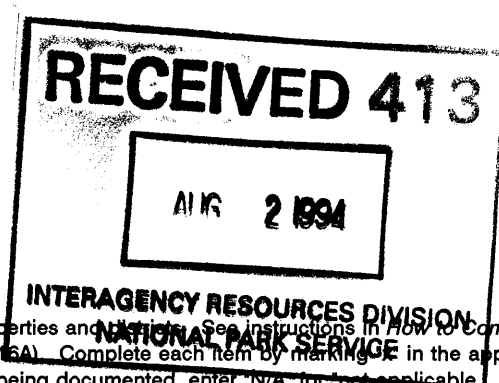


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1068

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 68). Complete each item by marking 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: INGOMAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Other names/site number: INGOMAR HIGH SCHOOL

2. Location

Street & number: SECOND AVENUE not for publication

City or town: INGOMAR vicinity

State: MONTANA Code: MT County: ROSEBUD Code: 087 Zip code: 59039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Maudell Deff MT SHPO 7-25-94
Signature and title of certifying official Date

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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Dr. Guy M. Dapsley 9/2/94
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

INGOMAR PUBLIC SCHOOL
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public - local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</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)

Other: Hip-Roofed Schoolhouse

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD/WEATHERBOARD

roof WOOD/SHINGLE

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913-44

Significant Dates

1913

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Neils Hanson (Melstone, MT), and others

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:

INGOMAR PUBLIC SCHOOL
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 3	3 1 8 3 0 0	5 1 6 0 7 0 0	2	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
3	_ _	_ _	_ _	4	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _

|_ | See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title: Mark Hufstetler, Ken Sievert, Ellen Sievert
Organization: Montana Preservation Alliance Date: January 24, 1994
Street & Number: P.O. Box 1872 Telephone: (406) 585-9551
City or Town: Bozeman State: Montana Zip code: 59771

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: Rosebud County School District #33
Street & Number: _____ Telephone: _____
City or Town: Ingomar State: Montana Zip code: 59039

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.

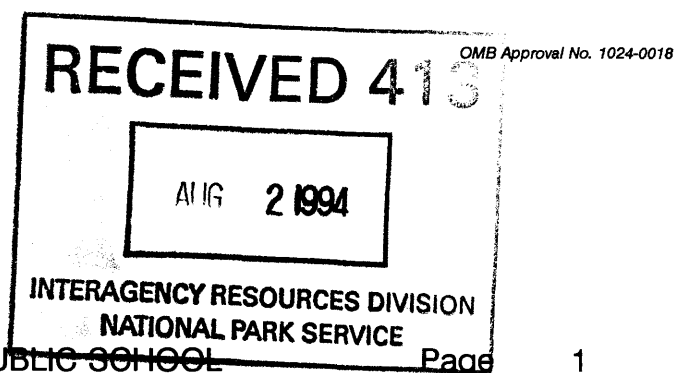
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ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT

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Narrative Description

Constructed to serve the growing numbers of children resulting from Euro-American occupation of the northern Rosebud County prairie, the formal, stately, and elevated Ingomar Public School architecturally reflects the educational goals of the community in its post-frontier years.

The schoolhouse was constructed in two phases: a small original mass in 1913 and a larger 1915 addition. The 1913 school building was a square and symmetrical plan that was elevated above grade and was sheltered by a medium-slope pyramidal roof with flared generous eaves. The main entrance was located on the south (streetside) facade and was announced by a nearly full-width entrance portico/porch and a bell tower projecting upward from the center of the south-facing downslope of the roof.

The 1915 addition abuts the east side of the original school building. The addition continued the design lines, materials, and stylistic features of the original building; the addition's increased size was accommodated by projecting the new addition to the north of the original mass to preserve the simplicity of the primary facade.

