

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 30 1982
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Central School

AND/OR COMMON

The Central School

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10304 N. 83rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Peoria

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

N/A VICINITY OF

3

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Maricopa

CODE

013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Storage

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Peoria

STREET & NUMBER

8355 W. Peoria Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Peoria

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85345

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maricopa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

111 South 3rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona 85003

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

Determined Eligible - NO

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Central School is a one-story Mission Revival style masonry building situated at the southeast corner of 83rd Avenue and Madison Street in Peoria, Arizona, a suburban community located on the northwestern edge of metropolitan Phoenix. In the past fifteen years, Peoria has grown from a small agricultural community into an expansive Phoenix suburb, although it still retains a sense of its original rural character. The Central School building occupies the southeastern corner of a four acre school yard adjacent to the original town center. The site also includes ten ancillary educational buildings dating between ca. 1910 and 1951, none of which is architecturally notable. The Central School is the primary historic and architectural resource, and its importance to the community is strengthened by its contemporary context.

The Central School building sits on the southeast corner of the site, facing east. It measures 65x39' and is finished on the exterior with rough-textured plaster. A Mission Revival style parapet distinguishes the facade. The design of the building is focused around a central entry pavilion which is offset from the main wall plane and is flared at the base. The pavilion features a curvilinear Mission style parapet which projects above the eaveline and is the dominant architectural element of the facade. The main entry is set within a semi-circular arch and is topped by a semi-circular, multi-paned transom window (presently obscured by a wood panel). An archivolt molding outlines the entry arch; at the apex is an urn-like motif which originally held the base of a flagpole. The original doors have been replaced with utilitarian solid-panel doors.

Including the entry, the building is five bays wide. The flanking bays feature slightly recessed rectangular windows containing wooden casement sash with triangular lights. The windows are in the upper half of the wall, sheltered by the roof overhang. A simple molding runs above the windows on all elevations. Ornamental rectangular panels are positioned in the lower sections of each bay. A broad stringcourse running below these panels encircles the building and serves to visually separate the main wall from the raised foundation. Small square windows open into a basement crawl-space at the bottom of each bay.

Both the north and south side elevations are dominated by a central cluster of six windows. They have 4/4 double-hung sash and are joined by a continuous wooden lintel. The bottom of the window opening rests on the foundation-level stringcourse.

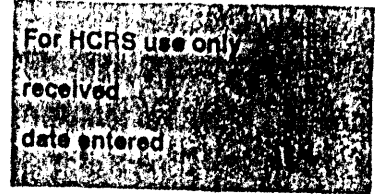
The rear elevation is similar in form to the main facade. The rear entry is framed by a central pavilion also topped by a curvilinear parapet. The pavilion projects only slightly from the wall plane. The two southern bays on the rear elevation have full-size 4/4 windows, while the two northern bays have the smaller casement windows in the upper portion of the wall as on the facade.

The building's low-pitched hip roof terminates in a projecting overhang with a sloping soffit and exposed rafters. Two metal flue pipes project from behind the ridgeline. Originally the roof featured a small louvered cupola and gablet ends on the ridgeline and was sheathed with curved Spanish tile. The roof was altered to its present hip configuration and the cupola removed in 1976, and the tile sheathing replaced with asphalt shingles. Despite this alteration, the present roof conforms with the intended roof design and has a minimal impact on the building's architectural integrity.

(See attachment)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The interior contains the two original 39x25' classrooms separated by an 11' wide central hall. The walls are plaster and have the original woodwork, including two doors opening into each classroom. There are hardwood floors throughout.

The Central School clearly conveys its initial design. The predominant architectural image established by the Mission Revival parapet is intact, and the historic window sash, entry transom and decorative trim elements all remain. Sensitive restoration could easily recapture the building's original appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central School, built in 1906, is a vernacular Mission Revival style structure associated with the development of Peoria. The oldest extant schoolhouse in the Peoria school district, Central School is historically significant for its relationship to the initial growth of the community and the establishment of public education in Peoria. Architecturally, the school building is important as an early vernacular expression of the Mission Revival architecture which emerged within the southwest during the first decade of the twentieth century.

The settlement of Peoria and creation of the Peoria school district are a direct consequence of the completion of the Arizona Canal. This canal brought water from the Salt River in Phoenix into the desert area around Peoria, enabling the region's arid land to be productively utilized for agriculture. In 1882, a group of Phoenix investors formed the Arizona Canal Company in hopes of profitably developing the desert lands northwest of Phoenix, where Peoria was later established. They were encouraged by the successful development of adjacent desert lands directly west of Phoenix resulting from the opening of the Grand Canal in 1878.

