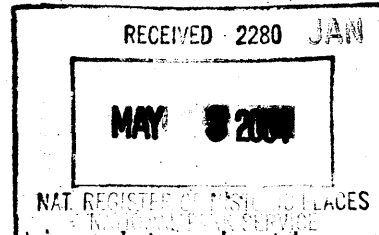


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sumner High School

other names/site number Memories are Forever

2. Location

street & number 300 West 4th N/A not for publication
city or town Sumner N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Bremer code 017 zip code 50674

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Howell G. Lortie Signature of certifying official April 28, 2004 Date

IOWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edna H. Beall 6/16/04

other (explain): _____

for

Signature of Keeper

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1901-1952

Significant Dates 1901
1915
1924

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Murphy and Ralston J.F. Leitha Cleveland
Tritch, P.M. F.W. Chapman Laurifzom Construction

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 - preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	573440	4744440	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) _____

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret E. Giese e-mail address leeannng@IowaTelecom.net
organization _____ date July 26, 2002
street & number 408 Howard telephone 563/578-5309
city or town Sumner state IA zip code 50674

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Memories are Forever, Inc.
street & number 408 Howard telephone 563/578-5309
city or town Sumner state IA zip code 50674

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSumner High School
Bremer County, IowaSection number 77 Page 1

Narrative Description

A beautiful old structure is located in the center of a residential district between Fourth and Fifth Streets in Sumner, Iowa. It was built in 1901--a new school to educate the growing population in and around Sumner. The architect combined Romanesque and classical revival elements to produce a building of architectural significance.

In 1915, an addition was added on the north. No changes were made to the original building and the addition blended perfectly with it. The architect was commended for his work in the the Sumner Gazette.

A gymnasium was built on the west side of the school in 1924. A passageway connected the two buildings. The buildings were later disconnected. Sumner schools continue to use the old gymnasium for junior high sports practices and events, whereas the old school building was sold to private individuals when it ceased to be used as a school.

The town of Sumner, located in northeast Iowa, was growing rapidly in the late 1800's. An old school built in 1876 was cramped and crowded. The school board recognized this and brought it to the attention of the people. In an article in the Sumner Gazette, A. D. Allen, president of the school board, was quoted: "There is considerable talk in favor of a good, up-to-date school building, substantially built, thoroughly modern, good for fifty years, and to cost upwards of \$15,000. Such a building would be a matter of lasting pride to the town and the payments of its cost over a period of fifteen to twenty years would do no injustice to anyone."

Sumner Gazette editor Linn noted in several editorials the need for more school room. The population in 1890 was 861 and in 1900, it was 1,437.

As summarized in Dr. Dennis Schuldt's *Echoes from the Past*, A. D. Allen proposed a special election and in March, 1901, voters approved \$15,000 to build a new school by a vote of 110 - 96. The decision was made to build on the same site as the old school after that structure was sold and moved. Construction bids were received in June and the contract was awarded to P. M. Tritch of Waterloo. The architectural firm selected was Murphy and Ralston, also of Waterloo.

The architect's plan called for Farley stone in the basement and foundation, with Mason City brick faced with Twin City brick above.

A beautiful three-story structure was built. Diagonal sidewalks from the south corners of the block lead to the building's arched entrance. The entrance opens into a large hall on the first floor. Windows on the south above the entrance and on the second and third floors repeat the entrance arch. The rest of the windows are rectangular.

The foundation and basement walls are in the ground five feet and above the present

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 2

surface eight feet. The exterior walls of the basement are stone. The rest of the building is brick and concrete. There are dormers protruding from the tile and shingled roof. A belfry holds the original school bell on the front of the structure. A long, hemp rope hangs from the bell to the main floor to be pulled to welcome the start of a school day. The original fire escapes are on the sides of the building. Large chimneys arise on both sides of a large skylight.

A large, central stairway with maple tread and pine risers rose to the upper floors, with pine handrails that are still stained and varnished as they were originally.

