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**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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Storm Lake High School

other names/site number Storm Lake Junior High School; South Elementary School; South School, ISI#11-00184

2. Location

street & number 310 Cayuga Street not for publication N/A

city or town Storm Lake vicinity N/A

state Iowa code IA county Buena Vista code 021 zip code 50588

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 30 Nov 2016
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

[Signature] 1.17.17
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Storm Lake High School
Name of Property

Buena Vista County, Iowa
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
Contributing Noncontributing
1 2 buildings
 sites
 structures
 objects
1 2 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE

roof SYNTHETICS

walls BRICK
STONE
other _____

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

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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

Period of Significance

1929

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 a grave.

- D** a cemetery.

- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure

- F** a commemorative property.

- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Keffer and Jones

Park, Tom

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:

Storm Lake High School
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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.3 acres

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	15	319752	4722952	3
2				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 Jan Olive Full / Historian jofofic@gmail.com

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date May 2016

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319.354.6722

city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Storm Lake School District – Central Office (c/o Superintendent)

street & number 419 Lake Avenue telephone 712-732-8060

city or town Storm Lake state IA zip code 50588

=====
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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceStorm Lake High School
name of property**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**Buena Vista County, Iowa
county and stateSection 7 Page 1**7. Description***Summary Paragraph*

Storm Lake High School, in Storm Lake, Iowa, is located in the northwestern part of the state, in the south-central area of Buena Vista County. The city lies along the north shore of its namesake, a shallow 3,200-acre glacial lake. The town is bisected diagonally into northeast and southwest halves by a prominent rail corridor. It also is divided roughly into east and west halves by Lake Avenue, a main arterial street coming into town as a county road from the north and running due south to the lake shore. For several blocks north from the rail corridor, Lake Avenue is also the town's historic commercial district. It is a wide street here, lined with appealing two story red-brick and pink- Sioux-Quartzite-stone buildings near the tracks. Storm Lake High School sits south of the railroad tracks, within a largely residential neighborhood peppered with historic churches. It is a block east of Lake Avenue, and just two long blocks from the lake's north shore. Within its treed city block, the school faces east and overlooks Cayuga Street. The southern third of the block has two unrelated dwellings, one heavily altered and classified now as commercial. Until recently, another smaller and earlier school building sat off the school's north elevation, along E. 2nd Street, but this site is now a parking lot and not a part of the nomination. Rectangular in shape overall, the school is linked on the north side by a covered walkway to a smaller cafeteria building constructed in 1972. On the opposite side of the school sits a free-standing auxiliary classroom building constructed in 1970. Grassy lawn and hard-surfaced paved areas otherwise surround the school on its 2.3-acre site. Built in the Tudor Revival style, the school's walls are clad primarily in dark yellowish brick, interspersed with darker brown bricks, all laid with a tinted mortar that falls between the two in hue. The Tudor Revival styling is achieved primarily through the use of carved Bedford- and cast-stone details such as emblematic shields, Tudor arch portals, Tudor roses, vinettes, *fleur-di-lis*, and keystone grotesques.¹ Windows and doors throughout appear to be replacements, the windows in 1983.² The top half of each tall sash window is filled with a brown solid material, while the bottom half has clear glass panes divided by a single vertical muntin.

Shared Features on all Elevations

From ground up, and with only slight variations for changes in fenestration, the walls of the school are the same on each elevation (Fig. 1). Just above grade is a stone water table. Above that is a short span of seven courses of stretcher bricks. The eighth course is a span of soldier bricks supporting a stone beltcourse. The first-story window sills form a part of this beltcourse but are larger and

Figure 1 East Façade overlooking Cayuga Street. Flickr.com on 12/21/2015
project



¹ Architectural plans for the school call for cast stone in some places but do not identify the material used for most the decorative details, which appear to be carved. The architect indicated it was Bedford stone in the special school edition of the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, on 3/21/1929. Architectural details on the building were classified using Cyril M. Harris, *Historic Architecture Source Book* (1977); reprinted as *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture* (Dover Publications, Inc., 1983). Reprint used.

² Storm Lake School District, Central Office, Board of Education records.

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slightly from the building; their headers are soldier bricks also. The majority of the brickwork on the rest of the wall remains stretcher courses until another, wider, stone beltcourse is found at the top of the 2nd story windows. These windows have stone sills also. Stone quoining marks each corner junction of two walls, extending from the high wide beltcourse to the roofline. From the beltcourse up, 12 brick courses are laid as stretchers. These courses terminate at the top of the wall with a course of soldier bricks, punctuated regularly by larger brick-shaped stones. Running stone coping caps the top of the walls.

East Façade

The east façade is divided into 10 bays by pilasters except in the far south end where the main entrance is found. The entrance's double front doors are held in the center of a three-bay block (Fig. 2, also Fig. 5) that projects forward from the plane of the building. A second, narrower and windowless block is located at the far north end of the façade.³ Except for the blank block at the north end, the façade bays each hold groups of two or three windows separated by thin mullions. The architect's plans⁴ indicate these windows held six-over-six double hung sashes; however the present windows are replacement horizontal sliders that are glazed only in the lower half of the opening.

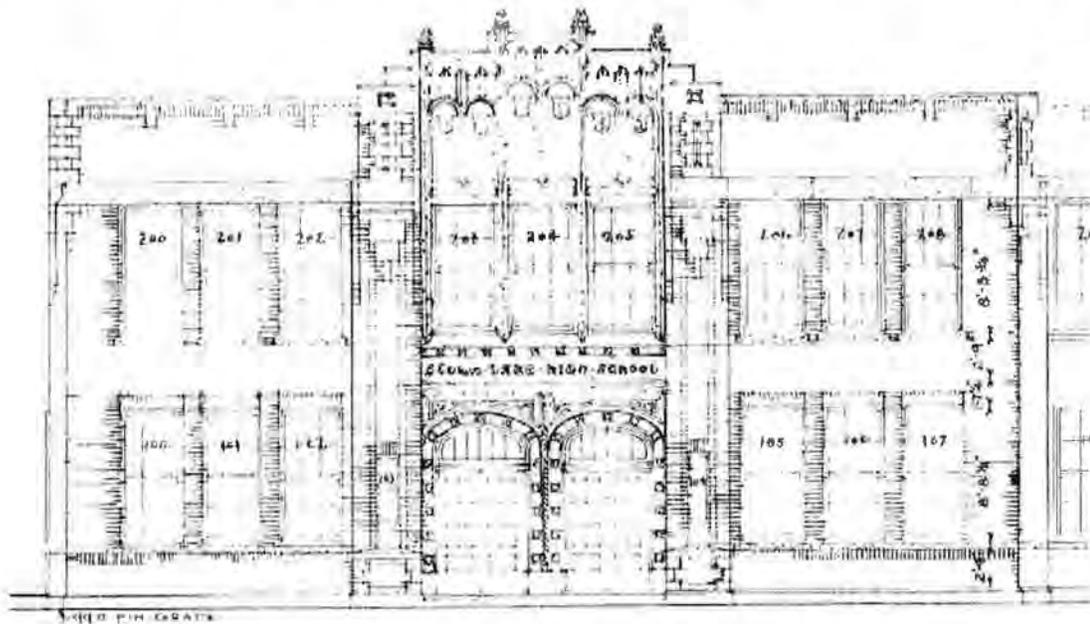


Figure 2 Architect plans for main entrance block, south end of the east façade. Collection of the school district.

