

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received DEC 6 1984
date entered JAN 3 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Central School

and or common

2. Location

street & number 201 South Center not for publication

city, town Lake City vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Calhoun code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center

4. Owner of Property

name Central School Preservation Inc.

street & number R.R.#2, Box 35

city, town Lake City vicinity of state Iowa 51449

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Calhoun County Courthouse

city, town Rockwell City state Iowa 50579

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Central School (1884,1897) is a good example of a combination of Gothic and Italianate lines, with vague overtones of the Second Empire style. Its early large rear addition was executed in an identical manner, evidencing a sensitivity to the original design on the part of the architect or the community. The brick frieze band, beneath the cornice is quite unusual, especially in its front and side stair tower execution where it follows a gambrel roof configuration.

The rectangular plan (50' by 84.5') has a projecting (17' by 2') side stairwell tower along its north wall. The two story brick building has a very shallow centered front entrance pavilion and front open belfry base. The roof is a combination of hip and flat roof, with a broad roof deck. The red brick is set in American bond (7/1). The rusticated limestone foundation is of coursed ashlar stone.

The main facade is symmetrically arranged around the central entrance pavilion. Stairs lead to a double door with transom and gabled canopy. Five identical window sets on the front have stone skewbacks, dripmolds and keystones with triangular brick arches. Stone sills link the windows of each pair. A gambrel shaped eavesline frames the pavilion top and links on either side with the main roof eavesline. A mansard tower or belfry base rises to a flat deck on which the belfry once stood. A four sided short spire topped the belfry. An inlaid nameplate above the second floor level proclaims "PUBLIC. SCHOOL" and is apparently a cast plate with raised letters and border. The frieze is of two parts. A brick (painted) lower frieze follows the gambrel eaves line and features a series of soldier brick panels, the bricks being set at 45 degrees to the wall mass. The frame frieze above also parallels the eaves line and supports alternating decorative raised circles and single and paired brackets. Lower front windows are bricked in. The brick matches the 1884 brick in color and bonding. The presence of corner stairs behind these and the front windows on either side wall hint that this was original to the plan, and is not an alteration.

The north wall stair tower or pavilion straddles the 1884 and 1897 buildings, leaving four bays to the east, and two to the west. The pavilion face matches that on the main tower front. An identical gambrel cap tops the front.

The fenestration of the west or rear wall is symmetrically arranged, a broad plain central wall mass originally contained an in-wall flue. The south wall clearly shows the junction of the two buildings. The 1897 addition was executed in slightly pinker brick with less distinct joints. In lieu of a stair tower on this face, two doors are vertically arranged in the fifth bay from the front. A fire escape serves the second floor. Basement windows on all sides are vertically aligned with windows or doors above. A cellar entrance is centered on the south wall.

The present building has four rooms with an antechamber per level including the basement. Two corner stairs lead to the upper floors. An office occupies the second floor towerfront. The sidestairs are original and have a fine wide bannister. Ceilings of pressed metal survive in three classrooms and the office, and are covered with accoustical ceilings in the other rooms. The original woodwork, beige-vanilla in color, is intact.

Alterations: The original 1884 building gained its rear addition and sidetower in 1897. By 1905 the building with wood shingle roof had two single story frame outbuildings,

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one to the south and one to the west. By 1919 these were gone and no additional buildings were built on the square. The building had steam heat and 'no lights' according to the Sanborn Fire Map and the roof was of metal. By 1931 electric lights were in place. Ceiling heights were 12 feet on each floor. In 1939 the building was somewhat remodeled by a WPA project. Frank Griffith, Fort Dodge architect and builder, planned and did the work. Interior stairs, originally circular, were replaced from basement to second floor with concrete straight stairs. The heating system was replaced. The belfry and spire were removed before 1940 due to deterioration, perhaps at this time. Other changes, apparent in the present structure, but lacking identifiable dates of alteration, include the front canopy and exterior stairs. An undated early photo indicates that side in wall chimneys have been removed. A rear flue also was once extant. The building was quite deteriorated following its closing in 1980 and much has been done to it since 1983 when the present owner, Central School Preservation, took charge. Exterior work included painting all exterior trim, new eaves spouts, window repair, playground rehabilitation and some landscaping. Interior work included total repainting, first floor carpeting, bathrooms on the first floor, boiler repair, and light fixtures.

The school square stands at the southern terminus of the Central Street business district. One local church fronts on the square. The building is centered on the square.

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Central School, 1884. Image shows original canopy, belfry and side chimneys. Front stairway windows have already been filled in.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
XXX 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1884, 1897 **Builder/Architect** Foster & Liebee, original building.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Central School (1884,1897) is a good example of a combination of Gothic and Italianate lines, with vague overtones of the Second Empire style. Its early large rear addition was executed in an identical manner, evidencing a sensitivity to the original design on the part of the architect or the community. The brick frieze band, beneath the cornice is quite unusual, especially in its front and side stair tower execution where it follows a gambrel roof configuration.

The school board made a determination to build a new building on 26 January 1884, and a bond issue for the building was passed the following February. The school board had sent for a copy of Everett's School Architecture in early April 1884. The architects' plan presumably was based on an example chosen from that work by the school board. Foster and Liebee, Des Moines architects, designed the original school and it was constructed in 1884 using locally produced red brick. The architects were paid a commission of two percent of the construction cost for their design. Robert Harrison was the contractor-builder. Total cost was \$7,175.00. Land for the school was acquired in late 1882. The original building allowed for four classrooms, two per floor. In previous years a church and a frame school had housed classes. The nameplate "PUBLIC. SCHOOL" and the local name, "Central School" indicate that this was the first substantial brick school house. A 1915 local history termed it "...the first modern school building to be erected in the city" (B. E. Stonebraker, Past And Present of Calhoun County Iowa, (Chicago; The Pioneer Publishing Company, 1915, p. 227). Rapid local growth soon strained the small facility which housed both grade and high school classes.

A frame kindergarten building was constructed in 1895 and on 12 November 1896 the school board determined to add additional school rooms to the existing building. The bond issue on 14 December passed. On 17 April 1897 the school district purchased Dr. Mcvays lot which adjoined the original Central School. Construction took place during the summer of 1897 while another grade school, 4th Ward or "Klondike School" was also being built. In late September classes were reapportioned between the two schools. A new high school in 1904 took pressure off of Central's school population. In 1922 both the high school and Klondike School burned. In 1980 the school was closed and students were transferred to the newly built Lincoln School.

In June 1983 Central School Preservation Inc. took ownership of the school and began to restore the building for use as a cultural-heritage center. Room usage plans include an alumni hospitality room, a restored class room, a media center, a historical center, and an art gallery. The building currently also houses a pre school. The group received a \$15,000 Iowa Jobs Commission grant from the Office of Planning and Programming in 1983 to help with their work. The group hopes to restore the belfry and replace the original bell. Aluminum windows (2/2 lights) will possibly also be replaced.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lake City

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

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3	5	6	9	9	0
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4	6	8	0	5	5	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The entirety of Block 23 (Lots 1-8), original town of Lake City, bounded by W. Monroe, S. Michigan, W. Jefferson, and S. Central Streets. Includes only the school building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 15 November 1984

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John D. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 11/19/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allores Byers Entered in the National Register date 1/3/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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