the eaves. The eaves are actually spaced boards to provide ventilation. The corners of the building has spliced corner boards which are 2 by 6 inches. Wooden brackets are on the front of the tower. The roof of the building is hipped and has an asphalt shingle roof. The building rests on a fieldstone and concrete block foundation. The foundation is one change to the original structure. It once sat on a very low stone pier near ground level.

Interior:

The academy has a two room plan on the first floor with a front center hall and projecting vestibule. Twin staircases on either side of the hall lead upstairs and meet above the door before turning at right angles to form the last center flight to the auditorium on the second floor. The interior rooms have wood walls with a 2-4 inch profile, wood ceilings with a 4-5 inch profile and a dado strip which is 6 inches. There is a new tongue and groove floor in one classroom to replace a damaged floor. The original black boards are still in place and many of the 1938 light fixtures.

The auditorium on the second floor has a two step raised stage area to one side. The doors to the steps are five panels. The room has the original wooden floor and c. 1938 electric drop lights. A door to reach the bell tower is over the stair doors. Metal pipes are still visible which once serviced gas lights.

Summary: The academy is an excellent example of an older school building in Tucker County, and one of the only school buildings with this plan in the state. The exterior and interior retain their original material and there is high integrity.

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St. George Academy is significant under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1885 with the construction of the building, and ends in 1951 at the 50 year mark. The building meets Criterion Consideration B for moved properties.

The community of St. George was first settled in 1776, when a few settlers from the Moorefield area came on foot over the mountains. Under the leadership of the founder, John Minear (1732-1781), they established Fort Minear. This name was retained until 1827 when it became known as Western Ford, probably for the fording of the Cheat River. It was part of Randolph County at that time. A new county was formed in 1856 and was called Tucker County. At the same time, Western Ford became known as St. George and was chosen as the county seat.

In West Virginia the Free System of Schools was first established in 1846. This provided the opportunity to establish a District Public School System if it was favored by voters. The county was divided into districts and elected a school commissioner for each precinct. Each school district also appointed three trustees who were to select a site, erect a school house and furnish it, and hire a teacher. While some schools were established, the system has stronger roots after West Virginia became a state in 1863. Committees on education were begun in both the State Senate and House of Delegates just days after the state was established. In June of the following year, William Ryland White was elected the State Superintendent of Schools. The revision of the law in 1881 made "the provision for compulsory attendance at teachers' institutes and for Normal Schools, including a special provision for the education of colored teachers, was incorporated into the revised school law." (History of Ed, p. 49) In the decade of 1870-1880 the number of schoolhouses in the state increased by 1,444, the largest increase recorded. The number from 1880-1890 was 1,257, which is the time period of construction for the academy.

Prior to 1863 there were a few log schools in Tucker County. Churches were also frequently used as schools during the week. These schools were maintained and patronized by those families able to pay tuition, so the children of the poorer class got little or no instruction. The first institute for teachers was held in 1881. The first public school in St. George was a two-room school erected in 1866. It remained in use until 1893 when the county Board of Education purchased the former St. George Academy.

The academy was incorporated as a private school on July 20, 1885, when stock was sold at \$5 per share in an effort to raise \$20,000. When this method failed to raise all of the necessary funds for the construction of the school and a dormitory, a loan was also obtained. While the two buildings were being constructed, the first nine month term was taught in the Ann Eliza M.E. Church. The building was completed in 1886, and the fall term began in the new structure. Tuition was \$6 for the short term and \$8 for the long term. Music was \$10 for twenty-four lessons. Board was available in the public house for \$2 to 3.50 week, and in DeGraff Hall for \$1 a month. Some private houses had lower prices for a weekly rate.

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The school and dormitory were both constructed by local carpenter Daniel L. Dumire. Dumire (or Domire) was a partner in the Domire Shingle Mill. A local mill which produced an average of 1 million wood shingles in a year. He was known locally for his construction work having built the St. George Inn in 1859, one of the first buildings constructed after the town was laid out. He also constructed the two Methodist-Episcopal Churches - North and South. In Homer Fansler *History of Tucker County* states: "the first church house in St. George was the Ann Eliza Methodist Episcopal North. It was built about 1852, possibly by Daniel L. Dumire (1834- ?) The master carpenter of headmine, who built so many fine edifices in the community." The school building has an unusual plan for a school of its size and time period.

