

56 3261

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Yale High School Gymnasium

other names/site number Yale Round Gym

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

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

2. Location

street & number 414 Lincoln Street not for publication

city or town Yale vicinity

state Iowa county Guthrie zip code 50277


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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B C ___ D


Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 8 Nov 2018

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


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 the Keeper Date of Action 12/28/2018

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: agricultural vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: OTHER/Hollow Clay Tile

walls: OTHER/Hollow Clay Tile

roof: OTHER/tarpaper

other: _____

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Yale High School Gymnasium is a one-story round building located in the small town of Yale in northeast Guthrie County, Iowa (Figure 1). It is in the southwest quarter of a city block bounded by Lincoln Avenue on the west, West Street on the east, Oak Street on the south, and Bell Street on the north. The building sits primarily within Lot 7 of Yale's First Block 3 (Figure 2). The building has a round footprint, roughly 77 feet in diameter and approximately 242 feet in circumference. There is a basement under the south half of the building that houses the girls' and boys' locker rooms and restrooms. The upper level has a ground-level gymnasium on the north half and an elevated stage on the south half, which is directly above the basement. The property has historic integrity as a distinctive round gymnasium designed by Halver R. Straight and built in 1932 of hollow clay tile blocks. The overall design is influenced by the agricultural vernacular of the round barn or, in this case, silo construction given Straight's background and engineering experience. It served as the Yale High School Gymnasium from 1932 to 1961. During that time, the building housed boys' and girls' basketball games and tournaments, band concerts, school programs and plays, senior banquets and proms, and annual commencements.

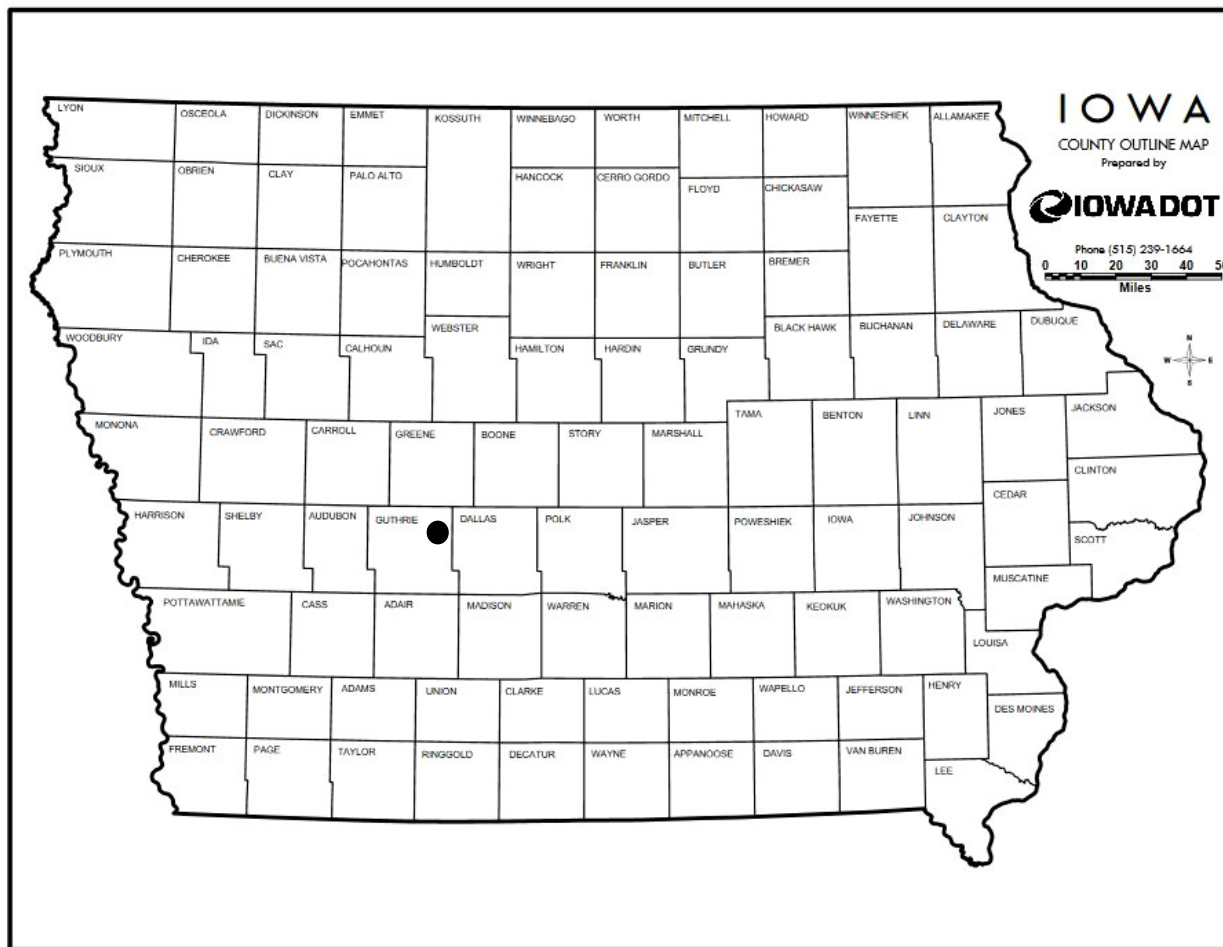


Figure 1. Location of City of Yale in Guthrie County, Iowa (black dot).

Source: Iowa DOT county outline map obtained from https://iowadot.gov/maps/msp/pdf/CountyOutline_8.5x11.pdf, November 2017.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 2. Aerial map showing location of Yale High School Gymnasium (aka, round gym) in relation to the extant 1955 school addition. The original high school building is non-extant, but a portion of its former site is within the nominated boundary (white dashed outline). Aerial obtained from Guthrie County, IA Beacon, accessed at <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>, November 2017.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**, and any future plans for the property under the subheading **Future Plans**.)

The Yale High School Gymnasium includes a half-basement with concrete flooring and hollow clay tile block walls that serve as the foundation for the building's load-bearing hollow clay tile block walls. Some of the blocks are impressed with a maker's mark reading "DBEARING IRONTILE."¹ The other half of the basement is a crawlspace that has poured concrete wall footings that support a hollow clay tile block footer wall, approximately three blocks high, on top of which rests the floor joists for the gymnasium portion of the building.

The tile blocks used in the exterior wall construction are polychrome and include blocks in shades of red, dark red, brown, and yellowish brown (Figure 3). The exterior surface of each block is raked or ridged imparting a roughened texture to the outside wall. The interior surface of these blocks is primarily smooth with some ridged blocks. The interior surfaces have been painted through the years. Each block is slightly curved similar to clay tile blocks used for round silo construction in the 1920s-1930s. There are tile block pilasters spaced around the interior of the building that serve as vertical supports for the main, metal roof trusses. Two square chimneys made of roughened polychrome brick flank the main stage

¹ The term "Irontile" for these clay tile blocks refers to the presence of iron in the clay deposit that when fired turns a red color. The Adel Clay Products Co. advertised their clay tile blocks as "Irontile." Adel is in nearby Dallas County, but it could not be confirmed where the irontile product used in the Yale Gym was manufactured.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

opening. These chimneys ventilated the heating system, with metal grates just below each chimney at floor level of basketball court and metal grates on the upper stage level that circulated heat into the gym area. It is uncertain how this system worked, but the lower grates at floor level may have functioned as cold-air returns. On the exterior the brick chimney stacks rise above the conical roofline. There is a wall of tile blocks that front the stage and support the floor structure of the stage. The lower grates are inset into this wall. The basketball court abuts this block wall. The brick chimneys also served to frame the main stage opening across which a stage curtain was hung. The curtain is no longer extant.



Figure 3. Yale High School Gymnasium looking ESE.

Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

The conical roof is coated in a tar paper covering, which was installed in 2000 using a Revitalization Assistance for Community Improvement (RACI) grant. There is no gutter system, with water shedding directly off the roof creating a dripline around the circumference of the building.

The main, public entrance is on ground level on the northwest side of the building. It has a simple industrial double metal door with a concrete lintel inscribed with "19 Yale Gym 32" indicating the year in which it was built (Figure 4). Above this doorway is the ghost outline on the block wall of a gabled roof that was likely a cantilevered porch roof sheltering the entryway. This entrance opens into the main gymnasium where attendees sat on wooden bleachers along the north side of the basketball court. There is a second side entry door on the opposite side of the gym that has a single, metal door and opens directly into the southeast corner of the basketball court. A third single entry door is on the southwest side of the building and opens into the basketball court at ground level. It too has a single metal door. A fourth entrance into the building is located on the south-southeast side of the building. This single metal door opens onto a wooden landing where one can either go down wooden stairs to the boys' locker room or up onto the stage. Originally, there was a matching entry door on the southwest side of the building that entered onto a wooden landing where one could go down a set of wooden stairs to the girls' locker room or go up the wooden stairs to the landing at stage level. This door was later filled in with clay tile blocks. A fifth door was directly above the door to the girls' locker room that was reached by

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

a set of wooden stairs from the stage and led into a covered catwalk that connected to the school building to the southwest of the gym. This doorway is eleven block courses above ground level and had a slanted roof covering that was part of the catwalk. The school building to which it connected is no longer standing, with the only vestige of the catwalk being the outline of the slanted roof on the tile block wall of the gymnasium and the now blocked door. It is blocked with wooden panels on both the interior and the exterior.



Figure 4. Detail of inscribed lintel above main entry door to the Yale High School Gymnasium looking East.
Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

The square windows around the exterior wall of the south half of the gym at basement level were later filled in with concrete blocks and brick (in one instance). These windows provided light and ventilation in the locker room and stairwell areas below the stage. One of the square windows around the stage level of the south half of the building was also filled with bricks, while the others are still windows but were replaced in 2000 by the RACI grant with single panes of Plexiglas (Figure 5). There are higher rows of square windows on the east and west sides (six on each side) of the building that extend light into the basketball court area. These too were replaced with Plexiglas panes in 2000. There are no windows or openings on the north side of the building. At ground level on the west and east sides of the building are concrete air vents that vent the crawlspace underneath the gymnasium floor (see Figure 5). Each vent is a vertical concrete box with a slanted vent opening covered by metal sheets to keep water from entering the basement.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 5. Southeast side of Yale High School Gymnasium showing windows replaced with Plexiglas panes and tile block and concrete block filled windows below. The former catwalk entrance is to the right side of the building in this view, which is looking to the ENE. Some of the basement vents are visible at ground level on the left side of the building. Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

The conical roof structure consists of eight steel trusses, each supported by tile block pilasters and tied into one another in a single point in the center of the roof and having a round post that supports the center point and connects to the bottom of the truss system for stabilization (Figures 6-7). Thus, the trusses radiate out in an octagon pattern. These trusses in turn support a system of wooden rafters on top of which are nailed the wooden board underlayment for the asphalt roof. At some point, a system of ceiling panels was suspended below the steel trusses. This ceiling helped with the acoustics and heating of the open gym and stage spaces below. The ceiling panels have fallen away or been torn down in recent years. Light fixtures are affixed to the ceiling trusses. The ceiling panels and light fixtures were present by at least the 1950s according to available interior photographs from that era (Figure 8).



Figure 6. Steel truss system for the gymnasium roof. Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 7. Interior of Yale High School Gymnasium showing roof truss system above the basketball court looking west. The elevated stage is to the left side of this view, with the area of the former bleachers to the right. Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.



