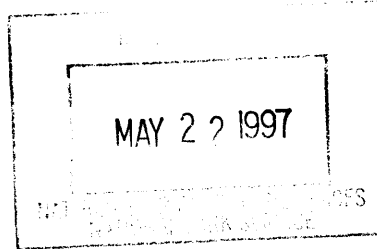


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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jefferson Elementary School

other names/site number _____ 027-663-30029

2. Location

street & number Donaldson Road, 1/4 mile east of S.R. 57 N/A not for publication

city or town Washington vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Daviess code 027 zip code 47501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-21-97
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson R. Beall

Date of Action

6-20-97

Jefferson Elementary School

Daviess IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1924-1947 _____

Significant Dates

1924 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Sutton & Rouff _____

Baird, O.B. _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.75 ac

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 484960 4276000
Zone Easting Northing

3 16
Zone Easting Northing

4 16
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Litherland
organization Daviess County Historical Society date 8-5-96
street & number 1514 Hazel St. telephone 812/254-5622
city or town Washington state IN zip code 47501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Washington Community School Board
street & number 301 E. South St. telephone 812/254-5536
city or town Washington state IN zip code 47501

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

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Jefferson School
Daviess County, Indiana

Section 7-Description

Jefferson School is located in Daviess County, Indiana, approximately two miles south of Washington on south side of Donaldson Road. The rural school is set well back from the road on a large open lawn with a few mature trees placed toward the road and a single approach drive dividing into a turn-around in front of the school, which faces north.

The one story school has a high-raised basement level underneath the entire building. The building is shaped like a capital "I" in plan and massing, with a full two story gymnasium wing infilling the central portion of the rear. Walls are of dark red face brick with limestone detailing, and the open-eaves hip roof of the main portion of the school is clad in asphalt shingles. Granted the highly finished look of the school, one might expect that the roof was originally covered in slate or terra-cotta tile.

The front elevation defines the character of the school, with its simple yet stately blend of Colonial Revival formalism, Arts and Crafts details, and a plan typical of many consolidated schools of the time. The plan creates two forward projecting end wings, each capped by a hip roof slightly higher than the center section roof. The centered main entrance section projects slightly forward of the center section of the school, and features a flat-roofed canopy supported on two metal columns which rest on brick and stone bases. The other end of the metal canopy is attached to the building entrance. Multi-light glazed double doors with multi-paned transom and sidelights are recessed behind a stone-surrounded entrance opening. The front stairs and wingwalls are limestone also. Above the entrance is a stone tablet in the form of triglyphs supporting an arched pediment with the inscription: "1923/JEFFERSON SCHOOL." This tablet is within the end of a cross gable, with wooden cornice and small brackets at the lower edge. An octagonal cupola of wooden construction, with pilastered and arched openings and a small metal dome with finial on top.

The north-facing front elevation takes advantage of natural lighting possibilities. Beside the entrance section, large, wood, double-hung windows grouped in pairs mark the central section and projecting end wings. Two window pairs are on both the raised basement and first floor of the center section. Each end wing has six windows on each level; however, these are grouped with individual end windows flanking a quadrupled band of windows. The lower level is divided from the upper level by a beveled stone water table which doubles as a continuous lintel for the lower windows.

The east and west flanks of the building are mirror images of one another. Half of the upper floor wall is blank toward the front of the school, while the rear section is punctured by windows. The lower front section has two windows under the blank wall, while the rear half repeats the formula of the front end

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

*Jefferson School
Daviness County, Indiana*

wings: two individual windows flanking a band of four double-hung sash.

The rear or south elevation of the school is function in appearance compared to the front and side elevations. The local historical society constructed a shed-roofed metal pole barn addition in recent years and the 50' x 20' addition is centered on the rear face of the building. The addition abuts, but is not permanently connected to, the historic building. The flat-roofed gymnasium's rear wall is visible from the south and it has four large window pairs on this wall. The main part of the school continues the letter "I" plan, with forward projecting end wings. On the south wall of the "U" shaped recessed areas on the back of the school are double doors, one set to the west of the gym section, another set to the east. The eastern set of doors is sheltered by a tin canopy, whereas the west set of doors leads to a concrete patio-like area within the recessed section between the school and gym wings. A small addition with low walls extends from the eastern wing of the rear of the school, sheltering a ramp-like tunnel which descends to a basement interior boiler room. Several chimneys are visible from the rear of the building, including one on the west wing end and one on the inside face of the east wing. Several large sheet metal ventilators can be seen on the main roof from the rear.

