National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number P	age		
	SUPPLEMENTARY L	ISTING RECORI)
NRIS Reference Nu	umber: 95001323	Date Listed	: 11/9/95
<u>Circleville Schoo</u> Property Name:	ol Pendleton V County: Stat	W te:	
Multiple Name			
subject to the for notwithstanding t in the nomination	ance with the atta ollowing exception the National Park	ached nominat ns, exclusion	er of Historic ion documentation s, or amendments, ification included
Patrick Andres			1/17/96
Signature of the	Keeper	D	ate of Action
Amended Items in	Nomination:	3 2 2 2 4 4 2 3 2 3 2 2 3 4 2 3	
This building is significance. The amended to 1937-1 Significance.	ne Period of Sign:	ificance for	the property is

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment) NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

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. Seliastronians in the appropriate boy or by entering the information requested. If an 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.

OMB No. 10024-0018/325

1. Name of Property	
historic name Circleville School	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number WV Route 28	□ not for publication
city or townCircleville	□ vicinity
state <u>West Virginia</u> code <u>WV</u> coul	nty Pendleton code 071 zip code 26804
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
In my opinion, the property In my opinion, the property In my opinion, the property In meets In does not meet to comments.)	he National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the	Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
National Register	
Register	
☐ other, (explain:)	
·	

Circlevill	e School
Name of Property	

Pendleton/West Virginia County and State

5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
☐ private Section building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing
🗵 public-local 🔲 district	2 2 buildings
☐ public-State ☐ site	
☐ public-Federal ☐ structure ☐ object	sites
□ object	structures
	objects
	2 Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	N/A
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions	Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION/School – schoolhouse	(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/School - schoolnouse	EDUCATION/School - schoolhouse
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall - community center	SOCIAL/Meeting Hall - community center
,	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY	foundation Concrete
REVIVALS/Georgian Revival	walls Brick over hollow tile block
	roof Asphalt shingle
	other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached continuation sheet

Circleville School
Name of Property

Pendleton/West Virginia County and State

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "3" in ore or more boxes for the orderia qualifying the property for National Register (sting.) X 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. X 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 A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. B removed from its original location. C a birthplace or grave. C a birthplace or grave. C a birthplace or grave. C a cametery. G iess than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. Particular Architect/Builder Ernest C, S, Holmboe, Architect Works Progress Administration Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance or frome continuation sheets.)	8. St	atement of Significance			
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□ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 □ State Historic Preservation Office			-		
CFR 67) has been requested Other State agency	L				
☐ previously listed in the National Register ☐ Federal agency			☐ Federal agency		
□ previously determined eligible by the National □ Local government		previously determined eligible by the National			
Register					
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark ☐ vecested by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of repository:					
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of repository: Circleville Historical Preservation Society	Ц	•			
# Circleville Historical Preservation Society recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # of the North Fork, Circleville, WV		recorded by Historic American Engineering			

Circleville School	Pendleton/West Virginia			
Name of Property County and State				
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property 6½ acres				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 1 7 6 3 1 6 8 0 4 2 8 1 3 4 0 Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing 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 Margo Stafford				
organization Ralph Pedersen Architect	date August 11, 1995			
street & number 351 Washington Avenue	telephone (304) 624-9298			
city or townClarksburg	state <u>WV</u> zip code <u>26301</u>			
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
Maps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indication	ng the property's location.			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properti	es 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 SHPO or FPO.)				
name Pendleton County Board of Education				
street & number	telephone			
city or town Franklin	state WV zip code 26807			

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	 Page1	Circleville School, Pendleton County, West Virginia	
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Narrative Description

Built in 1937 – 1938 on the foundation of a previous school building which had been destroyed by fire, the Circleville School is a two-story masonry structure designed in a Georgian Revival style. The main section of the building is rectangular in shape, with a smooth symmetrical facade broken by a two-story pedimented projecting pavilion emphasized by large Doric pilasters. The building's truncated hip roof features a prominent wooden cupola. There are several wings at the rear of the main section for specialized purposes, all of similar construction but with varying roof shapes and materials. The building occupies a visually prominent position near the northern edge of the rural community of Circleville, located in West Virginia's Potomac Highlands. The building parallels WV Route 28 but is situated approximately 500 feet to the west of the main road, with a paved access road leading from the state highway to the school property. The building is set on a slight rise near the southwest corner of the six-acre school property, with the athletic field located on the north. A set of six flagstone steps and flagstone walkway – original WPA construction – lead up to the main entrance. At the rear of the school are several smaller wood frame structures built for specialized education-related purposes.

