

1051

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USD/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**Yellow Pine School, Webster Parish, LA**

**Page 1**

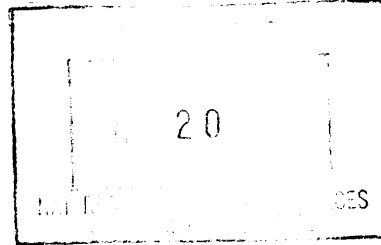
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Yellow Pine School

Other Name/Site Number: Yellow Pine Inn



## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number 432 Yellow Pine Road

Not for publication: NA

City/Town Sibley

Vicinity: X

State: Louisiana Code: LA County: Webster Code: 119

Zip Code: 71073

## 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.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  
Nationally: \_\_\_ Statewide: \_\_\_ Locally: X

Jonathan Fricker  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Jonathan Fricker  
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

August 19, 2004  
Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official/Title  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper: Edson H. Beall

Date of Action: 10/2/04

5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private:  X

Public-Local:    

Public-State:    

Public-Federal:    

Category of Property

Building(s):  X

District:    

Site:    

Structure:    

Object:    

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Non contributing

    buildings

    sites

    structures

    objects

0  Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:  0

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: NA

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### 6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: education                      Sub: school  
Current: domestic                        Sub: hotel

### 7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: no style

Materials:

Foundation: brick  
Walls: weatherboard  
Roof: metal  
Other:

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### Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Yellow Pine School (c. 1905) is a single story, wood frame, institutional building raised approximately three feet above grade on brick piers. It is located in a flat, semi-open rural setting in southern Webster Parish in the former sawmill town of Yellow Pine. Though unstyled, the building has a definite architectural character. Despite some alterations arising first from its 1920s conversion to a residence, and in the early 1960s, needed porch repairs, the building still has the strong feeling of an early twentieth century rural school.

As built, the plan consisted of a large square room in front and two large rooms of unequal size in the rear. The two rear rooms connected via a very broad opening cut in the wall and fitted with multiple folding paneled doors.

The front room has a generous gallery on three sides and is set under its own low slung hip roof with a distinctive broken pitch. The two rear rooms form a separate mass that is slightly wider than the front room block, even with the latter's gallery. They are set under their own (unbroken pitch) hip roof. The front room connects with the rear room range through an interior door that opens into the eastern room. In addition, the rear rooms can be accessed via doors set at the ends of the front room's gallery and doors on the rear elevation.

Originally the gallery featured square wooden posts with a simple handrail. The façade is symmetrical, with a very wide central double doorway flanked by paired four-over-four sash windows. All other windows in the school are set singly. All windows are four-over-four. In all, there are a total of 27 sizable windows -- a large number for a building of this size. The front room can also be accessed via a door off the western side gallery. The sheathing is drop siding throughout. The gallery ceiling is sheathed in narrow gauge beaded board. The walls rise to a plain fascia board with an overhanging eave. Exterior doors feature five horizontal raised panels.

All original interior walls and ceilings are sheathed in narrow gauge beaded board. Floors are relatively narrow tongue and groove boards. At the rear of the front room is a central slender brick chimney (that no longer protrudes above the roofline). It once serviced an iron heating stove. Originally the other rooms evidently were not heated. Other telling interior features are two frame corner cloakrooms, one in each of the two rear rooms. Neither rises to the full height of the room, which gives them a distinctive look.

The school closed circa 1920. In 1924 the building was purchased by William E. McKinney, the grandfather of the present owner, who converted it into a residence in 1928. The exterior and the large front classroom were untouched. But the eastern rear room was divided to create two rooms set front and rear and connected by a wide opening. This area served as a kitchen and dining room. About half of the old wide folding door system between the original two rear rooms was preserved in place and sealed. It is still plainly visible. A small portion of it was left open to provide a doorway to the western rear room. The western room was divided into four small rooms and a hallway. The new partition walls are mainly of flat planks, which differentiates them from the original beaded board walls.

By the early 1960s the old gallery had deteriorated. At that time the father of the present owner replaced the wooden gallery floor with a concrete raised floor of the same dimensions. He also replaced the wood gallery posts with a smaller number of larger brick columns. The reduction in columns was accomplished by removing every other wooden post (except at the entrance) and putting in their place a brick pier half the height. (The present owner was 13 at the time. He recalls that his father did not actually remove the columns. He placed the

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brick around them.)