The main entrance is heavily decorated with carved or cast stone (or both). From the ground floor's double doors, held in deeply recessed Tudor arch portals, upward to the finials above the roofline, the stonework is extensive and finely detailed. A thin twisted column separates the two portals and the deep reveal of each is coffered. The present doors are replacements, dark in color like the window replacements, with a single fixed light in each. The transom lights are covered by a solid stone-colored material. The face of each portal arch has regularly spaced Tudor rose

³ Since the original functions behind this bump-out were classrooms on each floor, the lack of windows perhaps was a way of to make the smaller bump-out appear more prominent and the façade more balanced.

⁴ Newspaper articles from the time of construction make it clear the architect was Karl Keffer who designed the building.

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medallion panels until the springing line is reached. Above that, the medallions change to *fleur-di-lis*.⁵ The spandrels above the arches—used to square up the top of the doorway—have a Tudor rose in the corner from which a vinette of grapes and leaves creeps out toward the center.

The stone signage over the entrance portals, which does double duty as a base for a row of stone dentils and the three windows above, bears the words “STORM LAKE HIGH SCHOOL.” The name is executed in a font reminiscent of an antique type and is very similar to a font called Deutsch Gothic (Figs. 3-4).⁶ If the architects did indeed choose a font with this name, it was probably as a nod to the large German population in northwest Iowa.

STORM LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Figure 3 The school’s name as shown in the Deutsch Gothic font available today. Obtained on 3/28/2016 at <http://www.dafont.com>



Figure 4 Detail of stone signage over the school’s main entrance on Cayuga Street. Tallgrass Historians LC, 2016



Figure 5 Main entrance, east façade. Flickr.com on 12/21/2015

Capping off the main entrance at the roofline is a stone detail of stylized blind tracery that rises above the roofline

⁵ The *fleur-di-lis* is a design feature used in the Tudor England; see for example Hampton Court Palace in London (tudorhistory.org/places/hcp/gallery.html, accessed on 1/14/2016).

⁶ Today derivation of this font is claimed by an individual on the website <http://www.dafont.com>, but perhaps this person just tweaked the older style a bit. The similarity between the stone letters and Deutsch Gothic letters is unmistakable, though the font may not have been called that in 1928.

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(Fig. 6). On either side of this feature, the pilasters that frame the main entrance from the ground up are also detailed with stone at the roofline. The stone tracery detail is composed of three panels defined by vertical stone mullions that terminate in finials. The center panel is taller than the adjacent ones. Each panel is subdivided by mullions into two smaller panels and within these are emblematic shields representing various arts and sciences. From left (south) to right (north) the designs *appear* to be (with speculative meanings in parenthesis): a T-square over a triangle (building arts), a lyre (music), an open book (English or scholarship in general), a painter's palette (art), a globe on a stand (geography), a flask over Bunsen burner and cup (science).



Figure 6 Decorative stone work at the roofline over the main entrance bears emblematic shields and stylized or simplified tracery. Tallgrass Historians LC, 2016

Narrow Side Elevations (North & South)

The south elevation has three window bays toward the front of the building facing Cayuga Street and five blank bays toward the rear (west) end of the elevation. These blank bays reflect the auditorium inside and were originally glazed windows. The third bay from the front corner projects slightly and its door leads into the main interior hallway, which extends through the school to a similar entrance at the opposite north side wall. Both side entrances are held within deep portals like the main entrance, but they are single portals and the reveals are lined with polychromatic masonry, specifically, blocks of pale gray stones alternating with darker yellow bricks. The portal is further outlined at the outside edge by contrasting yellow and brown brick headers. The portal has a multi-paneled stone transom and the keystone is a carved grotesque of a human face with a grossly distorted chin (Fig. 7). The

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north side elevation is divided into eight irregular bays, including a wide bay near the front (east) corner with four windows separated by brick mullions. The projecting entrance bay is next, and beyond that to the rear corner are four bays with triple windows, and two narrower bays with single windows. Wall and portal treatments are similar to the south side elevation.

West Rear Elevation

The center of this long rear elevation is divided into five bays by brick pilasters with stone trim near the roof. Each bay holds three windows, separated by brick mullions in the lower level⁷ and 1st story and by thinner metal or wood mullions similar to the façade in the 2nd story. Flanking these central bays are entrances on either side. The entrance surrounds, which project slightly from the wall, are brick and are covered by a gabled stone roof. The entrance at the north end is connected to the covered walkway leading to the separate, 1972 cafeteria building.

The two end wall bays near the corners have no windows. The back wall of the auditorium (and stage inside) accounts for the blank wall near the south corner. Also, the boiler room is located under the stage area here and the tall chimney stack is extant and attached to the rear, auditorium wall. Also attached to the exterior of this rear wall is the original brick coal storage room serving the boiler. At the opposite, north corner, the wall is blank also. There are classrooms inside at this location so the reason for having a blank wall is not clear, but perhaps to balance the design.

Interior

The basic footprint of the building wraps classroom space of various types around three sides of a central gymnasium, with the fourth side essentially enclosed by the auditorium and the main entrance/vestibule/lobby/stairs block. Ample daylight was provided by locating classrooms around the three outside walls, while the central gymnasium originally had many rooftop skylights as well as ceiling lights. The skylights are gone now, replaced by modern interior lighting. The exterior side wall of the auditorium (south elevation) had three windows originally; however, they have been bricked in with a closely matched brick.

Generally speaking, interior treatments are not elaborate or highly decorated. Common features and materials on the building's interior include gray-speckled terrazzo flooring with integrated baseboards and a black-and-white checked border (found in non-classroom spaces); smooth plaster walls and stairway enclosures; dark-stained red oak baseboards and chair rails in classrooms; dark-stained wood single doors in some classrooms (others are



Figure 7 The hairline of the sculptural grotesque has the appearance of foliage and the distorted facial features include the large open mouth and exaggerated chin. Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2016

⁷ The rear elevation is slightly raised above grade and has windows in the central section to accommodate a basement classroom, originally for manual training and drafting. Only this area and the boiler room, both along the rear/west foundation, are excavated; the rest of the building's footprint is not.

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modern replacements⁸); dark-stained wood double hallway doors and transoms; concrete joists and ceiling beams that are exposed in hallways and locker rooms, and simple but decorative plasterwork capitals in lobby areas.⁹ Generally, the hallway doors and door frames leading into classrooms are modern replacements, while original doors remain where classrooms have an interior closet or connecting door to another room. Classrooms have been modernized and while the original maple floors still exist in some rooms, others have carpeting now.¹⁰ Classroom ceilings are generally lowered acoustical tile systems with light panels. Walls still have a mix of the original blackboards and white eraser boards, with the latter eraser boards dominating overall.

