## **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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Signature of commenting official:	Date
In my opinion, the property meets does	s not meet the National Register criteria.
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	vernment
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Conn	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Barbara Power DSHPO for Inven	tory & Registration January 28, 2019
<u>X</u> A <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u>	
level(s) of significance: nationalstatewideX_le Applicable National Register Criteria:	ocal
In my opinion, the property X meets does not recommend that this property be considered significant a	
I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for the procedural and professional requirements set for the meets the procedural and professional requirements set for the procedural and professional requirements are procedural and professional requiremen</u>	National Register of Historic Places and
As the designated authority under the National Historic	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
City or town: Urbana State: Ohio Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a	County: Champaign
Street & number:626 North Russell Street	- Constru Champion
2. Location	operty risting
N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple pro	operty listing
rume of related mattiple property using.	
Other names/site number:	

North Ward District School

County and State Name of Property 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain:) Signature of the Keeper 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) Private: Public - Local Public - State Public - Federal **Category of Property** (Check only one box.) Building(s) District Site Structure Object

Champaign, Ohio

orth Ward District School me of Property		Champaign, Ohio County and State
Number of Resources within F	Property	
(Do not include previously listed		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction EDUCATION: School	ons.)	
<b>Current Functions</b>		
(Enter categories from instruction	ons.)	
VACANT/not in use		
<del></del>		

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7. Description		
Architectural Classification		
(Enter categories from instructions.)		
LATE VICTORIAN: Second Renaissance Revival		

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: BRICK Walls: CONRETE

MODERN MOVEMENT

Foundation: STONE: Limestone

Roof: METAL: Steel

OTHER: Aluminum Windows and Doors

## **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

## **Summary Paragraph**

Constructed in 1901, the North Ward District School is a two and half story brick and limestone building with a rectangular floor plan and hipped roof. The school exhibits elements of the Second Renaissance Revival style. A foundation of rusticated limestone comprises the foundation of the 1901 building, which also has a large central limestone arch with Ionic capital pilasters, and fan light window in what was the original front entrance of the building; this entrance has since been sealed off. The interior of the 1901 school still retains hardwood floors, ornate wainscoting, wood doors, cloak closets, cabinets, and original chalkboards. A one-story addition with an irregular floor plan and flat roof extends from the school's 1901 north entrance point, and was added to the original portion of the building in 1952. The 1952 addition was expanded again in 1954. This newer portion of the building has brick and concrete block walls and falls under the broad style category of Modern Movements. The exterior windows and doors for this portion of the school are also now aluminum framed replacements. The 1950s section of the building's interior still retains blonde woodwork, original lockers, and a gymnasium/auditorium space

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from that time period. Two individual modular classrooms from the 1990s are situated southwest of the rear elevation of the 1901 building, and they are non-contributing. Overall, the property is in good condition and still retains a great deal of its integrity from the two time periods of the building's construction. Located in a residential area north of Urbana's downtown, the property retains a great deal of its historic physical presence, and conveys its obvious association and use as an institutional and educational facility.

#### **Narrative Description**

#### **Setting**

The North Ward District School is located on the southwest corner of the North Russell and Pindar Streets. In a residential area of northern Urbana, it is surrounded by modest vernacular working class homes dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The school has a deep setback and presents a commanding appearance and relationship to its surrounding residential and industrial neighbors. The lot is flat and populated by a variety of mature tree and shrub varieties. The western edge of the property is buffered by a mounded historic rail line that serves for freight purposes today. The southern edge of the property is bordered by a small light manufacturing complex dating from around 1945.

## 1901 Building Exterior:

The North Ward District School, in Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio is two and a half stories, constructed of brick and limestone, and laid out in an irregular plan consisting of 9 bays. (Photo 1) The roof is hipped with deep and wide eave overhangs and metal replacing an asphalt shingle roof sometime in the past 20 years. A single hipped dormer in the roofline is located above the original entrance to the school, which faces Russell Street. It once contained five small windows, but they have been covered by the metal roofing material. Ashlar limestone lintels and sills are present among the various sizes of original window openings; including triple arched windows on the front façade and on the north and south elevations, which correspond with the interior stairwells. All the exterior windows and doors have been replaced at least 25 years ago, but the original size openings are still present. Overall, the structure embodies the Second Renaissance Revival, including rounded arch windows and entrance, classically detailed pilasters, symmetrical façade, and low-pitched or flat roof indicative of the style.

The original 1901 school sits upon a rusticated limestone foundation with ashlar belt course. The east/front façade of the 1901 portion of the building is symmetrical with the placement of the windows and the location of the original entrance. The façade contains cut away corners that emphasize the height of the building, and a set of triple arched window openings with brick and ashlar sills and lintels is located above the archway. The window openings on the front elevation also contain limestone ashlar sills and lintels. (Photo 2) A limestone rounded arch entrance is centrally located on the east façade with Ionic embedded pilasters and header with the words "North District School" present. An arched fanlight transom remains despite this entrance no longer being in current service to the building. The fanlight was moved forward in the opening (date unknown) and replaced with an aluminum version. (Photos 3, 4)

The south and north elevations of the 1901 section are identical and symmetrical with each containing a bricked arched entrance, large windows with ashlar limestone sills and lintels, and the repeating triple smaller arched windows as seen on the front façade. (Photo 5) The north elevation entrance now serves as

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the connection point to the 1952 addition and the main entrance to the building, after the 1901 entrance was sealed off and converted to a classroom. (**Photo 6**)

The west/rear façade of the 1901 portion of the school is asymmetrical. (**Photos 7, 8**) The pattern of large window openings is repeated with the ashlar limestone sills and lintel, but the southwestern portion of the façade is intentionally void of any openings. Two small shed additions at the foundation level, made of rusticated cinder blocks and metal roofs, have been added with single solid entry doors that appear to be for storage purposes. The cut away corner design present on the front façade is repeated on the northwest corner of the west (rear) façade. A large chimney is present on this façade protruding from the building to the south, but appears to have been capped from the eave line at some point.