Figure 8. Photographs taken February 1954 showing interior of Yale High School Gymnasium. Note the bleachers to the left; the ceiling panels and lights to the top, and the interior paint color scheme in both. Digital scan of photographs provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

The ground floor of the interior holds the basketball court that measures 30 feet 6 inches by 65 feet 8 inches with both ends curved to fit the interior of the block walls. The stage rises at the southern edge of the basketball court with a 21-foot 9-inch front, bounded by the two brick chimneys noted above (Figure 9). Metal heating ducts (29-inch square) are to one side of each chimney and are visible on the stage side but not from the gymnasium. Additional heat was provided at stage level by cast iron radiators lining the rear (south wall) of the stage interior; however, at one time, the building was heated by a wood burning stove in the northeast corner (Interview with Jim Schreffler, YJB Boys Basketball Coach 1967-1972, by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018)



Figure 9. Stage area of the Yale High School Gymnasium looking south from the basketball court.
Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

To either side of the 21-inch-square chimneys are two 15-foot 3-inch panel sections that could be opened by movable walls at the stage level. To open, these sections had panels that moved up using a pulley system similar to sash windows (Figure 10). There are metal handles at the base of each panel where one could assist pulling up or down as needed. The panel framing is still intact but the interior panel inserts are largely missing. One lower panel has plywood inserts. The pulley systems for each panel are partially extant. A curving metal track remains in place and suspended from the ceiling panels above the stage. From this track hung an interior stage curtain, which is non-extant (Figure 11). This curtain would have blocked the light from the rear windows and distractions from backstage during a performance or presentation. Wooden handrails (one with recently replaced balusters) provided a measure of safety for persons on stage from falling down the stairs. A closed railing is along one side of the stairs to the catwalk door. Electrical conduits, panels, and plugs extend along the interior surface of

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

the walls, with the current electrical system a later replacement of the original. One cast iron sewer stack rises along the inside of the south wall up through the wooden landing one step below stage level. This stack is on the east side of the tile block pilaster at this location. This stack vented the single toilets in each of the restrooms below, one for boys and one for girls.



Figure 10. Side panels that lift-up using a pulley system on either side of the stage looking NW from the stage. Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

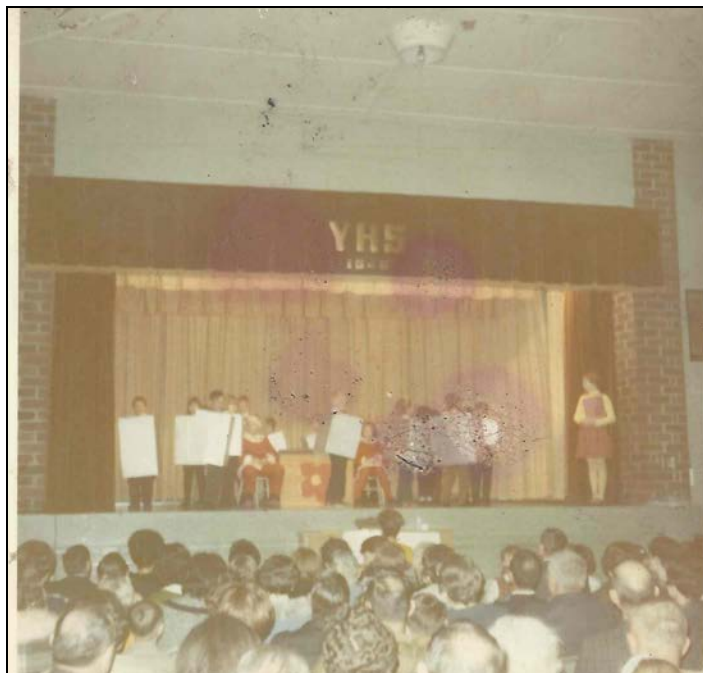


Figure 11. Photograph of the stage in the Yale High School Gymnasium during a Christmas program in 1969.
Note the audience is seated on the basketball court.
Digital scan of photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

The wooden bleachers once sat on the northern side of the basketball court but there is no remnant evidence. The original bleachers were very steep and rose from the edge of the basketball court all the way up the northern wall towards the ceiling (Figure 12). It appears that the original bleachers still in place into the early 1950s, if not longer, and had a lower section that extended along the northeast side of the interior wall by that time (Figures 13-14). This lower section may have been moveable and used as needed during play to hold the spectators (see Figures 8 and 14).



Figure 12. 1937 photograph of the Yale 1936-37 girls' basketball team showing the permanent steep bleachers behind the team. Digital scan of photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.



Figure 13. 1952 photograph of students and teachers sitting on the same steep bleachers shown in the 1937 photograph (see Figure 11). Digital scan of photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

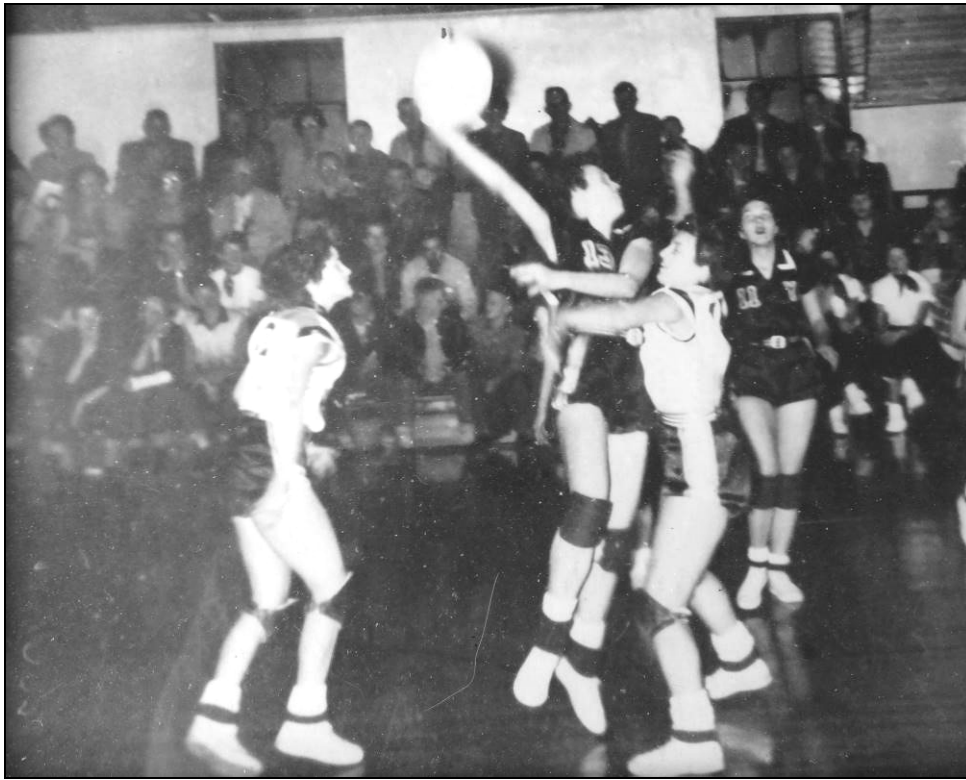


Figure 14. Interior photograph of the round gym taken during a girls' basketball game in the 1950s. It appears that this view is looking to the northeast and shows just how close the play was to the fans in the bleachers. The above view shows that a lower set of bleachers then extended along the northeast side of the gymnasium. Digital scan of photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

The block walls on the interior of the building are now painted. The first ten courses around the court are painted white and the remainder painted blue where the bleachers once stood and just to the side of the stage, and brown in-between the blue sections. The interior of the stage walls is painted white. The two courses of the block wall that were above the suspended ceiling are unpainted. The current paint color scheme is not historic, with a photograph from the 1950s showing the upper portion of the gym walls painted white and the lower seven courses on at least the east half being the original exposed high-gloss glazed surface.² In the 1950s photograph, the lowered ceiling panels and current light fixtures were in place (see Figure 8).

Seven wooden steps lead from the southwestern corner of the basketball court up onto the stage. There is evidence of a metal railing on the stage at the left (stage) side of the stairwell. The wooden stage occupies the southern portion of the building, following the contour of the building, and is 15 feet 9 inches at its deepest point. The stage has tongue-and-groove hardwood flooring and appears to be in satisfactory shape with few loose boards.

The basketball court retains the hardwood floor painted with markings for basketball games including the outside boundaries and shooting lanes painted black and the center court circle for jump balls and game starts painted blue with a large red-painted block "Y" inside the center circle (Figure 15). This "Y" is oriented south-north so that the "Y" is visible as such from the bleachers. However, a photograph from the late 1940s or 1950s shows the center circle with a much thinner "Y" oriented east to west with ends

² The 1954 photos in Figure 8 show the glazed tiles in one view and painted-over or matte red exposed tiles in the other view. Therefore, it is still uncertain how much of the lower courses were glazed tiles and how many were not. Today, there are several layers of paint obscuring the original blocks.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

touching the circle and the top of the “Y” to the west (see Figures 15 and 16). Therefore, the current center court paint scheme is not original. The metal backboards and basket hoops are still in place at both ends of the court. These are affixed to the tile block walls with metal brackets bolted to vertical wooden boards that are in turn bolted to the block walls. Figure 17 is a photograph taken during a boys’ basketball game that shows just how close the end of the court and game play were to the walls.



Figure 15. Current block “Y” painted at center court of the Yale High School Gymnasium basketball court looking south (Left) and a mid-20th century photograph showing the painted center court “Y” looking south (right). Photograph at left taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017; Digital scan of historic photograph to right provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.



Figure 16. Photograph of the 1950-51 girls’ basketball team and the painted “Y” on the gym floor. This view is looking north. Digital scan of historic photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 17. Photograph of the 1949-50 boys' basketball team during a game and showing how close play was to the gymnasium walls. Note the small approximately foot-wide space where the referee is standing along the boundary line of the court. Digital scan of historic photograph provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, Iowa.

The basketball court, former bleacher area, and stage are sparsely furnished at this time. There are some miscellaneous items, including an office desk blocking the southern landing on the stage and there are a couple of tables spread around the interior of the building. Chairs line the northern edge of the basketball court and have probably been there since a reunion event was held in the building. Several photographs including former students and graduates and some memorabilia adorn a table in the middle of the row of chairs that date from this reunion around 2009. Behind this row of chairs, is a set of scaffolding and some miscellaneous construction materials including lumber. The basement contains miscellaneous items from old shelving to chairs and a Yale High School scoreboard.

As noted above, the basement is only under the stage half of the building, with a crawlspace underneath the basketball court section. The basement is divided into two halves, one for the boys' locker and rest rooms and one for the girls' locker and rest rooms. The girls' side is on the west and the boys' is on the east. Originally both halves were entered by separate doors, but the girls' entry door was later closed in with blocks. From the stage level, one steps down onto a wooden landing, with wooden stairs to either side leading down to the landings by the exterior doors. From that landing, wooden stairs lead down into

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

each side of the basement. During games, the visiting teams would change in the locker rooms under the stage, with the home team boys changing in the basement science room in the school and the home team girls changing in the school's basement lunchroom (Interview with Richard "Dick" Kipp, Yale Class of 1955, by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018).

Each side of the basement is further subdivided into two rooms each, the outer rooms being the locker rooms and the inner rooms being the rest rooms (Figure 18). The latter had open showers and a single toilet in each. The plumbing and toilets are still in place. The toilets are underneath the angled underside of the upper staircase, with the sides of the staircase and the sides of the interior wooden dividing walls clad with beaded-board siding. The other interior walls are tile blocks, mostly painted green as are the wooden siding elements. The floor of both sides of the basement are paved with poured concrete. The wood-paneled door to the west-side restroom is still faintly painted "BOYS" (Figure 19). Each of the four rooms in the basement retain their original wood-paneled doors and metal hardware. The girls' locker room has a metal radiator suspended from the ceiling. There are also two free-standing metal radiators on the floor in one corner of this room.

The crawlspace underneath the gymnasium floor can be accessed via a small door approximately three feet high and two feet wide from the boys' locker room. There was also a square, window-sized opening in the upper wall of the girls' locker room that provided some access to the crawlspace. That opening is now covered with a piece of plywood.