The auditorium was modernized in 1971 with new stage equipment and rigging, new curtains and track, and new electrical wiring. New seats were installed also, cushioned on the slightly-sloped ground floor and “plastic shell seats” in the balcony. Rows of balcony seats are accessed by aisle stairs, needed because of the steep slope of the floor. These new seats brought the total capacity to 725. The space maintains the original “Sabinite acoustical plaster” wall panels referenced in Board of Education minutes.¹¹ The auditorium is simple and unadorned with decorative surfaces or features.

The gymnasium’s maple floor is intact as are other gymnasium staples like side bleachers and backboards. High over the brick walls is what appears to be white square tiles. These are the Celotex insulation and acoustical tiles referenced in Board of Education minutes.¹² The ceiling lights are plentiful and modern, and replace the original combination of skylights and electrical lighting. A small portion of the gym floor has been damaged by water seeping through the ceiling. In this location, the floor boards are buckling.

Cafeteria/Multi-Purpose Building (1972)

This modern concrete block building, added when the school served as a junior high, is faced with yellow brick with randomly placed brown bricks. It has a slightly irregular but basically rectangular footprint. Also used as a multiple purpose space, the cafeteria’s primary entrance is reached by a covered open walkway that extends across to the school building. The interior has two principal rooms to serve its dual functions. It has a linoleum tile floor and painted block walls. The ceiling is made of acoustical tiles and light panels. The fenestration inside and out is devoid of trim. The cafeteria space has pull-down tables housed in large wall cupboards.

Auxiliary Classroom Building (1970)

This “temporary” classroom is free-standing and sits on a slightly raised concrete foundation. It has metal walls cladding a wood frame, and it has just short of 2,300 square feet inside. The roofing material is metal also.

Integrity

The most significant exterior alterations are the window replacements, a very common mid- to late-twentieth century change for older Iowa schools as heating and lighting systems were upgraded. In this case, the windows were replaced by the school district in 1983. The impact of these new windows is somewhat mitigated by the choice

⁸ Twenty-three door frames and transoms were replaced in 1993 by hollow metal frames and steel doors. Board of Education records.

⁹ The type of wood used in trim and doors was identified by the architect in the special school edition of the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 3/21/1929. Because it was “plain sawn” and not quarter sawn, the graining is long and prominent.

¹⁰ The type of wood flooring was identified by the architect in the same special school edition of the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 3/21/1929.

¹¹ “\$26,000 Bid on Seating for Jr. High,” *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 5/29/2016; Board of Education minutes, 4/3/1928.

¹² *Ibid.*

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of dark sashes and infill materials, rather than a highly contrasting light color. The original multi-light wooden entrance doors drawn on the architectural plans are not present either, but replaced by modern ones. Despite these alterations, the school's substantial size, scale, and detailing, within its residential neighborhood context, mean the "overall sense of past time and place is evident" in the building (*National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Form 4*). The interior's architectural features appear to be relatively intact also except for the updating of some classroom surfaces, the replacement of 23 wooden doors with metal ones, and the modern changes to the auditorium. Comments on specific integrity aspects are as follows:

- (1) location: the building is in its original location;
- (2) design: the exterior is unchanged except for the alterations noted above;
- (3) setting: the surrounding neighborhood remains residential with historic churches here and there. One unrelated domestic structure on the school's block to the south has been heavily altered and expanded, while the smaller and older school building that sat on the school's block to the north was removed in the 1990s;
- (4) materials: the materials are largely original with the exceptions noted above or in the text;
- (5) workmanship: the workmanship employed in the building is best reflected in the skills needed to lay the brick and in the extensive carved sculptural decorations;
- (6) feeling: the overall plan, mass, and aesthetics of this school building combine to produce the clear feeling of an early twentieth century Iowa high school;
- (7) association: the school's service as the town's high school, then junior high, and even later, as an elementary school directly relate to the building's historic significance.



High School, Storm Lake, Iowa

Figure 8 The postmark on the back of this postcard is 1939. Ebay.com on 3/24/2016



Flickr.com on 12/21/2015

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Storm Lake High School building, in Storm Lake, Iowa, is locally significant under Criterion C. Significance rests with the school's subdued but eloquent Tudor Revival styling and as an example of the rapidly shrinking body of school architecture, especially in western Iowa, by the important Iowa firm of Keffer and Jones. The period of significance is 1929.

Abstract of the School's History

The high school is a long-serving educational facility that was specifically designed to also meet the larger community's needs for performance and athletic venues. For 86 years, from 1929 until 2015 when the boilers finally failed inspection, the school building served students, first as the high school (1929-1962), then the junior high-middle school (1962-1992), and finally as an elementary school (1992-2009). At the same time, its voluminous gymnasium and auditorium filled a critical need in town for public event space. Built 1928-29 and opened in 1929 to much fanfare, the building has been immensely important to the social history of the town. It reflects Storm Lake residents' confidence in the continued growth of their community in western Iowa, as well as their progressive goals for providing their children with the training that would prepare them to be contributing citizens. Surrounded by farms and dependent on the regional agricultural economy, Storm Lake also was fortunate to have a private college – Buena Vista College – from 1891 on. The presence of a college in town, with its academic professionals and dynamic student population, surely reinforced the desire of local educators and community residents to provide their children with the most modern and up-to-date school facilities. The historical record however also suggests that school officials were very cautious about not overburdening or alienating residents with heavy taxes or elaborate school buildings. The school board managed this balancing act by choosing an architectural firm that specialized in schools, already had a successful portfolio of school commissions to show the town, *and* whose principals were keenly articulate spokesmen for their school designs. This selection bolstered the chances for broad community support for the expensive new building. The ensuing decades of educating high school students and then younger children in the lower grades on this physical campus meant generations of Storm Lake citizens passed through the building, returning frequently as adults to attend community events held there. Today, the affection and esteem shown for the building by local residents is evidenced by their public support for its rehabilitation rather than its demolition. Once again the school board was sensitive to community sentiment.¹

Storm Lake's Agents of Growth

The earliest Euro-Americans first settled in the northern part of Buena Vista County in the mid-1850s.² Wetlands, bogs, and marshes dominated in the central and eastern parts of the county, leaving the northern townships more desirable for newly arrived prairie farmers, though they remained few in number.³ The swampy landscape and conflicts with Native Americans in the area stalled heavy migration into the county until after the Civil War. By

¹ See for example, the news articles from the *Storm Lake Times*: "South School for Seniors?" 9/12/2014; "Board Declines to Make Quick Call on South School," 9/24/2014; "Daycare States an Interest in South," 12/10/2014; "Can't We Save South School?" 12/12/2014; "Warning: South School Might be Demolished," 10/30/2015; "Last Chance to Save South," 3/4/2016.

² C.H. Wegerslev and Thomas Walpole, *Past and Present of Buena Vista County, Iowa* (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909), 37.

³ *Ibid.*, 28. North-central Iowa, within the most recently glaciated "Des Moines" lobe was "once so covered by lakes and marshes that travelers from the eastern United States could not cross it except in winter." Robert F. Sayre, "Iowa's Lost Lakes," In *Take the Next Exit: New Views of the Iowa Landscape*, ed. Robert F. Sayre, 207-231 (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 2000). On the Des Moines Lobe and Iowa's glacial "Great Lakes" (Storm Lake, Spirit Lake, Lake Okoboji, and Clear Lake), see Jean C. Prior, *Landforms of Iowa* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1991), 44-47.

