

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 02001248

Date Listed: October 24, 2002

Property Name: Atlantic High School

County: Cass

State: Iowa

Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Daniel J. Vivian  
Signature of the Keeper

October 24, 2002  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

"1965" is hereby deleted as a significant date because it is not within the period of significance.

The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

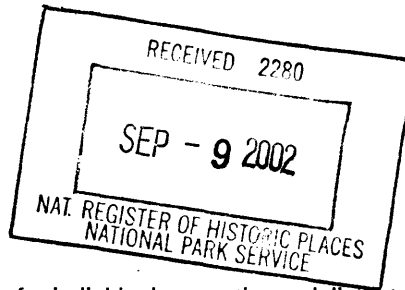
- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

AUG 27 2002

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1248

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Atlantic High School

other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number 1100 Linn Street not for publication N/A

city or town Atlantic vicinity N/A

state Iowa code IA county Cass code 029 zip code 50022

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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      nationally      statewide X locally.

(      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowell J. Loike  
Signature of certifying official

August 28, 2002  
Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

(      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Daniel J. Vinton 10/24/02

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>   </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>   </u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing (enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing):

Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions):

Cat: MODERN MOVEMENT Sub: Moderne

Materials (enter categories from instructions):

foundation CONCRETE  
roof ASPHALT  
walls BRICK

other

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.)

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

**Areas of Significance** (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture  
Social History

**Period of Significance**

1937-1952

**Significant Dates**

1937  
1965

**Significant Person** (complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Keffer & Jones  
Larson, C. C. General Contractor

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: 37.65 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>332238.844</u>	<u>4584846.865</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Peggy Beedle, Architectural Historian

organization The Louis Berger Group, Inc. date 7/24/02

street & number 950 50<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 319-373-3043

city or town Marion state Iowa zip code 52302

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**Additional Documentation**

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(Submit the following items with the completed form.)

Continuation Sheets

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

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

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Atlantic Community Schools

street & number 1100 Linn Street telephone 712-243-4252

city or town Atlantic state Iowa zip code 50022

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Atlantic High School was constructed in 1937, and designed by the Des Moines, Iowa architectural firm of Keffer & Jones in the Moderne style. There have been no additions to the U-shaped school, but a separate junior high building was constructed in 1965, east of the original school, and is counted as a non-contributing building to this nomination. A combined football stadium/track is set in a natural depression to the southeast of the school buildings, and is counted as a contributing structure to this nomination.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Atlantic High School is located on a gentle north-facing slope on the south side of Atlantic, Iowa. A separate junior high building, constructed in 1965, is to the east, and connected with a concourse. A two-block area in front of the school is maintained as open space. There are sidewalks and a footbridge for pedestrian students. The stadium housing the track and football field is set in a natural depression to the southeast of the main building. Athletic fields, including a baseball diamond, are located at the foot of the hill to the southwest. At the time of construction the school was on the south edge of town. It is now situated between the older residential neighborhoods to the north, east, and west, and the modern suburbs to the south. A new high school was constructed about one-half mile to the southeast in 1997, and the original building became a middle school, and the junior high building an elementary school. Together with Washington Elementary, also located south of the 1937 school, the three buildings and athletic complexes comprise a large educational campus. Because Washington was not constructed during the period of significance for the high school, it is not included within the National Register boundary.

The U-shaped school is composed of the three-story classroom central block, the tall, one-story gymnasium wing, and the two-story junior high and auditorium wing. The school was designed by Des Moines architects Keffer & Jones in the Moderne style. It is of steel-reinforced concrete and load-bearing brick construction. Above ground, it is finished with light brown brick in common bond. The Atlantic High School is accented with limestone, including belt-courses and coping, and the entrance facades. While the fenestration and window openings have been retained, most of the windows have been replaced with single fixed or casement windows, all of which are surmounted with a metal panel. The windows have continuous sills and lintels of limestone.