## 1952-54 Building Exterior:

A one story, irregular-shaped addition to the 1901 school was constructed in two phases beginning in 1952 to the north, and expanded in 1954 to the west. This section of the building is connected to the stairwell entrance point located on the north side of the 1901 building and became the new main entrance for the building at that time. This portion of the building is comprised of brick and cement block construction with a main corridor, office, classrooms, library, and auditorium/cafeteria/gymnasium area. This section of the building has a flat roof with shallow eaves. The east elevation contains banks of large metal windows with continuous, ashlar, and limestone sills. (Photo 9)

The northern elevation of the 1952-54 additions contains bands of aluminum windows spaced along the symmetrical façade with ashlar lintels. (Photos 10, 11, 12) The west elevation is exposed concrete block and only contains a set of double metal doors located centrally on the elevation. (Photo 13) The south facade of the 1952-54 exterior was not finished in brick either, but left exposed as concrete block material. Two bands of aluminum windows are present on the south façade of the 1954 portion of the building. (Photo 14) The south façade of the 1952 elevation protrudes slightly further south than the 1954 section in this area. It is also completed entirely in brick. Similar windows are repeated on this façade marking the location of classrooms and the gymnasium/auditorium/cafeteria area. A small rectangular sliding window is also present. (Photos 15, 16)

#### 1901 Building Interior:

Within the original 1901 school building, original wood floors, wood doors, wood trim, cabinets, and cloak closets still exist in the classrooms and hallways. (Photos 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22) Some modifications were made in the late 1980s to accommodate for modern restrooms and office space by sub-dividing a larger classroom on the second and first floors, but the floor plan of large central hallways running north to south, (Photos 23, 24) and large classrooms on either side remain largely unchanged. Ornate incised wainscoting with an elongated geometric pattern is also present throughout in the hallways of both the second and first floors. (Photo 25) The interior of the 1901 portion of the building also retains the original fire proof stairwells to the north and south ends of the building. The treads and risers are made of iron, as are the rounded handrails and newel posts. (Photos 26, 27) The basement level basically repeats the floorplan of the upper levels of the 1901 building, but the entire area is utilized as storage today.

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## 1952-54 Building Interior:

The interior of the 1952 and 1954 portions of the building remain virtually unchanged from the time of their construction with the focal point being the library and the multi-purpose cafeteria, gymnasium, and auditorium area. (Photos 28, 29, 30, 31, 32) Classroom configurations remain the same, and built-in cabinets in those spaces are also maintained. The classrooms still contain exposed concrete block walls. The original chalkboards with blonde woodwork trim remain in the classrooms as well. Original interior hall doors and interior classroom lockers are also present. (Photos 33, 34, 35) Glazed ceramic block tile lines the main corridor and the multi-purposed gym/cafeteria. The original linoleum tile flooring also still exists in the main hallway and common area. (Photo 36)

#### **Non-Contributing Structures:**

Two modular classrooms, dating from the late 1980s and 1990s, are situated on the property to the southwest of the 1954 addition, and directly west of the 1901 portion of the building. They are both non-contributing. (Photos 37, 38)

## **Architects:**

The 1901 portion of the building was designed by Brown, Burton, and Davis of Cincinnati. William Brown had various partners in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Brown and Davis teamed to design churches in upstate New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Kentucky in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Matthew Burton appears in Cincinnati in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and largely worked designing homes of various size and location in the city. Lastly, David Davis studied at the Ohio Mechanics' Institute at M.I.T. His body of work includes several Catholic Church commissions in Ohio and Kentucky and a cross section of other work ranging from commercial, plus other works in New York, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

The architects for the 1950s additions are thought to be Mclaughlin and Keil of Lima, Ohio, who were cited as the architects involved in an ongoing school renovation, construction, and expansion campaign of all Urbana City Schools that took place between 1952 and 1956. They are also known to have designed gymnasium and educational facilities in Miamisburg, Ohio, and Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and elementary schools in Beverly, Ohio and Sylvania, Ohio as part of their portfolio.

#### **Historic Integrity**

The North Ward District School represents the construction and architectural characteristics of two time periods and remains largely intact in its overall design, setting, and materials. The building still exhibits many of its original characteristics that represent two time periods reflective of Urbana's growth and construction and expansion efforts related to its public schools in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of two elementary schools that survive in the city constructed as part of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century push by local leaders to construct new and larger schools that reflected Urbana's prosperity and growing population at the time. The school's historic purpose and association as an institutional place of learning is completely intact. The building's commanding presence and set back adds to its distinctiveness and prestige in its predominantly vernacular residential neighborhood.

Overall, the North Ward District School is one of two last surviving elementary schools constructed in the City of Urbana after 1900 and before 1922 and is distinctive in its own right from its counterpart of the South Ward District School. Urbana placed a new consolidated elementary school into service after the

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end of the 2018 school year, vacating South and North Ward District Schools and marking the end of neighborhood based schools in Urbana, such as the North District Ward School, after over a century of service. The North Ward District School is a rare survivor from Urbana's educational facility construction and expansion efforts to keep pace with its growing population in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and again following World War II as well.

#### 1901 Building Exterior Integrity:

Despite the roofing material being replaced with metal, the original roof type and configuration are visibly evident. Although the roof and exterior windows and doors were replaced over 25 years ago on the 1901 building, the scale, materials, and form of that portion of the building remain in place. Those key features include the rusticated limestone, pilasters, former arched entry, brick corbeling, window and door placements, name stone, and roof structure overall. Despite the sealing of the front entrance and conversion to a classroom sometime in the past 30 years, the original entrance is still present and obvious, and could be re-opened.

#### 1901 Building Interior Integrity:

Drop ceilings have been added to the classrooms and hallways in the 1901 portion of the school. However, the school retains its historic feel and function as it was constructed despite these changes. Wide hallways lined with ornate wooden wainscoting are still present on the first and second floor. Original materials, such as hardwood floors, cloak closets, built-in cabinets, wooden class room doors, remain intact. The floor plan, including large classrooms, is largely intact with the exception of the original entrance area being converted to a classroom and another classroom being transformed for bathrooms. The original circulation pattern, including the cast iron stairwells located to the north and south ends of the 1901 building, also remains in place. Overall, the 1901 section of the building displays the sturdy craftsmanship and detail of the period, and strongly conveys the feel of and visual aspects of the 1901 school as it was largely designed from the era.

## 1952-54 Building Exterior Integrity:

The 1952-54 portion of the school also retains much of its original exterior fabric in form, scale, and materials. Windows in this section of the school have also been replaced at an unknown date, but the current windows were installed in the existing openings and appear to be similar to the originals in size and material and do not detract from the overall integrity of the building. Overall, the low height of the 1950s section of the school makes a clear delineation between it and the 1901 portion of the building. The exterior of the 1952-54 section is in excellent condition and has been modified little since its construction. Its historic function as a school, constructed in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is also still very evident.

## 1952-54 Building Interior Integrity:

The floor plan of the 1952-54 section of the North Ward District School remains completely in place from its original design. The configuration of spacious classrooms, which contain original black boards, interior lockers, woodwork, and built-ins, arranged along a central corridor remains intact. Common areas, such as the media room and the multi- purpose room that served as a gymnasium/auditorium/cafeteria, have key features that include the original stage, lockers, and glazed tile walls in the multi-purpose room and central hallway. The feel of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century era school is quite prevalent with the wide banks of windows for natural light and minimal architectural detailing throughout.

