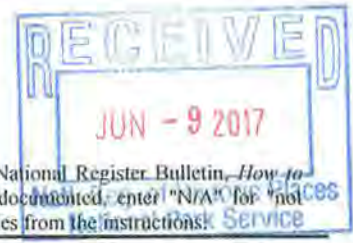


56-1368



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Vose School
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: Birch Street & Locust Street
City or town: Alcoa State: Tennessee County: Blount
Not For Publication: Vicinity: Zip: 37701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia Spr 5/30/17
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: Date

Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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:)

John Walker
 Signature of the Keeper
 For

7.24.2017
 Date of Action

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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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

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK; SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

Constructed in 1916, the Vose School is located at the intersection of Birch Street and Locust Street in Blount County, Tennessee. The school is located within the limits of the City of Alcoa, Tennessee. The school is a one-story, rectangular-plan building built of wood frame. The Craftsman-influenced building rests on a continuous brick foundation, with an exterior of wood weatherboard siding. The hipped roof is clad in composite shingles, with wide eave overhangs and boxed cornices. Hipped-roof porches are centered on both the northeast and southwest elevations, also featuring wide eave overhangs with boxed cornices. Both porches are supported by square wood posts. The school features a high degree of setting and location, as it retains its residential surroundings. The majority of the building's original exterior features, from the wood weatherboard siding to the double-hung wood sash windows, remain intact, as does the four-room interior plan with a wide central hallway. The school has had very little alteration since its 1916 construction.

Setting

The Vose School is located in a suburban residential area within the city limits of Alcoa, Tennessee, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Birch and Locust Streets. The school is set back approximately seventy-five feet from Locust Street, and surrounded by grassed land. A paved sidewalk extends north from the intersection of Birch and Locust Streets, crossing the schoolyard diagonally to reach the porch on the southwest elevation. A second paved sidewalk extends diagonally from the building's east corner towards

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Birch Street. Located on the west side of the school is a rectangular, paved parking lot (c.1960) that extends to the northeast from Locust Street. Several mature-growth oak trees surround the north, east, and south sides of the school and its surrounding yard, providing natural shade for the school.

Vose School (contributing building, c.1916)

Exterior

The rectangular plan school building features a façade oriented towards Locust Street on the southwest, with side elevations facing the northwest and southeast. A secondary entry, identical to the first, is located on the northeast (rear) elevation. The school's northwest and southeast elevations extend approximately seventy-five feet, with the façade and rear elevations measuring approximately fifty feet wide. The school rests on a continuous brick foundation that is original to the building. The exterior walls are clad in wood weatherboard, painted a cream color. The hipped roof is clad in asbestos shingles, with wide eave overhangs and boxed cornices.

The façade (southwest) is three bays wide, with two windows flanking a recessed doorway (*Photograph 1*). A hipped roof porch is centered on the façade, resting on a continuous brick foundation and supported by four wood posts. The porch roof also features wide eave overhangs and boxed cornices, with a simple wood cornice located above the porch supports. A balustrade of simple wood posts extends between the third and fourth porch supports. The porch ceiling features a vertical wood paneling. Windows are 9/9 double-hung wood sash, and are currently covered with vertical wood paneling on the exterior. Centered on the façade, the door is a replacement, single leaf door (approximately c.1975). The door is topped by a four-light wood transom, currently covered with plywood on the exterior. A simple, poured concrete ramp with a metal handrail extends from the left side of the porch and dates to 1977, according to a handwritten inscription in the concrete.

The northwest elevation contains a single 9/9 double-hung wood sash window and two series of 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows separated by an exterior chimney. Of the eleven windows on this elevation, six have been enclosed on the exterior with vertical wood paneling. From the east, the second, fourth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh windows are visible (*Photograph 3*). The visible windows are surrounded by a continuous wood trim and divided by sections of vertical wood paneling. An undated historical photograph indicates that the original elevation featured two bays of five subsequent 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows (*Figure 10*). One of the few exterior modifications to the Vose School is visible on this elevation; a half-height, gable-roof addition (date unknown) projects beneath the first bank of five windows (*Photographs 4 & 5*). The addition is clad in wood weatherboard siding and plywood, with an asphalt shingle roof. It may have provided access to the building's basement, though the addition is fully enclosed at present day.

The northeast elevation is three bays wide and identical to the southwest elevation (*Photograph 7*). Both elevations served as entries to the school. Two 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows flank a recessed entryway, which is located below a centrally-located, hipped roof porch. The windows are currently covered with vertical wood paneling on the exterior. The porch is supported by four wood posts and rests on a continuous brick foundation with a concrete floor. A simple wood cornice also extends the full length of the porch, with the ceiling featuring wood paneling. This elevation retains the original wood double doors, each featuring a four-light wood fixed window that is covered with plywood on the exterior. The doors are topped by a four-light wood transom.

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The southeast elevation reflects the southwest elevation and faces Birch Street (*Photograph 9*). On this elevation, of the eleven 9/9 double-hung wood sash windows, four have been enclosed with vertical wood paneling on the exterior, sometime after 1975. From the south, the third, fifth, eighth, and tenth windows are covered in the paneling. The visible windows are surrounded by a continuous wood trim and divided by sections of vertical wood paneling. A hipped roof dormer is centered on the roofline, between the two banks of windows (*Photograph 10*). The dormer has widely-overhanging eaves, with a fenestration enclosed by wood paneling on the exterior. Large oak trees extend the length of this elevation.

Interior

The school's interior features a central hallway and four equally sized classrooms (*Rooms 1-4*). Classroom entries are symmetrically arranged along the hallway, with exterior doors located on the southwest and northeast elevations. Both doors open into small entry halls, with open doorways surrounded by simple wood trim.

A wide central hallway extends the full length of the school's interior (*Photographs 14 & 15*). The hallway features original wood floors and finishes. Dark wood paneling serves as a wainscoting for the entire hallway, beneath a wood chair rail, and interior doors are surrounded by a simple wood trim. A simple wood picture rail extends the full length of the hallway's walls, located approximately one foot below the ceiling. Two cast-iron radiators are located on each hallway wall (*Photograph 16*). A ceramic water fountain with two metal spigots is centrally located on the northwest hallway wall. The fountain is mounted to the wall with a low back and a straight front. Modern intrusions in the central hallway are limited to the two c.1975, rectangular, fluorescent light fixtures attached to the ceiling.

Upon entering from the southwest elevation, the first classroom on the left side will be referred to as *Room 1*. *Room 1* is located along the northwest exterior elevation. Original features in this room include paneled wood wainscoting with a wood chair rail, and simple wood trim surrounding the doorways. When the building was utilized by the State of Tennessee as a Drivers Testing Center in approximately 1975, the State employed three-quarters-height wood partition walls to divide *Room 1* into offices (*Photograph 19*). The original wood floor was also covered in sections of carpeting and linoleum, with c.1975, rectangular, fluorescent light fixtures on the ceilings. On the southwest wall, rectangular entries with wood trim open into a feature original to the c.1916 schoolhouse: an approximately four-foot wide cloakroom that extends the full length of the classroom (*Photograph 20*). The cloakroom features original paneled wood wainscoting and wood floors. The original 9/9 double-hung, wood sash windows that once illuminated the cloakroom are visible, though covered with wood on the exterior. Although *Room 1* demonstrates the highest degree of modern intrusions of the four classrooms, features such as the wood partition walls are easily reversible and the room retains its original plan.

