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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 11 2004

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 Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools Building

other names/site number Steamboat Rock Community School

2. Location

street & number 306 W. Market St. not for publication
city or town Steamboat Rock vicinity n/a
state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083
zip code 50672

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)



Signature of certifying official

February 18, 2004
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): _____

Sandra McWilliam 3/31/04

Signature of 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>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ 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.)

n/a

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Work of art
Recreation & Culture Music facility
Recreation & Culture Auditorium
Recreation & Culture Sports Facility
Commerce/Trade Restaurant
Commerce/Trade Specialty Store

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern movement/modern

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.)
=====

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.)

___ 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)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance 1928-1956

Significant Dates 1928
1956

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Reimer, Harry
Ralston, Glen

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: Steamboat Rock Library, Historical Society, Eldora Library

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Two acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>469620</u>	<u>494860</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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 Ray Taylor, Chairman

organization Steamboat Rock Schoolhouse Committee date 5/24/03

street & number 31363 185th Street telephone 641-939-3229

city or town Steamboat Rock state IA zip code 50672

=====
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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Steamboat Rock

street & number 512 Market Street telephone 641-868-2240

city or town Steamboat Rock state IA zip code 50672

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Section 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

The Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools building is located in the town of Steamboat Rock, Clay Township, in Hardin County, Iowa. The lot borders the commercial district and the community's residential neighborhood. The school, with attached gymnasium, is located in the center of town in what has always been known as Washington Square. It is situated at the north western corner of the lot, with an open space to the south and a playground to the east. The two and a half story school building(1928) is a rectangle measuring 74 feet x 84 feet. The attached gymnasium and shop(1956) are on the west side of the school building within six feet of the western boundary sidewalk. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity except for the replacement windows, which don't alter the overall visual integrity of the structure. There were very few changes made to the building until 1956 when the gymnasium/music room/ shop building was added, as well as the three additional classrooms on the second level of the original school building. This addition was made to accommodate the post World War II student population increase, as well as to provide a more modern and spacious facility for the increasing popularity of sports competition in public schools. There also was a need to provide space for a school lunch program, which was accomplished by changing the old gym into the cafeteria. The gymnasium design took advantage of the emerging technology of glue-laminated trusses.

The foundation of the school is concrete, poured in 6 inch increments with steel I-beams supporting the upper 2 floors. The exterior of the school building is covered with bricks placed in a running bond pattern. The bricks are varying shades of red and dark brown. The central entry bay provides simple ornamentation on the front (north) façade. A projecting door surround at the ground level entry is composed of brick pilasters on either side of the doors capped by a simplified brick entablature with concrete trim containing the name Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools. Brick forms a two-story frame around the second and third-story windows and a framed spandrel between them. The roof parapet in this entry bay extends above the main parapet level. It is embellished by cast concrete vertical details, separated by brick with a concrete cove framing the outer edge of the parapet and topped by a concrete cap.

The roof is flat, made of composite asphalt material and slopes from the front(north) to the back of the building(south). The coping on the roof parapet is half-rounded clay tile covered by a silver roofing patching material of unknown composition. The schoolhouse fenestration is typical of an education facility and the openings are balanced throughout the building. Several of the windows are paired or in triples. The window openings have poured concrete sills. Soldier coursed bricks form a lintel over each. The window sashes are modern replacements (unknown date) although the window openings have not been modified. The one-over-one sash is of aluminum, single pane construction with screens and storm glass exteriors. The second and third level window openings have a typical aluminum insert above the replacement windows covering the upper one third of the window opening space which is an 8' high by 4' wide opening. The large windows create an abundance of light in the classrooms as well as a substantial thermal gain on the south side. The lower level has replacement wood siding with smaller windows inserted in the middle of the openings.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

The main entrance is centered on the north side of the building. The entrance is split level providing access to the upper floors and the lower level. The lower level consists of the former gym/cafeteria/nov café space with attached kitchen and kitchen support area as well as retail space and a restroom. The lower level in 1928 had a large amount of space committed to the gym, which had a small performance stage on the west end. Home economics and manual arts were other space uses. In 1956 the manual arts space was replaced with a science classroom, a cafeteria was added for hot lunches in 1957 and a general restroom replaced the girls showers, while the boys showers remained. In 2003 the cafeteria/kitchen space has been converted into a café serving breakfast and lunches to the public. The original wood floor system is still in use today, minus the basketball markings. The former science classroom of 1956 is now retail space. The ceilings are 9' and are surrounded by the evenly spaced load bearing floor supports for the upper floors.

At the south east corner of the basement/lower level is the boiler/laundry room. It is 8 feet lower than the main lower level separated from the other public spaces by a fire door. This room contains a boiler system installed with the 1956 facilities expansion, which feeds the original radiator heating system in each classroom and the gymnasium, the old coal room and laundry facilities. The boiler was manufactured by Kewanee Boiler Corporation, of Kewanee, IL. It was originally coal fed and has been converted to natural gas. There is an enormous underground coal bunker extending from the south east corner of the building south for 20' and is 8' high.

The original second level consisted of a gymnasium balcony/hallway with restrooms on either side of the stair landing, three(3) large classrooms, each holding 2 grade levels, and the balcony for the gymnasium. The balcony had wooden wall panels, closed during normal school hours, that were opened for athletic events in the gym so additional spectators could watch the competitions. The second level now has a mixed appearance because of the addition of three classrooms above the old gym in 1956. The added classrooms are across the hall, directly ahead and to the right of the landing of the stairs. The added classrooms have a unique wooden wall built at the hallway that had a built-in garment hook system and lower boot shelf, over which is a series of framed glass windows. This forms the northern classroom wall of the three western classrooms added after the 1956 gym addition. These classrooms have a poured and smooth finished concrete floor. The entire 2nd floor has retained its original 13' ceiling clearance. The original 2nd floor classrooms have the original soft wood floors and all doors and trim in the original classrooms, bathrooms and hallway are original to the 1928 building. The wall finish is plaster with a sand texture.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

The third level has all original doors and trim except where modifications were added on the south side after the 1956 gym construction date. These modifications could not be accurately dated. The high school assembly hall was downsized, teacher lounge, storage spaces and additional expanded classroom spaces were the result of the modifications. An 8' suspended acoustic ceiling with fiberglass insulation and fluorescent light fixtures has been installed on this level, resulting in a reduction in height from the original 13' ceilings. This modification was installed to keep energy costs somewhat controlled. The wall finishes are mixed with the original plaster/sand finish and the newer drywall smooth finish.

By the 1950's there was a realization that the expanding post World War II baby boom and further school consolidation were going to place pressure on the existing facilities. The resulting community planning established the need for expansion of the school property by adding to as opposed to demolishing or abandoning for a new structure. This was accomplished by the addition of the gymnasium building and associated cultural and vocational spaces. The gym(1956) building was added at a four foot height above the lower level with connecting stairs from the former cafeteria/modern café. The gym building addition contained gymnasium, locker/shower areas, performance stage, band and shop areas. The building has exterior walls of twelve inch by four inch ceramic blocks in a running bond pattern, brownish in color, with a longitudinal brushed texture, the color of which blends nicely with the original(1928) building. The gym building is 71 feet wide and 148 feet long with 18 foot high side walls in the gym section. The interior walls consist of 8 inch high by 10 inch long concrete masonry block. The entire building is built on a concrete foundation and the gym has a round roof, resulting from the use of modern glue laminated round roof trusses, thirty feet high at the apex. Three glue laminated wooden trusses, eight inches by thirty six inches, constructed with one inch by eight inch lumber, provide the forming shape for the gymnasium. There are 3 masonry design squares above the entrance(north side), which are running in a vertical pattern.

The windows for the building have varying patterns depending on the use of the interior space. The gymnasium entrance is on the north side of the building. Double entry glass doors, flanked by double window openings with transom window above the entire assembly, two single windows, located one third the distance from the corners of the north side of the building round out the entrance fenestration. The windows along the west side of the gym are all covered by exterior wood siding and insulated for energy conservation. At the rear of the building the shop and band rooms had a series of narrow vertical segmented window openings. These openings were regularly placed along the west side around to the south, where a garage and entry door were placed.

The double glass front doors allowed entry into a foyer that is 14 feet by 66 feet. Centered at the entry is a built-in ticket booth, flanked on both sides by trophy cases. On the right side(west side) of the foyer there is a mechanical room and a coatroom. There are restrooms for men and women on the left side(east end) of the foyer. A door to enter the gym is on each corner of the regulation sized playing floor. There are five rows of permanent wooden bleachers on each side of the floor and a wooden scorers table on the right side at mid court. This table still has the electronic scoreboard control and the public address system

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Section 7 Page 4 Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

amplifier. The floor is of maple with a two inch wide measurement, which is also used on the floor of the performance stage. On the opposite end of the gym(south side) there is an elevated stage, 38 feet wide by 19 feet deep and 4 feet above the gym floor. Under the stage there are storage trucks for chairs and other equipment, behind wooden top hinged doors 30 inches by 51 inches.

On each side of the stage, at the gym level, there is a small room used for an office or storage. Locker/shower rooms are accessed by doorways at either side of the west end of the gym court and are located subterranean, eight feet below the stage area.

