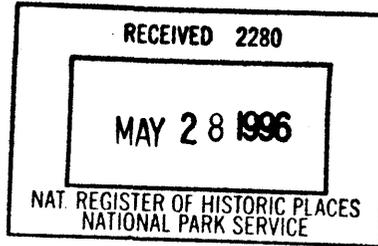


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name New Providence School Gymnasium  
other names/site number currently known as New Providence Roundhouse

2. Location

street & number 106 N. Main N/A  not for publication  
city or town New Providence N/A  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083 zip code 50206

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patticia Oberking 5-15-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClelland 10/22/96

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Name of Property

National Register of  
Historic Places Hardin County, IA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

none

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility  
EDUCATION

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
roof asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

New Providence School Gym  
Name of Property

National Register of Historic Places  
Hardin County, IA  
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.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1936

**Significant Dates**

1936

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Keffer-Jones Architects

J.E. Lovejoy Construction Co.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

New Providence School Gymnasium

Hardin County, IA

Name of Property

National Register of Historic Places  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 485780 46811230  
Zone Easting Northing  
2

3  
Zone Easting Northing  
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Clampitt, Director  
organization Renewal Community, Inc. date 8-21-95  
street & number 31276 PP Ave. telephone 515-497-5353  
city or town New Providence state IA zip code 50206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Renewal Community, Inc.  
street & number c/o Kay Clampitt, 31276 PP Ave telephone 515-497-5353  
city or town New Providence state IA zip code 50206

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Description

The New Providence School gymnasium is a two story round building, constructed of hollow tile blocks with a brick exterior. It was constructed in 1935-36 as a PWA project in a pared down PWA Moderne style. Although it was not the first round gym in Iowa, it was the first one of this size and was the most modern one in the area. The gym is located on the school grounds on the north edge of New Providence, Iowa.

The main part of the building is circular. It has a double wall constructed with thirteen inch hollow clay tile blocks with a brick exterior. The exterior brick are of varying shades of dark red. The tile were furnished by Adel Clay Products, Co. of Des Moines, Iowa. The diameter is eighty-five feet. It has a rectangular entrance pavilion that is equipped with two slightly projecting bays with some vertical decoration in brick.

The entrance is on ground level and is open to the full height of the building with windows on three sides. On either side of the entryway are two wooden staircases going up to the landing to the gymnasium and down to the lunch room.

The upper floor holds the basketball court, a stage and bleachers. The basketball court is 72 x 38 feet. The dome roof is about 35 feet from the floor at its highest point and requires no supporting pillars, being constructed with steel beams. The stage sits on the south wall of the building with a 42 1/2 foot front and originally was fully equipped with footlights and colored border lights. Across the gym floor are the wooden bleachers which originally seated 300. This includes the balcony area above the bleachers. The bleachers come right to the edge of the basketball court. Beneath the bleachers is a storage area. Nine windows are along the north wall above the bleachers. The lower half of the gym wall is constructed of red clay tile, while the top half is of varying shades of tan clay tile. Every fourth course is a bonding course, creating an interesting pattern.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

---

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

## Description (continued)

The basement was left unfinished at the time of construction. In 1937 it was finished and includes boys' and girls' locker rooms along the north side, a music room on the south side, a lunch room in between with the kitchen at the west end. The main room is 38 feet by 70 feet. The kitchen measures 38 feet by 12 feet. The basement has eight supporting steel columns spaced evenly throughout the main room. The floors are poured concrete. The walls are of red clay tile blocks.

There are two staircases and exits on either side of the kitchen with the stairs going up to the gym.

In 1949 an underground cellar was constructed for surplus food storage. This is connected to the kitchen on the west side and entrance is gained to the cave from the kitchen.

The building has had no major structural changes. It is basically the same today as it was in 1936. It is structurally sound and in very good condition. Major repairs needed include the roof, windows, and the heating system.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of  
Historic Places

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

---

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

### Statement of Significance

The New Providence School gymnasium is locally significant under Criterion C as a good example of PWA Moderne design; as an example of a relatively rare building form; and as an example of the design work of Keffer & Jones, a Des Moines architecture firm that specialized in PWA school buildings.

The New Providence school gymnasium was one of 32 PWA school buildings planned by Keffer & Jones, Architects of Des Moines, Iowa. J.E. Lovejoy Construction of Des Moines was the contractor. Its style is the PWA Moderne typical of the numerous federal government buildings of the 30's and 40's. Its most significant feature is that it is a round structure.

