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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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Glencoe Grade and High School

other names/site number Henry Hill School

### 2. Location

street & number 1107 11<sup>th</sup> Street East

☐ N/A

not for publication

city or town Glencoe

☐ N/A

vicinity

state MN code MN county McLeod code 085 zip code 55336

### 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:

national statewide X local

Barbara Mitchell Howard  
Signature of certifying official/Title Barbara Mitchell Howard, Deputy SHPO

August 22, 2012  
Date

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 or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

10/17/12  
Date of Action

Glencoe Grade and High School  
Name of Property

McLeod County, Minnesota  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**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.)

GOVERNMENT: city hall

EDUCATION: library

## 7. Description

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

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: COMPOSITION

other:

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Glencoe Grade and High School is located in Glencoe, Minnesota, a city of 5,631 residents in McLeod County in the central region of the state. The two-acre lot is situated two blocks east of the downtown commercial district (Minnesota State Highway 15) and two blocks south of the Crow River. The nominated property consists of one contributing resource, a two-story, brick school building completed in 1933 to serve the educational needs of the schoolchildren of Glencoe's School District No. 1.

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**Narrative Description**

See attached 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.)

- ☒ 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

SOCIAL HISTORY

### Period of Significance

1933-1954

### Significant Dates

1933

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Pass, George, and Rockey, Paul (architects)

Juul, Jens (contractor)

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1933, when the school was first occupied, and ends in 1954. In that year, elementary grades moved out of the building, transforming the school into the Glencoe Junior-Senior High School.



Glencoe Grade and High School  
Name of Property

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Glencoe Grade and High School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), locally significant in the areas of Education and Social History. The building was the only school in town between 1933 and 1954, providing education for a generation of Glencoe's children. It also served as one of the community's primary gathering places, offering a wide range of social services.

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

See attached continuation sheets.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

See attached continuation sheets.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MC-GLC-027

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 409168 4958098  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

Glencoe Grade and High School  
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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is described as McLeod County Parcel R22.050.1960. Legal description is Block 32, Lots 3-6, and tract between block 32 & 33.

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

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Daniel J. Hoisington  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 2012  
street & number P. O. Box 13790 telephone 651-415-1034  
city or town Roseville state MN zip code 55113  
e-mail preservation@edinborough.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See attached continuation sheet.

**Property Owner:**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**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.).

Glencoe Grade and High School  
Name of Property

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**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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.

2010 COLLECTION



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**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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County and State: McLeod County, MN

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Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Glencoe Grade and High School, completed in 1933, is located in Glencoe, Minnesota, a city of 5,631 residents in the central region of the state. The two-acre site is situated on the north side of 11th Street East, one block east of the downtown commercial district and two blocks north of U.S. Hwy. 212. Across 11th Street, on the south side, stands St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, built in 1890. The surrounding area is transitional between the commercial district on the west and a residential neighborhood to the east.

The two-and-a-half story school has an inverted U-shaped plan with its main entrance on the south elevation (Photo #0001). Horizontal in its visual orientation, the main east-west block, paralleling 11<sup>th</sup> Street N.E., runs 225 feet, east-west, along the south façade. The building is 164 feet from the front to the back. The west wing, on the north side of the building, is sixty feet wide, while the east wing, with the auditorium, is 115 feet wide. The open space between the rear wings is fifty feet. The foundation is reinforced concrete, while the roof is concrete over steel joists with an asphalt composition seal.

The exterior is a warm, dark brown brick manufactured by the Twin City Brick Company, laid in an English cross (or Dutch) bond. The stone trim is buff-colored dolostone quarried and finished by the Babcock and Wilcox Stone Company of Kasota. The school's principal architect, George Pass Jr., added texture to the brick facades through decorative brick patterning that emphasizes the buildings' entrances. The long horizontal line is enhanced by the flat roofline, the stone belt course below the first-floor windows, and the rows of windows. Windows are typically arranged as either single double-hung windows or triple sets, generally eight-over-eight glazing. Second floor window sills are a two-inch thick marble slab.

The dominant features are the elaborate central entrance (Photo #0002) and two projecting sections (Photo #0003), extending south from the main block by ten feet. Approached by a set of five stone steps, the main entrance is located in the center of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street façade, extending ten feet from the main block, twenty feet wide. The entry has double entry glass doors, with a full arch transom window. The two-story main entry block sets the architectural motif for the building, with Kasota stone quoins on the vertical edges. Paired, fluted half-columns on either side of the entry doors reinforce this verticality. The entry is divided from the second floor by a stone course, then a foot-wide band of carved stone. The second floor has a triple window set flanked by paired half-columns, capped by another drip cornice. The entry block is capped with an arched parapet with decorative brickwork with stone coping and a decorative keystone.

The two projecting blocks have no windows, but show patterned brick work, stone insets, and a



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carved stone plaque. A decorative stone caps the wall. The cornerstone, enscribed 1932, is set in the southwest corner of the building. The west face of the cornerstone reads: "Geo. Pass & Son & P. T. Rockey, Archts, Mankato, Minn."

There are additional primary entrances on the west (Photo #0004) and east elevations (Photo #0005). These echo the main entrance motifs, with tall arched entries. The west entrance has a recessed stone arch with a double entry, tempered glass door, with transom windows filling the space above the doors. There is a single entry glass door on the right of the west entrance. This was constructed in 2000 to gain access to a newly-installed elevator.

The east entrance is slightly inset from the main wall, with a full stone arch and capstone. This entry also uses a double entry, tempered glass door, but here, the door is capped with an arch filled with brick laid in a herringbone pattern. On this east elevation, with the auditorium inside, Pass used the stone courses from the entrance to the south façade, but from the entry to the northeast corner, the trim is no longer raised and molded stone, but is now inset, with a row of soldier course bricks below to give a clearer definition to the building's horizontal lines. There are also metal stairs on the outside for access to the second floor.

The rear of the building lacks the fine decorative work of the other three elevations, although there are stone quoins on the corners. Windows in the rear tend to be paired rather than tripled. There is clear evidence of the 1957 wings, now removed (Photo #0006)

**Interior**

The main entrance, on the south facade, opens into a vestibule with a tile floor and a polished Kasota stone wainscot. The visitor then steps into a long east-west corridor with offices on either side (Photo #0007, #0008). These offices originally served the school superintendent, principal, a boardroom, the normal school, and storage space. They now serve city functions. The floors in the halls and stairways have a terrazzo finish. Typically, the halls have a tile wainscot to about five feet height — or rows of metal student lockers. Much of the original oak woodwork remains in place, including doors and transoms.

Originally, the west wing of the main floor was used for the grade school classes. This space retains its original room configuration, with wood doorway trim and original hardwood floors. Many rooms retain their built-in oak cabinets, oak bookcases, cloakrooms, and slate chalkboards (Photo #0012). The east wing of the main floor was used for industrial arts and home economics and offering convenient kitchen space near the auditorium.