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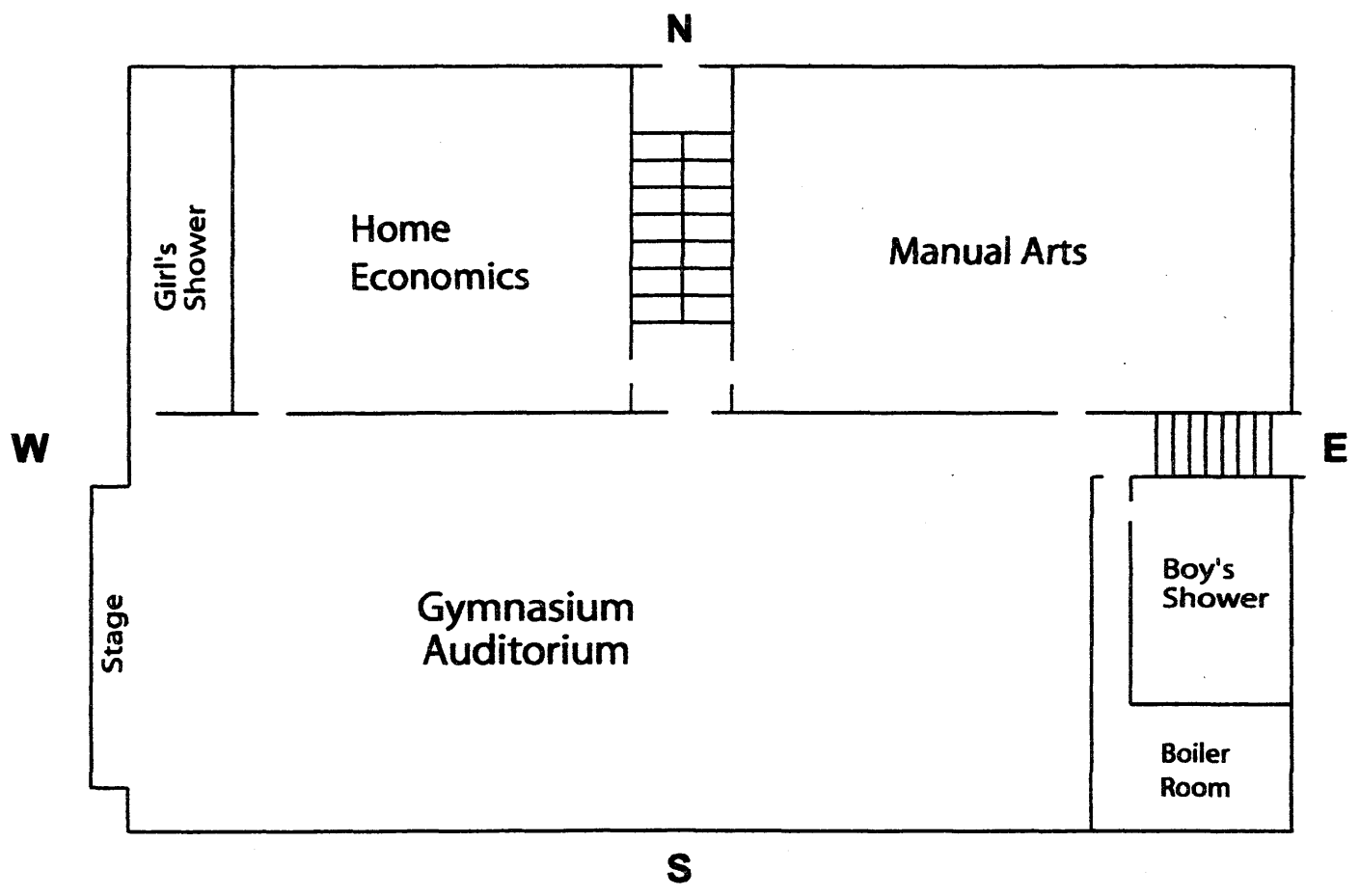
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Steamboat Rock Consolidated School
Ground Floor - 1928

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003



Scale:
.75 inches = 10 ft.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

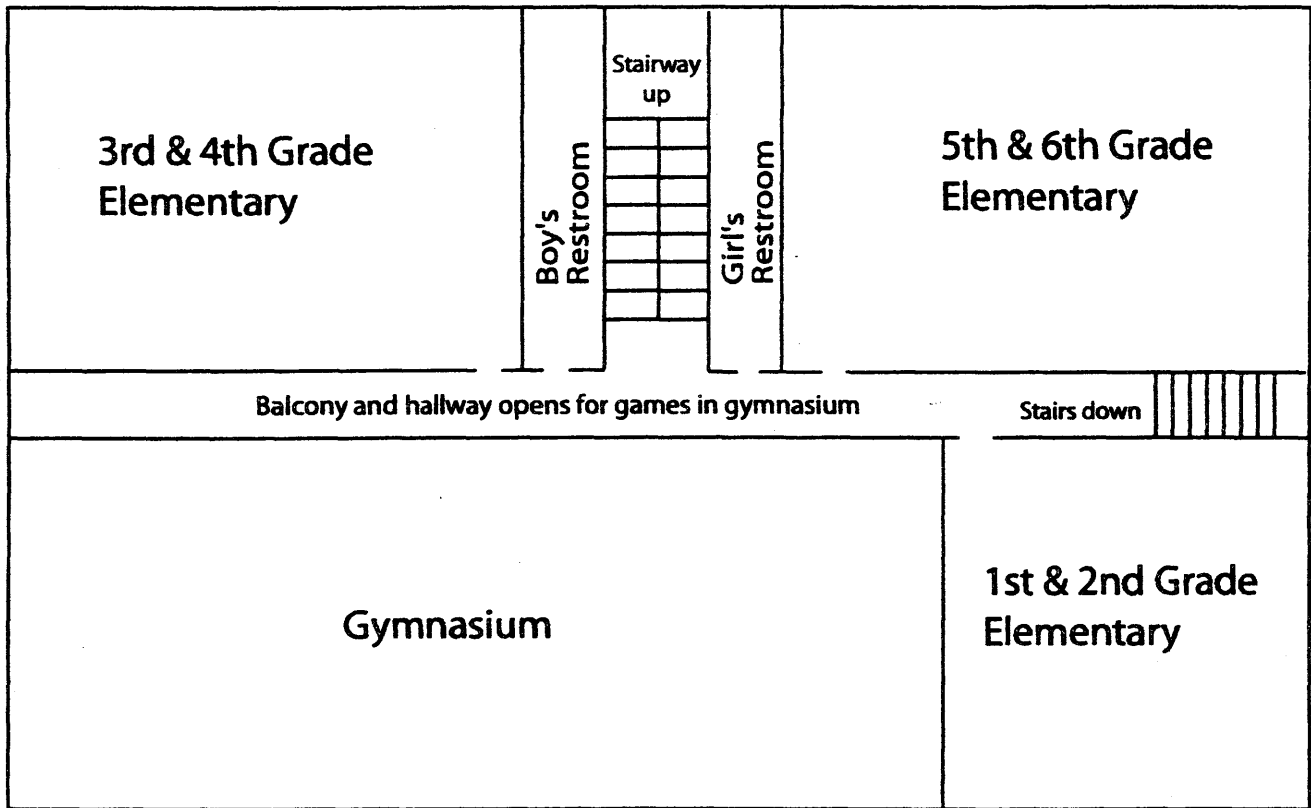
Section Number 7 Page 6

Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Steamboat Rock Consolidated School
Second Floor - 1928

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003

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Scale:
.75 inches = 10 ft.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

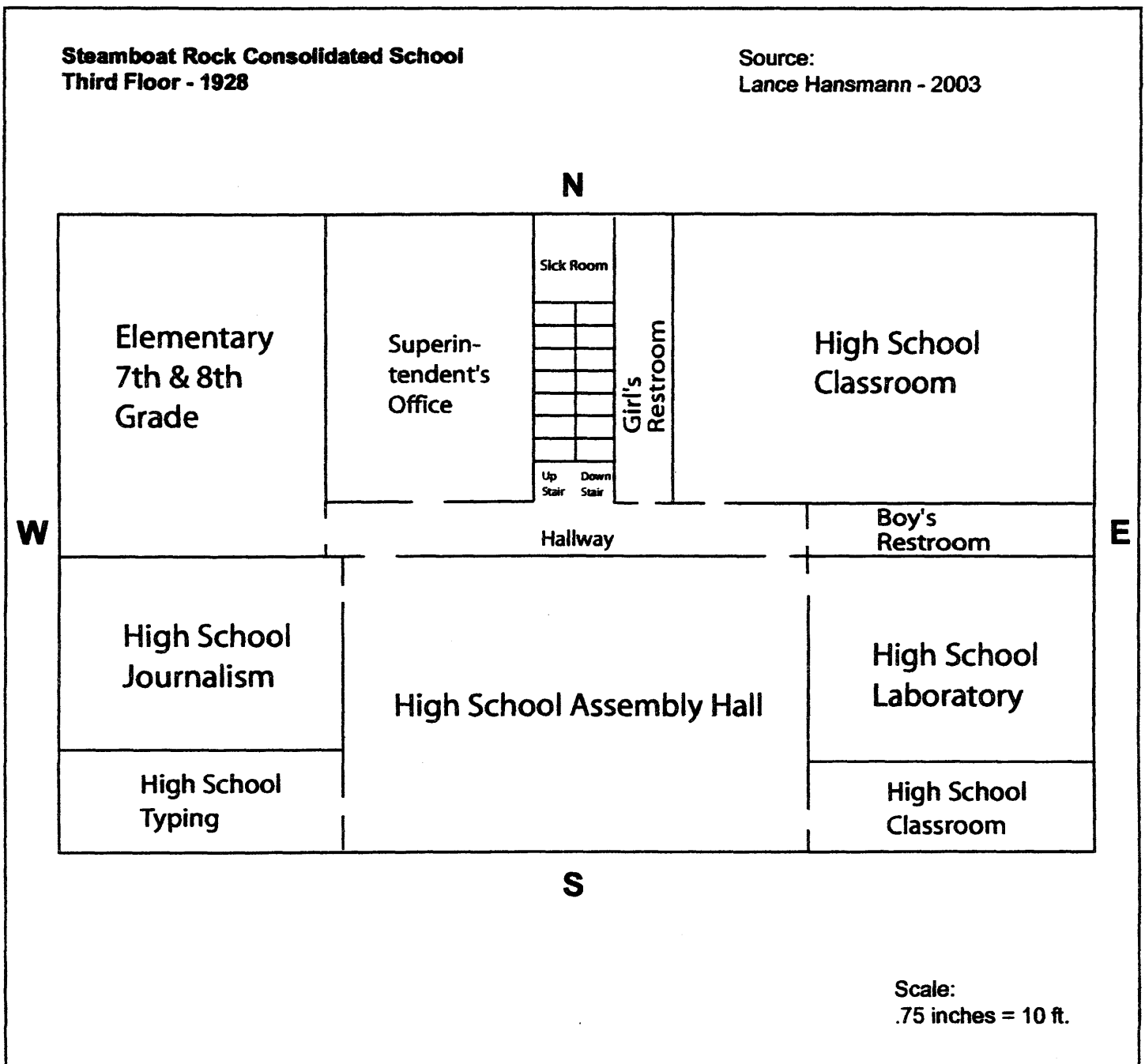
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 7

Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Steamboat Rock Consolidated School
Third Floor - 1928

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003

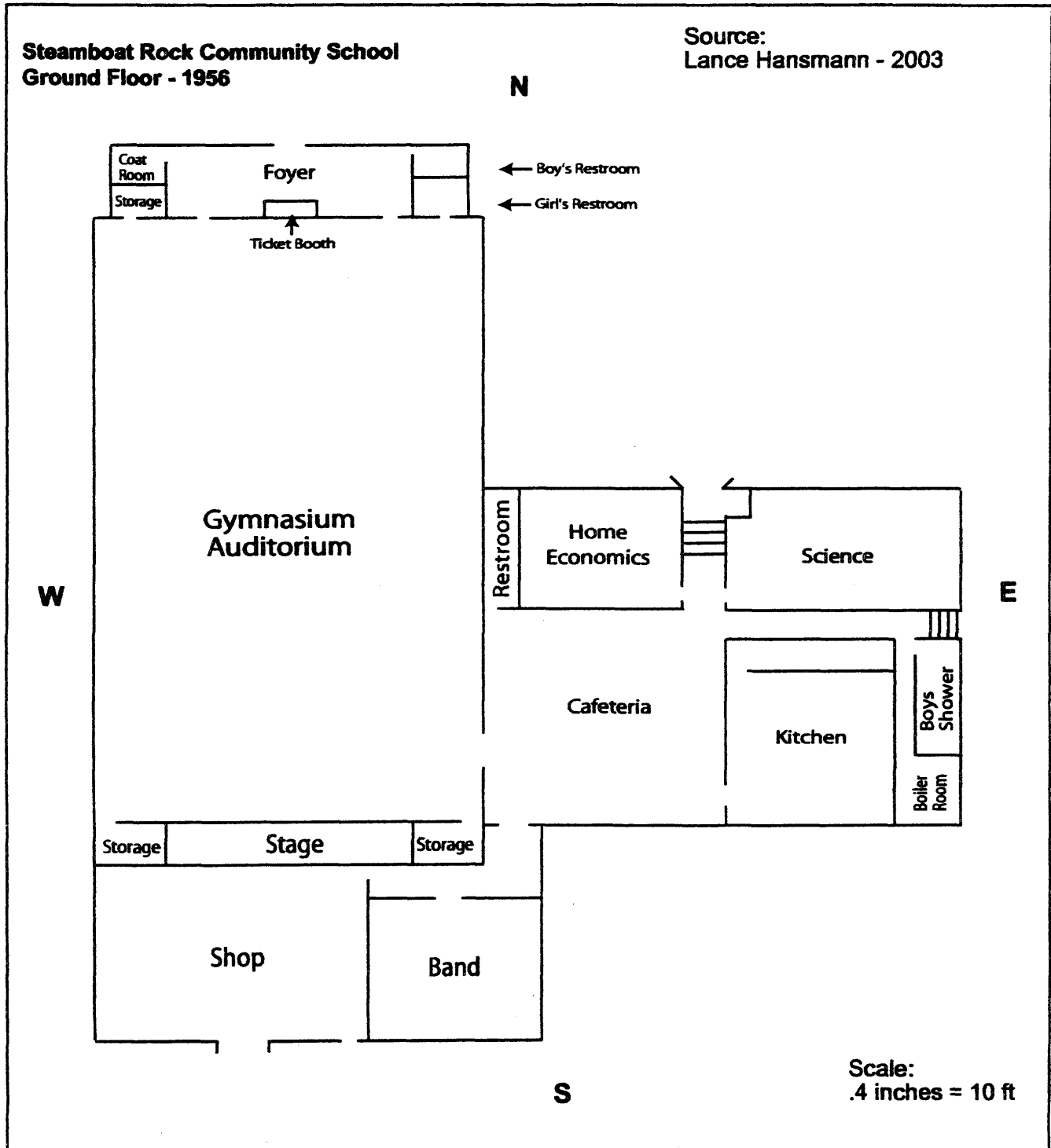


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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

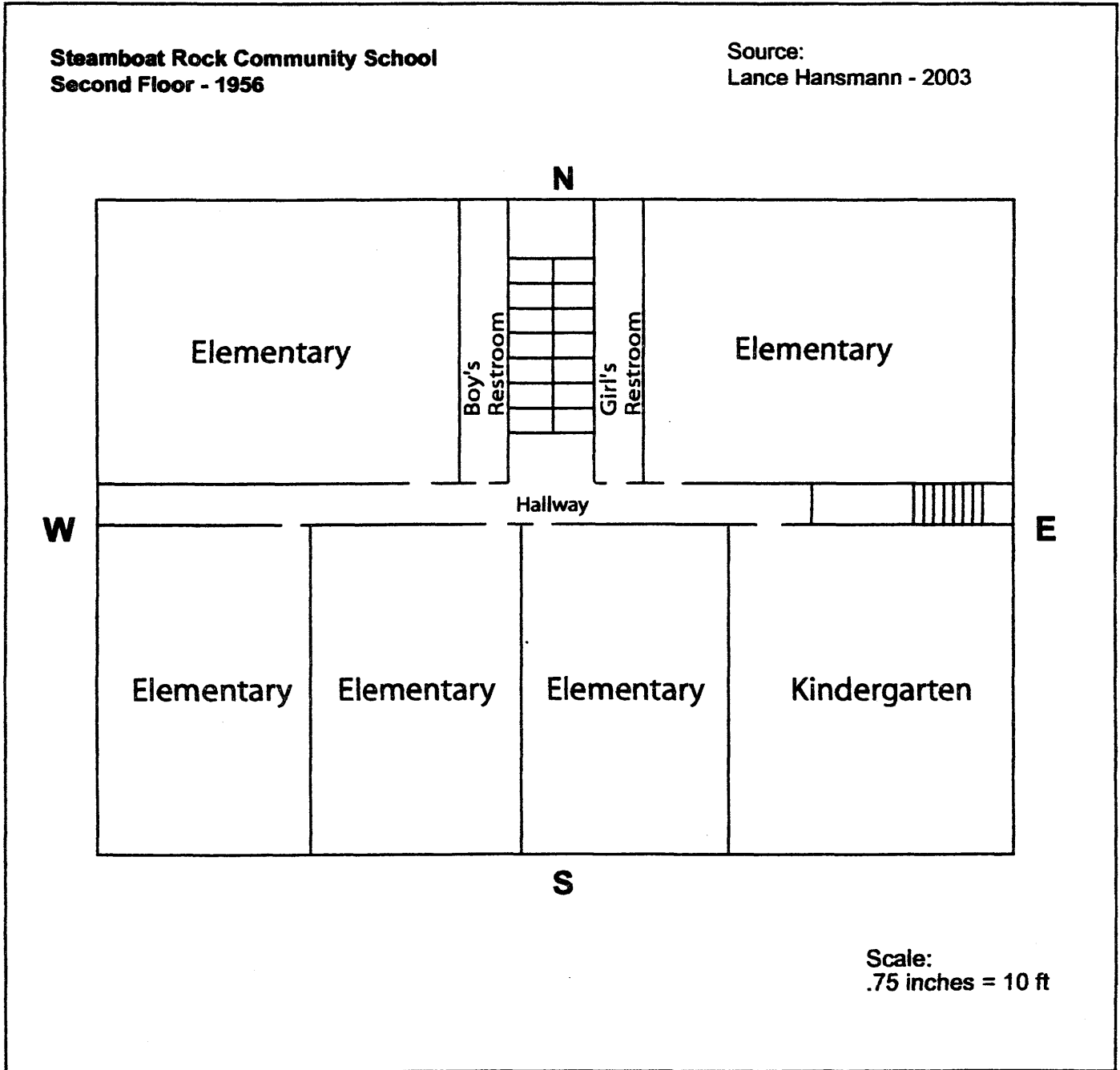


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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa



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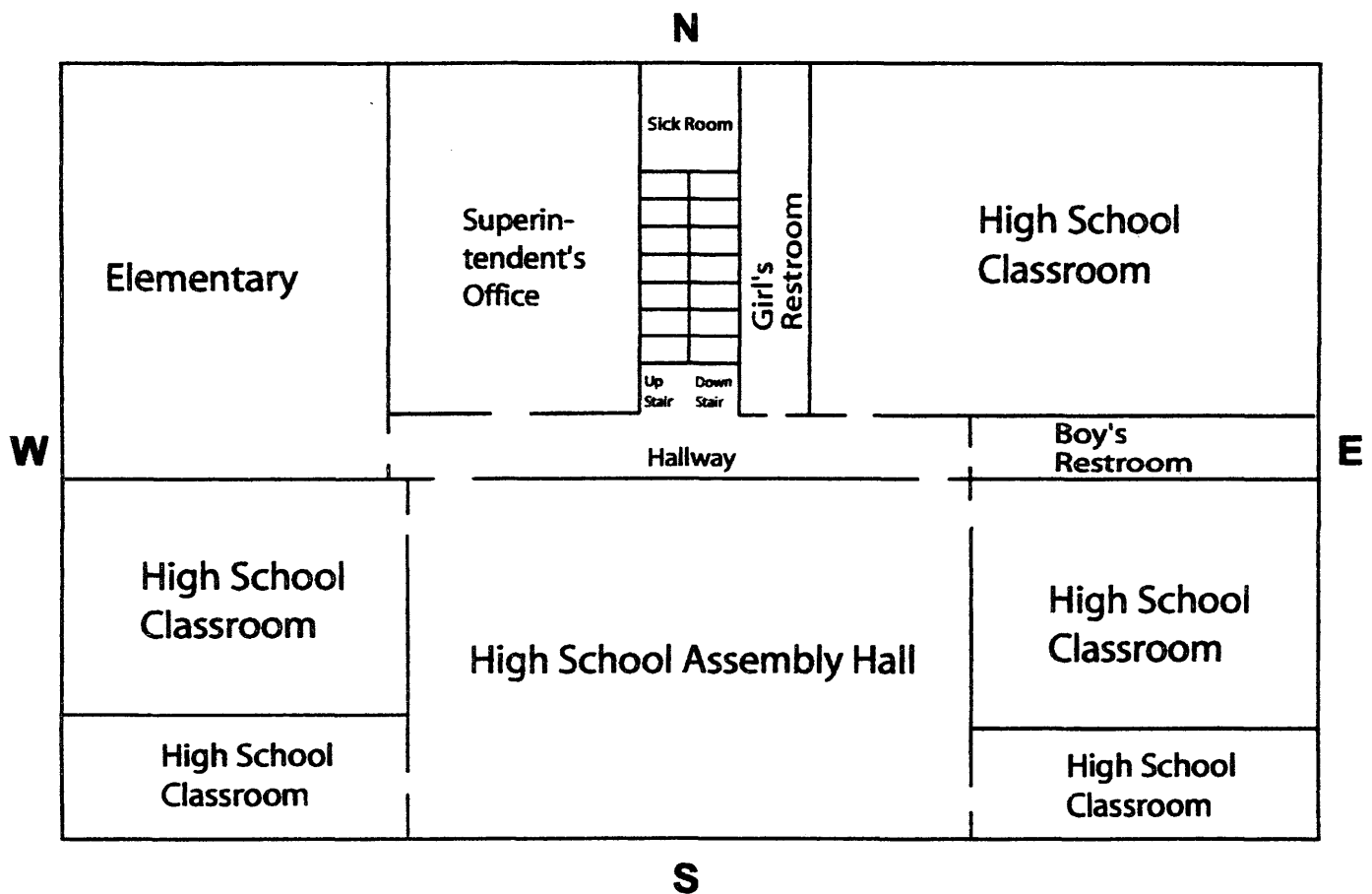
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Steamboat Rock Community School
Third Floor - 1956

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003



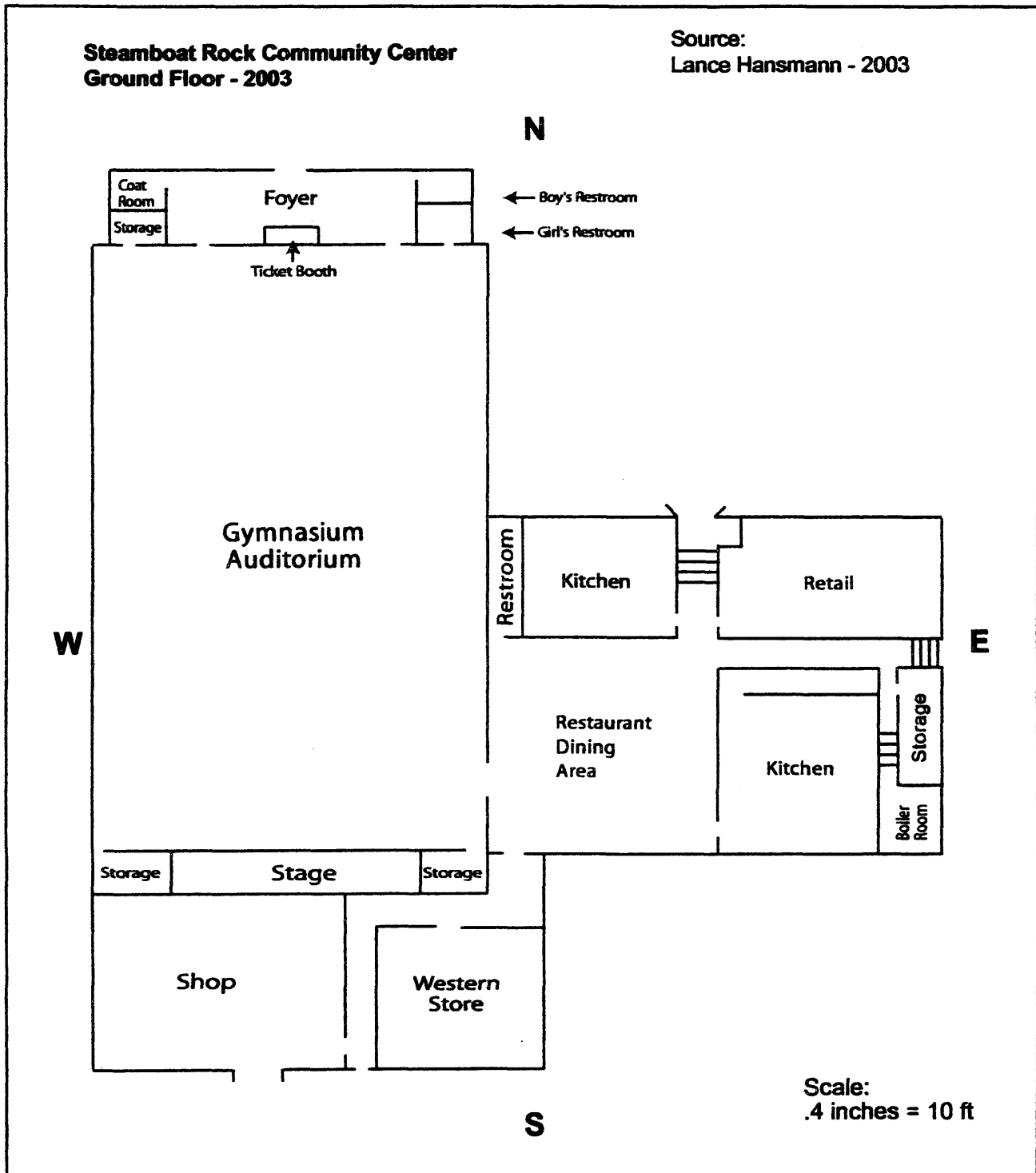
Scale:
.75 inches = 10 ft.

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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

