National Park Service

MP 3504

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: Brimfield School No. 2				
Other names/site number:				
Name of related multiple property listing:				
Indiana's Public Common and High Schools				
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing				
2. Location Street & number: N 140 E, one block north of E. 3 rd St.				
City or town: Brimfield State: IN County: Noble				
Not For Publication: Vicinity: X				
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,				
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:				
nationalstatewidex_local				
Applicable National Register Criteria:				
<u>x</u> A <u>B</u> <u>x</u> C <u>D</u>				
FREDERICA 1.18-2019				
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date				
Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology				
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government				

of Property	County and State
In my opinion, the property meets does n	ot meet the National Register criteria
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
. National Park Service Certification	
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:)	2112
In My	3.11.2019
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property	
Check as many boxes as apply.)	
Private: x	
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	
Category of Property	
(Check only one box.)	
Building(s)	
District	

Brimfield School No. 2		Noble County, Indiana
Name of Property		County and State
Site		
Structure		
Object		
Number of Resources within Prope	rty	
(Do not include previously listed reso	urces in the count)	
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		o unum 55
0	0	sites
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
		J
1	0	Total
		Total
Number of contributing resources pre	viously listed in the Natio	onal Register <u>0</u>
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions		
(Enter categories from instructions.)		
EDUCATION/schools		
 -		
Current Functions		
(Enter categories from instructions.)		
VACANT/NOT IN USE		

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register NPS Form 10-900	of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018	
Brimfield School No. 2 Name of Property		Noble County, Indiana County and State

rimfield School No. 2		Noble County, Indiana
me of Property		County and State
7. Descriptio	n	
Architectural		
	es from instructions.)	
LATE 19 TH A	AND EARLY 20 TH CENTURY AMERIC	CAN MOVEMENTS
_Other: Arts an	nd Crafts	
-		
Matarials: (en	ter categories from instructions.)	
foundation:	BRICK	
walls:	BRICK	
walls.		
	STONE: limestone	
	CONCRETE	
	WOOD	
roof:	_ASPHALT	
	WOOD	
other:		

Brimfield School No. 2
Name of Property

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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

The Brimfield School No. 2 is located on a lot at the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Main Street/County Road N 140 E in Brimfield, Orange Township, Noble County, Indiana. Oriented east to face Main Street, the school is surrounded by trees and overgrown vegetation. A small creek runs east-to-west across the northern half of the site. This brick 20th-century functional building with Craftsman-detailing is a one-story school building and sits on a raised brick basement with a cross-shaped plan. The dark red brick on the exterior has raked mortar joints with a red-tinted mortar and limestone accents. All four wings of the building have hip roofs. Most of the glazing and doors are missing from the building. Deep eaves shelter a wide decorated wood frieze that surrounds the entire building. Historically, the roof was clad in slate tiles, but now has asphalt shingles. A small pyramidal bell tower sits on the ridge of the front wing but is missing its original wood louvered panels. The upper floor of the school has three classrooms, restrooms and two cloakrooms. The basement houses a multi-purpose gymnasium/auditorium, restrooms and mechanical rooms. In 2012, the roof and wood soffits were replaced and the original wood frieze, trim work and window frames were repainted.

Narrative Description

Brimfield School No. 2 is located on the north side of Brimfield, Indiana. Brimfield is a small unincorporated community located along US 6 between CR 100 E and CR 150 E in Orange Township, Noble County, Indiana. Located in the northeast corner of the state, Noble County is bordered by LaGrange County to the north, DeKalb County to the east, Whitley and Allen counties to the south and Elkhart and Kosciusko counties to the west. Orange Township is located along Noble County's northern border, in the eastern half of the county, and is a largely rural area. The area is primarily farmland with some timber stands and lakes in the northern half which are fed by the Elkhart River. Sylvan Lake, the largest body of water in the township is north of Brimfield and is surrounded by the town of Rome City, the largest community in the township.

Brimfield is a primarily residential community with a scattering of churches and commercial or industrial buildings along US 6. The school is located on the north edge of the town. The school faces east as it sits on a irregularly-shaped parcel that is bordered by farmland to the north and west. A small creek flows along the northern border of the parcel. Large trees and dense shrubs

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on the east, south and west elevations largely obscure the building from view. There are tall grasses and small hills on the northern portion of the parcel.

The property is currently vacant but had some stabilizing repairs completed in 2012 including a new roof and subfloors. The building is not secure and ongoing vandalism is evident; multiple surfaces on the interior and exterior are marred by graffiti and remaining architectural features have been damaged. While almost every window sash in the building has been removed from its opening, many are found in the building in fair to very poor condition.

East Elevation (front): A curbed concrete sidewalk overgrown with vegetation leads to the central limestone staircase and projecting entry of the school which is flanked on either side by a recessed bay. The brick foundation of the building is covered by a layer of concrete topped with a concrete water table approximately two feet above-grade. The recessed bays of the façade have a single small window opening in the basement level framed by stacked stretcher bricks. All basement windows have this same brick framing. Although neither opening has intact sashes, extraneous two-over-two wood sashes are found in the basement. Just above the basement window openings of the north and south bays and continuing around the perimeter of the building is a stretcher brick belt course. Limestone accent blocks denoted the belt course at the corners of the building.

The center projecting entrance has its original wood framing recessed between two large brick pilasters. The wood framing accomodates openings for a double door, sidelights and transoms (Photo 1), but no sashes or doors are currently intact. A historic photo of the school depicts the original Craftsman-style nine-light window sashes and double doors (Image 1). Both brick pilasters flanking the entrance have a single parallel course of header bricks that run lengthwise down the pilaster, creating an illusion of vertical panels. Unadorned square and rectangle-shaped limestone accents adorn the junction between beltcourse panels and header course. There are raised lozenge-with-tabs limestone accents stacked vertically within these vertical panels on either side of the entry transom windows. Above the framed entrance is a band consisting of two beltcourses, each consisting of two courses of brick, at the top and bottom. It is a six courses high and red bricks alternate with vertically set rectangles of limestone. Centered in the band is a carved limestone crest bearing "1921". This band extends onto the pilasters. Above the crest is another carved limestone panel, this one reads "BRIMFIELD SCHOOL No. 2". Limestone squares accent this panel at all four corners. A second band of beltcourses and rectangular limestone accents runs above the name panel and extends across the pilasters. Centered vertically in this band is a large limestone panel topped by a limestone disk. Limestone coping tops the parapet and pilasters of the central bay. Square limestone blocks supported by brick corbelling pierce the coping of each pilaster.