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1867 settlers were beginning to filter into Buena Vista's southern townships, with Germans and immigrants from the Scandinavian countries forming an important part of this migration.⁴ The first encampment of what would eventually become the town of Storm Lake occurred in 1868. Settlement along the north shore of this shallow glacial lake – soon named “Storm Lake” after a fierce tempest – received a healthy boost when surveyors for the Dubuque and Sioux City railroad marked out a route past the north shore.⁵ There were only 242 new residents spread throughout the county in 1869, but with the arrival of the railroad, the county grew rapidly to 2,000 by 1870.⁶

Another boost toward turning the village of Storm Lake into a viable market town came in 1878 when the recently incorporated (1873) settlement was named Buena Vista County seat. The population of the nascent community had grown from just a handful of prairie settlers at the end of the Civil War to 716 souls by 1875. Like the railroad's effect on town growth, the presence of county officials, attorneys, land agents, and abstractors in the new county seat, as well as the business they attracted with area residents, contributed to the town's 1880 population count of 1,034, a healthy 31% increase in five years.

Aggressive efforts to drain the wetlands and marshes of north-central Iowa began in earnest in the 1890s, creating new dry land for farming and attracting more residents to counties like Buena Vista. The 1890s had additional significance for population growth in Storm Lake with the founding of Buena Vista College in 1891. As a result, the town physically expanded with a new college addition plat, and population increased from 1,682 in 1890 to 2,168 by 1900, a 38% increase.⁷

Two more railroad companies built lines into town in 1900, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul from the southeast and the Minneapolis & St. Louis down from the north. Few Iowa towns were favored with three rail connections and, according to a local historian writing in 1909, “the population has increased since then and the town has extended its boundaries in all directions, and material progress has been constant and substantial.”⁸ Indeed, with one minor dip in population during the 1980s, growth has been consistent to the present day.⁹ Storm Lake's population surged between 1990 and 2000, from 8,769 to 10,076, with the opening or expansion of two meat processing plants.¹⁰ Today's population stands at around 10,895.¹¹

⁴ Wegerslev and Walpole, 63.

⁵ Ibid. This railroad was the precursor to the Illinois Central Railroad. Frank P. Donovan, Jr. “The Illinois Central in Iowa,” *The Palimpsest*, 43 (June 1962) 6: 271-279.

⁶ *History of Buena Vista County*. Accessed at http://www.bvcountyiowa.com/index.php/home/history_of_buena_vista_county on 4/7/2017.

⁷ Wegerslev and Walpole, 135. All population figures were obtained from www.iowadatabase.org on 4/8/2016.

⁸ Wegerslev and Walpole, 135.

⁹ During the decade of the 1980s, a decade of low farm prices often referred to the worst farm crisis since the 1920s and 30s, Storm Lake's population dipped very slightly with a real loss of residents of just 45 people (<http://www.iowadatabase.org>, accessed on 4/7/2016). Regarding the farm crisis of the 1980s, see Mark Friedberger, *Shakeout: Iowa Farm Families in the 1980s* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1989).

¹⁰ The meat processing industry first arrived in town just after World War Two, in 1947, when Kingan & Co. Meat Packing built a plant along the north side of the main diagonal railroad route through town (later dba Hillshire Brands; still later owned by Tyson/Iowa Beef Processors). The second plant commenced around 1957 and is currently owned by Tyson as well. One plant processes turkeys, the other hogs. Sanborn map of Storm Lake, 1948; Buena Vista County Assessor records, accessed online through IowaAssessors.com on multiple dates in April, 2016.

¹¹ The arrival of both documented and undocumented immigrant workers in these plants as early as 1989 has led to a more diverse community and increased student numbers for the schools. While the residents may have exhibited tolerance and even acceptance of these changes (a Latina was elected to the city council as early as 2001), others outside Storm Lake have been less forgiving. U.S. Congressman Steve King, for example, who represents Storm Lake, has been an outspoken opponent of undocumented immigrants (“Storm Lake, Iowa: A Meatpacking Town Fueled by Immigrant Labor” (PRI.org/stories/20111-12-29/storm-lake-iowa-meatpacking-town-fueled-immigrant-labor, accessed on 4/8/2016).

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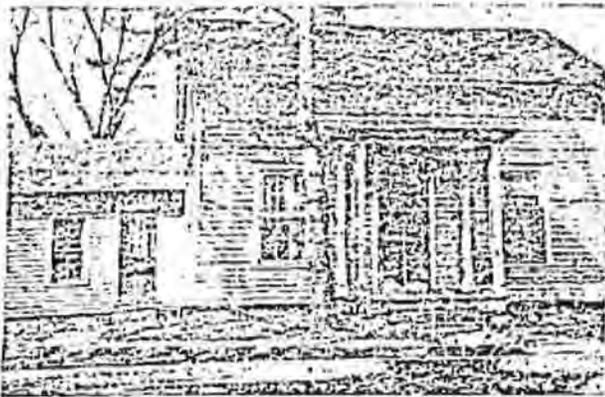
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Storm Lake School History

Storm Lake's school district was organized in 1869, well before the settlement was fully established. Unlike many of the earliest Iowa schools where lessons were taught in homes or crude cabins and funded by parental subscriptions, Storm Lake residents built a proper "school house" for their first winter session attended by 20 students (Fig. 9).¹² Remarkably, the same lots along Cayuga and East 2nd streets would remain the town's main school campus for the next 91 years with a series of schools built and demolished on essentially the same site.

1871



Original Storm Lake School

Figure 9 Though the image is of poor quality, the essential features of Storm Lake's first school are discernable in this digitized reproduction from the Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune's special school edition, published on March 21, 1929 and sent to "school officials and newspapers throughout the midwest." The school was a one-story frame building with vaguely Greek Revival styling. Domestic in appearance, it had a gable-end shallow-pitched roof, a central entrance housed under a narrow portico with a flat or shed roof and four columns. Multiple-light windows flanked either side of the entrance, and a small wing was built to one side. This wing may well have been added later. The school's location was "immediately south of the present site [in 1929]."

In 1874, just a few years after the first frame school building was completed and with town population rising rapidly, the little frame school was replaced by the town's first "high school" constructed on exactly the same location as the present 1929 building. It had a cupola or belfry entrance and like the present building faced east to overlook Cayuga Street. "Even before the completion of this building," wrote a former school superintendent, "the school population was crowding its facilities, and frame structures were built adjacent to care for the increasing enrollment."¹³ In 1881, these temporary frame buildings were removed and a large brick addition was built off the north end of the 1874 school building. Overcrowding again forced the school district to add another large addition in 1894 to the south end of the 1874 building (Fig. 10). Twenty years later, in 1914, the school district issued bonds to demolish this entire building and construct a brand new high school. The older school's brick and stone were crushed and reused in the concrete for the new school.¹⁴

¹² Wegerslev and Walpole, 63.