The Arizona Canal Company contracted with William J. Murphy, a major Phoenix land developer and engineer, to construct the canal in 1882. In payment, Murphy was offered the proceeds of the sale of any water rights he could secure from the lands irrigated by the canal. When the canal was completed in 1885, Murphy went east to attract people to settle on these lands. He successfully enticed four families from Peoria, Illinois who became the nucleus of the new community upon their arrival in 1886.

It was the twelve children of these initial families that prompted the establishment of the Peoria School District. In 1889, the County Supervisors of Maricopa County authorized the creation of School District Number 11, encompassing 42 square miles around Peoria. Classes were initially held in an existing commercial building until a small wooden school was constructed on the site of the present Central School. Although the district was at first threatened by low enrollment, the steady arrival of more settlers during the 1890's kept the district intact.

The growth of Peoria at the end of the nineteenth century was substantially influenced by the concurrent expansion of Phoenix. The establishment of rail connections with Los Angeles in 1889 and with Santa Fe and the east coast in 1895, and the designation of Phoenix as the territorial capital of Arizona in 1889 initiated major expansion of the Phoenix area in the late nineteenth century. The completion of Grand Avenue between Peoria and Phoenix in 1889 made Peoria readily accessible, and by the turn of the century the community was entering a period of major population growth.

(See attachment)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartlett, William H. "The Early Days of Peoria", Northwest Peoria Times (edited), April 23, 1976.

Personal interview with Mr. M. Boen, early Peoria resident and Central School Custodian, May 5, 1981; conducted by Donna Hughens, Assistant Librarian, Peoria Library.

Scrapbook - History of Peoria, Arizona, at Peoria Public Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Glendale, Arizona

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 2 3, 8, 5 1, 7, 0 3, 7, 1, 5 9, 2, 1

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See attached)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Edited, Arizona State Parks Board, Historic

Ann Tilghman, Library Director Preservation Section, February 1982.)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

City of Peoria

June 25, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

8355 W. Peoria Avenue (P.O. Box 38)

(602) 979-3282

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Peoria

Arizona 85345

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Ann D. Pritzlaff

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

17 March 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-12-82

DATE

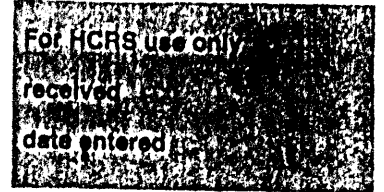
5/10/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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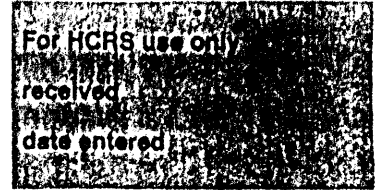
The present Central School building was constructed in 1906 to accommodate the town's rising population. The new two-room building replaced the earlier wooden structure which had burned the previous year. A local bond election to raise funds for the new school was held in 1905 following a bitter controversy within the town, as some residents maintained that Peoria would never need a two-room school. The funds were approved by one vote and the Central School was constructed at an approximate cost of \$3,200.00. The decision to erect the larger building indicates that the regional population growth was already apparent in Peoria.

Architecturally, the Central School is more sophisticated than the modest cost suggests and is more advanced in architectural style than would be expected in what was then a relatively small agricultural community. The school is a vernacular example of Mission Revival style architecture, a style which was only beginning to appear in the southwest when Central School was completed in 1906. The Mission Revival style originated in California at the turn of the century as an alternative to the prevailing Victorian styles. The early twentieth century witnessed a revival of the traditional forms of Spanish Colonial and Mission architecture native to the southwest, corresponding with a similar revival of Colonial period styles in other parts of the country. The Central School is an early manifestation of this revival movement in the southwest.

The City of Peoria purchased Central School from the Peoria Unified School District in 1976. Present plans call for its rehabilitation for a community center, enabling it to remain a local landmark and continue in public use.

