

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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: Hessel School

Other names/site number: Hessel School House

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: 3206 West Cedar Street

City or town: Hessel State: MI County: Mackinac 097

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; text-align: center;"><i>Brian Conway</i></p> <hr/> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>SUPD</u></p> | <p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">6/11/19</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> |
| <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>   |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> |  |
| <hr/> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p>   | <hr/> <p>Date</p>  |
| <hr/> <p>Title :</p>   | <hr/> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p> |

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

**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:)

Signature of the Keeper

8-5-2019  
Date of Action

**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

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing      | Noncontributing   |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>          | <u>0</u>          | buildings  |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | sites      |
| <u>1</u>          | <u>          </u> | structures |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | objects    |
| <u>2</u>          | <u>0</u>          | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/schoolhouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

SOCIAL/clubhouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/Limestone, BRICK, WOOD

### 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.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Hessel School is located in a residential area, approximately two blocks from the commercial center of Hessel, Michigan. The school building was a product of the Works Progress Administration and was designed by G. Harold Thompson of Mullet Lake, Michigan. Completed in 1938, the one-story elementary school had a central auditorium with two flanking classrooms, and was constructed of brick with native limestone detail. After closing in 1958, the building was used as a printing business and a private residence, and minor changes to the building occurred. A rehabilitation in 2016 remediated most of these changes, and the structure maintains its integrity.

---

### Setting

Nestled along the northern shores of the west entrance of Les Cheneaux Islands, the unincorporated village of Hessel is located in Clark Township, Mackinac County, in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is protected from the open waters of Lake Huron by Marquette Island to the southeast and the Point Brulee peninsula to the west. The relatively flat topography

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

of the area is host to deciduous and coniferous forests. As a resort area, its population varies with the seasons, from approximately two hundred fifty people in the winter to approximately seven hundred in the summer. The closest neighboring town, Cedarville, lies three and a half miles to the east.

Located at 3206 West Cedar Street in Hessel, Michigan, the Hessel School site is on an orthogonal 2.63 acre lot, 337 feet (north and south property lines) by 310 feet (east and west property lines). The front (south) lot line is angled slightly toward the southwest, and there is a gentle slope from front to back. The westerly lot line is irregularly shaped, while the other three are linear. The structure's main axis points north north east to south south west. It is bordered on three sides by a variety of apple trees and woods of cedar, spruce, and birch.

The Hessel School was constructed on a small plateau created by a limestone retaining wall interrupting the gentle slope. Constructed contemporarily with the building, the mortarless wall features the same locally-sourced limestone that was used on the building proper. This horizontal element in the landscape echoes the horizontal limestone base on the building. The wall was meticulously restored in 2016 by careful removal of each stone, and replacement in its historic position. The elevated siting of the building offers a lovely view of Hessel Bay and Lake Huron a short block away, and indicates the importance of the school in the community. Concrete steps and a walkway cut through the wall and lead down through a wide expanse of lawn to quiet Cedar Street.

An unpaved driveway runs along the west edge from Cedar Street and leads to the graveled parking lot immediately north of the building, where once stood Hessel's first school house of 1887, and that accommodates thirty-five vehicles. The main highway is another hundred yards up the slope, where a gate is secured when the building is closed. It is a scenic two-block walk along Cedar Street to the village's tranquil downtown area, past wood-framed houses shaded by oak and maple trees, and the little, steepled Hessel Presbyterian Church (1901).

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State



Circa 1940 postcard view of Hessel School.

## Exterior

The Hessel School is a one-story, symmetrical structure in the Colonial Revival architectural style, constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project and completed in 1938. From the footprint of the building, the plan is I-shaped, with a central auditorium, flanked by two classrooms to the south, and smaller ancillary spaces on the north side of the auditorium. From above, the dominate roofs form a T-shape. On the front, the large classroom wings' pitched roofs are integrated into the main roof on each side of the central auditorium, and they project forward of the main entry. Two smaller and shorter wings, with individual gable roofs perpendicular to the main auditorium roof, are attached to the central auditorium at the rear. The main roof has a T-shaped flat area in the center covered with modern membrane roofing. Pitched roofs that slope down from the flat roof to the front and to the sides are covered with modern polyvinylchloride (PVC) shingles, as are the individual roofs to the north. On October 26, 1964 the Sault Sainte Marie Evening News stated that the original roofing material was slate. There is a centralized wood bell tower, hexagonal in shape, with Roman-arched openings in each face, exposing the bell to view. The bell tower is topped with a copper ogee-shaped cupola and finial. A replacement bell is inside the cupola.

There is a stone and concrete basement for the back half of the building, and the front half rests on a concrete slab. The building was originally heated by steam via a coal-burning furnace located in the basement. The building was converted from coal to oil use circa 1965. During the 2016 rehabilitation the building was completely replumbed and rewired and a new propane, forced air heating system installed, requiring four furnaces. The foundation of a former coal and oil storage area, approximately fourteen feet by fourteen feet, remains adjacent to the northwest corner of the building. It is partially infilled, but protrudes out of the ground approximately two feet. The structure above was removed in 2016.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

The school's walls are constructed of reddish brick in a common bond with Flemish headers, and are accented with irregularly-shaped pieces of locally quarried limestone. These stones are used as quoins at all outer corners, as the base of the exterior walls, and as lintels with keystones over the doors and individual windows. Windows in series are topped with a brick soldier course. All windows were re-glazed and painted in 2016. The white wood gables with cornice returns contain circular roof vents surrounded with white trim and keystones at the cardinal points. There are wood frieze boards below the roofline on the gable walls, and larger wood frieze boards with dentils on the eave walls, all painted white.

The south (front) elevation features the main entry to the building. It is covered by a horizontal portico roof semi-circular in shape, supported by two slender Tuscan columns on concrete bases, and two similar engaged columns on concrete bases at the face of the wall. The curved frieze board of the portico roof features dentils, as does the rest of the roof eave. The portico frames a pair of original oak paneled doors with metal storms, which are surmounted by a semi-circular transom window with concentric and radial muntins. The doors and transom are surrounded by irregular limestones laid in the brick.

The windows on each side of the main entry are typical of the individual windows found on the building: six over six double hung windows. A horizontal mullion separates the windows from the transom, which has three panes of glass to continue the vertical muntin lines in the windows. The windows are topped with irregular limestone lintels and keystones and sit on rowlock brick course sills. As one approaches the main entry, the central bell tower is seen beyond. The original flagpole, which was once much closer to the street, now stands near the southwest edge of the front entrance.

The two symmetrical projecting classroom wings adjoin each side of the central portion of the building and protrude forward of the entry wall. Their gable-end roofs are perpendicular to the sloped roof of the entrance section. Each wing has two typical windows located near the corners, limestone quoins, and limestone wall base. The wood clapboard gable ends are painted white, and have cornice returns and circular roof vents.

The east and west elevations are almost identical though opposite hand. They consist of three sections: a forward classroom wall, the auditorium wall which is set back from the classroom wall, and a small, short wall of the ancillary spaces, set slightly forward of the auditorium wall.

A large classroom wing sits forward and dominates both elevations. It is brick with limestone quoins and a limestone base. The eave edge of the roof features a wood frieze board with dentils and is painted white. Three double-hung windows in series dominate the center of the wall. The wider center window in the series has ten over ten panes, with a transom of five windows. The two narrower adjacent windows in the series are six over six panes, each with transoms of three panes. This group of windows is surmounted by a brick soldier course and has an angled brick rowlock course sill. On either side of the central window are the typical single window, six over six, with a limestone lintel with keystone on a brick rowlock sill.



Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

Beyond the classroom wing and adjoining it on the north of both elevations is the wall of the auditorium. It has the same three windows in series as the classroom wing, as well as the same white wood frieze board with dentils at the edge of the eave. The east wall is original. The west wall had been covered by a garage addition for the printing business. At some point, the windows in series were removed and replaced with a wall and a single door. The original sashes and frames from the west windows were, for a time, placed against the east window, perhaps utilized as storm windows. A fireplace and a chimney on the west wall of the auditorium were installed in 1974. During the 2016 rehabilitation, the garage addition, wall, and single door were removed, as well as the fireplace and chimney. The windows in series were restored by reinstalling the original sashes and frames, and reglazing them.

Further north on the east and west elevations, smaller wings protrude from each side of the auditorium wall. Their gable ends with cornice returns have white clapboard siding with circular roof vent, as well as the brick wall below with the typical limestone quoins and base. The roofs tie in perpendicularly to and below the edge of the auditorium roof. On the east elevation, the gable wall contains a door with limestone lintel and keystone, and the typical individual window. On the west elevation, the gable wall contains two smaller fixed windows in series, with the typical limestone lintel and keystone.