The resulting structure is a large hip-roofed building that is L-shaped in plan. The apex of the hip roof on the addition is slightly higher than the remainder of the roof and is visible as a point on the east end of the ridge line; it minimally balances the composition of the bell tower on the western end of the enlarged facility. The bell tower is covered with a steep pyramidal roof that culminates in a short wooden flagpole and finial. The tower walls feature a freize board, corner boards, and narrow lap siding wall surface. The upper part of the tower is open, and historically housed a school bell (the bell has been removed). Two small square crossbuck (union jack) wooden windows are located in the south wall of the tower below the carillons. The roof of the tower and school are surfaced with wood shingles, all fascias are narrow classical mouldings, and the soffits are finished with bead-pattern finish boards. The walls of the school are classically detailed as noted for the tower with freize, corner boards, and narrow lap siding. A water table and drip edge trim the bottom of the wall surface around the base of the siding. Ranks of monumental scale wooden, double-hung windows provide natural light to the classrooms; utility spaces are served by single small rectangular windows in the fenestration of the walls.

The main entrance portico/porch is protected by a low slope hip/shed roof that is detailed and finished to match the roof of the school. A solid railing surfaced with lap siding surrounds the feature and the corners of the porch are supported by narrow sided wall segments that extend around the porch corners. Access to the elevated porch floor is gained by two symmetrically placed concrete steps near each end of the south side of the appurtenance. The intervening wall between the

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steps houses a continuation of the solid railing, and two wooden classical Doric columns spring from each end of the railing to assist in supporting the porch roof above.

A subservient side entrance is located near the south corner of the addition's east wall, provided student access to that end of the facility. Served by a single set of steps and approximately half as wide as the main entry, the side entry roof, materials, and details exactly replicate the main entry.

The school includes a partial concrete basement (beneath the 1915 portion of the building). A brick chimney from the mechanical room penetrates the roof on the back side of the school, and a large circular ventilator can be seen on the ridge of the east end of the building.

The formal appearance, size, and carefully-crafted detailing of the school continue into the interior spaces. Classrooms are spacious, well lighted, and are finished with hardwood floors, wood wainscot walls, and pressed tin ceilings. Numerous relites are in place around the commercial classrooms and administration areas. The interior configuration and materials appear to be fully historic.

As in many small Montana towns, a full block of the Ingomar townsite was reserved for school purposes, and the current school building sits near the center of that block. An historic brick school building and a student dormitory also once occupied the block, but both were razed in the early 1990s; ground disturbance and depressions indicate the former sites of these buildings. The west end of the block contains a large steel-framed gymnasium building constructed in 1965. Other than concrete sidewalks, the schoolhouse block is not landscaped.

Integrity Statement

The Ingomar Public School and the 1915 addition to the school exhibits a remarkably high degree of architectural integrity; the physical appearance of the school reflects its educational use, architectural style, and prairie setting associated with the structure during the historic time period. It survives to remind us of the state of the art of modest school design practice on the prairie circa 1910-1920.

The schoolhouse retains an exceptionally high level of integrity, both exterior and interior. The historic form and massing fully survives, as does the historic exterior cladding and roofing. The original fenestration pattern fully survives, as well, and nearly all doors and windows appear to be historic. The interior configuration dates from the historic period, as do virtually all visible materials and finishes. Visible non-historic changes are generally minor, such as removal of the original school bell. The overall site has been impacted by the

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loss of historic fencing and landscaping, and by the removal of other historic school buildings which once stood nearby, but in general this is one of the best-preserved historic school buildings in eastern Montana.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Ingomar Public School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The building is historically significant as a well-preserved, representative example of the dozens of pioneer schoolhouses constructed in eastern Montana during the first three decades of the twentieth century. School facilities, such as those erected at Ingomar, typically were among the first vestiges of "community" culture to be established in a newly-settled region. This reflected the relative importance placed on education by the region's pioneer inhabitants; simultaneously, the early presence of a school building commonly made the facility a focal point for other civic and community activities. The Ingomar school building and its contemporaries thus functioned as centers for a wide variety of public activities. More than any other building in the historic Ingomar townsite, the town's school facilities represented the social, civic, and educational activities and goals of the Ingomar community.