This building was constructed in 1935-36 as a PWA project under the first appropriation of Federal Grants. It is believed to be the first round building built specifically as a gymnasium in Iowa. The gym is constructed of thirteen inch hollow tile with a brick exterior. The main part of the building is round with a low pitched dome roof. The entrance is a rectangular pavilion with two slightly projecting bays.

The building was so unusual for its time that people made fun of it. However, it was the first and most modern gym in the area and hosted all the basketball tournaments in the area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 4

---

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Bibliography

Gebhard, David, and Mansheim, Gerald. Buildings of Iowa. Oxford University Press. 1993. Pg. 421.

Keffer/Overton Associates Inc., Architects, Des Moines, IA, correspondence & business records, May 26, 1994.

Newspaper article, Eldora Herald-Ledger, November 19, 1936.

Verbal boundary description

The precise verbal boundary of the New Providence School Gymnasium is a circle with the circumference of 267 feet. The rectangular entrance on the east extends fourteen feet beyond the closest point of the circumference and is 40 feet long. The southeast corner of the entrance measures 300 feet from the southeast corner of the entire property.

Verbal boundary justification

This nomination includes only the gymnasium and its rectangular entrance. All other structures excluded.

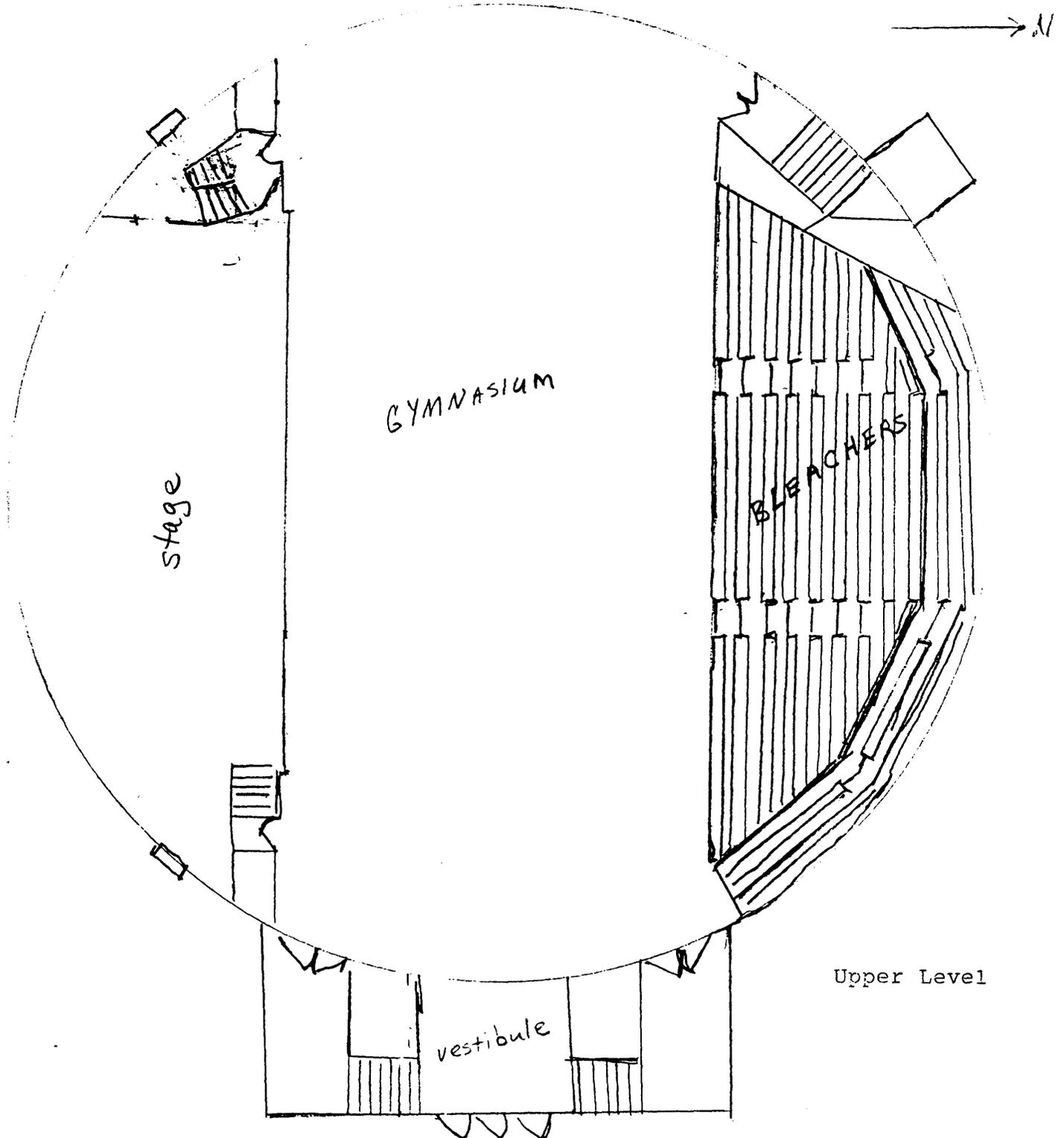
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