Each floor has a center hall and classrooms on both sides with twelve foot ceilings

covered with tin tiles decorated with an acanthus leaf design. There are eight classrooms for grades one through eight plus an assembly room, library, and six high school classrooms.

In 1915, a new law required the teaching of domestic science and physical training. The classrooms were all becoming overcrowded. The school board responded to the needs for more room.

An addition to the north of the building was added. The architect was J. F. Leithan of Waverly, and the builder was F. W. Chapman of Waterloo, Iowa. The addition was built on the north wall, adding four rooms and a basement underneath. The addition was constructed to carefully mimic the original architecture. A central staircase was built opposite the main entrance staircase as a mirror image to the main one and connected to it. A new door was added opening to the east. The addition was beautifully constructed, completed in September of 1915, and the builder was complimented on his work.

None of the original structure was changed with the addition of new space. Many people were not even aware of the addition because of the skillful repetition of the original architectural elements of the building. The new classrooms had the same twelve foot decorated tin ceilings, blackboards, cupboards, and cloak rooms. They still do.

To meet the new state requirement for physical education, Sumner built a gymnasium in 1924 west of the school building, with a passageway to connect it to the school. The contract for the building went to Laurifzen Construction Co., Waterloo, Iowa, and the architect was Mortimer B. Cleveland. The total cost of the gymnasium was \$57,425.36.

The gymnasium facility was a brick building, 62 feet by 144 feet, two bays wide and three bays long. It consisted of a basement with classrooms and showers and a first floor gymnasium. The foundation is concrete. The walls are common brick with face brick and hollow tile. The trim is cut stone. The roof is flat. The building was dedicated on April 25, 1925.

School board records state a desire to have the finest gymnasium facility in the area, where community activities and drama activities could take place as well as athletic events. It was planned to have an indoor swimming pool in the basement, but it was given up because it was thought some quicksand and springs underground might cause complications.

The gymnasium is still in use today. Junior High volleyball, basketball and wrestling events

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 77 Page 3

take place there. The passageway from the school, however, was sealed off in 1988 when the school building ceased to be used as such.

The beautiful old school building served as Sumner's sole educational institution until 1953 when a new grade school was built. Then, a new high school building was constructed in 1961, which meant the days for the 1901 building (by then really a grand old lady filled with thousands of memories and well-worn hallways) were numbered. Nevertheless, the school district still used and occupied portions of the edifice until 1988. Sale was subsequently made to individuals interested in preserving it, Peter Wilharm and Forrest Cannell.

The school stands today with the original 12 foot metal ceilings and maple stairways with the worn treads. The original cloak closets and sinks remain as they were in the hallways to each room. Nothing has been changed.

An organization called *Memories are Forever* has been formed and is active here in trying to preserve the building as a museum with materials documenting the early history in and around Sumner. They want the structure to remain an active, useable resource in the town of Sumner and have generated a good deal of interest as well as donations in the community toward that end.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

CONSTRUCTION

Brick & Stone

SIZE

49' 4" x 90' 3" - 25' 4" x 35'

32' x 49' 4" x 6' 6"

1 bay wide - 3 bays long

HEIGHT

Basement - Two Stories & Attic

OCCUPANCY

Basement - Boiler - Wash & Classrooms

First Floor - Classrooms

Second Floor - Classrooms

Attic - Classrooms

FOUNDATION

Concrete

Rubble stone

WALLS

Common brick with face brick

Hollow tile backing

Trim-cut stone

WALL THICKNESS & HEIGHT

Basement - 24" thick - 12' 8" high

18" thick - 12' 8" high

First Floor - 12" thick - 13' 4" high

Second Floor - 12" thick - 15' high

Attic - 12" thick 10' high

FLOORS

Basement - concrete & wood Balance- wood joists

ROOF

Hipped, Wood shingles, Wood lining, Rafter construction

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 4

DESCRIPTION OF GYMNASIUM

CONSTRUCTION

Brick

SIZE

62'2" x 144'