The symmetrical north-facing front facade of the classroom wing of the Atlantic High School is composed of the center classroom section flanked by projecting entrances. The entrance on the right side of the building is the main entrance, with the name of the school inscribed in stone, and more elaborate entry decoration. The right entrance projection is composed of three doors, with a stone surround. Above the doors are vertical panels that lead the eye upwards, where three sets of chevrons connect to the roof coping. To the right of the entrance is a stone plaque, set under a stylized chevron, inscribed with "Atlantic High School." Between the entrances are groups of four windows on each story, separated by brick pilasters.

The south facade of the school forms the U-shape, and is composed of the auditorium and gymnasium entrances. The gymnasium entrance is on the right, and is composed of three sets of double doors, separated by brick pilasters, with second story windows above that open into the gymnasium balcony. The pilasters are capped with stone, and there is a horizontal brick false front, surmounted by the gable roof of the gymnasium.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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The auditorium entrance is of a similar style. There are three sets of double doors, separated by brick pilasters, and second story windows. The exterior walls of the stairwells project beyond the entrance and are finished with stone copings. To the left of the auditorium is the entrance into the original junior high classroom area. There is an open space between the two wings, planted with mature trees, and with benches flanking the sidewalk into the entrance.

The interior arrangement consists of the classroom block, with a center hall, and a perpendicular extension that contains the three original junior high classrooms. The unadorned halls have terrazzo floors, plaster walls with a chair rail above the lockers. The classrooms have hardwood floors, plaster walls, replacement windows and tile ceilings. The gymnasium has exposed arched roof trusses, hardwood floor, and a balcony on the south end.

The auditorium is the only interior space with any decorative detail. The auditorium foyer and lobby are paneled in marble, with iron grills over the radiators. The ticket booth is decorated with geometric details. The interior of the auditorium is decorated with the same chevron design that is on the main entry facade.

The track and football stadium was also constructed in 1937, and was considered to be the "finest football field around" (Chinitz 1987: 1). The football field is on the lowest level, with seating for the football teams on the long sides. The track surrounds the field and is situated about twenty feet higher than the football field. Enclosed bleachers for spectators are on both sides of the stadium, and set above the track. A small building housing the concession stand is connected to the west bleachers.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY**

The school is locally significant under Criterion A, as an example of a PWA school, and is also locally significant under Criterion C, as an excellent example of the Moderne style. Evaluation of the Atlantic High School for National Register eligibility is based upon criteria outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form *Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966*, under the property type "High School." It is typical of the modern high school in its design, layout, and use of specialized rooms. Funding from the Public Works Administration helped many communities to construct public buildings during the Depression. The school has retained its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The Atlantic High School was the second high school building in the town. The first high school was constructed in 1878, and a large addition was constructed in 1912. Population growth and the need for modern facilities necessitated the construction of a new high school. In July of 1935 the school board resolved to apply for a PWA grant. There was a successful campaign for the new high school; in November a \$160,000 bond issue was approved. Ground was broken in 1936, and the school was finished in May of 1937, opening in the fall of that year. It was considered a "show place" with a modern gymnasium that seated 1150, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of nine hundred. There was also a normal training room, and specialized classrooms for music, manual training, with separate rooms for cooking and sewing. In addition the third floor housed three science rooms: physics, chemistry, and biology and agriculture. The cafeteria and kitchen were in the basement, next to the Home Economics rooms. The school opened with approximately 500 high school students and 200 junior high students.

During the 1960s growing high school enrollment necessitated a separate junior high, which opened in 1965. Until then, there had been few changes in the high school building. In 1965, the cafeteria became the Home Economics room, and the old cooking and sewing rooms were used for band. Vocal music was also moved to the basement, and the music room became the principal's office. The side balconies in the gymnasium were closed off. In the 1990s, despite declining enrollment, a new high school was constructed with more modern technological facilities, and the former high school became the Atlantic Middle School. The older elementary schools were closed, and the junior high building became Schuler Elementary. Now, the two elementary schools, Schuler and Washington are on the same campus as the middle school.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   4  

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlantic School Board  
1935 School Board Minutes, on file, Atlantic Middle School, Atlantic, Iowa.