Generally the small two-room schools were on one level and did not have an auditorium. This plan reflects perhaps an early arrangement of rooms preceding the typical West Virginia late 1890s brick Victorian Gothic school plans with two full floors of classrooms and an optional auditorium on the upper third level. Built of wood, the building has a hint of Italianate with the brackets near the tower and the elongate windows over the door. The structure retains its original windows, woodwork and trim and remains in excellent condition. It is an excellent example of West Virginia school architecture.

St. George's Academy operated for eight years with the last term ending in 1893. There were two graduating classes while it was still a private school. The first class was in 1889 with three graduates and the second in 1893, with two graduates. The Fourth Catalogue of the academy for the term 1888-89 has as faculty a primary department, music, geography, history and penmanship faculty. There were 53 students registered with the highest numbers as freshman and sophomores. The courses of study followed the free school study and included physiology. For the advanced students there was a Classical Course and a Literary-Scientific Course. The Classical Course was designed to give a thorough training for admission to college. The three year course included - Arithmetic, Latin, Ceasar, Vergil's Aeneid, Greek, Grammar, Conversation, German and Plane Geometry. The Literary-Scientific Course substituted literary and scientific studies for one or both languages. It included Rhetoric, English Literature, Physical Geography, Trigonometry, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Astronomy. Special instruction was given in Penmanship and Bookkeeping. (Fansler, pp. 438-439)

The town of St. George had been by-passed in 1889 by the railroad and the county seat had been removed to Parsons in 1893. This is when the building was sold to the Board of Education for a public grade school. With the proceeds from sale of the two buildings, plus a stockholders loss, the loan was paid off. The dormitory, known as DeGraft Hall, was located directly across the street from the academy building. It was sold to a private owner and was used as a barn. The building was razed in 1978.

The school was used for grades 1-8 with students from the community attending. Electricity was added to the building at the time of the Rural Electric program of the 1930s.

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During this time few changes to the building took place. Only in recent years was it necessary to replace the wood floor in one classroom.

In 1975-76 a new brick school building was erected behind the old academy structure. Both buildings were used by classes until the old school building was condemned by the state fire marshall in 1982. The Tucker County Board of Education was notified that the old academy must be torn down, moved, or have a wall built around it, since it stood directly in front of the new brick elementary school building. The residents of St. George began to plan to save the academy and were joined by the Tucker County Historical Society and other interested persons.

In 1984, the Board of Education gave the building to the historical society with the provision that it be relocated in one year. A nearby landowner, Freda Parsons, donated a lot next door on which to have the building placed. Plans were made to move the school roughly 100 feet. In August of 1985, Robert Gott Phillips of Elkins, who has deep family roots in Tucker County and was a member of the historical society, brought men and moving equipment to move the building to the new lot. The first effort failed, due to the weight of the building, but the school was successfully moved later that fall to a new foundation. Ironically, while the building was sitting upon the skidding equipment on the new lot waiting for the foundation, the tremendous Cheat River flood of November 1985 occurred. The nearby new school and homes were flooded with roughly four feet of water, while the old academy sat above the waters. Following the flood the only alteration for the move was to place the building on a higher foundation, necessitating the flight of stairs to its door and the rear ramp. Today the academy houses a small museum interpreting local history and is maintained by the St. George Preservation Society.

Summary:

The St. George Academy is an excellent example of an intact school building for its type of plan in West Virginia. The two classrooms on its first floor retain the original blackboards, wooden walls and woodwork. The auditorium still has its spacious open plan with stepped stage area. The tower is a visual landmark in the small community.

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Bibliography

Fansler, Homer Floyd. HISTORY OF TUCKER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1962.

Long, Cleta. HISTORY OF TUCKER COUNTY. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1996.

State Superintendent. HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN WEST VIRGINIA. Charleston, WV: The Tribune Printing Company, 1904, 1907.

Jackameit, William. WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY. Vol. 36. No. 2 Charleston, WV: State Department of Archives and History.

