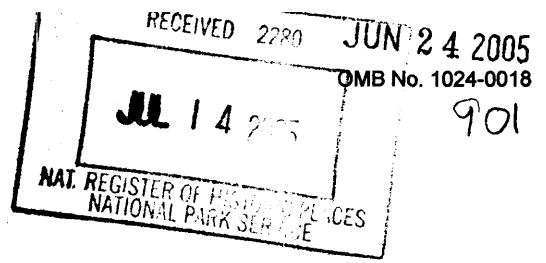


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination 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 Buffalo High School

other names/site number Independent School District #1, Buffalo Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 326 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street not for publication N/A

city or town Buffalo vicinity N/A

state Iowa code IA county Scott code 163 zip code 52728

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 L. Locke Signature of certifying official July 13, 2005 Date

**STATE 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
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Anna McCulland

Date of Action

8/22/05

Buffalo High School  
Name of Property

Scott County, Iowa  
County and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

(do not include previously listed resources in count)

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

#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> / EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / limestone  
walls BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Narrative Description

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

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

#### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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

#### Period of Significance

1900-1953

#### Significant Dates

1900

1928

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Hanssen, Gustav

Ebeling, Arthur

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

#### Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

Buffalo High School  
Name of Property

Scott County, Iowa  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>690336</u>	<u>4592167</u>	3	<u>                    </u>
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>

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 Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Architectural Historian

organization SPARK Consulting date February 25, 2005

street & number 1138 Oneida Ave telephone 563-324-9767

city or town Davenport state Iowa zip code 52803

### 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 Tom Caudle

street & number 326 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 563-381-1450

city or town Buffalo state Iowa zip code 52728

**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 Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7    **Page** 1    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

**7. Narrative Description**

The Buffalo High School is a two-story, three-part, symmetrical brick building. It was originally constructed as a grade 1-8, one-story school in 1900. To expand the school through grade 12, the second story was added in 1928. All students in Buffalo attended school in this structure through 1953, when the high school students were moved to a new building in town.

The Buffalo High School is located on 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the north edge of Buffalo, southwest of Davenport on the Mississippi River. It faces south and the remainder of the town and Mississippi River. The overall plan of the school is a T-plan, though the slightly projected entry vestibule on the south elevation gives it a cross plan appearance on historic maps. The brick varies on different elevations of the building, with clear color distinctions between the first story (1900) and second story (1928) brick though the 1928 specifications called for the contractor to match the original brick. The façade and side elevations were built of buff colored "face brick" while the rear elevation only rated red common brick. The building sits on a cut stone foundation with basement windows visible at this level. All the basement windows retain their original wood sashes. The flat roof is hidden by a small parapet wall.

The south, primary elevation is divided into three sections by the projected entry vestibule, each part roughly three bays wide. When this school was one-story, this vestibule extended into a gable roofline. Brick detailing highlights the central arch entry and two small flanking arch windows. The arches above each element feature an elongated stone keystone. The double-door entry with sidelights has been replaced by two modern glass doors surrounded by paneling. The sidelights may exist behind this paneling. The original semi-circular window about the entry remains intact, though the address has been painted on the glass. The small arch windows on either side of the entry also retain their original one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes. A rectangular, single-light basement window with a segmental arch lintel is found in the stone foundation below each of these side windows. The 1900 cornerstone in the southeast corner of the vestibule portion was removed in 2000 to retrieve the time capsule and then returned. Originally, a carved stone name plate reading "Buffalo School" was featured above the entry, which was removed with the construction of the second story in 1928. The second story of this projected entry vestibule has a stone name plate reading "Buffalo High School" centered on the frieze. A soldier brick course extends across the façade, vertically centered on the name plate. Paired double-hung windows are centered above the entry, with two double-hung windows to either side of the center windows. These windows have stone sills and jack arch brick lintels. The original nine-over-nine-light double-hung sashes have been replaced by smaller one-over-one-light sashes with the remaining space filled in with paneling.

The two side sections of the south elevation consist of three windows. Basement windows are found under each of the outside windows. The first story windows have segmental brick lintels and stone sills while the second story windows have jack arch brick lintels and stone sills. Historically, the first story had one-over-one-light double-hung sashes while the second story had nine-over-nine-light double-hung windows. These sashes have been replaced by smaller one-over-one-light sashes with the remaining

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7      **Page** 2      **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

space filled in with paneling. Projected brick detailing extends along the sills of the first windows and across the top of the windows before stepping down to the edges. The only detailing on the second story is the soldier brick course at the level at the name plate on the frieze and the soldier brick course at the bottom of the story. Inset smooth stone squares are set into the frieze band periodically. Three small square smooth stone blocks are found on the corners of the building on the second story as well.

The east and west (side) elevations of the Buffalo High School are mirror images of each other. Three double-hung windows are centered on each story of these elevations. Basement windows in the stone foundation are located slightly outside of the two outside windows. The first story windows have segmental brick arch lintels and stone sills. The original one-over-one-light double-hung sashes have been replaced with smaller one-over-one-light double-hung sashes with paneling filling in the remaining space. A projected brick band extends along the sills and across the top of the windows stepping down near each edge, similar to the south elevation. The second story windows have jack arch brick lintels and stone sills. The original nine-over-nine-light double-hung sashes have been replaced with smaller one-over-one-light double-hung sashes with paneling filling in the remaining space. The restrained detailing on the second story of the south elevation continues around the side elevation, consisting of the soldier brick course at the level at the name plate on the frieze and the soldier brick course at the bottom of the story. Inset smooth stone blocks are set into the frieze band periodically. Three small square smooth stone blocks are found on the corners of the building on the second story as well.