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On the second floor, classroom space has been preserved in the two wings, with the former school library now converted into the public library. Much of the original interior features remain, including ceiling beams, a skylight above the book stacks, and a preserved section of the original linoleum floor ((Photo #0013).

The gymnasium-auditorium was designed as multipurpose space with an entry foyer that could be entered directly from the outside on the east, avoiding passage through school halls. This elegant lobby has marble wainscoting, a floor with handmade Nemadji tile, and a beamed ceiling (Photo #0009). The main auditorium has theater style seating, much of it original (Photo #0010). For example, the metal aisle caps for the seating shows "GHS." The hall has seating for 460 people on the main floor with an additional 389 in the balcony. In its original configuration, an additional 400 people could be seated on movable bleachers. The space can now be split in two with a floor-to-ceiling movable room divider. Much of the original light fixtures, chandeliers, and oak columns remain in place in the auditorium (Photo #0011). The floor is poured concrete with a tile finish.

The basement originally held storerooms, equipment storage, locker rooms, a band room, and a large playroom under the grammar school wing.

**Integrity**

In 1957, after the period of significance, two additions were added on the north side of the original building. These were used for agricultural classrooms, laboratory, band room, hot lunch storeroom, community room, varsity locker room, and physical education gymnasium. In 2009, the City of Glencoe began a renovation of the school, transforming it into a multipurpose City Center. At that time, the two 1957 additions were removed. This step was taken to reduce the footprint and improve the long-term financial feasibility of the rehabilitation. These additions were built after the period of significance.

The rehabilitation made few substantial changes on the exterior except for new windows. The interior floor plan hews closely to the original, and the city kept such distinctive elements as the Nemadji tile, the auditorium lighting, and original floor covering in the library.

The property retains the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of the original 1933 building. It is a generally sensitive and well-planned adaption of the original school building that ensures its preservation and use.

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**8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Glencoe Grade and High School, located in Glencoe, Minnesota, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, locally significant under Criterion A within the contexts of Education and Social History. The building played a central role in the education of Glencoe's youth from 1933 to 1954. During those years, it was the only public school in town, with classes from kindergarten through twelfth grade. In addition, its well-equipped agricultural department, industrial school, and auditorium/gymnasium offered a central place for citizens of Glencoe and McLeod County to continue their education after graduation, to provide public health services, and to gather as a community for special events and programs. The period of significance begins in 1933, when the school opened, and continues to 1954, when the grade school moved into a new building.

**Historical Background**

Glencoe was settled in 1855, with John Harrington Stevens as its leading citizen. Stevens is best known as the first authorized resident on the west bank of the Mississippi River in what would become Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1850, he was granted permission to occupy the site, then part of the Fort Snelling military reservation, in exchange for providing ferry service to St. Anthony across the river. By 1855, he began to look to the central part of the state for land investments and a new home, helping to found both Hutchinson, and then Glencoe.

In the following decades, the new town became firmly established, gaining the designation as county seat when McLeod County was organized in 1856. This assured a steady flow of business of court cases and real estate transactions. The city boomed when the Hastings and Dakota Railway came in 1872, followed by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, changing Glencoe from a small settlement to a trade center. The village was incorporated in 1873, later becoming a city on March 4, 1909.<sup>1</sup>

The city's leaders, many with New England roots, gave a high priority to the education of the town's children. The first school opened its doors in 1856 — a single room, log building. It was one of only three

<sup>1</sup> William Pendergast, "Sketches of the History of Hutchinson," *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society* 10 (1905), 69-76.

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schools in the county at the time. Five years later, citizens erected a frame structure for its new schoolhouse.<sup>2</sup>

From the early days of settlement, the Glencoe Public Schools had been linked to the quasi-public Stevens Seminary. Following the election of John Stevens to the state legislature in 1856, he strongly promoted the establishment of a new agricultural college in Glencoe. His bill was signed into law in March 1858. Although the citizens of McLeod County raised more than \$10,000, a severe recession, and then the Civil War, brought the project to a halt. Still, in 1861, the legislature assigned the income from the sale of all swamplands in McLeod County, nearly 5,000 acres, to go to the new college.

In 1868, following the passage of the Morrill Act that established land grant colleges, the Minnesota legislature decided to place the agricultural college in St. Paul as part of the University of Minnesota. To mitigate the loss of its college — a major plum — the legislature agreed to transfer the substantial swampland income to the newly established Stevens Seminary in Glencoe. This proved a boon to the local economy, with the *McLeod County Register* declaring that the new arrangement “is really of more benefit to us than the college grant itself.”<sup>3</sup>

The windfall led to a unique structure with two boards governing school administration and property. The Association of Stevens Seminary served as trustees to the fund, with one member of the board chosen by the county commissioners. Its initial funds came from a loan financed by Glencoe voters with \$800 bond issue approved in 1871. As swamplands were sold, the Association's balance grew. The fund subsidized the Glencoe school system over the next half century. In 1871, a white, wood-framed school building, used for public school classes, was erected on the site of the present building, with a substantial addition completed in 1877. The seminary fund also paid for the salary of the school superintendent. In 1893, the school district added a three-story brick building to the site, 100 yards west of the Stevens Seminary. It was named the Henry Hill School in honor of one of the original Stevens Seminary trustees.<sup>4</sup>

### A New School

As early as 1922, city leaders began a campaign for a new public school, going so far as to hire the architectural firm of Stebbins and Haxby to draft preliminary plans and estimates. However, confronted

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Frances Jumer, “Schools,” in *A History of Glencoe, 1855-1975*, ed. Mrs. Otto Shamla (Glencoe: Franklin Printing Co., 1975), 196.

<sup>3</sup> William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota* (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1930), 4: 77-85; Paul S. Wilson, “A History of the Relationship Existing Between the Stevens Seminary Board and Independent School District Number One, McLeod County” (typescript, Minnesota Historical Society, 1931), 1-2; *McLeod County Register*, June 11, 1868.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Frances Jumer, “Schools,” in *A History of Glencoe, 1855-1975*, 19-97.

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by a broad opposition to any tax increase, the board created a sinking fund for future construction. Surplus funds were to be set aside each year until half of the construction cost was saved.<sup>5</sup>

In 1931, before the bond election, the school board began its search for an architect, with a stated preference for "a specialist in school architecture" who could "give an accurate preliminary estimate." After interviewing fourteen different firms, the committee visited surrounding towns, then finally selected the firm of George Pass and Son and P. T. Rockey of Mankato.<sup>6</sup>

By the time the cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1932, the firm had undergone a major change, due to the death of the senior George Pass. His son, George Pass Jr., would design the brick schoolhouse, assisted by the engineering firm of Ross and Harris. Born in 1891 in Mankato, the younger Pass attended local schools and graduated from the University of Minnesota. For seventeen years, until 1927, Pass worked with his father, when Paul Rockey joined them as a full partner. Rockey began working with the firm in 1920 following his graduation from the University of Illinois. The firm specialized in school construction and worked on nearly 200 schools in southern and southwestern Minnesota. In addition, the firm designed many of the major buildings in his hometown of Mankato, including the Mankato Free Press building, Landkamers furniture store, and the Citizens Telephone building.<sup>7</sup>

The bond issue was overwhelmingly approved. In keeping with the frugal approach of the school board, half of the needed funds had been saved over the previous decade. Indeed, taxes would fall by fifteen percent in the following year. This is a remarkable feat during the uncertain financial times of the Great Depression.

