
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Constructed in 1923, Price Public Elementary School is a one story brick building with an asphalt shingle hip roof. Rectangular in plan, brick pilasters delineate the door and window openings on all four elevations. Most windows are now boarded over, however, the 6/6 double-hung sashes are visible from the inside of the school although many of the panes are gone. The interior of the school retains much of its original plan, wainscotting, door and window casings, and plaster. Although abandoned in recent years, the school still retains its historic and architectural integrity.

An asphalt shingle hip roof with gablet caps the painted brick school. Narrow brick chimneys with corbelling pierce the roof line near the east and west elevations. A furnace is housed in the basement space of the building. Price Public Elementary School sits on a corner lot a few blocks from the Rogersville Historic District (NR2/23/73). There is no landscaping around the school.

The symmetrically proportioned south facade of the school contains a central entrance that is flanked by boarded over window openings. Brick headers form the window sills. The glass and wood panel double-leaf doors are surmounted by a twelve light transom that has lost its panes. Originally large concrete steps led to the entrance. Brick corner pilasters and a wood cornice are located on this facade and all other elevations. The north elevation is similar in design except that it has an additional single leaf door.

Both the east and west elevations are the same. Symmetrically designed, the principal features of these elevations are the 6/6 double-hung sashes. Brick pilasters separate four sets of paired windows and two single windows on each elevation.

Plaster walls and hardwood floors are found throughout the interior of the building. Two twenty foot by twenty-seven foot classrooms are located in the eastern side of the school and one twenty foot by fifty-four foot room (with a movable partition) is located in the western side. A stage had been located in the northwestern part of the classroom but it is no longer extant. What is now the kitchen area in the southwestern part of the school was once the girl's rest room. Two rest rooms are currently located in the northeastern portion of the school. A ten foot wide by sixty-four foot long hallway separates the classrooms. Glass and wood panel doors

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capped by three-light transoms lead from the hall to the rooms. The interior of the school has little ornamentation. Simple wood chair rails, window and door casings, and baseboards are the principal interior details in the school. An unfinished attic is accessible only by ladder.

Because of neglect, some of the walls and flooring in the school are in very poor condition. The northeast room needs a new floor due largely to the fact that heavy equipment was stored in it. Floors and walls in other rooms all need minimal repairs or maintenance. The western half of the school was re-wired when this part of the building was used as a cannery. The remainder of the school still retains its 1920s wiring.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1923-1938

Significant Dates

1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Price Public Elementary School is being nominated under criterion A for its local significance in the areas of education and black history. Constructed in 1923, the school was part of a continuing effort by the city of Rogersville and Hawkins County to provide elementary school education to black children. The building was used as a high school for a short period and was also considered as a feeder school to the church operated Swift Memorial College. The building has been abandoned for the last several years and is in poor condition. However, Price Public Elementary School still retains its historical and architectural integrity.

On March 17, 1868 Alexander Fain, Jordan Netherland, Albert Jones, and Nathaniel Mitchell, all black residents of Hawkins County, purchased a lot from the county "for the purpose of building a schoolhouse for the education of colored children". By 1870 a two-room frame and log building had been erected.

Around 1900 Tennessee had a black population of only 23.8% and few counties had a majority of black residents. Hawkins County had a population of 24,267, only 9% of which was black. Most of the black population in the county lived in New Canton, Rotherwood, or Rogersville. The scholastic black population was 7,563 and the scholastic white population of the county was 8,745. The number of black illiterates who were at least ten years old was 694, while the number of white illiterates for the same age group was 3,835.

As Rogersville and Hawkins County grew during the early part of the twentieth century, the city and county attempted to improve educational opportunities for residents. Numerous public and private elementary schools existed for the education of white children; there were 115 schools for whites in the county in 1900. However, the educational opportunities for black children were minimal. School funds were distributed on the basis of scholastic population, whether the children actually attended school or not. In 1910, 54% of black children between the ages of six and twenty-one attended school while 68% of white children from this age group

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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3	1	9	8	1	0
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4	0	3	1	0	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Camelot 171NE

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is parcel 20, map 100L, Rogersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee.

See Tax Map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary for Price Public Elementary School includes land historically associated with the resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stella Gudger/Community Services Chairman; Claudette Stager/Hist. Preservation Spec.
 organization American Legion Aux Unit 231; TN Hist. Comm. date March 1988
 street & number 226 N. Hawkins St.; 701 Broadway telephone 615-272-2686; 615-742-6723
 city or town Rogersville; Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37857;

37219-5237

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attended school. The average class size for black schools was forty-six students but for white schools it was only seventeen students. As a result, many counties opposed compulsory education laws for all students. One of the few efforts to provide any education for black children in Hawkins County occurred during the 1920s. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen appointed a building committee to build a new black elementary school in Rogersville, replacing the 1870 two-room Price School.