¹³ "Dr. O'Donoghue Outlines History of Local Schools." Special Edition, *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*. 3/21/1929. Hereafter called Special Edition

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

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Figure 10 The original 1874 building is the recessed central portion of the school in this postcard view. It has a shorter, less prominent belfry than the 1881 north addition (on the far right). The last addition to the school, constructed in 1894, is on the far left. This evolved school building was demolished in 1914 and its brick and Bedford stone trim crushed and reused in the form of concrete for the new building. The camera is facing southwest. State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City)

The 1914 school building, which sat at the northern end of the school district's lots, facing East 2nd Street, proved adequate only until 1919 even though a second school was constructed in another part of town.¹⁵ The school district's answer this time was to construct a wood frame building behind the 1914 high school, in which 7th, 8th, and 9th graders were taught (Fig. 11). This new wooden junior high building was not well received by parents or educators. Supervisor O'Donoghue called its construction "regrettable," while his successor, Superintendent Fred B. Farmer, called it a "sheep shed" that was "overcrowded and unsanitary."¹⁶

¹⁵ The town's population increased by over 50 percent between 1910 and 1920, from 2,428 to 3,658, the single largest decennial increase in the 20th century. This may relate to the agricultural land drainage efforts in the county during these years, however this was not investigated for the present nomination.

¹⁶ "Dr. O'Donoghue Outlines History of Local Schools," and "Farmer Tells of Plans for School," Special Edition, 3/21/1929.

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Figure 11 The maligned junior high wood-frame building is seen here behind the 1914 high school, which faced north and overlooked East 2nd Street. The frame building was removed in 1929 and the junior high grades were shifted into this brick building upon completion of the new larger high school. Ultimately, this 1914 brick building was demolished in the early 1990s and the site is now used as a parking lot. Postcard in author's collection

By 1927, the town's junior high students had been housed in the "sheep shed" for nearly a decade and parents were agitating for better conditions. "Parents are demanding certain things for the welfare of their children" a reporter for the Storm Lake Register wrote. "The building is extremely hot, there being no satisfactory way to regulate the heat in the winter, and the excessive hot weather of recent weeks has made it very uncomfortable for the students. Under such conditions it is impossible for pupils to give their best to their work." The junior high principal said the teachers and students were making do but "living in the hope that a new school building is not far distant."¹⁷ To make matters worse, the junior high only accommodated 150 pupils, but the enrollment had climbed to 225 at the start of the 1927-28 school year.¹⁸ An out-of-town professional was soon brought into study Storm Lake's crowded school system and make recommendations. That professional was architect Karl Keffer, of the Des Moines architectural firm of Keffer and Jones.

¹⁷ *Storm Lake Register*, 8/22/1927.

¹⁸ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 9/8/1927.

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Building the New School

As the new school year started in early September, 1927, the clamor to do something about the junior high became louder and more urgent. By the end of the month, school superintendent Farmer and Tom Park, a local contractor and school board member, had met with architect Keffer.¹⁹ The town's two newspapers covered school events closely and within a couple weeks they announced that Keffer had been hired by the school district to study the junior high situation and, indeed, the town's whole school system.²⁰ One of the newspapers quickly editorialized that a new high school, not junior high, was going to be the result of the study, but agreed the study was a good first step that properly "put the horse before the cart"²¹

Even though both local papers had editorialized about the need and importance of a new school, the Pilot-Tribune went further, organizing a "symposium" around the question "what should be Storm Lake's greatest objectives in year 1928?"²² Of the handful of goals voiced by the town's elite and reprinted on the newspaper's front page, the school situation and removing algae from the lake dominated.²³ Thus began the efforts to build the necessary community support for an expenditure as large as a new school. When Keffer's report was given to the school board, the architect's main recommendation was summarized as follows:

...Mr. Keffer's report was long and detailed, and seems to cover almost every angle of an exhaustive study of several weeks...[He] suggests a new building facing east – just south of the present Storm Lake High School building – and based on his recommendations for a proposed new high school building...[students] could be adequately housed, according to his opinion, until 1940 or 1950, at least.²⁴

Keffer's report, which was illustrated with blueprints, also recommended abandoning the wood-frame junior high (Farmer's "sheep shed"²⁵) and shifting both those students and the south side grade school children to the 1914 high school building.²⁶ Just a week later, after townswomen collected nearly 500 signatures on a petition, both local newspapers were printing notices of a "school special election" to ask the voters if the school district should issue bonds for \$165,000, the amount Keffer said would be needed for the new high school.²⁷ Along with notice of the bond vote, to be held in mid-February, the Pilot-Tribune published Keffer and Jones's drawing of their recently

¹⁹ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 9/29/1927.

²⁰ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 10/27/1927; *Storm Lake Register*, 10/20, 10/27/1927. Keffer had entered into a two-year contract with the school district, authorized in the October 17, 1927 school board meeting. Storm Lake Independent School District, Board of Education Minute Book 2, 10/17/1927. (Located in the school district's administration offices.)

²¹ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 10/27/1927.

²² *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 12/29/1927.

²³ *Ibid.* The shallow lake apparently had an unpleasant aroma because of an algae bloom and the concern was for the increasing tourism potential resulting from the better roads being built across the state. Voicing support for a new school building were the town's mayor, school board president, school superintendent, and three parents active in PTAs. The head of the Chamber of Commerce, a banker, the Buena Vista College president, and a woman concerned about tourism voted for cleaning up the lake. The local "commander" of the American Legion felt the Legion needed a permanent home. See also "Two Objectives," *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 1/12/1928.

²⁴ *Ibid.* The building actually served as the town's high school until 1962. World War Two and the baby boom that followed were, of course, completely unanticipated at this time.

²⁵ The *Pilot-Tribune*, on 1/19/1928, also called the junior high the "shanty that passes for a junior high."

²⁶ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 1/12/1928.

²⁷ *Storm Lake Register*, 1/19/1928; *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 1/19/1928.

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completed school in Bedford, in the southwest part of the state (Figs. 12-14). It represented essentially the same plans that would be used in Storm Lake.

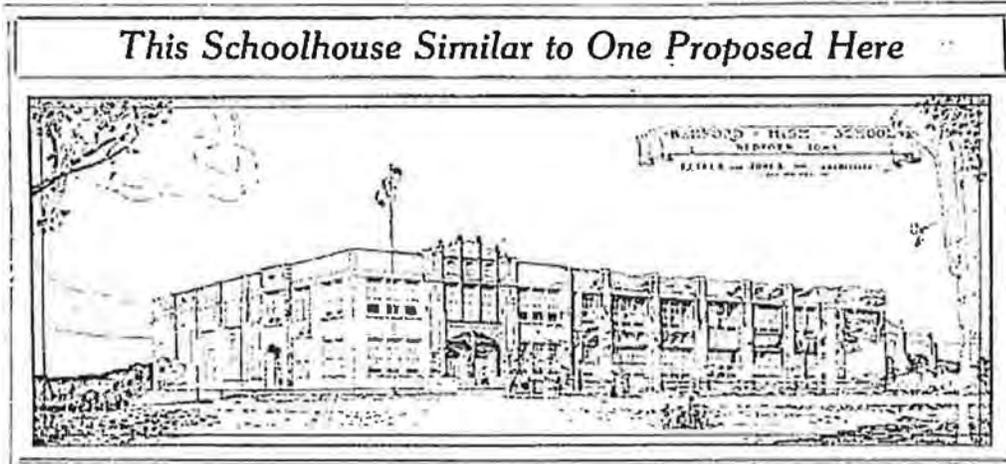


Figure 12 Keffer & Jones's drawing for the Bedford high school, which is extant and still in use today.
Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, 1/19/1928