2 bays wide - 3 bays long

HEIGHT

Basement & One Story

OCCUPANCY

Basement - Classrooms & Showers

First Floor - Gymnasium

FOUNDATION

Concrete

WALLS

Common brick with face brick

Hollow tile

Trim - Cut stone

WALL THICKNESS & HEIGHT

Basement - 17" & 12" thick - 10'9" & 13' high

First Floor - 12" thick - 31' high

FLOORS

Basement - concrete

First - wood joists

ROOF

Flat, Tar and gravel, Wood lining, Rafter construction, Steel framing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Summer High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 88 Page 5

Architect/Builder Continued:

Murphy and Ralston/Tritch, P.M.
J.F. Leitha/F.W. Chapman
Mortimer B. Cleveland/Lauritzen Construction

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sumner High School building is locally significant under criteria A and C. From 1901 to 1953 it served as this north central Iowa town's only public school building. This building is the best surviving example of Romanesque and Classical revival architecture in Sumner. The additions added in 1915 and 1924 are compatible and were designed to accommodate Sumner's growing school population as well as curriculum changes required by the Iowa legislature.

The architects were significant in their fields. John Ralston was called "the dean of architecture" in northeast Iowa. He built many fine buildings in Waterloo and northeast Iowa. He designed houses, churches, libraries, and courthouses, including the Fayette County Courthouse in West Union, Iowa.

In 1915, school enrollment was increasing and a new state law required courses in domestic science and manual training. School space was too limited for this. Superintendent Durant and his board of education proposed a four room, ten thousand dollar addition. The voters approved this in March of 1915.

Work on the new addition did not begin until July of 1915 due to rainy weather. Nevertheless, the job was completed shortly after school began in September. The architect, J.F. Leitha and contractor, F.W. Chapman of Waterloo, successfully tied the old and the new buildings together by matching the style and masonry. The new building extended to the north and consisted of four classrooms, halls, stairways, basement, and east entrance. It was beautifully done. The architect worked out a plan, which would connect the new part to the old in such a manner as to appear to be part of the original structure. Not much has been written about this architect, but his talent shows in this addition which doesn't look like an addition. One would never know anything was added on.

Mortimer B. Cleveland, architect of our gym, designed many of Waterloo's buildings, including East High School, the YMCA building, River Plaza, and many homes in northeast Iowa. The most famous examples of Cleveland's architecture are the 24 elegant homes in the Highland Park area in Waterloo. These are on the National Register of Historic Places.