Room 2 is also located along the northwest exterior elevation (*Photographs 21, 22, & 23*). An original five-panel wood door, surrounded by simple wood trim, opens into the classroom. The original wood floors have been covered with carpet, though the room retains its original wood paneled wainscoting and chair rail. Immediately above the wainscoting, the northeast and southeast interior walls feature broad swaths of a composite board covering that served as a base for the chalkboards. Fluorescent light fixtures, dating to approximately 1975, are located on the ceilings. Along the northeast wall, the original cloakroom has been converted into a bathroom (date unknown). Also accessible from the central hallway, the bathroom features tile floors and three stalls divided by wood partitions (*Photographs 24 & 25*).

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Room 3 is immediately across from *Room 2*, located along the southeast exterior elevation (*Photographs 26-29*). This room is identical in shape to the other classrooms, with a linoleum overlay covering the original wood floors. The original wood paneled wainscoting, topped by a wood chair rail, is present throughout the room.

Room 4 is located along the southeast exterior elevation, and retains the highest degree of integrity as a classroom of the other interior rooms (*Photographs 30, 31, & 32*). The room features original wood floors, wood wainscoting with a chair rail, and wood trim on doors and windows. Nine c.1975 light fixtures are fixed to the ceiling, and original cast iron radiators are located along the southeast wall. Along the southwest elevation, two doorways surrounded by simple wood trend open into the cloakroom (*Photographs 33 & 34*). This cloakroom is similar to the one in *Room 1*, featuring wood wainscoting and chair rail, a cast-iron radiator, and wood boards running horizontally with hooks for hanging objects. The facade windows, covered with plywood on the exterior, are visible from the cloakroom as 9/9 double-hung wood sash.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1964

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Vose School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Education, and Criterion C in the area of architecture, at the local level of significance. The Vose School is closely aligned with the origins of Alcoa, Tennessee, constructed by an early industrial presence for its workers' children. The period of significance begins in 1916, when the school's construction began, and ends in 1964, when the school closed permanently. Construction was complete and the school opened by 1918. The school evolved alongside the City of Alcoa, as the community's rapid growth called for larger schools and new educational facilities. The Vose School is also representative of trends in early twentieth-century schoolhouse design and construction, as standardized school plans prescribed by state government grew in prevalence. The Vose School is a rectangular plan Craftsman-influenced school with original wood weatherboard siding and large, double-hung wood sash windows. The school retains a high degree of integrity, particularly in the areas of setting, design, feeling, and association. The Vose School site retains its early- to mid-twentieth century residential surroundings, on streets initially planned by the Babcock Lumber Company and the Aluminum Company of America.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Vose School was built alongside the early twentieth-century industrial development of Blount County, and the origins of the city of Alcoa. In the decades prior to the school's construction, Blount County experienced a slow period of growth following the Civil War. The town of Maryville was the major governmental and commercial center of Blount County, along with the communities of Louisville, Friendsville, and Rockford. Agriculture largely defined the region's economy, characterized by small-scale, owner-operated farms focusing on corn and livestock production. Manufacturing was relatively limited at the end of the nineteenth century, with only a few grist mills, cotton mills, and tanneries contributing to the area economy.¹ The Louisville and Nashville railroad was extended through the southwestern part of Blount County in 1900, with a branch line reaching Maryville by 1906.² By 1905, Maryville was a thriving town, with substantial residential development complimented by a successful liberal arts college (Maryville College, Historic District listed 9/9/1982) and several industrial operations.

In the following two decades, Blount County underwent a period of extensive growth and change, as major industries began to invest in the region. While the Babcock Lumber Company is not widely known for its early presence in the area, the Pittsburgh-based organization was the first modern industry to settle in northern Blount County. In 1907, the Babcock Lumber and Land Company organized an office in what was known as North Maryville.³ Babcock developed a plant in Tellico Plains, and by the 1910s, Babcock had logged more than 125,000 acres of land in Monroe and Blount Counties. In 1916, the Babcock Lumber Company purchased 350 acres in North Maryville and laid out the Vose neighborhood.⁴ Edward Vose Babcock, co-founder of the Lumber Company, named the section of town for his mother's maiden name.⁵

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Blount County, Tennessee," Section E, 10-11.

² Inez E. Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip* (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1957), 237.

³ Babcock Lumber Company, "History," accessed June 8, 2016, <http://www.babcocklumber.com/aboutus.asp>.

⁴ David R. Duggan and George Williams, *Images of America: Alcoa* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 16.

⁵ Dean Stone, "Bits of Stone for Oct. 25, 2015," *The Daily Times*, October 25, 2015.

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Within the newfound Vose section of Blount County, the Babcock Lumber Company organized several residential streets named for trees. They constructed a modern sawmill facility, including a planing mill, dry kilns, and auxiliary buildings. Timber for this operation was extracted from Babcock's landholdings in Monroe County, transported via a local railroad. Babcock also constructed a large commissary building, around two hundred homes for the Company employees, and a school for the children.⁶ The company remained relatively successful in its East Tennessee operations until its timber resources began to diminish. Babcock sold its last property in Blount County in 1934, and a large share of their land was deeded to the federal government to form part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.⁷

The other early twentieth-century industrial presence in Blount County is certainly the better recognized entity, and the namesake of the city of Alcoa. After 1910, the Aluminum Company of America began construction of several dams along the Little Tennessee River in North Carolina and selected a site northwest of Maryville for industrial plants.⁸ The Aluminum Company of America purchased around seven hundred acres in the North Maryville area, west of the Vose neighborhood, and developed the community of Alcoa between 1914 and 1920. The city was planned by engineers E.S. Fickes and Robert F. Ewald, who included zoning for industrial, commercial, and residential areas, with provisions for schools, churches, parks, and recreational facilities. The engineers arranged streets, water and sewer lines, and park areas to provide for a city from five to six thousand people.⁹ Early buildings in Alcoa included service and reduction plants and a village of 150 residences, begun in 1916.¹⁰ This construction paralleled the development of the Vose neighborhood; the Aluminum Company had already selected the site for their operations, while the Babcock Lumber Company chose the 350 acres on the eastern side of North Maryville. By 1919, the Aluminum Company had installed necessary water, sewer, and lighting systems for their town. The City of Alcoa was officially established on July 1, 1919.¹¹

Education

In *Local Schools: Exploring their History*, Ronald E. Butchart argues that the history of local schools is essential to gathering a strong sense of broad historical developments in education.¹² While a school that serves approximately 125 students a year may not command the same level of immediate interest as another historic site, its documentation remains crucial to the community's history. The "larger context in which education developed" is reflected on a small scale in a community's individual schools.¹³ Butchart also describes several other reasons for studying local public schools, including the high "availability of solid historical evidence," formal educational institutions as a common shared experience for most Americans, and past educational practices as a means of informing present-day policy.¹⁴ Ultimately, the study of schools allows for the interpretation of "the ways in which formal education is embedded in a social and cultural

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Babcock Lumber Company, "History," accessed June 8, 2016, <http://www.babcocklumber.com/aboutus.asp>.

⁸ National Register of Historic Places, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Blount County, Tennessee," Section E, 18.

⁹ Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip*, 285.

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Blount County, Tennessee," Section E, 18.

¹¹ Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip*, 285.

¹² Ronald E. Butchart, *Local Schools: Exploring Their History* (Nashville, TN: AASLH, 1986), 116.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid., 7.

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context.”¹⁵ Along these lines, documenting the Vose School’s history aligns the school with the companies who founded the surrounding town of Alcoa, reflects the community’s quick growth, and is emblematic of the early twentieth-century period of Blount County’s educational development.