Following approval of the bond issue for a new school, an intense battle developed as to its location. Eight different sites were discussed, but the choice was quickly narrowed to two. Mayor Henry Petrich and others endorsed the old school site, with the addition of two residential properties, as convenient and less costly. The "Reed's Apple Orchard" site was a ten-acre tract situated just northeast of the city limits. Its supporters argued that the property would be sufficient for future expansion, and that returning the city lots to the tax rolls would bring in additional revenue. Echoing modern debates, many football boosters pushed for the new site because it offered ample room for a new stadium.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, October 5, 1923; January 26, 1933; Stebbins was the official architect of the Minneapolis Board of Education for more than 10 years, designing many of the city's educational facilities. His best-known work, however, was the S.E. Davis residence in Minneapolis, known to millions as the "Mary Tyler Moore house."

<sup>6</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 26, 1933.

<sup>7</sup> *Mankato Free Press*, February 7, 1959, November 6, 1979; "Pass & Rockey," *American Architects Directory* (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1955), 422.

<sup>8</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 1932



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City leaders decided to put it to a referendum, and a heated campaign ensued. The editor of the *Enterprise* waded into the debate, stating, "Despite warnings and the urgent appeal to stay calm, charges and countercharges are being hurled promiscuously." Arguing for the old site, he wrote: "The term of the school year extends through the winter months. We cannot expect to enjoy the mild temperatures and limited snowfalls that have characterized the winters of the past two years. . . . Why suffer little children to face in the early morning hours bitter cold winds and to tread snow-laden sidewalks to reach school located at a remote spot outside the city." He also scoffed at the need for extra land to play four football games a year.<sup>9</sup>

On January 29, 1932, voters streamed to the polls in near record numbers, in spite of a blizzard, and overwhelming supported the former school site, 857 to 302. A week later, the opposing sides held a "Bury the Hatchet" dance to settle frayed feelings.<sup>10</sup>

Within two weeks, the board voted to have Pass and Rockey proceed to draft final plans. To smooth the transition, the board also voted to end the school year four weeks early so that demolition of the existing buildings could proceed.

Finally, in May, the Board of Education opened the twenty-four construction bids, awarding the contract to Jens Juul of Hutchinson. Juul's company had recently built schools in Litchfield, Pelican Rapids, and Granite Falls. The contract included a provision that he employ local residents when possible and give preference to heads of families.<sup>11</sup> Work began at the following morning at six, as crews began demolition of the old school. The cement foundation of the seminary required dynamite, leading the *Enterprise* to comment: "The dynamiting has afforded entertainment for a large crowd that has enjoyed seeing the upheaval of cement and earth which has been shot skyward for forty or fifty feet following almost every explosion."<sup>12</sup>

By July, the site was ready. Several hundred people attended the cornerstone laying ceremonies, featuring a speech by Eugene Phillips, state high school inspector for twenty-one years. He praised the community for "erecting such a magnificent school plant in these days of economic depression."<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 21, 1932. The editor of the *McLeod County Republic* pointedly avoided taking sides on the issue.

<sup>10</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, February 4, 11, 1932.

<sup>11</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, May 19, May 26, 1932. Juul came to Minnesota from Denmark as a young man and worked as a building contractor and real estate broker in the Hutchinson area until his death in an automobile accident in 1953.

<sup>12</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, June 2, 1932.

<sup>13</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, July 21, 1932.



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Construction proceeded over the summer and fall with minimal problems.<sup>14</sup> There had been hopes that the work could be completed over the summer, but the slow demolition process held up actual construction. As the new school year approached, the board made plans for alternate sites, believing that the building "would not be ready for occupancy by classes until Easter at the very earliest."<sup>15</sup>

However, Juul pressed forward and completed the project in time for the high school basketball team to play against Lester Prairie in the new gymnasium by mid-January. This was a major event because the local cagers had won the state basketball championship in 1931. The local press praised the "commodious ground floor and gallery containing comfortable opera seats." However, the story continued, "The initial athletic contest proved unsatisfactory to players and spectators owing to the fact that the preparation with which the floor was treated was not sufficiently dry to allow unhampered movement upon the part of the participants."<sup>16</sup>

When the building opened, the community was proud of its new building, having financed it through a decade-long sinking fund savings plan. The formal dedication, on January 30, 1933, was a moment of civic pride. The local newspaper proclaimed,

It is one of the largest grade and high school buildings in the Northwest; its interior arrangement is unsurpassed for convenience, and it embodies the very latest school facilities known in educational circles. . . . The new school is the greatest single permanent improvement that has been made in Glencoe at any one time since the town was founded.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, the case was made that a new school building improved the whole community.

A substantial, sightly and well-equipped school plant, manned by a teaching force of personality and power, with adequate facilities for study and play, is a source of prestige, a worthy asset to a city, district or a country town. Such a school atmosphere makes for stability and solidity in the property surroundings, increasing land values through its influence on the character of the neighborhood and on the value of trade.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, September 15, 1923, declared, "Exterior work well underway."

<sup>15</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, August 18, 1932.

<sup>16</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 12, 1933.

<sup>17</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 26, 1933.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

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**The School Building as a Community Resource**

The school's primary purpose was the education of the youth of Glencoe. Between 1933 and 1954, every public school student from kindergarten through twelfth grade attended here. Enrollment might vary, but a typical year (1948) shows 180 elementary grade students, 156 junior high pupils, and 263 high schoolers. The school was well equipped for the needs of the community, with an industrial arts department, an agriculture division, and a teacher training department. The gracious auditorium/gymnasium played host to dozens of school plays and sporting events.

The new building was also the home for related programs that served a much larger audience. As a center of education, McLeod County teachers held training institutes here over the years. These annual two-day events rotated between Glencoe and Hutchinson, bringing together all teachers in the county for lectures and demonstrations. Subjects covered everything from classroom instruction to bookbinding tutorials.<sup>19</sup>

When opened, the building was also home to the Glencoe Teacher Training Department with its rooms designed into the original plans (see figure 3 for the first floor room use). This was a state-sponsored program that provided teacher training. Although Minnesota began a teacher training program in 1894, it remained relatively low-key until 1909, when the state superintendent issued guidelines that exempted its graduates from teachers' examination. Minnesota's program was "planned to train students directly for the country school experience" and required "training centers located and organized to most effectively serve the state." At its peak, in 1924, ninety-six departments had been established in sixty-five counties across the state.<sup>20</sup>

The students were typically eighteen to twenty-one-year-old women who had grown up in rural communities or on a farm. The curriculum was a mix of instruction and practice teaching. The teacher's responsibility went well beyond simple classroom instruction, as described, "She is also expected to participate in the affairs of the school in which the department is located, write papers for the country teachers' institute, speak at farmers' clubs, and attend rural life conferences." In addition, "The training teacher can be relied upon to cooperate fully in promoting, under guidance of proper authority, garden and canning club work, Red Cross activities, thrift work clubs, conservation measures."<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, September 24, 31, 1936; May 27, 1948.