The recessed bays on either side of the center bay on the first floor have a single tall window opening. Neither of these openings have glazing or sashes, but both have limestone sills and are accented by small square limestone pieces. A historic photo of the school shows two-over-two double hung windows in these and the other first floor openings. The spandrels below the first floor windows have carved limestone panels (Photos 7 and 8).

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The panel south of the entrance reads:

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ARCHITECT
CHARLES WEATHERHOGG
CONTRACTOR
WILLIAM H. BRUMBAUGH
COUNTY SUPT.
GUY R. HALL

The panel north of the entrance reads:

TRUSTEE
W.H. HASSINGER
ADVISORY BOARD
JAMES H. STILLINGER
ALFRED A. MALONE
DORA L. CUNLEY

Under the wide roof eave is a wide wood frieze with horizontal fluting and flat modillions. The frieze and wood soffits have recently been painted. On the hip roof of this wing is the original wood frame bell tower with pyramidal roof. Its original bell and arched wood louvered panels have been removed (Photo 2).

South Elevation:

The south elevation is divided into three bays. The center bay projects out from the main cube of the school just like the arrangement of both the east and north elevations. The east bay of the south elevation has two short windows partially set into the concrete veneer of the raised basement foundation (Photo 6). The sides of these windows and the remaining basement windows on this elevation are framed by stacked stretcher bricks as mentioned on the east elevation. The belt course, continuing from the front façade, serves as a lintel for the basement windows. The projecting bay of the elevation has a small basement window opening facing east. On the southern face of the projection are two windows in the raised basement, each located directly under the outer windows of the first-floor window bank. The west-facing surface of the central bay has two basement window openings. The west bay of the elevation has two basement window openings, one at each end (Photo 5). Between these windows is a third opening that has been filled in with the glazed buff brick found on the interior walls of the school. All of the windows in the raised basement on the south elevation are missing both sashes.

Windows on the first story of the east bay align vertically with the basement windows. Each has a limestone sill but no sashes. Centered on the projecting middle bay is a group of five window openings with a continuous limestone sill and no sashes or glazing. The west bay of the elevation has a window in the corner next to the projecting wall also with limestone sill and no glazing. This window also aligns vertically with a basement window below. West of this window is a large doorway with a vertical wood plank sliding door mounted on metal tracks. This opening has a concrete lintel and sill and was added sometime after the school closed and was used for industrial operations.

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Under the wood eaves of the hip roof, the horizontal fluting and flat modillions of the wood frieze continue on every wall of this elevation.

West Elevation:

The simplest of all the elevations, the west elevation is more utilitarian (Photo 4). In the raised basement, there are two metal coal chutes located under the outer windows of the first story group and directly under the belt course that continues from the south elevation. As with the north and south elevations there is a grouping of five tall window openings centered on the first story, all without sashes. The wood frieze under the eaves continues on from the south elevation.

North Elevation:

Similar to the south elevation, the north elevation is divided into three bays, with a central projecting bay. This elevation also includes a side entrance to the mechanical areas of the basement (Photo 3). The easternmost bay of the north elevation has two spaced window openings in the basement (Photo 2). There is a single two-light wood upper sash intact on the eastern window, without glazing. To the west of these windows, in the raised basement of the center bay, there is a large opening cut into the brick and reinforced with a steel beam lintel. This opening provides access to the basement gymnasium space at-grade. West of this added doorway is an original basement window opening. Adjacent to the west end of the projecting bay is an original brick room with a shed roof. A door-sized opening provides access to a ramp in the basement but no door is present. A steel lintel supports the doorway on this opening and the brick is highly deteriorated. The soldier course brick banding on the elevation is carried on across the addition. Next to the shed-roof wing is a short square wing with flat concrete roof and empty window opening. The brick and mortar on this original structure is also in poor condition and the steel lintel is visible. West of these two small rooms are two original openings under the belt course.

On the first story, the eastern bay of the elevation has two original window openings each directly above their basement counterpart. The projecting center bay of the elevation has a five-window bank with continuous limestone sill and no intact sashes. Finally, there is one window opening on the western bay, located above the shed-roof room. All of the first story windows have limestone sills. Limestone accents adorn the outer edges of the east and central bay on the north elevation.

Again, the wood frieze and soffits are continued on this elevation. A large brick chimney is visible on the west wing of the school.

Interior:

Throughout the building, damage to the original plaster reveals the large structural terra cotta blocks and bricks used to build the walls. Interior walls were originally finished with plaster in the classrooms. The restrooms, hallways and gymnasium have glazed brownish-red brick wainscoting topped by a stained wood chair rail and plaster above. In areas where the plaster is intact, an original hand-stenciled border is visible above the chair rail. It appears that this stenciling was throughout the entire first floor, with the exception of where chalkboards were in the three classrooms and in the restroom storage areas. This border has a repeating pattern of

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green rectangles outlined by red dashed lines and groupings of four green leaves with a central red square reminiscent of holly. This pattern is also accented with red dashed lines (Photo 13). Even in the classrooms where there is no brick wainscoting or chair rail, the border is present. When built, each classroom and the gymnasium had wood floors, but hallways, restrooms and cloak rooms were designed with terrazzo flooring (Photo 14). Because the school sat vacant for some time and has no intact windows or doors, the plaster ceilings and wood floors on the first story and gymnasium are gone. Some plaster wall surfaces are intact, but are marred by graffiti. The terrazzo flooring is intact in the cloakrooms and halls.

First Floor:

At the main entrance at ground level, there once was a central wood staircase leading from the front doors to the elevated main floor. On either side of this main staircase, two narrower wood staircases provided access down to the basement level (Photo 9). These elements have been marked on the plan for the purpose of clarity. All staircase risers and treads have been removed, along with the wood balustrades. The walls of the stairways are covered in the same glazed brick as the wainscot. One of the half-newel posts set into the plaster wall on the first-floor landing is intact.

At the top of the central staircase is a terrazzo vestibule and landing and entryway with a wide opening and transom (Photo 9). The intact wood trim and casings with evidence of hinges indicates that this opening was once filled with two doors. On either side of the entrance are window openings. The opening to the right of the doorway has remnants of a multi-light wood sash window and a transom complete with wood muntins but no glazing. To the left, there is a sash frame in the window opening, but no intact muntins. This side also has an intact multi-light transom. The muntins create a pattern of three horizontal rectangles stacked, with small squares on their ends. A strip of decorative wood molding runs across the top of the entry and adjacent windows and unifies the elements. A wood chair rail runs along the plaster walls of the landing at waist-height.