The round gymnasium building is the only extant building within the nominated boundaries. There is potential for archaeological evidence of a portion of the old high school building in the southwest quadrant of the nominated parcel, and there are two concrete form foundations visible on the ground surface in the southeast portion. These foundations may have been for two small storage buildings. However, potential archaeological significance for this property is not claimed at this time.



Figure 18. Basement rooms in Yale High School Gymnasium, with the boys' rest room to left looking south and the girls' locker room to right looking NW.

Photographs taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 19. Door to east-side rest room labeled “BOYS” looking SSE towards stairs to outside entry door landing. Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017

Alterations

The main alterations to the Yale Gymnasium have included the following: removal of the windows and replacement with Plexiglas panes; infill with concrete blocks and brick of the basement-level windows and one of the basement-level doorways; removal of the catwalk between the second-floor door (now blocked with wooden panels) and the school (non-extant); removal of the porch hood over the main front entryway; removal of the bleachers from the gym interior; and removal of the stage curtains and side panels on the stage.

Statement of Integrity

The Yale Gymnasium retains good integrity of most of the seven aspects of integrity, with integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association being the most important and location and setting being of secondary importance to the significance of this property. Specifically, this round gym building retains good integrity of design having been little changed on the exterior and interior except for the replacement of the windows and the removal of the front entry porch hood and the catwalk connecting to the old school building. The main component of its design--that of a round gym with conical roof remain as they were when first designed by Halver R. Straight. The building also retains good integrity of materials having the original hollow clay tile block walls and metal roof truss system as well as the stage and gymnasium interior areas including the original hardwood floors and the basement locker and rest rooms. The main interior loss was the removal of the wooden bleachers and some of the pieces of the stage area, including the curtains and wooden panels. Integrity of workmanship remains

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

high as reflected in the presence of the original hollow clay tile blocks likely manufactured in Adel, Iowa and in the construction by H.H. Thomas and Son of Adel, who built this building in 1932. Workmanship is also reflected in the metal truss system of the roof. The building also has good integrity of feeling being immediately recognizable as a school gymnasium and auditorium. The retention of the basketball court, stage, and basement-level locker and rest rooms further enhance that sense of time and place. Integrity of association is only fair given the loss of the historic school building that stood to the southwest of the gym and was once connected to that building by an enclosed catwalk. However, the 1950s addition to the older school is still standing albeit no longer used as a school. Integrity of setting is fair to good having been impacted by the loss of the associated school building. However, the rest of the surrounding block remains much as it was when the gymnasium was built and in use, with no large modern buildings obscuring the views of the gymnasium from the streets and alley on the north, east, and south sides of the nominated property.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1932-1961

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Straight, Halver R.

H.H. Thomas and Son

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

The Yale High School Gymnasium is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A for its association with team sports in Iowa, specifically boys' and girls' basketball in small-town Iowa in the 1930s-1960s. The building served not only for sporting events, including tournament play in basketball, but also served as an auditorium for school plays, band concerts, proms, and commencements, and as a community gathering place for Halloween parties, potlucks, and other activities.³ The building is significant under Criterion C for its direct association with noted engineer, Halver R. Straight, and his expertise in clay tile block manufacturing and his many patents related to the mechanics of tile block manufacture and construction. The Yale round gym is an excellent example of Straight's foray into architecture and reflects his experience with clay tile construction. That the building is, in many ways, designed like a very large silo also reflects Straight's experience in silo construction. The building is a well-preserved example of round brick/block public buildings in the state of Iowa. Other examples include the Dexter Community House and the New Providence School Gymnasium built in 1916-17 and 1935-36, respectively, and both listed in the NRHP. The round gym in Yale shares many of the characteristics of these two significant examples but is also unique in its design, including having a conical rather than a domed roof. The strength of the building's design and materials have protected this building from ruin, and its well-preserved state makes it a unique window to the past. The period of significance is from 1932 to 1961, a period extending from its construction to its last use as a high school gymnasium/auditorium. The significant date is 1932 when the building was constructed by H.H. Thomas and Son Construction of Adel, Iowa.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

History of the Yale High School Gymnasium

On December 29, 1931, voters in Yale, Iowa, agreed to "build a gymnasium and class room on the site just north of [the] main school building (*Guthrie County Vedette*, December 3, 1931). The special election tally was 134 in support of the proposal and 23 against, "with one spoiled ballot" (*Guthrie County Vedette*, December 3, 1931). This article also stated that "the new building will be of frame construction," with the contract for construction to be let December 11th and the construction to commence as soon as possible and "rushed to completion" (*Guthrie County Vedette*, December 3, 1931). The argument for the construction of the gymnasium was that the school needed this improvement to become an accredited school. The cost was not to exceed \$3,000 to be obtained from surplus funds then on hand (*Guthrie County Vedette*, December 31, 1931). According to oral history, Christena Noland of Yale donated at least a portion, if not all, of the money to build the gymnasium on the condition that it be called, and used as, a community building (Information provided by Nobs Latimer, Yale, Iowa, 2005). It is not known why the plans were changed from a frame building to the round tile block building that was actually constructed; however, it is known that it was not until January 1932 that an actual construction contract was awarded and work began on the new building. Therefore, in the month between the election and the awarding of the construction contract, the design plans had changed from a frame building (probably a typical rectangular design) to the distinctive round tile block design that was built.

The final plans and specifications for the Yale gymnasium were drawn up by Halver R. Straight, mechanical engineer and clay products manufacturer in Adel, Iowa. The Yale School Board donated the cost of excavating

³ Interview with Jim Stump, Yale High School teacher from 1954-1957, by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018; Judi Smith, Yale Class of 1958, e-mail to Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

the basement, which was accomplished by farmers using slip scrapers. By January 7, 1932, the *Guthrie Center Times* reported that a construction contract had been awarded to H.H. Thomas and Son and work had begun. "Harry Thomas" was assisted in the construction by Lyle Carson and senior boys from the Yale Class of 1932 (Information provided by Nobs Latimer, Yale, Iowa, 2005 and oral history from Nyal Deardorff, Yale Class of 1932, related by his daughter, Judi Smith, Yale Class of 1958, e-mail interview March 2018). This volunteer assistance would have helped to keep construction costs down as well as provide an educational experience in construction for the boys.

The contract stipulated that the building would be completed within 60 days (i.e., March 4, 1932) (*Guthrie Center Times*, January 7, 1932).⁴ The newspaper claimed that this was to be the only gymnasium of this form in the State of Iowa. While the Dexter Roundhouse had been built much earlier in 1916-17, it was not built as a gymnasium but rather as a Community House for community entertainments and social gatherings. The round gymnasium in New Providence, Iowa, was not built until 1935-36. It is interesting to note that during construction some Yale residents reportedly thought a new water system was being erected, reflecting how unusual a round gymnasium would have been at the time. However, as its purpose became widely known, the community began to take great pride in the uniqueness of its design and felt that it set Yale apart from other towns that had traditional gymnasiums (Interview with Richard "Dick" Kipp, Yale Class of 1955, by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018).

It appears that the construction project was completed on or close to the specified schedule, with the finished gymnasium dedicated on March 24, 1932. The dedication events included a doubleheader between the Yale and Panora boys' and girls' basketball teams (*Guthrie Center News*, March 24, 1932). Figures 20-24 are historical photographs that show the round gymnasium in relation to the historic high school buildings.

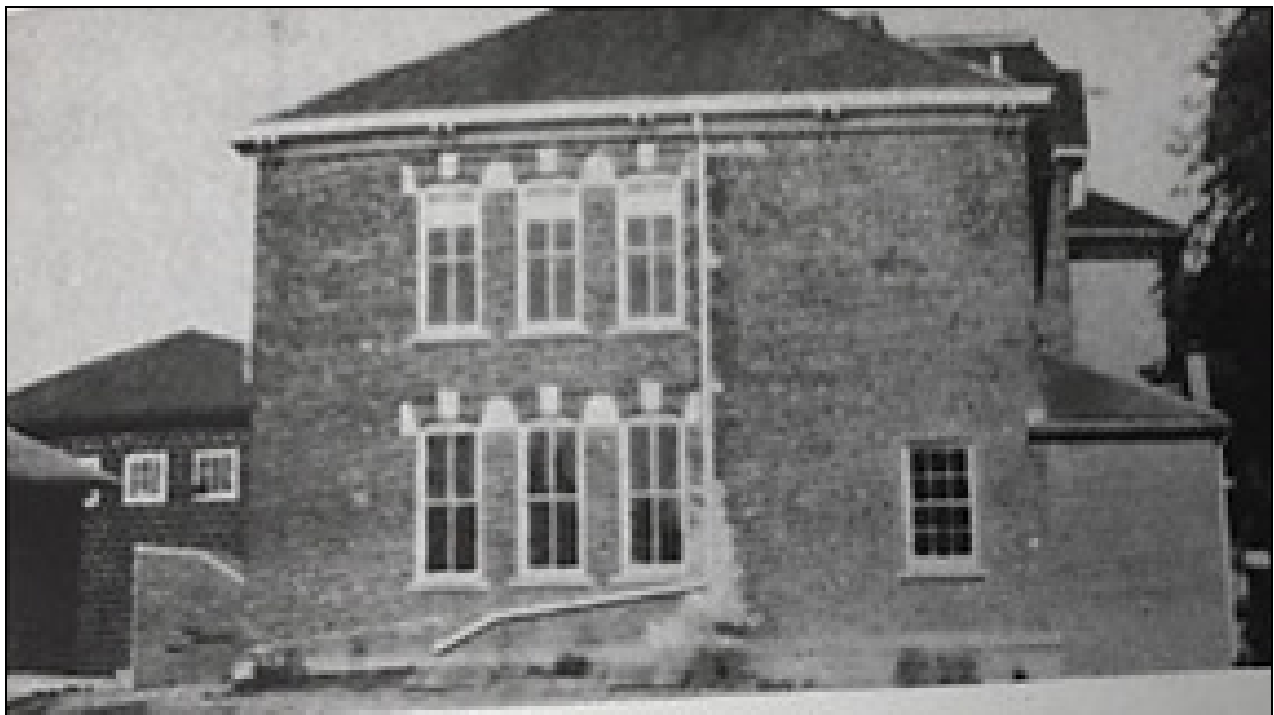


Figure 20. Post-1932 photograph showing the west side of the Yale High School with the round gymnasium visible in the background to the left. Source: Fox 1982.

⁴ The schedule seems unusual given the difficulties of excavation and masonry construction in a typical Iowa winter; however, the winter of 1932 may have been conducive to this schedule.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

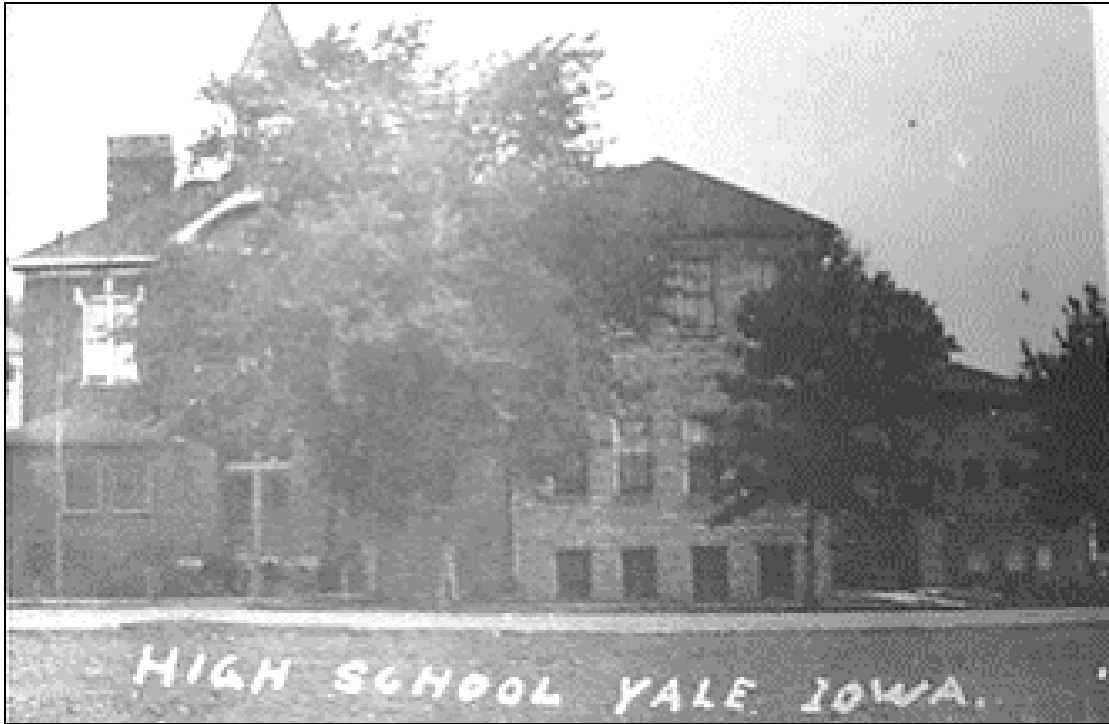


Figure 21. Post-1932 photographs of the Yale High School with a portion of the round gymnasium visible in the background to the right in these views looking north (top) and north-northeast (bottom).
Sources: Fox 1982 (top) and digital scan provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, 2018 (bottom).