The main section of the school building rests on a raised basement accented by a segmented brick water table. The foundation itself is of poured concrete which has been pargeted. The building is constructed of hollow tile block with a red brick veneer, laid in a common bond pattern. The sections on either side of the projecting pavilion each contain six pairs of windows per story. The tall rectangular windows are of wood, 6/6-lite, with segmented brick sills on both stories and segmented brick lintels on the first story. The hip roof of the main section is covered with asphalt shingles and edged with a plain wooden entablature.

Two distinctive architectural elements of the building are the wooden cupola which dominates the roofline and the central pavilion with its classical details. The octagonal cupola in the center of the hip roof rests on a square flared base. Alternating panels (four sides) of the cupola are pierced by tall round-arched openings with center keystone; the openings are filled with wooden louvers. Each opening is flanked by narrow pilasters rising to a small pedimented cornice. The cupola's domical roof is surmounted by a narrow octagonal wooden spire topped in turn by a flared metal finial.

The projecting pavilion of the front facade features four unfluted Doric pilasters rising two stories to a large pediment with a gable roof and narrow unadorned entablature. The wood-sided tympaneum is set with a circular 9-lite lunette, the keystone of its wood surround centered at the base rather than the top. The center first-floor entrance is flanked by a pair of tall rectangular windows on either side, with three pairs of similar windows in the second story. The pedimented frontispiece of the main entrance is composed of wide Doric

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Section number	7	Page2	Circleville School, Pendleton County, West Virginia

Narrative Description (cont.)

pilasters flanking double wooden doors below a broken arch pediment. The pediment is centered with a large spindle detail in wood flanked by foliated swags. Above the doors is a narrow wooden panel set with letters spelling out "Welcome"; the panel in turn is surmounted by an elliptical fanlight. The wide wooden door surround rises to the base of the second-story windows as a flared and stepped panel set with the school name in large raised wooden letters which are painted black.

The auditorium/gymnasium is housed in a two-story wing at the center rear of the main section of the school building. The wing is virtually identical in construction to the main section with the exception of the roof, which over the auditorium is a bowstring truss design and is covered with flat-seam metal roofing, and the clerestory windows of the upper story, which are much smaller than the first-story windows, square in shape, 3/3-lite. Extending in a northerly direction at a right angle to the western end of the auditorium is a rectangular one-story wing, also of red brick on a raised foundation, with 6/6-lite rectangular wood windows and asphalt-shingled hip roof pierced by a large, shallow-roofed dormer. At the south end of this one-story wing is a third wing, again rectangular in shape, of the same masonry construction as the other sections of the school building but with a shallow round arch roof covered with corrugated metal. The large windows are 15-lite and the northern facade is set with a large wood garage door.

Although at least two of these wings would appear from the building's basic configuration to be later additions, it is reported that they are either original to the structure or were added shortly after the main school building was completed, making them contemporary with and integral to the Circleville School.

The interior of the building is laid out in a plan standard to educational facilities, with a center hall running north/south flanked by classrooms on either side. From the main entrance, the hall is reached by a wide vestibule with administration offices on each side. Access to the second floor is by staircases located at each end of the center hall. The stairwells have been enclosed with fire doors on each floor to conform with State Fire Code requirements, one of the few alterations made in the building over the years. The auditorium/gymnasium is reached by entrances on both the first and second floors, with the latter opening onto a balcony or gallery. This two-story space is lined by wooden bleachers on the north and south sides and has a relatively shallow stage and wing area extending across the entire western end.

