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United States Department of 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 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.

1. Name of Property

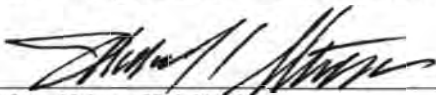
historic name Center Valley Grade School
other names/site number District No. 6 Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number	W5562 Center Valley Road	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Center	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Outagamie	code 087
			zip code 54106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

2/15/11
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer – Wisconsin

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 official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Center Valley Grade School

Outagamie

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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 National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain):

Edgar H. Beall

4.8.4

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as
as apply)☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	2 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	2 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property 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

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ museum

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation sandstone

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

Narrative Description

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

The Center Valley Grade School is situated on approximately one acre of land at the northwest corner of Hamble and Center Valley roads in the Town of Center, about three quarters of a mile west of the former Soo Line railroad and the grain elevators serving the Center Valley station. The structure is a vernacular one-room schoolhouse built in 1888. The plan configuration is rectangular and the roof form is front gable. The foundations are uncoursed fieldstone, the walls are sheathed in clapboard, and the roofing material is sheet metal with standing ridge seams. A hip roof belfry composed of the same sheathing and roofing materials is located above the main entrance on the south elevation. An interior ridge chimney of yellow brick is adjacent to the north elevation.

The only entrance to the building faces Center Valley Road and is located at the center of the south elevation. It is comprised of a single unglazed paneled door with a triple paned transom overhead. It is accessed by an early twentieth century poured concrete stoop with four steps and pipe side railings. The fenestration is similarly functional and simple. On the south elevation is a four-paned attic fanlight in the gable end, and two six-paned lights installed on either side of the entrance in the early twentieth century. Along Hamble Road on the east elevation there are two four-window groupings of six-over-six double-hung sash, both from the early twentieth century. Two original two-window groupings with the same early twentieth century sash are located on the north facade. The windows of the north elevation are capped with small pediments. Photographic evidence shows that three single window openings similar to those on the north facade were at one time located on the west elevation, but these were removed, probably at the time the other windows were modified or added. Wood-framed ventilators are located on the east and west elevation of the foundations.

In addition to these principal building elements are several simple decorative features that enrich the vernacular design. These include the flat cornice label stop over the front entrance, pilasters and architraves at the four building corners, pedimented cornice label stops over the four north windows, and scalloped louvers in the stilted arch openings of the belfry. A wooden spire also projects from the center of the belfry.

The interior is principally made up of a single classroom reached by a central vestibule, flanked by coat closets created in the early twentieth century. All three areas open into the classroom and are located along the south elevation. Throughout these spaces the floors are varnished hardwood and the walls are beveled fiberboard over painted tongue-and-groove wainscoting. In the classroom the ceilings are accoustical tile, and in the coat closet and storage room the ceilings are tongue-and-groove paneling. The vestibule ceiling is beveled fiberboard, and a functioning rope bell pull descends through it into the southeast corner. The walls of the coatrooms are also outfitted with a continuous storage shelf over a row of coathooks. In the classroom, bookcases are located in the northeast corner, and an early twentieth century wood furnace is located in the northwest corner. Seven early twentieth century blackboards extend across the west elevation, and a dry sink of similar age is located in the southeast corner. Early twentieth century schoolhouse hanging lights illuminate each area of the interior. In

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Section 7 Page 2

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

addition to this original building fabric, the interior includes functional classroom furnishings acquired by the owners that create an overall impression of a schoolhouse of the early twentieth century. Original furnishings were lost when the former school was converted into a storage shed.

In addition to the schoolhouse, the property includes a flagpole and two non-contributing buildings moved from adjacent properties. These are a large front gabled storage shed with clapboard siding and no windows located in the northwestern corner of the property, and a plank-sided privy with corrugated metal roof located directly behind the schoolhouse that stands in place of one of two that historically stood in that location. These simple grounds, surrounded by extensive cultivated fields and neighboring farmhouses, create an impressive sense of historic place undisturbed by the passage of time.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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 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)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1888-1958

Significant Dates

1888

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 acre

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

1 16 382540 4917630
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

☐ 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 Peter Adams

organization

street & number 537 East Wisconsin Avenue

city or town Neenah

state WI

date

1/15/2010

telephone

920-722-1422

zip code

54956

Center Valley Grade School

Outagamie

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title		date
organization		telephone
street & number		zip code
city or town	state	

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

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Section 8 Page 1

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

The Center Valley Grade School is of local historical significance under Criterion A for its association with the history of public education in the Town of Center. It is also eligible under Criterion C at the local level as a particularly fine and remarkably intact example of late nineteenth century one room schoolhouse property type. The period of significance, 1888-1958, is from the year the Center Valley Grade School was first put into service to the year it was closed by consolidation.¹