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 22. Left: Band members standing in front of the Yale round gymnasium building in the 1930s or 1940s; Right: Clark Pohl and future wife Helen in front of the bell memorial that once stood near the gymnasium.
Source: Fox 1982 (left) and digital scan of 1950s photo provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, 2018 (right).



Figure 23. Post-1932 aerial view of the round gymnasium behind the Yale High School looking north.
Note the two small buildings to the southeast of the gymnasium that may conform to the location of the concrete foundations noted previously. Source: post-1932 Yale High School Yearbook

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State



Figure 24. April 1955 photograph of the Yale High School, with the round gym in the background, and a one-story, hip-roofed building now to the right. The hip-roofed building was not there in earlier photographs of the property (see Figure 23) and may have been a building added or moved to that spot to use for additional school rooms. It has the appearance of a 1920s-20s rural schoolhouse and may have been moved here as enrollment began to increase after World War II. This photograph was taken just before the new school addition was built on the left (west) side of the old high school building. Digital scan provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018.

The gymnasium went on to house regular school activities including basketball practices, games, and tournaments; school plays and band concerts; and the annual commencements. The team's name was the Bulldogs, which was also the nickname of Yale University's sports teams. The use of this gymnasium continued until 1961 when the Yale High School merged with the schools in Jamaica and Bagley to form the Yale-Jamaica-Bagley High School, nickname the Raiders. The last basketball season for the Bulldogs was played at the Yale Gymnasium was the 1960-61 season. The first season for the consolidated high school was 1961-62, continuing until 1988-89 when they merged with Panora-Linden to form the Panorama School (nickname the Panthers) (Iowa High School Sports 2017).

The gymnasium continued to be used up until the Panorama School merger in 1989; however, it was used for elementary school physical education classes rather than high school activities. Therefore, since its use as a high school gymnasium ended in 1961, that is the end date used herein for the building's period of significance.

After 1989, the Yale Gymnasium building saw only sporadic use. In the 1990s, the City of Yale would open it up on weekends for kids to play basketball. The last community use of the building was in 2009 when a school reunion was held in the gymnasium. In 2000, the community applied for, and received, a grant from the Revitalization Assistance for Community Improvement program. This grant was used to repair/replace the roof and the windows. This certainly helped maintain the building; however, the building is again in need of repairs and upgrades, such as a working heating system and restroom facilities, to make it useable for community events.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Architecture of the Yale High School Gymnasium

The Yale High School Gymnasium was built in an agricultural vernacular along the lines of an enlarged silo design (Figure 25). The clay tile blocks used in its construction were likely manufactured by the Adel Clay Products Co. because of the association of that company with the engineer, Halver R. Straight, who designed this building. One of the marked blocks reads “DBEARING IRONTILE,” with “irontile” a common product name by the Adel Clay Products Co. for this type of red-colored clay tile block. However, research was unable to identify a reference for “DBEARING.” The curving type of tile block used in the gymnasium’s construction is the same type of block used in silo construction, again a major product of the Adel Clay Products Company. Smooth, slightly-curving block of this type was used in silos because it eliminated angled corners to catch and hold silage. The glazing of the tiles also helped keep the silage from sticking on the interior but more importantly made the silo less pervious to moisture absorption (Kibbel 2004).



Figure 25. Current view of the Yale High School Gymnasium looking north from Oak Street.
Photograph taken by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, October 9, 2017.

While not the only round gym ever built in Iowa, the Yale gym was the first fully round gymnasium built in the state. The other two candidates are the Dexter Community House built in 1916-17, but not as a gymnasium, and the New Providence School Gymnasium built in 1935-36. The Yale High School Gymnasium differs from these examples in its exposed tile blocks walls and conical roof. All three examples are built of hollow clay tile blocks, but the New Providence gymnasium was faced with bricks on the exterior. The Dexter and New Providence examples also have domed rather than conical roofs.

The Dexter Community House built in 1916-17 in the town of Dexter in Dallas County, Iowa, is actually not round but instead has an elliptical ground plan with a dome-shaped roof. The walls are built of hollow clay tile blocks. The interior features a seating capacity of 1,000 and a stage furnished with landscape scenery. Underneath the stage are three dressing rooms, two coal bins, and a library room. It was designed by Major Matt King, an aviation inspector and engineer. The building later was used by the Dexter-Redfield Community School as a gymnasium (Dexter Centennial Committee 1967:49; Weesner 1973).

The New Providence School Gymnasium was built in 1935-36 in the town of New Providence in Hardin County, Iowa. It was designed by Keffer-Jones Architects and built by the Lovejoy Construction Company. This building has a round ground plan and a dome-shaped roof. It is also built of hollow clay tile blocks furnished by Adel Clay Products Co. However, the exterior is faced with bricks rather than the exposed tile

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

block walls of the Yale Gymnasium. The diameter of the New Providence Gymnasium is 85 feet. It also differs from the Yale example in that it has a rectangular, projecting entrance pavilion. The main floor held the basketball court, a stage, and bleachers. The basketball court measures 72 by 38 feet. The dome roof is supported by steel beams. The wooden bleachers originally seated 300 and included a balcony area above the bleachers. There is a storage area underneath the bleachers. Originally, the basement was unfinished but in 1937, it was finished with boys' and girls' locker rooms, a music room, and a lunch room. The New Providence Gymnasium was built as a PWA school project, part of the federal make-work programs of the Great Depression era. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form incorrectly stated that "it is believed to be the first round building built specifically as a gymnasium in Iowa" (Clampitt 1995:3). That distinction falls to the round gymnasium in Yale built three years prior.

The Yale High School Gymnasium is also notable for its utilization of an innovative and unusual construction design at a time when most high school gymnasiums were built as standard rectangular buildings and most as additions to existing school buildings rather than as stand-alone buildings. The fact that a town as small as Yale, Iowa, selected a round building design may have been guided by the economics of the day but must also have appealed to the residents to obtain a new building that was both functional and unique. The selection of a round building design was a bold one for the Yale community because it dramatically departed from the traditional rectangular gymnasium design and because it would be a challenge for basketball play, which is, after all, played on a rectangular court. In fact, because the basketball court in the round gym was short, with the corners cut off due to the round design, rules of play had to be made specifically for this gym. If the ball hit a wall, it was considered out of bounds. The players also had to be aware of the limitations of space, which would have been a particular challenge for the visiting teams. Figure 16 shows the cut-off corners and just how close actual play was to the walls. It is interesting to note that among the community events held in the Yale Gymnasium was an exhibition by the Harlem Globetrotters (Oral history from Nyal Deardorff, Class of 1932, related by his daughter Judi Smith to Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018). The court must have been a particular challenge for the Globetrotters' style of play and entertainment but would certainly have enhanced the audience participation portion of their typical exhibitions.

However, the unique design was likely originally selected because it put the small town of Yale on the map in regional sports and was a source of pride for the community because it made Yale stand out (Interviews with Richard "Dick" Kipp, Yale Class of 1955. and Nancy Leo by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018.) It is assumed that Halver Straight pitched this design to the city in part to market Adel's clay tile block products but perhaps also to provide him with the opportunity to stretch his engineering design chops as part of his Straight Engineering Co. That few round gymnasiums were built after the 1930s in Iowa may speak to the impracticalities of its design for actual basketball games since the courts literally abutted the block walls and the stage on three sides and the bleachers on the fourth, limiting space for game play and for spectators.

Halver Rufus Straight

Halver R. Straight (1884-1956) was born in Illinois, the son of Ida Mary (Tanner) and Lee Smith Straight (Figure 26). His father became the proprietor of the Straight Brothers Company, brick and tile manufactory in Adel, Dallas County, Iowa. Halver Straight earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering specializing in ceramics from the University of Illinois in 1907 and attended Grinnell College in Iowa. He then worked for much of his career in the ceramics industry beginning with his father's Straight Brothers clay products manufacturing company in Adel, Iowa (Wilson 2017). In 1907, Halver R. Straight purchased the Adel Clay Products Co. and became President and General Manager. In 1926, the company was purchased by the United Brick and Tile Company (Souvenir Book Committee 1972). By that time, it appears that Straight had established the Straight Engineering Company in Adel. Halver Straight died in Adel on September 28, 1956

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

and is buried in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines. He was married to Lura Ethel Hoge in 1909 in Chicago, Illinois, and they had three children.

Figure 26. Halver Rufus Straight.
Photograph obtained from Wilson 2017

Straight was active as an inventor and held 87 patents for different tools and instruments used in clay manufacture as well as other devices, such as a mechanical unloader for the dumping of carloads of grain. He also founded the Iowa Soya Bean Plant in Redfield, Iowa, and the above-noted Straight Engineering Company. He served as vice president of the Iowa State Clay Manufacturers Association in 1910-1911 and treasurer of the same organization in 1911-1912. He was also secretary of the Iowa State Silo Association in 1913 and president of the Iowa State Manufacturers Association. He was listed in Who's Who in Engineering. He had a lifelong interest in mineralogy and mineral collecting and served for one term as President of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The Halver Straight Collection containing 1,500 minerals and 600 fossils and artifacts is on permanent loan to Drake University in Des Moines (Mariscal 2009; Wilson 2017).



It would have been during his tenure with the Straight Engineering Company that he designed the Yale High School Gymnasium. It is uncertain whether he retained any association with the Adel Clay Products Co. after he sold it in 1926, but it is suspected that the tile blocks used in the Yale gymnasium construction were made in Adel, Iowa.

The Team Sport of Basketball in Iowa

A statewide "Team Sports in Iowa" study undertaken in 2003 included historic context development regarding the team sport of basketball. The following is taken largely from that study (Rogers and Kernek 2003). High School basketball was, in many ways, a much bigger sport in Iowa than football in the early 20th century. This included both boys' and girls' basketball. Although it seems to have been a popular activity wherever it was introduced, basketball was embraced enthusiastically in the farming communities of the Midwest, in such places as Indiana and Iowa (Gildea 1977:4; Petersen 1954a:101). One reason for the phenomenon was that the long winter months between fall harvesting and spring planting left people eager for a social and recreational activity to participate in, especially in places far from the diversions offered by cities. In addition, basketball seemed especially well suited to smaller towns because the equipment needed was minimal, and only five players were needed for a team. The comparatively small size of the Yale High School Gymnasium was suited for this type of game, although its round plan was a challenge for play.