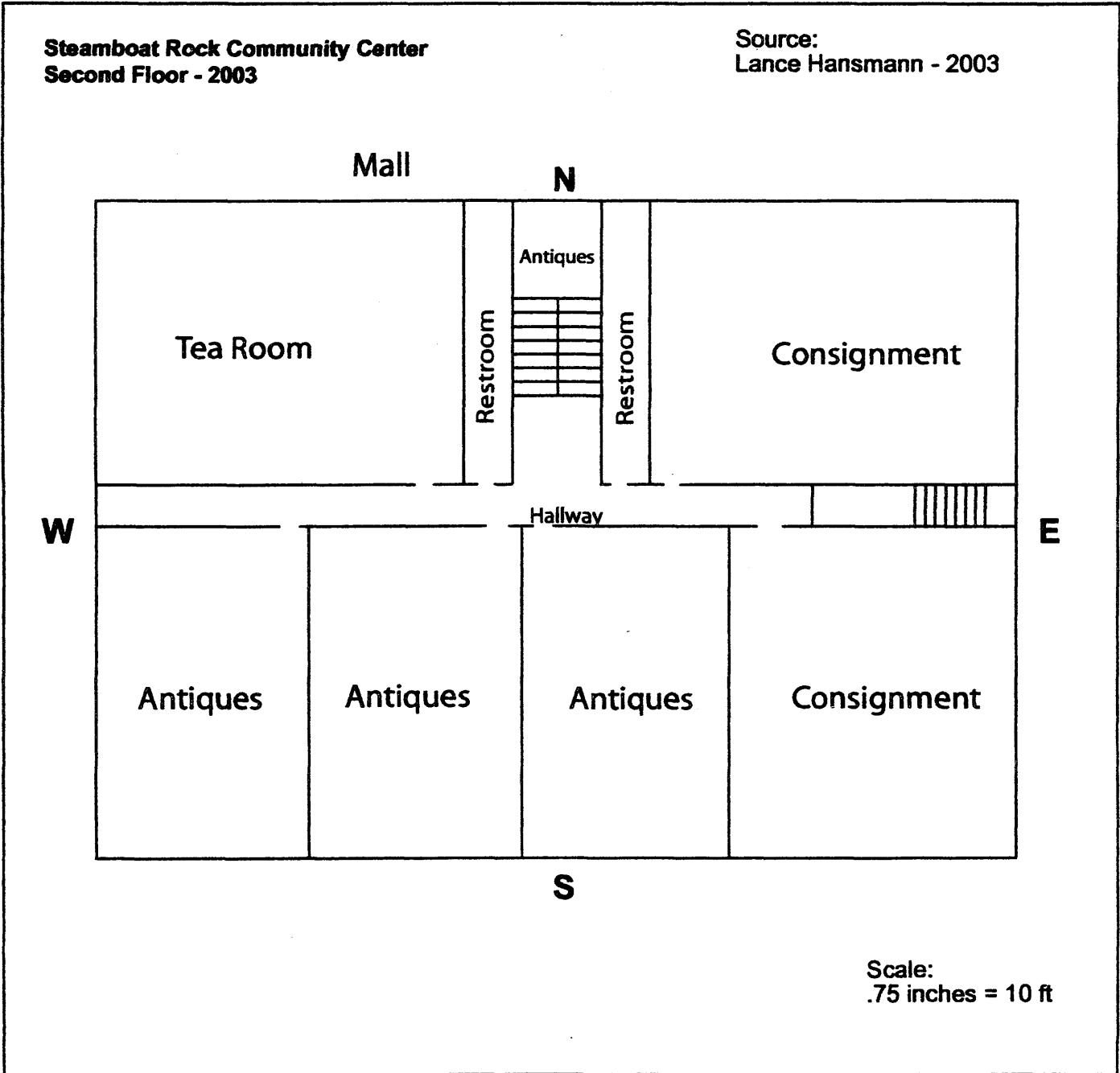


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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa



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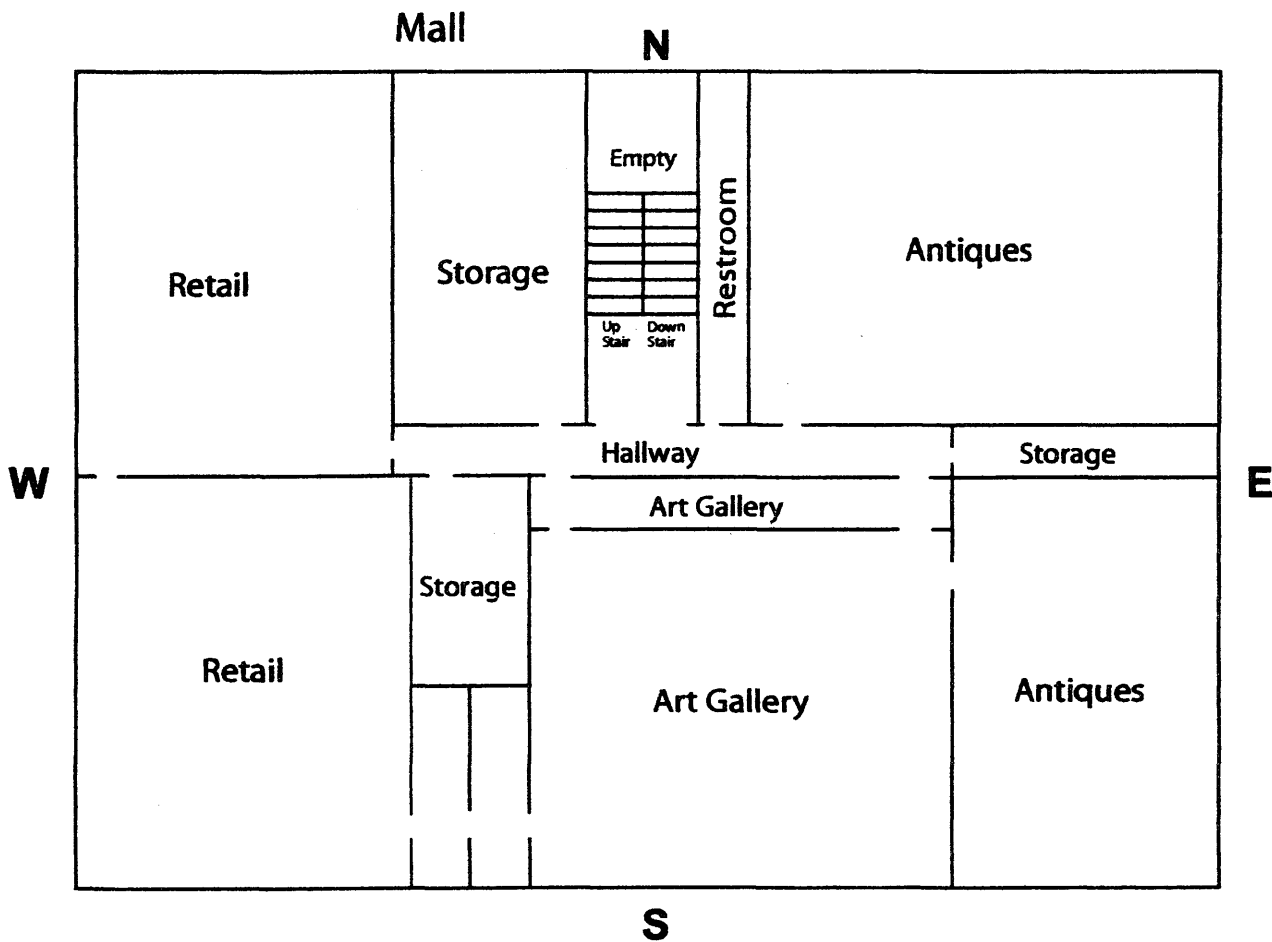
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 13

Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Steamboat Rock Community Center
Third Floor - 2003

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003



Scale:
.75 inches = 10 ft

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

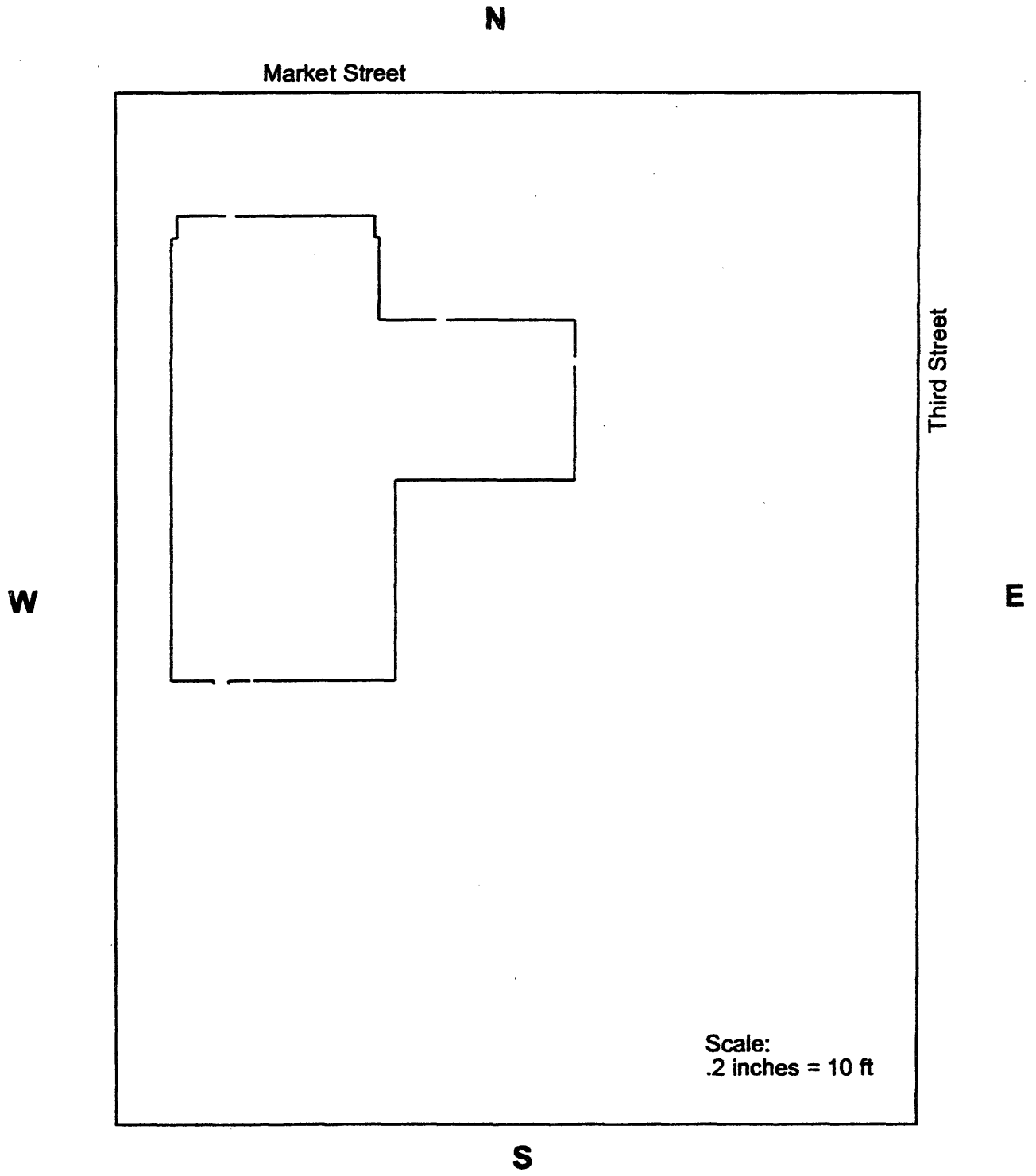
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

**Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Site Plan - 2003**

Source:
Lance Hansmann - 2003



Statement of Significance

The Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools building is locally significant under Criteria A and C. The period of significance chosen is 1928-1956. These dates reflect the construction of the original building and the construction of the gymnasium addition. The Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools building meets Criterion A. The building was constructed because of the need for more modern classroom and education space as a result of the continued growth in student population resulting from continued school consolidation. Rural schools were continually consolidating into larger school districts, primarily based in rural communities during the early 1900's into the 1940's. The consolidation was a direct result of legislative funding directives/incentives. This school represents one of the few successful rural school consolidations in the mid to late 1920's, when the farm crisis slowed the consolidation movement. The gymnasium addition was constructed because of the recognized need for more modern classroom and educational space as a result of the continued growth in student population resulting from the post World War II "baby boom", as well as additional consolidation. The building meets Criterion C, as an example of the Modern Movement in school building architecture. It embodies the elements of the designs of school buildings created at the time for a small community/town, such as providing space for expanded vocational, science, and athletic education. It was designed and built by a well-known Iowa Architect/builder Harry Reimer.