The north elevation is dominated by the gable end of the auditorium, which is entirely made of brick and has cornice returns. The peak of the gable is truncated by a chimney approximately six feet wide and two feet taller than the top of the flat roof, and projects out eight inches from the north wall. It corresponds to and hides the flat portion of the auditorium roof. Limestone quoins extend from grade to approximately three feet above grade, and the top of the chimney is faced with the limestone and has a limestone cap. The north walls of the two small projecting wings are extensions of the auditorium wall. The wings each have one six over six double hung window, with soldier course lintel and rowlock sill. There is an outline in mastic of a gable roof that was once attached to the north wall near the west corner, which covered a former coal storage area, later used to house two 275-gallon oil bulk tanks. Now demolished, the peak of its gable had been approximately six feet from grade. Above the former coal storage is an area of brick repair, approximately two feet square, of unknown origin.

Set back from the north wall of the auditorium on either side are the backs of the two classroom wings. They both have gable ends with white wood clapboard above the brick wall with limestone quoins and limestone base, and a circular roof vent. Originally, both had blank brick walls. The west gable end, however, has been modified. After the building was purchased for use as a printing facility in 1964, a garage was constructed in this corner, as it adjoins the gravel parking lot. The one-story structure had wood walls painted brick red, a white fascia board located at the edge of the flat roof, and an overhead door. An overhead door was also cut into the original brick exterior wall at the back of the west classroom. The soil had been excavated to install a lift below grade for a loading dock.

The garage was removed in 2016. Since part of the original wall was gone after they removed the overhead door, a modern entrance was constructed to give convenient access to the building from the gravel parking lot. The entrance porch has a wood paneled door and two flanking wood



Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

three-quarter light side lites, all painted white. Two square wood columns support a fourteen-foot-wide gable roof, which projects four feet from the wall and echoes the original gable roofs with white clapboard, cornice returns, and a circular vent. A concrete patio surface in front of the door, which extends from the wall of the auditorium to the corner of the building and up to the smaller gable addition, covers the area of the former garage and lift.

## **Interior**

At the main south entrance, a pair of original oak panel doors opens to the vestibule, which runs the width of the inset entrance wall and has a ten-foot-tall ceiling with non-original two brass chandeliers. The original flooring remains in good condition, and consists of broken quarry tiles, artfully arranged, with a quarry tile wall base. When the tile had arrived during construction, many of them had been broken in transit. For the sake of economy and for scheduling, the remaining tiles were broken and installed in this manner, instead of waiting for a replacement shipment of whole tiles. The walls and ceiling are painted white, and all windows have oak trim. Matching oak wood chair rails have been installed wherever original ones were missing. All woodwork was replaced or repaired where needed and refinished to retain its original character.

A pair of original oak doors in line with exterior doors opens to the auditorium. To the left and right of those doors were the built-in girls' and boys' lockers, which subsequently were removed. The rope to the school bell hangs to the right of the doors.

There are two single oak doors on each of the west and east walls of the vestibule. One opens to the former classrooms, and the other to the restrooms on each side of the vestibule: girls on the west, and boys on the east. Both restrooms have their original quarry tile floor. During the building's use as a residence, the west toilet room became the main bathroom, including a shower. In 2016 it was converted to the women's toilet room, and the shower was removed. It has its original wood stalls, which were used as a prototype to reconstruct those in the east toilet room, which had been removed. The small adjoining room that had once been the west classroom's library was destroyed during the printing house era. In 2016 it was incorporated in to the women's toilet room as "the bride's dressing room", and has a sink, counter, and mirrored wall. The east toilet room was converted into a small library with office space during the residential use. In 2016 it was converted into the dual-use barrier-free and men's toilet room.

One enters the auditorium, twenty-eight feet by eighty-seven feet in size, through the pair of original oak panel doors. The original linoleum that was glued to the concrete floor throughout the auditorium, as well as the classrooms, was badly damaged and replaced with reclaimed barnwood narrow plank flooring during the 2016 rehabilitation. The room has a twelve-foot-high ceiling, with wood beams running east-west approximately fourteen feet apart, tying into the classical oak ceiling moulding along the perimeter of the room. The printing operation had installed two ceiling heaters on the auditorium ceiling, which were later removed.

The focal point of the room is the original stage on the north wall. The stage opening, which is flush to the front wall, is defined by flanking Doric pilasters in oak, which support a classical entablature featuring dentils and a projecting cornice. The stage is raised approximately three

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

feet above the floor, and is also flush to the wall. During the years that the school was used as a residence the stage held a dining table set and an organ, as well as a sleeping area secluded behind a folding screen, but with no alterations were made to the stage itself. In 2016 the stage received a fireproof backdrop and red velvet curtains, funded by Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, and appropriate stage lighting.

Toward the middle of the room on the east and west are doorways to the two adjoining former classrooms. Two doors with trim flank the stage: the one to the left accesses the kitchen, and the one to the right accesses the stairs down to the basement, up to backstage area, and the exterior door. The kitchen received a recycled narrow-planked barnwood flooring to replace the worn linoleum.

Near the stage, the east and west walls of the auditorium contain the typical three windows in series and have oak trim. The east windows are original. The west windows had been damaged and removed, and a fireplace and chimney installed between the early 1970s and 2013. In 2016 the fireplace and chimney were removed, and the west bank of windows was restored.

In addition to the double entry doors on the south wall of the auditorium, there is a pair of original oak doors to storage closets on each side of the entrance. A basketball hoop was originally mounted on the south wall, which was removed when a loft was installed there for additional sleeping space. The loft was removed during the 2016 rehabilitation, and additional recessed ceiling lighting was added so this area of the room may be used as an art gallery.

The two former classrooms are located on each side of the auditorium. They were constructed to be twenty feet by twenty-seven feet with ten-foot ceilings. Doors near the north corners of the former classrooms accessed the auditorium, while doors near the south accessed the vestibule. Originally, both classrooms were equipped with slate blackboards covering the north and south walls of the classroom, and built-in oak cabinetry on the walls opposite the large expanse of windows on the exterior walls. All trim and woodwork was oak. A small room which was used as a library was located to the south of the classroom proper.

The east classroom had little damage during the printing company ownership. During the Sheffield's tenure, it was used as their master bedroom. They created a laundry area and bathroom in the classroom's library to the south, though kept its original cabinetry. It has been returned almost completely to its original state during the 2016 rehabilitation. All the original dark oak cabinetry and shelving along the west wall was completely intact and refinished. The classroom's original black slate chalkboards were reinstalled along the entire length of north wall. The chalkboards for the south wall could not be located, so corkboard fills that space. The six original hanging ceiling lights with their cone-shaped Art Deco globes are in excellent condition. The Sheffield's bathroom and laundry area were removed from the little library room, though the original oak cabinetry and shelving remain. A sink, counter, and floor mop sink were installed along its east wall to accommodate classes and workshops held in the room, and for janitorial purposes. The original linoleum floor that was glued to the concrete was removed and replaced with reclaimed barnwood narrow plank flooring in 2016.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

What was once the west classroom had been heavily damaged by the printing company's use of it as the press room. They had cut in an overhead door in the north wall to access the garage and loading dock that had been added to the exterior. On the ceiling, they had installed a heater, which was removed by the Sheffields. The room was used as Axel Sheffield's workshop during his tenure, as he tried to repair some of the damage that the printing use had caused.

In the 2016 rehabilitation, the garage and overhead doors were demolished, and west classroom was gutted. An office with a reception area was created in the space. A new broken quarry tile floor matching the original quarry tile flooring was installed in the area adjacent to the new door, and reclaimed barnwood narrow plank flooring in the remainder of the room. Cabinetry and shelving were constructed in the east wall that was compatible with the original dark oak cabinetry and woodwork throughout the rest of the building. The original windows and trim remain, as do the six original hanging ceiling light fixtures, although two of the Art Deco cone-shaped globes were destroyed during the printing company's occupancy. An entry door with two sidelites was built at the north wall of the former classroom to be compatible with the front entry and to access the parking lot.