#### Location:

The North Ward District School building has integrity by way of its location and setting by still being on the original site of its construction. The building still retains its appearance as an independent institutional

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building with frontages on North Russell and Pindar Streets. Its deep setback from the surrounding modest residential structures of vernacular design, mostly pre-dating the construction of the school in 1901, give the building a commanding presence to its environs. The post-World War II facility known as Grimes Manufacturing is located to the south of the school grounds and is indicative of the light manufacturing facilities located in this portion of Urbana. These facilities employed workers and gave credence to the school being maintained and expanded for over a century to serve the population of working class families in this area. An elevated rail line dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and now the Simon Kenton Trail, borders the school property to the west. Large amounts of open space still surround the school, where a playground, parking lot, and two non-contributing modular classrooms are located to the south and west. Mature trees still shade the front of the school facing North Russell Street adding to the character and integrity of the setting.

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8. St	tatement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		
X	A. Property is associated with events that have made a sign broad patterns of our history.	ificant contribution to the
	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant	nt in our past.
	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type construction or represents the work of a master, or posses or represents a significant and distinguishable entity who individual distinction.	esses high artistic values,
	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information in history.	nportant in prehistory or
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
	A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious pur	rposes
	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 old or achieving significance within t	the past 50 years

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ne (	of Property
٨	areas of Significance
	Enter categories from instructions.)
(1	anter eategories from instructions.)
_	Education
_	<del></del>
_	
P	eriod of Significance
_	<u>1901-1956</u>
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_	1901
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_	
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•	Cultural Affiliation
C	N/A
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٨	architect/Builder Architect:
	Brown, Burton and Davis (Cincinnati)
	McLaughlin and Keil (Lima)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The North Ward District School is being nominated for listing under Criteria A. It signifies important developments in the Urbana Public School timeline that correlates with population and local development patterns in small communities in Ohio in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through the post-World War II Era of the 1940s and 50s. Prior to that time, Urbana's booming economic cycles can be pinpointed to three time periods of the 19<sup>th</sup> century starting with the War of 1812, the coming of the railroads and Urbana University in the 1850s, and during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, an influx of industrial developments and prosperous surrounding agricultural lands adjacent to the community. The northern sections of Urbana saw considerable growth particularly in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and again in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, as the city flourished with a number of small manufacturing concerns and rail systems locating in this vicinity of the city. This had a transformative impact upon the construction and development of local schools to meet the educational needs of the community's population. The North Ward District School is being nominated at the local level of significance. The Period of Significance is 1901, when the school opened, to 1956, which was the end point of Urbana's citywide school construction, renovation, and enlargement initiative.

# **Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Urbana was founded in 1805 as the county seat of Champaign County. Its first economic boom came in the form of serving as an important military post for Ohio and the Northwest Territories during the War of 1812. A series of subscription schools were located in Urbana during these early days of settlement, beginning in 1810. The community boasted of 200 residents at the time of the war's outbreak. Urbana served as an important military point, and drew a number of skilled craftsmen and entrepreneurs who began to build and transform the community. Brick makers, wagon makers, furniture makers, blacksmiths, tanners, and journey mechanics were just a few of the first makers to create an industrial development base in Urbana. Many of the soldiers who were among those tradesmen were exposed to the community at the time and saw great potential in the area with the population growing to slightly under 700 inhabitants by 1820. They remained in the community or returned to it following their military service.

The community's second economic development came before the Civil War. Urbana's population had grown to over 2,000 residents by 1850. During that time, an influx of wealthy and educated residents, particularly from the eastern United States found their way to the community. The establishment of Urbana University in 1850 and their association to that institution's Swedenborgian origins, in part, drew this new-found population. The Swedenborgs were individuals and families who identified their faith to the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg and his theology of the Christian faith that explored and touted a focus upon a spirit realm of demons, angels, and scientific aspects to religion. Swedenborg himself was a scientist, before turning more towards a spiritual awakening and dreams that came to him in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some of Urbana's most prominent and wealthiest families were of the Swedenborg faith. They tended to be enlightened socially, intellectually, and artistically. More Swedenborg families were drawn to Urbana, when Urbana University was organized as the first Swedenborg-based institution of higher learning in America. The Swedenborg families of Urbana brought a new level of influence and affluence

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in the development of local industries such as carriage manufacturers, baking companies, foundries, tanneries, early banking institutions, and education that contributed to the community's growth. Like other communities, transportation improvements also contributed to Urbana's mid-19<sup>th</sup> century growth. The first railroad arrived in Urbana by 1848 and connected the city to Cincinnati and Sandusky. By 1858, the Pennsylvania line arrived in Urbana connecting the city with points east and west, and new industries would follow, related to the manufacture of lumber, agricultural equipment, and bridges to name a few.

In Ohio, the first law concerning schools was passed in 1825. It introduced public schools, by establishing property taxes and placing the responsibility for schools at the township level. In 1849, a new law was enacted that permitted municipalities to fund schools out of city taxes and be exempted from township control. This special district status applied to communities larger than 500 residents. That same year, the Urbana City Schools were established, after years of struggling to gain a more formal and organized school system. Much of Ohio's School Law of 1849 was based on the Akron school system, created in 1847. That legislation cleared the way for city created districts with a number of elementary schools with students divided into grades based on achievement. If there was enough demand, the local school board could establish a high school as well. A local school board would be created, elected by the public, and would make decisions concerning the local district's management. African American children were excluded from the law. In 1853, Ohio revised its law, and cleared the way for the state to collect a property tax across the state, and redistribute it to each school district based on the number of students enrolled locally. The 1853 law also allowed for the creation of school libraries for the first time. The 1914 Rural School Codes Act shifted schools to county responsibility, but Urbana remained a city focused institution, and nearby Urbana Township students largely attended the city based schools.

Prior to 1849, local education options were largely private, subscription options, or typically not available to Urbana's early African American population. Private academies for both boys and girls were erected in the communities that were spurred on by the arrival of Urbana's upper class, who brought with them Eastern U.S standards of education. A number of schools were established throughout the community, at different locations near the community center, and instructed by a constant and changing stream of instructors throughout the 1820s, 30s, and 40s. With the formation of the Urbana school system for public education, and election of an Urbana School Board, the entity began to look to the division of three areas where the community's population was centered or expected to grow and expand: North, South, and Central.