As one of the earliest schools in the area, and the first built by the industries who planned the town, the Vose School is inextricably connected to the origins of the City of Alcoa. The Vose School was intended for the children of the Babcock Lumber Company employees, who resided on the nearby streets named for trees. Construction on the school was begun as early as 1916; however, timely construction of the employees’ houses took precedence. Classes did not begin at the school until the fall of 1918.¹⁶ The school was noted as being the most modern in Blount County, featuring electricity, indoor plumbing, wall-hung drinking fountains, and furnace heat throughout the building.¹⁷ Within the four-room schoolhouse, there were four teachers for four separate elementary school classes.

Alcoa’s population grew rapidly, and along with it, its demand for school facilities. Before 1920, the Aluminum Company of America constructed multiple new facilities, including a Carbon Plant in 1917 and the West Fabricating Plant in 1919. In 1920, Alcoa’s population totaled 3,358, which grew to approximately 6,500 by 1944.¹⁸ While the Vose School was still considered a highly modern building, its four-room plan could not accommodate the increasing numbers of schoolchildren in Alcoa, and multiple new schools were constructed from 1919 to the mid-1920s. In 1918, a large barn was refurbished into a four-room schoolhouse on present-day Lincoln Road, and nicknamed the “Mule Barn.” The Mule Barn was used for a variety of purposes over the following decades, including serving as the City of Alcoa’s Municipal Offices.¹⁹ It is no longer extant. In 1920, the Springbrook Elementary School was constructed, with classes beginning in 1921. The school’s construction cost approximately \$68,000, and the building also housed the high school students from 1920 to 1939, when the present-day Alcoa High School building was completed.²⁰ Another elementary and middle school, the Bassel School, was completed in 1922 and took the place of the Mule Barn.

The educational segregation prevalent throughout the Southeastern United States in the early twentieth century was no stranger to Alcoa, Tennessee. The aforementioned schools were all constructed for white children, with African-American children in the City of Alcoa relegated to one of several one-room schoolhouses on Americus Avenue (no longer extant) and Edison Street.²¹ The Commercial Building, a multi-purpose building on Hall Road, provided space for African-American classrooms in the early 1920s. No longer extant, the Commercial Building was a two-story, brick masonry building that featured businesses on the first floor and seven classrooms on the second floor.²² The Charles M. Hall School was the first school building purposefully built for African-American students in Alcoa; it was completed in 1926 at a

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Zelma Acton Smith, “It Started in 1917,” Maryville, Tennessee, 2.

¹⁷ Smith, “It Started in 1917,” 2.

¹⁸ Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip*, 286.

¹⁹ Duggan and Williams, *Images of America: Alcoa*, 29.

²⁰ City of Alcoa, “Schools: History,” accessed June 8, 2016, <http://cityofalcoa.vic.com/content/view/full/746>.

²¹ Duggan and Williams, *Images of America: Alcoa*, 29.

²² Russell D. Parker, “The Black Community in a Company Town: Alcoa, Tennessee, 1919-1939,” in *Blacks in Appalachia*, ed. William H. Turner and Edward J. Cabbell (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1985), 81.

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cost of approximately \$64,000.²³ While the Hall School was completed only after the construction of two white-only schools (Springbrook and Bassel), it was built of a comparable quality and with similar resources. However, until 1939, the school provided education only through the tenth grade. If students wished to complete high school, they had to transfer to Austin High School in Knoxville.²⁴

Because Alcoa's population grew so rapidly, the Vose School's facilities were insufficient. Vose students moved to the Springbrook Elementary School when it opened in 1921.²⁵ The Vose building sat relatively unused for the following two decades, until it was rehabilitated in 1947 and re-opened for elementary school students.²⁶ Vose served grades 1 through 4, with 126 students enrolled in the 1949-1950 school year.²⁷ Due to the size limits of a four-room schoolhouse, Vose's enrollment stayed relatively stable, numbering 123 in 1953-1954.²⁸ Enrollment fell to 87 students by the 1959-1960 school year, but the school remained in operation until 1964.²⁹ After the summer of 1964, the Vose building was no longer used as a school for the City of Alcoa. However, the school's central location and flexible floor plan allowed for a variety of uses. In 1969, it served as the Blount County Cerebral Palsy School, and in 1974, it is listed in the Alcoa City Directory as the Blount Center for the Handicapped.³⁰ Sometime in the late 1970s, the building was utilized by the State of Tennessee as a Drivers Testing Center. At this point, the state made several modifications to modernize the building, including erecting partition walls to convert one classroom to multiple offices. The building was used as a drivers testing center until the mid-1990s, and has been used by the City of Alcoa for occasional storage purposes to the present day.

The building has been substantially under-used in the last several decades, and documentation of the school has been similarly vague in the community's overall history. When City of Alcoa historian Judge David Duggan and George Williams began preparation of the *Images of America: Alcoa* book in the late 2000s, they found very few specific details regarding the Vose School. Duggan and Williams published invitations to share photographs and information on the school on several instances in the Maryville-Alcoa *Daily Times*, and on the City of Alcoa's website. Neither the City of Alcoa nor Blount County could locate the property deed. While the reasons for such an absence of primary source documentation are unclear, the school's somewhat nebulous place within two different school systems could be to blame. Constructed as part of the Blount County school system, the Vose School was located within the boundaries of the City of Alcoa, and became part of the Alcoa City school system when it re-opened in the late 1940s.

The Vose School fits within the overall context of Blount County schools, as schools grew in size, number, and population over the course of the twentieth century. In 1908, there were eighty frame schoolhouses in

²³ Duggan and Williams, *Images of America: Alcoa*, 34.

²⁴ Parker, "The Black Community in a Company Town," in *Blacks in Appalachia*, 86.

²⁵ Maryville-Alcoa City Directory, 1921.

²⁶ Alcoa City Directory, 1947.

²⁷ Tennessee State Board of Education, *Preliminary Reports for Elementary Schools in TN, 1949-1950*, Department of Education Records, 1917-1989. Tennessee State Library and Archives.

²⁸ Tennessee State Board of Education, *Preliminary Reports for Elementary Schools in TN, 1953-1954*, Department of Education Records, 1917-1989. Tennessee State Library and Archives.

²⁹ Tennessee State Board of Education, *Preliminary Reports for Elementary Schools in TN, 1959-1960*, Department of Education Records, 1917-1989. Tennessee State Library and Archives.

³⁰ Alcoa City Directories, 1969 and 1974.

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Blount County and two log schoolhouses.³¹ One such log building is the Sam Houston Schoolhouse (NR, 6/13/1972), dating to approximately 1794. Blount County's earliest schools were built by settlers to provide for their children's education, and pre-Civil War schools were primarily private academies and colleges associated with religious denominations. However, the County's public schools grew in the late nineteenth century. By the early 1900s, statewide promotion for better public schools was embraced in Blount County, and multiple one-room frame school houses were constructed.³² By 1918, there were eighty-five schools, including sixty one-room schoolhouses, eleven two-room facilities, and twelve with more than two rooms. All of these schools were intended for white children only; in 1907, only ten schools were built for the African-American population.³³

While the "small district schoolhouse was once the backbone of the educational system in the United States," school systems throughout the country were forced to accommodate growing populations in larger buildings throughout the twentieth century.³⁴ By the late 1920s, the smaller schools were in the process of being consolidated (such as Vose students joining the larger Springbrook Elementary population), and frame and log buildings were often replaced by larger, brick schools. One such example in Blount County is the Happy Valley School (NR, 6/16/1989), "representative of a period of construction by the Blount County School Board which resulted in the replacement of earlier frame schools with modern brick facilities."³⁵ The Happy Valley School property was deeded to the County in 1883, and records document a frame school built on the site around 1908. The one-story brick building with Colonial Revival influences was constructed in 1936. Smaller facilities such as the Vose School became less sustainable, and government funds were often allocated to schools that could accommodate more students. However, the Vose School's central location and flexible plan allowed it to adapt to multiple uses throughout the late twentieth century, with minimal alterations to its original form and design.