### **Integrity**

Despite the changes to the building, the Hessel School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The school building remains in its original location, and while the setting has evolved some since 1938, it is largely intact. The school continues to reflect a similar relationship with its site as it had at the time of its construction. The majority of the property's historic materials and character-defining features remain in place, including its symmetrical façade, double-hung, multi-pane windows, gable-roofed wings, columned porch, and stone quoins and window arches. As such, the Hessel School continues to convey its historic character and express its significance as a 1938 Georgian-influenced Colonial Revival school house in Hessel, Mackinac County, Michigan.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

---

## 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

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1938-1958

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1938

1958

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Thompson, G. Harold, architect

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

**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 Hessel School is significant under National Register Criterion A at the local level for its significance in the educational and social history of the community of Hessel. The school building is the only extant school in Hessel, and was, for many years, the only elementary school in the community. From its completion in 1938 until its closure in 1958, the school building was the social heart of the community. Community meetings, lectures, performances, and the like were held at the school, since it had the only large assembly space in Hessel. The Hessel School is also significant under Criterion C at the local level as a vernacular expression of the Colonial Revival style of architecture by architect G. Harold Thompson. Constructed as a Works Progress Administration project, Thompson's design uses classical forms customized with local limestone, with Georgian stylistic influences to achieve a functional, classical design that is responsive to local conditions. The period of significance extends from 1938, when the building was completed to 1958, when the school closed. The school was sold and converted to a printing business. This use, as well as its subsequent conversion to a single-family residence, resulted in changes to the interior and exterior of the building. After its acquisition in 2015 by the Hessel School Corporation, the group returned the building to much of its original appearance by rehabilitating the structure in 2016, and it retains its historic integrity. The Hessel School Building has once again been put back into use as the heart of the community.

---

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

Les Cheneaux (French for "the channels") Islands form a thirty-six-island archipelago, with channels, shallow bays, and rock-studded peninsulas. Created by the glaciers, they are part of the Niagara Escarpment, and share the same limestone geology as Mackinac Island, Michigan and Canada's Manitoulin Island. The area was (and still is) home to the indigenous Chippewa tribe.

The area served as the pathway for the explorers of the 1600s, including Jesuit missionaries and coureurs de bois (literally "runners of the woods," or fur traders from France), as they used Les Cheneaux Islands and their narrow channels for shelter as they entered Lake Huron. Located on the mainland shore near the western edge, the Hessel area is steeped in history.

Through the Treaty of Washington in 1836 and the Treaty of Detroit in 1855 the United States government attained a large tract of land that stretched from the Grand River, north to present-day Alpena, and encompassed the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula, including the "islands of the Chenos."<sup>1</sup> In total, the land acquired in this treaty comprising "almost 40% of the current

---

<sup>1</sup> "Treaty with the Ottawa, etc., March 28, 1836." Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. <https://www.saulttribe.com/images/downloads/history%20and%20culture/treaties/1836march28treaty.pdf>.

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

land area of the state of Michigan. Without this land, the Michigan Territory could not have been granted statehood and admitted to the Union.”<sup>2</sup> While the 1836 treaty reserved some lands for Native Americans, “white settlers moving into northern Michigan violated terms of the treaty.”<sup>3</sup> In response, the 1855 Treaty with the Ottawa and Chippewa, signed in Detroit, “allotted lands to Michigan Indian families.”<sup>4</sup> In an 1873 map of Michigan, published by F. W. Beers, the area surrounding what became Hessel is identified as “Indian Reserve.”<sup>5</sup>

The Eastern Upper Peninsula was densely wooded, with cedar and pine along its waters, and maple and oak on the higher ground. In the 1850s lumbering became the major industry, with farming following after lands were cleared. Fishing also developed as an important industry. The Hessel area and its well-sheltered harbor on Lake Huron served as the first commercial hub of Les Cheneaux area.

White settlement to the area began when public lands were made available for homestead and settlement after 1881. By 1910 the population of all of Clark Township, in which Hessel is located, numbered just 876.<sup>6</sup> Complicating the process of settlement in the township were the fur trading interests that operated from Mackinac Island. These interests had acquired Les Cheneaux shoreline property during the period between the two treaties and held on it for some time. Thus, Les Cheneaux land was some of the last real estate available for private acquisition, which, in part, explains the area’s abbreviated pioneer period and quick transition to a resort community.

In the mid-1880s the first homesteaders settled in the Hessel and Clark Township area. These people and families represented English, Scottish, Irish, Welch, and Scandinavian heritage. Among them were Charles and John Hessel. Charles filed a homestead entry in August 1888, and a month later John became Les Cheneaux area’s first postmaster. The settlement bears their name. The Hessel area had the nearest port east of Mackinac Island, as well as a well-equipped general store and lodging accommodations.

The earliest summer inhabitants constructed cottages beginning in the 1850s, and they traveled from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and southern Michigan to stay for the summer. Other tourists followed, some using area campgrounds, others in hotels, and some in their sailboats or cruisers, taking advantage of marinas or anchoring in nearby bays. Later, a relatively significant Italian presence developed in Hessel and Clark Township, where a number of farms were established by Italian immigrants.

---

<sup>2</sup> “How Michigan Became a State: The Treaty of Washington, 1836.” Mackinac State Historic Parks. January 26, 2017. <https://www.mackinacparks.com/how-michigan-became-a-state-the-treaty-of-washington-1836/>.

<sup>3</sup> “Story of Our People: The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.” Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. January 28, 2017. <https://www.saulttribe.com/history-a-culture/story-of-our-people>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> “Lake Superior and the Northern Part of Michigan, 1873.” *Atlas of Calhoun Co. Michigan: From recent and actual surveys and records*. New York: F. W. Beers, 1873. [https://lib.msu.edu/branches/maps/MSU-Scanned/Michigan/11\\_g1413c2b4\\_1873\\_1/](https://lib.msu.edu/branches/maps/MSU-Scanned/Michigan/11_g1413c2b4_1873_1/).

<sup>6</sup> Alvah Littlefield Sawyer. *A History of the Northern Peninsula of Michigan and Its People*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911, p. 313.



Hessel School

Mackinac County, Michigan

Name of Property

County and State

While Hessel developed into a resort and recreation community, it also maintained a year-round population. Protestant and Catholic churches were established. Several stores, restaurants and watering holes, and temporary lodgings developed in a small commercial area to the east of the school and along the water.

In the 1990s, Les Cheneaux Islands were designated by the Nature Conservancy as part of its "Last Great Places" initiative, due to its pristine waters, air, and woodlands.

### Early Education in Hessel

Schoolhouses in the pioneering years were often one-room, rugged log buildings that were temporary in nature. They sprang up on donated land as they were needed, following the dictates of an unsettled, expanding, and shifting population. In a community dominated by logging interests, the diminutive schoolhouses tended to relocate regularly to serve the populations of the winter lumber camps. In the Hessel area, these former buildings included the Maple Leaf School which was on Simmons Road, northwest of Hessel; the Kennedy School, which was just above Rock View Road, four miles north; and a rough-built slab wood schoolhouse at the site known as the Mill Pond, less than a quarter of a mile west of the existing Hessel School.

The first established schoolhouse in Les Cheneaux area was built in Hessel in 1887, and was located immediately behind the present schoolhouse. John Hessel's wife, Angeline (nee Newton), was the teacher. It was a wood-framed building with a bell tower and was heated by a wood burning stove. Before being demolished in 1938, the bell was transferred to the newly-completed schoolhouse that took its place.



*Original Hessel School in 1907. Photograph courtesy of Les Cheneaux Historical Museum.*

Hessel School

Name of Property

**Hessel School**

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

The present Hessel School was built through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which was established with the passage of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act in 1935 by presidential executive order. Its purpose was to provide employment during the Great Depression. The WPA, the largest component of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program, was active from 1933 to 1939.

The WPA provided projects to improve the nation's infrastructure, such as bridges, airports, schools, parks, and water lines. It also sponsored "smaller useful projects", such as roads, sidewalks and parks, that required less skilled labor and less expense. The WPA employed over 8.5 million Americans during its eight years of operation. During that period WPA workers built or repaired 124,000 bridges, 850 airfields, 125,000 public buildings, eight thousand parks, and 650,000 miles of highway in communities throughout the United States.

A typical project began at the local level, with city and county governments assessing their needs and their unemployment numbers. Projects were not imposed on local communities by the federal government. Normally, localities had to provide approximately twelve to twenty-five percent of the funding to trigger federal funding of WPA projects. The local proposals were then sent to a WPA state office for evaluation, before being forwarded to WPA headquarters in Washington, DC, where they were given to the president for final approval. Projects could be rejected anywhere along this three-step process.

In 1939, after a federal government reorganization, the Works Progress Administration was renamed the "Work Projects Administration" and was placed under the newly created Federal Works Agency. With the advent of World War II and absorption of millions of men and women into war production and the military, the WPA was terminated in 1943.

In 1937, the year construction began at the Hessel School, more than one hundred forty schools were constructed by the WPA workers in Michigan, at a total cost of forty-two million dollars. In Mackinac County alone, there were four WPA school projects that year: in Hessel, Cedarville, Gros Cap, and Engadine. Other county projects included a pool, a community center, and a park on Mackinac Island. The combined cost of the Hessel and Cedarville school projects was eighty thousand dollars, with Clark Township floating a bond issue that appropriated forty-five thousand dollars for the two projects, with the federal government providing the balance of the cost. The Hessel School project cost approximately twenty-nine thousand dollars.