One of the former private academies was utilized as the earliest public school, located in the downtown Urbana area. The facility created a central school in good condition, as opposed to the scattering of earlier private schools around the community that were in varying states of repair. By 1852, the demand was so great, students were separated into high school level classes, utilizing the upper part of the community market house for more space. The high school recorded 30 students by 1857. By 1864, the high school's enrollment had grown to 52, and the entire Urbana school system enrollment had reached 680. The community population had reached 3,249 by 1860. The area was thriving through agriculture, and the growth of local industries such as flouring mills and the woolen mill. Following the Civil War, the Urbana School District would construct brick school houses in the south and north wards in the mid-1860s, in the northern parts of the community where much of the city's industrial growth was taking place near rail lines. An elementary school was established in the southern portion of Urbana where residential growth continued to expand, and in close proximity to Urbana University. Another elementary school remained in the central portion of the community and downtown.

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By the 1870s and through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Urbana continued to grow in population. A multitude of smaller industries continued to emerge as major employers such as furniture, broom, paper, box car, food, and railroad accessory manufacturing. Urbana's population stood at 4,246 in 1870 and continued to largely tick upward, reaching 7,739 by 1910. Multiple residential subdivisions were platted, and they largely fanned out towards the north, south, and northeast portions of the city from the original town plat. The first formal high school was constructed "on the hill" along Wood Street during this time period. The third high school to stand on the site remains today, and is known as the iconic "castle". The earlier elementary schools in the central, north, and southern portions of the city were replaced with larger and more modern structures. A larger South Ward District School was constructed along South Main Street by 1897, and was an identical twin to the North Ward District School erected on North Russell Street in 1901. However, the "sister" South Ward District Ward School was destroyed in a fire in 1919, and a larger school was constructed in its place on the same site by 1921 that no longer resembled North Ward District School. While the North Ward District School served the pupils of the northern sections of the city with its heavy manufacturing and industrial areas, the South and Central Ward Schools served the historic commercial core of downtown Urbana and the largely residential areas of the city surrounding it.

The Urbana School Board also addressed the educational needs of Urbana's African-American community and provided for a "Select School" that was initially housed in St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church at 316 East Market Street by the 1860s. The church and its neighborhood were the historic center of the African American community in Urbana. By the 1870s, the Urbana School Board acquired the Philander Ross home nearby on East Water Street to serve as the new home for the Select School, as it was known, for black students. It would continue to serve as the African-American school of public education for Urbana until around 1893 when Urbana's schools desegregated for good. The number of African American students that attended the North Ward District School could not be ascertained through school records, although there were small pockets of African American neighborhoods located nearby.

With the coming of the Great Depression in 1929, Urbana's economic expansion began to slow. The city's growth remained relatively stagnant with the population remaining virtually unchanged from 1910 to 1930, staying around 7,600 inhabitants. However, by 1940, the population and school enrollment began to grow again as Urbana's industries switched to war time production, and with the establishment of such local industries as Grimes Manufacturing, the construction of Mercy Memorial Hospital, and improved state roads cutting through the community. Springfield's growth in neighboring Clark County also provided additional job opportunities in its growing industrial base that positioned Urbana more as a bedroom community, even though paper manufacturing and other smaller industries remained in Urbana. Urbana's population had reached 9,935 by 1950 and 10,461 by 1960, causing the existing school stock to be enlarged. Around 1950, the Urbana School Board saw the community growing and embarked on a multi-year renovation, expansion, and construction campaign. It was in response to Urbana's post-World War II economic boom, which necessitated it to revisit the state of its schools and educational needs. It was at this time that North Ward District School was expanded in 1952 and again in 1954 from its original 1901 structure.

Following World War II, and between 1950 and 1956, the Urbana Schools saw growth and development to reflect the growing population. During this time period, Urbana High and Jr High Schools were expanded. The new East Elementary School was constructed and additions added to the North and South Elementary Schools during this time frame. Central Ward also continued to operate as an elementary school, but it was destroyed by fire in December 1963. The enrollment from Central Ward was distributed

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to the other elementary schools among North, South, and East Schools. During this building boom for the schools in the 1950s, East Elementary in the northeastern part of the city was erected to meet the growing residential growth that was occurring on Urbana's northeast side.

By the 1980s, Urbana's population had capped out below 12,000 residents and remains consistent with that number at present. The community's third iteration of the high school known as "the castle" on the hill remains at the same location. The North, South, and East elementary schools continued to serve as the city's elementary school facilities through 2018. However, the Urbana School Board and community gave approval for a construction levy to construct a new elementary school that consolidated North, South, and East into one facility, located on the community's far south side. The North Ward District School ceased being used as a school at the end of the 2018 school year, and it is currently vacant. The Urbana High-Junior High School will remain on the same site as they have for over a century with the historic "castle" building, and its auditorium, being preserved and maintained as part of the new complex. Adaptive reuse for housing purposes for North and South Ward District schools is being pursued at this time in order to retain these buildings.

#### Conclusion

For over 100 years, the North Ward District School location served the growing residential and industrial areas northwest of downtown Urbana as the only public education facility for that area of the community. The present North Ward District School was constructed to replace an earlier school the community had outgrown, located nearby. At the time of its construction in 1901, the North Ward District School was the newest school building for the community to be constructed in the city and was an architectural twin to the South Ward District School that was later destroyed by fire in 1919 (a new South Ward District School would be erected following its destruction, but was re-built to be different than its North Ward District counterpart). The Central Ward District School, the former South Ward District School, and Urbana High School were all slightly older than the North Ward District School at the time of its construction. Central Ward was also destroyed by fire in the 1960s, thus making the North Ward District School the oldest surviving elementary school in the city today and one of two surviving elementary schools in the community. It is representative of the late 19th and early 20th century educational development in Urbana as the community pursued a building campaign of new and modern school buildings in response to its growing population.