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first white settlers in the Town of Center arrived in 1848 from Columbiana, Ohio. Predominately Irish, they came by way of Green Bay and bought land in the southeast corner of the township, establishing the settlement first known as McGillan's Corners, or what is today Mackville. In the following decade these "Irish Buckeyes" were joined by a contingent of Germans from Mecklenberg, who established a cluster of farms approximately five miles northwest of Mackville around a settlement known as Twelve Corners. With the influx of another sixty German families relocating from Milwaukee after the Civil War, the Town of Center became one of the notable German settlements of rural Outagamie County.

Less than five miles removed from Appleton, the township remained largely isolated from the county seat by an extensive swamp, for many years crossed by only a single corduroy road. Connections to markets were therefore limited to the more distant city of Green Bay, and then in 1873 to the markets connected by the Green Bay & Western Railroad at neighboring Black Creek. Construction of the Soo Line in the 1880s ultimately opened up rail connections with Appleton, resulting in the creation of the Center Valley depot with its feed mill and grain elevators, but little else in the way of significant economic development followed. Instead, the township evolved into an area known for its good farms, large barns and secure fences.

Almost exclusively agricultural throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, local government provided minimal public services, constructing only a town hall in 1868. Relatively more extensive were the schoolhouses built by the local boards of education. Seven of these structures were eventually constructed and kept in use until closed in the 1950s, when state consolidation mandates merged local districts into larger educational systems. Of these schoolhouses only the Center Valley Grade School is still extant.

¹ Treasurer's Book, School District No. 6, p. 17; Freedom Pursuit (Freedom, Wisconsin), August 16, 2007, p. 9.

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Section 8 Page 2

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

EDUCATION

When created by state statute in 1848, Wisconsin's free public school system was loosely organized and operated only to the standards set by local partisan politics. The majority of schoolhouses were log structures without outhouses. The female teachers were paid as little as \$5 a month, and only one-fifth of eligible students were enrolled. Brought under the control of county school superintendents in 1862, the governing legislation also provided for the creation of two-year teachers colleges to address the chronic shortage and limited professional training of teachers and administrators. Shortly thereafter the minimum school year was increased from three to five months a year.² In spite of these changes, by 1870, the state's 4,859 schools remained predominately ungraded common schools with enrollment pegged at 65 percent. Following a tour of Wisconsin's schools, the state superintendent reported conditions in rural districts that were particularly acute, the schoolhouses being cited as unfit for housing cattle, the rooms blackened with smoke and lacking maps, blackboards and libraries.³ Teachers, frequently the daughters of local district superintendents, were sometimes not much older or better educated than their students.

In response to these and other continuing deficiencies, the legislature authorized the creation of high schools in 1875 and passed compulsory attendance laws in 1879, exempting only those age seven to 15 whose labor was needed to support indigent family members. In city schools the effects of the changes were consistently longer terms and better attendance by those who enrolled. In rural schools the primary result was a higher enrollment of school age children. By 1882 rural schools were reporting an average 64 percent enrollment while city schools had dropped to 47 percent.⁴

These enrollment figures, however, were more reflective of urban industrialization that was attracting city students with good paying jobs, and generating an exodus from rural communities. And while rural schools may have had higher enrollment of those eligible, the students were found to be lagging behind in the number of years completed, as well as the number attending high school and college. Significantly, more than 25 percent of rural schools had fewer than 20 pupils by 1898.⁵

During this same time period came another legislative push that required all schools, both public and parochial, to conduct their instruction in English. Initiated in 1889 and known as the Bennett Law, it was seen as specifically targeting the state's rural ethnic communities, where in some cases German or Norwegian were the only languages students heard. Viewed by proponents as a means of enhancing national unity and patriotism, ethnic populations saw the move as an attack on family sovereignty and

² Wisconsin Blue Book (Madison: Legislative Reference Library, 1958), p. 167.

³ Richard N. Current, The History of Wisconsin, Vol. II (Stevens Point: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1976), p. 496.

⁴ Robert C. Nesbit, The History of Wisconsin, Vol. III (Stevens Point: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1985), p. 511.

⁵ John D. Buerker, The History of Wisconsin, Vol. IV (Stevens Point: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1998), p. 363.

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Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

the religious values taught in parochial schools. Repealed in 1891, advocates frequently cited the one-room schoolhouse as the educational ideal.