National Register of  
Historic Places

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

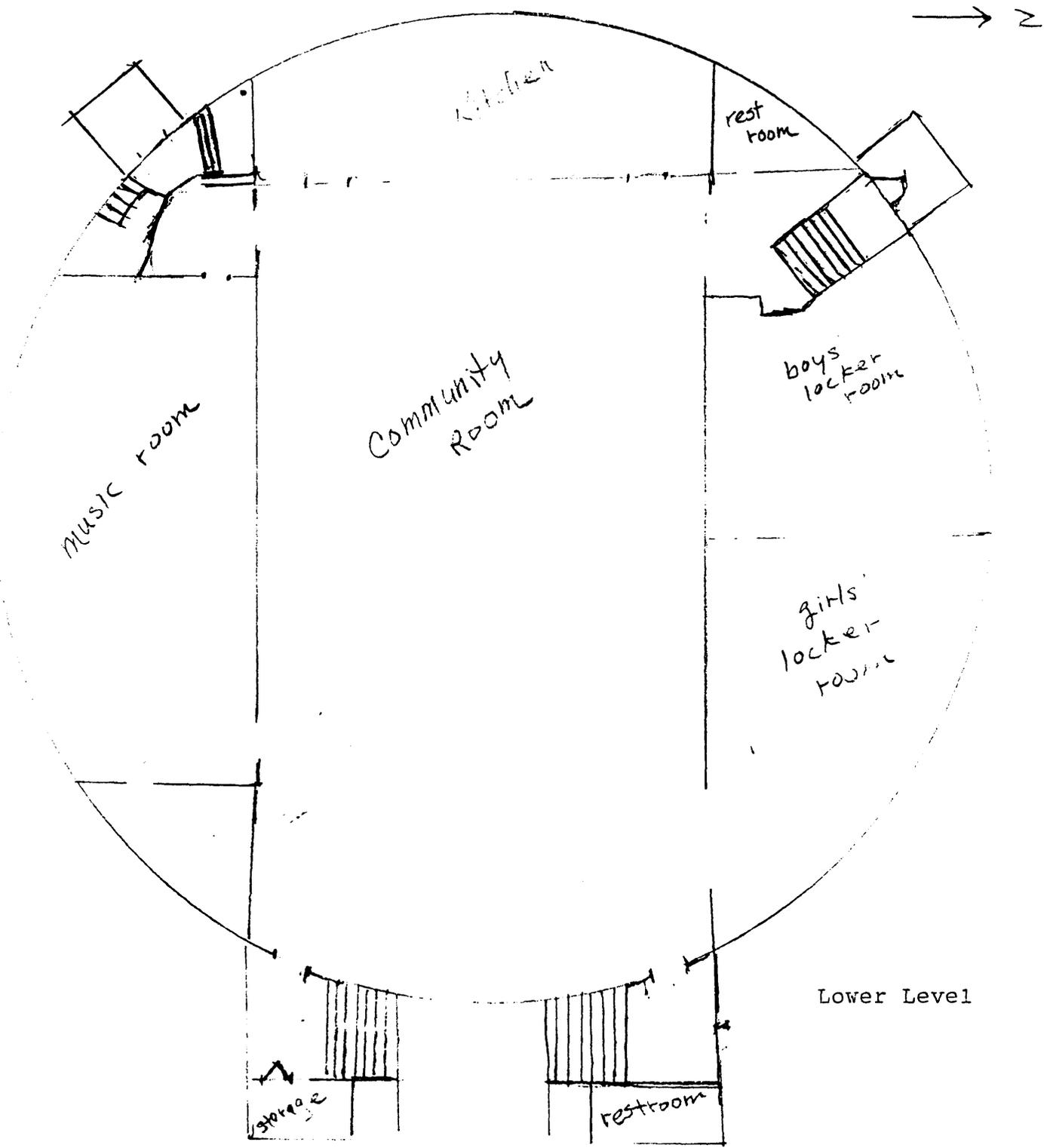


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 6



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 7



Scale 1 inch = 100 feet  
photograph by Sidwell Co.,  
Chicago, 1990  
Map located at Hardin County  
Courthouse, Eldora, IA



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

National Register of  
Historic Places

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 9

New Providence School Gymnasium  
Hardin County, IA

Interior roof framing