The interior of the school is typical of many early twentieth century school plans. The main entrance leads directly to a wooden, eight-step staircase, which ascends to a fifteen foot long foyer. The foyer leads to the center of a perpendicular east-west hall with a classroom at the end of each side. Off of the hall to the east of the foyer are three classrooms; to the west are four classrooms. Facing south on the main floor at each end of the hallway are split-level staircases with one ascending flight leading to a large mid-level room that was used as an auditorium, and two short flights leading to the basement. The staircase leading to the basement from the east hallway enters a concrete floor that allows access to four various size rooms and the gymnasium. The walls in the four rooms are brick above grade and concrete on the lower half. The largest room has two smaller utility rooms attached to it. The west staircase leads down to a concrete-floored hall accessing the gym and five rooms of various sizes and uses.

Interior finishes in the school are simple and contribute much to the historical feeling of the building. Floors are wood, walls and ceilings are plaster. Original stair bannisters, doors, door and window moldings, chair rails and picture rails were dark stained wood. The halls have chair rails and picture rails in addition to the baseboards. Interior classroom doors are glazed and have large transoms. Chalk boards are intact in the classrooms. Other fittings such as steam radiators are in place as well.

The school closed in 1976. The Daviness County Historical Society now uses the building for exhibition of its vast collection of artifacts.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

*Jefferson School
Daviness County, Indiana*

Section 8-Statement of Significance

Jefferson School, Daviness County, Indiana, is a locally significant example of the way Hoosiers met the changing demands on public education in the early 1900s. The consolidation movement called for larger schools and began the trend away from the ungraded schoolhouse of Indiana's early history. Built in 1922, Jefferson School represents the ideal rural consolidated school building of the period, and its restrained yet well-detailed appearance shows the style of building preferred for such schools. The building meets National Register Criteria A and C for its local role in the history of education and as a fine example of 1920s public architecture.

Public education in Indiana began under the township system. The Land Ordinance of 1785 allowed a centrally placed parcel of land in each surveyed township to be used for educational purposes, or sold and the funds used for educational purposes. An act of the Indiana Legislature in 1824 helped create the township school system. In some areas, citizens formed subscription schools to educate their young. Parents paid a certain fee per pupil; schools were ungraded and taught by one teacher, the buildings were often simple log cabins. The subscription schools gradually faded from the scene after settlement. Under the township system, local school trustees collected taxes and raised funds for schools. The citizens of the township elected the trustees, helped chose sites for schoolhouses, and hired teachers. When Hoosier lawmakers redrafted the State Constitution in 1851, they supported free schools and allowed township trustees to collect taxes and carry on other activities for the schools. In the years after the Civil War, Indiana developed a well-organized network of public rural schools. The one-room schoolhouse was the focus of the system; it brought education to the students by its strategic placement nearest the largest amounts of pupils.

By the 1890s, Hoosiers realized that the now complete rural township school system needed to be reformed. Rush County officials had already begun to centralize one township's schools as early as the mid 1880s. Part of the reason for reforming rural schools was a new act of the state legislature requiring compulsory education for children from ages seven to fourteen, passed in 1897. The next year, State Superintendent of Public Instruction David Geeting called for the centralization of rural schools. Geeting claimed that rural townships would have better school buildings and graded schools under a system of consolidation. Rural districts would save money by concentrating resources in fewer and more easily maintained facilities. One-room schools, with a single teacher, could not accomplish "grading" students so that each progressed in his or her education. Combining districts allowed schools to have enough pupils to make "grading" feasible. Furthermore, Indiana's rural population was decreasing, although it would not be until the 1920s that the urban population exceeded the rural population. Many rural districts had too few pupils to warrant existence.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4*Jefferson School
Daviess County, Indiana*

Transportation to the school site reversed the old system of bringing education to the rural community. In 1899, the state legislature allowed districts to use state funding to provide free transportation to centralized schools. The black-painted school "hack" soon became a common site on county roads. Over forty Indiana counties had begun to centralize district schools by 1898, but Daviess County, still largely rural, was slower to consolidate its schools. The county still had 161 one-room schools in 1900. By 1912, only one district in Daviess County had consolidated its one-room schoolhouses. Between 1912 and 1923, however, County Superintendent A.O. Fulkerson embarked on an aggressive consolidation campaign. Seven consolidated buildings were in place by 1917. By 1923, nearly half of the county's one-room schools were abandoned and sixty-one consolidated buildings had risen to replace them.

Few school buildings survive to reflect the consolidation movement in Daviess County. Most were likely victims of continued consolidation themselves, or were replaced by newer facilities. The Odon High School, built in 1926, was a consolidated school. The West End School building in Washington was built in 1923, though it was a city school, not an rural consolidated school. Also in Washington, a large junior high school building was completed in about 1930. The extent to which these served surrounding rural areas, and thus played a role in consolidation, is unknown. The Catholic Church built an elementary and high school in Washington during the 1920s as well. Besides these few resources associated with education, the 1987 Daviess County Interim Report located six one-room school buildings in the county from the pre-consolidation era. Several of these are likely the ones closed in favor of Jefferson School.