Basketball spread rapidly across Iowa from the YMCAs and colleges of the larger towns to smaller towns all over the state. Oftentimes an older sibling home from college would teach the new game to their neighborhoods back home, where teams were formed that played their games outside where there was no local gym available. Even school teams sometimes had no gym of their own, such as in Sidney, where the first team practiced outside. Towns without YMCAs or school gyms commonly used church basements, opera houses, and armories as their basketball venues (Beran 1993:18; Petersen 1954b:111). Between 1898 and 1902, Fort Dodge, West Waterloo, Ottumwa, Boone, Sioux City and Cedar Rapids all had formed teams (Petersen 1954b:102). However, most schools at the time did not have adequate indoor athletic facilities, so

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

the teams continued to practice and play their games at the YMCA.

At the dedication of the new round gymnasium in Yale, Iowa, in 1932, two basketball games were held between the boys' and girls' teams of Yale and Panora, with Panora losing both games. "The first game was the first for the Panora girls" but it appears that Yale had by that time established girls' and boys' teams that had been competitively playing prior to this game (*Guthrie County Vedette*, March 31, 1932). Helen and Clark Pohl (graduates of Yale High School in the early 1950s) note that in their memories prior to the round gym there was a basketball hoop outside. However, there must have been another location in a local building or the existing high school where team play could be held and practiced because the basketball season was not held during the warm months in Iowa. Often, small Iowa high schools played basketball in the local opera house or social/fraternal halls prior to the construction of dedicated school gymnasiums, and perhaps this was the case in Yale.

Both boys and girls took up the new sport with enthusiasm. Girls were playing the game as early as 1893 at the YMCA in Dubuque (Beran 1993:5). At first, they played with the boys, but by 1898 the high school girls had formed their own team. That year the Dubuque High *Echo* reported the first known game in Iowa between two all-girl teams, played at the Dubuque YMCA (Beran 1993:7). The girls at Marshalltown High also started a team in 1898, and by 1900 high school girls' basketball had taken root in Algona, Boone, Centerville, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Le Mars, and Ottumwa, as well as many other places across the state. In some places, such as at Spirit Lake High school, the girls picked up the game first and then taught it to the boys (Petersen 1954b:111). Unlike at the college level, there were no restrictions on their competitive play, and early basketball schedules for both boys and girls featured games against other high schools, YMCA teams, class teams, including an alumni team, and sometimes nearby colleges. In some places the boys' and girls' teams traveled together by train to schools where both teams were competing (Beran 1993:24).

By the second decade of the 20th century, basketball was popular enough for schools to begin to feel the need for gyms of their own. Those built after 1910 often featured gymnasiums with room for the game and for spectators. By 1914, Boone, Sioux City, New Hampton, Spirit Lake and Diagonal were among the earliest high schools with gyms of their own, built primarily for basketball (Petersen 1954b:102).

Around the same time, early "powerhouse" teams began to dominate the competition. Claims to the title of "state champion" began popping up, based on team records or various invitational tournaments. For example, in 1904, the Muscatine girls made such an unverifiable claim, as did the boys in Ottumwa (Beran 1993:15; Petersen 1954b:109). By 1912, basketball had spread all over the state, with approximately half the high schools in the state having basketball teams (Petersen 1954b:103). They were eager for a statewide competition to settle the contest over the state title, and that year the University of Iowa sponsored the first boys' high school basketball tournament.

The tournament, as was usual in those days, was an invitational, and the teams the Iowa High School Athletic Board selected as the best were Ottumwa, Sioux City, Grundy Center, and Wilton Junction. Ottumwa beat out Sioux City 38-31 in a hard-fought final to become Iowa's first "official" state champions. Two years later, the tournament changed to a sectional system of preliminary tournaments, held at Ames, Des Moines, Grinnell, and Cedar Falls (Petersen 1954c:117-119,121).

The Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) was formed in 1904 by school principals and superintendents to impose order and a standardized set of rules on high school athletics (Burrell 1954a:138). The committee usually played some role in the organization of the state meets, but beginning in 1923, the tournament came under complete control of the IHSAA (Burrell 1954a:125). Throughout the twenties and thirties both the tournament and the IHSAA would grow together, the former becoming one of the biggest high

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

school tournaments in the country (Burrell 1954a).

Not surprisingly, teams from the larger towns tended to dominate the state championships. From the western part of the state, Sioux City was an early powerhouse team (Petersen 1954b:110). That team, as well as those from Boone, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Ottumwa and Fort Dodge made regular appearances in the tournament finals, and on the All-State teams selected each year. However, the team that ruled the tournament from the twenties through the fifties was without question Davenport High School (Burrell 1954b:129). According to veteran sports broadcaster, the late Bob Brooks, the three most famous small schools for accomplishing this feat are Roland, Diagonal, and Melrose (Bob Brooks Interview 2002; Rogers and Kernek 2003).

In Iowa's small towns, however, there was great support for competitive girls' basketball. Janice Beran suggests several reasons for this perspective in rural Iowa at a time when "women leaders all over the United States" were joining forces to speak out "against intense competition for females, possible exploitation by male coaches, time away from school classes due to sports schedules, and most of all, using the scarce facilities and teaching time to coach a few girls rather than assist all students to develop sports skills" (Beran 1993:30). Beran postulates that women from a farming culture were accustomed to physical exertion without ill effects, and that others were used to seeing them in such roles and did not consider them so physically fragile. Many were from ethnic backgrounds whose home countries emphasized gymnastics and physical activity for women, such as the Germans, Czechs, Danes, and Swedes. She points out that Audubon, one of the powerhouse teams of the 1920s, was associated with the Danish component of the community. Girls' basketball also provided an outlet for community pride and provided a welcome entertainment for the wintertime. According to Beran, the "real reason" for the restriction of competitive play among larger schools, was simply limited gym space. At the bigger schools, where strong boys' programs were being established, girls' sports were viewed as taking practice time away from the boys. However, at smaller schools, where there was often only one coach for all sports, it was easier to arrange for equal practice for both teams (Beran 1993:xiv-xv, 30).

In 1925, this big school–small school difference of opinion came to a head at the annual meeting of the IHSAA. That same year, the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Foundation (WDNAAF), which First Lady Lou Henry Hoover helped found two years earlier, had passed a resolution against extramural competition, as well as against any gate receipts from, or promotion of, women's games, which was considered unseemly. The resolution was supported by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, which urged high schools across the nation to stop organizing tournaments for girls and to end their interscholastic games (Beran 1993:30; Lannin 2000:41). Many schools, especially in the east, complied with these changes. Iowa tried to as well but faced determined resistance from a group of principals and superintendents from mostly rural schools.

Although the 259-member majority at the 1925 IHSAA meeting voted against sponsoring any more girls' state tournaments—as the IHSAA had been doing, for both boys and girls, since 1923—a minority was outraged at the prospect. John W. Agans of Mystic rallied the opposition when he declared, "Gentlemen, if you attempt to do away with girls' basketball in Iowa, you'll be standing in the center of the track when the train runs over!" Agans was joined by other principals and superintendents, approximately 25 altogether (Beran 1993:30; Chisolm 1968a:125-126). After the decisive vote, it was decided to establish a separate program (the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, or IGHSAU) dedicated to the support of organized basketball competition for girls, including continuation of the state tournament.

Audubon had reason to be proud of their girls' team. Coached by school superintendent M.M. McIntire, the girls had won the state championship for four consecutive years between 1921 and 1924. It is McIntire who is referred to as "the real father of the Union" for his leadership role in the founding of the organization (Beran 1993:31). Thanks to McIntire and the other founders of the IGHSAU, Iowa continued to have interscholastic competition for girls at a time when other states all over the country were deciding to do away with it. Iowa is

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

the only state to have had an annual state basketball tournament for girls since 1920 and is the only state in the country with a secondary school sports association devoted solely to girls' athletics (Beran 1993:xiii).

The first state tournament sponsored by the new Union was held in 1926 at Hampton High School. Of the 159 schools fielding girls' teams that year, sixteen district tournament winners competed for the state title. Hampton was victorious in the round-robin final, defeating each of the other three teams of Audubon, Mystic and Ida Grove (Beran 1993:31, 36; Chisolm 1968b:133). Over the next several years the state tournament was held in various sections of the state and was hosted and attended by many of the same small towns that had participated in the invitational tournaments of the early 1920s. The tournament rotated around the state between 1927 and 1930 among the towns of Centerville, Ida Grove, Perry, and Hampton. At each location the size of the venue and limited number of spectators made for a rather modest climax for the end of the season. In this respect the first IGHSAU tournaments did not differ much from those which directly preceded them (Beran 1993:31; Chisolm 1968b:133; Petersen 1968:124).

In comparison, the 1931 state tournament was "a gala affair" (Chisolm 1968b:134). That year, Bert McGrane, the nationally known sports writer for both the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*, was brought on board as manager of the event and would remain influential in the staging of the tournament into the 1950s. He and the board of the Union decided the tournament should be held in a large seating-capacity venue and booked the current Drake Fieldhouse for the event (Chisolm 1968b:134). This was the first time the union-sponsored tournament had been held in a forum of that size, as well as the first time many of the girls had played on a men's regulation-size court. The teams played across the court during practice "to conserve energy," but were required to play the whole length of the court during competition. After it was decided to be too tiring for the girls, the following year the dimensions of play were cut back down to girls' size (Beran 1993:32).

The Great Depression no doubt affected attendance at many sporting and other recreational events in the 1930s. Also, basketball, despite its popularity in various communities, was simply not yet a huge spectator sport anywhere in 1931. Over the following decade, however, many changes to the game took place to change that situation and usher in the "spectacle" era of tournament time in Des Moines.

The early, three court-division basketball game that girls played was slow-moving and low-scoring compared to later versions of the game. Particularly before the 1920s, a former IGHSAU official remembered, a basket "was cause for a civic celebration" (Enright 1976:11). This was not because of an emphasis on waging a strong defense, but because play then was "a slow, almost stately game with careful passing and deliberate shot selection from an almost statuesque pose" (Beran 1993:27). Movement of the players was limited by the court division. At that time, a center jump ball to determine possession followed every basket, further slowing the pace of the game. Beran concludes, "Although the players thought playing basketball was vigorous and exciting, it was not a crowd pleaser" (Beran 1993:27).

Throughout the 1920s, however, play became more fluid as girls became more skilled at shooting and handling the ball. Then, in 1934, an important change in the rules was adopted which transformed the pace of play. That year at a coaching clinic held by Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) coach R.C. Bechtel in Des Moines, Bechtel persuaded the superintendents present to officially adopt the AAU's game of two-court division basketball. In 1938, the two-court game was adopted nationally following Iowa's example. More than two hundred officials voted to adopt the change by a wide margin, and from then until 1994, the six-player, two court game was the official girls' game in Iowa. With the elimination of the center jump after every basket, play became faster. Players had greater room to maneuver and could shoot on the run. The result was a more exciting game for both the girls and the fans (Beran 1993:57; Enright 1976:13; Lannin 2000:56).

According to former IGHSAU executive secretary Rod Chisolm, attendance at the state tournament continued to be "disappointing" until 1934 (Beran 1993:52-53; Lannin 2000:56). Throughout the thirties and forties basketball's popularity grew among players and fans. The number of schools with programs continued to increase, from the 125 teams that existed at the time of the IGHSAU's founding, to 700 programs by 1950, out

Yale High School Gymnasium

Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa

County and State

of a total of 834 schools in the state. Girls' basketball continued to be a small-town phenomenon (Beran 1993:31; Chisolm 1968:128).

Early basketball dynasties such as Hampton in the 1920s, and Wellsburg in the 1920s and 30s were a great source of community pride. One of the "best clubs" of the state was Seymour (Beran 1993:54,60-61). Seymour holds the record for most trips to the state tournament of any team through 1960, sixteen in all (Wellsburg, with ten, is the runner up). Other teams that seemed perennial contenders at the state tourney were Centerville, Waterville, Mallard and tiny Wiota (population 275) (Beran 1993:51).