The building is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of small-town school design in eastern Montana. The building's size, configuration, and type and level of architectural detailing are all typical of the building form, and the school exists in 1993 with virtually no non-historic structural alterations, exterior or interior. The building's bell tower, continuous banks of double-hung windows, and large entry porch all provide clear visual indications of the structure's historic purpose, while the building's relative size and use of simple Classical detail elements give it a visual distinction exceeding that of most of the area's rural schools. The school is one of the few surviving examples of public architecture remaining in northern Rosebud County, and is a fine illustration of the form. Additionally, the building is a landmark structure in the small townsite of Ingomar.

Historical Narrative

The first substantial Euro-American settlement in the Ingomar region took place in the years following the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway (the "Milwaukee Road") through eastern Montana in 1907 and 1908. The completion of the Milwaukee Road made vast tracts of formerly-isolated Montana land accessible to homesteaders, and thus helped encourage Montana's statewide "homestead boom" of the 1900s and 1910s. In Rosebud County and elsewhere, the Milwaukee encouraged new settlement during the 1910s with an advertising campaign aimed at new homesteaders, and by platting and marketing townsites along its line. Ingomar was one such railroad town, platted in 1912 and already the site of a small but permanent community by that year. The town served as a center of commercial and civic activity for hundreds of farmers and ranchers who homesteaded the arid, treeless plains of northwestern Rosebud County.¹

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The year 1912 also saw the opening of Ingomar's first public school, with a single teacher conducting a four-month term in a borrowed building. The town was growing rapidly, however, and by the following year it was evident that Ingomar needed a permanent school building. The town's first school--the western portion of the current building--was constructed during the fall of 1913, and hosted its first classes that November. Fourteen students attended classes in the one-room building that first winter.²

Few details concerning the construction of Ingomar's 1913 schoolhouse are known to survive; neither school district records nor contemporary newspaper accounts are known to exist. Many one-room schoolhouses constructed in Montana during the 1910s, however, were built from standard plans provided by outside agencies, primarily the Montana State Departments of Health and Public Instruction. A book of rural school building plans published by Montana State College (now Montana State University) in 1919 includes a design (identified as "Plan C3") very similar in appearance and configuration to the 1913 Ingomar school. This suggests that state-provided plans may have played a role in the design of the Ingomar building.³

Settlement in Ingomar and the surrounding countryside was rapid during the mid-1910s, and the community quickly outgrew its new one-room schoolhouse. On July 8, 1915 the *Ingomar Index* reported that plans for an addition to the Ingomar schoolhouse were "now being prepared."⁴ These plans called for a 40 x 60 foot addition to the 1913 school, abutting its east wall. The Ingomar School District contracted with Neils Hanson to build the addition, and his crew began work in mid-August, 1915. Hanson, a building contractor from nearby Melstone, completed several construction projects in Ingomar during the 1910s.⁵ Hanson subcontracted the building's basement excavation work to J.A. McLean of Ingomar.⁶

Work on the addition progressed throughout the fall of 1915, as reported in the *Ingomar Index*. Framing on the building was complete by mid-September, and exterior shingling was underway the following month. The addition's completion, originally planned for October 1, 1915, was delayed by wet fall weather, but the finished building was accepted by the school district in early November. Students occupied the building soon after, moving from overflow classroom space in the Ingomar community hall.⁷

A dedication ceremony for the finished school was held on November 24, 1915, highlighted by a speech from the visiting State Inspector of Schools. The completed building was described by the *Ingomar Index* as follows:

This building was commenced two years ago and the main building built. This year the addition of two additional rooms was made, and a full basement under the new part completed. This gives the district one of the very best rural school buildings in the state, at a cost of around \$9000. A complete steam heating and a ventilation plant has been