The town of Steamboat Rock was platted in May, 1855, near the Iowa River where a dam and a sawmill had been built. Evidently, a number of families had already settled in this area, for the first school was opened the following year in a one-room log cabin which was formerly a dwelling. The first teacher was Lizzie Kadoo.

The fact they organized a Literary Society, which met during the winter of 1856-57 for the purpose of discussing literary topics, tells us something about these settlers. They must have brought their own books. There were no public libraries available. Perhaps it was these citizens who had the name changed to "Lithopolis" (stone-city) on January 6, 1857 thinking that the Latin name was more appropriate for the intellectual status of the inhabitants. However, on June 6, 1870, the name was returned to the original. There was a stone bluff on the bank of the river near the edge of town that resembled a steamboat. This was deemed to be more appropriate and picturesque than the name Lithopolis.

The rapid growth of the community during the 1850's required expansion of the school, which took place in 1869 when a two-story brick building was erected on the lot called "Washington Square". This entire block, located in the heart of the town, obviously had been set aside by the town platters for a permanent school site. However, between the period of the one-room log cabin and that of the \$15,000 four-room school there must have been an intermediate step to accommodate the growing school population. There are no known records to this substantiate this theory.

In 1919 rural districts began to merge with the Steamboat Rock district. East Bend, Mineral Point, Hickory Grove, Pleasant Mound, East School, Northeast School No. 1, and Pleasant Grove schools all merged into the Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools. This merger was one of the first, if not the very first, school consolidation effected in this part of the state. It was typical of the pioneering spirit of the community. This name appears to reflect the inclusionary efforts of the "new school" to appear and function as a combination of the individual rural schools that had consolidated. As more districts were added a temporary annex was constructed to house the over flow from the lower grades. It now became apparent that these make shift arrangements would soon be inadequate for the proper implementation of the total school program.

By 1920 there were 246 consolidated schools in all but 18 counties in Iowa. Between January and June 1920, 83 more consolidated schools were constructed. This trend reflected the slow down in school consolidations relating to the rural farm crisis of the 1920's. Consolidated schools received funding for equipment and maintenance. They were designed to

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
Hardin County, Iowa

Section 8 Page 16

“give special emphasis to vocational subjects, with greatest stress upon manual training, domestic science, and agriculture”. Emphasis on agriculture was required and school sites were to include five acres “to be used for definite, positive experimental work in agriculture.” In 1931 there were 412 consolidated districts in Iowa.

At the national level, three architects, John J. Donovan, Dwight Perkins, and William B. Ittner, emerged from the Progressive Era as leaders in innovative school design. They “were disciples of the city beautiful idea, and felt that architects should design a building so that it would enhance its surroundings,” and believed that the architect should work closely with professional educators to design a workable school. Their influence extended nationwide during the 1920s and 1930s. The most striking innovation was in the school layout. Traditional schools were massive, square buildings. The “modern school,” in contrast had an open plan, in an I, L, or U shape, with a main entrance that was the architectural focal point of the building.

Ittner applied his universal principles to schools for small towns as well as cities. The main distinction between the two was that of size. A municipality with a population of under 8,000 needed only one building housing all grades, which could share facilities. For towns with populations between 8,000 and 15,000, two school buildings were needed. He believed that junior and senior high schools should be combined in one building if the total school enrollment did not exceed 1,000. In cities with more than 15,000 inhabitants, three separate buildings were needed.

The design and layout of all of the schools was similar. In a small school, there were more combined-use rooms, particularly, the auditorium and gymnasium, when there were “not sufficient numbers to insure a reasonably continuous use of both auditorium and gymnasium as distinct quarters”. In this situation, the gymnasium was constructed with brick walls and either a concrete or wood floor for basketball, with permanent or moveable bleachers on one long wall, and the stage on the opposite wall, usually set several feet above the gym floor. Other multiple-use possibilities included a combined gymnasium/ cafeteria, study hall/library, physics/chemistry classroom and laboratory; and a biology/agriculture classroom.

By the 1920's, the people of the Steamboat Rock community became concerned that the facilities were not adequate or safe for the students. The city council, the local businesses, churches, clubs and the Board of Education initiated discussions whether to replace the old structure with a new more extensive facility. This was a difficult time in rural America. The American agricultural industry was already in a “depression” and soon the entire country would be joining their rural neighbors in the most catastrophic economic times in the country's modern history. However, the people of Steamboat Rock had faith and confidence enough to commission an architect to design a new building.

The Board of Education engaged an architect, Harry Reimer, to develop building plans for a new school. Mr. Reimer practiced in nearby Marshalltown and was a well known Iowa architect/builder. His commissions included schools, public buildings and industrial plants. Relating to his experience in building, he helped organize the Master Builders Association of Iowa and was its first secretary. It appears that the firm was familiar with the recommendations of the nationally recognized school building planners. Their plans for the Steamboat Rock School Building provided for four elementary classrooms. Two grades were to be assigned to each room. For the high school there was an assembly hall, four classrooms, a laboratory, a home economics and manual training room, a superintendent's office, shower rooms, restrooms and a boiler room. The hallways were poured concrete, with only the classrooms having wood floors. It was to be a very fire resistant building.

A special election was held on March 29, 1928, to vote on the issue of a new \$50,000 school, and it was carried. The building was completed in late fall of the same year. The name of the new school building was Steamboat Community Schools. This name, using a plural "schools", perhaps was chosen to help the adjustment of consolidated rural schools, students and families by creating the image of multiple schools consolidated into a single building for the purpose of education development. This new building provided ample space for classrooms, laboratories, home economics facilities, and a large room for physical training and athletics. In reality the large room for physical training and athletics was a gymnasium that was comparable to those being constructed in other school districts. There was a stage on the end of the gymnasium, thus making it possible to have music and drama programs.

The gymnasium proved to be too small for the expanding competitive athletic activities. The school board and community realized the growth of the baby boomer generation would require added classroom space as well as needed lunchroom space. The remaining adjacent country schools, merged with Steamboat Rock and as a result a new gymnasium, music room and a manual training shop was constructed in 1956. This new construction reflected the changing focus of education, which required the additional space to provide the new curriculum activities. A study suggested that more classrooms were needed for the elementary grades. The old gymnasium was remodeled to add 3 new classrooms on the second floor level. In 1957 the school lunch program was started, made possible by remodeling the ground floor of the old gymnasium into a kitchen, dining room and storeroom. The pictures of the graduating classes from 1896 to the present and other school memorabilia are on display in the dining area/old gym. The new gymnasium was a significant development in modern construction, just as the original school building reflected the modern movement in school design. The gymnasium design, incorporated modern construction materials and engineering design. CMU block was used for the gable walls and wood glue-laminate technology was used for the arched rafters and purloins. The new combination gymnasium-auditorium was used for public programs, concerts, baccalaureate services, commencement exercises and drama presentations

One notable significant feature of the 1928 design is the journalism classroom on the third floor, next to the typing classroom. The idea of publishing a bi-weekly school paper in the Steamboat Rock Consolidated High School was first conceived and executed in 1933 by the typing class under the direction of Mr. Don Faris. A contest was held to select a suitable name for the paper. After much deliberation; the name "Static" was selected from the many entries and work on the first issue was begun. Henry Cramer was elected for the first editor of this new venture. Since they had very little equipment with which to work, the first issues could not compare to the later 1940's publications. Some of the devices since acquired such as letter guides, shading screens, stenciling plates, and improved styli have been responsible for this progress.

The letter guides made possible symmetrical letters and figures which were otherwise made by hand thus saving considerable time and enabling a person to do neater work. Shading screens lent an artistic touch to various headings and advertisements. Stenciling plates aided considerably; in producing fine, clear-cut stylus work. In 1935 the supervising duties were taken over by Mr. Sargeant as Mr. Faris left for Wellsburg. One year later Mr. Kenneth Amsberry took over and supervised the "Static" until his retirement. Each year the subscription list has increased until it hit a new high in 1939 and 1940 with one hundred and eighty-eight subscriptions. This wide circulation provides an attractive field for the advertisers of this paper. The "Static", published every two weeks, corresponding to the ordinary small town newspaper. Many schools published smaller editions but once a month. The "Static" prided itself in offering advertising privileges to our merchants and school and community items of interest to our subscribers.