This large opening gives way to a central terrazzo hallway that leads to two restrooms, three classrooms and two cloakrooms on this floor (Photo 15). Brownish-red glazed brick wainscoting is laid from the floor to the wood chair rail along both sides of the hallway.

On either side of the main hall, at either end of the vestibule, are the restrooms. The restrooms are mirror images of each other, both with painted concrete floors, glazed brick wainscoting, wood chair rails and stencil border (Photo 10 and 12). Each lavatory has a small closet behind what was once the toilets and three large windows, none with intact sashes. Doors to the restrooms are missing glazing and lower panels but are partially intact (Photo 11). Scarring from now-missing muntins on these doors indicates four square lights were once present. The simple flat wood trim, wide head casing and crown trim around these doors is intact. The small closet doors have been removed from both restrooms. Plumbing and fixtures have been removed or damaged.

¹ Doors in the basement have intact muntin structure with lower solid panel.

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Moving west down the main hall, there is a classroom on either side and another at the west end of the hall. Each classroom is approximately 30 feet by 23.5 feet. All three still have portions of their original doors intact. These doors appear to have had an upper configuration of four square lights over a single solid panel. The upper openings on the doors have scarring where muntins were once attached in a cross pattern. Each doorway is framed on the hall-side in the same simple trim found around the entrance to the first floor. From inside the classrooms, however, there is no additional wood trim. The plaster corners are rounded instead. On the exterior 30-foot wall of each room is a grouping of five large window openings (Photos 16 and 21). Each window is 8.5 feet tall and 40 inches wide, but none have intact sashes. A historic photo of the school shows double-hung sashes in these openings, but the number of lights is unclear. The window openings retain wood casing, sills, and aprons and each individual opening is separated by a flat wood piece. The intact plaster corners around the windows are rounded, suggesting that there was not any other trim present. Scars on the plaster of each room show where blackboards once hung, but none are intact today (Photo 20). Original floors have been removed and currently there is only a modern sub-floor in the north and south rooms (Photo 21). The west classroom has no subfloor, leaving the concrete-filled floor joists visible. A large doorway was cut into the south wall of this classroom, likely after the school closed. A portion of the wood door covering this opening remains (Photo 23).

The north and south classrooms each have a second entrance on their west walls, which open onto cloakrooms (Photo 22). The L-shaped cloakrooms have terrazzo floors and wood rails which once held hooks. The stencil pattern and wood chair rail continue in these rooms (Photo 19). There is plaster damage in the north cloakroom and some chair rail and hooks have been removed. Access to the cloak rooms from the main hall is granted though arched openings (Photo 18).

Basement:

The large basement of the school was originally accessed by two staircases off the main entrance. The treads of staircases have been removed and the area is filled with debris (Photo 30). Remnants of the stringers are still attached to the walls. At the bottom of the stairways is a small vestibule (Photo 31). The vestibule walls are lined with glazed brick wainscoting that reaches to within eight inches of the top of the doorways and is topped by a band of wood trim and the same stenciled border found upstairs. Plaster above the wainscotting is in poor condition and in some areas the lath is completely exposed. Doorways to the basement restrooms are located on the north and south walls of the vestibule and two sets of double doors on the west wall lead to the gymnasium/auditorium. These openings all have the same trim found on the classroom and restroom doorways upstairs on the vestibule side, but from inside each room, the opening features rounded plaster corners.

Both lavatories off the vestibule are identical to their upstairs counterparts in plan. In the boy's restroom, some porcelain urinals remain intact (Photo 24). These rooms also have their original wood doors featuring a four-light grouping over large wood panel, without glazing. Two sets of double doors in the same configuration open onto the large gymnasium/auditorium space. The original plaster ceiling and wood floor have been removed from the gym but the high brick wainscoting and plaster walls remain, in varying degrees of decay (Photo 25). The stencil border

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does not appear in the plaster walls of the gymnasium. An added doorway on the north wall provides access to the gym from outside, but does not have any doors.

Near the center of the west wall of the gymnasium/auditorium are two doorways leading to mechanical rooms (Photo 29). The walls in the mechanical rooms are lined with light red brick and concrete and all have concrete floors. These doorways all have segmental arched openings and doors, when intact, are solid wood with five horizontal panels. The northern doorway accesses a ramp to the north that leads to the exterior of the building via the shed-roofed entry on the north elevation (Photo 26). Turning to the south from the main doorway is a storage room, which is also accessed via the added southern door from the gym. Proceeding due west from the main entry is a furnace room that is adjacent to the ramp and also has an entry to the small flatroof wing on the north elevation (Photo 27). A doorway in the southwest corner of the furnace room leads to a room with the electric panel and raised concrete platform. It is also accessed from an entry point on the west wall of the storage area. To the west of the furnace room is the coal room (Photo 28). This room runs along the entire west wall and is covered with concrete parging over the brick. There are two coal chutes on the west wall.

Brimfield Name of Pro			County, Indiana
		·	and State
8. S	tater	ement of Significance	
	'x"	le National Register Criteria ' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National	ıl Register
X	A.	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contrib broad patterns of our history.	ution to the
	B.	. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
X	C.	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or reconstruction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artist or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose component individual distinction.	stic values,
	D.	 Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in pre- history. 	history or
		Considerations ' in all the boxes that apply.)	
	A.	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes	
	В.	. Removed from its original location	
	C.	. A birthplace or grave	
	D.	o. A cemetery	
	E.	. A reconstructed building, object, or structure	
	F.	. A commemorative property	
	G.	E. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years	ars

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Areas of Significance	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
ARCHITECTURE	
EDUCATION	
EDUCATION	
	
	
	
	
Period of Significance	
1921-1940	
	
Significant Dates	
Significant Person (last name, first name)	
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder (last name, first name)	
Weatherhogg, Charles R.	

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Period of Significance (justification)

The building's period of significance, 1921-1940, represents the dates that the Brimfield School No. 2 was open and used as a school. After the 1939/1940 school year, the school was closed and local students began attending classes in nearby Rome City.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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 Brimfield School No. 2 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as a locally significant example of changing education trends in the state of Indiana. The school's multi-room design and inclusion of a gymnasium/auditorium are indicative of the importance of education and recreation in the small Brimfield community. The building is also architecturally significant as an example of institutional design by the regionally-prominent architect, Charles R. Weatherhogg. While the architectural integrity of the building has been compromised over time, it still retains sufficient integrity to convey its use as a school.