The North Ward District School also represents a school that was positioned in the city to largely serve the working class children of Urbana's northwest side, where numerous industries and rail lines were present and still are to a limited degree today. Modest residential structures from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century emerged on the streets surrounding the school's location to house Urbana's industrial workforce, making the decision to invest in a larger school for the area in 1901 an easy one for Urbana's school board. Following World War II, one of Urbana's best known industries (Grimes Aerospace) located adjacent to the school, and new housing subdivisions were constructed on the city's far north side. The North Ward District School continued to meet the needs of the residents of northern Urbana by being expanded in 1952 and again in 1954. A testament more space at the school was needed. The 1952 and 1954 additions to the 1901 portion of the school enlarged the facility with few architectural frills in order to keep costs low, and focus on its educational purpose and function. However, the enlarged North Ward District School in the 1950s did result in the addition of space for a dedicated library and cafeteria/gymnasium/auditorium area that it previously did not contain. The expansion of the North Ward District School proactively positioned the property to serve for another 60 plus years as an elementary school, until it was deemed obsolete for modern teaching needs, and it was considered to be more cost

North Ward District School	Champaign, Ohio
Name of Property	County and State

effective to consolidate Urbana's older elementary schools into one location with a new building, ending an era of neighborhood oriented elementary schools in the community in 2018.

th Ward District School	Champaign, Ohi
ne of Property	County and State
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources u	sed in preparing this form.)
History of Champaign County, Ohio: Its History and It's Middleton, Evan, B.F. Bowen Publisher, Indianapolis, IN.	*
History of Champaign County, Ohio, W.H. Beers, Chicago	o, 1881.
Champaign County Atlas, 1874, Starr and Headington, Cir	ncinnati, Ohio
(1956, April 4) April 20 Official School Dedication. Urba	na Daily Citizen, p.1
(1954, November 24) North, South Ward Pupils Return to Citizen, pg. 1	Own Classrooms <i>Urbana Daily</i>
(1900, May 11) Adopted a Resolution, Urbana Daily Citiz	zen, pg. 1
(1900, July 20) More Plans Examined, Urbana Daily Cita	izen, pg. 1
U.S. Census 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1	930
Historic Postcard Image, Published by J.A. Banta Jr., Urba personal collection	ana, Ohio circa. 1920. John Bry

X 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 #
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

NPS Form 10-900	O	MB No. 1024-0018		
North Ward District School Name of Property		_		Champaign, Ohio County and State
reame of Froperty				County and State
Primary location of addit	tional data:			
X State Historic Preserv	vation Office			
Other State agency				
Federal agency				
X_Local government				
University				
X_Other	C1 : C	D 11' T'	1	
Name of repository:	Champaign C	ounty Public Li	<u>brary</u>	
Historic Resources Surve	ey Number (i	f assigned):(	CHP-00431-11	
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property	2.591 acres			
<i>y</i>				
Use either the UTM system	n or latitude/l	ongitude coordi	nates	
Latitude/Longitude Coor	dinates			
Datum if other than WGS8				
(enter coordinates to 6 dec		_		
1. Latitude: 40.115174	mar praecis)	Longitude: -83	3.756667	
		8		
2. Latitude:		Longitude:		
3. Latitude:		Longitude:		
A T -4'4-1-		T		
4. Latitude:		Longitude:		
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on USGS	S map):			
X NAD 1927 or	NAD 1	983		
1. Zone: 17	Easting:	265057	Northing: 444	3999
2. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
3. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
4. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	

North Ward District School	Champaign, Ohio
Name of Property	County and State

## **Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property, at 626 North Russell Street, is situated in the City of Urbana, in the county of Champaign, in the State of Ohio. It is defined by the Champaign County Auditor as Parcel Number: K48-25-00-04-04-025-00 and RTS 00-00-00 \_\_ DEPOSITORS LOTS 400-499 LOTS 419 THRU 423.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the historic boundary of the North Ward District School property, which includes the playground, a portion of the parking lot, two non-contributing modular classrooms, and the 1952 and 1954 additions to the 1901 building.

11. Form Prepared By
name/title:John Bry, Consultant and Urbana Historian organization:
street & number: 14248 Stahelin Ave
city or town: _Detroit state:MI zip code: _48223
e-mailsowles88@yahoo.com
telephone:239-321-4712
date:January 2019

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

North Ward District School

Name of Property

Champaign, Ohio
County and State

## **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: North Ward District School

City or Vicinity: Urbana

County: Champaign State: Ohio

Photographer: John Bry

Date Photographed: November 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

#### **Exterior Views**

## 1901 Building

- 1 of 38. 1901 Section, East Elevation, Front Façade, Looking West
- 2 of 38. 1901 Section, East Elevation and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
- 3 of 38. 1901 Section East Elevation, Name Stone Detail, Looking West
- 4 of 38. 1901 Section, East Elevation, Former Entrance, Looking West
- 5 of 38. 1901 Section, South Entrance, Looking North
- 6 of 38. 1901 Section, Façade and North Elevation with 1952 Connector, Looking Southwest
- 7 of 38. 1901 Section, West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
- 8 of 38. 1901 Section, West Elevation, Looking East

#### **1952-54 Building**

- 9 of 38. 1952 Section, East Elevation, Looking West
- 10 of 38. 1952 and 1954 Sections, East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
- 11 of 38. 1952 Section, North Elevation Looking Southwest
- 12 of 38. 1954 Section, North Elevation Looking Southwest
- 13 of 38. 1954 Section, West Elevation, Looking East

North Ward District School

Name of Property

Champaign, Ohio County and State

14 of 38. 1954 Section, South Elevation, Looking Northeast

15 of 38. 1952-54 Sections, South Elevation, Looking North

16 of 38. 1952 Section, South Elevation, Looking Northeast

## **Interior Views:**

## 1901 Building

17 of 38. 1901 Section, Representative Classroom Door, Room 203 Shown, First Floor, Looking West

18 of 38. 1901 Section, Sample Closet, Room 305, Second Floor (These closets remain in the classrooms of the 1901 portion of the building), Looking East

19 of 38. 1901 Section, Coat Room, (Outside Room 305), Second Floor, Looking East. (These areas are present throughout this section of the building on the first and second floors outside the classrooms marked as storage on the floor plans)

20 of 38. 1901 Section, Representative Classroom, Room 203 Shown, First Floor, Looking East (Former main entry location)

21 of 38. 1901 Section, Representative Classroom, Room 204 Shown, First Floor, Looking North

22 of 38. 1901 Section, Representative Classroom, Room 301 Shown, Second Floor, Looking East

23 of 38. 1901 Section, Hallway, Second Floor, Looking North

24 of 38. 1901 Section, Interior Center Hall, First Floor, Looking South

25 of 38. 1901 Section, Hall Wainscoting Detail, First Floor Hall. (This detailing is present on both the first and second floors halls), Looking South

26 of 38. 1901 Section, South Stairwell, First Floor, Looking South. (The north and south stairwells in the 1901 portion of the building are identical in design)

27 of 38. 1901 Section, South Stairwell Landing Window Openings, Second Floor, Looking South. (The north and south stairwells in the 1901 portion of the building are identical in design)