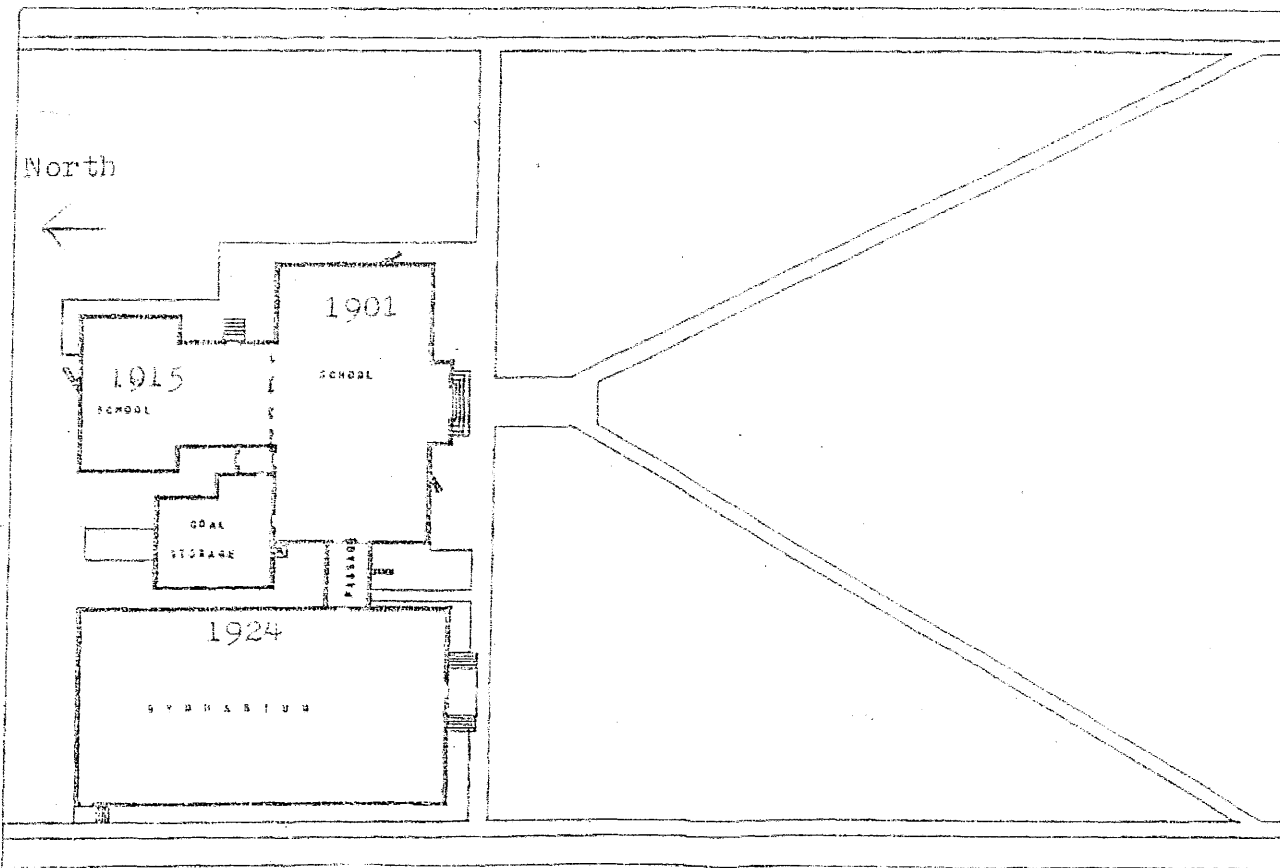
Mr. Cleveland was the leading architect in this part of the state throughout the mid-1900's. He designed in a day when people intended to drop roots for fifty years or more. They wanted buildings created to last, something not seen in many developer-driven homes in the present day. People who have modified Cleveland's buildings have realized his very substantial design talents and have respected his designs. Our 1924 gym, still in use for junior high sports events, is an example of his talents.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

SIZE	STORIES & CONSTRUCTION	OCCUPANCY	ROOF
3270' x 4974' 4	300Y. & 1 STORY BRICK		SHINGLE
3514' x 3514'	" " " " "		"
4974' x 9973' 4	1 STORY STONE	SCHOOL	CONCRETE
5514' x 5749'	" " " " "		"
7768' x 9708' 3	1 STORY REINF. CONCRETE	COAL STORAGE BUILDING	"
2370' x 3170'	GOVT. & 1 STORY BRICK	GYMNASIUM	TAR & GRAVEL
4213' x 12470'	1 STORY BRICK	PASSAGEWAY	CONCRETE
1473' x 1473'			