The architect hired by the WPA for the Hessel School project was G. Harold Thompson (1903-1967) of Mullett Lake, Michigan, near the town of Cheboygan. Born in 1903, he grew up there, where, according to United States censuses, his father George Walter Thompson was a residential contractor and his mother Lucy was a homemaker. He married Ruth Elinor Elliot in Petoskey, Michigan in 1924. His marriage certificate indicates that his bride was also born in Cheboygan, and his occupation at that time was an architectural draftsman. The couple's first son, George Walter was born in Michigan around 1925, but by 1928, the family had moved to Chicago, Illinois, as his second son Elliot Raymond was born in Evanston, Illinois. The United

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

States census of 1930 indicates that they lived in Chicago, and Thompson worked as an architectural draftsman. Though it is not known exactly when they returned to Michigan, the 1940 United States census notes that the family lived in Petoskey, Michigan, and Thompson's occupation was an architect.

The Hessel school project was approved by the WPA on November 18, 1936. At that time the school was estimated to cost 19,593 dollars and employ at least twenty-five men on the project. Thompson was the building's designer, and it was noted in the *Sault Sainte Marie Evening News* that he was also commissioned by the WPA to renovate the Mackinac County Courthouse in Saint Ignace, Michigan. Thompson and his foreman, Richard Wilbur (also of Mullet Lake), worked together on three of the four schools in Mackinac County which were commissioned by the WPA: the Hessel School in Hessel, as well as the Cedarville School in Cedarville, and Gros Cap Elementary School in Gros Cap (located immediately west of Saint Ignace). All three schools are still in existence. According to *The Republican News and Saint Ignace Enterprise* in 1937, all three schools were to be "of Colonial design." Oddly enough, the Cedarville and Gros Cap schools reflect the Art Deco style of architecture, with only the Hessel School designed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture. The newspaper also noted that the three schools would be constructed "of fireproof floors, walls and ceiling with a 'slow burning' roof." This was precipitated by a 1935 fire that destroyed the Gros Cap school. The children there had to attend school in the town hall, and some attended La Salle school in Saint Ignace while awaiting construction of a new school. The newspaper also noted that the general layout of the three schools would have two classrooms and one large community room.

A special meeting of the citizens of Clark Township was held in December 1936. School Board attorney Edward G. McNamara of Saint Ignace and G. Harold Thompson were the principal speakers. McNamara and Thompson explained that the Hessel school project was expected to be started in the spring. Clark Township prepared a vote on a bond issue as soon as possible, so that the money from the township would be available as soon as the federal appropriation was made. The special election was held on January 20, 1937, to vote for fifty thousand dollars for the remodeling of the two new schools, Hessel and Cedarville, which passed one hundred twelve to twenty-seven. The announcement of the federal grant of 14,388 dollars for the construction of the Hessel school came on April 2, 1937, and the project was to get underway the same month.

Following its completion, the Hessel School opened in September 1938, though the auditorium was not completed until December. The school served local students from both Anishinaabe and non-Native immigrant families, from kindergarten through fifth grade. The west classroom, referred to as "The Little Room" from accounts of former students, housed kindergarten through second grade. The east classroom, referred to as "The Big Room," housed third through fifth grades. The large, multi-purpose auditorium space was placed between them, and it served as the lunch room, nap area for kindergartners, gymnasium, and auditorium.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State



*"The Little Room" (west classroom), 1954. Photograph courtesy of Les Cheneaux Historical Museum.*

Dirt roads were common in the area at this time. Only one bus served the students at the Hessel School, covering an area up to ten square miles, depending on the season. There was no mid-day bus for kindergartners. Since they stayed the full day with the other grades, they used the auditorium for a nap period. Often children in the outlying areas would board in town during the winter because of the impassible roads. Students living in town walked to school via simple trails through the trees. The first major paved highway in the area was M-134, which was constructed in 1963 and located behind the school, passing through the woods of cedar, spruce, and birch. During the Great Depression, the Hessel School's lunch program provided many students with the only hot meal they would have during the day, as many local families struggled to feed their children during that time.

Anishinaabe families lived in the Hessel area at this time, and their children were welcome to attend the school, so a portion of the student population who attended the Hessel School from 1938-1958 were Anishinaabe people. According to interviews with former students and teachers, the Hessel School provided a unique space for people from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds to learn together, since the mission of the school was strictly to provide education for area youth, and the small size created a familial type of setting. While English was the only language of instruction, Anishinaabemowin, the language of the Great Lakes tribes for millennia, was spoken by the Anishinaabe children at school.

Local history suggests that when Caucasian students reached sixth grade, they attended the Cedarville School, three miles away, for middle and high school grades. Rather than attend

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

Cedarville School, many Anishinaabe students were transferred to area boarding schools. Federal education policy, beginning in the late nineteenth century, was crafted to “civilize” Indian children by destroying “American Indian cultures, languages, and spirituality.”<sup>7</sup> So called boarding schools were central to the implementation of that policy, and remained the central instructional venue for Native Americans for decades. Writing on the effect of such schools on Indian culture, language, and identity, Eric Hemenway, of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, observed:

In 1887 Indian education became dictated under federal standards which included the boarding school system. Odawa children, along with all Indian children across the United States, would be subject to some of the most intense assimilation in American history. Odawa children at the boarding schools would not be permitted to speak their native language or to participate in ceremonies or cultural activities. Severe punishment was administered when rules were broken. Prolonged stays at the school were common, sometimes years on end. The long absence from family and community, in conjunction with the strict rules of the school, resulted in a loss of language, culture and history for the tribe.

Though speaking for the Odawa people, Hemenway’s description applies nearly universally to the boarding school experience for Native Americans.

In 1958, after an expansion of the Cedarville School was completed, elementary education for the entire area was consolidated with the upper grades, and permanently located in Cedarville, resulting in the closure of the Hessel School.

## Architecture

The Colonial Revival style resulted, in part, from a considerable “patriotic sentiment”<sup>8</sup> that had developed in the latter half of the nineteenth century, as the centennial of the country drew nearer. Concomitant with an increased appreciation, or perhaps yearning, for America’s colonial days, concern over the perceived indulgences of the Queen Anne style hastened the search for a new architectural vocabulary, one that was seen as distinctly American,<sup>9</sup> and that calls to mind Ruskin’s observation that, “every form of noble architecture is in some sort the embodiment of the Polity, Life, History, and Religious Faith of nations.”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, the Queen Anne style was seen by some as “too ornate and gaudy, inefficient, and wasteful of space,” as well as “cheaply constructed” and “decorated to impress rather than meet the needs of the family.”<sup>11</sup> The sentiments and changing tastes of both professional architects and the general public led to an

<sup>7</sup> “American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global Ethnic & Cultural Cleansing.” Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways. <http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/planyourvisit/pdf/AIBSCurrGuide.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> William B. Rhoads. “The Colonial Revival and American Nationalism.” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Vol. 35, No. 4 (December 1976), p. 239.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 242.

<sup>10</sup> John Ruskin. *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1849, p. 183.

<sup>11</sup> Bridget A. May. “Progressivism and the Colonial Revival: The Modern Colonial House, 1900-1920. *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 26, No. 2/3 (Summer - Autumn, 1991), p. 108.

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

renewed interest in the colonial- and revolutionary-era architecture of the country, particularly those buildings associated with “America’s early political and military heroes.”<sup>12</sup>

Between the 1860s and the first decades of the 1900s a number of events conspired to establish the Colonial Revival style in the minds of Americans as a “very satisfying” American style.<sup>13</sup> Essays by influential architects; a well-publicized study of New England architecture by McKim, Mead, White and Bigelow; advances in publishing technology; focused coverage by architectural periodicals; and a series of popular exhibitions between 1876 and 1915<sup>14</sup> furthered interest in colonial-era architecture for architects and the public alike.

The early days of the revival of interest in Colonial architecture began “with the copying and compounding of isolated details” from “widely different periods.”<sup>15</sup> These early efforts resulted in architectural forms that were “very far from the simplicity of the original work.”<sup>16</sup>

At the same time, there existed an interest in local style and materials that was “one of the dominant forces in the whole architectural world” at that time.<sup>17</sup> In America, however, this localism not so much a community-level localism, but a romantic, American “localism” that manifested in the revival of interest in Colonial architecture.<sup>18</sup> The result was not a strict style, but a mode that drew on traditional sources and led to “a free and personal mode of expression.”<sup>19</sup>

Later buildings, however, were designed with greater fidelity to the proportions and details of the colonial era.<sup>20</sup> The style, however, has evolved over time, and the various iterations can be seen as “fairly accurate reflections of contemporary and local characteristics, ideas, and ideals.”<sup>21</sup>

By the 1930s the Colonial Revival style had been a part of the American landscape for more than fifty years, and discussion and dissemination of the style had made its way from architectural to popular periodicals. Indeed, *Popular Mechanics*, perhaps reflecting a less-sophisticated architectural view, observed in 1929 that the Colonial Revival style is “as liquid in public approval as a Liberty bond at a bank.”<sup>22</sup> The style, in the opinion of the writer, reflects the supposed simplicity and honesty of the past, was economical, free of excessive ornamentation,

---

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 239.