<sup>20</sup> H. E. Flynn, Inspector of Teacher Training Departments, in *State of Minnesota, Department of Education, Report, Teacher Training Departments in High Schools, 1920* (Saint Paul, Minn.: Department of Education, 1920): 3-5.

<sup>21</sup> Minnesota Department of Education. Teacher Training Dept., "Records of Teacher Training Departments, 1920-1936" folder, Minnesota Historical Society.

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There were few professions open to a woman living in rural Minnesota, and this program was especially attractive since it did not require (in fact, discouraged) relocation to the city. Indeed, one observer noted the popularity of the state program "because they permit girls to receive training who could otherwise have none."<sup>22</sup>

Another example of educational outreach is the Nursery School, opened in this building in 1936. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) set up the Nursery Project, a program that established WPA-staffed day nurseries for low-income children aged two to four. It allowed the WPA to employ teachers and supervisors and, at the same time, freed parents to seek employment of their own. The day nurseries insured that children received nourishing meals, medical attention and a foundation in personal and social skills. Children were read to and played with, taught how to brush their teeth, wash their hands and faces, comb their hair, dress and undress themselves, set the table for lunch and use proper table manners.

When the Glencoe Nursery School opened, it was one of only twenty such projects in the state. As the local paper reported, "Parents are enthusiastic cooperators . . . Parents' meetings are held twice a month. Questions and problems are raised which the entire group attempts to solve." The program continued through 1942, when WPA funding ended.<sup>23</sup>

The school auditorium provided a perfect venue for a wide variety of community cultural programs over the years. For example, in 1936, a series of seven University of Minnesota Extension lyceum programs were held in that hall. The diverse programs included presentations that ranged from a marionette play of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to a "quartet of Negro singers" singing "camp and plantation songs."<sup>24</sup>

The school building was an important central facility for public health over the years. It began with annual infant and preschool checkups, continued through regular care for school age children under supervision of the school nurse, and extended into the adult population with inoculations and frequent

<sup>22</sup> Lotus D. Coffman, *Teacher Training Departments in Minnesota High Schools* (New York: General Education Board, 1920), 75; also see Liberty Hyde Bailey, "Women's Place in the Scheme of Agricultural Education" in *The Cornell Reading-Courses: Lesson for the Farm Home 2* (April 1, 1913).

<sup>23</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, October 8, 1936. For a general discussion, see Annette Moser Hodess, "A Study of the History of the WPA Nursery Schools of Boston (Massachusetts)" (Ph.D. Dissertation, Boston University School of Education, 1983).

<sup>24</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, October 8, 1936.

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“Vaccine Days.”<sup>25</sup> During World War II, the school hosted a series of Red Cross home nursing classes, instructing women to care for their families and freeing trained physicians and nurses for the war effort.<sup>26</sup>

The school also encouraged physical exercise, not just for school children, but for adults as well. During winter vacations and school year evenings, the gymnasium was open for public use, and by most accounts, it was a popular place to gather. Outside, various community organizations, including the Glencoe Women’s Club and the city fire department, helped install a public skating rink on the school grounds every year. The school’s Industrial Training Department offered free sharpening of skates, plus loaned skates to those without a pair.<sup>27</sup>

In a rural community, anchored by the local farm economy, the Glencoe School played a vital role in agricultural instruction. The high school had an agricultural department, offering regular classes for young men and women. After hours, the school hosted 4-H programs and special events.<sup>28</sup> During the 1940s, the school sponsored a Farmers’ Night School. More than just instruction, these classes provided a place for the area’s farmers to meet on a regular basis and discuss current practices and prices.<sup>29</sup>

The Rural Electric Administration, another New Deal response to the Great Depression, organized hundreds of cooperatives throughout the United States, beginning in 1935. The electrification of rural America was likely the single most important event to touch the daily lives of Minnesota’s farming families — not just for agricultural use, but by opening the farm home to new appliances and bolstering small town economies. The McLeod Cooperative Power Association organized in 1935, with its annual meetings typically held at the Glencoe School. These gala two-day events included classes and exhibits, drawing thousands each year.<sup>30</sup>

The school building was also home to numerous community meetings and events over the years, everything from the annual Commercial Club Banquets to the Farm Bureau Dinners. Regional music groups often used the auditorium for their annual concerts.<sup>31</sup> When the school opened, the newly

<sup>25</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, January 23, September 3, 1936; February 19, 1942; December 4, 1947; *Glencoe Enterprise*, November 3, 1949.

<sup>26</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, March 19, 26, 1942.

<sup>27</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, December 17, 1936; February 12, 1942.

<sup>28</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, May 14, 1936; *Glencoe Enterprise*, August 11, 1949.

<sup>29</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, August 8, 1941; January 22, 1942; *Glencoe Enterprise*, January 8, 22, 1947.

<sup>30</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, March 5, 1942; *Glencoe Enterprise*, February 26, 1948.

<sup>31</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, February 20, 1936; April 23, 1936; *Glencoe Enterprise*, December 4, 1947, December 11, 1947.



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organized Glencoe Historical Society was given quarters on the main floor. Located near the entrance, the room and its collections provided visitors and students with a visual history lesson.<sup>32</sup>

After Pearl Harbor, the Glencoe School became home to several programs to help America's war effort. Defense training classes were held for young men, offering instruction in auto and tractor mechanics and welding. The federal government furnished the tools, cost of utilities, and the salary for an instructor. This also allowed the school to acquire equipment using outside funds. Classes (usually around twenty students) met for ten-week sessions with 150 hours of instruction. The school also hosted an aviation course, preparing young men for a pilots' license and possible service in the military.<sup>33</sup>

The long reach of the European and Asian wars touched the school in other ways, as it became the distribution center for ration cards and the collection point for scrap metal drives. Each year, Memorial Day services were held in the auditorium.<sup>34</sup>

After the war, several new subdivisions sprang up in the fields just outside Glencoe. By the 1950s, as the baby boom generation began to reach school age, the local school board decided that Glencoe needed a new elementary school. "About twelve years ago," the *Glencoe Enterprise* stated, "there were less than 200 pupils in the elementary school. Today, there are 260 pupils and in three years there will be nearly 300 pupils. . . . By 1955, twelve classrooms will be needed to take care of the elementary pupils from school district number one, plus space for either spring primary or kindergarten will be needed."<sup>35</sup>

The school board proceeded with plans for a bond issue, hiring the architectural firm of Pass, Rockey, and Church (successors to Pass and Rockey) to develop plans and specifications. In October 1952, voters approved the purchase of land for a new school by a 2-1 majority. This was followed by approval of a \$525,000 bond issue in December. The Helen Baker School opened in September 1954.<sup>36</sup>

The Glencoe School was now used for Junior and Senior High School. Even with the additional space freed by the move of the elementary grades, the school remained too crowded. In 1956, the school board authorized construction of two additions to the original building, as well as extensive remodeling to the old interior, with a total cost of \$393,172. The northwest wing held an agricultural classroom and laboratory, as well as a band room and metal shop. The northeast wing included a little theatre and

<sup>32</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, April 1933.