Figure 13 This view of the Bedford school was probably taken soon after its completion or sometime between 1918 and 1928. Clearly the architects used the same plans for the Storm Lake school, modifying them with different stone details and perhaps enlarging the footprint a bit. Note the offset front entrance block, the double portals, and similar though not exact stone trim above the front entrance, and the rounded side portal with alternating-colored masonry. The Bedford school, which also faces east, has the same auditorium on the far left and the same gymnasium size and location, based on 1933 Sanborns of Bedford. The belfry poking up over the roof of the school is on an older school behind the new building. Obtained at www.vintageshades.com on 4/6/2016

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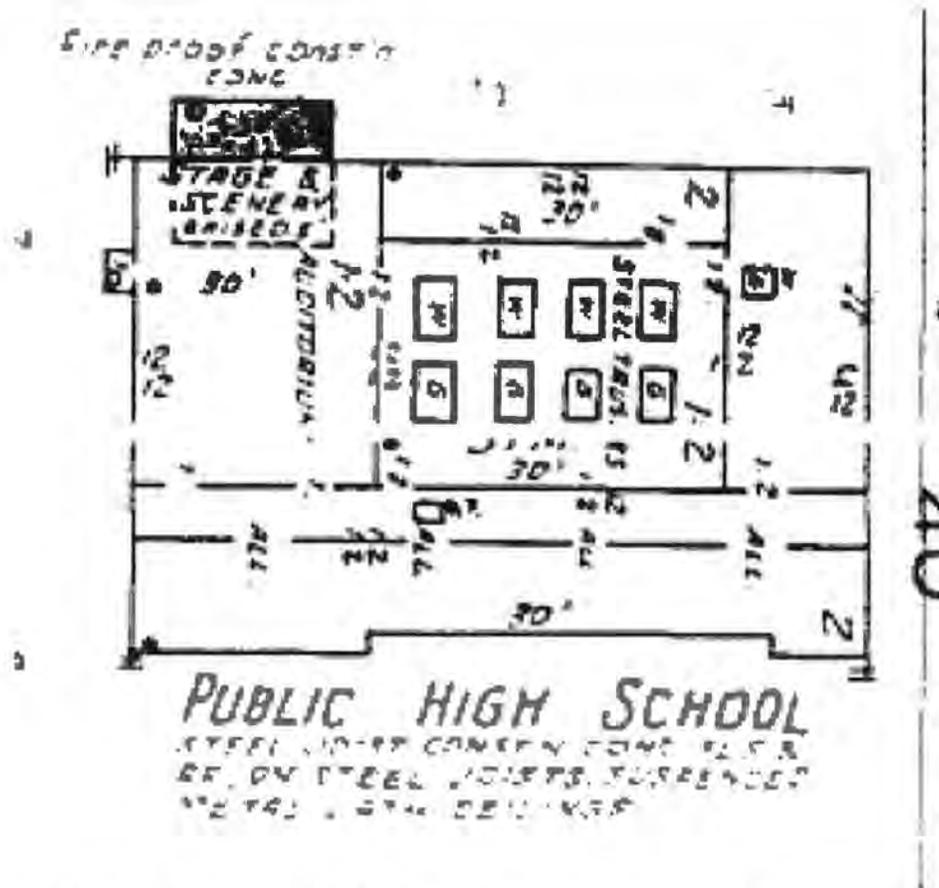


Figure 14 Bedford High School as represented on the 1933 Sanborn fire insurance map. Compare this plan with the 1948 Sanborn plan for the Storm Lake High School (see Additional Documentation pages).

Leading up to the mid-February school bond vote, the local press was full of information meant to encourage a positive outcome, much of it coming from the Keffer report. For example, on January 26, 1928 the Register reported:

The [old] Senior High Building is a fire-proof structure and rates quite high. The Junior High Building is a temporary frame building which has served its purpose...The present High School has a small gymnasium long since outgrown. This gymnasium is entirely inadequate for the playing of basketball and the school district is renting the Buena Vista college gym for practice and the playing of games...it is thought within three years it will be impossible to secure the further use of this [college] building.

Also,

...one of the greatest needs of the District is an auditorium as an assembly room to be used primarily for school work and secondarily by the community at large...Used for school purposes that auditorium would take care of assemblies of students.

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class plays, rehearsals, public speaking, debates, orchestra work, entertainment, etc.; used by the community this room would take care of public meetings, entertainments of varied nature, conventions, imported attractions, etc. This room would be almost constantly demanded.

Other successful commissions by the Storm Lake school's architects were featured prominently in the press. The Clarinda High School, another western Iowa school completed prior to the Storm Lake school, was featured in the February 2, 1928 *Pilot-Tribune*. Figure 15 below is an early view of the school. The *Pilot-Tribune* article reported the cost of this building at \$180,000 suggesting the \$165,000 bond issue coming up for a vote was in the right cost range, if not a better deal.



Figure 15 The Clarinda High School by Keffer and Jones was a variation on the Tudor Revival theme the firm later used in Storm Lake. The main modification was a centered entrance, but still one with heavy stone decoration. Obscured behind the foliage at both ends are castellated turrets that rose higher than the façade wall (see Figs. 20-21). This building was demolished in 2001 to make room for a new library. Obtained at www.oocities.org on 4/7/2011; demolition date obtained from Clarinda School District administrative assistant, 4/7/2016

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Continuing its encouragement for an affirmative vote, on February 9, 1928, the Pilot-Tribune ran two articles on its front page, one under the heading "Why You Should Vote "Yes" at School Election," the other was a detailed financial piece under the heading "Proposed New Schoolhouse Will Not be a Load on any Storm Lake Taxpayer." Predictably, the bond issue passed by a large margin the next week.

With the vote as evidence of solid community support behind the school board's plan, a notice inviting contractor bids appeared in the press just a week later. Local builder Tom Park, who had been re-elected very recently to another term on the school board resigned in order to bid as general contractor on the school project. When the bids were opened, Park's was the second lowest and thus, a losing bid. "Lippert Bros. of Boone were a trifle lower."²⁸ But good fortune fell on Park, which the press described as follows:

When the general bids were first opened Tuesday morning it seemed for a time that Lippert Bros. of Boone were the successful low bidders. In the total for the job they were a little more than \$200 lower than Mr. Park. However when the board had convened again after lunch Tuesday afternoon this firm withdrew their bid and asked for the return of their certified check...²⁹

School Board minutes reveal that architect Keffer had recommended Lippert Bros. withdraw its bid. Clearly something had happened over the lunch break, but just what or why Lippert Bros. would be convinced to bow out of such a choice project is unknown. Perhaps the company had performed unsatisfactorily on a prior project and someone reminded them of it; perhaps Keffer revealed he had other upcoming school projects in western Iowa on which the company would be welcome to bid.³⁰ Surely the basis of the architect's recommendation will never be known, but as a result Tom Park was awarded the general contract and all other major construction contracts went to local firms too.³¹

Construction started almost immediately. Gas lines to the site were underway in two weeks and a few weeks later school board members traveled to Sioux City, where there was a large brick manufacturer, to look at materials for the school.³² Steel was ordered and because of its length would need to be transported by "freight cars of unusual length."³³ By mid-summer, the "brickwork [was] above the windows on the first story and cement was being poured every day." The local fire department was enlisted to wet down the new concrete as it cured.³⁴ In July, the school board decided to add a balcony to the auditorium, perhaps a cautious add-on not initially contemplated because of cost.³⁵ According to the Register, the school rapidly rising from the construction site was of a "style

²⁸ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 4/5/1928.