In 1942 the girls basketball team competed in the Iowa State basketball tournament. In 1943 the girls again returned to the state tournament this time to win the state title. They brought the winners trophy home to Steamboat Rock and made the town name well known all around the state. They continued to be in the state tournaments through most of the 1940's.

Following rural America and Iowa trends, the enrollment of the school district had decreased and mergers with Wellsburg and Ackley-Geneva in 1997 left the school building empty as an attendance center. Although the Steamboat Rock Community School was among the small schools of the state, its students have always participated in extra curricular activities such as vocal and instrumental music, speech and dramatics in competition with other schools.

In 1999, The city of Steamboat Rock acquired the school building. In July, 1999, the city council conducted a community meeting at which time those present elected the Schoolhouse Committee to maintain the property and to plan community activities. This was to ensure that the community would have the use of the building and the benefits from its use. It currently houses several commercial and cultural entities. The Schoolhouse Café is the daily hub of activity for dining and coffee times. Currently there are four antique outlets, a consignment shop, a professional tax service office, a tea room and a saddle and tack supply store located in the former school building. On the top floor there is a large room that serves as an art gallery where paintings are displayed and sold. Painters also come to look out over the beautiful Iowa River valley and paint pictures of their choosing. The gym/auditorium is used for drama productions, athletic activities, dinner theater and concerts by professional musical groups.

The objective of the people of Steamboat Rock is to maintain a community center that will serve as a rallying point for social and business activities. It is evolving into a community business and cultural center.

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Maps

1954 Plat map

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Other Sources

Memories of Ray Taylor, graduate of Steamboat Rock Class of 1940, former school board Chairman, Chairman of Schoolhouse Committee(modern)

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Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
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Verbal Boundary Description:

The plat of Steamboat Rock, dated 1954, shows Washington Square, an un-numbered block, to be the name of the block that was dedicated for use as a school/school grounds. It lies between block 32 and block 33. The Street boundaries are Market street on the north, Main street on the south, 3rd. street on the east and 4th street on the west. It is located five blocks east of the Iowa River on Highway D-35, which is also Main Street.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

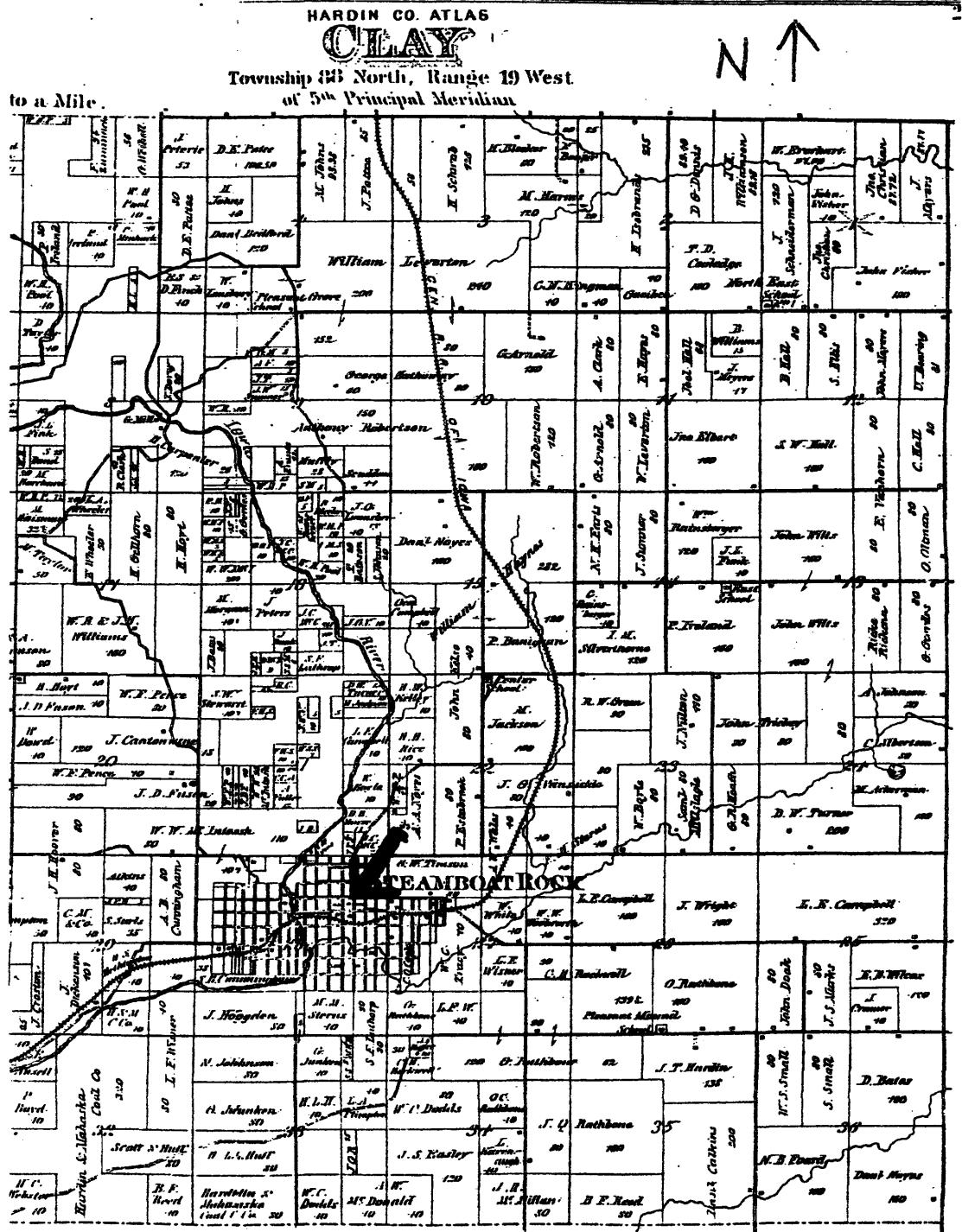
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Steamboat Rock school.