The north (rear) elevation is also symmetrical, with the exception of one chimney. The north elevation is divided into three parts as well, with the north classroom that extends about 15 feet from the center of the elevation. The north elevation of this section has four double-hung windows on each story. The basement windows have been covered as the parking lot has risen. The first story windows have segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills, and the second story windows have stone sills and no lintel distinction. The sashes on both sets of windows have been replaced with smaller one-over-one-light double-hung sashes with paneling filling in the remaining space. The west elevation of this classroom section has two windows on each story, similar in detail to the north windows. No windows are found on the east elevation of this section, though an exterior brick chimney extends up the middle, probably added in 1928 with the second story addition. A cellar door or coal chute is located north of this chimney. The only openings on the north elevation on either side of the extended classroom section are single-door entries on each story, located close to the classroom section. The first story entries are tall openings with a segmental arch brick arch, while the second story entries have no lintel distinction. Modern metal doors are found in each opening. Paneling covers the tall, two-light transom windows above the first story doors. Historic metal fire stairs, somewhat rusted, extend straight up to the second story entries. Small gable-roof structures attached to the building are located under each set of stairs, covering the steps that lead to the added basement entries.

The interior layout of the school consists of three main classrooms on each story, with some additional shared spaces. The layout is roughly symmetrical. A small flight of stairs leads from the double-door entry into the main entry hall area. Stained wainscoting extends around the walls of this entry hall. Carpet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7    **Page** 3    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

covers the yellow pine floor, but the decorative tin ceiling remains intact. This tin ceiling has medium-sized squares with a decorative quatrefoil design. It is coved along the edges to meet the walls. Stairs to the second story are found in the north section of this space. Restrooms are located on either side of the small flight of stairs on the south side. These restrooms appear to have been expanded into the main hall area at some point, though stained wainscoting also extends around these sections. Modern fixtures are found in both bathrooms, and they have lowered ceilings. It is unknown if a tin ceiling exists above the lowered ceiling. Two rectangular halls extend from the main entry hall to the rear (north) entries between the main classrooms, accessed through entries with transom windows. The rear entries have tall, two-light transom windows. Wood strips with coat hooks extend along these walls. The halls have plaster ceilings.

Classroom #1 is the east classroom on the first story. It retains its decorative tin ceiling with large squares. The outer edge of tin squares is coved to meet the wall, and the outside row of square panels is more decorative with detailing around the edges and an inset decorative square and circle. The room retains its plaster walls and yellow pine floor. Stained wainscoting extends around the room, and chalkboards are incorporated above it on the west and north walls. The windows retain their original dark wood trim, as well as the door to the main hall. This door also has a transom window and trim across the top of the opening. To the left of the door is a historic built-in cabinet. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

Classroom #2 is the north classroom on the first story. It also retains its decorative tin ceiling with large squares, the same style as the other two classrooms on the first story. The room retains its plaster walls and yellow pine floor. Stained wainscoting extends around the room, and chalkboards are incorporated above it on the south and east walls. The windows retain their original dark wood trim, as well as the doors to the main hall and side hall 1B. These doors also have trim across the top of the opening, and the door to the main hall has a transom window. One window on the west wall has been partially covered on the interior by a bulletin board. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. A long counter has been added in the south portion of the room. Refrigerators are also found in this room. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

Classroom #3 is the west classroom on the first story. It also retains its decorative tin ceiling with large squares, the same style as the other two classrooms on the first story. The yellow pine floor has been covered by linoleum. The room retains its plaster walls. Stained wainscoting extends around the room, and chalkboards are incorporated above it on the north and east walls. The windows retain their original dark wood trim, as well as the doors to the main hall and side hall 1A. These doors also have trim across the top of the opening, and the door to the main hall has a transom window. A small closet is located to the left of the door to the main hall, and its trim is similar to the other trim in the hall. It projects into hall 1A. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7      **Page** 4      **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

The stairs to the second story, added in 1928, retains a wood railing and balustrade. The wood steps have been covered with linoleum. The tin ceiling remains intact, and it follows the same quatrefoil design as the first story entry hall and main second story rooms. Originally, the top of the stairs appears to have been open into the second story main hall. A closet and double doors has been added at the top of the stairs, closing off this space and reducing the size of the second story main hall. The tin ceiling extends across the added wall.

The layout on the second story is similar to the first story, though built 28 years later. An office is centered on the south side (front) of the building above the entry on the first story. Its north wall has a single-door entry with a transom window and a window to either side of the door. It retains its wood floor, plaster walls, and tin ceiling. The tin ceiling is a third design for the building, consisting of small squares of alternating designs. A small row of coving extends around the edge to meet the wall. Restrooms are located on either side of the office on the south side. They retain their tin ceiling of the same style as the office area. Modern fixtures are found in both bathrooms. Two rectangular halls extend from the main entry hall to the rear (north) entries between the main classrooms, accessed through entries with transom windows. The rear entries have non-historic metal doors. Wood strips with coat hooks extend along these walls. The tin ceilings of the side halls are also the small square design found in the office and bathrooms.