²⁹ *Storm Lake Register*, 4/5/1928.

³⁰ Keffer's firm was in contact with the Emmetsburg school district and would design a new school for that town in 1929 following a study of the school system performed in 1928 (*Emmetsburg Democrat*, 7/19/1928). Likewise, the firm was drawing up plans for a new school in Estherville in early 1929 (*Estherville News*, 5/30/1929).

³¹ Storm Lake Independent School District, Board of Education Minute Book 2, 4/3/1928. (Located in the school district's administration offices.)

³² *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 5/10/1928; *Storm Lake Register*, 5/10/1928.

³³ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 6/14/1928.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 7/16/1928.

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[that] is not elaborate but the construction is such that the appearance will be more graceful and will add one more building to Storm Lake's list of beautiful buildings."³⁶

The local papers continued throughout the summer to monitor progress on the school and publish the details. By the fall of 1928, the stage furnishings had been ordered, interior walls were being plastered, and lighting fixtures were purchased.³⁷ The 70 yards of dirt excavated for the foundation were hauled to the lake front during October and by the end of the month, the school was enclosed, its exterior walls finished, and the roof was on.³⁸ The building was ready for work to continue inside over the winter. At the end of December, Tom Park was predicting at least part of the building would be ready for occupancy by February 1.³⁹ Just a month later, planning for an opening celebration was underway. It would include entertainment and speeches by various dignitaries, among them the governor, John Hammill, and the state superintendent of schools, Agnes Samuelson.⁴⁰ Ultimately the school's readiness was delayed by construction problems, including a car load of 30,000 feet of flooring that was "lost enroute."⁴¹ Finally, the school was finished, turned over to the school board by Tom Park, and dedication ceremonies were held in mid-March.

A week after the dedication ceremony, on March 21, 1929, the Pilot-Tribune published a lengthy special school edition, which it "sent to school officials and newspapers throughout the Midwest." The issue was especially good advertising for Keffer and Jones since it contained several articles written by the firm's principals and prominently featured elevation drawings of Keffer and Jones school buildings in western Iowa (see Figs. 16-21 for these line drawings and historic photographs of the same schools). Biographical profiles of the two principals were included as well,⁴² and Keffer authored one article in which he described the design and construction process in detail. If there were school officials out there who were contemplating the future construction of a new school in their district, this special edition and the material provided to the Pilot-Tribune by Keffer and Jones certainly would have placed the firm front and center for their consideration.

Community Use and Later School Years

Throughout the period that the building served as a high school, from 1929 until 1962, the school board's and architect's foresight in creating community space was confirmed repeatedly. From the beginning, the auditorium was used for large meetings by church groups, for prohibition rallies, and as a venue for speakers and community plays. It also hosted church services, fund-raising contests, labor meetings, and band concerts, to list just a few special community events held in the space. The gymnasium's use by the larger community appears to have been less extensive than the auditorium's, perhaps because many school athletic events were held in the evenings. Still, the community made good use of the gym, including allowing other schools to hold their events there. Music festivals, 4-H events, clubs, and entertainments that could not or did not work in the auditorium also were held in the gym between 1920 and 1962.⁴³

³⁶ *Storm Lake Register*, 7/19/1928.

³⁷ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 9/13/1928; *Storm Lake Register*, 10/4/1928.

³⁸ *Storm Lake Register*, 10/4, 10/25/1928.

³⁹ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 12/20/1928.

⁴⁰ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 2/14/1929.

⁴¹ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, 1/31/1929.

⁴² Unfortunately the digitization of this newspaper page was imperfect and most of the article is illegible.

⁴³ Newspapers were searched at five year intervals between 1930 and 1960 for events and activities held in the two school spaces. The only years in which the local newspapers did not advertise or report numerous community events in the school were 1945, 1955, and 1956.

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Following the construction of a new high school in 1962, which was built without an auditorium, the 1929 school building became a junior high/middle school until 1992 when a new middle school was constructed elsewhere in town.⁴⁴ The old school building then became an elementary school until 2009.⁴⁵ After the high school grades were transferred to the new school, the 1929 building's auditorium was modernized and crowded conditions were eased by the construction of a free-standing cafeteria and multi-purpose building nearby, all completed in the 1970s.

The Tudor Revival Style

Tudor Revival was one of a number of popular revival styles that mimed antecedent English models trendy during the reign of Queen Victoria, especially from the 1880s to the turn of the century. Following World War One, and the return of American GIs from Europe, vernacular and academic revival styles – Tudor, Gothic, Georgian and Spanish Colonial among them – became even more popular in the United States. Revival styles were especially favored for domestic architecture, but during the 1920s architects designing buildings for college campuses and larger school districts often worked in the Tudor Revival style, sometimes also called “Collegiate Gothic.” Neither term is precise since the style freely mixed a variety of Late Medieval details. Features commonly seen in these educational buildings of the 1920s included prominent decorated entrance portals, often defined by octagonal-angle turrets, decoration consisting of shallow-relief stone carvings of vines, foliage, heraldry emblems, and blind screens or tracery, quoining at corners and doorway surrounds, and extensive use of Tudor arches—the shallow, slightly pointed arch derived from the English Tudor period of the early 16th century.⁴⁶ Storm Lake High School architect Karl Keffer spent a year in Europe studying architecture in 1908 when he was 25. As a mature architect twenty years later, he surely drew on those early experiences when drawing the school's plans.⁴⁷

Karl Kagey Keffer (1883-1954). Keffer was born in Des Moines, Iowa and was educated in architecture and engineering at the Iowa State College in Ames, the Armour Institute in Chicago, and Columbia University in New York City between 1905 and 1912. He opened his own practice in 1912, but relocated to Los Angeles the next year. Back in Des Moines by 1914, Keffer practiced with Oliver O. Smith until the latter's death in 1916. The partnership of Keffer and Earl E. Jones was formed immediately thereafter and the two practiced together until Jones's death in 1950. Oren Thomas was very briefly associated with the firm about the time the Storm Lake High School was constructed; however, he is not mentioned in the school board minutes or newspaper accounts, so this association likely did not coincide with the Storm Lake project. During 1934, Keffer served as president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ An auditorium was constructed as an addition to the 1962 high school in 2015. “An auditorium was included in the initial plans for the high school when it was constructed in 1962. However, that part of the plan was shelved for cost considerations.” Tim Gallagher, “Auditorium idea leads to Storm Lake High School Renovation,” *Sioux City Journal*, 3/15/2015.

⁴⁵ Juli Kwikkel, Storm Lake Elementary School principal, telephone conversation with author, 3/16/2016; email to author, 4/12/2016.