Phillips, James. Short outline of history for St. George Academy. March 8, 2001, personal papers.

Shahan, Vernon. "Community Fact Sheet" prepared for the Post Office Department. October 30, 1985, personal papers.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The current deed is held by the St. George Academy Preservation Society and is recorded in Deed Book 126, p. 11. (60287)

Beginning at a point in the line of said school's northern line set a 6 ½ foot steel fence post 90.5 westerly of the center of the street, thence with a part of the said line, S. 27-39 W. 75 feet to a point set a 6 ½ foot steel fence post, thence N. 62-21 W. 75 feet to a point set a 6 ½ foot steel fence post, thence N. 27-39 E. 75 feet to a point set a 6 ½ foot steel fence post, thence S. 62-21 E. 75 feet to the beginning, containing 5,625 square feet, more or less as shown on the plat attached hereto and made a part of this description, and being the same real estate that was conveyed unto ... the Tucker County Historical Society ... by Freda Parsons.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries reflect the current location of the St. George Academy. The attached survey map demonstrates that the building was moved approximately 100 feet to ensure its preservation.

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Name of Property: St. George's Academy
Address County Route 1
Town St. George, WV
County Tucker County

Photographer: George Smith

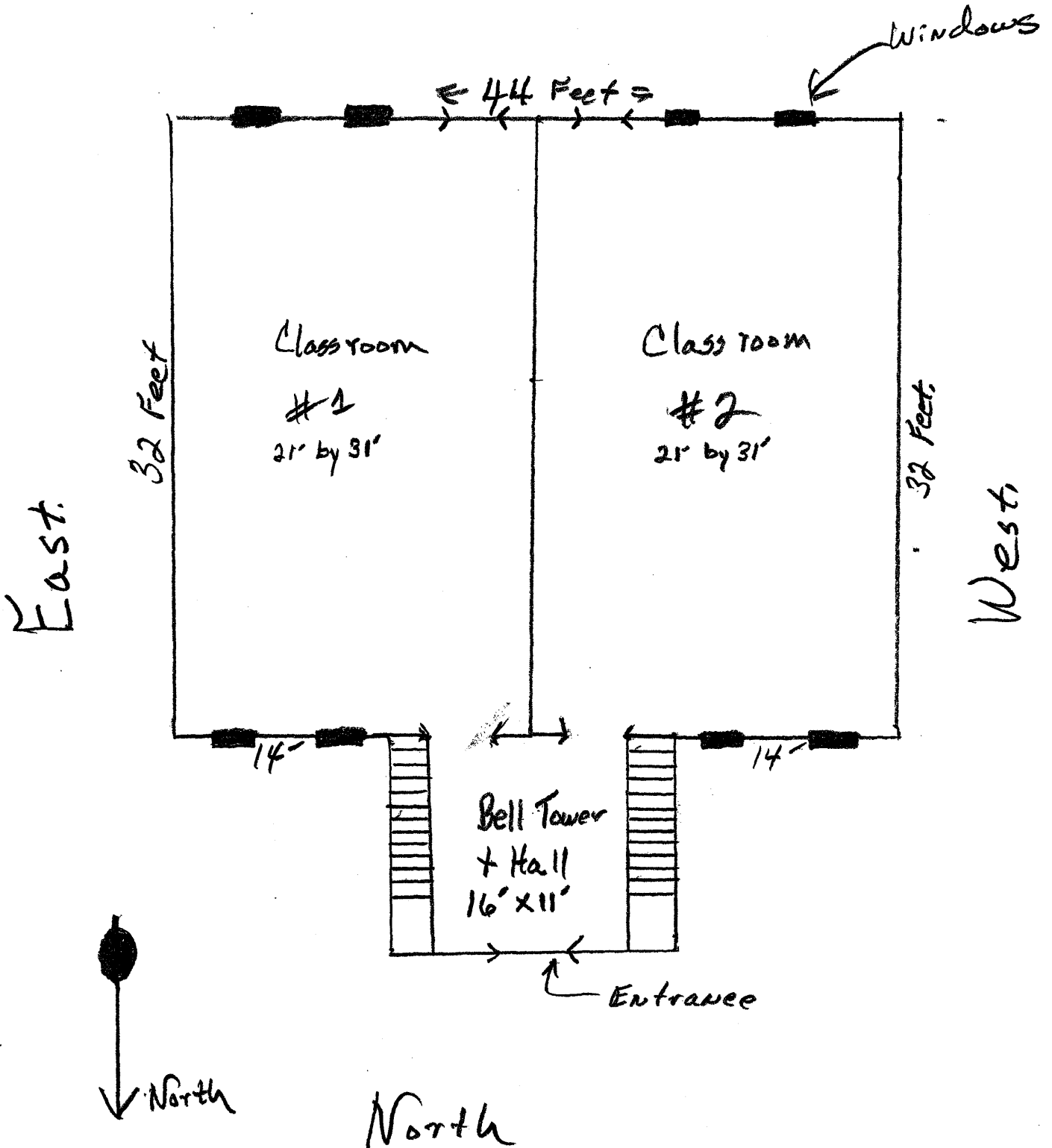
Date: December 2000

Negatives: James Phillips

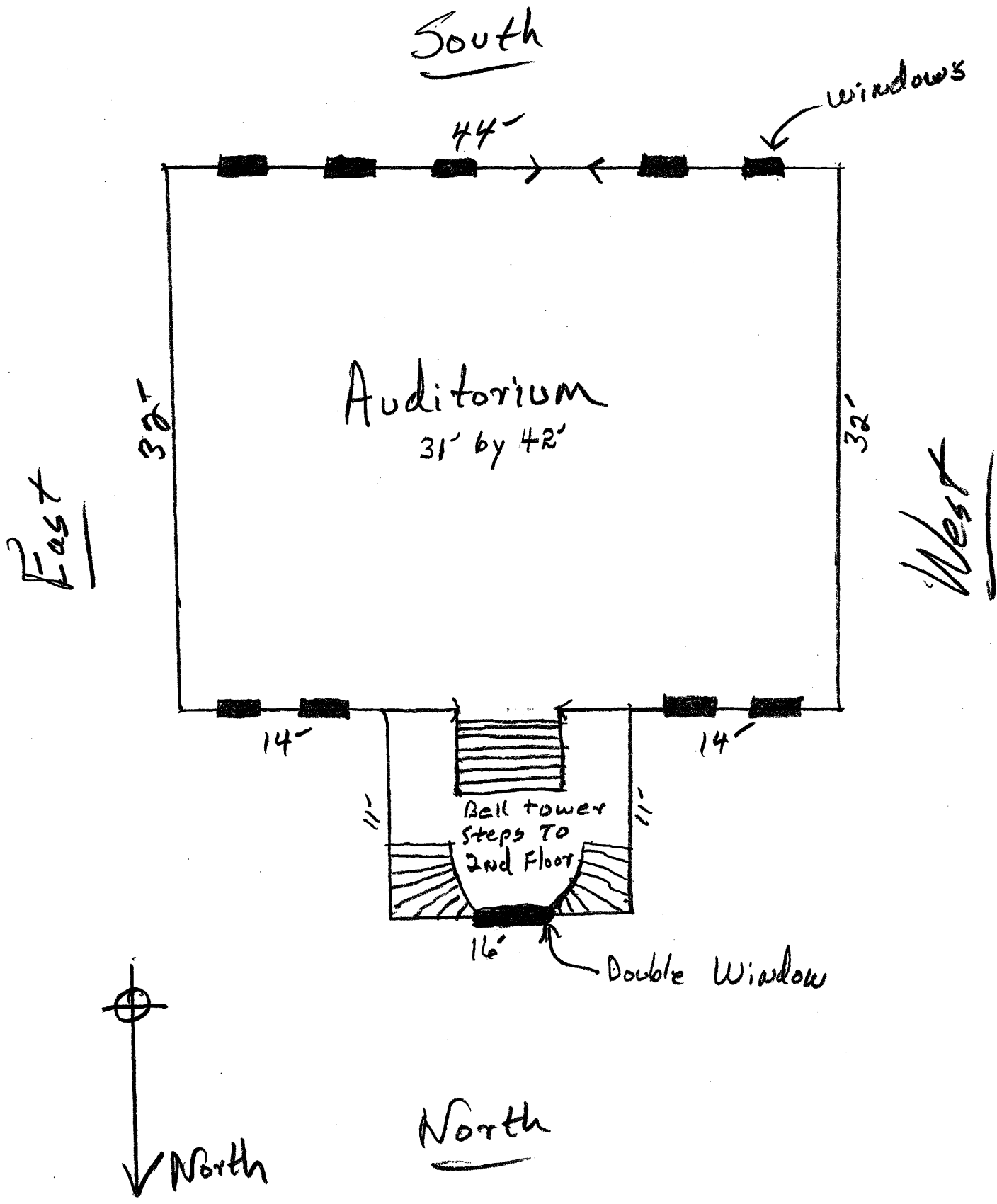
- Photo 1 of 11: Front or north facade, camera facing south (scaffolding for painting)
- Photo 2 of 11: West and front elevation, camera facing SE
- Photo 3 of 11: Rear or south elevation, camera facing NE
- Photo 4 of 11: East elevation, camera facing W
- Photo 5 of 11: East and north elevation, camera facing SW
- Photo 6 of 11: Interior, first floor hall and doors to classrooms, camera facing S
- Photo 7 of 11: Interior, second floor, door and steps to auditorium, camera facing SW
- Photo 8 of 11: Interior, steps to first floor, view from second floor landing looking down
- Photo 9 of 11: Interior, auditorium with stage area (set up for museum with desks)
Camera facing E
- Photo 10 of 11: Interior, classroom on east side of building. Camera facing W
- Photo 11 of 11: Interior, classroom on west side of building, Camera facing SW