Classroom #4 is the west classroom on the second story. It retains its decorative tin ceiling of the same style of the main halls on both stories, consisting of the medium-sized squares with a quatrefoil design. The room retains its yellow pine floors and plaster walls. Wood trim extends along the top and bottom of the chalkboards on the north and east walls. A simple wood baseboard extends around the room. The doors to main hall and side hall 2A retain their original trim around the entire opening, and the door to the main hall has a transom window. A historic built-in cabinet is found to the left of the door to the main hall, projecting slightly into hall 2A. The windows do not have any interior trim. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

Classroom #5 is the north classroom on the second story. It retains its decorative tin ceiling of the same style of the other two classrooms on the second story and main halls. The room retains its yellow pine floors and plaster walls. Wood trim extends along the top and bottom of the chalkboards on the north and east walls. A simple wood baseboard extends around the room. The doors to main hall and side hall 2B retain their original trim around the entire opening, and the door to the main hall has a transom window. A historic built-in cabinet is found to the left of the door to the side hall, projecting slightly into hall 2A. The windows do not have any interior trim. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

Classroom #6 is the east classroom on the second story. It retains its decorative tin ceiling of the same style of the other two classrooms on the second story and main halls. The room also retains its yellow pine floors and plaster walls. Wood trim extends along the top and bottom of the chalkboards on the north and west walls. A simple wood baseboard extends around the room. The door to main hall has a



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7    **Page** 5    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

transom window and retains its original trim around the entire opening. A historic built-in cabinet is found to the left of the door to the main hall. The windows do not have any interior trim. Radiators are spaced along the exterior walls. Wiring runs through visible conduits on the walls, and the light fixture is non-historic.

Stairs to the basement extend under the main stairs. They are simple wood stairs, extending straight to the basement rooms. The basement is currently roughly divided into three spaces. The west room extends under the main entry hall and west classrooms. Wood columns are placed throughout this space, with added metal I-beam columns providing further support. An exterior door has been added in the north foundation wall, with steps leading up to grade under a small exterior addition. Small rectangular windows provide light and air into these spaces. Neither the exterior walls nor the floor is finished. The east room is under the east classrooms. An exterior door has been added in the north foundation wall, with steps leading up to grade under a small exterior addition. Small rectangular windows provide light and air into this space. Neither the exterior walls nor floor are finished. The interior wall has paneling. The boiler room is located under the north classrooms. The chimney extends down to this space, providing a ventilation shaft for the boiler. A small storage space off this main area has a few of the original window sash.

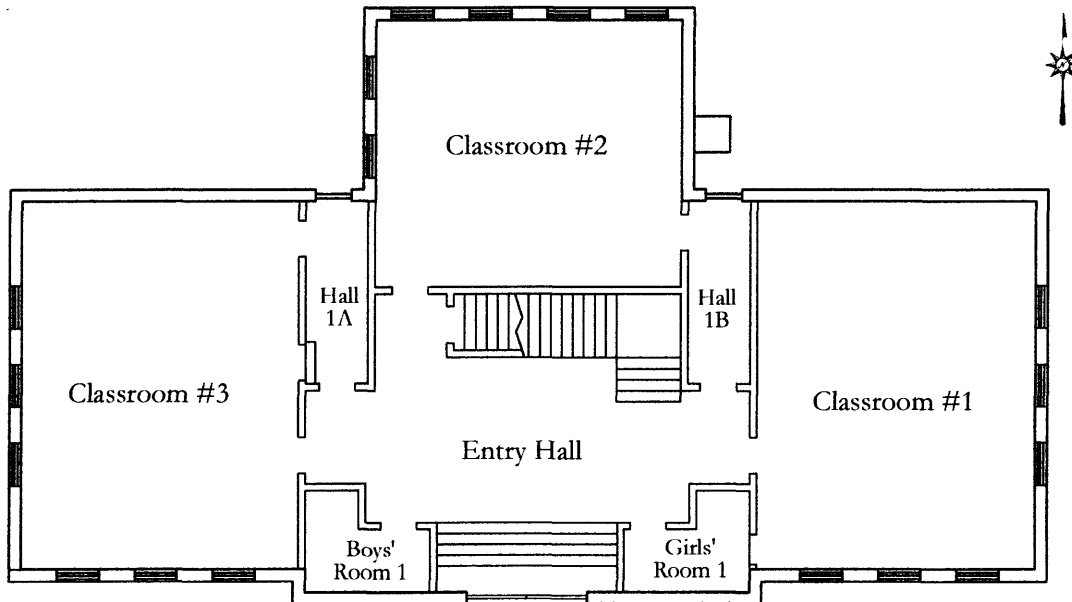
Overall, the integrity of the Buffalo High School is good. The exterior brick wall and stone foundation remain intact, with the simple detailing on both stories. The overall rhythm and relationship of the features is also intact. The only additions to the exterior are the two small gable-roof covers for the basement stairs. The interior layout of the school also remains mostly intact, with the only alteration the added closet and doors at the top of the stairs. The significant tin ceilings remain throughout the building, reflecting the three designs dating to differing periods and spaces. Additionally, most of the interior spaces retain their wood floors and trim. The classrooms also retain their chalkboards, with wainscoting under the chalkboards on the first story and wood trim on the second story. Original doors are found in most of the openings, with the exception of the exterior entries, and original cabinets are found in many of the rooms. The main alteration is the replacement of the windows. While this has altered the appearance of the structure to a certain degree, the original size of the window openings remains intact. This change alone has not significantly affected the overall integrity of the Buffalo High School.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7    **Page** 6    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---