Additionally, the school is eligible under Indiana's Public Common and High Schools, 1816-1945 Multiple Property Documentation Form. The school falls under the two or more-room consolidated rural and urban school category and meets the necessary registration requirements established in that document.

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

EDUCATION

Brimfield is located in the southwest corner of Section 29 of Orange Township, Noble County. Orange Township was originally part of Lagrange County, which it borders to the north. Its first settlers established themselves around 1834 and the settlements of Brimfield, Rome and Northport soon followed. Brimfield grew along the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway. Never a large community, Brimfield included multiple stores, hotels, a post office, and social

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organizations. The original plat of the town only included 28 lots. A saw mill was historically the largest enterprise in town and remains so today.²

EDUCATION

The first school in Orange township was in Northport, where a log church doubled as a schoolroom in 1839. In Rome, later Rome City, classes were held in the bar-room of a hotel until a log building was constructed. By 1844, log schools had been built throughout the township. These were all subscription schools and among their ranks was a log building one mile north of Brimfield, built in 1842.³ A small wood frame schoolhouse located on the west side of Brimfield replaced that log school in 1852.⁴ At one time there was a seminary in Wolcottville, a community that straddles the border between Orange Township in Noble County and LaGrange County. Rome City built a series of schools as enrollment increased throughout the last three decades of the 1800s.

As Brimfield continued to grow, a new school was built north of the town, replacing the 1852, frame school to the west. The 1874 Plat Map of Brimfield shows this school at the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets.⁵ In 1883, a brick school was built on the northwest corner of the same intersection. This school had an ornate bell tower over the front entrance, segmental arch openings and large groups of windows. This was one of eight schools located in Orange Township for the 1888-1889 school year.⁶ However, changes were coming that would elimate many of these one-room schools.

In 1907, the Indiana General Assembly permitted the State Superintendent to close schools with an enrollment of less than twelve students. With this push for consolidation, it was recommended that new schools be built in villages and small towns that were centrally located. Additionally, in 1913, the maximum age for compulsory education was increased to 16. This resulted in small one room schools closing, but some consolidated schools had outgrown their buildings. By 1919, Orange Township only had three schools: Rome City, Brimfield and Rimmel. While Brimfield School No. 2 is the second multi-room school built in the town, it was constructed because the enrollment had outgrown the 1883 building. The increase in enrollment was likely

² Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana: Historical and Biographical, vol. 1 (Chicago: Battey & Co., 1882), https://books.google.com/books?id=AVM0AQAAMAAJ&source=gbs navlinks s accessed March 24, 2018, 204.

³ History of Whitley and Noble County, Indiana, Weston Goodspeed and Charles Blanchard, editors. (Chicago: F.A. Battey & Co., 1882), 204, accessed March 20, 2015, https://archive.org/details/countiesofwhitle00good.

⁴ Bill Landon, Robert Gagen, Jr. and Sarah Knopp, *History of Noble County Schools*, Noble County Historical Society, 2006,33.

⁵ *Noble County Atlas*. Andreas and Baskin, 1874, in Historic Map Works Rare Historic Maps Collection, 2015, accessed March 20, 2015.

http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/58672/Orange+Township/Noble+County+1874/Indiana/.

⁶ Diebold.

⁷ Noble County Atlas.

⁸ "Name Teachers for Orange Townships Schools," Fort Wayne Sentinel (Fort Wayne), August 19, 1919, accessed March 23, 2018, www.newspapers.com/image/29138449.

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due to school consolidation, rather than population growth; from 1910 to 1920, Noble County's population dropped from 24,009 to 22,470.9

This was true for the Brimfield School. The 1883 building was too small by 1920, only accommodating two classrooms. When a third teacher was needed, the town and the township trustee determined that a new school was necessary. In 1921, the earlier brick school was demolished to make way for the current building. Brimfield School No. 2 was built with three classrooms and a basement multi-purpose area that was used as an auditorium and gymnasium. The school opened in September 1922 with three teachers, serving grades one through eight. Brimfield School No. 2 closed at the end of the 1939/1940 school year. Students began attending school in Rome City or Kendallville.

Based on the Multiple Property Document Listing, "Indiana's Public Common and High Schools," the Brimfield School No. 2 is an example of a two or more-room consolidated public school that was designed by a regionally-known architect between c.1870-1945, who incorporated modern ideas of lighting and ventilation into the brick and limestone building. Brimfield School No. 2 is specifically from the second phase of school consolidation. Charles Weatherhogg's design fit within the guidelines of typical schools of the time. The exterior was 1-2 stories topped by a shallow roof with a bell tower and featured a central entry pavilion with double doors. Large banks of windows dominated the walls of the classrooms. School interiors of the time included well-appointed spaces featuring plaster walls, stained woodwork, wood floors, and cloakrooms—all of which Weatherhogg incorporated. Later schools (such as Brimfield) had indoor plumbing and electricity, along with glazed brick wainscoting and terrazzo floors. Typically the entry was separated from a fover by a large stairway, or in the case of Brimfield, a split stair. The fact that Weatherhogg included a gymnasium/auditorium in the design illustrates the relatively new occurance of such spaces in elementary schools, not exclusively high schools, after World War I. It shows that the township trustees wanted a community space, not just a school space, and that they were forwarding-thinking enough to specifically seek out this community function, rather than viewing it as a burden.

In the small community of Brimfield, the school had additional significance, as it was designed to also host community events in the basement gymnasium/auditorium. News accounts of the new school building noted that the basement would include an auditorium which would be used for meetings by farmers in the community. It was designed so they could use the auditorium without disrupting classes.¹³ The basement also held restrooms and locker room showers,

⁹ "Population of Counties by Decennial Censuses: 1900-1990," edited by Richard L. Forstall, U.S. Bureau of the Census, accessed March 23, 2018,

https://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/cencounts/files/in190090.txt.

¹⁰ "New School for Brimfield," *Fort Wayne Sentinel* (Indiana), March 7, 1921, accessed November 30, 2017 https://www.newspapers.com/image/2931403.

¹¹ "New School in Brimfield," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* (Indiana), March 9, 1921, accessed November 20, 2017 https://www.newspapers.com/image/29185902

¹² "Brimfield Schools Opened Monday in new Building," Ligonier Leader (Ligonier, Indiana), September 20, 1922, accessed March 22, 2018, newspaperarchive.com.