While the move to consolidate school districts rose up out of these conditions, local objections proved to be a powerful obstacle. The rural schoolhouse was for many communities a large source of pride and identity. The land was typically donated by a respected area family, and the schools were attended by generations of the same families. As a whole, the farming community was also wary of education that might promote dissatisfaction with working the soil and tending livestock. Opposition remained entrenched until the 1940s when statistics showed that urban Wisconsin schools ranked first nationally in terms of enrollment, while rural schools ranked 37th for girls and 42nd for boys.⁶

Consolidation eventually gained sufficient support, as state school aids began to steadily decline, and as local rural schools faced increasing deterioration due to lack of funds throughout the Depression and subsequent war years. A framework for school reorganization was ultimately approved in 1949, although full implementation would take another 20 years. By 1958, the number of local school districts had been cut from 7,000 to 3,500, but many of these were still run by electors where budgets, staffing and curriculum were determined with the tax levy at annual meetings.

This history is reflected in the growth and development of rural public schoolhouses in the Town of Center. As was typical of the time, the first classes were held in the Mackville home of Peter Hephner, who settled there in 1848. A teacher was subsequently hired and the instruction of the eight or nine students moved to her kitchen. A year later, the school was organized as a district and in 1852 state financing secured to build a log schoolhouse near Twelve Corners. Fitted up with plank desks and an outhouse, the cost was \$40. A second school was held at the home of Conrad Boahler in the German settlement, where 13 pupils were taught rudimentary English. These were soon after joined by four more school districts, one of which being the Center Valley Grade School.

Organized as District 6 in 1868, the first schoolhouse was constructed that same year on approximately an acre of land sold to the district for \$10 by neighboring farmer John Weihing.⁷ Initially outfitted with a log structure, the school was nevertheless provided with a blackboard, a chimney for heat, and the following year a library, and two outhouses. In a year's time, the teacher was paid anywhere from \$180 to \$225 to teachers who returned from year to year.

Construction of the second and final schoolhouse began in 1888, when the district's accounts included funding for timber, sand, flooring, a new stove, and desks. In that year, expenditures totaled nearly

⁶ William Thompson, *The History of Wisconsin*, Vol. V (Stevens Point: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1988), p. 495.

⁷ Restoration Project Papers, Center Valley Grade School collection.

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Section 8 Page 4

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

\$1,300 instead of the usual \$300 to \$400. A flagpole was installed in 1896 for \$2.40, followed by electricity in 1930 for \$82.00 and a well in 1936 for \$108.⁸ Undated modernizations include the creation of the two cloakrooms and vestibule, the closure of the west elevation windows to provide more blackboards inside, and the resurfacing of the interior spaces with fiberboard and acoustical tile.

The ledger book also gives a sense of the role played by the school in the lives of town residents. Wiehing family members were regularly elected to the post of local superintendent and compensated for their time. Other area families were similarly hired for regular odd jobs, including cleaning, painting, providing stove wood, and emptying the outhouses. The ongoing nature of the repairs and improvements kept the Center Valley Grade School in top condition and within budget. Equally noteworthy is that the majority of elected officials and the salaried teachers, all recorded as having regularly attended state conventions, were of German origin at a time when the Bennett Law was being hotly debated throughout Wisconsin.

Faced with diminishing state financial aid, the Center Valley Grade School remained open and viable longer than most. Later merged with the Seymour, Hortonville and Shiocton school districts, the schoolhouse was closed in 1958, at which time it was bought by a member of the WeiHING family and converted to a storage garage. The five other public schools closed at about the same time and met with similar fates. When the town was surveyed by Historic Preservation Division staff in 1977, only two were recorded as surviving. These were the Center Valley Grade School, and a clapboard schoolhouse on County Highway S near Meade Street. A third surveyed school structure, located on Highway 47 in Mackville, was the parochial school associated with St. Edward Catholic Church. Only the Center Valley Grade School remains standing.

In the years that followed its closure, the school's use as a garage had little impact on its character and appearance. On the outside the conversion involved only the introduction of a sliding door and a ramp on the west facade. The inside was similarly left intact except for the removal of the cloak rooms and vestibule along the south elevation. Remarkably, the windows, doors, belfry, flagpole and other features remained undisturbed, and no other features or additions disturbed the site. Neglect, however, was taking its toll on the overall appearance and condition of the building through loss of paint, rust, and broken window panes.

In 1982, the subject of saving the school was raised at a class reunion, but it was not until 1998 that a group was organized to develop plans for the building's restoration. Acquired by the Friends of Center Valley Grade School, Inc in 2000, the structure underwent an exhaustive examination and study by untrained but intuitive leadership with a rare appreciation for original building materials and accuracy.