<sup>33</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, January 1, 8, 1942.

<sup>34</sup> *McLeod County Republic*, March 26, 1942; May 28, 1942; October 8, 1942.

<sup>35</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, October 16, 1952.

<sup>36</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, October 6, December 4, 11, 25, 1952.



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community room, additional lockers, and physical education storerooms. The additions opened in the fall of 1957.<sup>37</sup>

In 1970, a new high school was built, and this building became the district's middle school, known as the Henry Hill Intermediate School, serving grades five through eight. After the Glencoe school system merged with the Silver Lake system in 1996, the school district began to look for a newer facility, moving out of this building in 2002. In 2009, the city undertook a major renovation of the school, converting it into municipal offices, event center, public library, and space for many community organizations such as the Glencoe Historical Society and the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce.

**Conclusion**

The Glencoe Grade and High School stood at the center of community life between 1933 and 1954. It became part of the town's daily rhythm of life—classes, sporting events, parent-teacher conferences, school plays and concerts. Several generations of young people received instruction and training, preparing them for active roles as adults. The school also proved to be the conduit for a host of social programs, aimed not just at children, but at adults as well. These ranged from agricultural extension classes that taught cooking to public health programs on childcare and public health. As such, it is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>37</sup> *Glencoe Enterprise*, April 19, 1956, November 7, 1957.

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Glencoe Enterprise*

*Glencoe Register*

*McLeod County Republic*

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National Park Service**

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**Other**

Minnesota Department of Education, Teacher Training Department. "Records of Teacher Training Departments, 1920-1936." Folder, Minnesota Historical Society.

"Women's Place in the Scheme of Agricultural Education." In *The Cornell Reading-Courses: Lesson for the Farm Home 2* (April, 1913).

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County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 1

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**PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Name of Property: Glencoe Grade and High School

City or Vicinity: Glencoe

County: McLeod County

State: MN

Name of Photographer: Daniel J. Hoisington

Date of Photographs: November 2011

Location of Original Digital Files: The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and the author each have copies of the digital photograph files.

Photo #1 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0001)

South elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo #2 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0002)

Main entrance, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo #3 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0003)

South elevation, southwest corner, camera facing northwest.

Photo #4 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0004)

West elevation and entrance, camera facing northeast.

Photo #5 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0005)

East elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo #6 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0006)

North elevation, camera facing southeast.

Photo #7 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0007)

Interior, first floor main hall, camera facing east.

Photo #8 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0008)

Interior, first floor main hall, camera facing west.

Photo #9 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0009)

Interior, first floor, auditorium foyer, camera facing northeast.

Photo #10 (MN\_McLeod County\_Glencoe Grade and High School\_0010)

Interior, first floor, auditorium, camera facing south.

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Photo #11 (MN\_ McLeod County\_ Glencoe Grade and High School \_0011)  
Interior, first floor, auditorium, light fixture, camera facing south.

Photo #12 (MN\_ McLeod County\_ Glencoe Grade and High School \_0012)  
Interior, first floor, classroom, camera facing northwest.

Photo #13 (MN\_ McLeod County\_ Glencoe Grade and High School \_0013)  
Interior, second floor, library, camera facing south.



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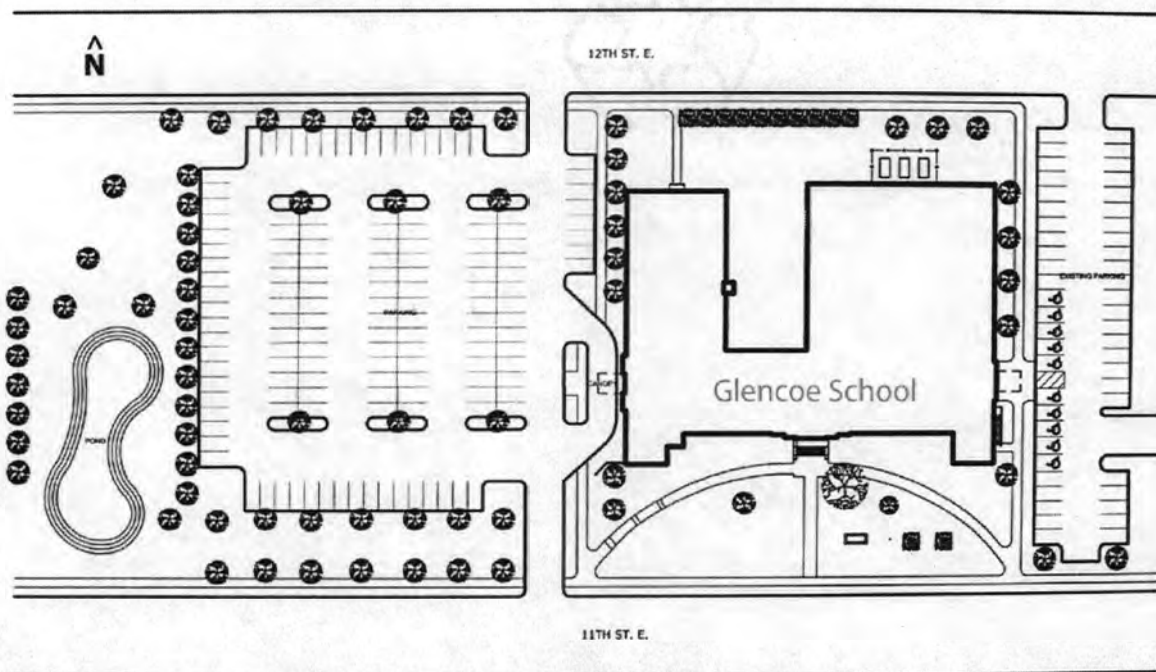
Name of Property: Glencoe Grade and High School