First Story, Buffalo High School  
November 5, 2004

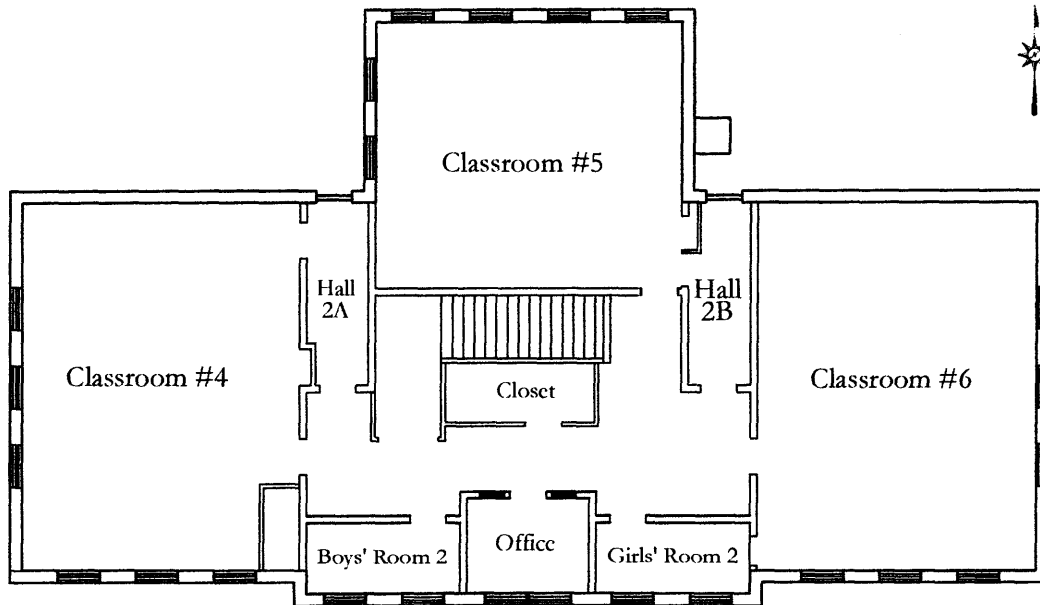
Approximate Dimensions - 1/8" = 1'  
R.L. McCarley, SPARK Consulting

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7 Property name Buffalo High School  
County and State Scott County, Iowa

---



Second Story, Buffalo High School  
November 5, 2004

Approximate Dimensions - 1/8" = 1'  
R.L. McCarley, SPARK Consulting

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8 Property name Buffalo High School  
County and State Scott County, Iowa

---

**8. Architect/Builder (continued)**

Hunzinger, J.H.

**8. Statement of Significance**

The Buffalo High School is locally significant for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history of education in Buffalo. The school is significant in the local educational history of Buffalo, reflecting the changing needs of the community. As the oldest brick building and perhaps the largest early 20<sup>th</sup> century building, the architecture also stands out as unique within the community. The Buffalo High School was built as an elementary school in 1900, serving grades 1 through 8. In 1927, plans began to expand the school to also incorporate grades 9 through 12 in the building, and grade 9 was added in the fall so that the first class would graduate in 1931. The second story addition was completed in August 1928, similar in character to the older first story. Grades 1-12 operated in this building for several years, and kindergarten was also added in the 1930s. Due to overcrowding, a new school for grades 7-12 was built on the east edge of town in 1953. The last high school class graduated in Buffalo in 1958 with the passage of new state laws regarding minimum high school standards. The 1900/1928 high school continued to be used as an elementary school until all the grades were moved to the 1953 building around 1975.

Settlement in Buffalo dates back to the early years of Iowa following the Black Hawk purchase in 1833. Captain Benjamin Clark recognized that this site was directly between the lead mines of Dubuque and Monmouth, Illinois, and at a natural crossing spot on the Mississippi River, and he chose to settle in this location. Business development soon followed. Buffalo was incorporated in 1836, the first settlement to do so in Scott County. In 1839, the first school house was built in Buffalo. However, over the next decade Buffalo lost much of its early prominence as settlement focused on Davenport. The town did continue to grow steadily, known for its surrounding rich farmland and timber supply. In 1850, the first school on Fourth Street at Washington was built, and Buffalo voted to become an independent school district in 1860. In 1865, a two-story, gable-front frame school was built at a cost of \$7,000 on the site on Fourth Street. The township of Buffalo was divided into seven independent school districts, with the town of Buffalo being Independent School District #1 (Larson 1983: 3-9, 20, 43; *History of Scott County, Iowa* 1882: 976).

Buffalo continued to grow from 391 in 1872 to around 500 by 1894. The 1894 atlas of Scott County depicts the school in Buffalo as a rectangular building on Fourth St at Washington, just south of the corporate line. As the school became overcrowded, the school board began to make plans to build a new building. Gustav Hanssen of Davenport was engaged as the architect for the project. He opened his office in Davenport around 1890, and Dietrich Harfst joined him as a draftsman in 1896, becoming a partner around 1905. Hanssen typically favored revival designs, designing some notable Colonial Revival houses (Huebinger 1894: 22; Shank 1999: 76-77; Bowers and Svendsen 1984: 34). His design for the Buffalo School was somewhat classical in nature, with the prominent gable-front entry vestibule. The restrained brick detailing also hints at this style. The T-plan permitted three classrooms, the necessary expansion from the earlier two-room school.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 9    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

Bids were requested and rejected in June 1900, and a decision was reached to let separate contracts for the work not to exceed a total of \$4,000. On June 19, 1900, the brick contract was let to Plumbeck and Frandzen for \$1,098, who likely used brick from the Davenport Paving Brick and Tile Company in Buffalo. The carpentry work was let to Frank and Wrage for \$448. The old school was sold to the Knights of Pythias for \$152 with the condition that it be moved from the site in 10 days. Construction plans continued for the school through the summer, and a bond issue of \$3,350 was approved on July 31, 1900. A time capsule was placed in the cornerstone of the school at a ceremony on August 7, to be opened in 100 years. As revealed in 2000, the rusted metal box contained letter head from Davenport Paving Brick and Tile Company, letterhead from F.E. Frank Contractor and Builder, a photograph of the school, a list of the school board, a list of pupils, the Buffalo Band roster, a cigar, and some newspaper clippings (School Board Book 1: 11-12, 15, 16; Buffalo Historical Society Museum).