⁸ Restoration Project Papers, Center Valley Grade School collection.

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Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Damaged or missing items were scrupulously copied by regional craftsmen only as needed and in the exact manner as extant or as documented photographically. The exacting standards were carried out to such an extent that it is in some cases nearly impossible to distinguish between original and replacement materials.

Completing the authenticity is the installation of wood-burning furnace and wood box, period desks and ceiling lights, the rare hanging globe, and a linoleum topped dry sink, complete with crock, gravity drinking fountain and tin dipper. In each case, the items are not merely like what would have been generally found in a school of this age and caliber, but so exacting to the photographic documentation that only the most trained eye would note subtle differences. Reopened as a museum in 2007, the structure not only provides a remarkably unvarnished glimpse at rural education in Wisconsin, but is evidence of the loyalty and dedication it engendered in the communities it served.

ARCHITECTURE

The Center Valley Grade School, built in 1888, is locally significant under *Criterion C* as a fine and intact example of a nineteenth one-room school with alterations reflecting the one room school type of the early twentieth century. The Center Valley Grade School embodies the distinctive characteristics of the one-room school that were common throughout the state in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, retaining its simple frame, front-gabled, central-entry, one-room form. Later changes include the addition of cloak rooms and the removal of windows along one side of the building. However, all of these changes were made within the period of significance.

Most one-room rural schools were constructed with a rectangular plan, although they also appeared in a square plan. The size of the school was often determined by the practical visual and audible distance from the teacher. A series of three or four windows was found on the long sides of the building for light and ventilation. A central front door was most common on one-room schools and often faced south or east. The entry was located on the short side of the building. Sometimes two entrances were seen on the school building, separating the girls from the boys. The prototype for this entry design can be traced to early religious buildings in this country. Simple gable roofs and later hipped roofs were often recommended in plan books for rural schools.⁹ Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century rural school design reflected the ideas advocated by school reformers. Early improvements in school design often included the addition of a porch and extra utility rooms. Utility rooms, or cloakrooms, protected the classroom from winter wind and provided a place for children to remove their outerwear. Most commonly, two cloakrooms were found upon entering a one-room school, one for girls and one for

⁹ Andrew Gulliford, *Americas Country Schools* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), p. 172.

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Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

boys. Improvements also included the incorporation of a bell or belfry. Although not necessarily a practical addition, the bell or belfry came to symbolize the one-room school.¹⁰

The school is also an example of regional and purpose built vernacular design. As stated in Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vernacular architecture did not become a serious concern of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division until the early 1980s. Viewed since then as keystones in the state's architectural history, vernacular structures are now broadly classified into general forms, using their exterior massing, roof shape and the number of stories as a guide. Chief among these is the front gable form, constructed in both urban and rural settings from 1840 to 1925.

Applied to houses, commercial buildings, and public structures of various types, the front gable form is characterized by a rectangular plan and a gabled roof where the principal elevation is the gable end of the building. Typically symmetrical with a central entrance, the front gable is distinguished by a lack of key architectural details or major decorative features.

The Center Valley Grade School, with its character defining gable end and central entrance, is a textbook example of the form as applied to a one room school house. The plain and functional elevations are enriched only by the simplest of Greek Revival elements, including the flat cornice label stop over the front entrance, corner pilasters and architraves, and pedimented cornice label stops over the north windows. Scalloped louvers in the belfry openings also have a look similar to decorative fish scale shingles.

Comparable examples of the front gable vernacular form as applied to schoolhouses or other public buildings are not known to exist in the township. The 1977 survey identified only a stone front gabled outbuilding to the north on Hamble Road, the clapboard schoolhouse no longer extant on County Highway S, and the much altered St. John Lutheran Church on Highway 47 just north of Mackville. In fact, the only other vernacular form structure included in the 1977 survey is a gabled ell house on Rock Road.

In spite of losses of integrity caused by its conversion to a storage shed, the Center Valley Grade School retains a majority of its character defining features, including most or part of its original clapboarding, trim and roofing on the outside, as well as interior flooring, woodwork, tongue-and-groove wainscoting and the particularly fragile fiberboard. In restoring the building, damaged or missing items such as some door frames, double-hung window sash and exterior clapboard, were

¹⁰ Wayne E. Fuller, One-Room Schools of the Middle West (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1994), pp. 19, 21, 40.

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Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

scrupulously copied by regional craftsmen only as needed and in the same manner as original, to such exacting standards that it is in some cases nearly impossible to distinguish between original and replacement materials.