Of the three primary outbuildings, only one appears to be a contributing structure. The large rectangular shed at the southwest rear of the school building is reported to have been constructed around the same time as the school itself and has been used primarily by vocational classes and for 4-H activities. The one-story building is of wood frame construction, covered with narrow clapboard siding. The gable roof is covered

National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Section number	per	Page	3	Circleville School, Pendleton County, West Virginia	

Narrative Description (cont.)

with standing seam metal. The structure has an open center bay for easy access by farm equipment, with enclosed bays on either side. (1 contributing)

The one-story wood frame L-shaped structure at the northwest rear of the school was built for use as a cafeteria, reportedly sometime in the 1940's. The structure has a concrete block foundation, wide vertical wood siding, 8/8-lite rectangular wood windows, and a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A third outbuilding which houses special classes is located directly behind the main school building, in the "U" shaped area created by the northern end of the school, the long northern facade of the auditorium, and the intersecting wing behind the auditorium. This is a one-story wood frame structure on a raised concrete block foundation, with a gable roof covered by asphalt shingles. The exterior fabric is aluminum siding, and the windows are metal, 8/8-lite. It is reported to have been constructed in the 1970's. (2 noncontributing)

The Circleville School is situated on a low rise, terraced and landscaped with small shrubs and shaded by large evergreens. The original flagstone steps and walkway, characteristic of WPA construction style and techniques, leads from the parking area in front of the building to the main concrete entrance steps.

Although the school has been in continuous use since its construction nearly 60 years ago, the building has undergone little significant alteration and retains much of its original fabric on both interior and exterior. The front entrance doors were replaced in the 1970's to improve the building's safety and meet then-current building code requirements. The asphalt shingle roof was replaced with a similar fabric in the early 1990's. Minor alterations and renovations have been made over the decades, primarily to upgrade safety features, but the building's architectural integrity remains largely intact.

NPS Form 10-900-e

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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	N.A	GENCY RESOURCES DIVISION TIONAL PARK SERVICE	
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Section number	8	Page	1
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Circleville Scho

Statement of Significance

The Circleville School, designed by West Virginia architect E. C. S. Holmboe in the mid-1930's and constructed in 1937-38 as a project of the federal Works Progress Administration, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The building's eligibility under Criterion A is threefold. It provides evidence of the importance placed on education in a rural and relatively isolated area of West Virginia, even in the depths of the Depression. It is also eligible as, reportedly, the last such construction project authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and undertaken by the WPA, a program which literally transformed the face of America during its relatively brief period of existence. The school building is also eligible under Criterion A as a social and cultural center, having provided a venue for civic functions, entertainment, and community activities from the time of its completion to the present day. Under Criterion C, the building is eligible both as a remarkably intact example of WPA construction and architecture and as the work of one of West Virginia's most prolific and influential early architects in a style which is unique to but also well-suited to the surrounding vernacular architecture of Circleville, one of the earlier established communities in one of the oldest settled areas of the state.

The town of Circleville is a small rural community located in Pendleton County, bordering the state of Virginia, on the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. The North Fork Valley is one of West Virginia's most picturesque, a wide river valley bordered by high mountains which include the 1,000-foot high quartzite formation known as Seneca Rocks. It has been the site of human occupation for thousands of years, and was one of the earliest sections of what is now West Virginia to be settled by Europeans, who followed the network of Indian hunting trails into the area.

Circleville itself grew up around a general store established sometime before 1835 along the North Fork Turnpike by a man named Zirkle. The business primarily supplied the needs of the farmers of the surrounding area, but also enjoyed some annual trade from the drovers who brought their cattle to summer on the North Fork, driving them over what was then known as the Pack Horse Road across the Alleghenies from Beverly in Tygart's Valley to the North Fork Turnpike. By 1851 the mercantile establishment at Circleville was being operated by William S. Arbogast and was one of only four such businesses to exist outside the county seat. In the latter years of the 19th century towns along the North Fork, including Circleville, flourished as the expanding timber industry and associated trades such as tanning brought in new business, additional population, and hard currency.

Education seems to have been an important consideration to the residents of Pendleton County from the very beginning. The first schoolhouse in what is now Pendleton was established in 1769, nearly 20 years before the county was created, on land belonging to one Robert Davis, later the first sheriff of the new county. The school's

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

teacher was a former forger sold as a convict to one Frederick Keister. The second known schoolhouse was built in 1791 on the farm of Andrew Johnson, on the east side of the North Fork. During the 19th century the county boasted a larger than average number of schools, and in 1846 was divided into 15 separate school districts. In 1840 Pendleton had 12 common schools, an unusually high concentration in view the fact that a decade earlier the counties now comprising West Virginia had a total of only 42 common schools. One of the larger counties, Harrison, had only four common schools in 1833. By 1856 the number of schools in Pendleton County had grown to 31, and by 1872 to 58. Shortly after the turn of the century there were over 100 schoolhouses in Pendleton County.