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installed. At the dedication of the new building about 150 patrons and friends of the school gathered and listened to a very acceptable program gotten up by the teachers and scholars of the school. The program showed considerable ability on the part of the pupils and much painstaking effort on the part of the teachers.⁸

The completed building served an elementary student population of 37, including 17 boys and 20 girls.⁹

The population of the Ingomar area continued to grow until the late 1910s. After World War I, however, the area's unsuitability for intensive agriculture became apparent and the region entered an era of gradual, constant decline which continues today. Nevertheless, the 1920s and 1930s saw continued expansion of both Ingomar's school facilities and the curriculum offered by the district. The student population of Ingomar's elementary school continued to increase for a time, due in part to the closure of most of the area's rural schools, and in 1923 the Ingomar School District established a high school in the town. A new brick elementary school building was constructed just west of the 1913/15 building in 1922; this allowed the earlier building to be converted into the town's high school, and its interior was remodeled slightly to fit this new use. A dormitory building for high school students was added to the complex in 1931; that year, 30 students attended high school classes in the 1913/15 building.¹⁰

By the post-World War II years, Ingomar's continuing population decline had begun to severely impact the town's school system. Ingomar High School closed its doors in 1951, and the district began bussing its students to nearby Sumatra. Ingomar's high school reopened after the Sumatra School burned in 1964, and a corrugated steel gymnasium building was constructed for the revived school in 1965; continued enrollment declines, however, saw the high school close for good four years later. Ingomar's three historic school buildings were permanently vacated in 1987 when the single remaining elementary class moved to remodeled quarters in the 1965 gymnasium. The Ingomar district's elementary school finally stopped operating in 1992, ending nearly eight decades of educational activity at the site. Both the 1922 brick school and the 1931 dormitory were razed by the district in the early 1990s, leaving only the original clapboard schoolhouse to represent the history of public education in Ingomar.¹¹

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ENDNOTES

1. For a capsule history of Ingomar and its neighboring communities, see Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way"* ([Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976]), iv-vii.
2. "The Ingomar School," brochure prepared by the Sage Hens Extension Homemakers Club of Ingomar [c.1992].
3. W.R. Plew, *One and Two Room Rural School Buildings*. (Bozeman, Montana: Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 1919), 34, 38-9.
4. *Ingomar Index*, July 8, 1915.
5. *Ingomar Index*, August 19, 1915. The contractor's last name is also spelled "Hansen" in some newspaper accounts.
6. Ibid.
7. *Ingomar Index*, August 19, 1915; September 23, 1915; September 30, 1915; October 7, 1915; November 4, 1915.
8. *Ingomar Index*, December 2, 1915.
9. *Ingomar Index*, October 28, 1915.
10. "The Ingomar School;" *Montana Educational Directory, 1931-1932* (Helena: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1931), 47.
11. "The Ingomar School."

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Bibliography:

The Ingomar Index [newspaper], July 8, 1915; August 19, 1915; September 23, 1915; September 30, 1915; October 7, 1915; October 28, 1915; November 4, 1915; December 2, 1915.

"The Ingomar School," brochure prepared by the Sage Hens Extension Homemakers Club of Ingomar [c.1992].

Montana Educational Directory, 1931-1932. Helena: State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1931.

Plew, W.R. *One and Two Room Rural School Buildings.* Bozeman, Montana: Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 1919.

Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way."* [Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976].