In 1918 Tennessee only ranked forty-second in the United States in an educational ranking based on the percentage of students, number of days in school, and number of dollars expended. Within the state, the educational opportunities varied greatly by county. For example, in Van Buren County three out of four children attended school daily but in Lake County only one-third of the school age children attended elementary schools daily.

Hawkins County ranked fifty-ninth overall out of the ninety-five Tennessee counties. It was thirty-third in the number of days of school attended by each school age child (black and white), thirty-eighth in the average number of days school was open (138.52), and forty-seventh in the percentage of the school population that was in average daily attendance. Hawkins County schools were ranked fifty-third in annual expenditure per child in average daily attendance. The county spent \$21.51 while the range for all counties was from \$92.31 to \$9.80. It was fifty-ninth for average expenditure for teachers and ninetieth on expenditures for students for purposes other than teacher salaries (\$2.23). While figures were not broken down by race other indications, such as class sizes, suggest that black schools did not receive as much funding as white schools.

In the fall of 1923 the new Price Public Elementary School opened. It was a one story brick building with three classrooms, a basement, and attic. It was during this year that the County Board of Education was consolidating many of the county's rural schools and repairing or building schools for students. In May a committee was appointed to investigate consolidating the black school in Rogersville. Two months later the Board appropriated "\$250.00, and lower if possible" for work on the Saunders Colored School building and the Mooresburg Colored School building. Also during July 1923 it was decided that one-half of the school term would be taught at the New Freedom Colored School and one-half would be taught at the Fisher's Creek Colored School. Schools were being consolidated and by December 1923 112 white children and 36 black children were approved for transfer to different schools. During the fall of 1924 the Board decreed that all eighth grade students who were attending one-room schools located within two miles of Rogersville should attend school in the city providing there was no eighth grade class within two miles of the student's home.

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Price Public Elementary School

By 1923 the Tennessee Board of Education had begun printing "A Brief Outline of Work for the Elementary Schools, State of Tennessee". This was in an effort to standardize lessons being taught, books being used, grading systems, and to set schedule guidelines for all classes for each period of the day. From 1924 until 1936 the number of one-teacher schools was down 20% and the number of two-teacher schools was up 30%. Price school, constructed during this period of consolidation, had two, three, or four teachers depending on the fluctuating population of the city.

Hawkins County was one of five counties in the state that did not provide transportation for its students. Also during the 1920s, seven counties had no schools for black children. When counties were ranked on education in 1936 Hawkins was tied with Robertson for seventy-third place.

In November 1936 a report was published by the federal government on the educational status of families on relief in Tennessee. Twelve representative counties, including Hawkins, were studied. Only 6% of the heads of households in Hawkins County (black and white) had an eighth grade education or better. For children in all of the counties studies, 46% of those eight years old or older had no schooling and 10% of those between the ages of fifteen and nineteen had only an eighth grade education. For non-farm black children between the ages of fifteen and nineteen, only 8% had completed grade school. According to the report, generally the "educational attainment of Negro children is low" in Tennessee. However, more young children (vs adults) had attended grade school, indicating that some attempt at providing education to more black children had been made.

Swift Memorial College was a junior college and high school for black students that was begun by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in Rogersville. However, few black students in the county could afford to pay tuition and room and board at the school and there were no public black high schools in Rogersville. Although Price had always been an elementary school, in around 1930 Claude Spurgeon transported high school students from all over the county to Price. Spurgeon, a teacher from Johnson City, had an agreement with the Board of Education to teach all high school subjects to freshman and sophomore students in one room of Price Public Elementary School.

In 1932 the Hawkins County Board of Education and Swift Memorial College entered into an agreement whereby black students would be taught high school subjects at the college. The Presbyterian Board of National Missions sold the Swift College property to Hawkins County. Price again became an elementary school. Swift Memorial College accepted only students who had completed courses from an accredited school, thereby making Price

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school act as a feeder school for Swift Memorial. In 1938, when Price had three teachers, Swift Memorial students did their student teaching here.