By 1909 the town of Circleville had its own Normal School, which prepared students for teaching positions. At the time, many counties in West Virginia had only one Normal School, and some had none. In 1929 the first fully graded Circleville School was erected on the site now occupied by the present building, and opened its doors with four faculty members. It graduated its first class of a dozen students in 1931.

In 1935, in the middle of the Great Depression, the new Circleville School building burned down to its concrete foundation. The school board immediately set about planning the rebuilding, and retained Clarksburg architect E. C. S. Holmboe to design the new school. Holmboe, who was responsible for the design of a large number of school buildings erected in this state in the first three decades of the 20th century, may also have designed the first Circleville School which was destroyed by fire, since the successor bears a strong resemblance to the original structure. Both were designed in one of the classical revival styles favored by Holmboe. The original school building, however, had one-story wings flanking the two-story center section; the current building, although constructed on the foundations of the original, is a full two stories and the pavilion, cupola, and other architectural details found on the original were enlarged on the replacement building to complement the greater size of the new structure.

Ernest Holmboe was a native of Denmark and a graduate of the Chicago Art & Polytechnic Institute. In 1900 he opened an architectural firm in Marietta, Ohio, in partnership with R. C. Lafferty of Wheeling, West Virginia. A year later the firm relocated to Clarksburg, West Virginia. By 1910 Holmboe and Lafferty had provided the designs for more than 100 buildings in West Virginia and surrounding states, including a large number of schools. Established during one of the state's periods of massive industrial expansion, the firm of Holmboe and Lafferty, by its very prolificacy, highly influential in the development of West Virginia's built environment. They were responsible for the design of numerous public buildings, banks, offices, office structures, school and college buildings, and private residences during the firm's existence, many of those buildings still extant. At least a dozen examples of their work are known to be currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

By 1920 the partnership had been dissolved, with Lafferty relocating to New York City and Holmboe remaining in practice in Clarksburg.

The Pendleton County Board of Education apparently determined quite early in the project that adequate funds for the reconstruction were lacking and sought assistance from the federal Works Progress Administration. Although the application process was begun in either late 1935 or early '36, it would be another 18 months before the project proposal was approved and even longer before the new building was actually completed, despite the notation on the original – and each subsequent – project proposal: "The project is needed urgently. The original school building was destroyed by fire and children are quartered in temporary buildings in this vicinity."

The Works Progress Administration was an outgrowth of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. It was created under Title II in May 1935 to fill the void left when the Supreme Court effectively killed Title I's National Recovery Administration and its programs. Title II included a huge authorization to create jobs for the unemployed through public works and Roosevelt utilized it to the fullest extent. The public works program put large numbers of people to work and made permanent and needed contributions to the public welfare. Among other projects, the WPA built highways, hospitals, sewer systems, flood control projects, and schools. Between the summer of 1935 and October 1937, WPA workers built 1,634 schools and improved 16,421 others, comprising 70% of all school building construction in the country during this period.

Despite its successes, the program had its detractors. As Frances Perkins, U.S. Secretary of Labor under Roosevelt, wrote in her memoirs, "When things began to get a little better after 1936...the relief projects were gradually slowed down and closed off. WPA became unpopular in Congress and there was constant protest against further relief appropriations...There was a disposition on the part of Congress and many others to believe that the time had come to retrench on public works expenditure. A retrenchment policy was put into effect. The recession of 1937 was undoubtedly the result." Under pressure from business interests and members of Congress but against his own better judgement, Roosevelt in September 1937 submitted a balanced budget which cut back drastically on relief spending and effectively halted future public works construction. On October 19 of that year the stock market plummeted.