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Hardin County, Iowa**

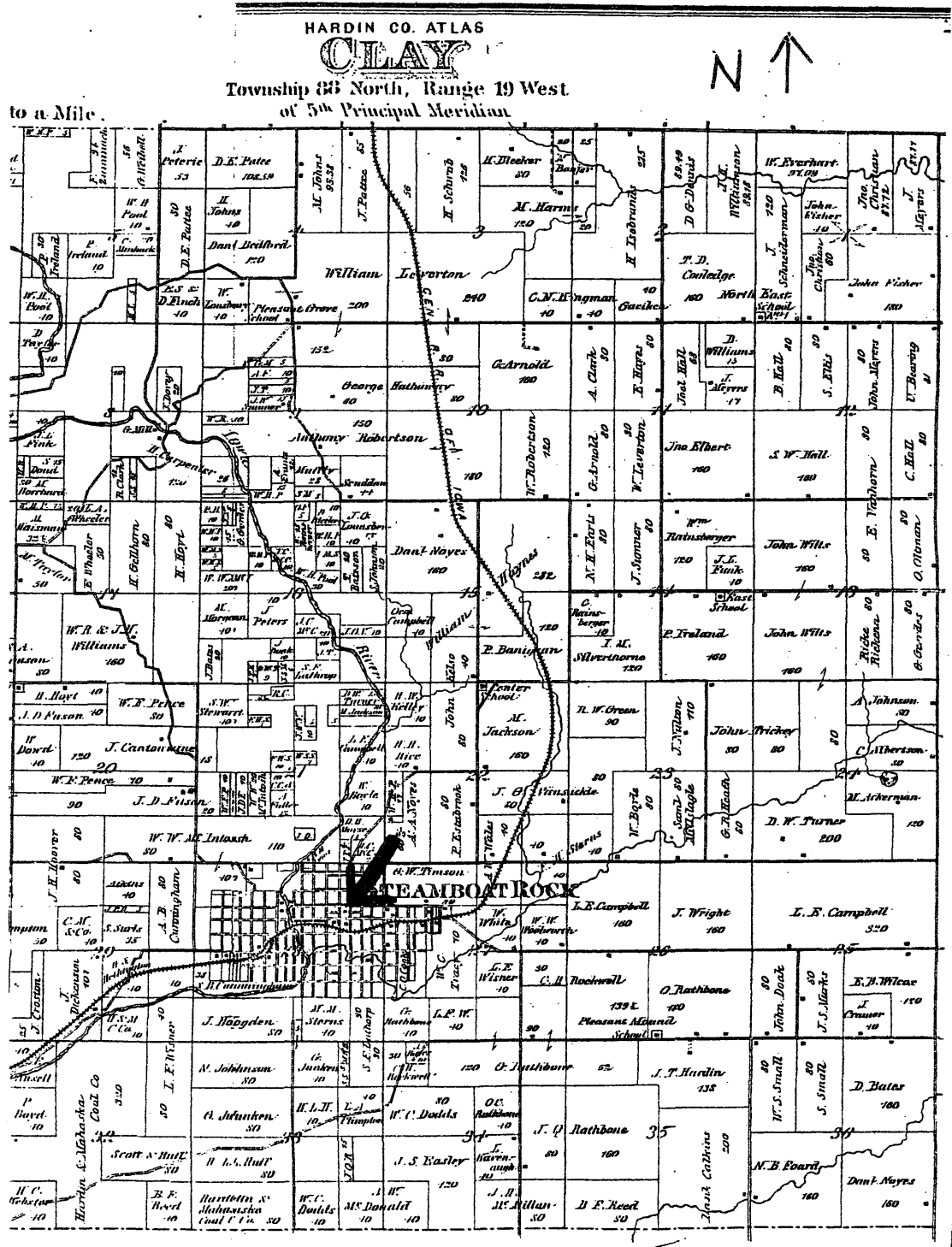
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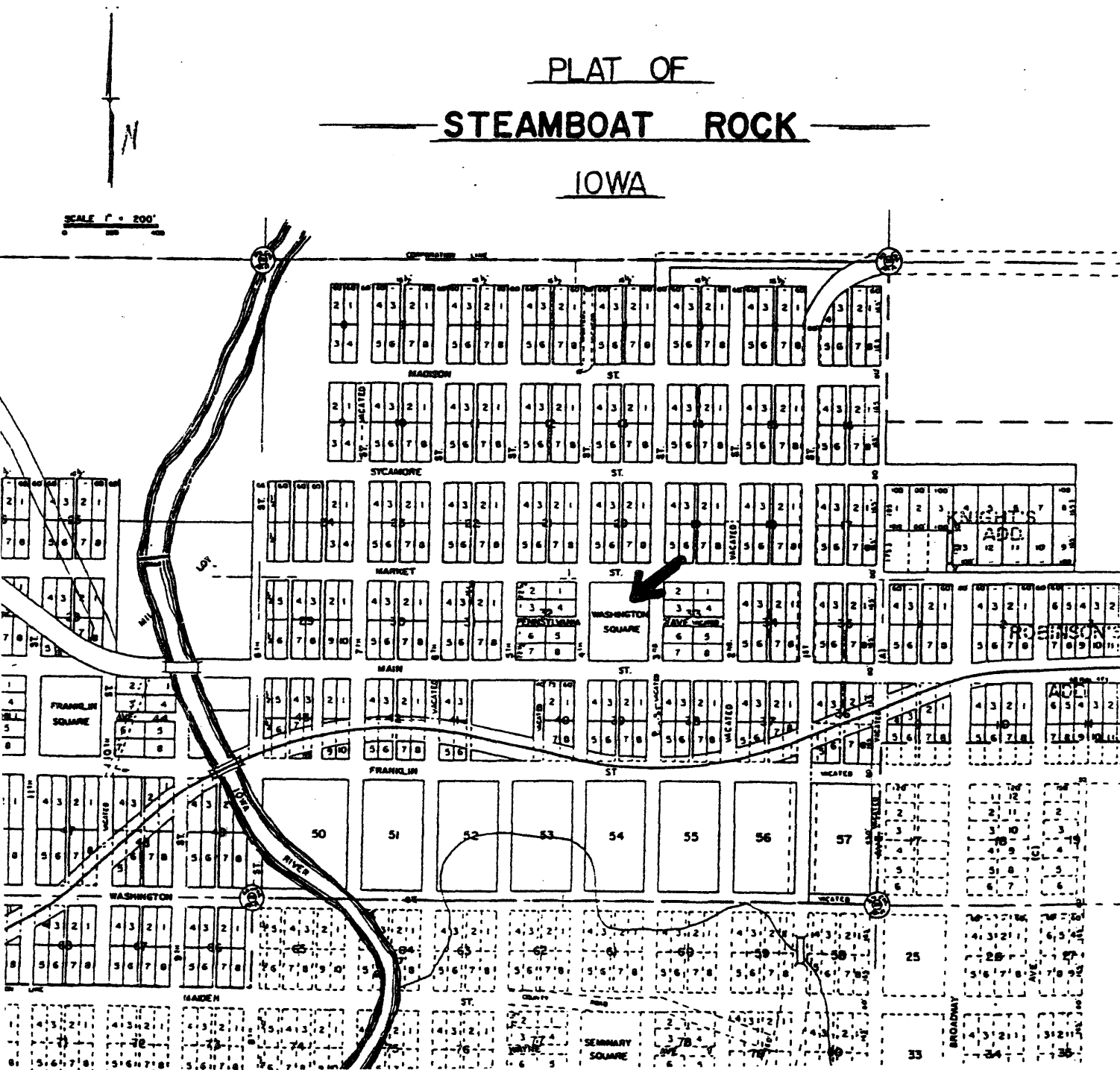


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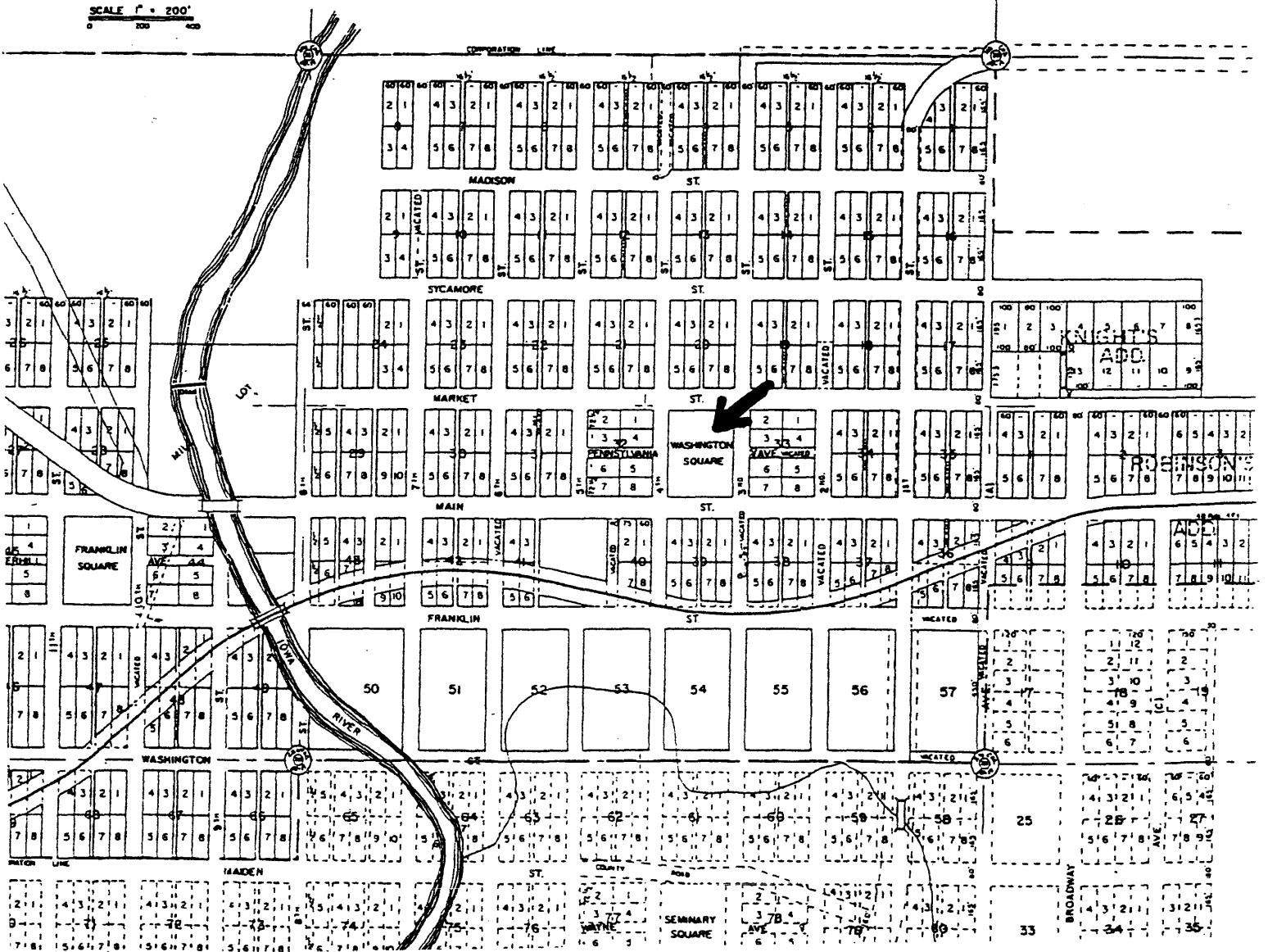
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PLAT OF
STEAMBOAT ROCK
IOWA



SCALE 1" = 200'
0 100 200



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Section Photo's Page 23 Steamboat Rock Consolidated Schools
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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

- #1 - North, front façade of schoolhouse looking south
- #2 - NE looking SW, front of schoolhouse and attached gym in background
- #3 - NW looking SE, front of gym with schoolhouse front in background
- #4 - NE looking SW, front of gym
- #5 - SE looking NW, schoolhouse building showing east entrance and coalbunker concrete roof at ground level to left of building
- #6 - SE looking NW, rear of gym building addition, music/shop rooms
- #7 - SW looking NE, rear of gym building addition, shop/music rooms
- #8 - North looking south, main school building entrance stairs to second floor and lower level
- #9 - SW looking NE in cafeteria area showing part of class photo collection
- #10 - North looking south, Market to Main Street, showing playground and equipment with 4th street as east boundary
- #11 - 2nd floor showing three classrooms added when new gym was built and old gym converted to lunchroom
- #12 - 3rd floor wall mural, across from stair landing, showing steamboat and rock
- #13 - 3rd floor wall mural, former high school assembly room east wall, depicting Steamboat Rock formation on the Iowa River
- #14 - 3rd floor wall mural of Tower Rock formation located on the Iowa River
- #15 - Boiler room, front of 1956 boiler
- #16 - South end interior of gymnasium(1956), looking at performance stage area
- #17 - North end of Gym, looking at laminated rafter and purlins in rounded roof structure
- #18 - West wall of gym showing 2 laminated rafters, wooden bleachers, and large hand painted school mascot logo "pirate with pirates word"
- #19 - School name inscribed in cultured stone, located above school main entrance, north side