

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 11 1984
date entered JUL 12 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bettendorf/Washington School

and or common Bettendorf Park Board Fine Arts Annex

2. Location

street & number 533 16th St. not for publication

city, town Bettendorf vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Scott code 163

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bettendorf Park Board

street & number Bettendorf City Hall

city, town Bettendorf vicinity of state IA 52722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Scott County Courthouse

city, town Davenport state IA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bettendorf/Washington School (1909, 1923) is the best preserved of a small number of surviving public and commercial buildings in Bettendorf which were constructed during the period of burgeoning growth which dates from 1903. The school occupies a prominent central location within that city.

The original two story school building with walls of tile and brick veneer, is rectangular on plan and consists of a hipped roof which runs lengthwise perpendicular to the main facade. A central pavilion thrusts forward on the north front and has a hip roof. The brickwork is of two colors on the original building, a rust red on the foundation, and a lighter brown on the wall mass. A high raised basement with concrete water table is executed in the darker brick color. The symmetrical facade has a triple window set on each floor on either side of the pavilion. The pavilion at the entry level has a central double door with rectangular transom which is flanked by tall thin square cut rectangular side windows. Between the two floor levels, at the stairway landing, a broader central (1/1) double hung sash window with transom is flanked by identical but thinner side windows which match and are vertically alligned with those below. The same darker brick used in the foundation was used to form voussoirs in the flat jack arches above the first floor and pavilion windows. Wide corner pilasters of brick set between the frieze and water table frame the building corners. On the pavilion front, brickwork forms a dentil band and corbelled brickwork and wall pilasters frame the upper windows with recessed rectangular panels. An open eaves with exposed rafter ends and half-round hung gutter tops the elevation scheme. Side fenestration is limited to three unit groupings of windows on the first floor and a fire door and flanking windows on the second floor. Similarly the original rear or south wall was blank except for a first floor double door and side windows, and three windows grouped and centered above on the second level. A stairway connected the exit level to the ground level. The 1909 building had a high ratio of wall to window area.

The 1923 addition, built fourteen years later, reflected changing school design, yet attempted to match the lines and design of the original building as well. This building was only slightly shorter, of identical elevation plan, yet differed most notably with its yellow brick above the foundation level, and its six window bands which ran the length of its side walls on each floor. The rear wall duplicated the 1909 rear wall except that the entry was at ground level and two three window sets were vertically alligned, and corner pilasters added. Rowlock and header courses were used to outline the two plain wall masses on either side of the shallow rear pavilion.

Alterations to the building over time have been minimal compared to those changes which typically impact buildings of this type. The most obvious visual alteration replaced the front elliptical arches in the pavilion entryway with taller square cut windows and transoms in order to match the 1923 entrance. The use of the 1923 brick to fill in the resulting gaps above the transom level resulted in a visual loss of integrity. The original name inscription "Bettendorf School", located parallel to and just below the second floor line was removed in 1917 when the name was changed. The second name, "Washington School", was also removed from the upper pavilion front just after 1961. Also removed were two square stone side panels. These gaps were then filled with a

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909–20 **Builder/Architect** Art Ebeling (arch), Owens & Bevins (bldrs)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bettendorf/Washington School (1909, 1923) is the best preserved of a small number of surviving public and commercial buildings in Bettendorf which were constructed during the period of burgeoning growth which dates from 1903. The school occupies a prominent central location within that city.

Four buildings, commercial or public, survive from the pre-1909 years in Bettendorf, but the school is considered to be the best preserved of this small number. The other buildings include the Siebengartner Building (1890), the building at 1546 State Street (1890), the Bettendorf Bank (1909) and this school building. Many early buildings in this category were demolished to make way for the construction of an interstate highway in recent years. The village of Gilbert experienced a growth explosion beginning in 1903 when the Bettendorf Axle and Wagon Company relocated to that community from nearby Davenport. In addition to a name change, the firm by 1920 employed three thousand workers. The school's construction reflects the critical "overnight" need for school facilities in Bettendorf as the population increased.

The local school board acquired the property for this school in late 1907 and the building was actually built in 1909 at a cost of \$8,500. Charles R. Spink (1869-?) was the architect. He had graduated in 1901 from the University of Illinois, and was the designer of many notable homes in the Davenport area as late as 1910, including the W. P. Bettendorf home (NHRP). The original school building lacked both electricity and indoor plumbing. The original interior plan allowed for two classrooms per floor. The building, known as Bettendorf School until 1917, housed pre-school through eighth grade.

In 1912 the additional land for an expansion was purchased. In 1917 the construction of Lincoln School, another grade school, resulted in a name change, apparently because there were now multiple local schools. The name became Washington School at this time and so remained until 1973 when the school finally closed. A 1923 rear addition added four classrooms and office area. Architect Art Ebeling planned the building and Owens and Bevins constructed it. The remodeling of the original building added electricity and bathrooms. The school housed the same grade range until 1951 when the two highest grades went to Bettendorf Junior High. In 1963 the sixth grade was relocated to the new middle school. By 1965 enrollment was down to two hundred students and by the time the school closed it stood at 120. In 1957 architect William F. Bernbrock of Moline designed remodeling work which enclosed stairways, added dropped acoustical ceilings, and removed the original slate roof (replaced with asbestos). The city acquired the closed school in 1973 and a museum was opened on the first floor. The property was landscaped in 1975 and other community services used the building through 1981. The museum continued to expand and today occupies the building which is now known as the "Bettendorf Fine Arts Park Board Annex."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dinning, Janet, Editor: Bettendorf History, Vol. 2, Bettendorf, Iowa, 1975.
Bettendorf Museum files, photographs and exhibits.
Lampe, Julie. "The Beginning of the Bettendorf School System." Research paper, March 16, 1981