¹³ "New School for Brimfield," *Fort Wayne (Indiana) Sentinel*, March 7, 1921, accessed March 21, 2018, https://www.newspapers.com/image/29314039.

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indicating the large basement room's multi-purpose intent for both students and local residents. The inclusion of such a space in the new Brimfield building indicates the community's interest in both recreation and physical education. Unfortunately, the gymnasium/auditorium in the Brimfield School No. 2 has lost its original wood floor. However, the glazed brick wainscot is still intact, as is the proximity to the lower level locker room. The space retains its original open plan. If any seating was designed in the space, no evidence remains today.

Currently, few intact multi-room schools remain standing in Noble County. The Brimfield School No. 2 is one of only two historic schools still standing in Orange Township that reflect the township's educational history. Over time, many county schools have been reused as residences, incorporated into larger school designs, or have been demolished. The 1986 *Noble County Interim Report* indicated that there were three historic school buildings in the township at the time that retained enough historic integrity to be included in the survey: Brimfield School No. 2, Rome City High School, and a c.1880 1 ½ story brick school on the south side of Wolcottville that has been converted into a residence. ¹⁴ The Rome City High School has been demolished since that report was published. In a 2006 publication on historic Noble County schools, local historians indicated that a one-room frame school was still standing approximately one and a half miles north of the Brimfield School, but it is currently neglected and in very poor condition, and no longer retains historic integrity. ¹⁵

ARCHITECTURE

Architecturally, this building is locally significant as an example of 20th century functional school architecture with Arts and Crafts influenced detailing. As stated previously, the design of the school is emblematic of school architecture of the period for a multi-room rural second generation consolidated school. The use of red brick and limestone on the exterior, along with a fairly detailed entry bay are typical of the period. On the exterior, the masonry construction is accented with limestone embellishments. The simple limestone accents can be found on all elevations, accenting the belt course at each corner and the corners below the frieze board. The projecting entry features the most stylistic elements and accents. Brick pilasters are emphasized by decoratively laid bricks and limestone accents. A slightly curvilinear parapet over the main entrance features limestone coping. Large banks of windows adorn the exterior walls of classrooms to allow for ample light and ventilation—both relatively new concepts in school architecture of the time and markedly different from early schools. Although compromised, the interior of the school was originally finished with a high level of detail. Wood and terrazzo floors, glazed brick waiscotting and plaster walls with stenciling, nicely appointed wood trim and doors, and modern restrooms and cloakrooms all fit the definition of a modern school for the period.

The Brimfield School No. 2 is also a good example of regional architect Charles R. Weatherhogg's work in institutional design. Weatherhogg's other educational commissions can be found in a variety of styles in northern Indiana and western Ohio. In Fort Wayne, North Side High School (1922) and Harrison Hill Elementary School (1924) are two outstanding examples

¹⁴ Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory; Noble County Interim Report,

¹⁵ Landon, 33.

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of his work. Harrison Hill, while similar in style, is a much larger building built with a gymnasium, auditorium and over 30 classrooms. Similarly, the Neo-classical North Side High School is a much larger and grander example of Weatherhogg's work.

In Kimmell, an unincorporated community in Sparta Township, Noble County, Indiana, there is another vacant Weatherhogg-designed multi-room school. Built in the Romanesque Revival style, the brick two-story c.1910 Kimmell School is a larger and more finely-appointed school than Brimfield. It has a hipped roof with dormers and chimneys and a projecting entry with altered grand arch doorway that is topped by crenelation and a sizeable arcaded bell tower. Its interior integrity is unknown. Weatherhogg also designed the Kendallville High School (1915), in northeast Noble County. The high school is a large two story Neo-classical building that has been severely altered over the years with undersized replacement windows and multiple additions. 17

INTEGRITY

The exterior of the Brimfield School is virtually completely intact and looks as it did originally, with the exception of removed doors and windows. Unlike many historic schools, no additions mar the original massing. The exterior masonry is intact and exposed, as is the limestone detailing. All of the decorative brickwork is also present, as is the rooftop belltower. The fenestration pattern and size of openings have not been altered other than an enlarged opening on the west end of the south façade. Remnant window sashes are present in the building and historic photos exist to show what the doors and windows looked like should restoration efforts progress to that point.

While the exterior integrity has not been compromised, over the years the interior integrity of the school has suffered. The wood floors of the classrooms and gymnasium, bathroom fixtures/plumbing, interior stairway, and plaster ceilings and portions of plaster walls have been removed. However, the interior plan is completely intact and the rooms read as historic spaces with the hallways, classrooms, and secondary spaces of the main floor presenting their intended use. The same can be said for the spaces in the basement level. None of the spaces have been divided or altered in such a way to read as anything but a school. The glazed brick wainscoting found in virtually all spaces except for classrooms on the main floor and the mechanical rooms in the basement is present and is a character defining feature of schools of the period. A unique interior detail is the decorative stenciling found throughout the building. This still exists above the brick wainscot throughout the main level and in the vestibule space of the basement. Original wood sills remain under window openings, as does the wood chair rail above the brick wainscoting. The nicely detailed door/window divide between the entry and vestibule on the main floor offers an idea as to the original craftsmanship. Portions of doors and windows remain in the school and offer a glimpse of what the school looked like in its prime. Terrazzo tile exists in the vestibule, hallway, and cloakrooms on the first floor. While the chalkboards in the three

¹⁶Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory; Noble County Interim Report.

¹⁷ *The American Contractor*, vol. 36, no. 25 (June 1915): 84, accessed March 23, 2015, http://books.google.com/books/about/The_American_Contractor.html?id=cyhYAAAAYAAJ

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classrooms have been removed, markings exist to show very clearly where these elements were located.