The 1900 school, currently the first story of the existing building, was a one-story, three section, hip-roof building, as seen in the historic photograph below. The original one-over-one-light double-hung windows and double door entry with sidelights is visible in this photograph. The middle section of the front is slightly projected, extending up into a gable roofline. Small dormers provided some ventilation, and a bell tower is centered on the building. A chimney on the rear of the building is also visible in the photograph. Other photographs on the front steps depict the "Buffalo School" carved name plate above the entry.



**Buffalo School, c.1900 (Buffalo Historical Society Museum).**

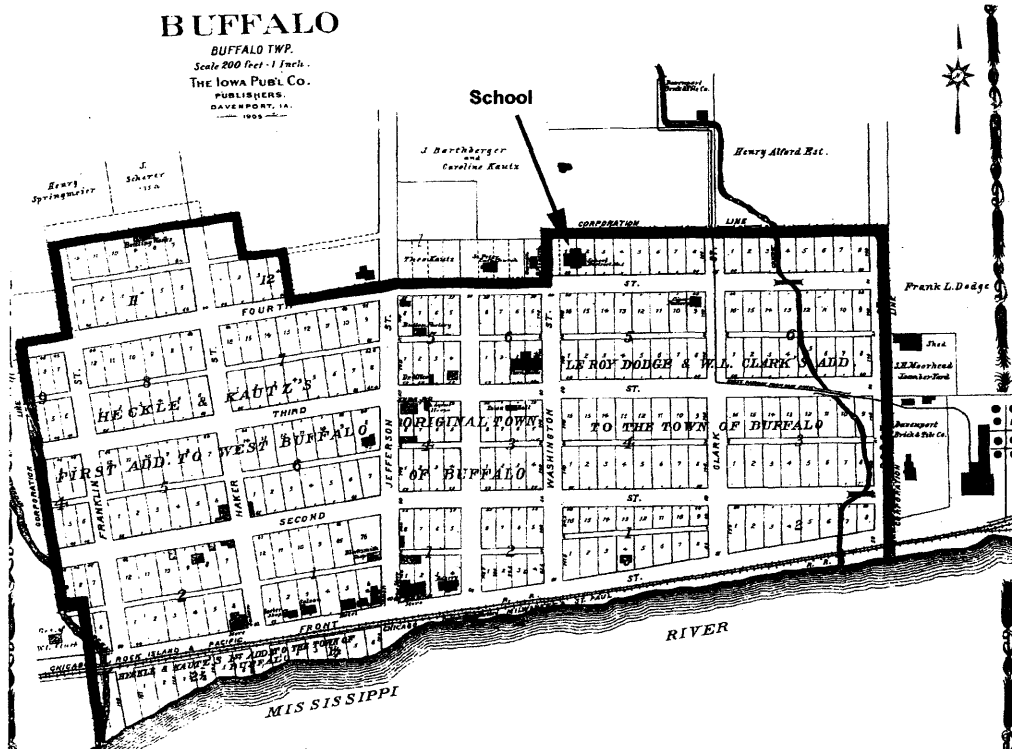
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10 Property name Buffalo High School  
County and State Scott County, Iowa

The school was a T-plan building, with three large classrooms. The west classroom served grades 1-3, the north classroom served grades 4-6, and the east classroom served grades 7-8. A small bathroom was located on either side of the entry steps. A room was located in the north part of the entry hall for the superintendent's office (in the current location of the stairs). Only the boiler was found in the basement (Adams 2004). The T-plan, incorporating three classrooms, is a layout used nationally for smaller schools in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The layout permitted windows, and thus light and fresh air, into each classroom. Other "modern" layouts included H-plan, I-plan, L-plan, and U-plan forms, dubbed the "alphabet" schools.

The 1905 map of Buffalo in the Scott County atlas depicts the overall plan of the "School District #1" building, as well as its relationship to the remainder of town. The school, located on the north side of Fourth Street just east of Washington is a cross plan building, with a classroom extending from the rear of the building. This overall footprint was not altered with the construction of the second story. The school continues to be located on the northern edge of town with the corporate limit immediately behind the building. The old school, now the Knights of Pythias, is located on the east side of Jefferson just south of Third Street (Iowa Publishing Company 1905: 55). This building, though somewhat modified, remains standing at this location.



Buffalo, Atlas of Scott County, 1905 (Iowa Publishing Company 1905: 55)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8      **Page** 11      **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

According to the 1910 *History of Scott County*, the town of Buffalo had about 400 residents, one of the largest brick manufactories in the county, and four pearl button factories. In 1900, "one of the finest public school buildings in the county outside of Davenport was built at a cost of \$5,000" (Downer 1910: 380). The school continued to be used for grades 1 through 8 through the 1910s and 1920s. The three main rooms served as the primary, intermediate, and 7-8 grade classrooms.