## **1952-54 Building**

28 of 38. 1952 Section, Interior Library, Looking Northeast

29 of 38. 1952 Section, Gym/Cafeteria/Auditorium, Looking West

30 of 38. 1952 Section, Stage, Looking Northeast

31 of 38. 1952 Section, Lockers Gym/Cafeteria/Auditorium, Looking Northeast

32 of 38. 1952 Section, Gym/Cafeteria/Auditorium, Looking East

33 of 38. 1954 Section, Representative Classroom, Room 104 Shown, Looking East

34 of 38. 1954 Section, Representative Classroom, Room 104 Shown, Room Lockers Looking West

35 of 38. 1952 Section, Interior Door Sample, Looking East

36 of 38. 1954 Section, Interior Hallway, Looking West

NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018	
North Ward District School		Champaign, Ohio
Name of Property		County and State

## **Non-Contributing Buildings**

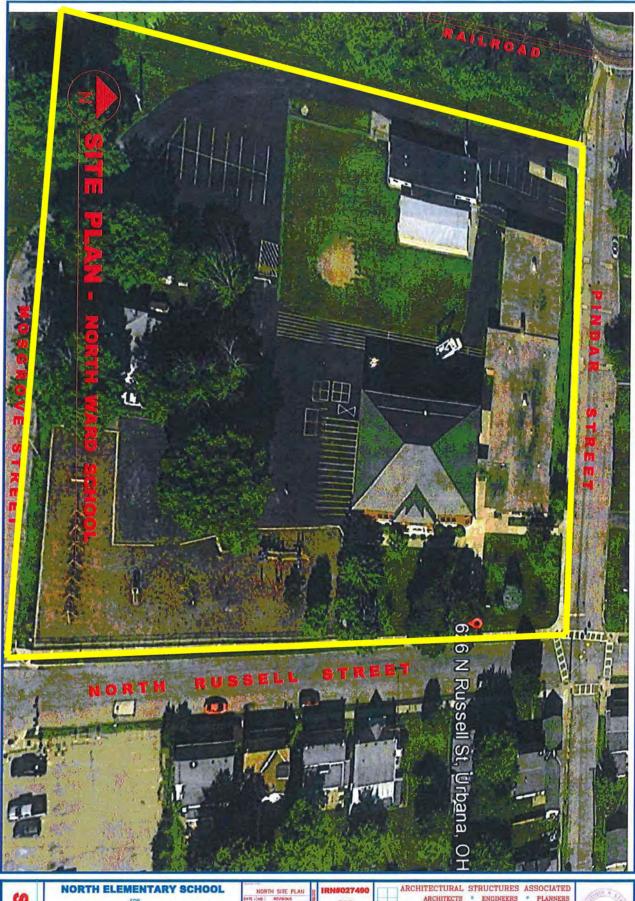
United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

37 of 38. Modular Classroom, North Elevation, Looking South (Non Contributing) 38 of 38. Modular Classroom, East Elevation, Looking West (Non Contributing)

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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