Given the school's early conversion and its long-time use as a residence, the fact that so much of its original architectural character and feeling survives is remarkable. The building retains its distinctive shape and footprint, its numerous windows (a schoolhouse signature), its wraparound gallery configuration under a low slung broken pitch hip roof, its very wide pupil oriented front double door, its numerous other doors (5), and with the exception of the gallery as described, virtually all of its exterior appearance. On the interior the great front classroom is a step back in time. Other interior features that survive to convey the building's original institutional use are the cloakrooms and the remnants of the folding door system. These features collectively "say school" so-to-speak rather than residence. And even with the gallery change, there is no question that a student or teacher from the early days would recognize the building today (as can be seen by comparing photos from the 1950s and today).

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B \_ C \_ D \_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA A \_ B \_ C \_ D \_ E \_ F \_ G \_

Areas of Significance: industry

Period(s) of Significance: c.1905-1913

Significant Dates: NA

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: unknown

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### **State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**

The former Yellow Pine School is of local significance in the area of industry as one of only two buildings remaining to tell the story of a once large and bustling sawmill company town and an equally rare survivor to represent the overall lumber history of Webster Parish. The period of significance spans from c.1905, when the school was built, to 1913, the year Globe Lumber shut down operations (i.e., the year Yellow Pine ceased being a lumber company town).

#### Historic Context:

Webster Parish is located in North Louisiana east of the Red River and directly south of the Arkansas state line. Preceded by Caddo Indians, white settlers began arriving in the area in the early 1800s. These early settlers from the Upland South were of English, Scots, Irish, and German descent. The area remained a part of Natchitoches Parish until 1828, when the state legislature created Claiborne Parish. Later, Claiborne was subdivided into three parishes: Bienville, Bossier, and a smaller Claiborne. It was from these three parishes that land for Webster Parish was carved in 1871. Minden, the parish seat and the only community of any size, is among North Louisiana's oldest towns, having been founded in 1836 and incorporated in 1850. Primarily rural, Webster Parish has (until recent times) based its economy upon land-associated endeavors, including agriculture, lumbering and the petroleum industry.

Although timber harvesting was a very significant economic stimulus historically and is still practiced to some extent today, no comprehensive study of the industry in Webster Parish is available. However, an outline of the story can be put together from bits and pieces of information found in several sources. Industrial lumbering came to Webster Parish for the same reasons it came to other parts of Louisiana. The first was depletion of the Northern and Midwestern forests. By the 1890s lumber companies had cut most of the trees in these regions and needed new sources of timber. Industry leaders then turned to the largely untouched forest lands of the South, including those of Webster Parish. The second factor was the availability of railroad transportation, which provided the mechanism for shipping the products of the parish's forests to markets throughout the country. The Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railway had built through the parish from east to west in the 1880s. By 1904 a second line, the north/south Louisiana & Arkansas Railway, intersected the V S & P at Sibley, south of Minden. Whether sawmills existed along the V S & P before the line's construction began or came in at the same, it is certain that the Louisiana & Arkansas was built to serve the lumber industry.

The first concrete evidence of the industry's impact upon Webster Parish is found in the 1903 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Minden and a c.1904 promotional booklet designed to entice new settlers to the region. Together these sources provide a good picture of the Minden Lumber Company, which was founded in 1901 or 1902. Located on the parish seat's north side, the concern had a sawmill, planing mill, 24 acre pond, kiln, lumber sheds, tramway, several other buildings supporting the operation, and numerous stacks of lumber awaiting shipment to market. In fact, the facility was so big that it took two of the large Sanborn map pages to depict it. (The mill required the same amount of space on the 1909 and 1914 Sanborn maps.) Production figures for c. 1904 indicate that the Minden mill processed 235,000 board feet of lumber daily and 70 million board feet annually. These figures translated into ". . . from 300 to 500 cars of lumber per month [shipped] to the different States of the Union." By 1914 the mill's production had fallen to 150,000 board feet per day and 7 million board feet per year, still quite large amounts. Fire destroyed the facility in 1918, and Minden Lumber did not rebuild.