Another educational trend illustrated in Jefferson School is physical education. Jefferson School was built complete with a gymnasium, illustrating the growing interest in physical education of youth, in conjunction with the usual subjects. A particularly Indiana institution, "Hoosier Hysteria" (Indiana high school basketball championship) swept the state after its inauguration in 1911. All schools of any size could participate, and the inclusion of a basketball court in the Jefferson School gym perhaps shows that the Hoosier passion for basketball was instilled at an early age in rural Indiana.

Jefferson School embodies the local movement to consolidate schools in the interwar period. In 1916, citizens of southern Washington Township, Daviess County, circulated a petition calling for several districts in the area to be combined into one consolidated school. The parents presented the signatures to the township trustee, who agreed to take up the cause, and, in 1917, even hired architects Sutton and Routt of Vincennes, Indiana to design a new school. The trustee thought that the school would named Lincoln School. Construction halted at the design phase due to U.S. involvement in World War I; the sale of construction finance bonds was postponed indefinitely.

In 1922, Lester Lee was elected Washington Township Trustee. Immediately upon taking office, Lee was confronted with the citizen's demand for a new consolidated school. Lee enthusiastically endorsed the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5*Jefferson School
Daviess County, Indiana*

idea, and remained a loyal friend to Jefferson School. Purchase of the school site was arranged through a real estate agent, and the grounds were bought from Mrs. William H. Boone, who owned the farmstead east of the school site. The Washington Township School district bought the 10 acre site for \$1,750.00. The school district dusted off the 1917 plans for a "Lincoln School" by Sutton and Routt and put them to use. Bids were let, and Baird Contracting of Sumner, Illinois won the contract with a price of \$68,000.00; the township bonded for \$70,000.00. During construction, Lee realized that he had not selected a name for the school. He asked his family for help on the decision one evening. A nephew then living with the Lees suggested, "Why don't you call it the Jefferson School since Thomas Jefferson founded the Democratic Party and you have always been a good democrat?"

In January 1924 the pupils and their teachers from the four one-room schools of the area moved into the new consolidated building. The bell which declared the opening of the new school had been taken from the old Donaldson School nearby and placed in the cupola of Jefferson School. When the school first opened, the grounds included two other buildings-outhouse buildings; one to the east of the school for girls, one to the west for boys. A pump located on the east side of the building, near the boiler room, supplied drinking water for all. After the girls outhouse collapsed in December 1924, indoor plumbing was soon installed in the school.

The school became an important humanitarian institution for the rural community of Washington Township. In 1925, the Jefferson School P.T.A. affiliated with the state and became a full fledged association with Mr. Wallace as acting president and Mrs. Edith Bingham as secretary. In December, 1926, the Jefferson School P.T.A. began serving hot soup and hot chocolate alternately three days per week at nominal cost. This supplement to the school lunch program continued until the Depression began in 1930. Milk was served daily for some time and clothing was furnished for needy families at P.T.A. expense. The Depression brought hardships to families and faculty alike; teachers worked with a contract and school finances were handled month-to-month. During the Second World War, Jefferson School became part of the home front effort. Eighth-graders sacrificed their annual spring trip and used their money to buy war stamps and bonds. They also operated a stamp booth in the hall and the children donated hundreds of dollars to the project. After school hours the teachers served without pay in the school gymnasium on appointed days rationing sugar, fuel oils, and other scarce commodities as directed by the federal government. When state aid established a hot lunch program in Indiana in 1947, Jefferson School was well-prepared by its previous experiences. Up until its closing, the program was operated by the school with federal aid and was self-supporting.

Jefferson School has the distinction of housing the first rural kindergarten in Daviess County, starting in the 1960s. In 1976, Jefferson School was closed. The building had served the community for over fifty years, providing a sound quality education to thousands of Daviess County children. The Daviess County

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 6

*Jefferson School
Daviss County, Indiana*

Historical Society quickly realized that the property could continue to serve educational purposes, of a different kind. In 1978, Thelma and Clifford Bingham were instrumental in securing the Jefferson School for its present use as the Daviss County Museum, operated by the historical society.

Section 9-Bibliography

Abstract of Title, Jefferson School. Copy in Collection of Daviss County Historical Society.

Daviss County Historical Society. Collection and Files.

Greenwood, Hazel. "Colorful History of Jefferson School Elementary," Washington Herald. 28 August 1959.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Daviss County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1987.

State of Indiana. Report of the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Indiana. Published variously. 1897-1930.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the right-of-way of Donaldson Road and the access drive at the northeast corner of the Jefferson School property, at the east edge of said drive, proceed south along an existing fence line 200 feet, thence west 250 feet, thence north 200 feet to the right-of-way of Donaldson Road, thence east 200 feet along said right-of-way to the point of beginning. Includes about 2.75 acres.

Boundary Justification

Originally, ten acres were acquired for the school grounds. The boundary chosen here defines the school's setback from the road and the immediate surroundings.