The political pressures were apparently being felt by the WPA. In May 1937 FDR finally signed Presidential Letter No. 6186 authorizing the Circleville School project, but before construction could begin the Board of Education was required to sign an agreement stating that "The Works Progress Administration and the Federal Government will not be held to account and is hereby relieved from any and all responsibility due to the failure of the Works Progress Administration to complete this project in its entirety

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

because of the cessation of the Works Progress Administration program...." Construction finally began in July 1937 and the new Circleville School building was completed in the summer of 1938. Due to the number of the presidential letter and the relevant dates, the school is thought to be one of, and possibly the last, such project authorized by President Roosevelt and undertaken by the WPA.

The new Circleville School constructed by the WPA showed a strong Georgian Revival influence in its design, as had its predecessor. Both structures were of brick, lending an impression of solidity and permanence to the school building which contrasts with yet complements the primarily frame vernacular architecture of Circleville. The symmetrical composition of the facade is broken by the central pedimented projecting pavillion emphasized by two-story Doric pilasters. Further classical detail is found in the pedimented frontispiece with its elliptical fanlight and the large cupola which dominates the roofline. Relatively few changes beyond necessary maintenance have been made to the school building over the years, particularly in view of its age and continuous use. This lack of alteration to the exterior of the structure, as well as the high content of original fabric remaining on the interior, provide the building with a significant level of architectural integrity.

Since the new building first opened its doors to students, it has served continuously as Circleville's sole educational facility and currently houses approximately 350 students ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade. From 1962 to '64, the school was one of only a handful in the nation selected to participate in a special educational project through the National Geographic Society. This experimental program, one of the earliest if not the first to explore the potential of interactive education, utilized a satellite feed to link classrooms in various parts of the country.

From the time of its completion to the present day, the Circleville School building has also played a broader role in the community and surrounding area than perhaps originally envisioned. In addition to school-sponsored events and high school commencements, the building has provided a location for a wide variety of community activities, including civic organization meetings, fundraising dinners, community social gatherings, cultural events – and funerals. As one resident of Circleville stated, "The school is the heart of our community."

Although Criterion D is not marked on the form, the North Fork Valley – and potentially the Circleville School site – possesses numerous historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. Many sites are known and some have been investigated; other sites are believed to exist but have yet to be identified. This area of West Virginia has been the site of human occupation for at least 2,000 years. A succession of Native

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

American cultures are known to have inhabited the valley and left several burial mounds, stone cairns, and the remnants of stone palisades in the county. Later the valley was one of the main camping grounds of the Shawnee, until they were driven westward by the Seneca who held the region from the early 17th century to the close of the American Revolution, although the area continued to be the target of periodic raids by both Shawnee and Delaware. While today this section of West Virginia is relatively remote, it was crisscrossed by an ancient network of Indian hunting trails and trading routes, including the Seneca Trail, which provided access to white settlers crossing the Alleghenies.

In 1985 a major flash flood struck 29 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Several rivers, including the North Fork, changed their course entirely as a result. The extent and severity of the flooding was so great that archaeologists and conservationists have since labeled it a 1000-year "geologic event." So much water inundated the North Fork and South Branch valleys that the river actually broke out of its watershed. However, the massive displacement of water and earth caused by the flood brought to light new archaeological evidence which forced experts to revise their estimates of the length of human occupation of the area to a period covering as much as 4,000 years.

Reportedly, the Circleville School property has yielded small artifacts such as arrowheads over the years, primarily in the area of the athletic field, which may indicate a prehistoric site with research potential.

For its association with a long tradition of education in the remote Potomac Highlands region of West Virginia, for its role as the social, cultural, and educational center of this rural community which for many years had only limited access to broader opportunities, for its architectural significance as a highly intact example of the work of one of West Virginia's premier early architects, for its association with FDR's watershed Works Progress Administration and as a representation of WPA construction techniques, the Circleville School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Circleville School is shown by the hatching on the accompanying tax map (County of Pendleton, Circleville District, District 3, Map No. 14A). The property incorporates those portions of Lots 20, 20.01, and 20.02 indicated by the hatching.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property and structures associated with the school, including the Circleville School building, adjunct buildings, athletic field, and the road leading from the main highway to the school, following the traditional boundaries of the school property. These property boundaries pre-date the existing building, since the current Circleville School replaced an earlier building on the same site. The playing field is included since it has been a part of the traditional setting from the school's beginning.