Chinitz, Philip  
1987 "50 Years at New Atlantic High" *Atlantic Farm Monthly*. May 29, 1987, pages 1,13.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

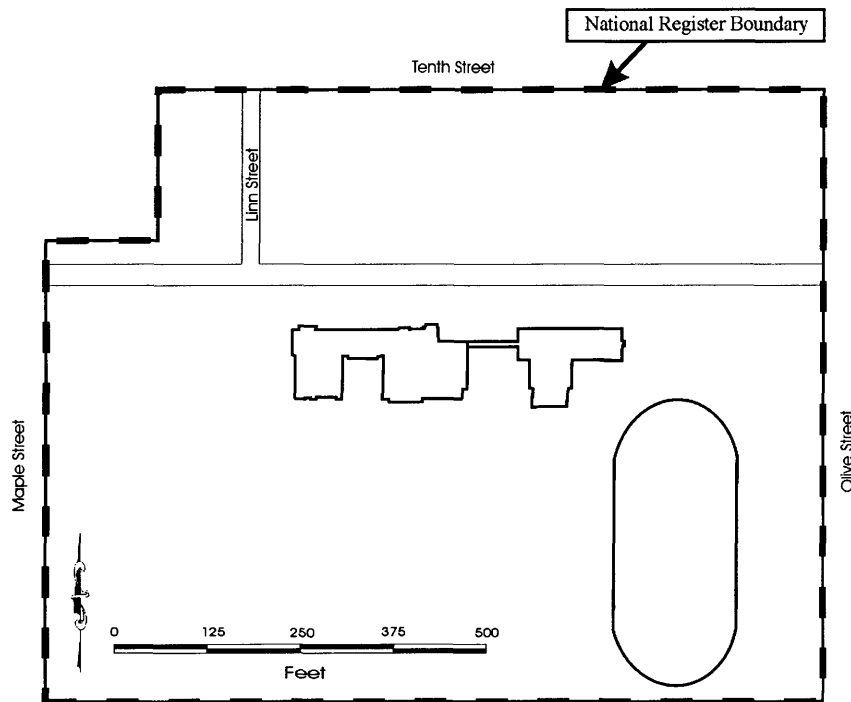
Section 10 Page 5

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary for the Atlantic High School includes the school and open space associated with the school. The north boundary is Tenth Street, to Maple Street on the west, and Olive Street on the east. The south boundary is between the south athletic fields and Washington Elementary School. Set within the boundary is the Atlantic High School, Schuler Elementary School, the football stadium, athletic fields, and the open space to the north of the schools.



Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary includes the school and its associated open space that contribute to the setting of the architecturally significant resource. This includes all the historic features of the property but does not exceed the area of significance.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 6 name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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The following items apply to all photographs:

Property Name: Atlantic High School

Location: Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa

Photographer: Peggy Beedle

Date of Photographs: 2002

Location of Negatives: The State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa.

Individual Photograph Identifications:

1. North elevation, facing southeast
2. North elevation, facing southwest
3. View from main entrance, facing northeast
4. North elevation, main entrance, facing southeast
5. North elevation, facing south
6. South elevation, facing northeast
7. Gymnasium entrance, facing north
8. Auditorium entrance, facing north
9. Auditorium vestibule, facing northwest
10. Auditorium, facing northeast
11. Gymnasium, facing southwest
12. Hallway, facing east
13. Classroom, facing northwest

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Section Photos Page 7

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa

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14. Schuler Elementary, facing southeast
15. Concession building, facing southeast
16. Stadium interior, facing west
17. Stadium interior, facing northeast