SUMMARY

Set back on a rural road and surrounded by acres of corn and other grains, a viewing the Center Valley Grade School is to be transported to the early twentieth century. To step inside its door is to experience the educational component of Wisconsin's agricultural economy at that time. As the sole surviving public school in the Town of Center, and as an outstanding example of the vernacular front gable form one room school property type, the Center Valley Grade School is an historical and architectural resource of local significance. It is eligible to state and national registers under Criterion A for its association with the history of public education in the Town of Center, and under Criterion C as a particularly fine example of a one room schoolhouse.

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Section 9 Page 1

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

_____. 1954 Outagamie County, Wisconsin. St. Paul, Minn.: Cook's Farm Directory, Inc., 1954.

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Nesbit, Robert C. The History of Wisconsin, Vol. III. Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1985.

Ryan, Thomas H., ed. The History of Outagamie County, Wisconsin. Chicago, Illinois: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911.

Thompson, William. The History of Wisconsin, Vol. V. Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Warzolla Publishing Co., 1988.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Madison, Wisc.: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1986.

OTHER SOURCES

Freedom Pursuit (Freedom, Wisconsin), Aug. 16, 2007, page 9.

Appleton Post Crescent, undated 2007 article, Center Valley Grade School collection.

Appleton Post Crescent, undated 1982 article, Center Valley Grade School collection

Restoration Project Papers, Center Valley Grade School collection, 1982-2008.

Treasurer's Book, School District No. 6, Town of Center, Center Valley Grade School collection, 1868-1958.

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Section 10 Page 1

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is described as follows and is illustrated on the attached survey map: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section 6 Town 22 North proceed north 33 feet and west 33 feet to the intersection of the right of way lines of Center Valley Road and Hample Road. Then proceed 267 feet along the west right of way line of Hample Road; then west 157.32 feet; then south 91.2 feet; then east 66.16 feet, then south again 1765.75 feet, and then finally 95.48 feet east along the north right of way line of Center Valley Road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the building and related grounds that are historically associated with the Center Valley Grade School and excludes that portion containing the roadway.

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Section photos Page 1

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin
Photographer: Peter Adams, September 2009
Negatives on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Photograph 1 of 10:
View from the south of south elevation.

Photograph 2 of 10:
View from southwest of west and south elevations.

Photograph 3 of 10:
View from the northeast of east and north elevations.

Photograph 4 of 10
Interior, looking south.

Photograph 5 of 10
Interior, looking southwest

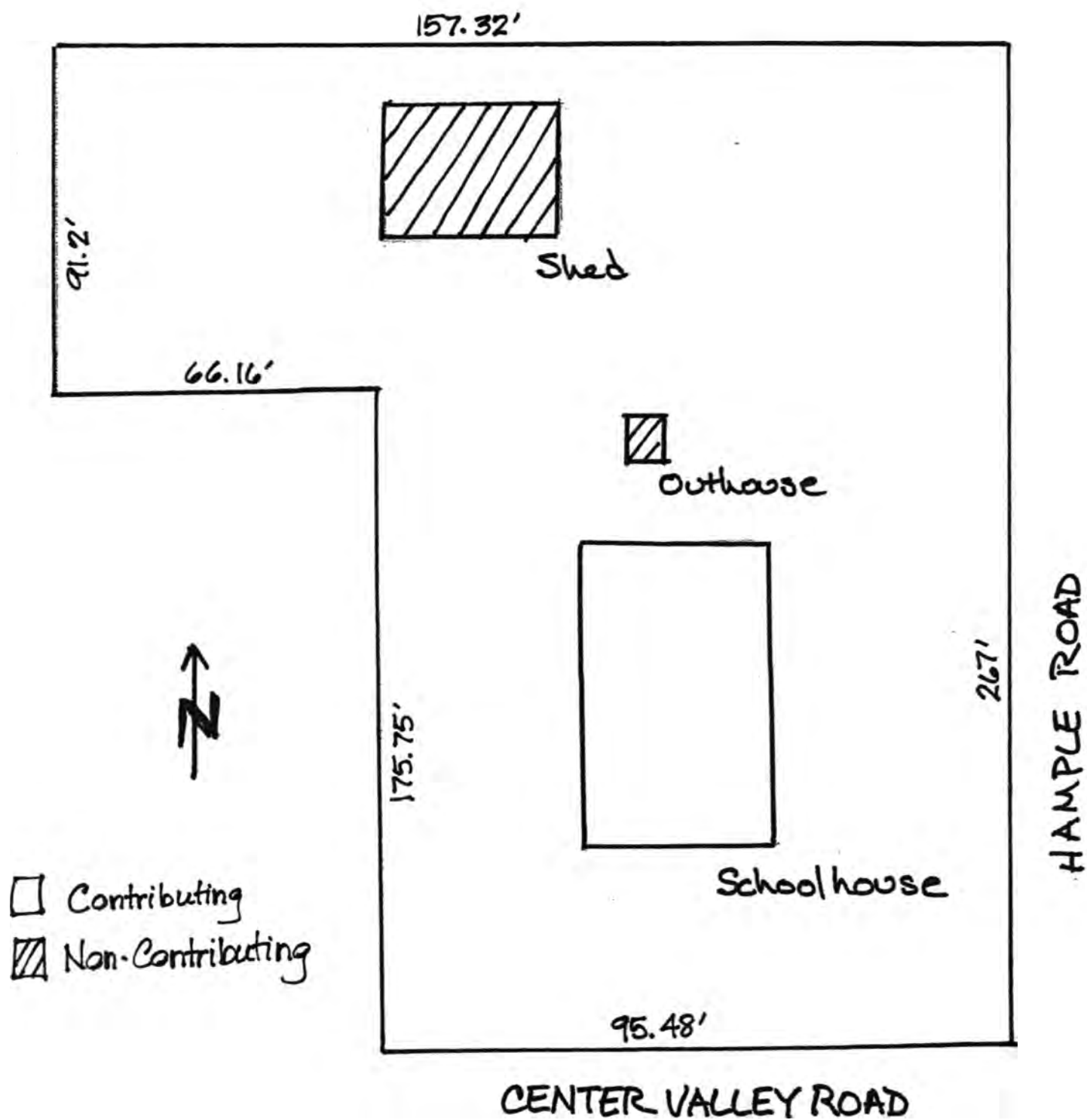
Photograph 6 of 10
Interior, looking northwest