The building stopped being used as a school in 1958. Since then it has served as a community center, cannery, and storage building. The property is currently not being used and is under the direction of a board of trustees. As the only known extant black school in Rogersville, Price Public Elementary School is an example of the county's effort to provide education to black children during an era when school consolidation and standardization was occurring in general. Few buildings were erected specifically as schools in black communities during the early part of the century in Hawkins County. Often, churches would serve as both school houses and churches. The New Canton School at Church Hill in Hawkins is one of only a few extant historically black school buildings, and it is a comparatively new building. Presently, Hawkins County is being surveyed and it is known that the Saunders School, a circa 1910 one story frame building, still exists, but in derelict condition. The school at Fishers Creek is gone and it is unclear exactly where the New Freedom School was located. This substantial three room brick building is an indication that Hawkins County intended this to be a permanent effort.

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Price Public Elementary School

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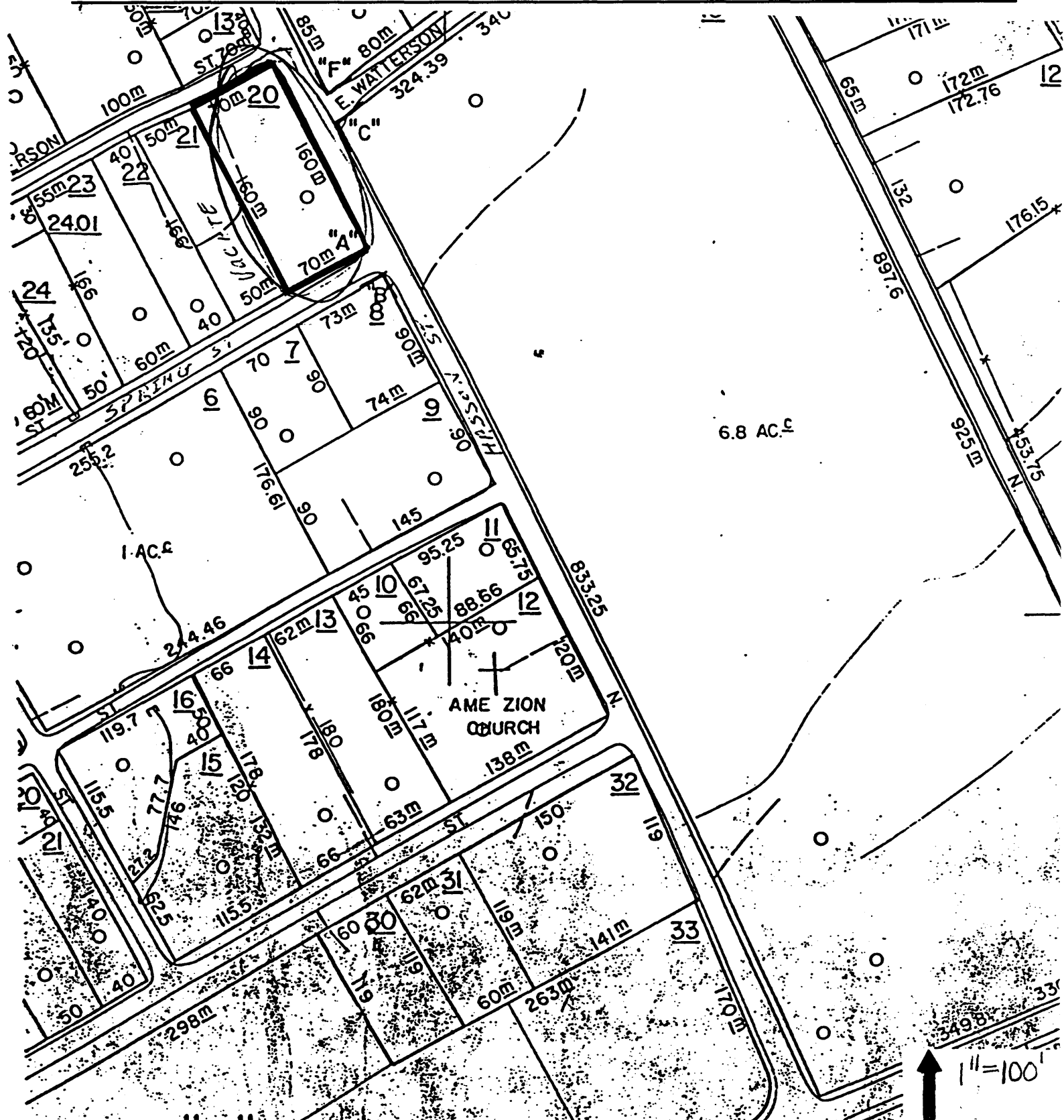
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Section number Photo Page 1 Price Public Elementary School

Price Public Elementary School
Hasson Street and Spring Street
Rogersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee
Photo by: Tommy Logan
Date: January 1988
Neg.: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing north, south and east elevations
#1 of 11