By the early 1950s it was clear the state tournament had outgrown the venue where fans had once been lost in the stands, and where the reporter from the Des Moines *Tribune* remembered suffering from loneliness in the east balcony where he sat to cover the event (Chisolm 1968b:140). In 1951 demand for tickets to the tourney exceeded the available supply (Beran 1993:83). Fortunately, Des Moines was building a huge new auditorium and convention center, and in 1955 the girls' tournament, along with the boys', moved into the still-unfinished Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

This move marked the beginning of a new era for the tournament and girls' basketball. The over-capacity crowd of 15,333 fans in attendance at the 1955 tournament is the largest number "ever to witness a high school girls' basketball game anywhere, anytime" (Enright 1976:26). The number of spectators far exceeded the combined populations of the towns participating that year (Beran 1993:79).

Just as girls' basketball was reaching new heights of popularity in the 1950s and 1960s, a change was underway that would significantly alter the small-town associations with the IGHSAU and state tournament. That process was school consolidation, a trend often fought by communities because of pride in their high school basketball teams (Beran 1993:97-98). In 1940, 70 percent of teams at the tournament came from schools with less than 100 students (Lannin 2000:55). But by 1977 many of those small-town teams had become absorbed into larger, consolidated schools (Beran 1993:100). As objections over girls playing sports died away, and with the passage of Title IX in 1972, more schools in larger towns that had previously banned them now fielded competitive basketball teams and joined the IGHSAU. The first large school to send a team to the tournament, Cedar Rapids Kennedy, in 1972, had an enrollment that exceeded the total enrollments of all sixteen schools that competed in the tournament in 1957 (Beran 1993:100).

Title IX brought about another major change in girls' basketball; the end of the two-court, six-player game. Some believed that Iowa schools, by keeping the six-player game, were depriving girls of being competitive for scholarships at colleges and universities (Carlson 2002). In 1972, five-player, full court basketball had become the official women's game nationwide, and Iowa was one of a handful of states still playing by the old rules. In 1984 a lawsuit was brought against the IGHSAU by three girls from larger schools that were not a part of the tradition of girls' basketball (Beran 1993:101). Title IX provided the legal basis for the suit on the grounds that having a separate version of basketball for girls was not equal treatment. The IGHSAU managed to avoid the lawsuit by allowing that each school to decide which version of the game to play. While most larger schools quickly decided on five-on-five, most of the schools did not switch. However, more schools were adopting five-player ball every year, and E. Wayne Cooley, seeing the eventual outcome, made a decision that shocked many, including the board of the IGHSAU. "For all that six-player basketball has done for us, we cannot let it die a second sister" he told the board in 1993 (Linder 2003). That year the Union announced the official end of six-on-six basketball in Iowa following the 1994 tournament (Beran 1993:90,100-103).

While not among the powerhouse schools in either boys' or girls' basketball, Yale High School teams had a measure of success. This included: the 1951 boys' team, which won the Guthrie County tournament for the first time in the school's history and competed in the district tournament with a chance to play in the state tournament (going into the district tournament, the Yale team was unbeaten but were defeated during this tournament) (*Guthrian*, March 6, 1951); the 1952 boys' team that was the Guthrie County and Sectional champions in 1952, won the Class B district title and advanced into the sub-state competition (*Guthrie County*

Yale High School Gymnasium

Guthrie County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Vedette, February 28, 1952; *Guthrian*, March 11, 1952); and the 1953 boys' team that advanced to the second round of the sub-state qualifiers (Program for the State Tournament Series 1953 Boys District Tournament in Adel, Iowa, March 3, 1953). It was also noted that the boys' team won the Tri-County Conference crown three years in a row in the 1950s (1953 newspaper clipping provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018). Notable players on the boys' teams mentioned by Yale graduates include: Dean Minor, Virgil Renfrow, and Bob Tasler (Interviews with Helen and Clark Pohl and Judi Smith, March 2018). An article in *The Guthrian* from March 11, 1952, noted players: John Caple, Delvert Dresback, Jay Hemphill, Don Mleynek, Dean Minor, and Jerry Griffith, with Minor and Dresback leading the team in scoring during Yale's district win.

The Yale girls' basketball team were good enough in 1944 to be dubbed the "Thirteen Fighting Females" (*Jefferson Bee*, December 5, 1944) and were Guthrie County Champions in 1945 (1952 Program for the annual Guthrie County Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament). In the 1950s, the Yale girls "placed second in sectional in 1950, tied for second in Tri-County conference in 1952, finished second to Guthrie Center in the county tournament in 1952 and 1953, finished third in the section in 1952 and second in 1953, and won first place in the Tri-County conference with 12 wins and 1 loss" (1953 newspaper clipping provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018). The 1954 girls' team advanced to the sectional tournament (Program for the Girls' Sectional Tournament February 1-6, 1954, at Jamaica, Iowa. In 1956, Caroyl Smith of the Yale girls' team was presented with the Look Commendation Award for "outstanding achievement in Iowa Girls' Basketball and for being named one of Iowa's top players by sports writers of the Des Moines Register and Tribune" (Copy of certificate provided by Brandon Godwin, City of Yale, March 2018). Class members from the 1950s recall other notable players including: Pat Alborn, Jody Bean, Phyllis Bean, Carol Dean Caslow, Pat Hester, Helen Middleton, and Celia Smith (Interviews with Helen and Clark Pohl and Judi Smith, March 2018).

The teams were certainly well-supported by the townspeople, with the school's basketball games and tournaments being major recreational and social events in town. In fact, like in other small Iowa towns, it has been noted that the Yale girls' games were more popular to watch when they were playing six-on-six basketball than the boys' teams (Interview with Richard "Dick" Kipp, March 2018). The popularity of both boys' and girls' basketball was such that the Yale Gym would be packed to capacity even on snowy nights (Nyal Deardorff, Yale Class of 1932, and daughter Judi Smith, Class of 1958, e-mail interview with Smith, March 2018). As such, Yale High School basketball is a good representation of small-town Iowa boys' and girls' basketball from the 1930s-1960s. That they had such a unique venue in which to play was certainly an additional source of pride in the community. The Yale High School Gymnasium remains a landmark in the Yale community and there is support for its continued preservation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beran, Janice A.

1993 *From Six-on-Six to Full Court Press: A Century of Iowa Girls' Basketball*. Iowa State University Press, Ames.

Bob Brooks Interview

2002 Taped interview with Bob Brooks, November 5 and 12, 2002. Tape (2) on file, Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City.

Buman, Nathan

2015 Yale High School Gymnasium. Iowa Site Inventory, State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, Iowa.

Burrell, Harry G.

1954a The I.H.S.A.A. *The Palimpsest* 35:3(March):138-142.

1954b Tournaments Under the I.H.S.A.A. *The Palimpsest* 35:3(March):125-137.

Carlson, John

2002 Carlson: Another shot urged for six-girl game. *Des Moines Register* March 10.

Yale High School Gymnasium

Guthrie County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Chisolm, Rod

1968a Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. *The Palimpsest* 49:4 (April):125-132.

1968b State Tournament. *The Palimpsest* 49:4 (April):133-144.

Clampitt, Kay

1995 New Providence School Gymnasium. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Electronic file obtained from the National Register of Historic Places at <https://www.nps.gov/nr/>, November 8, 2017.

Dexter Centennial Committee

1967 *History of Dexter, Iowa, 1868-1968*. Dexter Centennial Committee, Dexter, Iowa.

Enright, Jim

1976 *Only in Iowa: Where the High School Girl Athlete is Queen*. Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, Des Moines, Iowa.

Fox, Betty, editor

1982 *Yale's 100 yesteryears, 1882-1982*. Book Committee, Yale, Iowa.

Gildea, William

1997 *Where the Game Matters Most*. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

Iowa High School Sports

2017 Panorama Lineage. Iowa High School Sports, accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/iahsaasports/iowa-high-schools/>, November 21, 2017.

Kibbel, Bill

2004 Historic Buildings: Telephone Tile and Silo Tile. Accessed at http://historicbldgs.com/telephone_tile.htm, September 20, 2018.

Lannin, Joanne

2000 *A History of Basketball for Girls and Women*. Lerner Sports, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Linder, Jeff

2003 Court Awareness. *Cedar Rapids Gazette* March 9.

Mariscal, Susan

2009 Halver R. Straight. Biography posted on Ancestry.com Family Trees at <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/>, accessed November 21, 2017.

McAlester, Virginia Savage

2017 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Peterson, William J.

1954a The First High School Basketball Game. *The Palimpsest* 35:3(March):97-100.

1954b First High School Tournaments. *The Palimpsest* 35:3(March):117-124.

1954c Genesis of High School Basketball. *The Palimpsest* 35:3(March):101-116.

1968 Beginnings of Girls Basketball. *The Palimpsest* 49:4 (April):113-124.

Rogers, Leah D., and Clare L. Kernek

2003 Survey of Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, and Districts Related to the Development of Team Sports in Iowa, 1850-1960, Statewide Survey for Draft MPDF. Submitted to the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. Submitted by Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City, Iowa.

Souvenir Book Committee

1972 Adel Quasiquicentennial, 1847-1972. The Committee, Adel, Iowa.

Weesner, Marjorie

1973 Dexter Community House. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form. Electronic file obtained from the National Register of Historic Places at <https://www.nps.gov/nr/>, November 21, 2017.

Wilson, Wendell E.

2017 Halver Straight. *The Mineralogical Record Biographical Archive*, accessed at www.minrec.org, December 17, 2015 and November 20, 2017.

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Newspaper Articles (referenced and/or examined)

Cedar Rapids Gazette, September 29, 1956
Guthrie, March 6, 1951 and March 11, 1952
Guthrie Center News, March 24, 1932
Guthrie Center Times, December 31, 1931
Guthrie Center Times, January 7, 1932
Guthrie Center Times, April 7, 1932
Guthrie Center Times, April 14, 1932
Guthrie County Vedette, December 3 and 31, 1931, March 31, 1932, and February 28, 1952
Jefferson Bee, December 5, 1944
Yale Advocate, January 7, 1932

Informal Interviews conducted in person and via e-mail by Brandon Godwin, March 2018

Amber Fear, lifelong Yale resident, Panorama Class of 1997
Richard "Dick" Kipp, Yale Class of 1955
Nobs Latimer, Yale, Iowa, historical information provided in 2005
Nancy Leo, husband Roger Leo was in Yale Class of 1969
Donald Mleynek, Yale Class of 1953
Helen and Clark Pohl, graduates of Yale High School in the early 1950s
Jim Schreffler, YJB Boys Basketball Coach, 1967-1972
Jim Stump, Yale HS English Teacher, 1954-1957
Judi Smith, Yale Class of 1958, also relating oral history from her father Nyal Deardorff, Yale Class of 1932

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 38-00448

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

1	<u>41.77451</u> Latitude	<u>-94.35727</u> Longitude	3	<u>41.77415</u> Latitude	<u>-94.35700</u> Longitude
2	<u>41.77451</u> Latitude	<u>-94.35700</u> Longitude	4	<u>41.77414</u> Latitude	<u>-94.35727</u> Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 7 and 8 (excluding west 105 feet), Yale's First Block 03, City of Yale, Guthrie County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes that portion of the original school property encompassing the Yale High School Gymnasium that is currently owned by the City of Yale, Iowa. This includes the round gymnasium building and green space on the south side of the building from that building south to Oak Street and east to the alley.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Consultant and Brandon Godwin/City of Yale date 10/22/2018
organization Tallgrass Archaeology LLC telephone 319-354-6722
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive email lrogerstallgrass@gmail.com
city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