So while the interior integrity of the Brimfield School has been reduced by neglect, vandalism, and insensitive removal of features, the building retains many characteristics of a two or more-room consolidated school of its period as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. It retains its integrity of location, setting, and design and still clearly reads as a historic school. It is, therefore, eligible for the National Register.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

CHARLES R. WEATHERHOGG

Architect Charles R. Weatherhogg (b. 1872-d. 1937) was a native of Lincolnshire, England, who after visiting the World's Fair in Chicago in 1892, moved to Indiana. After locating in Fort Wayne, Weatherhogg briefly partnered with Alfred Grindle from 1893 to 1897. Grindle was also an English-born architect who had previously been a draftsman at the prominent local firm of Wing and Mahurin. After Mr. Grindle relocated to Muncie, Indiana, Weatherhogg worked alone. ¹⁸

Weatherhogg designed many prominent public and private buildings in northeast Indiana and beyond, many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He was one of Fort Wayne's premier architects from 1910 until about 1930. Some of his Fort Wayne commissions include the Journal Gazette Building, the Masonic Temple, Northside High School and Harrison Hill Elementary School as well as various residences and commercial buildings. Beyond Allen County, Weatherhogg was commissioned to design multiple structures on the Manchester College (now Manchester University) campus, as well as the Jasper County Courthouse (in partnership with Alfred Grindle), and a Carnegie Library, both in Rensselaer, Indiana. ¹⁹ Elsewhere in Noble County, Weatherhogg designed Immaculate Conception Church and Kendallville High School, both in Kendallville.²⁰

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the school ceased functioning as such, it was vacant and under the control of the township trustee, until 1946, when a small industrial manufacturing operation took occupancy. Francis T. McCarty (b. 1909- d. 1990), a local businessman and engineer, located his manufacturing business in the school building until declaring bankruptcy in 1971.²¹ McCarty's company, Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing Co., built elevators, silo fillers, and other small

¹⁸ C. R. Weatherhogg File, Arch, Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

¹⁹ Ibid.

SHAARD Database, Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/welcome.html.

²⁰ *The American Contractor*, vol. 43 (March 1922): 71, accessed March 23, 2015, http://books.google.com/books/about/The_American_Contractor.html?id=CztYAAAAYAAJ ²¹ Noble County, Indiana Deed Records, book 128, pg. 463A.

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machinery for industrial and agricultural use.²² In addition to his industrial ventures, McCarty was involved in local politics and launched two unsuccessful campaigns for Indiana governor in the 1950s.²³ It is during McCarty's use of the building that it is believed the ground around the north elevation was excavated to add a large opening in the basement to better accommodate manufacturing equipment.

Following the bankruptcy of McCarty's company, the building was sold in 1972.²⁴ The school sat vacant and suffered from vandalism and neglect following the property transfer. In 2009, the building was purchased by the current owner. The former school remains unoccupied and unsecured, but a new roof was installed to help mitigate further decay in 2012.

²² "McCarty in G.O.P. race for Governor," *Steuben Republican* (Angola, Indiana), April 18, 1956, accessed March 22, 2018, https://www.newspapers.com/image/113080567.

²³ Noble County Indiana Library – Whan Collection, "Obituaries-McA," accessed, March 22, 2018, http://gen.nobleco.lib.in.us/Obituaries/McA.htm

²⁴ Noble County, Indiana Deed Records, book 175, pg. 547.

E	31	rimfield	School	No.	2

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

American Contractor, vol. 36, no. 25 (June 1915). Accessed March 23, 2015. http://books.google.com/books/about/The_American_Contractor.html?id=cyhYAAAYAAJ

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http://www.historic mapworks.com/Map/US/58672/Orange+Township/Noble+County+1874/Indiana/

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rimfield School No. 2		Noble County, Indiana
ame of Property		County and State
Previous documentation	on file (NPS):	
previously listed in a previously determin designated a Nationarecorded by Historic recorded by Historic	the National Register ed eligible by the National 1	y # cord #
Primary location of add	itional data:	
X_ State Historic Prese		
Other State agency		
Federal agency		
Local government		
University Other		
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property <u>1</u>	1 acres	
Use the UTM system		
UTM References Datum (indicated on USC)	SS map):	
NAD 1927 or	x NAD 1983	
1. Zone: 16	Easting: 633778	Northing: 4590749

Brimfield School No. 2			Noble County, Indiana
Name of Property 2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	County and State
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:	

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

The boundary of Brimfield School No. 2 is shown as the solid line on the accompanying map titled "Verbal Boundary Description".

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary is the current legal boundary of the property, not including the public right-of-way along CR 140 E, and the historic boundary of the school during its period of significance.

Brimfield School No. 2			Noble County, Indiana
Name of Property	_		County and State
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title: _Jill McDevitt, Historic Prese organization: _ARCH, Inc. for Indiana L street & number: _818 Lafayette St	•		
city or town: Fort Wayne e-mail:_jmcdevitt@archfw.org telephone:_260-426-5117 date:_April 28, 2015	state:	IN	zip code: 46802

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 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: Brimfield School No. 2

City or Vicinity: Orange Township

County: Noble State: Indiana

Photographer: Jill McDevitt

Date Photographed: March 10, 2015

Brimfield School No. 2

Name of Property

Noble County, Indiana
County and State

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

Photo 1 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0001) View of façade. Camera facing west.

Photo 2 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0002) View of façade and north elevation. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0003) View of north elevation. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 4 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0004) View of west elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 5 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0005) View of altered door and window on south elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 6 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0006) View of south elevation. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 7 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0007) Close-up view of north plaque on façade. Camera facing west.

Photo 8 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0008) Close-up view of south plaque on façade. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 9 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0009) View of main entrance from foot of stairs. Camera facing west.

Photo 10 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0010) Boy's lavatory, first story. Camera facing west.

Photo 11 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0011) View into girl's lavatory on the first story, including original door. Camera facing north.

Photo 12 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0012) Girl's lavatory, first floor. Camera facing east.

Photo 13 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0013) Close-up view of original stencil pattern on plaster walls in main hallway. Camera facing west.

Photo 14 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0014)

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Close-up of terrazzo floor in hallway. Camera facing east.

Photo 15 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0015) View of main hallway, first floor. Camera facing west.

Photo 16 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0016) Bay of windows in classroom number one. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 17 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0017) Cloakroom door in classroom number one. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 18 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0018) View of arched cloakroom doorways. Camera facing south.

Photo 19 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0019) Window, chair rail and stencil pattern in south cloakroom. Camera facing south.

Photo 20 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0020) View of door and former blackboard in classroom number two. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 21 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0021) View of classroom number two. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 22 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0022) View of cloakroom door in second classroom. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 23 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0023) View of original door and added door in third classroom. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 24 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0024) Basement boy's lavatory. Camera facing east.

Photo 25 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0025) Gymnasium. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 26 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0026) Basement ramp leading to exterior. Camera facing north.