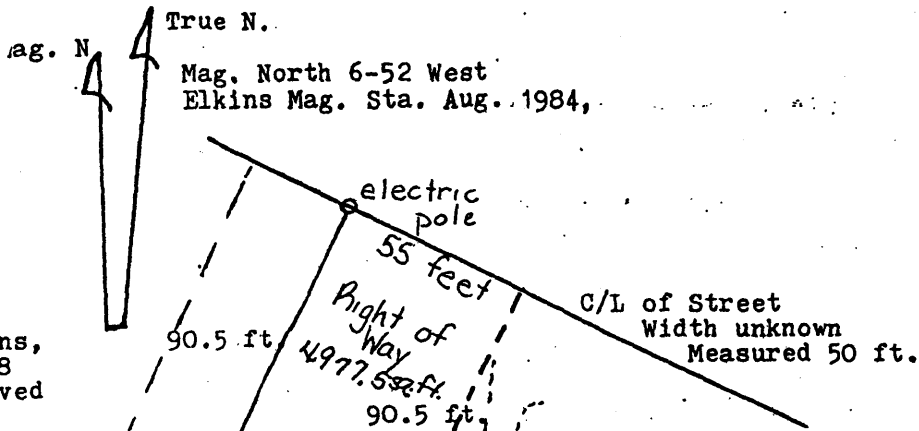
Sketch Shows First Floor: St. George Academy

South



Sketch Shows Second Floor: St. George Academy





Parsons, 74/188 reserved

N. 27-39 E. 75 ft.

(a) S. 62-21 E. 75 ft.

5,625 Sq. Ft.

(a) N. 62-21 W. 75 ft.

S. 27-39 W. 75 ft.

146.6 ft.

74.2 ft.

167.2 ft.

115.7 ft.

(b) Class Rooms

(c) St. Geo. Academy

Brick Building

Note,
 Symbols
 (a) = 6 1/2 ft. Steel Fence Post
 (b) & (c) Are Not to Scale

Plat of Survey of 5,625 sq. ft.
 In Village of St. George,
 St. George District, Tucker
 County, West Virginia,
 Being a part of Parsons,
 74/188.

Surveyed Nov. 17, 1984
 Magnetic North.

Tax Map 223 Parcel 45

Scale 1 inch = 40 ft.

John Campbell.

John Campbell LLS, 233
 102 First St.
 Parsons, W. Va.
 11-19-1984,

Tucker County Board of Education
 data from St. George Academy
 7/242 & 7/243,