<sup>13</sup> Harriet T. Bottomley. “An Architect’s Country House.” *Architectural Record*. January 1915, p. 48.

<sup>14</sup> These exhibitions include the Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia, the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco.

<sup>15</sup> Fiske Kimball. “The American Country House.” *Architectural Record*. October 1919, p. 334.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., p. 339

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 341

<sup>20</sup> Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 326.

<sup>21</sup> C. Matlack Price. “A Modern Version of the Early Pennsylvania County House.” *Architectural Record*. June 1915, pp. 76-81.

<sup>22</sup> “A Style that Never Grows Old.” *Popular Mechanics Magazine*. Chicago. November 1929, p. 879.

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

and “has good proportions.”<sup>23</sup> By the middle part of the century, it was clear that the “good Colonial” style was one of the few styles that had “stood the test of time.”<sup>24</sup>

While applied widely to residential buildings, the Colonial Revival style was also used for public buildings like government offices, churches, banks, and schools. The Hessel School illustrates the use of the Colonial Revival style in public or institutional buildings, and is the only public building in Hessel designed in the Colonial Revival style, and exhibits a number of features associated with the Georgian variant, including its symmetrical façade and fenestration; block modillions; columned porch; fanlight transom entry window; and paneled entry doors, other details, such as the multi-paned double-hung windows surmounted by lintels associated with the Adam style, while the restrained detailing of the entry reflects the revival of the Colonial style, rather than the more elaborate entries of strict Georgian or Adam Colonial buildings.

### **Subsequent History**

After the school closed in 1958, the building sat empty until 1964, when the school district put it up for sale. At this time the Northern Michigan Publishing company considered locating in the area. Established by summer resident Marshall “Bud” Haywood Jr., the company was projected to start with three to ten employees, and possibly expand to up to forty employees, and with a payroll of 25,000 to 40,000 dollars. The firm’s executives were interested in locating in Hessel and purchasing the building, which had approximately two thousand square feet of area. This provided plenty of room for anticipated expansion.

The printing company purchased the building on November 4, 1964, and made changes to it to accommodate their business. It constructed a one-story wood-sided addition to the northwest corner of the building for a garage. An overhead door provided access to the new garage, and the original exterior wall of the west classroom was cut to provide a second garage door to access the west classroom. They excavated the soil to install a lift to unload the large rolls of paper. The west classroom was used as their printing room, and it is said that much damage occurred here during the printing process. The company also hung three oil furnaces, two from the auditorium ceiling and one from the west classroom ceiling. Two 275-gallon oil bulk tanks were placed in the coal bin that had been built for the schoolhouse, located on the northwest corner of the building. It had a low-pitched gable roof; the outline of the roof exists today on the nearby north wall.

The building was sold to Azor D. Sheffield in 1972. A veteran of World War II, he and his wife Betty (nee Seward, a direct descendent from William H. Seward, of the Alaska Purchase) had lived in Toledo, Ohio, where he had worked at the fire department from 1940 until 1970, when they relocated to Hessel. They remodeled the old school into a residence, repairing some of the damage done by the printing company. They replaced over sixty broken windows. After taking ownership, they also discovered that the original school bell that had been transferred from the 1887 schoolhouse was missing, so they purchased a replacement bell for the building.

---

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> “Scores ‘Modern’ Style Home.” *Architect & Engineer*. April 1939, pp. 59-60.



Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State



*Garage addition on the northwest, 2016. Photograph by Jeff Day.*

In November 2015 a group consisting almost entirely of former Hessel School students or their descendants, formed the Hessel School House Corporation. The newly-formed organization purchased the property from the Sheffield family in 2015, and rehabilitation work began two weeks later.

The rehabilitation work included replacing the roof, new plumbing, new electrical wiring, and a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. The west classroom, badly damaged by the printing process, was gutted, and the garage and loading dock were removed. The room was remodeled into the north entrance for the facility, with an office and reception area. A sleeping loft was removed from the auditorium, and the windows restored. Modifications were made to the toilet rooms and little library areas.

With the completion of the rehabilitation work on May 7, 2016, after a stretch of sixty years in uncertain conditions and a with nebulous future, the Hessel School was finally returned to its devoted alumni and its community, who take tremendous pride in its historic meaning, its beauty, and its new purpose. The school once again serves the community, now as a center for arts and nature education, for a writer's program for all ages, and for a variety of community and private events. It is a popular location for weddings, with a view of Lake Huron from the front portico. It has become the year-round venue for Les Cheneaux Farmers & Artisans Sunday Market, and, along with the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center. The group works closely with other local non-profit groups by partnering on grants, and co-sponsoring of multiple learning opportunities and events, such as the annual The Aldo Leopold Festival, and the Native American Celebration.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Around the Peninsula.” *Ironwood Daily Globe* (Ironwood, Michigan). October 24, 1964.

“Best of Luck Trojans.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan). March 3, 1970.

“Board Refuses to Accept Bid for Old School.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie Michigan), October 29, 1964.

“Cedarville.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan). January 23, 1937.

“Executive Haywood Dies on Trip.” *Chicago Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois). October 22, 1970.

“Explain WPA Project to Clark Taxpayers.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan). December 26, 1936.

Hemenway, Eric. “Indian Children Forced to Assimilate at White Boarding Schools.” National Park Service. August 15, 2017. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/boarding-schools.htm>.

“Hessel Group 1.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan), November 24, 1952.

“Illinois, Cook County, Birth Certificates, 1871-1940.” Elliot Raymond Thompson, 28 Apr 1928, Evanston, Cook, Illinois, United States.

“Legal Advertisement, Notice of Public Auction,” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan), July 22, 1969.

*Les Cheneaux Watershed Management Plan*, Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District, May 2006.

“Michigan Marriages, 1922-1995,” George Harold Thompson and Ruth Elinor Elliot, 21 Jun 1924.

Mickelson, Bonnie Stewart. *Hollyhocks & Radishes*. Hessel, Michigan: Pickle Point Publishing, 1989.

“*Much Building Activity and Other Improvements Noted at Les Cheneaux Recently.*” *Les Cheneaux Breezes*. 1939 Issue.

“Native American Culture Feels Effects of Boarding Schools Decades After System Closed.” *Traverse City Record/Eagle* (Traverse City, Michigan), November. 15, 2015.

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

“Obituary, Azor Sheffield.” *The Blade* (Toledo, Ohio), July 7, 2013.

“Outdoor Writers Gather In Les Cheneaux Area.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan), June 3, 1966.

Pittman, Philip McM. *The Les Cheneaux Chronicles: Anatomy of a Community*. Charlevoix, Michigan: Peach Mountain Press for Les Cheneaux Venture, 1984.

“Publishing Firm Plans to Locate In Les Cheneaux.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie Michigan), October 16, 1964.

*Republican News and Saint Ignace Enterprise, The* (Saint Ignace), April 1, 1937.

“School for Sale.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan), October 26, 1964.

*Sherriff's Deed on Mortgage Sale Philip J. Schafer, Sherriff to Anthony Autore*. Liber 197, Page 137-140. Saint Ignace: Mackinac County Registrar of Deeds, 1970.

“Three Projects Approved for Mackinac Co.” *Evening News* (Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan), November 20, 1936.

Treaty of Washington, 1836

“United States Census, 1940.” P. Harold Thompson, Ward 2, Petoskey, Petoskey City, Emmet, Michigan, United States.

“United States Census, 1930.” Harrold G. Thompson, Chicago (Districts 1751-1976), Cook, Illinois, United States.

“United States Census, 1920.” Harold Thompson, Cheboygan Ward 3, Cheboygan, Michigan, United States.

“United States Census, 1910.” George W. Thompson, Cheboygan Ward 3, Cheboygan, Michigan, United States.

*Warranty Deed Anthony Autore and Ethyl Autore to Azor D. Sheffield and Betty W. Sheffield*. Liber 211, Page 461. Saint Ignace: Mackinac County Registrar of Deeds, 1972.

*Warranty Deed Les Cheneaux Community Schools to Northern Michigan Publishing Company*. Liber 173, Page 118-119. Saint Ignace: Mackinac County Registrar of Deeds, 1964.

*WPA Administration Mackinaw County, Circular 23, Depression- Era Agencies*, Group Records: 81-49,82-61, ending June 30,1938.