County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 3

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

Figure 1: Site Map



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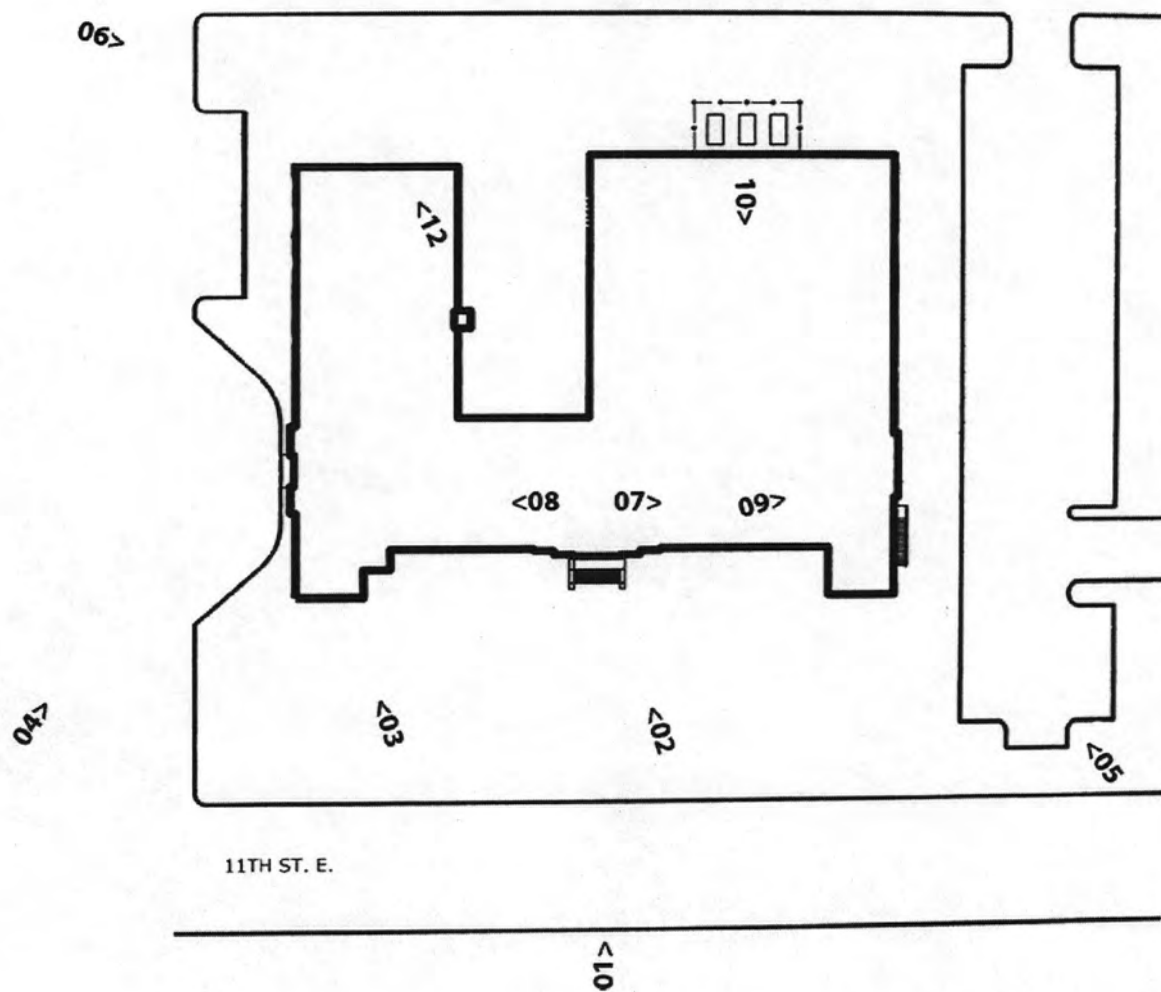
County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 4

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Figure 2: Photograph Key

Keyed interior shots were taken on the first floor. Photographs #0011 and #0013 are of interior details and not shown on the key.



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National Park Service

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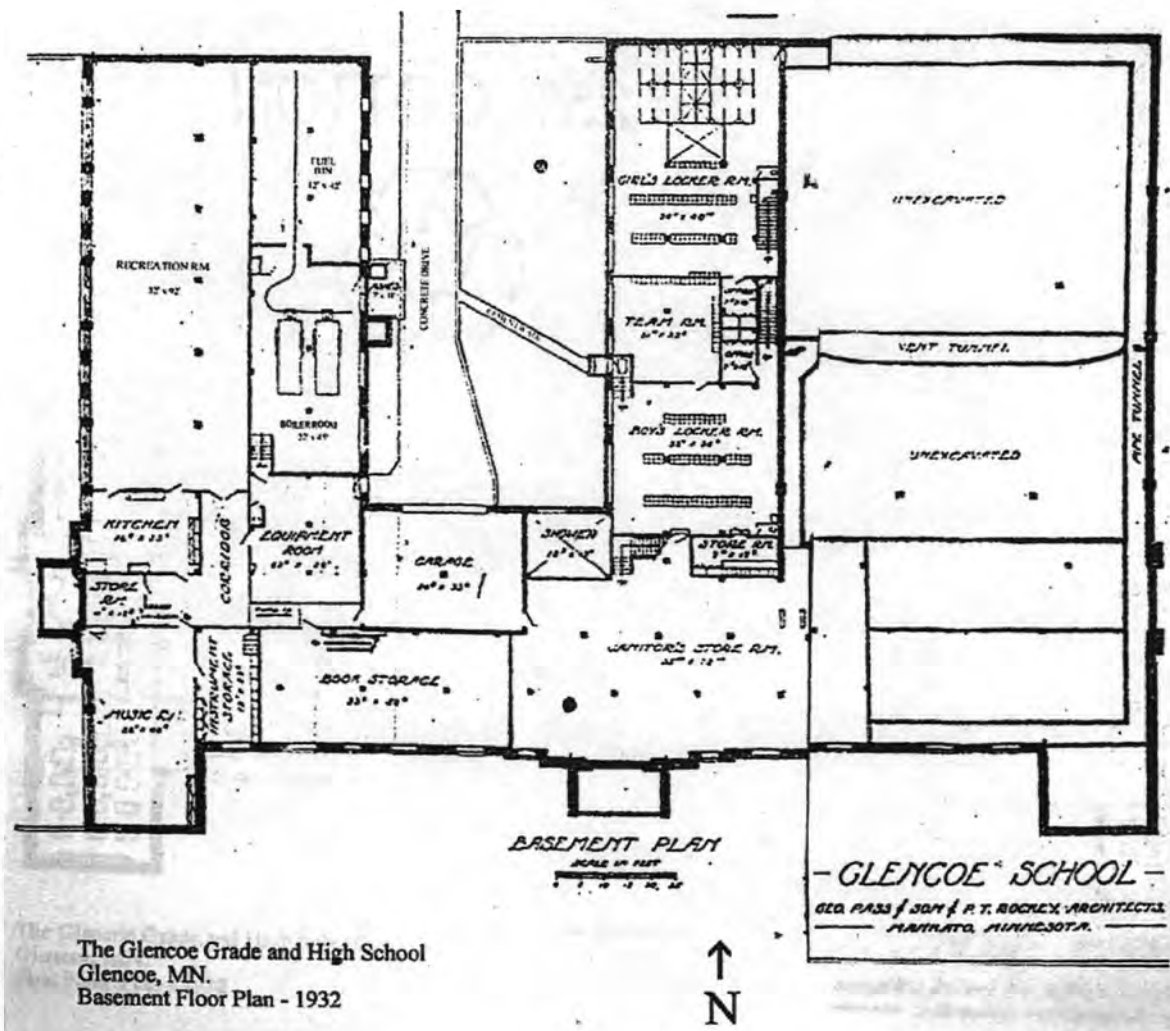
Name of Property: Glencoe Grade and High School