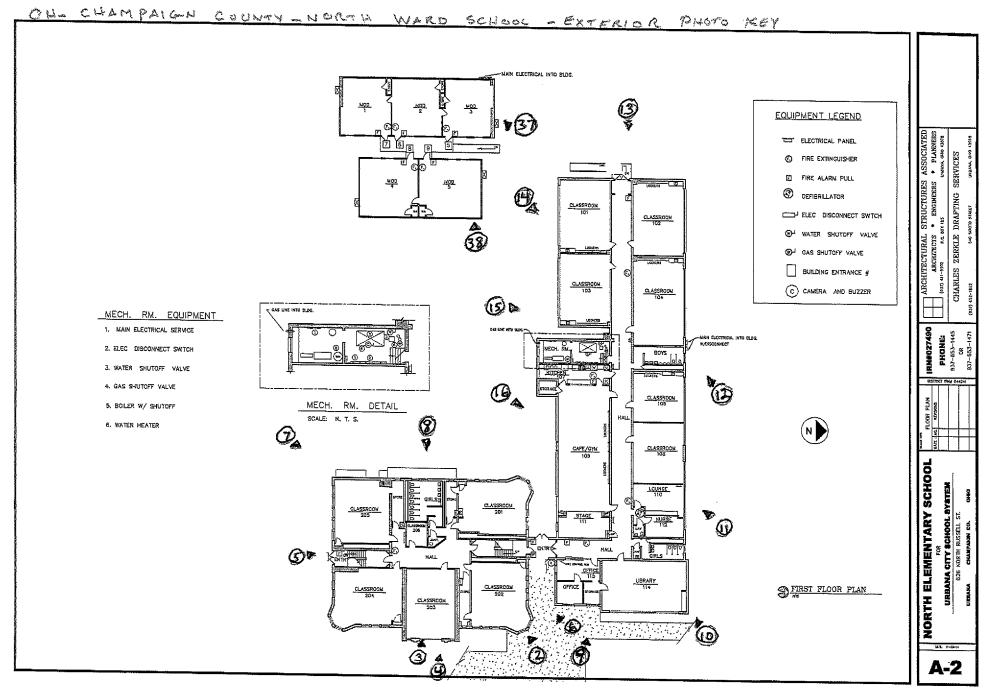


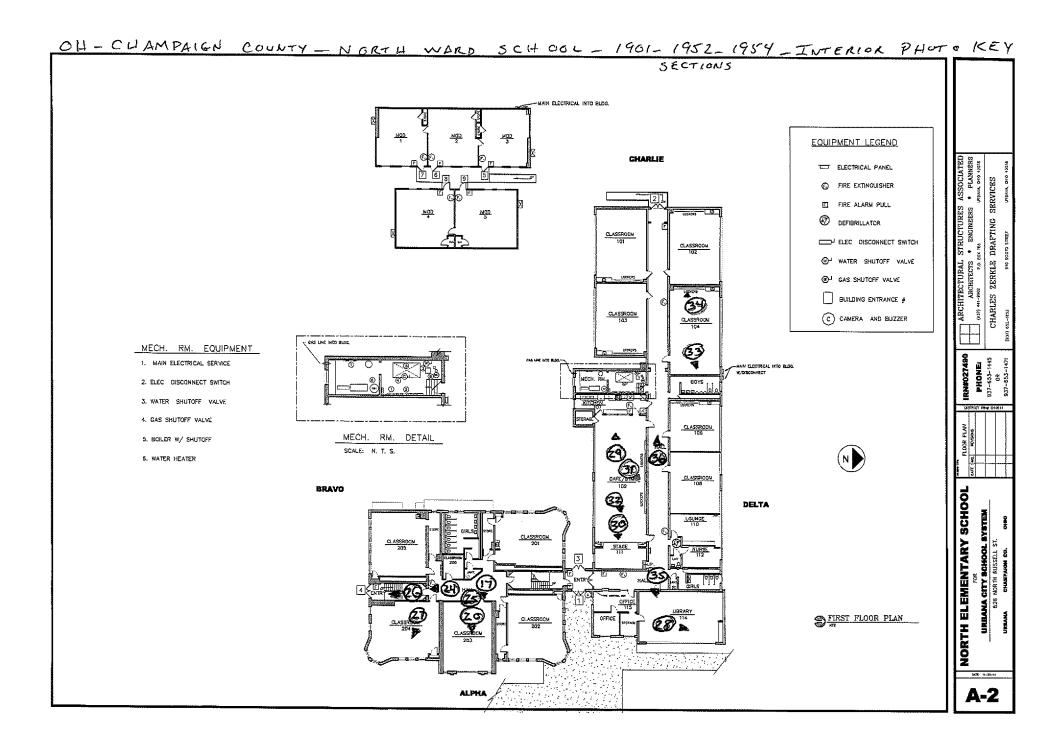
URBANA CITY SCHOOLS

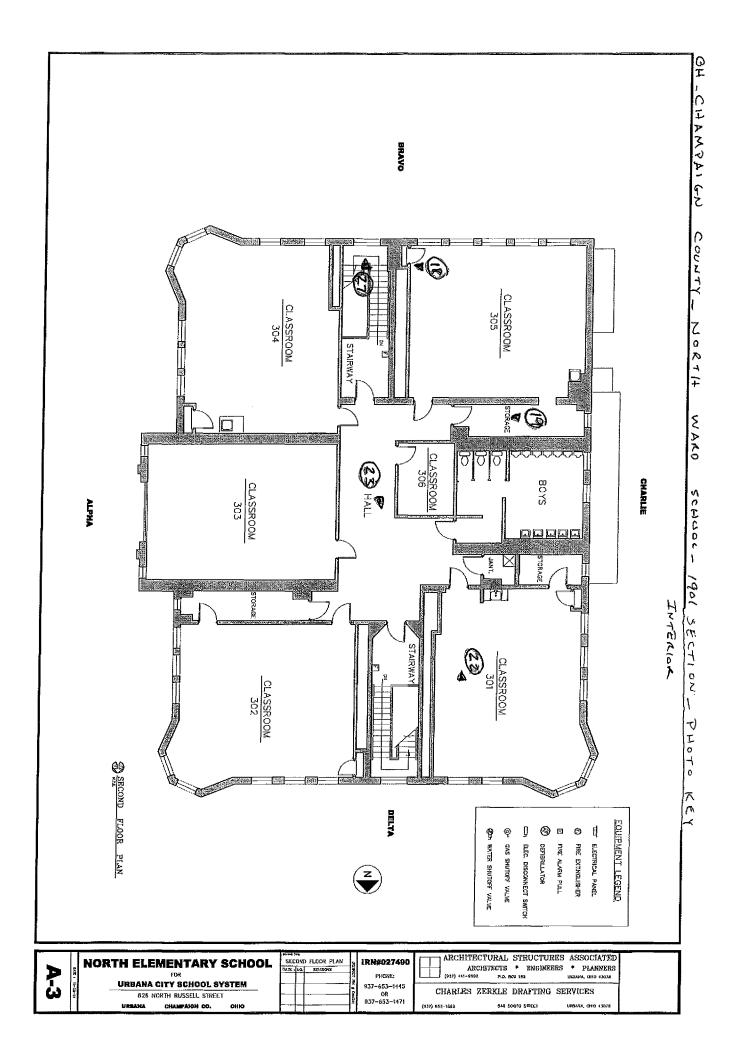
937-853-1445 GR 937-853-1471

CHARLES ZERKLE DRAFTING SERVICES

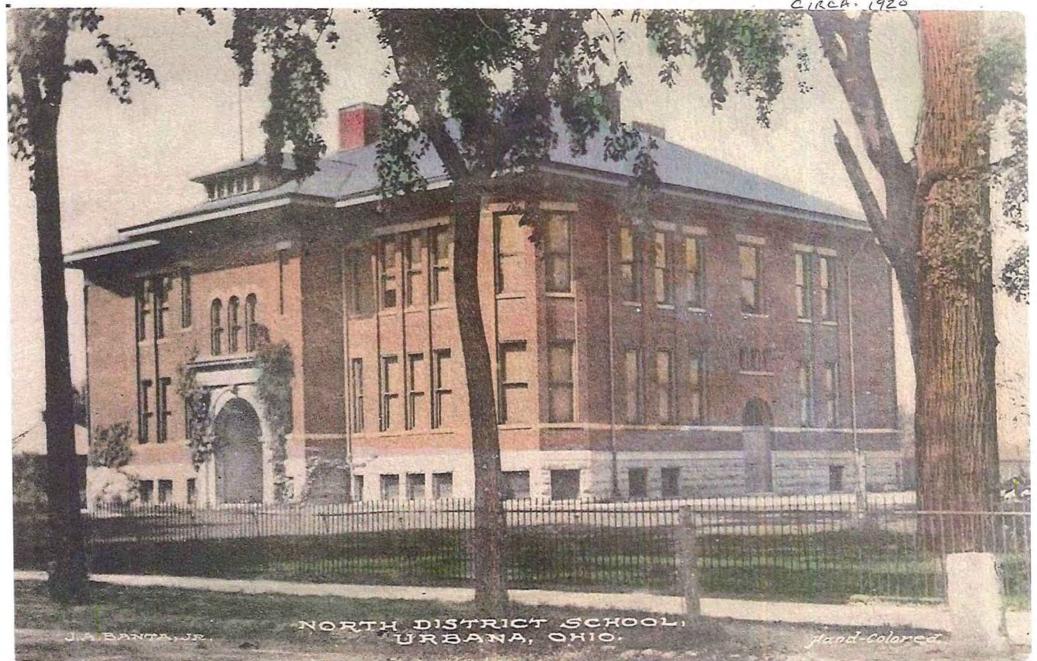


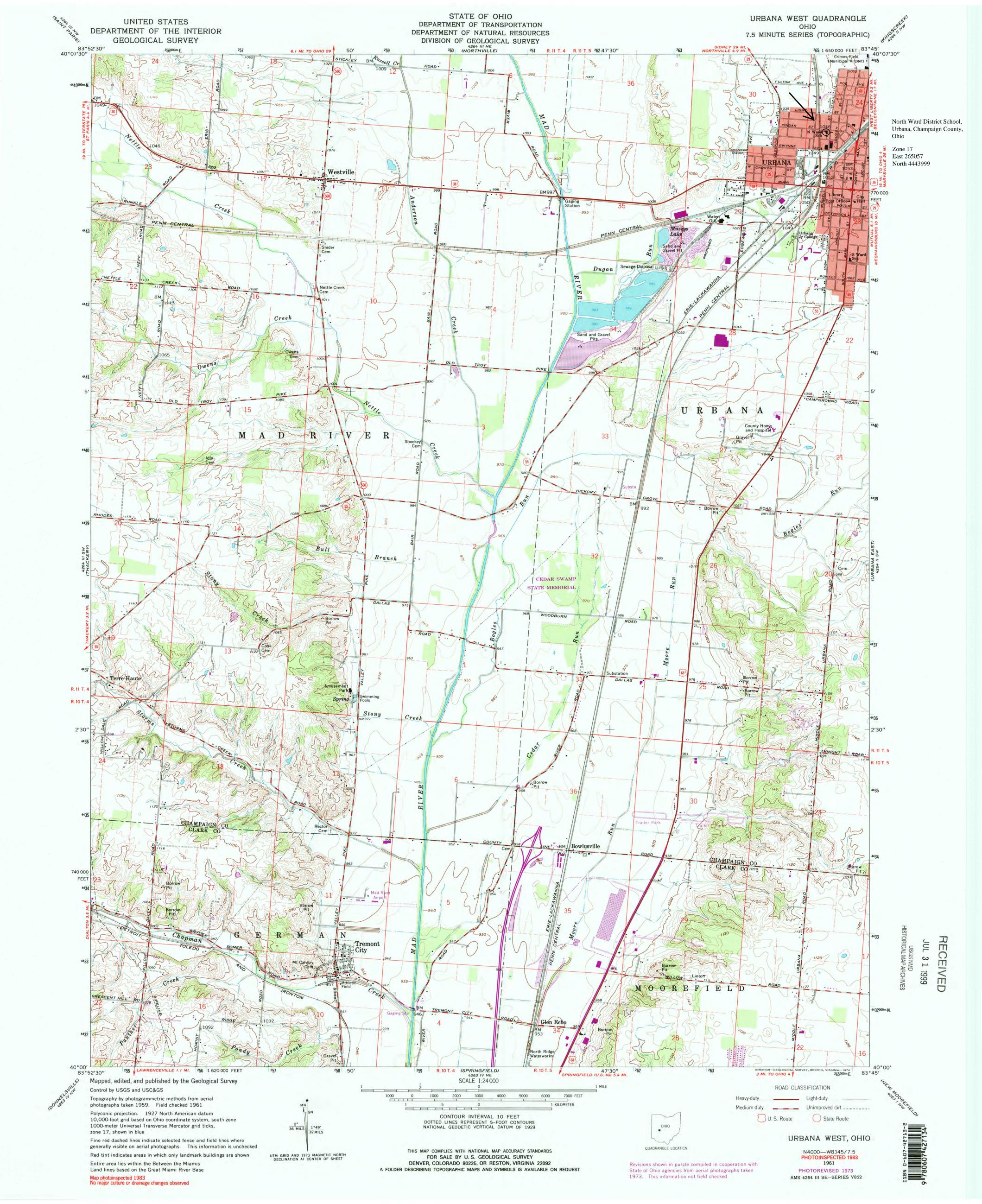






OH\_ CHAMPAIGN COUNTY - SOINORTH WARD DISTRICT SCHOOL - HISTORIC POSTCARD VIEW CIRCA. 1920















































































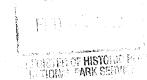


## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	Shortened Comme	Shortened Comment Period (3 days)	
Property Name:	North Ward District Sc	hool		
Multiple Name:				
State & County:	OHIO, Champaign			
Date Rece 2/1/201			Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 3/18/2019	
Reference number:	SG100003495			
Nominator:	SHPO			
Reason For Review	:			
Appeal		X PDIL	Text/Data Issue	
SHPO Request		Landscape	Photo	
Waiver		National	Map/Boundary	
Resubmission		Mobile Resource	Period	
X Other		_ TCP	Less than 50 years	
		CLG		
X Accept	Return	Reject	<b>1/2019</b> Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	POS: 1901-1956; AOS	S: Education; LOS: local		
Recommendation/ Criteria	NR Criterion A.			
Reviewer Lisa Deline		Discipline	Historian	
Telephone (202)354-2239		Date	2/21/19	
DOCUMENTATION	I: see attached com	ments : No see attached S	SLR : No	

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

## OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Columbus, OH 43211 (614)-298-2000

The following	materials are submitted on January 29, 2019			
For nomination	materials are submitted on <u>January 29, 2019</u> on of the <u>North Ward District</u> to the National Register of s: School, Chanpaign County, OH			
	5 15 ) Crica (1545) 1 50 at 11 J.			
	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form Paper 1 PDF			
	Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document			
	Paper PDF			
	Multiple Property Nomination form			
1/	Photographs PDF			
	Photographs Prints TIFFs			
	CD with electronic images			
. /				
	Original USGS map(s)			
	Paper Digital			
	Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)			
	PaperVPDF			
	Piece(s) of correspondence			
	Paper     PDF			
	Other			
COMMENTS:				