Photo 27 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0027) Furnace room. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 28 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0028) Coal room. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 29 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0029)

Brimfield	School	No.	2
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Gymnasium, view of original (north) and new (south) door openings on west wall. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 30 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0030)

View of basement vestibule from gymnasium/auditiorium. Stairway and closet visible through doorway. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 31 of 31 (IN_NobleCounty_BrimfieldSchoolNo2_0031)

View of basement vestibule and stairs through gymnasium doorway. Camera facing east.

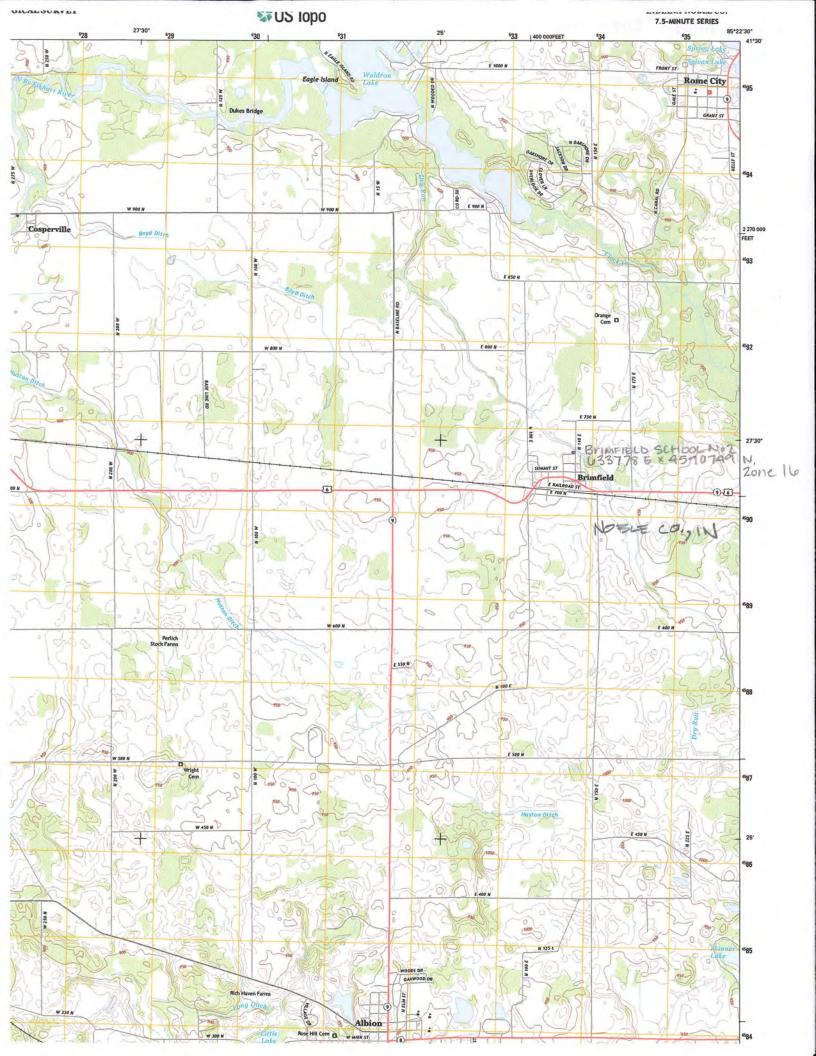
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et sea.).

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.



Image 1: Historic Photo of Brimfield School No. 2, Noble County, Indiana. Date Unknown.

Original windows and doors are visible.



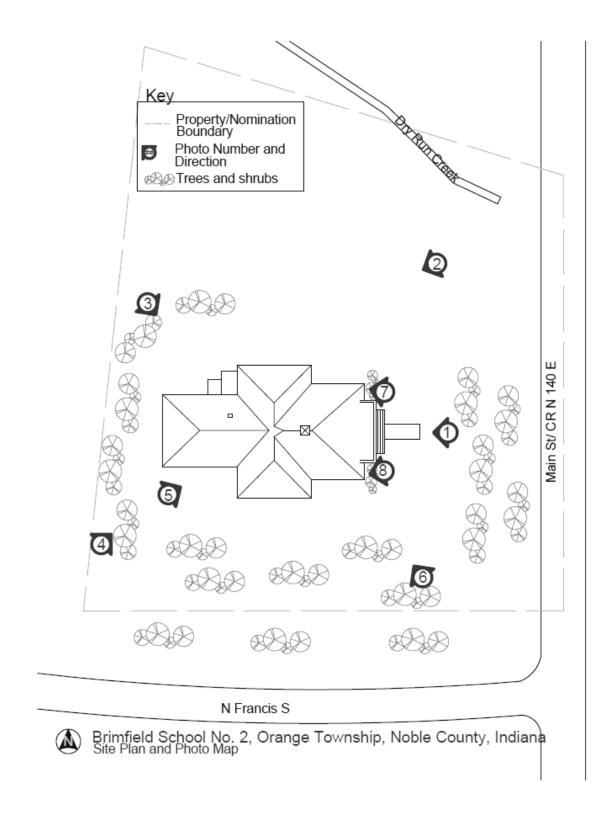
Verbal Boundary Description Map Brimfield School No. 2 Orange Township, Noble County, Indiana



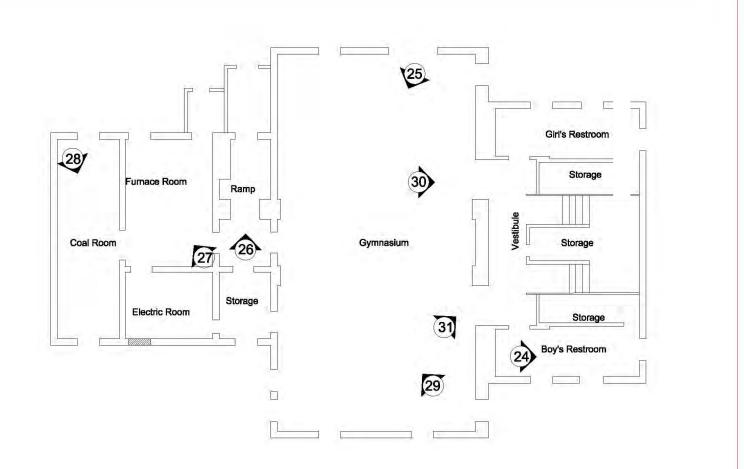


— Nomination Boundary Scale: 1"=200'