Whether it was the changing educational conditions of the 1920s or just a drain on the Buffalo township system resources, the school board discussed the advisability of enlarging the capacity of the Independent School District #1 in Buffalo and combining school district #4 with #1 on October 20, 1927. On November 1, they voted to permit some pupils from District #4 to attend the Buffalo school at a cost of \$5/pupil/month. Local historian Dorothy Adams states that grade 9 was added to the school in 1927, in preparation for the addition of the high school grades to the school. Previously, students who desired high school education had to travel out of Buffalo Township to receive this education (School Board Book 1: 213-214; Adams 2004).

Consolidation of schools was a statewide trend in this period throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The movement was geared to standardize and modernize education across the state. Consolidated schools were further promoted by state funding for equipment and maintenance. "Modern" school philosophy promoted nationally by William B. Ittner encouraged small towns (under 8,000) to house all grades in one building. He also supported the open plan schools, including T-plan, H-plan, L-plan, and U-plan buildings. Deiber and Beedle 2002: 10-12). The expansion of the Buffalo School is likely partially due to the movement towards consolidation as well as increased school-aged population following the end of World War I. The addition of the high schools grades necessitated more space, and enrollment for the high school drew from throughout Buffalo Township.

By November 1, 1927, director Art Wrage had also discussed the plans to enlarge the school with Davenport architect Arthur Ebeling, requesting that he do preliminary drawings and a cost estimate for a second story addition. He presented the estimate and sketch of the proposed second story addition at the meeting on November 8, 1927 (School Board Book 1: 213-214; Adams 2004). Ebeling, after working briefly as a carpenter, had served as an apprentice for Hanssen and Harfst in the early 1900s before completing his formal schooling. By 1920, Ebeling launched his own practice. He won several prominent commissions in Davenport, including the Kahl Building and the fair grounds. He also reflected classical roots in his commercial and public commissions (Shank 1999: 56-57).

A call for a special election for school bonds was made in December, and the bond issue of \$20,000 passed at the election on January 11, 1928. Arthur Ebeling was officially hired as architect on February 17, 1928. His duties included furnishing the plans and specifications for the second story addition as well as supervising construction. Bids for the school were let in April, with some modifications to the original design to reduce cost. The change of the east and west elevations of the north classroom extension from face brick to common brick reduced the bid of the general contractor, J.H. Hunzinger by \$248 to \$14,587, and he was awarded the bid at the meeting on May 16, 1928. Jacob Vogler was hired at his bid of \$448 for the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

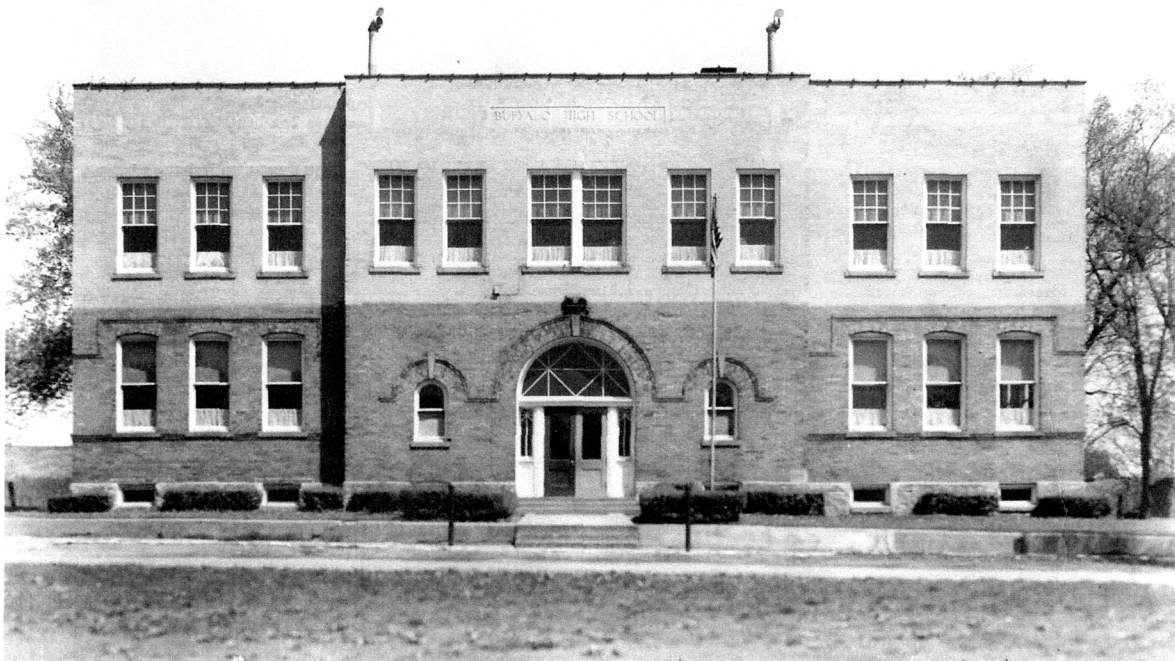
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12 Property name Buffalo High School  
County and State Scott County, Iowa

---

electrical as well as Ideal Heating & Construction Company at their bid of \$2,320 for the heating work, specifying a Dunham Specialties Prox Boiler. As the bids were awarded, the board also passed a motion requiring that "the face brick on the front be of the same color as the first story as near as possible," and that the brick of the rear extension of the building be also the same as the first story. Later bids were let in June to A.M. Blood to install Standard Kaustine Closet Units for \$1,076 in a "neat and workmanlike manner" and to Ideal Heating for \$260 for plumbing and \$350 for lavatories (School Board Book 1: 219, 225-228, 246).