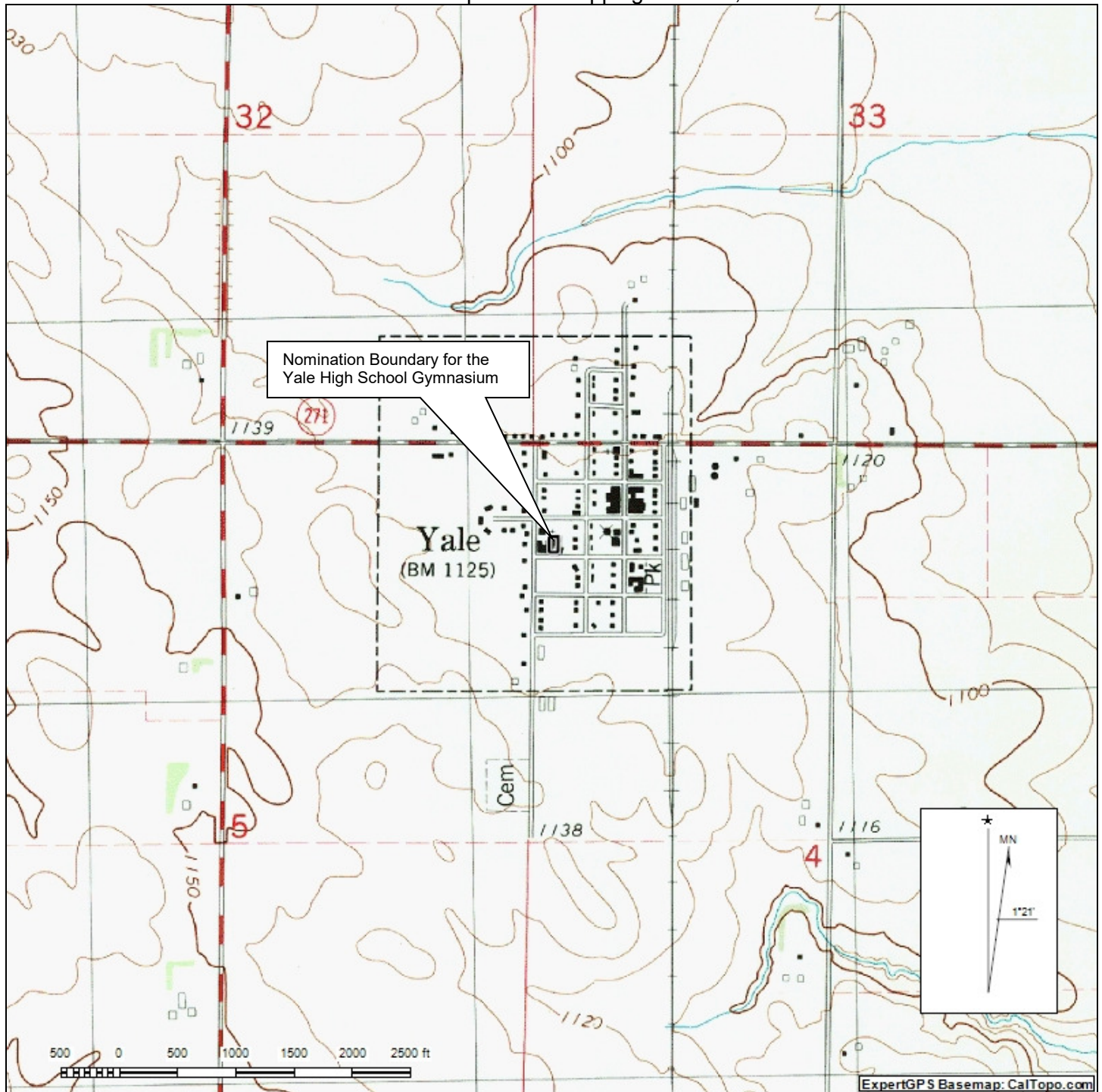
- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures)

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Topographic map showing location of Yale High School Gymnasium in Yale, Guthrie County, Iowa.

Source for Map: USGS Yale, Iowa Quadrangle, 7.5' Series, 1983
obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2017.

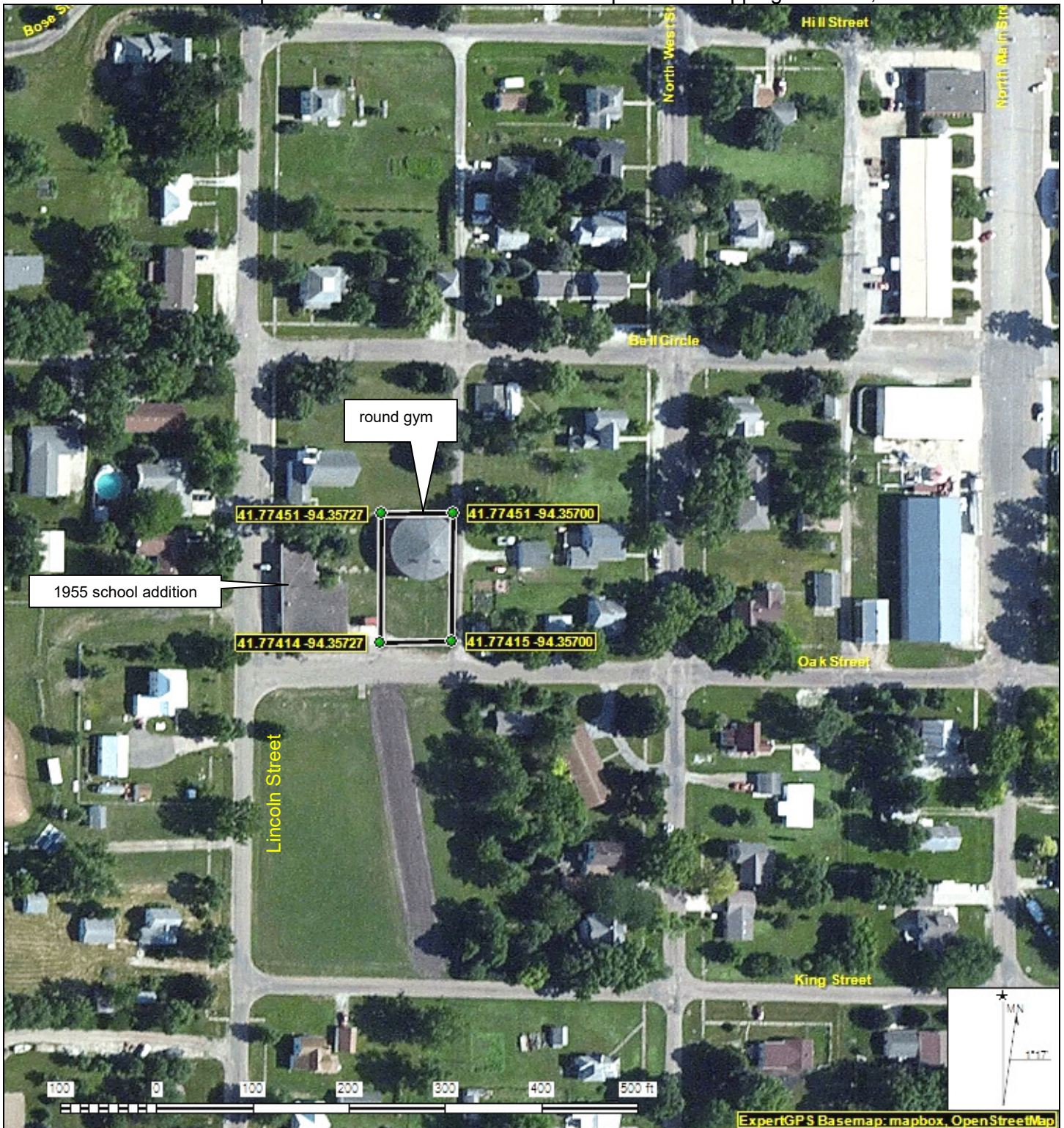


Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Aerial map showing location of Yale High School Gymnasium in Yale, Guthrie County, Iowa.
Map shows the National Register nomination boundary (black outline) and
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (green dots)

Source for Map: circa 2013 aerial obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2018.



Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

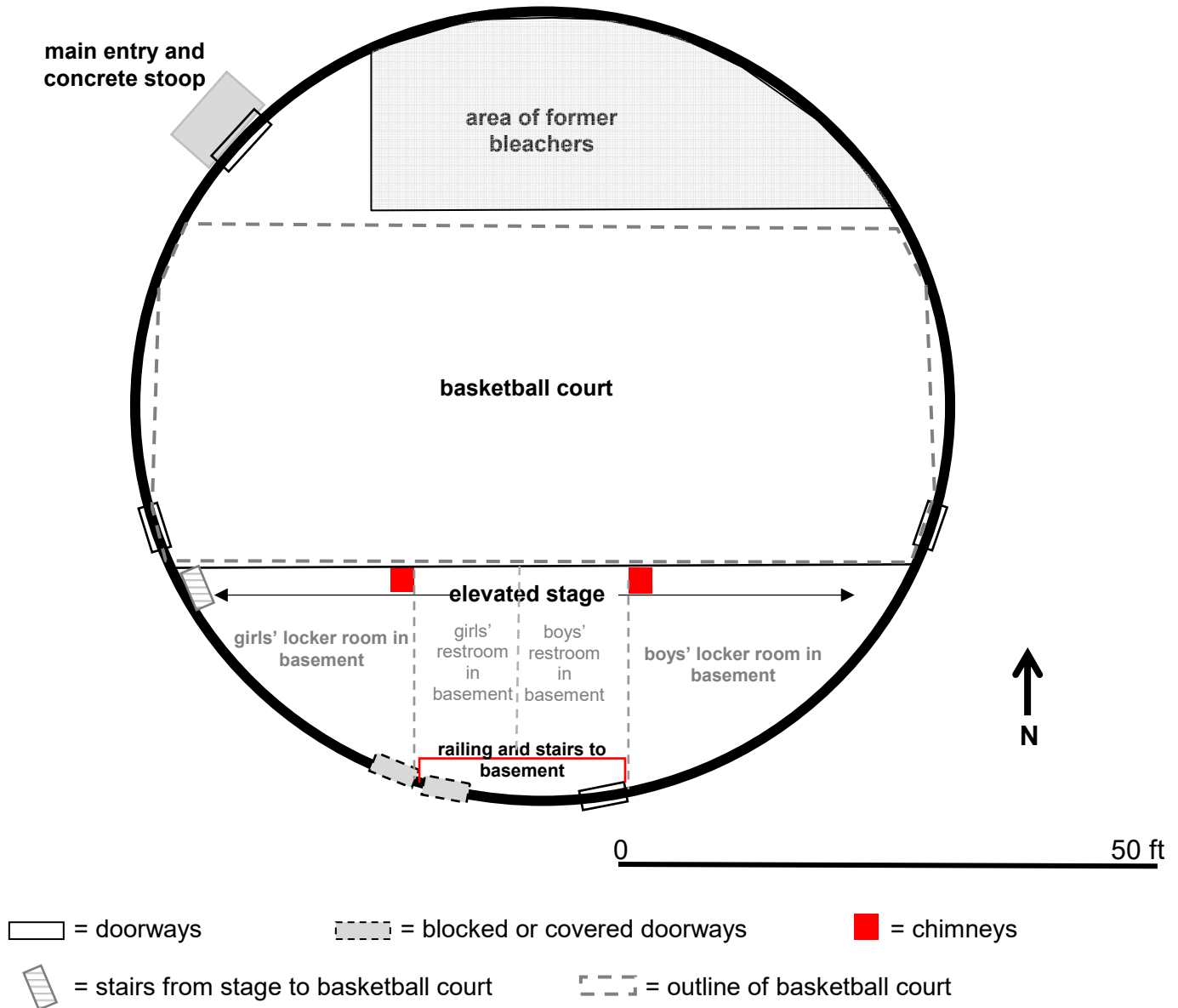
Site Plan Map showing location of Yale High School Gymnasium within the nomination boundary (black dashed outline). Source for base aerial: Guthrie County, IA Beacon, accessed at <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>, November 2017.



Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Floor Plan Sketch Map
Drawn by Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC



Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Yale High School Gymnasium
City or Vicinity: Yale
County: Guthrie **State:** Iowa
Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date Photographed: 10/09/2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

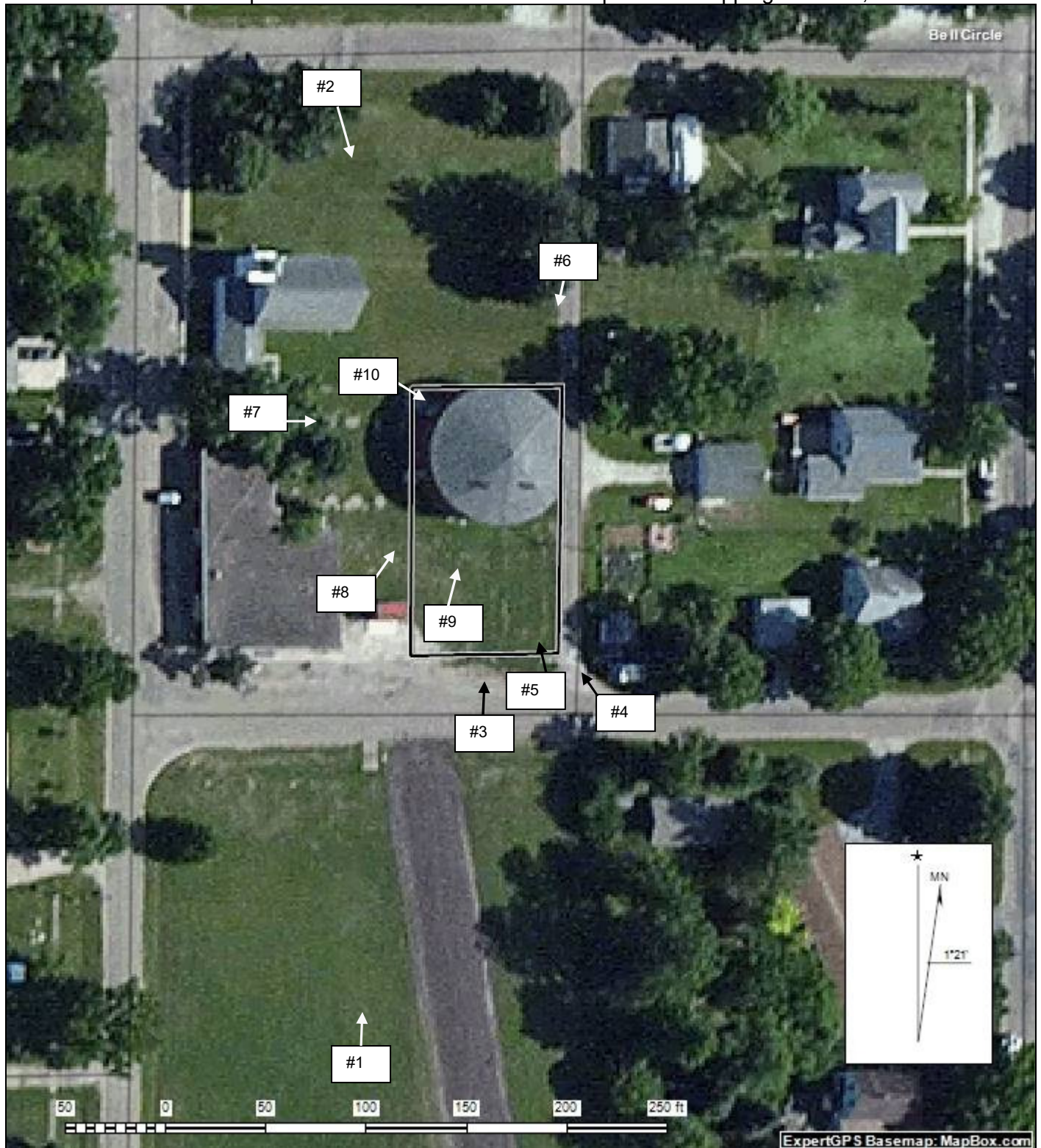
- Photo 1 of 20: General view of Yale High School Gymnasium looking north, with 1950s school addition to left and gym building to right
- Photo 2 of 20: General view of Yale High School Gymnasium looking SE, with church building to right.
- Photo 3 of 20: General view of Yale High School Gymnasium looking north from Oak Street
- Photo 4 of 20: General view of Yale High School Gymnasium looking NNW from alley
- Photo 5 of 20: South side of Yale High School Gymnasium looking NNW from Oak Street
- Photo 6 of 20: North side of Yale High School Gymnasium looking SSW from alley
- Photo 7 of 20: West side of Yale High School Gymnasium looking East
- Photo 8 of 20: SW side of Yale High School Gymnasium looking NE
- Photo 9 of 20: South side of Yale High School Gymnasium looking North
- Photo 10 of 20: Detail of main entry to Yale High School Gymnasium looking ESE
- Photo 11 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking East from basketball court
- Photo 12 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking West from basketball court
- Photo 13 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking NW from basketball court to former location of bleachers
- Photo 14 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking up and NW at roof truss system
- Photo 15 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking ENE at stage area
- Photo 16 of 20: Interior of gymnasium looking East at backstage area
- Photo 17 of 20: Interior of basement looking SSE at door to boys' restroom and landing and stairs to the exterior
- Photo 18 of 20: Interior of basement looking South at boys' restroom
- Photo 19 of 20: Interior of basement looking South at girls' restroom
- Photo 20 of 20: Interior of basement looking NW at girls' locker room

Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Map showing direction of exterior photographs #1-10 of the Yale High School Gymnasium.
Black outline is NRHP nomination boundary.

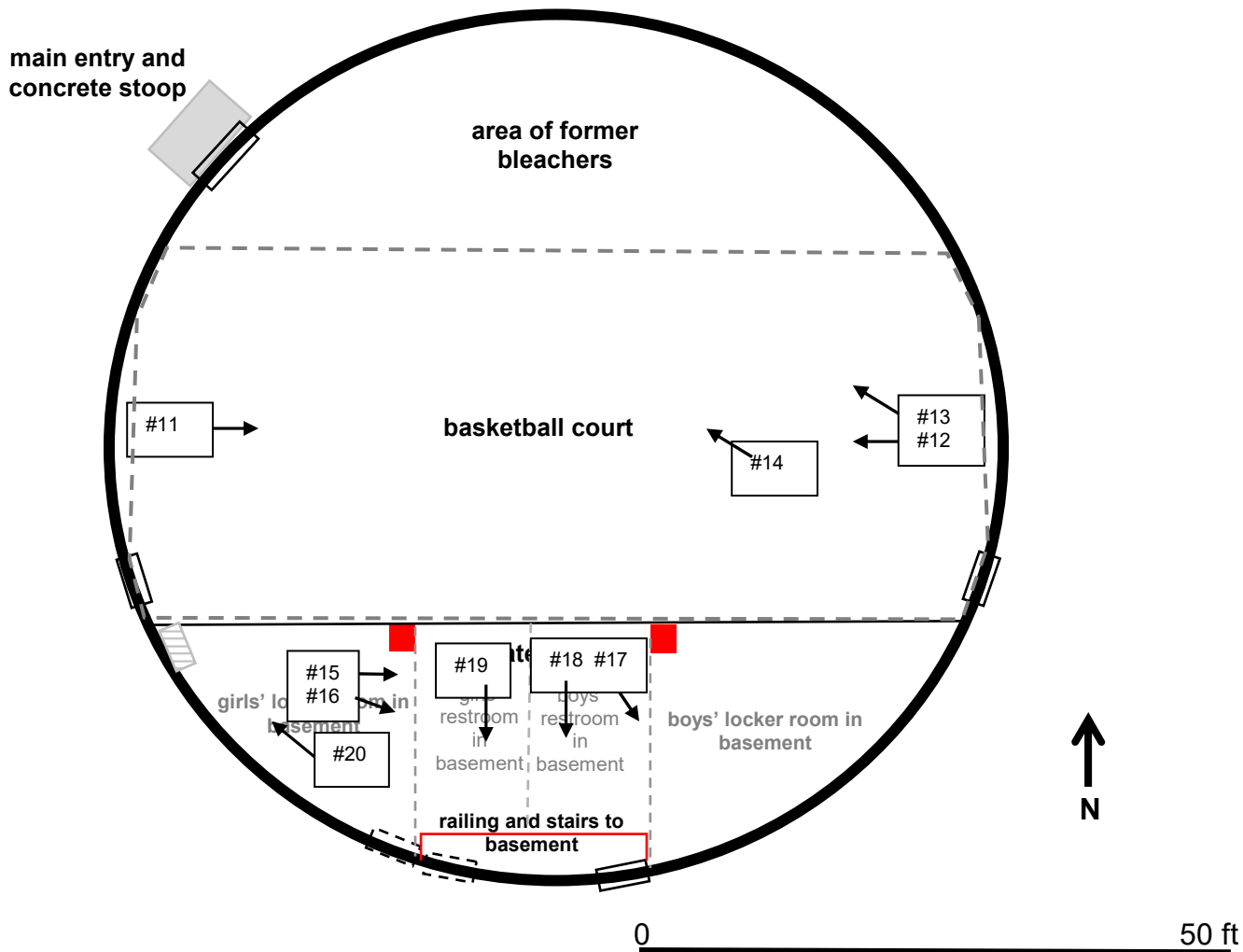
Source for Map: circa 2013 aerial obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2017.



Yale High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Guthrie County, Iowa
County and State

Sketch floor plan showing directions of interior photographs #11-20.
#11-16 on upper floor and #17-20 on basement level.



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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



















19 YALE GYM. 32























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/13/2018 Date of Pending List: 12/10/2018 Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2018 Date of 45th Day: 12/28/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/28/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: **Automatic listing due to lapse in appropriations.**
The Yale High School Gymnasium is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Recreation/Entertainment. Completed in 1932, the building was built under the direction noted engineer, Halver R. Straight, whose expertise in clay tile block manufacturing and construction resulted in the building's unique round, silo/barn-like design and practical materials selection. The building is directly associated with team sports in Iowa, specifically boys' and girls' basketball in small-town Iowa during the 1930s to 1960 period. The building served not only for sporting events, but also as an auditorium for school plays, band concerts, proms, and commencements, and as an important community gathering place for the small farming community of Yale.

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 12/28/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CHRIS KRAMER, ACTING DIRECTOR



November 9, 2018

IOWA ARTS
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE HISTORIC SITES

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION

Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms Beasley:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

Yale High School Gymnasium

The Yale High School Gymnasium is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A for its association with team sports in Iowa, specifically boys' and girls' basketball in small-town Iowa in the 1930s-1960s. The building served not only for sporting events, including tournament play in basketball, but also served as an auditorium for school plays, band concerts, proms, and commencements, and as a community gathering place for Halloween parties, potlucks, and other activities.³ The building is significant under Criterion C for its direct association with noted engineer, Halver R. Straight, and his expertise in clay tile block manufacturing and his many patents related to the mechanics of tile block manufacture and construction. The Yale round gym is an excellent example of Straight's foray into architecture and reflects his experience with clay tile construction. That the building is, in many ways, designed like a very large silo also reflects Straight's experience in silo construction. The building is a well-preserved example of round brick/block public buildings in the state of Iowa. The period of significance is from 1932 to 1961, a period extending from its construction to its last use as a high school gymnasium/auditorium. The significant date is 1932 when the building was constructed by H.H. Thomas and Son Construction of Adel, Iowa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Sadowsky
State Historian and National Register Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa

Enclosures.