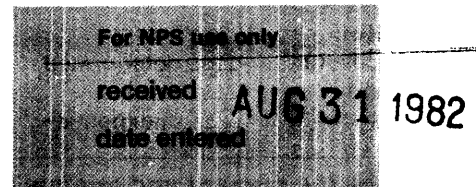


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic South Ward School
and/or common South Ward School

2. Location

street & number 500 ~~South Elm Street~~ not for publication
city, town Cresco vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ 3
state Iowa code 19 county Howard County code 089

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lois Stevens Amundson
street & number Route 3
city, town Lime Springs vicinity of Iowa state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Recorder's Office
street & number Howard County Courthouse
city, town Cresco state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date N.A. federal state county local
depository for survey records N.A.
city, town N.A. 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

Once relatively common, school buildings of the size and form of South Ward School are increasingly falling prey to diminished school enrollment, fire code problems, and shifting demographic patterns. South Ward School is a good example of late Victorian school design with its display of Romanesque influences common to institutional and public facilities.

Locally quarried stone outlines the rectangular windows as well as unifying the composition through string courses on the first and second levels. A foundation of rough hewn stone sturdily anchors the structure to the ground. Especially pleasing are the brick arcades united by a projecting brick string course. Sets of five windows on the sides illuminate the classrooms on both stories. Modillions along the cornice offer an additional horizontal element along with the string courses. The effect is stalwart and solemn. The entrance pavilion features a wide Romanesque brick archway with stone keystone. Above it is a corbelled cornice to accent the entry.

Above the brick portion of the entrance pavilion is an enclosed clapboard bell tower with brackets or modillions similar to those along the cornice. Originally the school had a more elaborate bell tower of a flaired mansard shape and an open belfry above it. The original was thus higher and more imposing than this later change. The other modification is new steps and side walls, and the front door is probably not original.

South Ward School was built in 1896, according to contemporary newspaper accounts. It sits on an ample one-acre corner lot dotted with large oaks. Except for a park across the street, the area is residential. Most houses are wood frame and somewhat newer than the school, which therefore stands out quite handsomely in contrast.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1896-present **Builder/Architect** *** James Byrne

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The primary significance of the school appears to be architectural. A survey of schools in the state may show that the school is among the best representatives of school building design for the period.

South Ward School was a grade school from 1897 to 1978 with a four-year hiatus due to low enrollment from 1949-1953.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuance sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Cresco Southeast

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

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| 1 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

B

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 10, Irregular Survey NW 1/4, Section 26-99-11, Howard County, Iowa

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 Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Office of Historic Preservation

date August 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue

telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines

state Iowa

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



title Director, Iowa State Historical Department

date August 25, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date

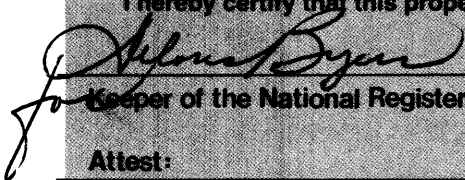
11/10/82

Keeper of the National Register

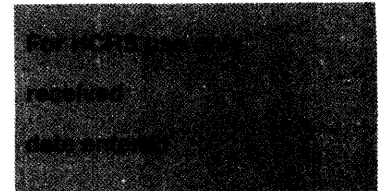
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9.

Page 1.

Cresco Twice-A-Week Plain Dealer, 6 March 1896

Cresco Times Plain Dealer, 17 May 1978