Architecture

The Vose School is also representative of trends in public school design and construction in the early twentieth century, featuring elements of the Craftsman style. Official plans for school buildings evolved alongside Tennessee's education system, as it developed from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century. While the Vose School does not exactly represent one of the model school plans promoted by the State of Tennessee in 1907, the building features numerous architectural details prescribed for successful schools.

In the years preceding the Civil War, the state of Tennessee lacked any official guidelines regarding the construction and operation of local schools. In 1823, Tennessee passed the state's first general school act, which served as the government's first effort to provide and regulate a public school system.³⁶ By 1838, a movement in the northeastern states to improve school architecture spread to Tennessee; an 1838 education

³¹ Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip*, 179.

³² National Register of Historic Places, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Blount County, Tennessee," Section E.

³³ Burns, *History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip*, 179.

³⁴ Margaret Slater, "The Evolution of Schoolhouse Architecture in Tennessee" (master's thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, 1987), 1.

³⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Happy Valley School, Blount County, Tennessee, National Register #89000884.

³⁶ Slater, "The Evolution of Schoolhouse Architecture in Tennessee," 22.

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act contained a brief appendix entitled “Report on the Construction of School Houses.”³⁷ The report recommended unobstructed light and air in each room, windows and doors on at least three sides of the building, and masonry or wood frame construction.

Immediately following the Civil War, state superintendent John Eaton, Jr. revived interest in Tennessee’s school system. In his *First Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction* of 1869, Eaton lamented the state of schoolhouses in rural areas and small towns. In his quest to continue the evolution of school construction, Eaton consulted an 1870 manual by C. Thurston Chase, Florida State Superintendent of Education, entitled *Manual on Schoolhouses and Cottages for the People of the South*. The manual featured extensive recommendations on selecting school sites, construction techniques, ideal floor plans, and exterior design. Chase recommended nine-over-nine windows, with transoms above doors, as seen in the Vose School. Such an emphasis on a school’s construction and design as inherently connected to the success of its students continued through the end of the nineteenth century.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, many rural school systems in the United States were moving away from “small, ungraded, district schools” in favor of larger schools with multiple grades.³⁸ The Vose School can be interpreted as midpoint in this transition. It utilizes the form of a small schoolhouse with a simple interior plan, but incorporated four classrooms separated by a large hallway to accommodate several different age groups and grades.

In the early twentieth century, the state of Tennessee took further strides in public schools and schoolhouse architecture, especially in rural areas. In the early 1900s, progressive reform philosophy advocated the school as a “linchpin of improved country life,” where the well-built rural school could “provide a physical model of the ideal rural dwelling.”³⁹ In 1907, the state legislature authorized the superintendent of public instruction to issue model school plans (though without the power to enforce their adoption). A Chattanooga-based architectural firm created the *Plans and Specifications for Public School Buildings*, which emphasized classroom lighting and ventilation, and economic construction practices.⁴⁰ This plan book also advocated restrained Craftsman and Classical Revival influences, with forms similar to bungalows and symmetrical facades. Each of these elements can be seen in the Vose School’s design and details. The state published a second book of plans in 1922, and by 1928, the Department of Education issued *Rural School Building Plans*, designed by a Memphis architect.⁴¹

While not built as part of a state-led campaign, the Vose School reflects this early twentieth-century period of schoolhouse construction. Builders employed by the Babcock Lumber Company selected a four-room, central hallway floor plan as an efficient and symmetrical method of accommodating four separate classes. The Vose School is constructed of wood frame, with the nine-over-nine windows and wood transoms recommended as early as 1870. The building is centrally located on its parcel, set back from the street and

³⁷ Slater, “The Evolution of Schoolhouse Architecture in Tennessee,” 25.

³⁸ Slater, “The Evolution of Schoolhouse Architecture in Tennessee,” 14/

³⁹ Mary S. Hoffschwelle, *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, Schools, and Homes in Tennessee, 1900-1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998), 7.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 24.

⁴¹ Tennessee Department of Education, *Building Plans for Rural School Houses*, Department of Education, 1928.

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well-situated to encourage natural light and ventilation. Craftsman influences, recommended in the statewide 1907 model plans, are visible in the building's low-pitched, hipped roof and wide eave overhangs, while the Classical Revival style is visible in the centrally-located front porches and symmetrical elevations. As the school builders were employed by the Babcock Lumber Company, they were surely skilled in carpentry and wood craftsmanship, which is reflected to date in the intact wood details on the exterior, and the interior wood wainscoting.

In *Local Schools: Exploring their History*, Ronald E. Butchart argues that even in the most simple, unadorned school buildings, architecture is strongly connected to the school's intended message. Butchart states that the "school buildings themselves are documents and forms of iconography," especially in terms of location and siting.⁴² The building's physical evidence can lead to insight on "quality of construction and patterns of maintenance in various neighborhoods," and whether or not "some neighborhoods [were] favored at the expense of others."⁴³ The Vose School's continual integrity of materials and workmanship is a testament to its quality of construction, and its original connection to the executives and employees of the Babcock Lumber Company. In terms of favoring neighborhoods or communities over others, the Vose School was built as part of the segregated school system in Blount County. Thus, on a broader level, African-American students in Alcoa were at a strong disadvantage throughout the twentieth century; however, the Vose School's existence within the systematic segregation of schools in the South does not lend itself to the site's individual significance.

Butchart also argues that architectural details, both interior and exterior, of local schools should be studied for the potential messages inherent in their design. Differences in the styles of buildings provided for different groups of students may represent distinct priorities on the part of the school system and community planners, while interior arrangements strongly "influence relationships among members of the school community."⁴⁴ The Vose School is simplistic in terms of architectural detailing, especially on the exterior, but the high quality of construction and materials is indicative of its roots as founded by a lumber company. The use of a symmetrical, four-classroom plan, with a wide central hallway shows a utilitarian commitment to equal opportunities for each grade attending the school. Upon construction, the Vose School was also noted as the "most modern in Blount County," being the first to have electricity, indoor plumbing, water fountains, and furnace heat inside the building.⁴⁵ Along with representing the evolving technologies in plumbing and electricity, this indicates the Babcock Company's desire to attract workers to the community through modern, comfortable conditions for their children.

Located in Bledsoe County, the Bellview School (NR, 3/5/1999) demonstrates similar tactics in early twentieth-century schoolhouse design. This 1928 schoolhouse utilizes a T-shaped plan with a cross-gable roof. Windows are also nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood sash, with an entry recessed below a front-gable roof projection on the façade. Similar to the Vose School, the Bellview School features two narrow cloakrooms with beaded wainscoting below horizontal plank walls, and metal coat hooks along the wall.⁴⁶

⁴² Ronald E. Butchart, *Local Schools: Exploring Their History* (Nashville, TN: AASLH, 1986), 94.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 95.

⁴⁵ Smith, "It Started in 1917," 2.

⁴⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Belleview School, Bledsoe County, Tennessee, National Register #99000279.

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One cloakroom was converted to a restroom in approximately 1970, though early memoirs indicate that Vose was constructed with interior restrooms.⁴⁷ Later modifications to the Bellview School also reflect those at Vose, where several windows were removed and carpeting was laid on floors. Also comparable to the Vose School's various uses for the state and local community, the Bellview School is currently used as a community center.