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Although the exact number and names of the mills operating in Webster Parish during lumbering's peak is unknown, the Minden Lumber Company was not the only one. The North Louisiana Lumber Company, also in Minden, was fairly small but had planing and shingle mills. Other significant companies in business during this period included the huge Globe Lumber Company, Ltd. (225,000 board feet per day--see below), operating at Yellow Pine; the Pine Woods Lumber Company (125,000 board feet per day), operating at Springhill; the Valley Lumber Company, Ltd., operating at Blackman; the Porter & Wadley Sawmill, operating at Cotton Valley; and the Bodcaw Lumber Company, also operating at Minden. Production figures for these last three companies are unavailable.

The economic impact of the lumber industry on early twentieth century Webster Parish was quite significant. In fact, lumber and agriculture were the parish's economy until the 1920s. The above mills employed thousands of people. They spread prosperity across the board because people could more easily afford the products and services of local merchants and professionals. In addition, the parish government profited from the taxes the companies paid. The effects of this prosperity can still be seen in the commercial buildings of Minden's historic downtown, as well as in some of the residences surviving from this era.

Unfortunately, the Webster Parish lumber boom could not last forever. The supply of trees suitable for logging, formerly viewed as "inexhaustible," had proven to be limited after all. As occurred throughout Louisiana, the companies soon harvested all the timber suitable for large-scale processing, and it was not economically feasible to cut and mill what was left. The reduced production figures provided for the Minden Lumber Company above probably reflect this fact and account for the company's decision not to rebuild after the 1918 fire. The mill at Yellow Pine closed even earlier (see below). Although six "large" sawmills were still in operation in 1934, the industry lost its place as the parish's economic leader to the petroleum industry in 1922. As the timber played out, industry leaders implemented the cut and run policy practiced by all lumber concerns, either dismantling and moving their facilities or selling them to other parties who moved them. In some cases small local sawmills took their places. It is similarly small concerns which practice lumbering in Webster Parish today.

### Globe Lumber and Yellow Pine:

Among the very biggest sawmill operations in Webster Parish was the Globe Lumber Company, which founded its own company town called Yellow Pine. The sawmill town of Yellow Pine was founded in 1900 when Long-Bell Lumber company of Kansas City, Missouri rebuilt following a fire which destroyed the mill they had purchased in 1898. Globe Lumber was the subsidiary of Long-Bell which operated at Yellow Pine. In addition to erecting a large, state-of-the-art sawmill complex, Globe built a company town, providing for all the needs of its employees. There were houses (210 in 1904), a large two story commissary, an office building, a hotel and boarding house, a school, a church, a doctor's office, etc. A c. 1904 document mentions an average payroll at Yellow Pine of 750 people. At that time, Globe Lumber owned 68,093 acres of standing timber and had a cutting capacity of about 225,000 board feet per day, with lumber being shipped all over the United States.

By 1913, the great virgin forest of the area had been depleted. This is even earlier than typical for Louisiana. Generally the timber played out in a given area in the 1920s. Globe shifted its operations to Texas and Washington, and employees either moved with the mill or sought work elsewhere. In effect, the town of Yellow Pine was abandoned. The school clearly was still used after the mill closed in 1913, per the recollection of a man born in 1911 who went to school there in the fourth grade. As noted earlier, the old school house was purchased in 1924 (at which time it is referenced in an insurance document as "formerly the Yellow Pine School



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Building”) and soon converted for residential use.

Even as early as 1930 there was little left of the once booming sawmill town of Yellow Pine. A visitor in that year wrote: “Her fair forests have all been cut down, the mill is gone, most of the residences and the hotel have been torn down and removed, and the busy worker gone into new fields.”

Today, short of archaeological investigations, one would have no idea that there was once a large company town at Yellow Pine. Apparently way back in the woods one can see the foundations of the mill and the old vault from the office. Located on Yellow Pine Road are the only two surviving buildings, the church (National Register) and the former school. The school debuted earlier this year (2004) as the Yellow Pine Inn, a three-room bed and breakfast. Its sawmill town and school origins are interpreted to guests through photos and other documents, not to mention the various physical features that convey its school identity.