Photograph 7 of 10
Interior, detail of dry sink.

Photograph 8 of 10
View from the southwest of noncontributing privy

Photograph 9 of 10
View from northeast of noncontributing shed.

Photograph 10 of 10
View from southwest of noncontributing shed.



SKETCH #1:
CENTER VALLEY GRADE SCHOOL
TOWN OF CENTER, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN

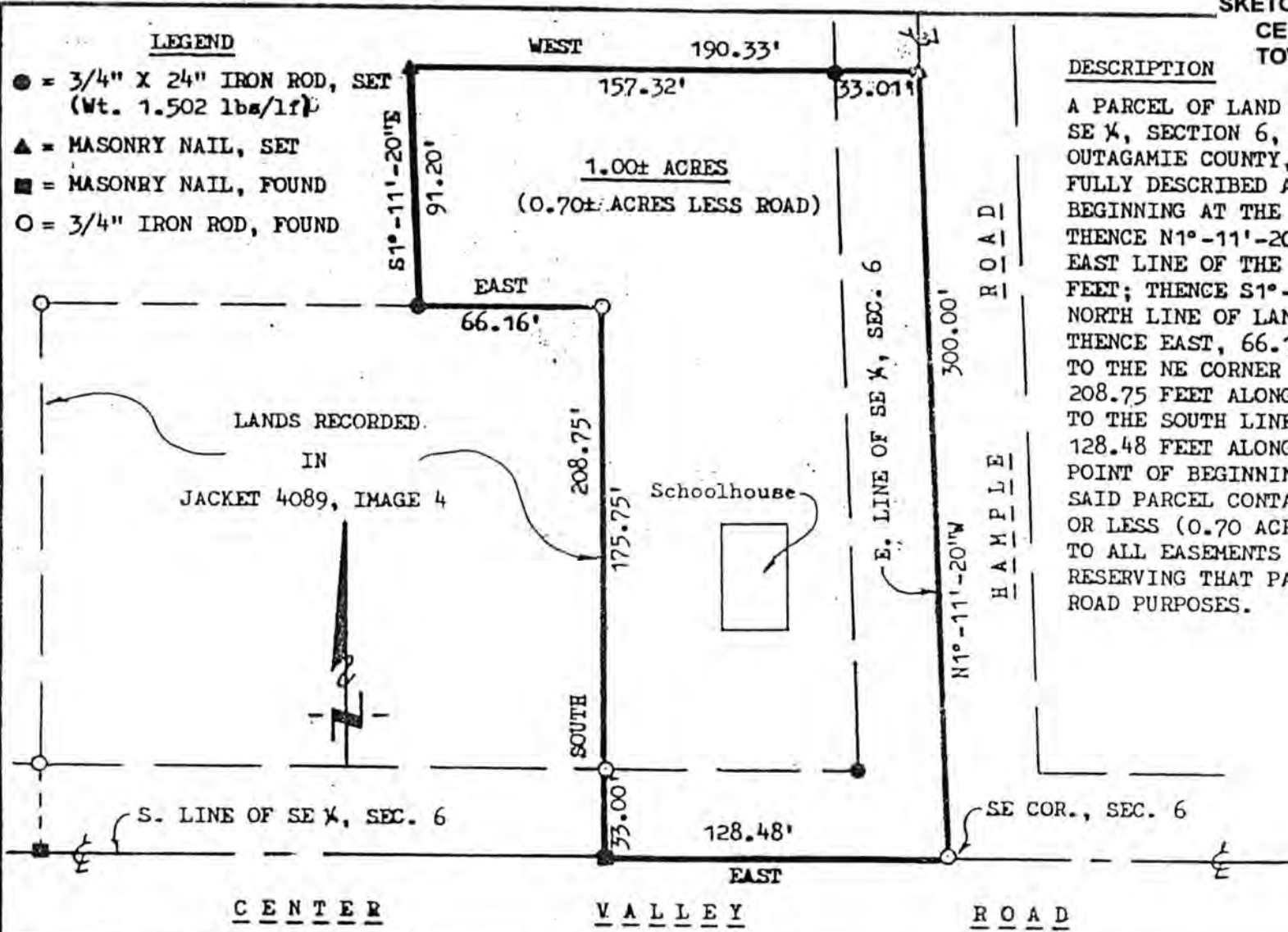
Not to Scale

SKETCH #2:

CENTER VALLEY GRADE SCHOOL
TOWN OF CENTER, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN

LEGEND

- = 3/4" X 24" IRON ROD, SET
(Wt. 1.502 lbs/lft)
- ▲ = MASONRY NAIL, SET
- = MASONRY NAIL, FOUND
- = 3/4" IRON ROD, FOUND



DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4, SECTION 6, T22N, R17E, TOWN OF CENTER, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN WHICH IS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6;
THENCE N1°-11'-20"W, 300.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SE 1/4; THENCE WEST, 190.33 FEET; THENCE S1°-11'-20"E, 91.20 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF LANDS RECORDED IN J 4089 I 4;
THENCE EAST, 66.16 FEET ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE NE CORNER OF SAID LANDS; THENCE SOUTH, 208.75 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LANDS TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SE 1/4; THENCE EAST, 128.48 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 1.00 ACRES OF LAND MORE OR LESS (0.70 ACRES LESS ROAD), AND IS SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, RESERVING THAT PART PRESENTLY BEING USED FOR ROAD PURPOSES.



James A. Hebert R.L.S.
I, JAMES A. HEBERT R.L.S., DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE
PLAT OF SURVEY IS A CORRECT
REPRESENTATION OF THE DESCRIBED
PROPERTY.

A Survey for Bruce Weihing c/o Home Savings & Loan --- Melre Weihing		
SCALE: 1"=60'	APPROVED BY: <i>Jah</i>	DRAWN BY: tmw
DATE: 10-4-83		REVISED:
OUTAGAMIE LAND SURVEYING P.O. Box 1594, 2718 N. Meade St. Appleton, Wisconsin 54913		ph. 734-8373
PART OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4, SEC. 6, T22N, R17E, TOWN OF CENTER, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI.		DRAWING NUMBER 83074A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Center Valley Grade School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Outagamie

DATE RECEIVED: 2/23/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/10/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000162

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 4.8.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



CENTER VALLEY GRADE SCHOOL
DIST. 6 EST. 1887

40228

Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co., WI
1 of 10



Center Valley Grade School -
Town of Center, Outagamie Co., WI
2 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Ontonagon Co., MI
3 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Catawamus Co., WI
4 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co., WI
5 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co, WI
6 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co., WI
7 of 10