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

“WPA Grants Area Made for State Projects.” Battle Creek Enquirer (Battle Creek, Michigan), April 22, 1937.

---

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 2.63

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

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: 46.005809 | Longitude: -84.429818 |
| 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.)

The property includes parcels: 003-428-016-00, 003-570-017-00, and 003-428-015-00, and is comprised of the following legal descriptions:

Parcel 1:

Lots 1 and 2, Block 3 of French's Plat of Lot 1, Fractional Section 28, Town 42 North, Range 1 West EXCEPTING THEREFROM: the Southeasterly 25 feet of Lot 2, Block 3; Also a portion of Block "A" of said French's Plat: Beginning at the Northwesterly corner of French's Plat in the 1/4 line of Section 28, Town 42 North, Range 1 West, running along the West side

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

of French's Plat in a Southerly direction 12 feet to Block 3; thence in an Easterly direction along Block 3, 100 feet; thence parallel with the line between Lots 2 and 3 in a Northeasterly direction to the 1/4 line; thence along the 1/4 line West to Place of Beginning.

Parcel 2:

Part of the Southeast 1/4 of Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 42 North, Range 1 West more particularly described as beginning at a point on the East and West 1/4 section line of said Section 28, 839 feet West from the East 1/4 section post of said Section 28, said point also being the point of intersection of the line between Lots 2 and 3, Block 3 of French's Plat of a part of Lot 1 of said Section 28 extended North 26 1/2' East to the said East and West 1/4 section line of said Section 28; thence North 182 1/2 feet; thence West parallel with said East and West 1/4 section line 240 feet; thence South 182 1/2 feet to the East and West 1/4 section line of said Section 28; thence East along East and West 1/4 section line 240 feet to Place of Beginning.

Parcel 3:

All that portion of Government Lot 1, Section 28, Town 42 North, Range 1 West lying Northerly of Cedar Street as now surveyed and Westerly of French's Plat.

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

The boundary is the legal property boundary of the property located at 3206 West Cedar Road, Hessel, Michigan 49745.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Debra Ball Johnson, Architect  
organization: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
street & number: 735 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box 30044  
city or town: Lansing state: MI zip code: 48909  
e-mail: johnsond70@michigan.gov  
telephone: (517) 241-0242  
date: February 28, 2019

name/title: Bonnie Mikkelsen, Corporate Secretary  
organization: Hessel School House Corporation  
street & number: 3206 West Cedar Street  
city or town: Hessel state: MI zip code: 49745  
e-mail: hesselschoolhouse@gmail.com  
telephone: (906) 484-1333  
date: September 30, 2018

name/title: Todd Walsh, National Register Coordinator

Hessel School  
Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

organization: Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
street & number: 735 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box 30044  
city or town: Lansing state: MI zip code: 48909  
e-mail: walsht@michigan.gov  
date: March 15, 2018

---

### **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.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Hessel School

City or Vicinity: Hessel

County: Mackinac

State: Michigan

Photographer: listed

Date Photographed: various dates, listed.

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

1 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0001.JPG.

Aerial view of school showing front, south-facing façade; camera pointing northwest.

Photographer: Bonnie Mikkelsen.

Date Photographed: August 16, 2017.

2 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0002.JPG.



Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan  
County and State

Aerial view of Hessel, Michigan, looking east.

Photographer: Bonnie Mikkelsen.

Date Photographed: August 16, 2017.

3 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0003.JPG.

View of south façade and sidewalk; camera facing north.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

4 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0004.JPG.

View of west façade and north entry; camera facing east.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

5 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0005.JPG.

View of west façade; camera facing east.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

6 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0006.JPG.

View of east façade; camera facing west.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

7 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0007.JPG.

View of east façade; camera facing west.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

8 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0008.JPG.

View of north façade; camera facing south.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

9 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0009.JPG.

Close up of coal storage area on north façade; camera facing south.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: October 9, 2017.

10 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0010.JPG.

Interior view of vestibule; camera facing east.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017.

11 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0011.JPG.

Hessel School

Name of Property

Mackinac County, Michigan

County and State

View of stage area in auditorium; camera facing north.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: April 20, 2017.

12 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0012.JPG.

Interior view of auditorium; camera facing southeast.

Photographer: Bonnie Mikkelsen.

Date Photographed: September 9, 2016.

13 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0013.JPG.

Interior view of kitchen on west side of stage; camera facing north.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017

14 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0014.JPG.

Interior view of former east classroom; camera facing west.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017

15 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0015.JPG.

Interior view of former east classroom; camera facing north.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017

16 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0016.JPG.

Interior view of former east classroom; camera facing south.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: August 24, 2017

17 of 17. MI\_Mackinac County\_Hessel School\_0017.JPG.

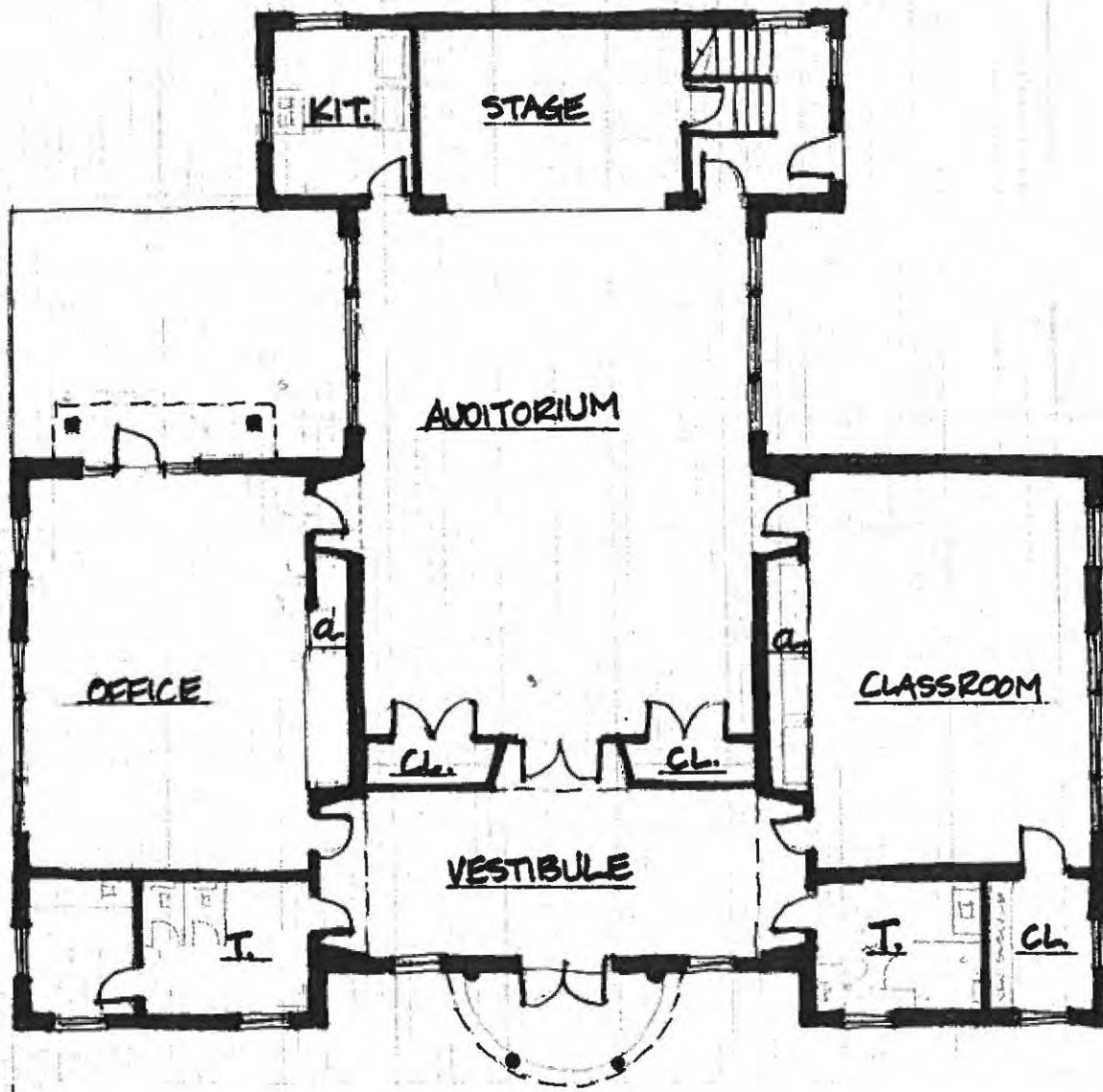
Interior view of former west classroom (presently office); camera facing northwest.

Photographer: Caroline Crecelius.

Date Photographed: March 22, 2017.