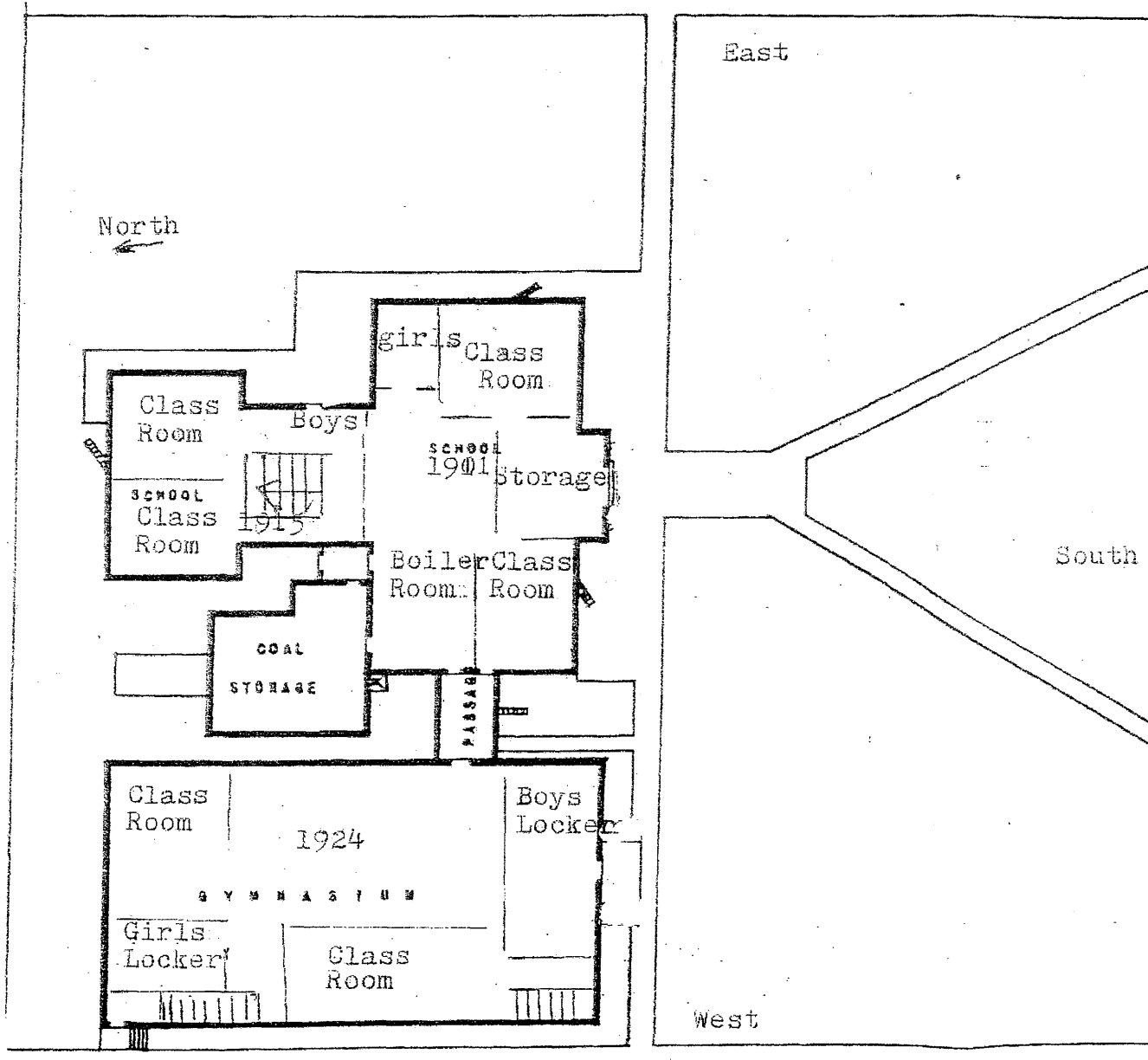


PLAT PLAN
OF

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

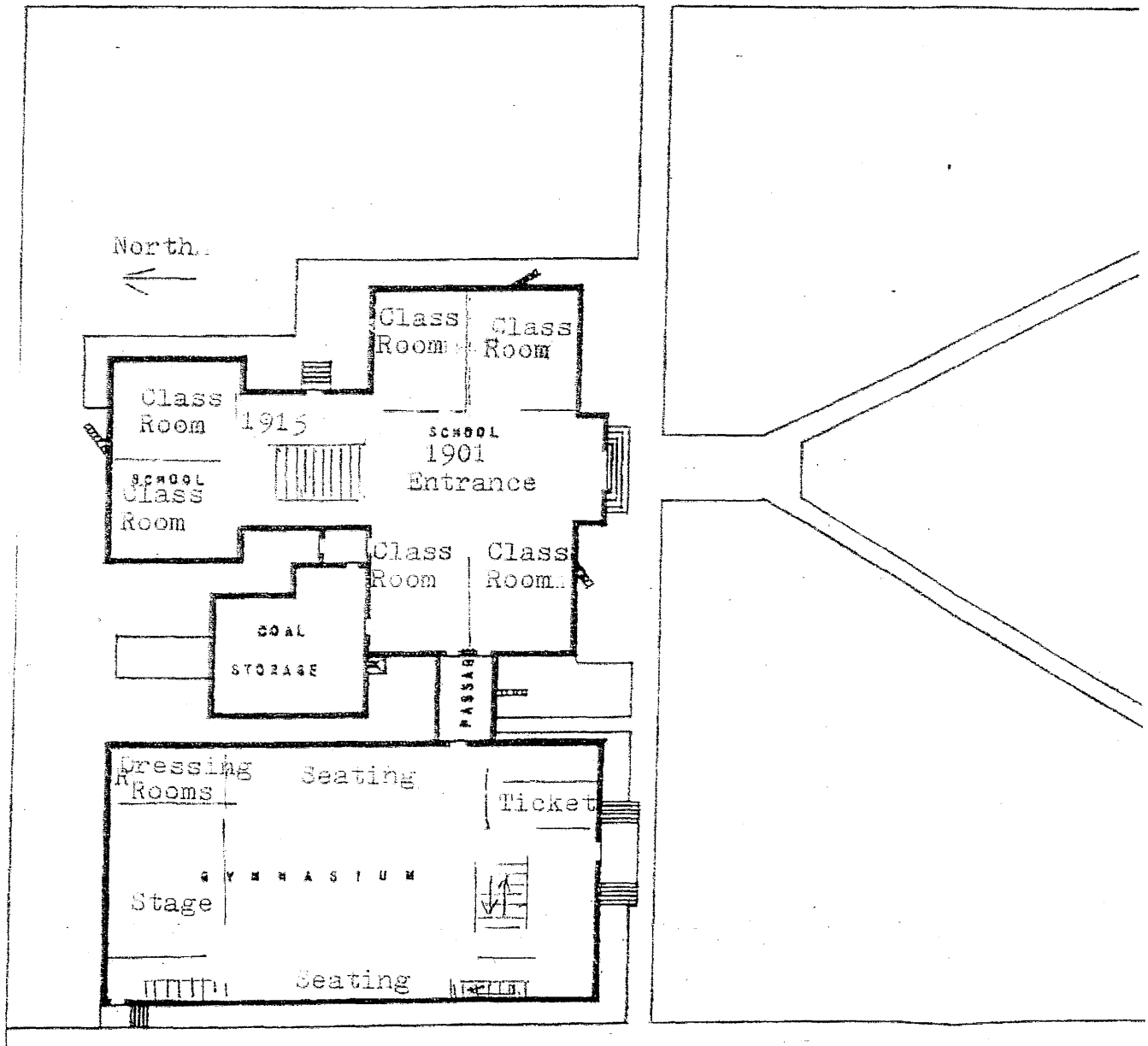