The plan for the second story addition relied heavily on the existing plan and appearance of the first story. On the exterior, windows were aligned to match the rhythm of the first story windows. Nine-over-nine-light double-hung windows were chosen for the second story, in contrast to the one-over-one-light windows on the first story. Historic photographs show these windows on the front and side elevations. Classrooms and bathrooms on the second story were aligned with the first story. Despite best intentions, early photographs as well as its current appearance show that the brick did not match the first story. With the new addition, the original "Buffalo School" name plate was removed with the gable portion of the façade, and a new carved "Buffalo High School" name plate was incorporated into the frieze. The 1900 cornerstone remained on the building.



**Buffalo High School, c.1928-1930s (Buffalo Historical Society Museum).**



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8      **Page** 13      **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

The first story continued to be used for the lower grades, with grades 1-2 in the west classroom, grades 3-4 in the north classroom, and grades 5-6 in the east classroom. In the front of the building at the top of the stairs was the superintendent's office. On the second story, grades 7-8 were located in the west classroom and grades 9-12 were in the east classroom. The north classroom was used as a science lab and for other specialized classrooms. The basement was also finished at this time. The home economics room was located in the east room, and the mechanical training room was in the west room. The boiler room continued to be under the north classrooms (Adams 2004).

The first class graduated from Buffalo High School on May 16, 1931. The class was composed of 7 boys and 5 girls. A total of 21 classes graduated from this school from 1931 to 1952, with no graduating class in 1948. The smallest class size was 5 in 1932 and 1935, while the largest class size was 15 in 1943. The class of 3 people in 1948 attended Davenport schools. Average class size was around 10. School colors were red and white through 1942 when they changed to blue and gold. A kindergarten was added by the late 1930s to the school. Thus, for a number of years this building served kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Buffalo Historical Society Museum; Adams 2004).

As overcrowding became a problem in 1952, plans were made for the construction of a new school building on the east side of town on Dodge Street. This building was dedicated on February 15, 1953, and upper grades were moved to this building. The high school students only attended here for a few years, as a new state law was passed in 1958 required minimum high school standards. The decision was made to discontinue the high school in Buffalo. Since Davenport refused to take the students, they were bused to Bettendorf, and they first graduated from there in 1959. With the passage of a new state law on July 1, 1966 required contingent districts to accept students, Buffalo became part of the Davenport school district and students attended Central High. The 1953 school in Buffalo continued to be used as an elementary and intermediate school, with some classes still held at the old Buffalo High School through the mid-1970s. By 1976, the Davenport school district had abandoned the old Buffalo High School, moving all remaining classes in Buffalo to the 1953 structure.

In 1976, Buffalo bought the old Buffalo High School from Davenport, using it for various offices and organizations. The library was located in this building for a number of years. The Davenport school district built a new school at 1000 Jefferson, on the north edge of town, in 2002, and kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade continue to attend this school. Many of the community offices moved from the old Buffalo High School to the 1953 building, leaving the old building vacant. In Fall 2004, the Buffalo City Council decided that the old Buffalo High School needed to be sold before the winter, and an intent to sell to Thomas Caudle with certain preservation and use restrictions was approved on November 1, 2004. The sale was finalized in December 2004.

The Buffalo High School continues to stand out architecturally as a community landmark. It is the oldest extant structure constructed of brick in Buffalo. This use of brick reflects its importance as a public, community building, built to serve the town for generations. Its site is slightly elevated, and the school has the appearance of looking out above the remainder of the town along the river. The restrained detail of

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 14    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

school reflects its location in a smaller community, focused on providing a school to meet the needs of the community. The architecture is also unique in that the Buffalo School expanded by adding a second story to meet its growing needs, reflected in the differing detail of the first and second stories. The addition of the second story has resulted in its unique current appearance. The differing color of the brick of the two stories highlights that this is not a typical structure. Though the rhythm of the windows is aligned on both stories, the lintel treatment varies. The simplistic detail of the soldier brick courses and the inset stone blocks on the second story reflects a more streamlined architectural vocabulary of the late 1920s and 1930s. The result is a unified structure with discrete variations between the two stories. Though a case has not been made for significance under Criterion C (Architecture) within this nomination, this significance may be developed through further research and analysis in the future.