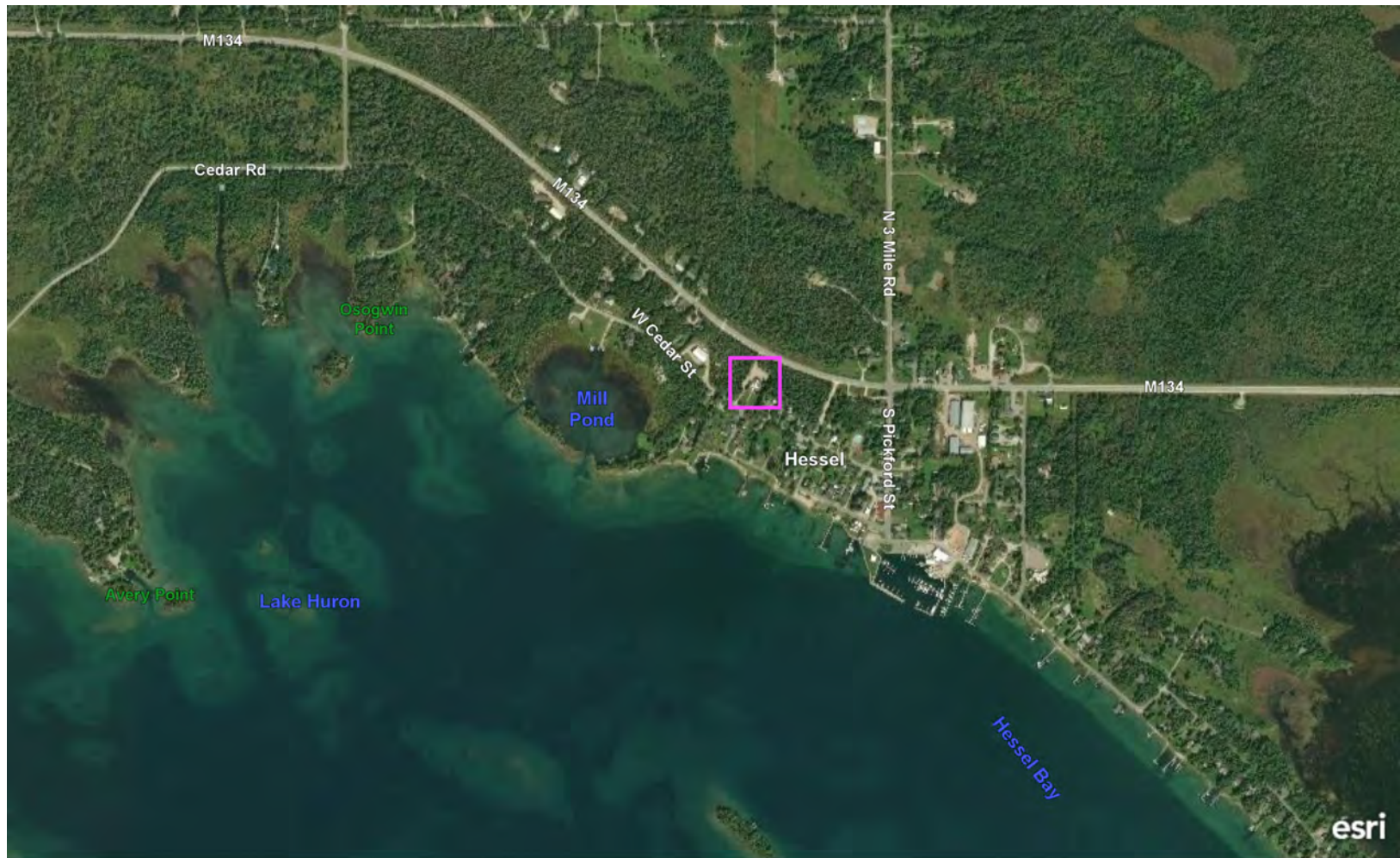
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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, DC.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN





0.2mi

## Hessel School

3206 West Cedar Street, Hessel, Mackinac County, Michigan

Lat./Long.: 46.005809 / -84.429818

Map Source: ArcGIS Online







60ft

### Hessel School

3206 West Cedar Street, Hessel, Mackinac County, Michigan

Lat./Long.: 46.005809 / -84.429818

Map Source: ArcGIS Online







































































National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Hessel School

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: MICHIGAN, Mackinac

Date Received: 6/24/2019      Date of Pending List: 7/19/2019      Date of 16th Day: 8/5/2019      Date of 45th Day: 8/8/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100004234

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: \_\_\_\_\_

X Accept       Return       Reject      8/5/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Excellent example of a WPA-built school rendered in the Colonial Revival style. The school is also significant for the role it played in educating Native American children in the area.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARY HEIDEL  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 17, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Hessel School, Hessel (Clark Township, Mackinac County, Michigan)**. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is a  X  New Submission   Resubmission   Additional Documentation   Removal.

- 1  Signed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Disc 1)
- 2  Locational maps (Disc 1, incl. with nomination)
- 1  Sketch map(s) / figures(s) / exhibits(s) (Disc 1, incl. with nomination)
- 13  Pieces of correspondence (Disc 1)
- 17  Digital photographs (Disc 2)
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed.
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67.
- The enclosed owner objections constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other:

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 373-1979 or [walsh@t@michigan.gov](mailto:walsh@t@michigan.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer

## HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE



MAY - 9 2019

EVERY ARTS & NATURE LEARNING CENTER

April 27, 2019

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 30044  
735 East Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Conway:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, inviting us to attend the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board's meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, for consideration of the Hessel School House for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. I will be attending as a representative of the Hessel School House Board of Directors, along with Tim DeWick, an alumnus of the Hessel School.

This gives me an opportunity to express not only the deep appreciation for this recognition by my fellow board members and the Les Cheneaux Area, but particularly that of the many former students who regard Hessel School and its teachers as a remarkable experience and influence in their lives. This is truly a unique community that takes enormous pride in its heritage and culture, which was molded by nature in extraordinary ways. The nomination will confirm and sustain those values.

Included is our gratitude to Debra Johnson for notably facilitating the application process. Her expertise, obvious intelligence, patience, and organization skills were key factors in making this possible for the Hessel School House.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie S. Mickelson".

Bonnie S. Mickelson  
Corporate Secretary

## Clark Township Board of Trustees Resolution of Support

**Whereas** the National Register of Historic Places is considering the **Hessel School House** for nomination as a property deemed "worthy of preservation because of its importance in American history and culture," and

**Whereas** listing in the National Register provides recognition that a property is significant to the nation, the state, and community, and

**Whereas** the **Hessel School House** was constructed under the Works Progress Administration in 1937 as a school and is now a community center for culture, arts, and nature programs available to all the residents of Clark Township, surrounding communities and visitors, and

**Whereas**, the labor of men and women to build a community and future is etched within the foundation of the **Hessel School House**, and

**Whereas**, the heritage of the **Hessel School House** is symbolic of Native Americans and immigrants building a home and community within an emerging America,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, the Clark Township Board of Trustees is proud to endorse and fully support the designation of the **HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE** as a nationally recognized historic place in American history and culture.



*Approved at 5-15-19 reg. mtg.*



MARK G. CLYMER, SUPERVISOR  
SUSAN J. RUTLEDGE, CLERK  
JASON L. SHERLUND, TREASURER  
SARAH E. PATTON, TRUSTEE  
PATRICK J. SCHUSTER, TRUSTEE

207 N. BLIND LINE ROAD  
P.O. Box 367  
CEDARVILLE, MI 49719  
PHONE (906) 484-2672  
FAX (906) 484-3199

February 12, 2018

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

To Whom It May Concern at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office,

As President of the Hessel School House Board of Directors and as an officer of Clark Township, I am writing you in support of the Hessel School House Corporation's nomination to the Register of Historic Places. This unique historic building is one of a kind, not only in the Hessel area, but also within the context of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The school house holds continued cultural significance within and outside of our local communities in the Les Cheneaux Region, as it provided education for both Native Ojibwe children and non-Native American children of immigrant families in the Hessel area from 1938 through 1958.

With the completion of the restoration work on May 7, 2016, after a stretch of 60 years in uncertain condition and a nebulous future, the beloved Hessel School House was finally returned to its devoted alumni and its community, who take tremendous pride in its historic meaning, beauty, and new purpose as an ideal space for arts and nature education and a variety of community and private events. It has become the venue for the Les Cheneaux Farmers & Artisans Sunday Market year-round, and, along with the Avery Learning Center, works closely with the aforementioned non-profit groups through partnerships on grants and co-sponsorship of multiple learning opportunities and events.