The Raus School (NR, 11/21/2012) in Bedford County is another early Tennessee school listed on the National Register. The Raus School was constructed in the late 1880s, and opened to students around 1890. The one-story, T-shaped frame school features a weatherboard exterior and a stone pier foundation. Slightly smaller than the Vose School, it only served fifty to seventy-five students at its height of operation in the early 1900s. The Raus School's interior reflects its smaller size in a more open plan, featuring a front and rear section not divided by partitions, and a wing extension that has been enclosed with several modern doors. As the Vose School was designed to suit a larger population and accommodate three to four individual classes, its plan features four separate classrooms. The Raus School also features horizontal wood coat racks with metal hooks along its entry, similar to those in the cloakrooms at Vose.⁴⁸

Other notable National Register-listed school properties in Blount County are built on a far larger scale than the Vose School. The Maryville College Historic District (NR, 9/9/1982) represents the cornerstone of educational development in Blount County. The District includes nine buildings that date from the 1869 to 1923, the period of school design and construction that also encompasses the Vose School. The buildings boast designs from well-known Knoxville architects such as Barber and Baumann, with numerous instances of high-style Colonial Revival details.⁴⁹ The Alumni Gymnasium on the College campus is individually listed on the National Register (NR, 6/16/1989), with a form and design similar to the Vose School. The Gymnasium has a rectangular plan, wood clapboard siding and regularly-spaced, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows. It was built in 1923 and modified in approximately 1970.

Integrity

The Vose School retains a high degree of historic integrity as defined by the seven aspects of integrity. The school remains where it was originally constructed, therefore featuring integrity of **location**. The Vose School also retains a substantial integrity of **setting**, which is notable in a community marked by a steady increase in residential and commercial development. The Vose School originated as a neighborhood school for residents of the nearby streets, and the area surrounding the school remains residential, with a consistent stock of houses constructed from 1910 to 1940. The surrounding houses retain similar construction techniques, design styles, and setbacks from the sidewalk, with a consistent scale and mass throughout. The school also remains surrounded by a grassed lawn and mature-growth trees. The Vose School also features integrity of **design**. Alterations to the building are minor and mainly restricted to the interior, and do not alter the form, plan, space, structure, or style of the school. The only exterior alteration includes enclosing some windows (date unknown), and the major interior alteration includes the c.1970 placement of half-height wall partitions in one classroom. Other alterations, including the c.1970 covering of the original wood floors with

⁴⁷ Smith, "It Started in 1917," 2.

⁴⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Raus School, Bedford County, Tennessee, National Register #12000966.

⁴⁹ National Register of Historic Places, Maryville College Historic District, Blount County, Tennessee, National Register #82003953.

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linoleum are relatively minor and reversible. The school remains true to its original design as a four-room schoolhouse with a central hallway. Historic **materials** are largely intact, featuring the original windows, exterior siding, and interior finishes. Despite periods of substantial neglect, the well-preserved school is a testament to the lasting nature of these materials and the **workmanship** of the builders involved. Complimented by the surrounding historic residential area, these attributes combine to generate a strong integrity of **feeling** and **association** that align the Vose School with early twentieth-century education and the founding of the town of Alcoa.

The Vose School benefits from a consistent historical setting and the preservation of its original design and materials. Despite the structure's current lack of use, its overall integrity allows the building to be evocative of early twentieth-century trends in schoolhouse design and construction. The Vose School was built as statewide schoolhouse plans were increasingly common, and reflects the recommendations made in these early twentieth-century models. The Vose School is also representative of the planning and development of Alcoa, Tennessee. As one of the first schools built in the community, the school was constructed by one of the two major industries that shaped Alcoa. The Vose School was a cornerstone of Alcoa's early community life, and the building's lasting presence in its original location provides the town and its residents with a clear visual connection to its history.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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Parker, Russell D. "The Black Community in a Company Town: Alcoa, Tennessee, 1919-1939." *Blacks in Appalachia*, ed. William H. Turner and Edward J. Cabbell. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1985.

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Tennessee State Board of Education. *Preliminary Reports for Elementary Schools in TN, 1959-1960*. Department of Education Records, 1917-1989. Nashville, TN: Tennessee State Library and Archives.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository: City of Alcoa	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.34 acres **USGS Quadrangle** Maryville, TN (147-SW)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 34.796497 | Longitude: -83.972272 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.796033 | Longitude: -83.971608 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.795564 | Longitude: -83.972161 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.79605 | Longitude: -83.972789 |

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Vose School begins at the north junction of Birch Street and Locust Street. From this point, the boundary runs northeast along Birch Street for approximately 235 feet, northwest along a small concentration of trees, southwest along Cedar Street, and returns southeast along Locust Street back to the point of origin.

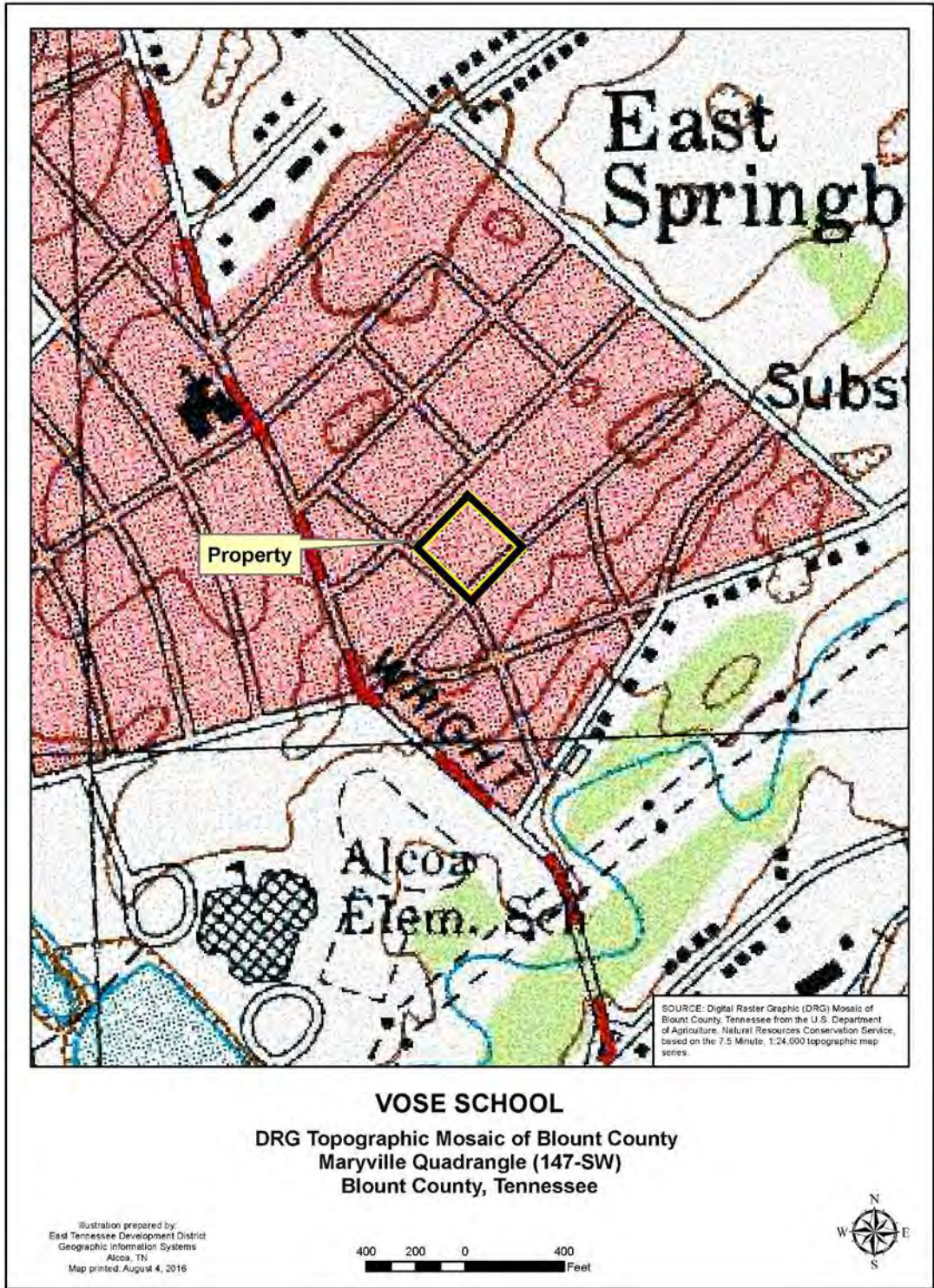
Boundary Justification

The boundary represents the 1.34-acre parcel that has been historically associated with the Vose School.