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Davenport East IA-ILL

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	0	8	0	3	0	4	6	0	0	1	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1-6 of Block 1, Town of Bettendorf, IA. Includes only the school building and rear addition, parking area.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO

date 23 May 1984

street & number Historical Building
E. 12th & Grand Ave.

telephone 515-281-3625

city or town Des Moines

state IA 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Adrian A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department

date May 29, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/12/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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brick of different coloration. The museum adaptation of the 1909-23 building did not result in the loss of any additional building fabric. The interior plan of the 1909 building consists of a central longitudinal hall with end staircases (originally open) and landings. Four rectangular classrooms occupy each floor, two on either side of the hallway. In the basement are found restrooms, power plant, and kitchen in addition to two classrooms. The later addition joined a lateral hall (forming a "T") with side classrooms to the center of the original hallway. End stairs were placed on the south end of this hall.

The location of the school represents the "planned community" aspect of a city which took its overall form in response to large scale and late date growth. The dominance of a single industry along the river resulted in the development of a dispersed commercial "wrap around" area. The original residential area, centered on this school and what was an adjoining landscaped park area to the immediate south, was bordered on three sides by that commercial center. Recent interstate highway and bridge construction eliminated some of the earlier commercial buildings in Bettendorf. This is the earliest surviving school in the town, its predecessor having been demolished in 1909.

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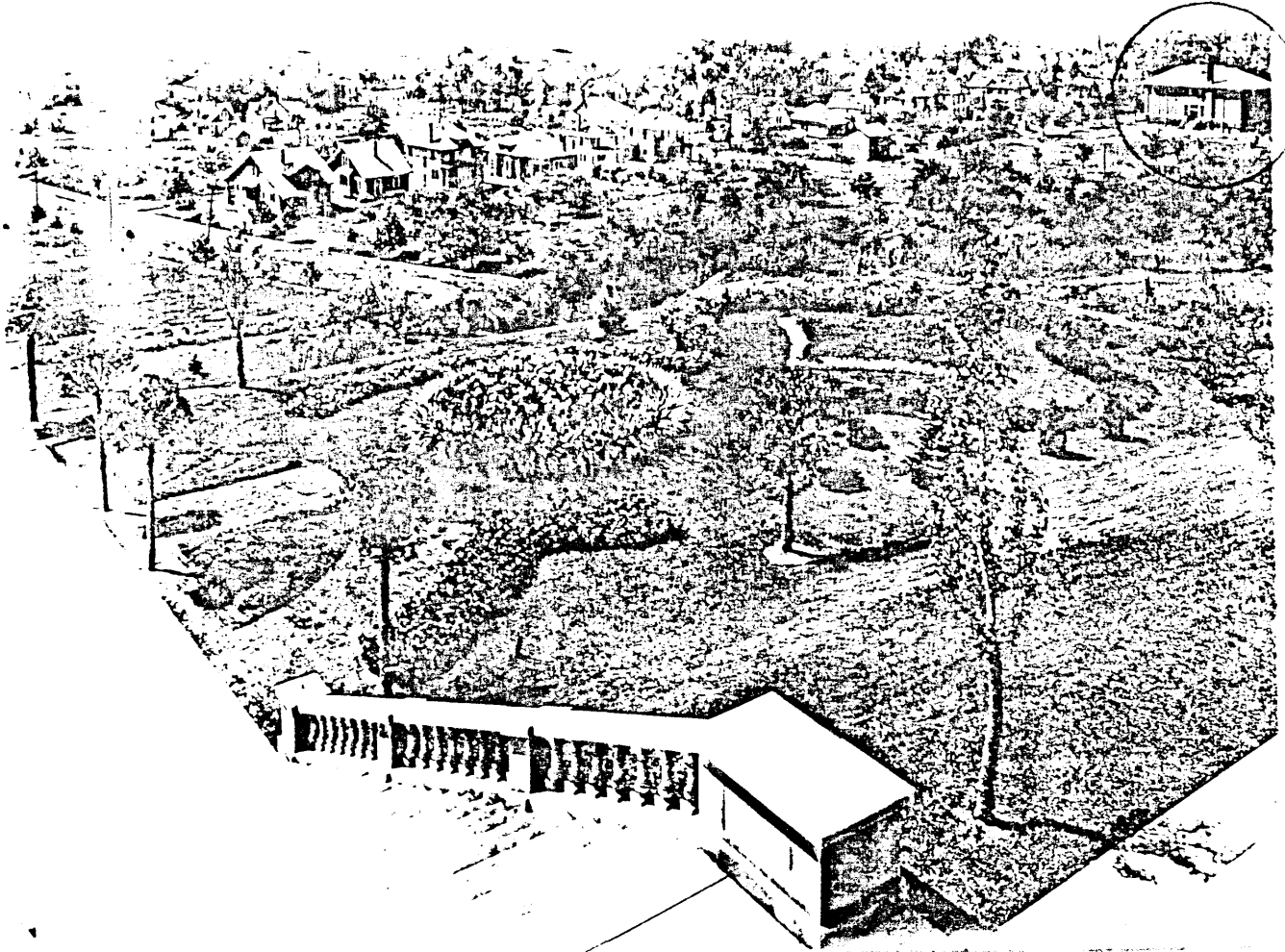
received

date entered

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C. 1920's view of central Bettendorf, showing rear area of Bettendorf (later Washington) School. Landscaped central park area adjoins school yard. Commercial and industrial areas were located to south and west (left of view) of this point.