The former school is also an equally rare survivor to represent the parish’s overall lumber history. The most important resources, the industrial plants themselves, are long gone. Nor are there any surviving buildings such as lumber company commissaries, offices, or the like. As far as the LA SHPO can determine, the former school and church at Yellow Pine are the only buildings left directly associated with the parish’s historic lumber industry. As such, they are of considerable local historical significance.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blizzard, Alvin. Personal recollections. Mr. Blizzard, age 93, went to the Yellow Pine School in the fourth grade.

Lindsey, Allen Dale. "Yellow Pine: The Life and Death of a Lumber Town." North Louisiana Historical Association Journal, Fall 1969, Vol. 1, No. 1.

Longino, Luther. Thoughts, Visions and Sketches of North Louisiana. 1930.

Sanborn Insurance Co. maps, Minden, 1903, 1909, 1914, 1923.

Webster Parish, Louisiana: The Homeseeker's Paradise! The Eden of the New South! The Promised Land of Peace and Plenty! Circa 1904.

Webster Parish Resources and Facilities: Survey by Webster Parish Planning Board. July 1944.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- \_\_\_ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
\_\_\_ Previously Listed in the National Register. (partially)
\_\_\_ 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
\_\_\_ Other State Agency
\_\_\_ Federal Agency
\_\_\_ Local Government
\_\_\_ University
\_\_\_ Other (Specify Repository):

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreeage of Property: less than an acre

UTM References:     **Zone Easting Northing**  
                          15   470400 3593800

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is shown as a broken line on the attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the school and its immediate setting while excluding unnecessary rural acreage.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: National Register staff

Address: Division of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Telephone: (225) 342-8160