United States Department of the Interior
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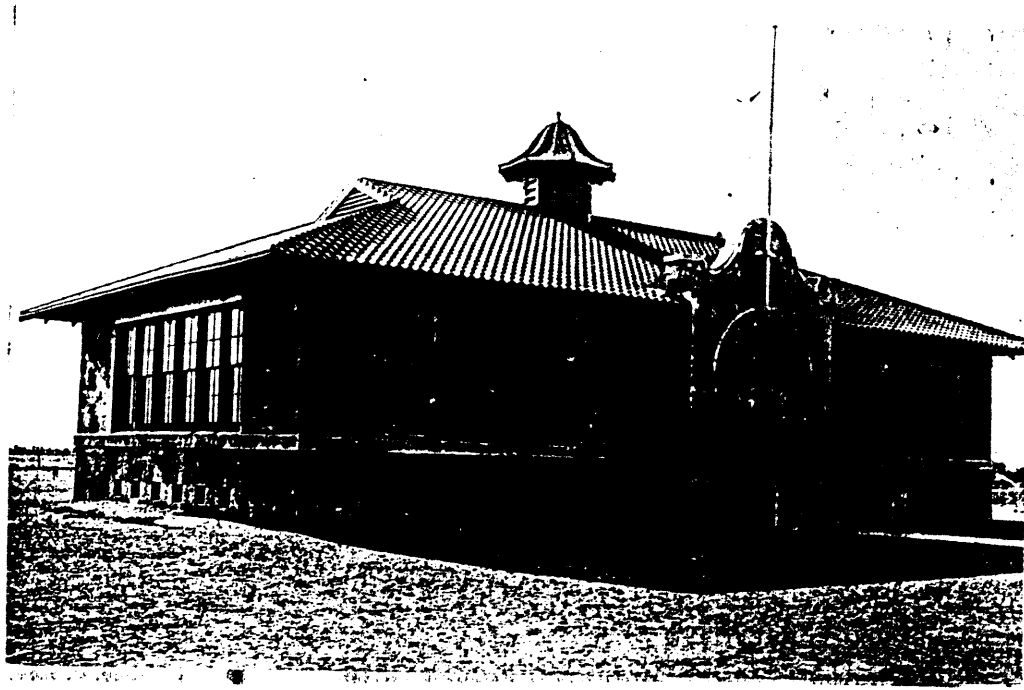