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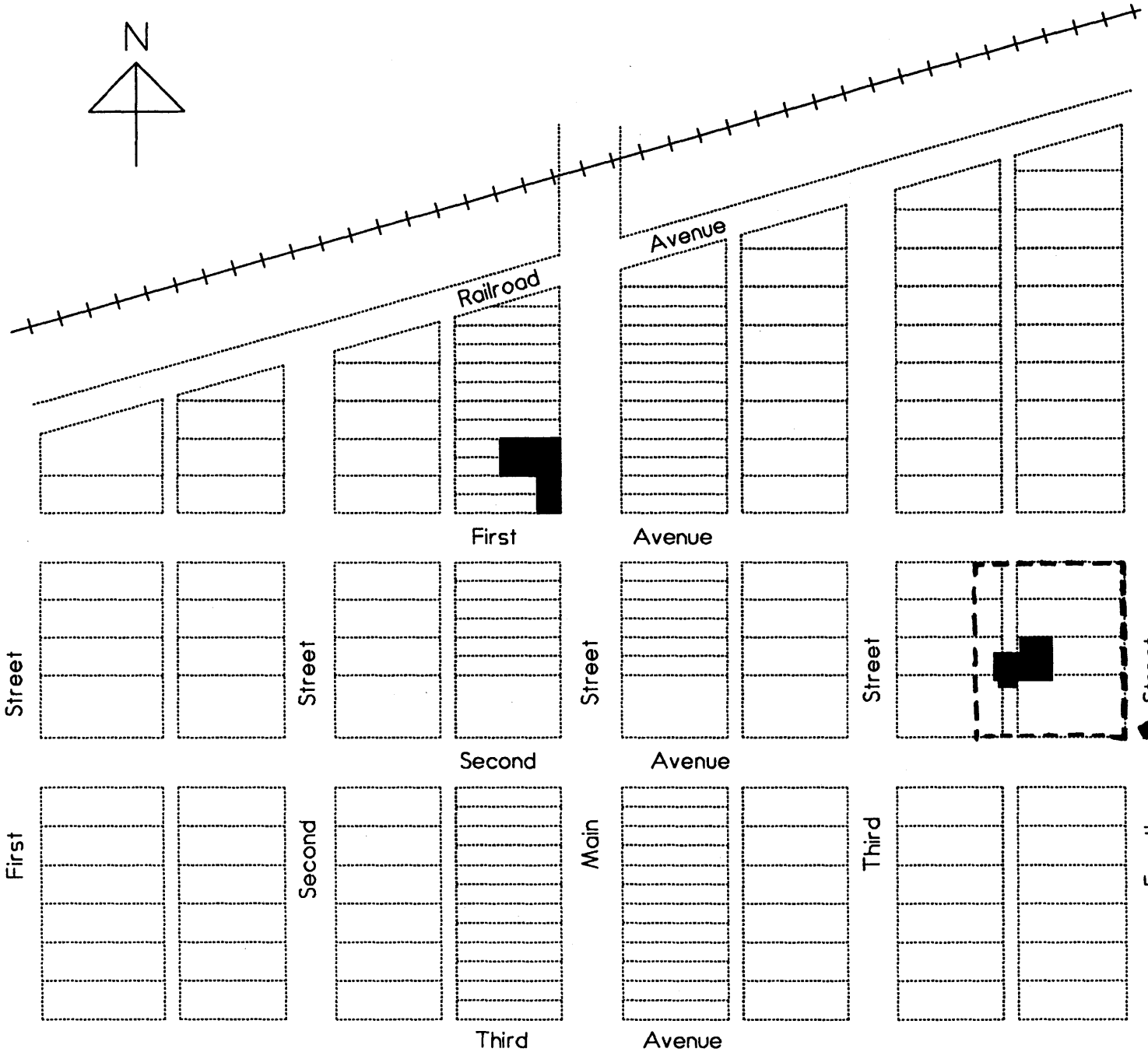
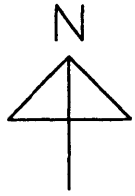
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Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property includes the easterly 20' of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, all of Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8, and the vacated north-south alley, all in Block 5, Original Town of Ingomar, Montana. The property is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, T 10 N, R 35 E, in Zone 13.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the school building, as well as the unoccupied portion of the historic school lot. It excludes the modern gymnasium building standing on the far west end of the school block.



Property boundary -
INGOMAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ingomar, Montana

(not all buildings are shown)