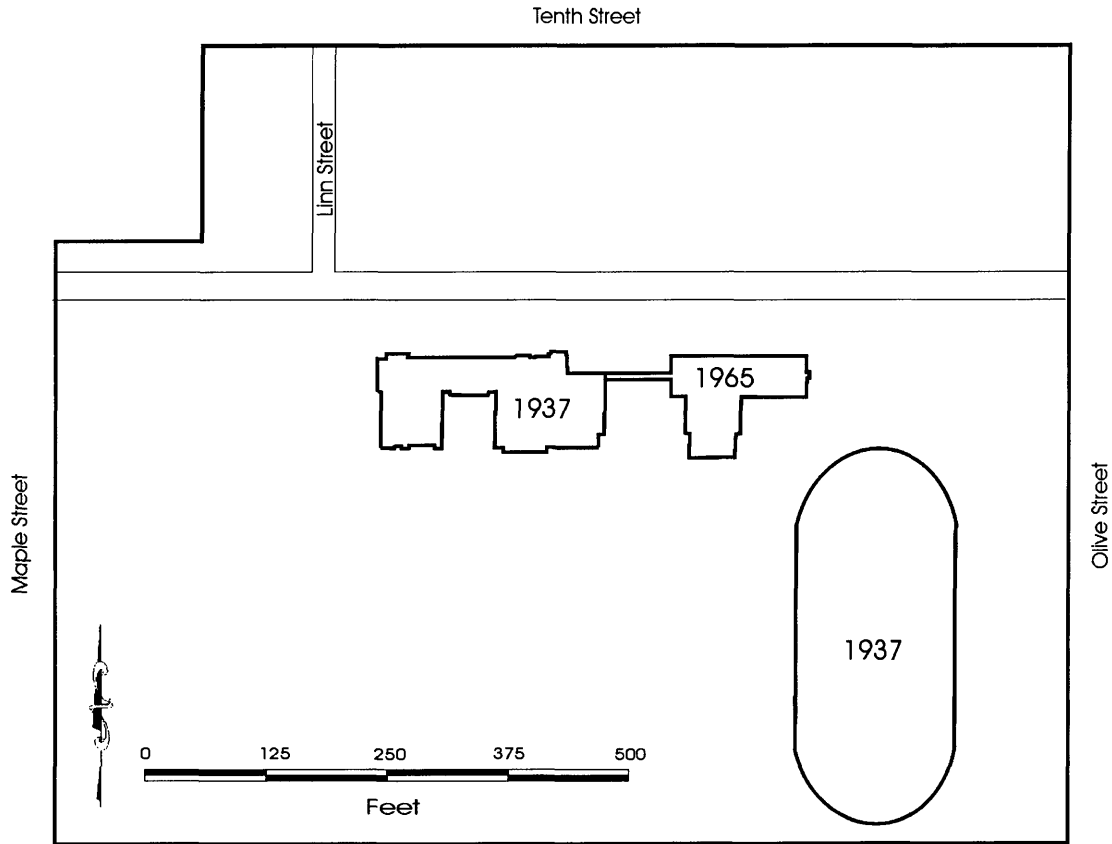
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Section Floor Plans

