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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedarville School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Smith Avenue  not for publication

city or town Cedarville  vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Gilmer code 021 zip code 26611

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William G. Gorman 2.4.94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Patty S. Chrusman 8-25-94

Cedarville School  
Name of Property

Gilmer County, WV  
County and State

**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		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/apartment building

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century American Movements/  
Craftsman  
Other/Foursquare

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/sandstone  
walls Wood frame/stucco  
roof Metal/tin  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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: N/A

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1923-1943

Significant Dates

1923/1943

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J.W. West and Sons, builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Cedarville School

Cedarville School  
Name of Property

Gilmer County, WV  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres approximately

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	7
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5	1	5	7	2	0
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4	2	9	8	8	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bernice Moyers and Lavonne Minigh, co-owners  
organization N/A date December 9, 1993  
street & number HC 36, Box 25 or 400 Level Run telephone 304/462-7472; 304/462-7773  
city or town Cedarville state W. Va. zip code 26611

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bernice Moyers and Lavonne Minigh  
street & number HC 36, Box 35 Cedarville, WV telephone 304/462-7472  
city or town Cedarville state W. Va. zip code 26611

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cedarville School, Gilmer County, WV

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The Cedarville School stands on open ground at the crest of a hill overlooking the Gilmer County hamlet of Cedarville at the corner of Smith Avenue and Upper Level Run County Road. The siting and rather substantial massing lend the building prominence among buildings of southeastern Gilmer County.

Constructed in 1923 from the plans of J.W. West and Sons, Gilmer County's best known builder, the 2-story building with stuccoed wall surfaces stands on a raised basement of locally quarried stone. Appearing much as it did in the early 20th century, Cedarville School remained empty after its last classes were held in 1968. It was acquired by the present owners about 1982. Several rooms were converted at that time to apartments. The renovations were undertaken in a manner that preserved the building's essential character, historic fabrics, and traditional country school look.

The distinctive finish of the exterior walls is a stucco surface scored at the time of application with willow wythes to produce an irregular striation. Providing another strong visual element to the relatively simple building is the window design. Banks of rolled steel windows were installed at the time of construction; their placement in a non-masonry building is an unusual feature. The large glazed areas and stucco walls remain in relatively sound condition. The building presents a rather picturesque silhouette against the Gilmer County hills with a T-shaped plan and shallow hipped roofs. The only break in the line of the roof on the south elevation is a single hipped dormer.

The building has a generally rectangular appearance, measuring approximately 50x80 feet; it is constructed of wood frame covered on the exterior with stucco. It is interesting to note that the contractors hired local boys to cut willow wythes to strike a pattern on the walls. The windows remain the same, except for those in the raised basement that were filled to prevent unlawful entry. The double front doors remain; however, the back door has been replaced. The basement has five rooms, one divided into storage room, utility room, and locker room for the boys, besides bath and shower room. The opposite side was the girls' bath and shower room. In the central hall of the basement, a red tile block partition for privacy had been built later, but now is gone. The foundation of the walls of the basement are of cut sandstone and rise four feet above the ground to accommodate the basement windows.

A few changes occurred during the years the school was in operation. The bell and its cupola were removed, fire doors were hung, and a fire escape was installed. The bell was moved from place to place but

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Cedarville School, Gilmer County, WV

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finally found its home on the side of the front lawn resting on a block and concrete form (which resembles a wishing well) covered with a small gabled roof. A large wooden water tank on the east side of the building stood for many years; it stored rain water from the roof which drained into the tank through cast iron eaves and downspouts. When electricity came to the village and a pump brought the water supply from a well on the northeast corner of the lot, the old wooden tank was removed. Three wells have served the property. The one near the rear entrance had an old fashioned pump with a long handle that brought water to the surface for the thirsty children.

Gas lighting and heating systems were installed in 1923 and in 1932 a Phelp Delco system brought electricity to the building. Also in 1932 a Milwaukee Air System brought a coal fueled furnace and steam heat. At some point the slate roof was replaced with tin.

After being reduced to grade school status, the kitchen was moved from the basement room, next to the girls' bathroom, and brought to the first floor to a classroom on the west side. This room had once served as a science room.

The floors of Cedarville School are oil soaked in the old traditional manner, with the exception of the auditorium/gym which is varnished maple. The gym floor remains in excellent condition. There are four classrooms on the first floor with walls finished in plaster. There are two second floor classrooms whose walls are finished with narrow tongue-and-groove boards. The classrooms are approximately 12 feet in height and the auditorium/gym 16 feet tall. This was always an obstacle to the visiting team of basketball players, who weren't accustomed to the low ceiling, giving the home team an advantage. The gym floor is about 30x40 feet, not quite the standard either.

Upon entering the double doors in front beneath a 2-story arched pavilion, a single-run stair provides access to the first floor. At this point a dual stair rises to a landing from which point access to the second floor is provided by a single flight.