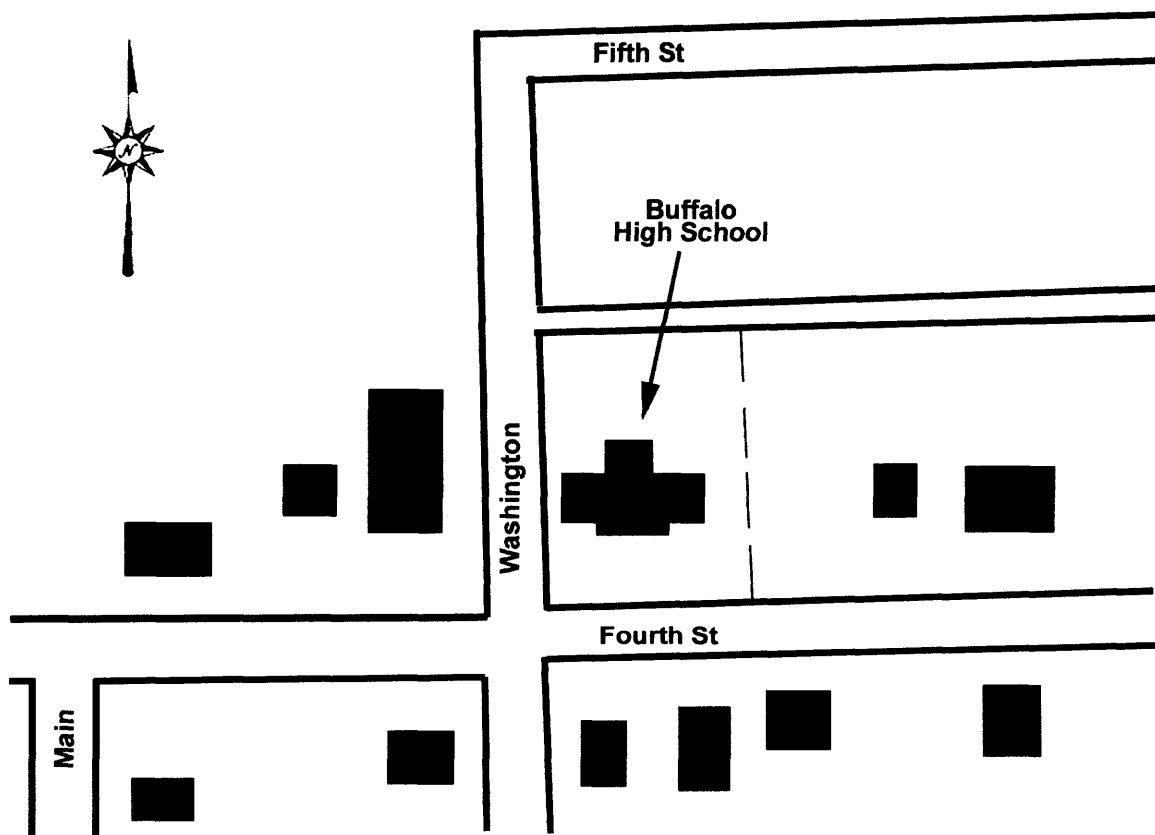
Throughout Buffalo's history, this school and site have been significant in the educational history of the community. The site has hosted a school since 1850, with new buildings constructed in 1865 and 1900. The 1900 school served the needs of the grade 1 through 8 students in Buffalo through 1927 when grade 9 was added. With the decision to add the high school grades to the building, the second story was added in 1928 to accommodate the new students. This represents a significant transition in the educational history of Buffalo to host a high school within the community. All students in Buffalo attended this school from 1928 through 1952, with kindergarten added in the 1940s. This is likely one of the few extant schools in Iowa that simultaneously held kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the same building. In 1953, the upper grades were moved from the building, and the elementary and intermediate grades continue to utilize the building. The use of the building changed in subsequent years as the final classes were moved by the Davenport school district to the 1953 building. These milestones in the history of the Buffalo school reflect statewide transitions in education through this period.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 15 Property name Buffalo High School

County and State Scott County, Iowa



**Site plan, Buffalo High School**

November 2004  
R.L. McCarley, SPARK Consulting

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 16    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa



**Location map, Buffalo High School**  
2002 Color Infrared Orthophotographs  
Iowa Geographic Image Map Server  
Iowa State University; [ortho.gis.iastate.edu](http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 9-10    **Page** 17    **Property name** Buffalo High School  
**County and State** Scott County, Iowa

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Adams, Dorothy, local historian and president of Buffalo Historical Society Museum, Buffalo, IA. Casual interviews by R.L. McCarley, November 2004.

Bowers, Martha and Marlys Svendsen. *Davenport Architecture: Tradition and Transition*. Davenport, Iowa: City of Davenport, 1984.

Buffalo Historical Society Museum. Archives on Buffalo High School, including photographs, graduating class information, historical information, and time capsule contents. Buffalo, Iowa.

Deiber, Camilla and Peggy Beedle, The Louis Berger Group. *Town Schools for Iowa*. Hiawatha: J & A Printing, 2002.

Downer, Harry E. *History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa*. Volume 1. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1910.

*History of Scott County, Iowa*. Chicago: Inter-state Publishing Co., 1882.

Huebinger, Melchior. *Atlas of Scott County, Iowa*. Davenport: Huebinger Publishing Company, 1894.

Iowa Publishing Company. *Atlas of Scott County, Iowa*. Davenport, IA: Iowa Publishing Company, 1905.

Larson, Rev. Ronald D. *Buffalo: Then and Now*. Davenport, IA: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1983.

School Board Book 1, Minutes from school board minutes, Buffalo, Iowa. Archived at the Buffalo Historical Society Museum.

Shank, Wesley. *Iowa's Historic Architects*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundary for the site includes the east two-thirds (60 feet) of Lot 1 and all of Lot 2 of Block 8 in Dodge's and Clark's addition to Buffalo. It extends from the current northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets, east 120 feet to the southeast corner of Lot 2, north 140 feet along the lot boundary, west 120 feet along the alley, and south 140 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:** This is the lot historically associated with the school, without the west 30 feet of Lot 1 that has been used as the Washington Street extension for a number of years.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 18 Property name Buffalo High School  
County and State Scott County, Iowa

---

**Photographs**

All photographs of the Buffalo High School, Scott Co., Iowa, were taken by Rebecca Lawin McCarley, SPARK Consulting, on November 6, 2004. She retains the negatives for the photographs.

1. South (front) elevation, looking north.
2. West elevation, looking east.
3. North elevation, looking south.
4. East elevation, looking west.
5. Entry hall, looking west.
6. Classroom #1, looking southwest.
7. Classroom #5, looking southeast.
8. Classroom #4, looking northeast.
9. Detail of ceiling in Classroom #4 near the east wall.