Given the Hessel School House's historical, architectural, and cultural significance for our communities, I hope you will approve its nomination to the Register of Historic Places, so that its story, and the stories of all the students who are connected to it, can be shared with future generations.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Rutledge



MAY 13 2019

**WAYNE A. SCHMIDT**

37TH DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

PHONE: (517) 373-2413  
TOLL-FREE: (855) 347-8037  
FAX: (517) 373-5144  
senwschmidt@senate.michigan.gov

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

State Historic Preservation Office  
735 E. Michigan Avenue  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express my full support for the nomination of the Hessel School House to the National Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Hessel School House has been a staple in the community since its construction in 1937 and welcoming its first class in 1938. The rich architectural aspects of the building that show case the history of the area is one of the many reasons that this structure should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, substantial restoration has been underway since 2015 and this restorative progress being pursued by the Hessel School House shows their passion to provide a historical landmark to the community.

Again, this letter is to provide my full support of the Hessel School House to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. If there are other ways I can encourage a positive outcome, please let me know or feel free to call my office at 517-373-2413.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Schmidt

State Senate

37<sup>th</sup> District





107TH DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**LEE CHATFIELD**

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

PHONE: (517) 373-2629  
FAX: (517) 373-8429  
LeeChatfield@house.mi.gov  
www.RepChatfield.com

May15, 2019



State Historic Preservation Office  
735 E. Michigan Avenue  
PO Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to express my full support for the nomination of the Hessel School House to the National Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Hessel School House has been a longtime provider in their community since its construction in 1937 and welcoming its first class in 1938. The architectural beauty of the building is but one of the many reasons that the Hessel School House should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, substantial restoration has been underway since 2015 and this restorative progress being pursued by the Hessel School House shows their passion to provide a historical landmark to the community.

The Hessel School House Corporation, and its programs under the auspices of the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center, have dramatically impacted the Les Cheneaux Community and the eastern upper Peninsula in the relatively short time since its inception just three years ago. The restoration of the area's beloved Hessel School House has instilled deep pride in the community, as it is not only the most beautiful and significant historic landmark in Les Cheneaux, but it represents a remarkable cultural heritage rarely found in other parts of the country.

Once again, I fully support the Hessel School House being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. If there are other ways I can encourage a positive outcome, please let me know or feel free to call my office at 517-373-2629.

Sincerely,

Lee Chatfield

# *Les Cheneaux Historical Association*

P.O. Box 301  
CEDARVILLE, MICHIGAN 49719



May 9, 2019

Todd A. Walsh  
National Register, Coordinator  
PO Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Walsh,

The Board of the Les Cheneaux Historical Association is pleased that the Hessel School at 3206 West Cedar Road, Clark Township, Mackinac County, Michigan is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The school, built by the WPA in 1937, was an important part of the community. The school was the home to kindergarten thru fifth grade. It is an excellent example of a two classroom school, each classroom accommodating three grades. The restored school plays an important part in preserving the history and cultural heritage of the Les Cheneaux area, The school is open all year and is home to classes, workshops, and meetings.

The Board of the Historical Association and the Les Cheneaux community would consider it an honor to have the Hessel School listed on The National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

Lynda VandeVusse  
President  
Les Cheneaux Historical Association



# Les Cheneaux Arts Council



May 22, 2019

Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs

To whom it may concern:

The Les Cheneaux Arts Council, a non-profit organization, was formed in 1993 to support the Arts in our community by offering a variety of classes, and to assist creative young high school students through its Scholarship Program. The Council also donates to the Les Cheneaux Community Schools Art and Music programs.

The Council has been working closely with the Hessel School House and Avery Arts & Learning Center since its restoration in 2016, by sponsoring and participating in monthly exhibits, classes, and workshops of Michigan artists, local and statewide.

Thus, in representing the LC Arts Council, I am writing in support of the 2019 application to MCACA by the Hessel School House and Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center, for funding for landscaping improvements that will include a garden water feature incorporating bronze sculptures of children who once attended Hessel School. The sculptor, Michigan artist Andy Sacksteder, is becoming increasingly recognized for his sensitive works, which these embody as they truly portray the children here in the 1940s and their diversity due to their unique heritage.

The LC Arts Council applauds the Hessel School House and Avery Arts & Nature Center for offering learning, cultural and recreational opportunities for all age groups and skill levels through their classes, workshops, weddings and other events. The events support their operations financially so that they can provide their programs as educational enrichment for the Community. These gardens will be instrumental in attracting even more local and summer residents, as well as a variety of culturally in-tune tourists.

The HSH Landscape Improvement Project not only fits into our mission of supporting the arts but provides economic value to the area by enhancing the community's assets. We sincerely hope you will consider funding it as a vital example of Michigan's wealth of cultural experiences in the purest of natural settings.

Most sincerely,

Carol Hubbard, President  
Les Cheneaux Arts Council Board





**LES CHENEAUX**  
Michigan's Land Of Water  
**Community Foundation**

May 20, 2019

Todd A. Walsh  
State Historic Preservation Office  
735 East Michigan Avenue  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Walsh,

This letter is presented as an indication of our absolute support of the Hessel School House and Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center's nomination to the National Registry of Historic Places.

While the school had been closed for some time, local efforts to have it restored to its original condition have been ongoing with private and public gifts, as well as gifts supplied by the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation. The community has taken great pride in having this building once again become a cultural center. Its venues have included a community gathering location from farmer's markets, festival events and weddings, just to name a few.

Buildings of this nature that have played such an important part in the area's past is so important and we are hopeful that it will receive its proper recognition as a historical community asset.

Thank you for the consideration you may be able to provide this request.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Drenth  
Director

May 22, 2019

Mr. Todd Walsh, Coordinator  
National Register of Historic Places  
State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Hessel School House and Avery Arts Center

Dear Mr. Walsh,

I want to express my backing for the nomination of the Hessel School House to the National Register of Historic Places by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Hessel School House is a beautiful building with outstanding architectural features that are unusual to our area. Driving by it draws attention with the large white pillars and colorful brickwork. The Decorative Quoin Corners give this building a distinct look in the community. The interior woodwork has a warm welcoming feeling as you enter and showcases large windows.

Please give your support to this structure being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane E. French". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jane E. French,  
Library Manager  
Les Cheneaux Community Library  
an Affiliate of Superior District Library  
P.O. Box 99  
75 E. Hodeck ST.  
Cedarville, MI 49719



## Les Cheneaux Watershed Council

...protecting, conserving and restoring our water-based resources.



May 10, 2019

State Historic Preservation Commission  
735 E. Michigan Ave.  
PO Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

To the Preservation Commissioners,

We, the members of the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council want to express our whole-hearted support for the inclusion of the Hessel School House/ Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center as a designated member of the National Historic Registry.

Our work is to inform the public of environmental activities such as Frog Fest, Aldo Leopold Festival, Bird and Nature walks, evaluation of eco-friendly mycoherbicides for the control of invasive aquatic plants, identification of invasive species etc. With this important venue, we educate the present population, in a historic schoolhouse, of current issues important to the community as a whole. What better way to honor the original intent, of a small community, that came together in 1937 to build this wonderful educational and cultural asset.

Thank you for considering one of the shining examples of community togetherness in the Upper Peninsula.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Dunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A Dunn  
Director  
Les Chêneaux Watershed Council

# MACKINAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

100 S. Marley Street Room 10  
St. Ignace, Michigan 49781  
Phone (906) 643-7300  
Fax (906) 643-7302  
TDD (800) 649-3777

Jim Hill – Dist. 1  
Dan Litzner – Dist. 2

Paul Krause – Dist. 3  
Mike Patrick – Dist. 4  
Calvin McPhee – Dist. 5

May 9, 2019

MAY 13 2019

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Conway,

We are pleased to hear that the Hessel School House in Clark Township, Michigan, is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Because of the important role this building has played in history of this area it is a worthy candidate for inclusion.

We fully support the nomination.

Yours truly,



James B. Hill, Chairman  
Mackinac County Board of Commissioners

cc: Kerri Smith  
Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center  
P.O. Box 25  
Hessel, MI 49745





GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

May 7, 2019

Mr. Todd Walsh, Coordinator  
National Register of Historic Places  
State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 30044  
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Mr. Walsh:

I am pleased to share my support of the Hessel School House which is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board on May 31, 2019.

The Hessel School House Corporation, and its programs under the auspices of the Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center, have dramatically impacted the Les Cheneaux Community and the Eastern Upper Peninsula in the relatively short time since its inception just three years ago. The restoration of the area's beloved Hessel School House has instilled deep pride in the community, as it is not only the most beautiful and significant historic landmark in Les Cheneaux, but it represents a remarkable cultural heritage rarely found in other parts of the country.

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, I endorse the efforts of the Hessel School House and fully support their nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. In doing so, this great landmark will serve as a mainstay for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary McDowell".

Gary McDowell  
Director