The setting of the Cedarville School remains very rural in nature and the once bustling village has declined to one small grocery store, post office and tractor sales, firehouse, and a church. There are twenty or so families, if one reaches out beyond the village limits, and many of these are retired or on government assistance. Most all of the community's places of historic value have been destroyed, like the old

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United Brethren Church and hotel. Even alley ways and streets have been closed off. The school building has remained only through many years of persistent sacrifice and hard work on behalf of a small number of local citizens.

The school is still open for reunions and certain community celebrations through invitation or arrangement by the owners and townspeople. Though remaining the dominant landmark of the town, the mature growth of pine trees and maple trees in the late 20th century around the edges of the property obscures the building, particularly during the summer months.

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The Cedarville School survives as a symbol of community aspirations and pride. Its very location was chosen to ensure that the educational environment would be free of noise, traffic, and other discordant influences. In many respects the building is a visual focal point of the hamlet of Cedarville, a once thriving farm town. At the time of construction, the building reflected the latest trends in design that included large windows, centrally located corridors, and placement within the building of an auditorium/gym designed to be used by the community as well as the school. Thus the school assumed an even larger role in the town because it became the center during its period of significance from 1923 to 1943 of a myriad of social and civic activities. The Cedarville School is therefore eligible for National Register consideration under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cedarville School is a large 2-story building with a 3/4 basement and hipped roof, located on a knoll overlooking Cedar Creek and the village of Cedarville. In 1923, J.W. West and Sons began construction of the building and upon using the \$10,500 allotted for this purpose, having completed the outside and three classrooms, the citizens of the community used their own horses and machinery for excavation, and the Mother's Club sold food to complete the stage, auditorium floor, and buy utensils for the kitchen.

From the date of construction, the building was used as a Junior High School until about 1943 when it was reduced to a grade school (one through eight grades), being discontinued in 1968 and sold at public auction to a group of concerned citizens known as the Cedarville Community Council, Inc.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

Cedarville School experienced in the last half of the 20th century a problem common to many other locations throughout the nation: declining school enrollment. But where many abandoned school buildings were demolished or radically altered in adaptive reuse schemes, the Cedarville School was preserved, largely through the determined efforts of a small number of local citizens. The building survives for this reason as a relatively rare local example of a rural school facility that reflects larger national values. These values were tempered with



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the theories of Horace Mann and Henry Barnard and the growing importance the American public had begun to place on public education. Health and safety concerns were prioritized and became central elements of school building design.

Unlike the old Normantown High School, the other period school building in this section of Gilmer County, Cedarville School has suffered fewer alterations to its fabric, retaining original window assemblies and entrance configurations. These are significant in illustrating early 20th century public regard for large windows that provided for healthful ventilation and adequate light. The standard building plan which called for large, high rooms opening off central corridors, within a 2-story structure, survives and is well represented in the Cedarville School. But additionally, the building houses an auditorium/gym that served the community and the school. Here many functions relating to education, entertainment, and athletics flourished through the years. The original stage, wings, hardwood floor, and hoops attest to the variety of uses the space housed.

Following creation of the Cedarville Community Corporation after 1968, the building continued with expanded community uses. There were ramp dinners (Ramps are Appalachian delicacies similar to leeks.), spaghetti dinners, cookouts, elections, music shows, Boy Scouts, 4-H meetings, Senior Citizens, religious and political meetings. Fraternal groups also used the building. But the Cedarville Community Council, Inc. found that these responsibilities, in addition to maintenance and lawn mowing, were increasingly difficult. With the decline in the organization's membership, the building was sold in 1982 to the present owners. Four small apartments were created at that time to offset the cost of maintaining the building.

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PHOTOGRAPH DOCUMENTATION

Cedarville School  
Smith Avenue, Cedarville, Gilmer County, WV  
Photograph by: Rodney S. Collins, Sept. 1993

1. Front (N) and Side (E) elev.  
Looking SW, Note: Noncontributing bell structure beneath tree.
2. Side (E) and Rear (S) elev.  
Looking NW
3. Side (W) elev.  
Looking NE
4. Auditorium/Gym  
2nd Floor  
Looking W toward stage
5. Cloakroom partition  
Off classroom at NE corner of building, 2nd floor
6. Entrance stairway arrangement  
at first floor looking toward landing between  
first and second floor.

Negatives stored at WV State Historic Preservation Office,  
WV Division of Culture and History  
Charleston, WV

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dobbins, Wesley J., "History of Cedarville," (unpublished manuscript)  
Cedarville, W.Va., 1969, n.p.