County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 5

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

Figure 3: Original floor plan, 1932, basement (Glencoe Historical Society)



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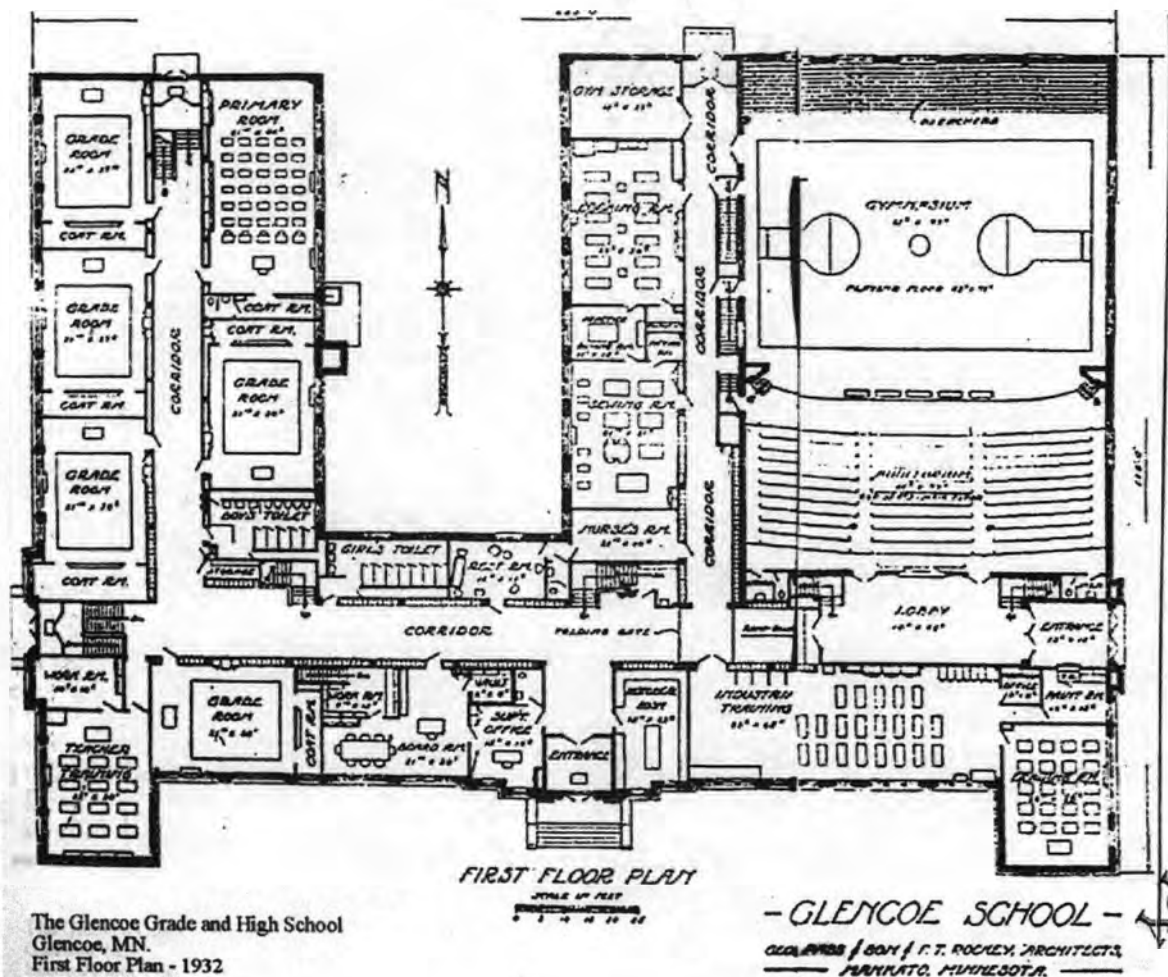
Name of Property: Glencoe Grade and High School

County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 6

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Figure 4: Original floor plan, 1932, main floor (Glencoe Historical Society)





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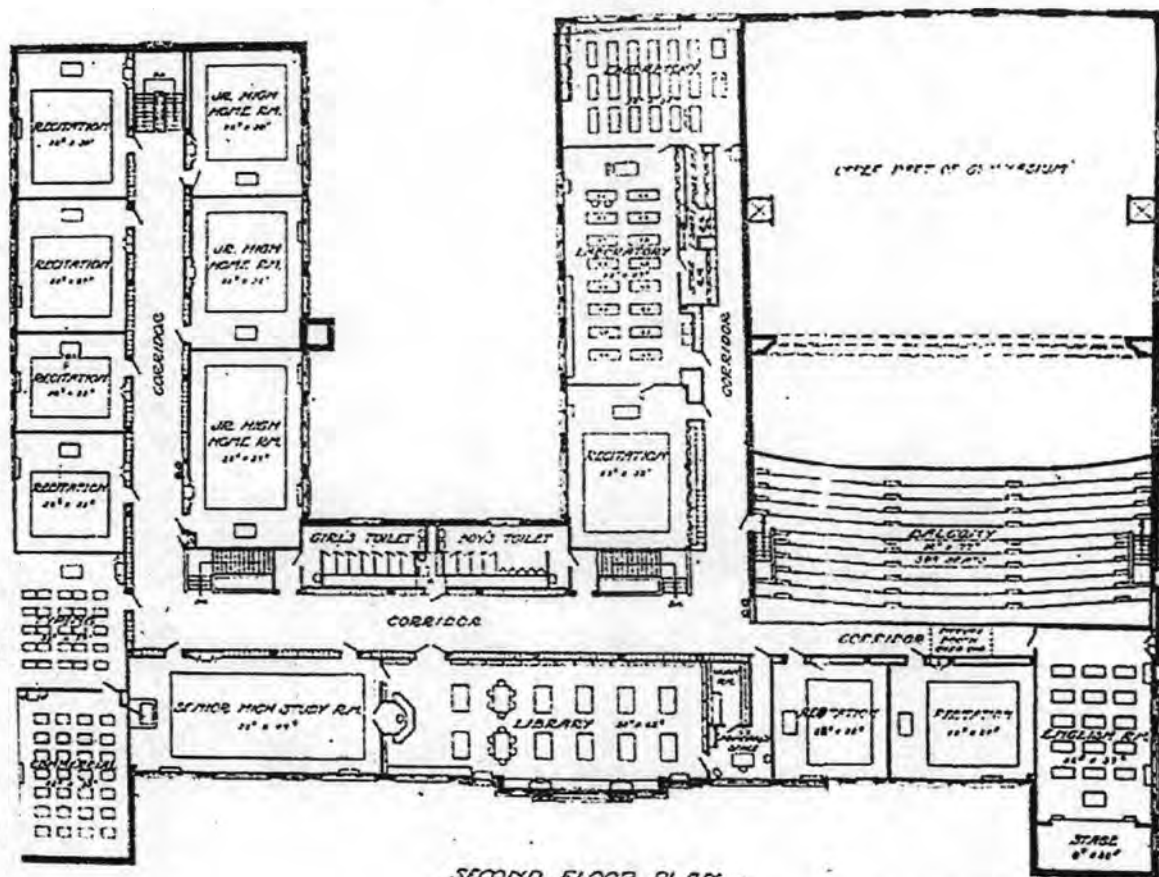
Name of Property: Glencoe Grade and High School