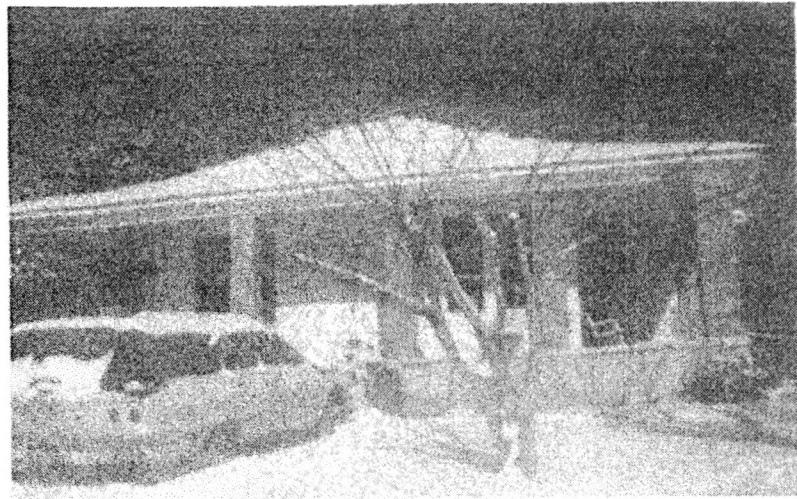
Date: June 2004

**PROPERTY OWNERS**

Bill McKinney  
432 Yellow Pine Road  
Sibley, LA 71073

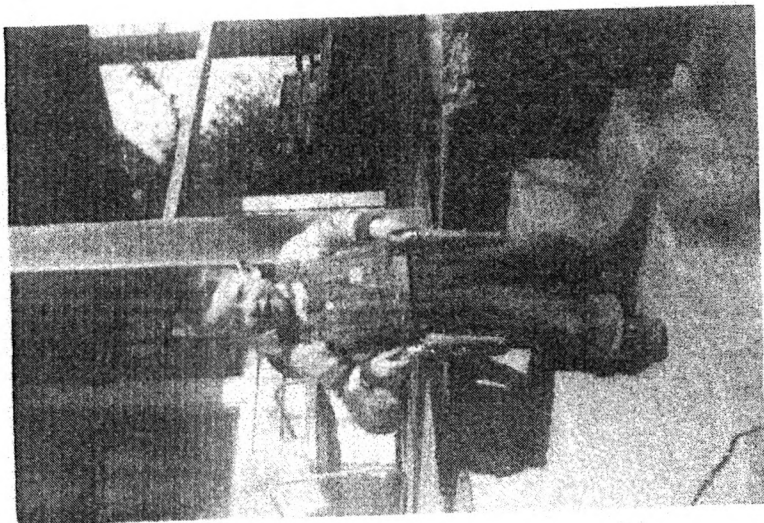


1953-54 ↑



↑ 1963

1953 ↓

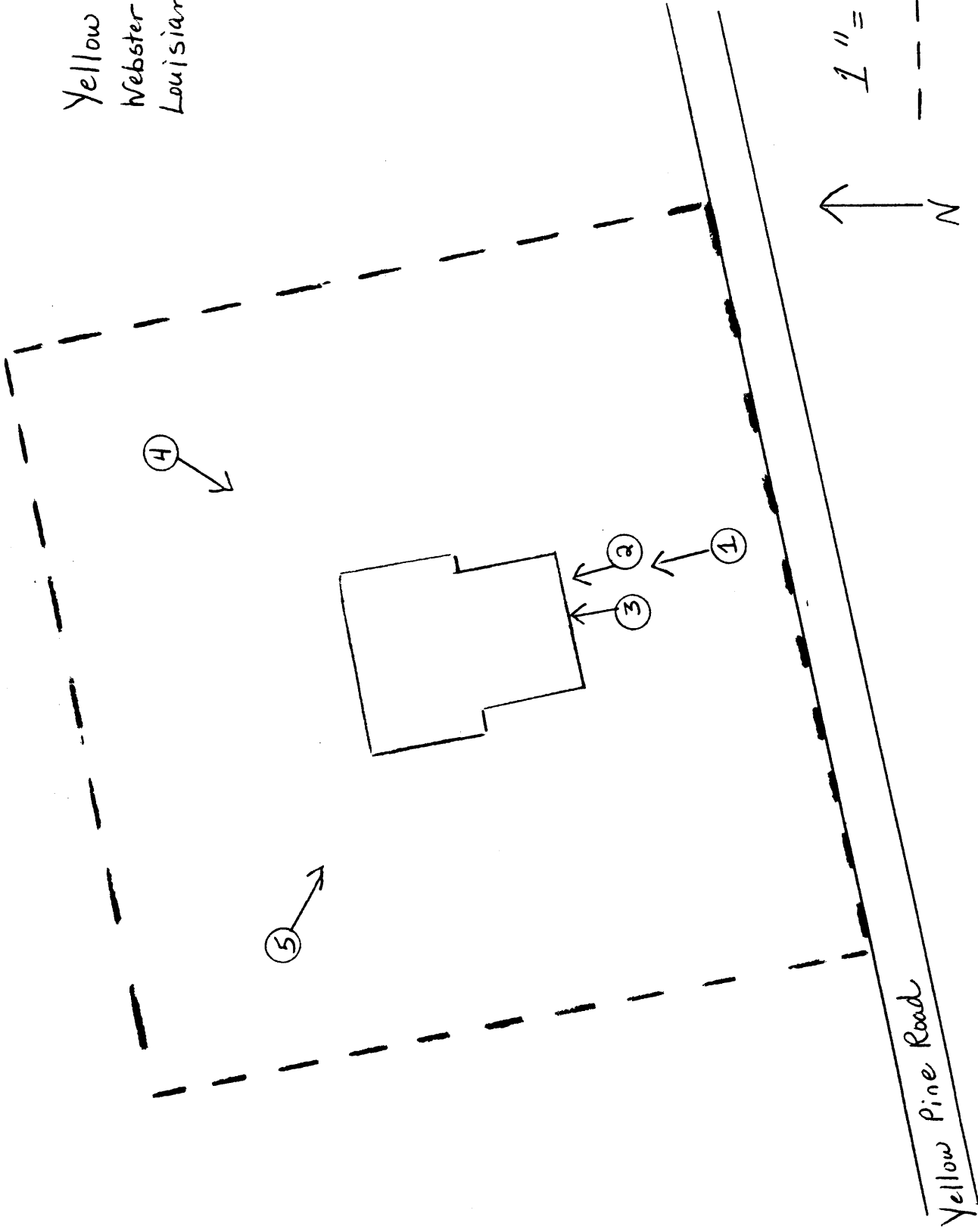


1950 ↓



Yellow Pine School  
Webster Parish  
Louisiana

Yellow Pine School  
Webster Parish  
Louisiana



1" = 30'  
--- boundary  
N