	Please provide a substantive review of this nomination			
	·			
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67			
	The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not			
1	Constitute a majority of property owners			
$\Delta$	Other: namination must be listed in Wh by March 31, 2019 for prop. to quality for Objectistoric Preseration Tax			
·	by March 31, 2019 for prop. to quality			
	for Objectistoric Preseration Tax			
	Credits			



January 29, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find four new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION
North Ward District School
South Ward District School
Coshocton Main Street Historic District
Case-Barlow Farm

COUNTY Champaign Champaign Coshocton Summit

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for the North Ward District School, South Ward District School, Coshocton Main Street Historic District, and Case-Barlow Farm.

Please note that the nominations for the North Ward District School, South Ward District School, and Coshocton Main Street Historic District must be listed in the National Register by March 31, 2019 in order to qualify for Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

Lox A. Logan, Jr.

Executive Director and CEO

State Historic Preservation Officer

**Ohio History Connection** 

**Enclosures** 



February 5, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office recently submitted the following new National Register nominations:

North Ward District School, Champaign County; South Ward District School, Champaign County; and Coshocton Main Street Historic District, Coshocton County, Ohio.

We are requesting a shortened review period for these three nominations. These nominations must be listed by March 31, 2019 in order for the individual properties and a property within the historic district boundaries to qualify for Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

Thank you for your attention to this request for expedited review. If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the Barbara Powers in the State Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000 or bowers@ohiohistory.org.

Sincerely,

Lox A. Logan, Jr.

**Executive Director and CEO** 

State Historic Preservation Officer

**Enclosures**