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Figure 1: 1979 USGS Topographic Map, Maryville Quadrangle, 147-SW.



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Figure 2: Parcel Boundary for Vose School.



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11. Form Prepared By

Name Lindsay Crockett, Historic Preservation Planner

Organization East Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 216 Corporate Place Date _____

City or Town Alcoa Telephone 865-273-6003

E-mail lcrockett@etdd.org State TN Zip Code 37701

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 map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

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.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Vose School
City or Vicinity: Alcoa
County: Blount State: Tennessee
Photographer: Lindsay Crockett
Date Photographed: May 23, 2016

- 1 of 34. Front façade (southwest elevation). Photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 34. West oblique. Photographer facing east.
- 3 of 34. Northwest elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 34. Exterior addition, north oblique. Photographer facing south.
- 5 of 34. Exterior addition, northeast elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 34. Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 34. Rear façade (northeast elevation). Photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 34. Rear porch detail (northeast elevation). Photographer facing south.
- 9 of 34. Southeast elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 34. Dormer detail. Photographer facing north.
- 11 of 34. Window detail. Photographer facing west.
- 12 of 34. South oblique. Photographer facing north.
- 13 of 34. Front porch detail. Photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 34. Central hallway view. Photographer facing northeast.
- 15 of 34. Central hallway view. Photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 34. Interior wall detail, central hallway. Photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 34. Rear entry detail. Photographer facing northeast.
- 18 of 34. View of entry to *Room 1*. Photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 34. View of *Room 1*. Photographer facing north.

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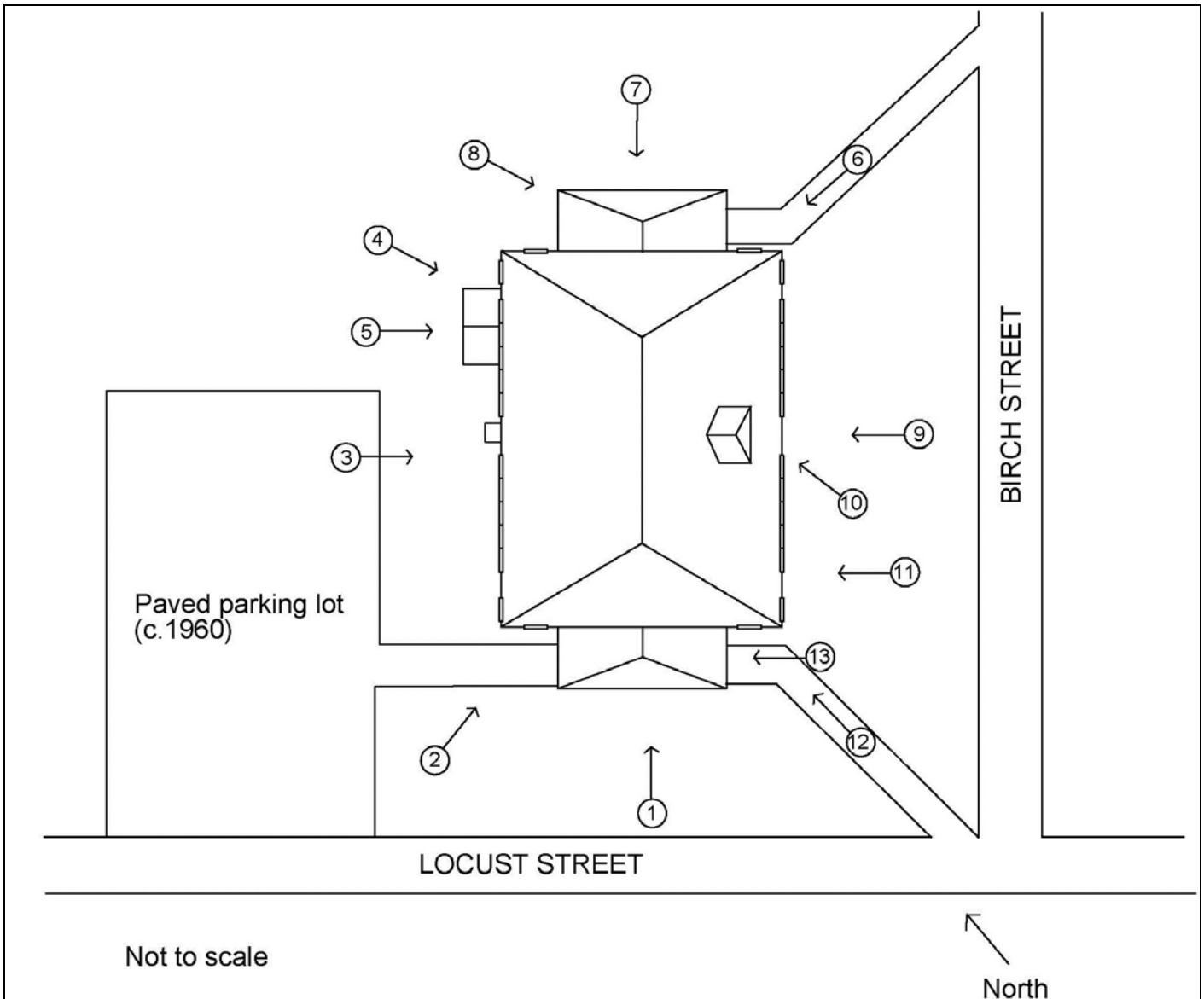
Blount County, TN
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-
- 20 of 34. View of cloakroom attached to *Room 1*. Photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 34. View of entry to *Room 2*. Photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 34. View of *Room 2*. Photographer facing northeast.
- 23 of 34. View of *Room 2*. Photographer facing southwest.
- 24 of 34. View of entry to restroom. Photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 34. View of restroom. Photographer facing northwest.
- 26 of 34. View of *Room 3*. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 34. View of *Room 3*. Photographer facing southwest.
- 28 of 34. View of *Room 3*. Photographer facing west.
- 29 of 34. View of *Room 3*. Photographer facing northeast.
- 30 of 34. View of *Room 4*. Photographer facing south.
- 31 of 34. View of *Room 4*. Photographer facing southeast.
- 32 of 34. View of *Room 4*. Photographer facing north.
- 33 of 34. View of cloakroom attached to *Room 4*. Photographer facing west.
- 34 of 34. View of cloakroom attached to *Room 4*. Photographer facing southeast.