County and State: McLeod County, MN

Section number: Additional Documentation page: 7

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

Figure 5: Original floor plan, 1932, second floor (Glencoe Historical Society)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE IN FEET  
0 5 10 15 20 25

- GLENCOE SCHOOL

DES. BY J. T. ROCKEY, ARCHITECTS,  
MINNAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Figure 6: Photograph, circa 1932 (Glencoe Historical Society)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Glencoe Grade and High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, McLeod

DATE RECEIVED: 8/31/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/17/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000872

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT ☐ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*PGS to 1957 reflecting removal of post 1957 wings  
in 2009.*

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER R. Reed DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0001





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0002





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0003





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0003





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0004





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0005





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0006





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0007





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0008





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0009





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0010





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0011





MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0012



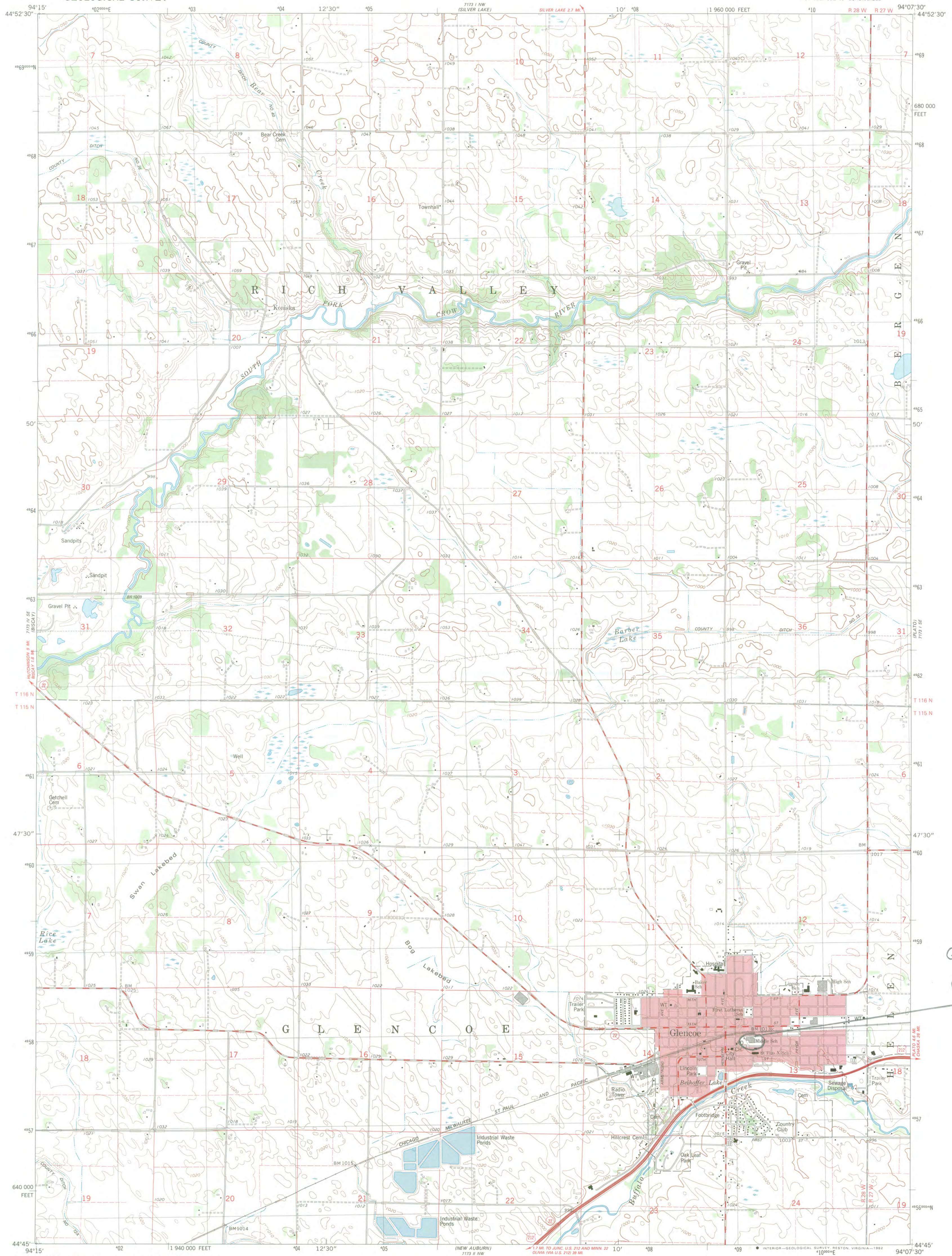


MN McLeod County Glencoe Grade and High School 0013



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GLENCOE QUADRANGLE  
MINNESOTA—MC LEOD CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW 1/4 GLENCOE 15' QUADRANGLE



Glencoe Grade and  
High School  
McLeod County, MN  
15 409168E 4958978N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

taken 1975. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Minnesota coordinate

system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983

move the projection lines 7 meters north and

20 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines

where generally visible on aerial photographs

This information is uncheck



UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface

Secondary highway, hard surface

Unimproved road

Interstate Route

U. S. Route

State Route

GLENCOE, MINN.

SW 1/4 GLENCOE 15' QUADRANGLE

N4445-W9407.5/7.5

1982

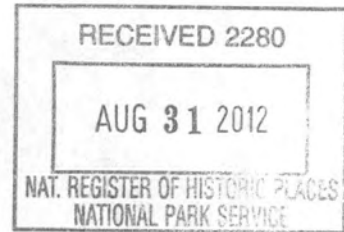
DMA 7173 1 SW-SERIES V872



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651/259-3451



**TO:** Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Denis P. Gardner

**DATE:** August 21, 2012

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Glencoe Grade and High School

**COUNTY AND STATE:** McLeod County, Minnesota

**SUBJECT:** National Register:  
☒ Nomination  
☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form  
☐ Request for determination of eligibility  
☐ Request for removal (Reference No. )  
☐ Nomination resubmission  
☐ Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No. )  
☐ Additional documentation (Reference No. )

**DOCUMENTATION:**

- ☒ Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form
- ☒ Continuation Sheets
- ☐ Removal Documentation
- ☒ Photographs
- ☒ CD w/ image files
- ☒ Original USGS Map
- ☒ Sketch map(s)
- ☐ Correspondence
  - ☐ Owner Objection
    - The enclosed owner objections
    - Do ☐ Do not ☐ constitute a majority of property owners

**STAFF COMMENTS:**