Continuation sheet

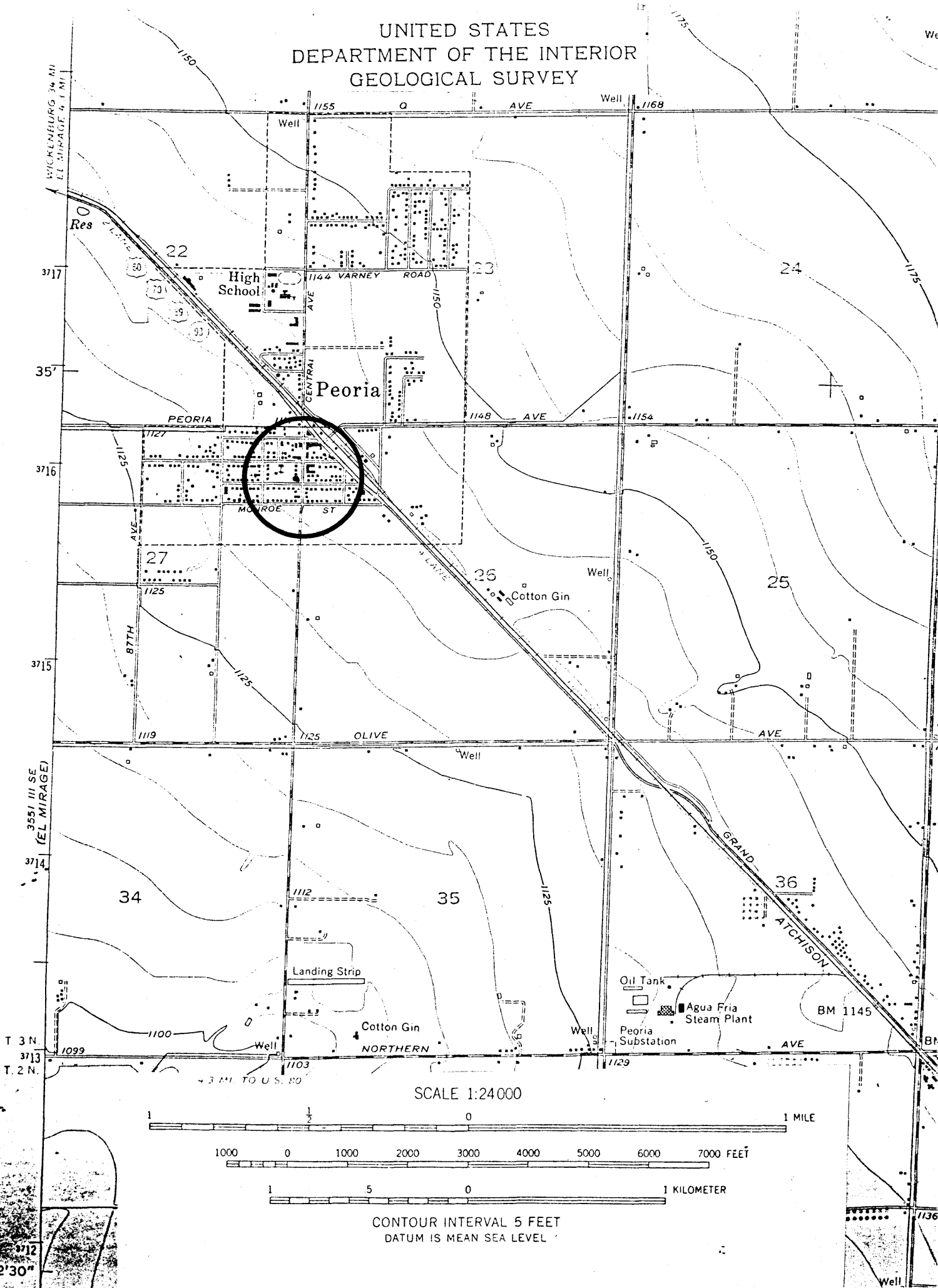
Item number 10

Page 2

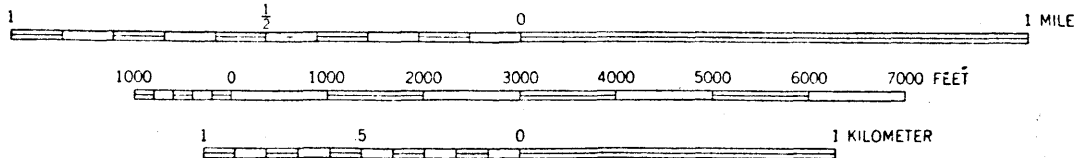
The nominated property consists of a rectangular parcel 130'x130', bordered on the south by Madison Street, on the east by 83rd Avenue, and on the north and west by the property of the Peoria Unified School District, City of Peoria.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

32'30"

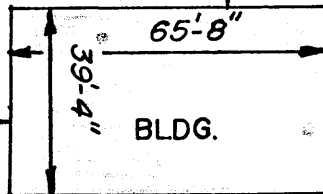
83rd AVE

5' sidewalk

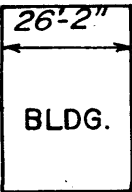
311'-5"

39'-8"

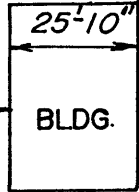
Schoolhouse



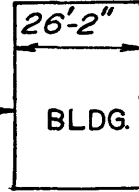
30'-10"



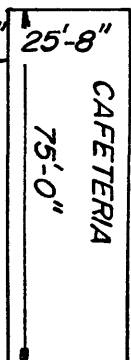
29'-10"



30'-10"



30'-10"



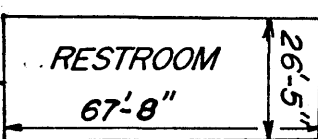
20'-0"

CENTRAL SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND

N
scale 1/2" = 40'-0"

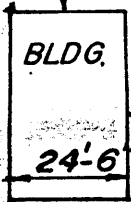
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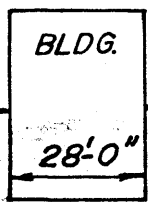
610'-9"

165'-0"

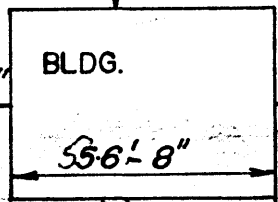
122'-8"



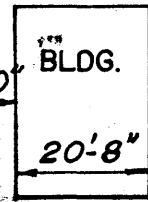
36'-5"



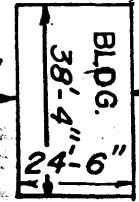
23'-5"



22'-0"



36'-9"



12'

JEFFERSON AVE

sidewalk

MADISON