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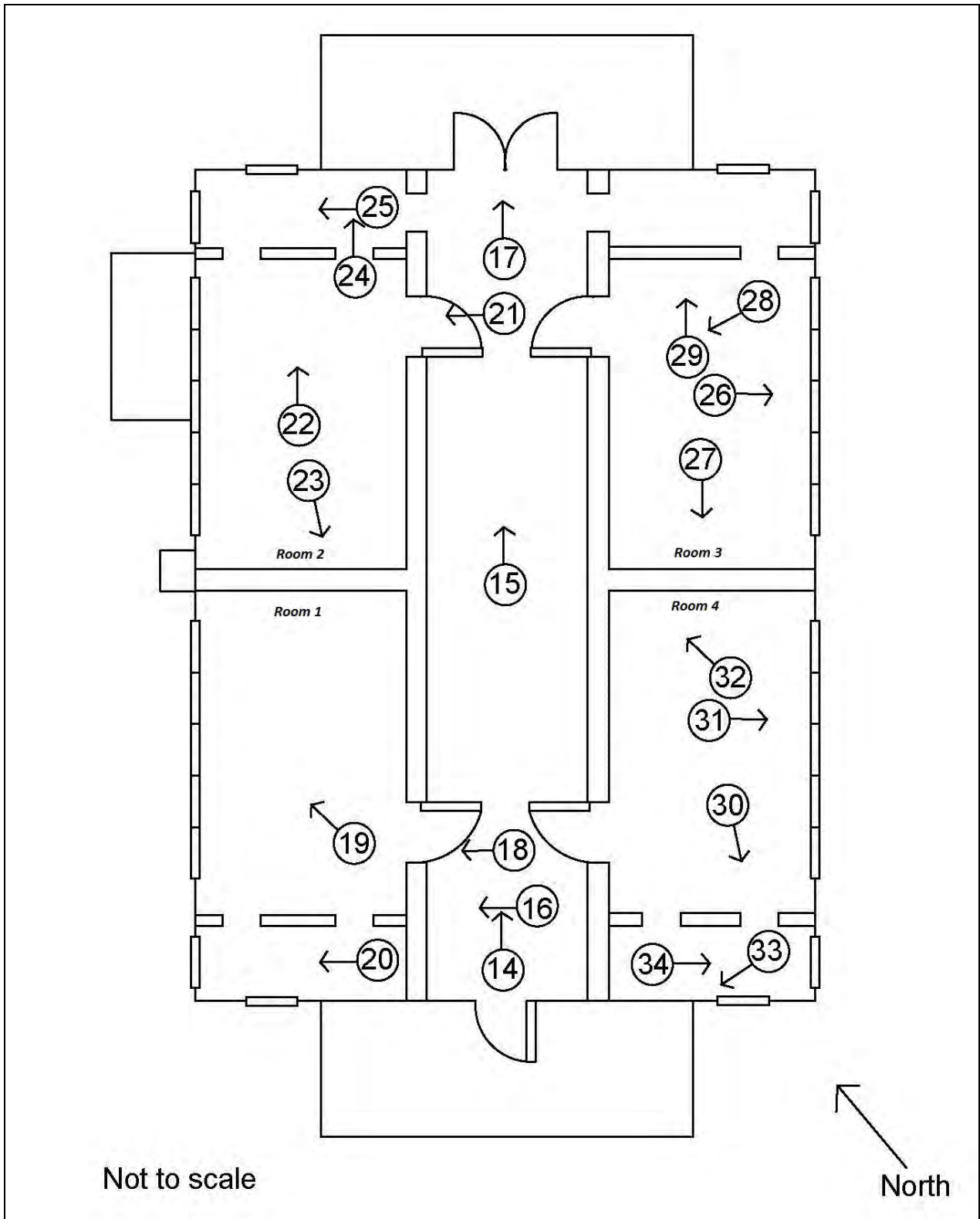
Site Plan



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Floor Plan



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National Park Service

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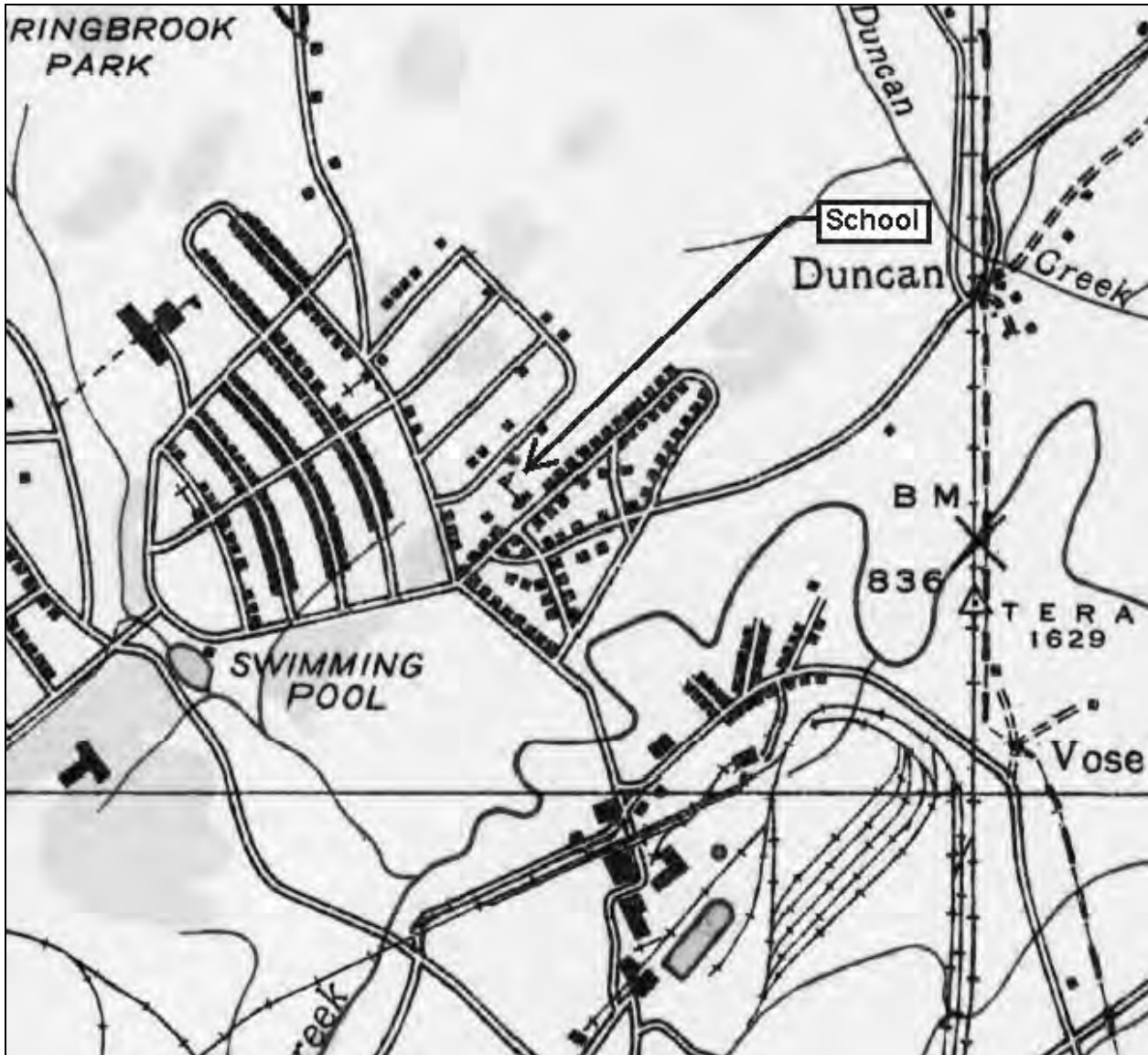


Figure 3: 1935 USGS Topographic Map, Maryville quadrangle.