"History of Cedarville Junior High School," THE TATTLER. Cedarville,  
W.Va., May 14, 1937, pp. 1,4.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Cedarville School is located at the center of a slightly less than 4-acre tract on a knoll immediately south of the main village of Cedarville. Beginning at the intersection of Upper Level Run Road and Lower Level Run Road and Smith Ave., proceed southward along the east edge of Smith Ave. approximately 200 ft. to Edmond St. (undeveloped); thence east in a straight line along the north edge of Edmond 225 ft. to Upper Level Run Road; thence approximately 300 ft. along the south edge of Upper Level Run Road to the intersection of Upper Level Run Road with Smith Ave.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses the acreage historically associated with the Cedarville School, its hilltop setting, and playgrounds.

sketch map

Cedarville School, Gilmer County, WV

Map of "Hillcrest" Addition to  
Cedarville, W. Va.

Scale 100' = 1"

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1925. C.C. Pittra, Engr, Clarksburg, W. Va.

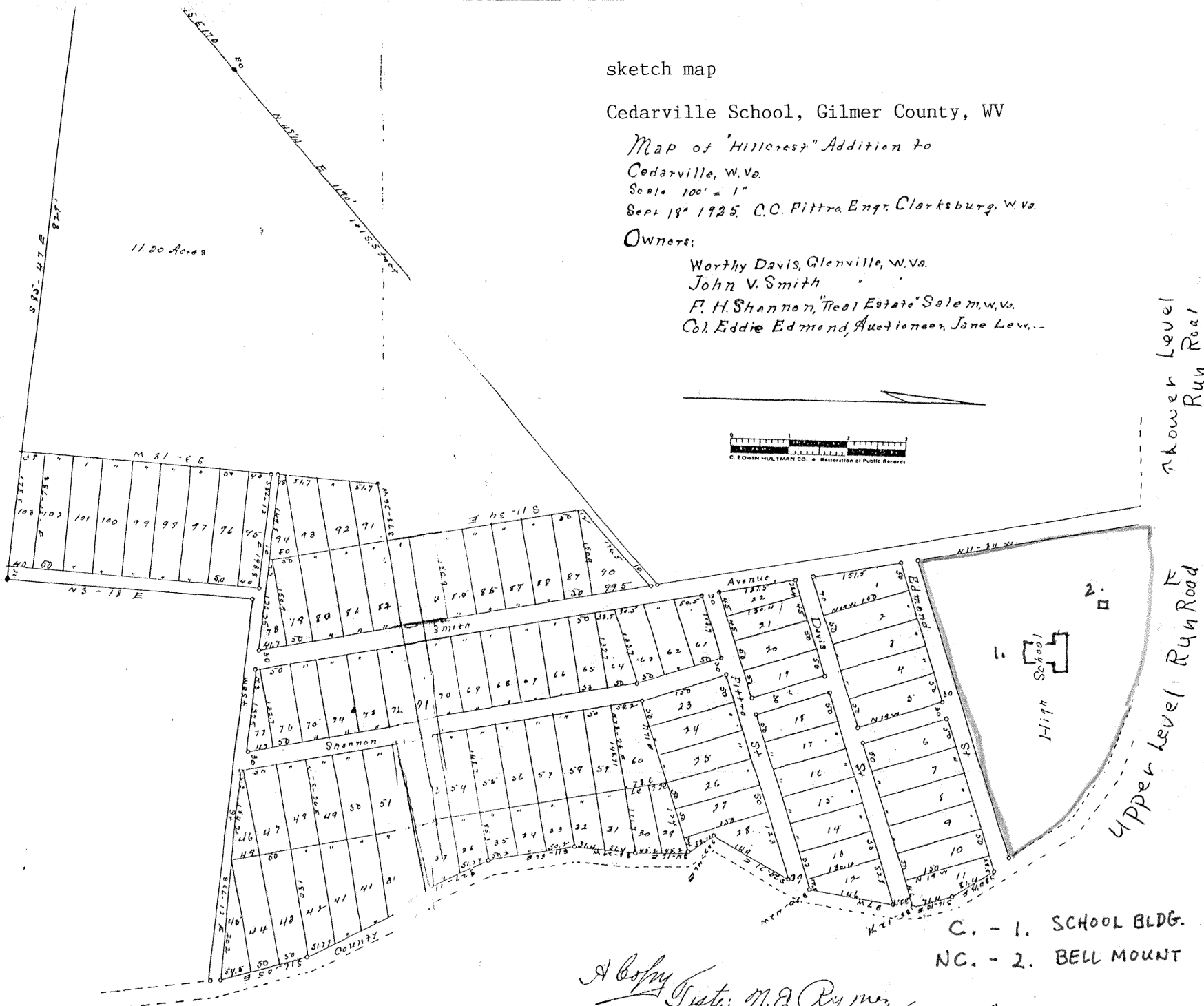
Owners:

Worthy Davis, Glenville, W. Va.

John V. Smith

F. H. Shannon, "Real Estate" Sale, W. Va.

Col. Eddie Edmond, Auctioneer, Jane Lew...



11.20 Acres



Lower Level Run Road

Upper Level Run Road

C. - 1. SCHOOL BLDG.  
NC. - 2. BELL MOUNT

A Copy Trust: M.E. Rymer  
Gilmer County Court, Gilmer Co.,