Site Plan and Photo Map



Brimfield School No. 2



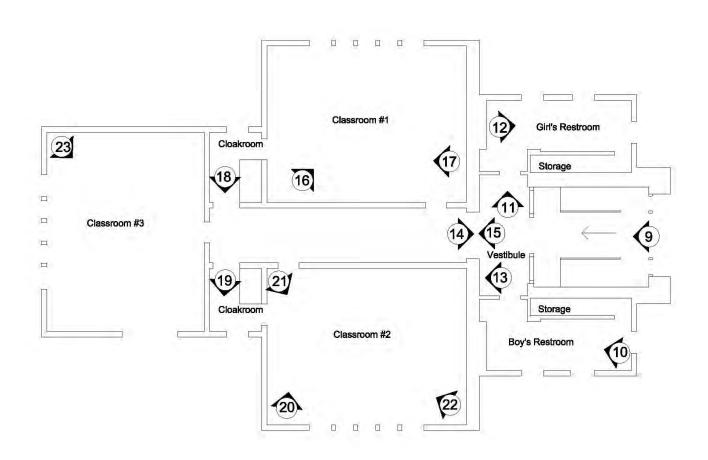


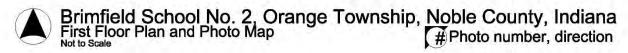
Brimfield School No. 2, Orange Township, Noble County, Indiana Basement Floor Plan and Photo Map

Not to Scale

Photo number, direction

Brimfield School No. 2







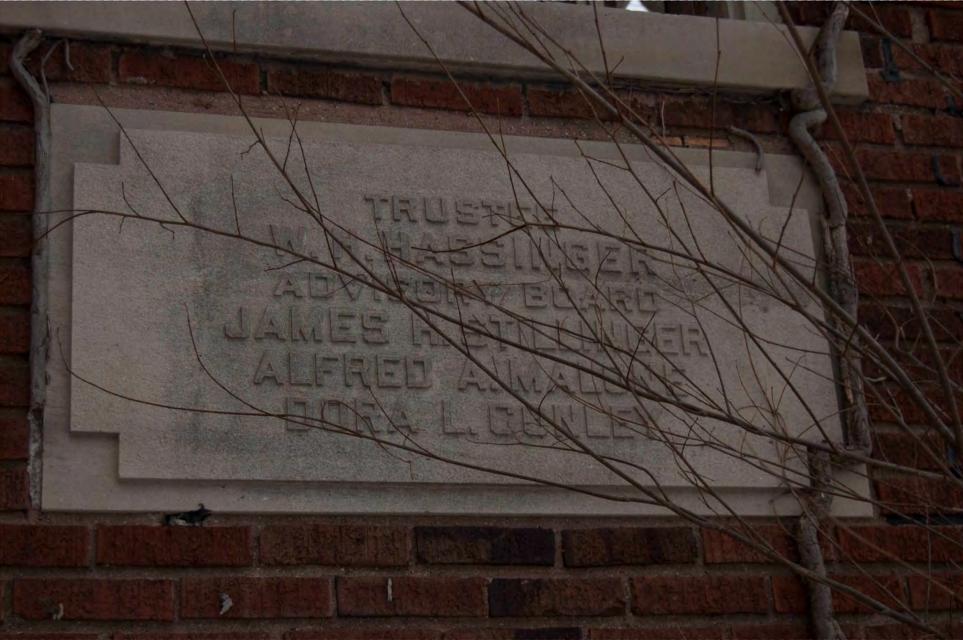


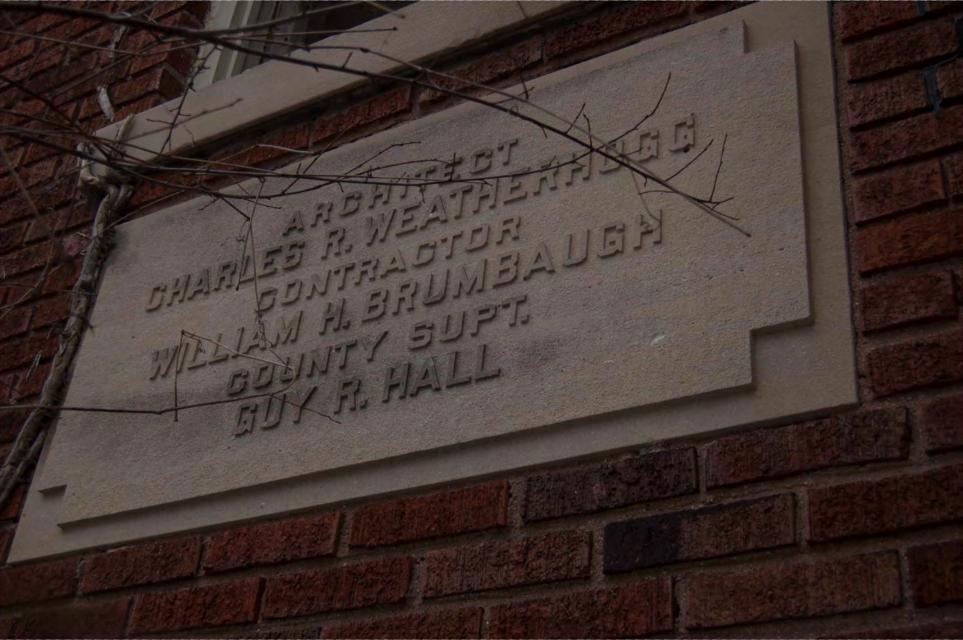


























































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination			
Property Name:	Brimfield School No. 2			
Multiple Name:	Indiana's Public Common and High Schools MPS			
State & County:	INDIANA, Noble			
Date Rece 2/1/201		List: Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019	Date of 45th Day: 3/18/2019	Date of Weekly List
Reference number:	MP100003504			
Nominator:	SHPO	oneman		
Reason For Review	•			
X Accept	Return	Reject	<u>1/2019</u> Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets the registration requirements of the MPS. Despite the loss of windows and some interior vandalism, the building retains remarkable integrity of design.			
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / A & C			
Reviewer Jim Ga	abbert	Discipline	Historian	
Telephone (202)354-2275		Date		alaran ngang padah di kilikasi kan panan sakid Maladas a ^{pa} dahaya masa
DOCUMENTATION	l: see attached commen	ts : 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.



Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739 Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



January 30, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley Keeper of the National Register National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St, NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Brimfield School No. 2, Noble County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Brimfield School No. 2, Noble County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Brimfield School No. 2, Noble County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark

State Historic Preservation Officer

Come Flac

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package