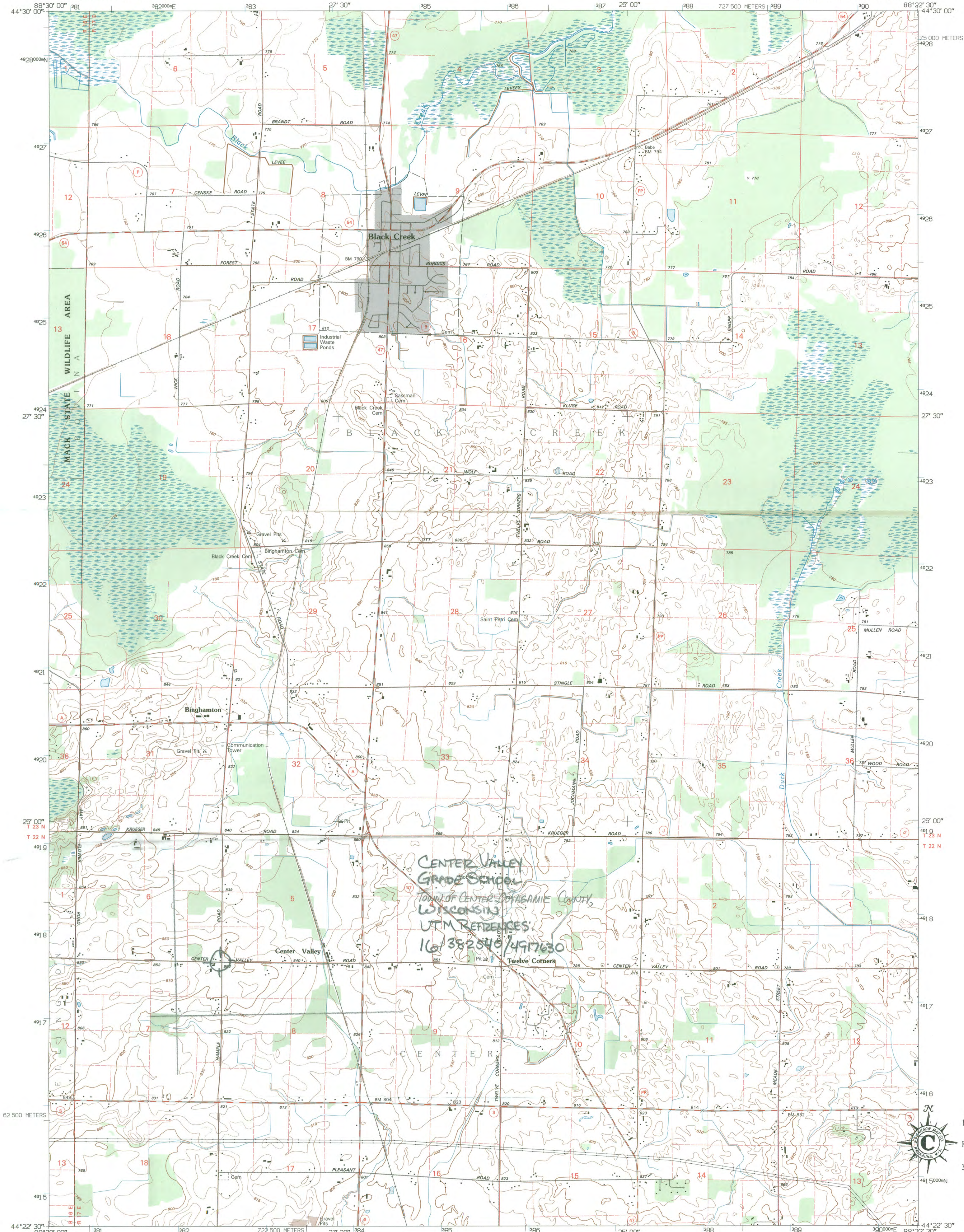
Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co., WI
8 of 10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Outagamie Co. WI
9d10



Center Valley Grade School
Town of Center, Cuyahoga Co., (w)
10 of 10



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Compiled from imagery dated 1973. Revised from imagery dated 1992. PLSS and survey control current as of 1974. Contours and elevations current as of 1973. Map edited 1995.
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16. 2500-meter ticks: Wisconsin Coordinate System of 1983 (central zone).
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

UTM GRID AND 1995 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Leeman
2 Nichols
3 Seymour
4 Shiocton
5 Freedom
6 Greenville
7 Appleton
8 Kaukauna

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway
hard surface
Secondary highway
hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road



CLARKSON MAP CO.
1225 DELANGLADE ST.
PO Box 218
KAUKAUNA, WI 54130
920-766-3000
www.clarksonmap.com

BLACK CREEK, WI
44088-D4-TF-024

1992

DMA 3372 IV NW-SERIES V861



T O W N O F C E N T E R
Outagamie County, WI

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2010

DIV HIST PRES

August 11, 2010

Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Re: Nomination of Center Valley Grade School

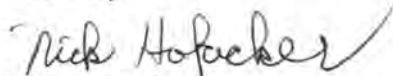
Dear Members of Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board,

I would like to encourage your Board to approve the nomination of the Center Valley Grade School to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

The Town of Center would be honored to have this designation placed upon this educational structure in our community of 3,400 citizens. A number of former classmates of this school had the vision to restore this aging building with their labor and financial support. I believe this restoration project will add to the quality of life for our community and to the State of Wisconsin ...now and into the future.

I thank you in advance of your support of this nomination.

Sincerely,



Nick Hofacker
Town Chairperson