Summer High School and Gymnasium
Basement

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 3 Page 8



Sumner High School and Gymnasium
First Floor

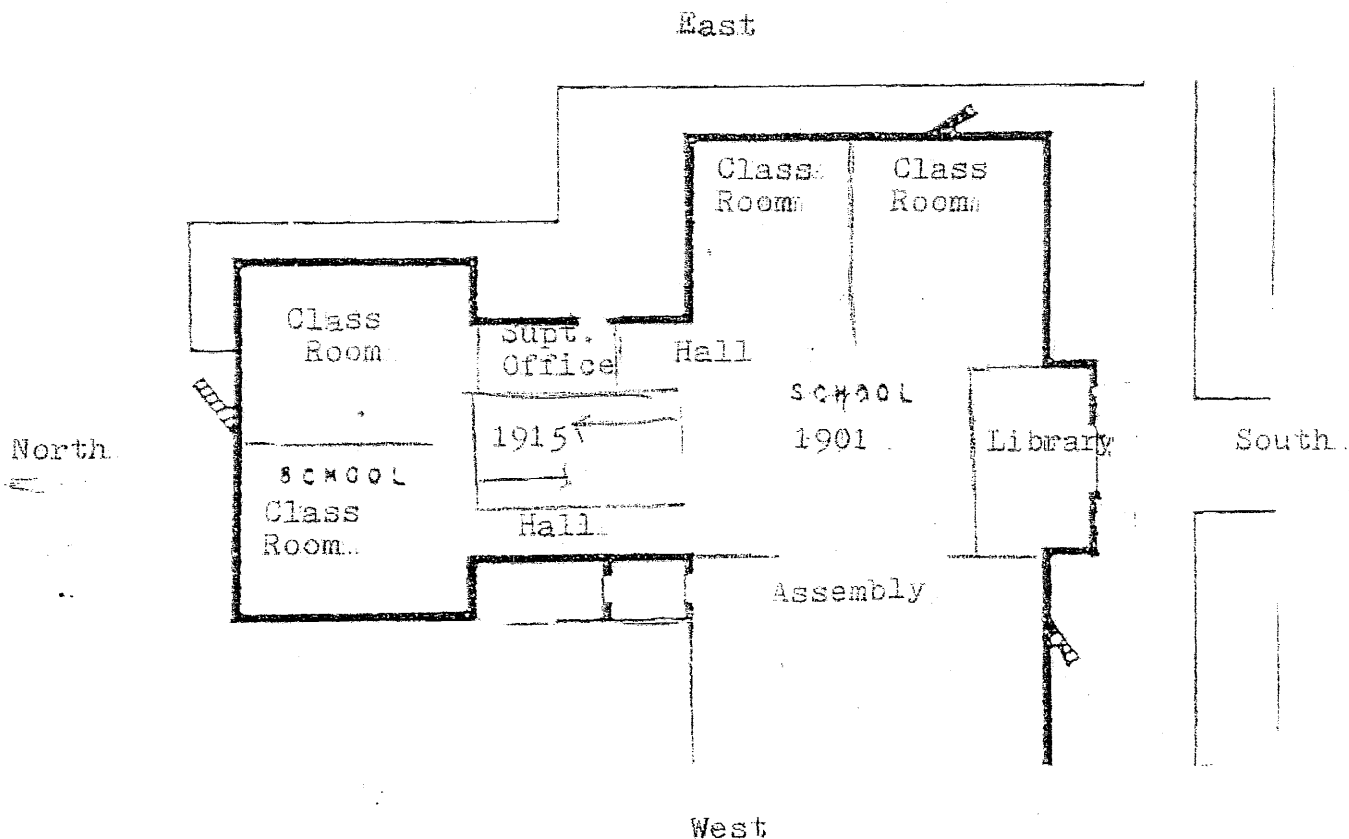
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County