Page 8

name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa



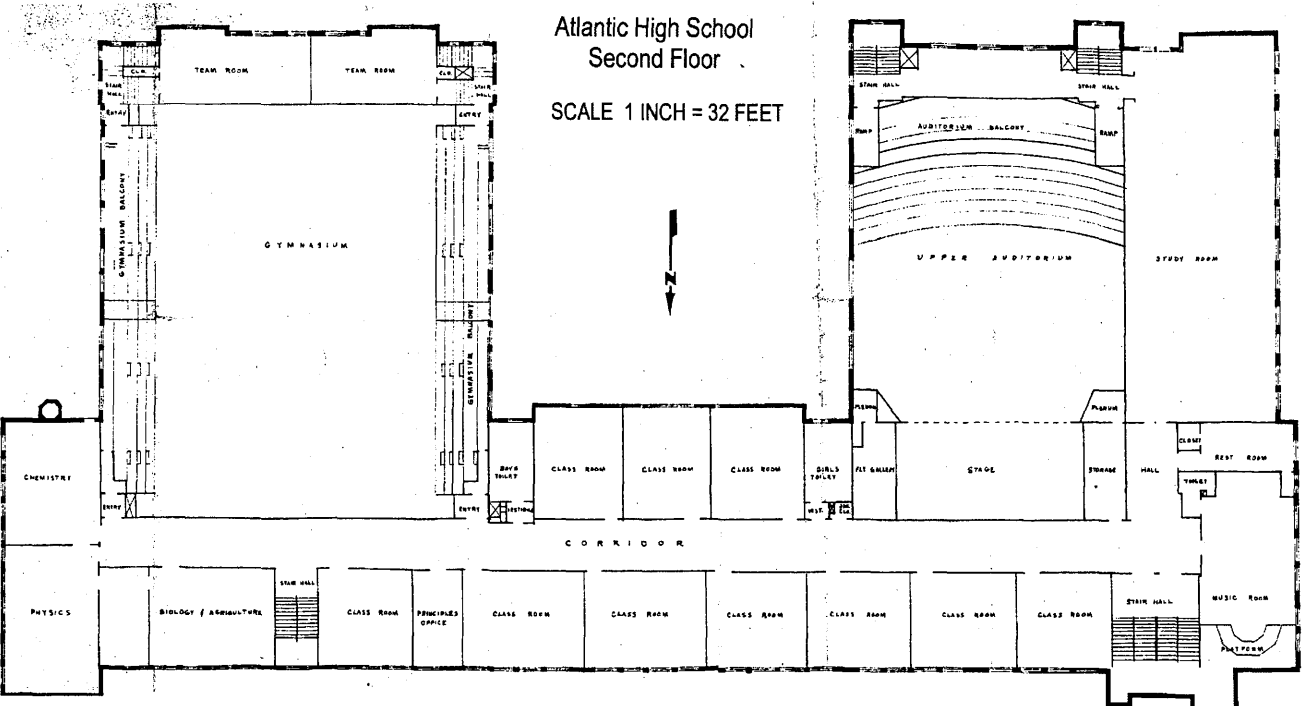




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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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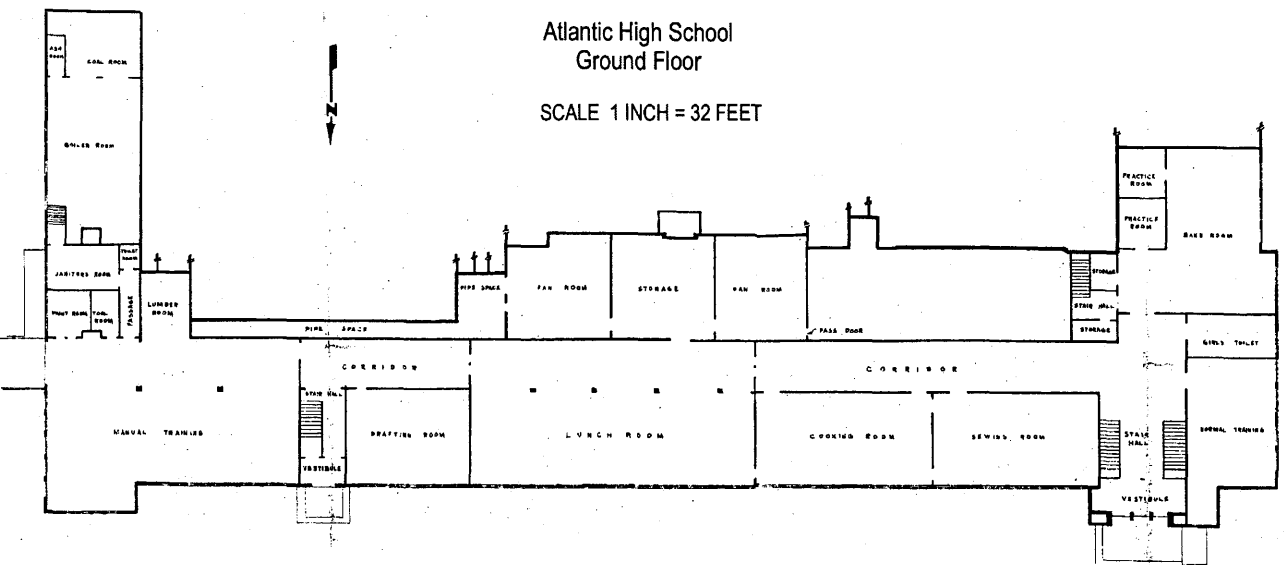


Main Office, Atlantic High School, Atlantic, Iowa, January 2002.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Floor Plans Page 11 name of property: Atlantic High School  
county, state: Cass County, Iowa



Main Office, Atlantic High School, Atlantic, Iowa, January 2002.