Facing south, north and west elevations
#2 of 11

Facing south, north and east elevations
#3 of 11

Price Public Elementary School
Spring Street and Hasson Street
Rogersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee
Photo by: Tommy Logan
Date: April 1988
Neg.: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

Southeast room
#4 of 11

Southeast room
#5 of 11

Hall, facing north
#6 of 11

Southwest room
#7 of 11

Southwest room
#8 of 11

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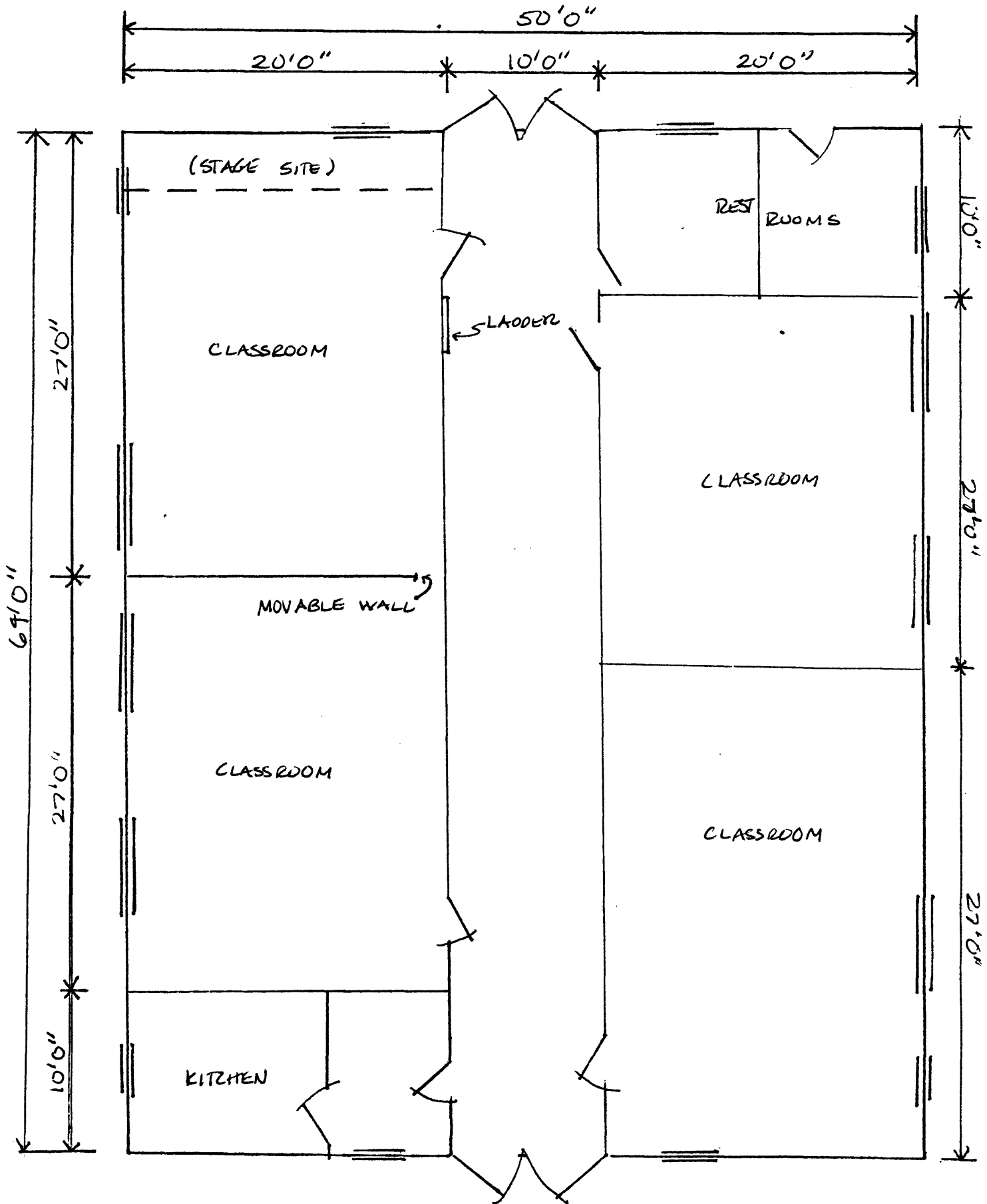
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Northwest room
#9 of 11

Northwest room
#10 of 11

Northeast room
#11 of 11



PRICE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HAWKINS COUNTY, TN
 NOT TO SCALE