Section number 8 Page 9

Second Floor



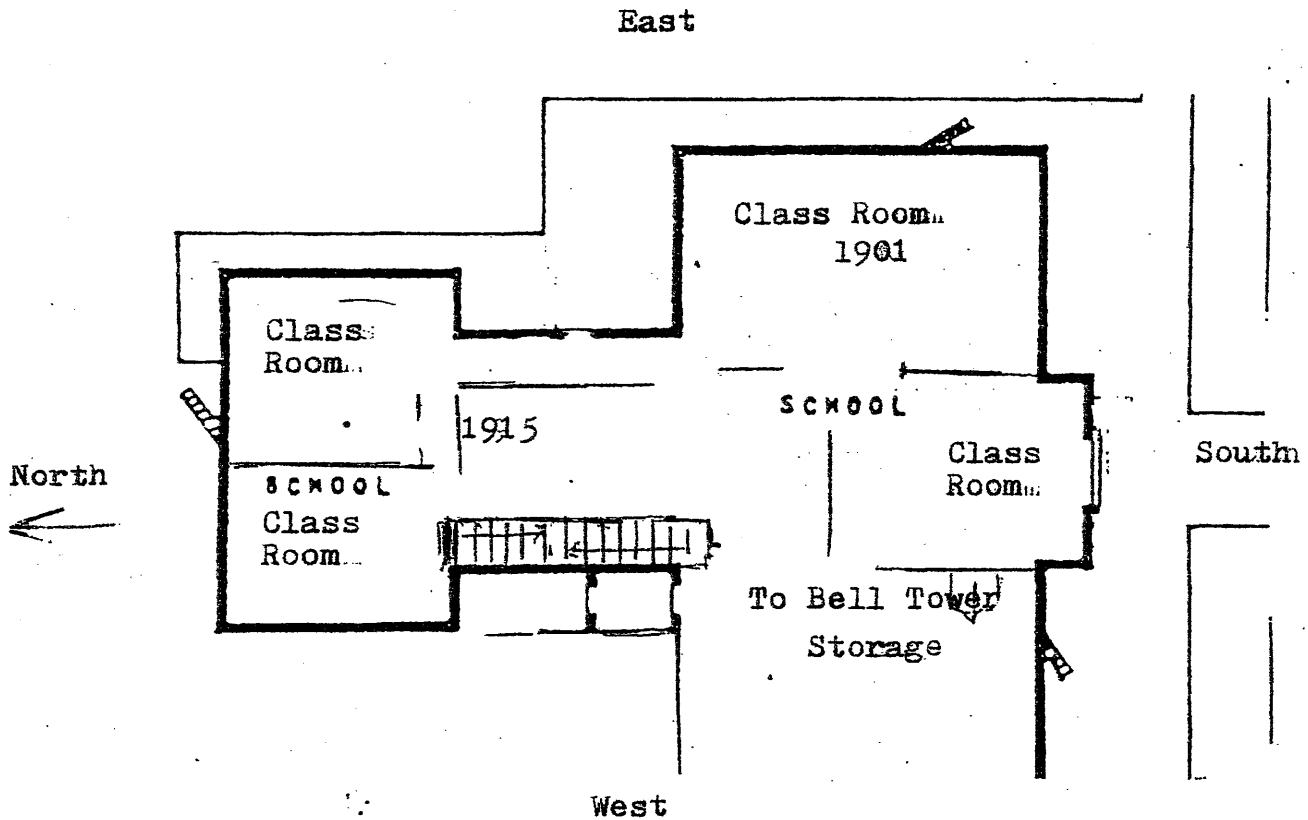
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County

Section number 8 Page 10

Third Floor



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 9 Page 11

Bibliography

School Board Journal A 1895-1911
School Board Journal B 1912-1927

Schudt, Dennis R. M.D. Echoes from the Past: A history of the Sumner Community Schools, 1872-1997, Vanguard Publishing Company, L.C., 1998

The Lloyd - Thomas Company Appraisal Engineer, Chicago, IL, 1941

Sumner Gazette, May 9, 1901
Sumner Gazette, 1901-1988

Bremer County History, 1985, Bremer County History Book Committee

Interview - Patricia Eckhardt, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Consultant, March 28, 2000

Architects information - Grout Museum 503 S. Street, Waterloo, IA, Jan Taylor, Archivist/Volunteer Coordinator

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 10 Page 12

Verbal Boundary Description

The buildings are located in the city of Sumner, W ½ - SW ½ of Section 24, 93N, Range 11W, Block 351, Lots 1 & 2.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Sumner High School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number 11 Page 13

Owner Continued:

Sumner Public School District
Attn: Superintendant Rick Pederson
503 W 5th Street
Sumner, Iowa 50674

Sumner Public School District
Sumner School Board
Attn: Karl Korporal, President
15901 X Ave.
Sumner, Iowa 50674

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sumner High School
Bremer County, Iowa

Section number photos Page 11

Photographer: Jan Harvey (Helmets Photography)

Date: June 13, 2000

Negatives in possession of Margaret Paden Giese

1. South view of school as it appears today. Camera facing the northeast. The passageway to the gym is shown.
2. Entrance to school, facing south. Camera facing north.
3. Bell tower, facing northeast.
4. East side of school. Camera facing west.
5. Back and west side. Showing the old coal storage. Camera facing southeast.

6. Gymnasium front, facing south. Camera facing north.
7. Gymnasium west side. Camera facing east.
8. Gymnasium north side. Camera facing south.
9. Gymnasium east side. Camera facing west.