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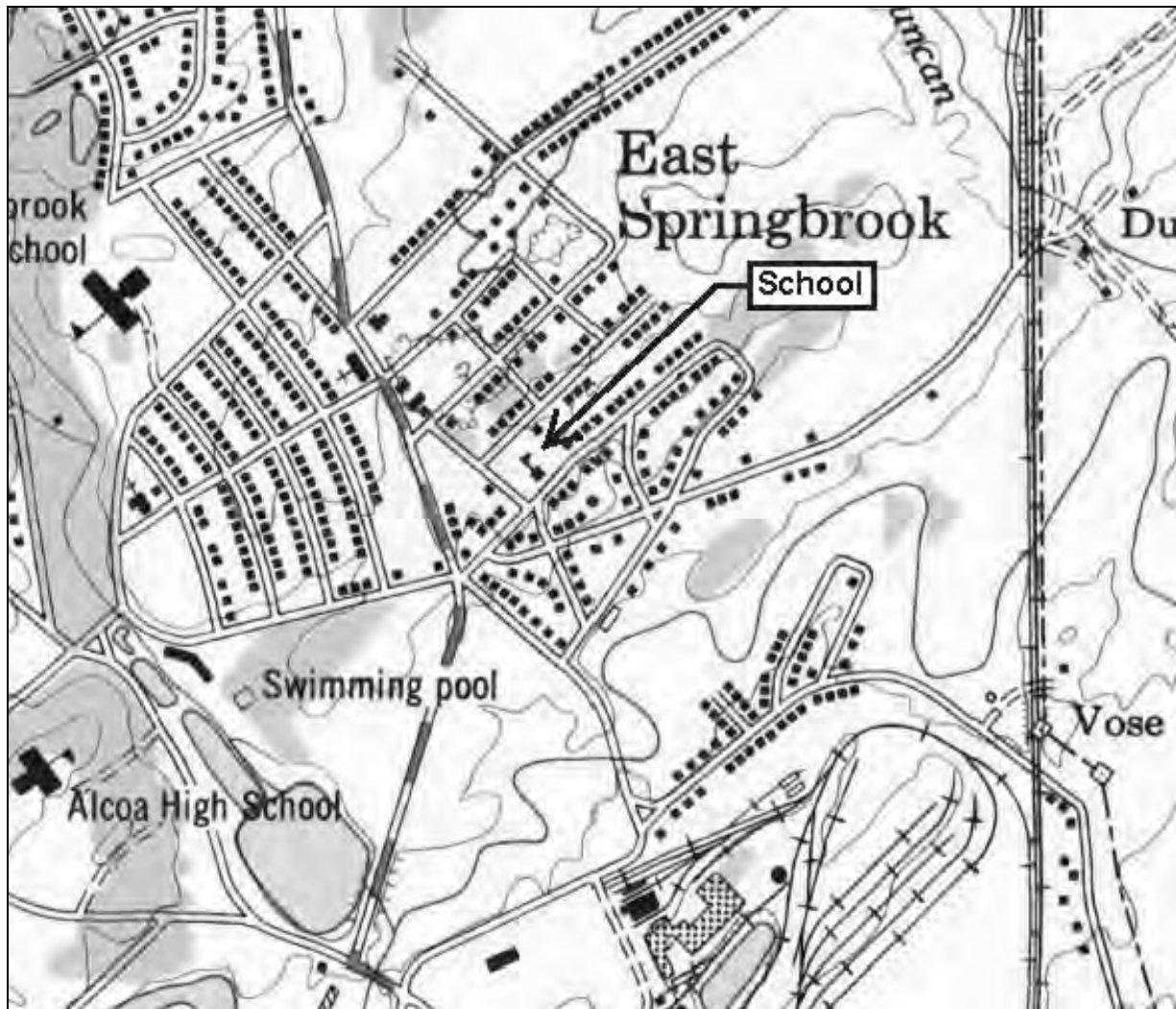


Figure 4: 1953 USGS Topographic Map, Maryville quadrangle.

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National Park Service

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Figure 5: Undated illustration of Babcock Lumber Company plant in Alcoa, Tennessee. Residential area (with Vose School) located in background. Source: Babcock Lumber Company.

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National Park Service

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Figure 6: 1917 photograph of the Babcock Lumber Company mill in Blount County. Source: Image No. N-1264. Thompson Photograph Collection, Digital Collection, McClung Historical Collection.

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National Park Service

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Figure 7: Vose School students in front of the school, approximately 1918. Source: Judge David R. Duggan.

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Figure 8: Vose School student portrait, 1919-1920 school year. Source: Judge David R. Duggan.

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Figure 9: Photographs of students and area residents on the Vose School playground, approximately 1920. Source: Judge David R. Duggan.

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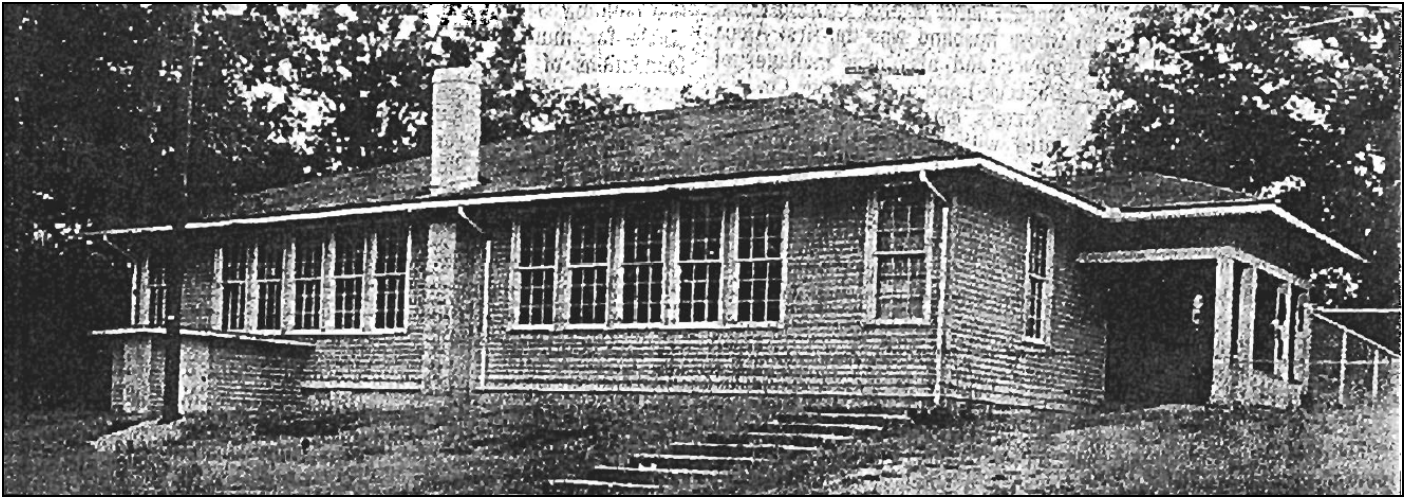


Figure 10: Undated photograph of the Vose School, approximately mid-twentieth century. Source: City of Alcoa.

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Figure 11: Vose School, c.1975. Parking lot has not yet been paved. Source: Judge David R. Duggan.

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name City of Alcoa, Tennessee (Don Mull, Mayor; Chris Hamby, Director of Planning)
Street &
Number 223 Associates Boulevard Telephone 865-380-4787
City or Town Alcoa State/Zip TN, 37701-1943





























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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Vose School

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: TENNESSEE, Blount

Date Received: 6/9/2017 Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100001368

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Excellent example of the type

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A 7 C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



May 30, 2017

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

National Register Nomination Vose School, Blount County, Tennessee

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Vose School* to the National Register of Historic Places.

This nomination received a 6-1 vote in favor of the nomination. The dissenting review board member felt that the nomination did not justify significance under Criterion A. It is staff opinion that the nomination makes a clear case for Criteria A and C.

We received no comments on this nomination.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb
Enclosures(3)