⁴⁶ Roger Dixon and Stefan Muthesius, *Victorian Architecture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1978), 180; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 358; *What Style is It?* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1983), 70; Harris, *Illustrated Guide to Historic Architecture*, 552.

⁴⁷ American Institute of Architects, “Questionnaire for Architects’ Roster and/or Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works,” completed by Keffer and Jones, 1946, obtained at <http://public.aia.org/> on 4/1/2016; Karl Keffer U.S. Passport application, 1908, obtained at Ancestry.com on 4/1/2016.

⁴⁸ Karl Keffer U.S. Passport application, 1908 Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City: University of Iowa, 1998), 93-95.

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Earl E. Jones (1885-1950). Jones was born in a rural area of Nebraska but raised in Indianola, Iowa, a small town south of Des Moines. Educated at Indianola's Simpson College and Washington University in Saint Louis from 1906 to 1907, Jones attended Columbia University in 1911 and 1912 where he probably met Karl Keffer. In 1916, the two formed what would become a decades-long partnership. Jones, who was also a licensed engineer, served as the president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1928.⁴⁹

Despite advertising the firm as strictly specializing in schools, Keffer and Jones also completed courthouses, major buildings at the Iowa State Fair Grounds in Des Moines between 1920 and 1942, a Masonic temple in Hastings, Nebraska, date unknown, and the main library at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, begun in 1947.⁵⁰ Their school buildings during the 1920s clearly reflected the Tudor Revival style, but as they moved into the Depression years of the 1930s and government-funded public buildings, the firm began to work in a stylish Art Deco or Moderne mode.⁵¹

The drawings and photos that follow (Figs. 16-21) illustrate the firm's work in the 1920s and the principals' use, to one degree or another, of the Tudor Revival style applied to a relatively standardized form. Most of these western Iowa schools have been demolished in the last twenty years or so. Table 1 below the images contains a partial list of Keffer and Jones's school building work.



Figure 16 Historic postcard of the Storm Lake High School from around 1935. Author's collection

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 88-89.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 94-95.

⁵¹ See for example, the Washington Junior High School and Jefferson Grade School in Clinton, Iowa. Jan Olive Full, *Washington Junior High School and Jefferson Grade School* National Register nomination, 2015.

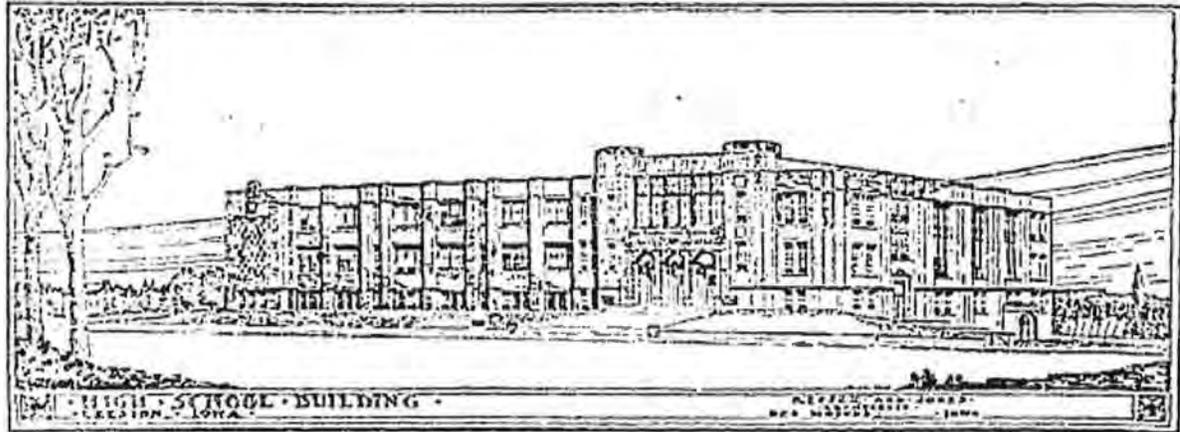
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Buena Vista County, Iowa
county and state

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**CRESTON HIGH SCHOOL.
KEFFER & JONES, ARCHTS.**

Figure 16 Keffer and Jones's Creston High School was built in the Union County seat town in southwest Iowa in the early to mid-1920s. *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, special edition, 3/21/1929

High School, Creston, Iowa



Figure 17 The Creston High School was demolished sometime before 1998.

Obtained at Cowcard.com on 4/2/2016; demolition information from Creston School District, administrative assistant to author, 4/7/2016

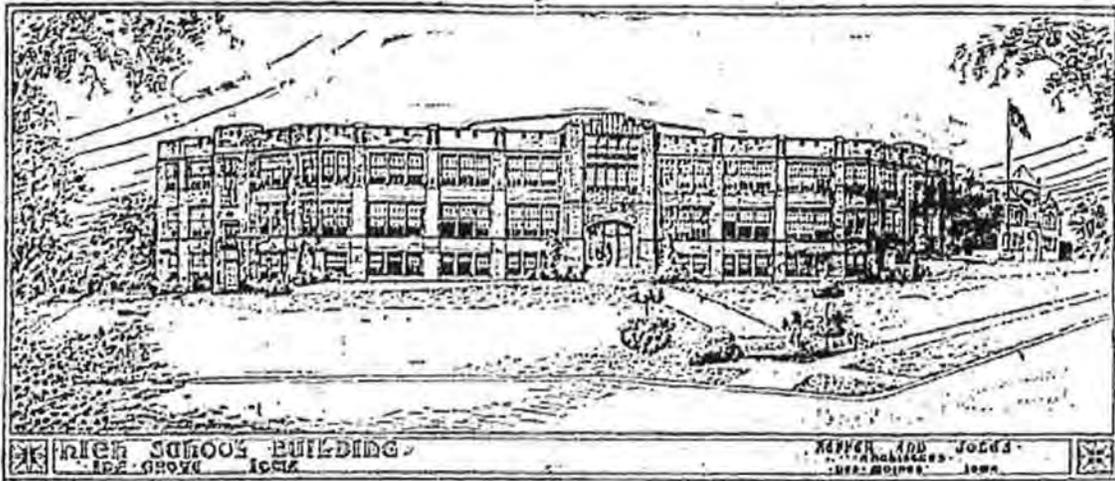
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Buena Vista County, Iowa
county and state

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IDA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
KEPNER & JONES, ARCHTS.

Figure 18 Built in 1923, this high school also was located in a northwest county seat town (Iowa County).
Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, special edition, 3/21/1929



Figure 19 The Ida Grove High School employed Tudor Revival details but had a central entrance. This building was demolished in 2012 according to the Ida Grove School District Business office staff (contacted 4/7/2016). The older school just visible at the right edge of the photograph was demolished before the high school. Postcard image obtained on ebay.com on 4/6/2016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
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Figure 20 Clarinda is the county seat of Page County in the extreme southwest corner of Iowa. The construction date of this building is unknown but prior to 1929. *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, special edition, 3/21/1929



Figure 21 This Keffer and Jones high school was demolished in 2001.
Photo from www.iagenweb.org. Also see www.oocities.org for a photograph of the school shortly before its demolition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
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Historic Name	Current Status	Location	Construction Years
Bedford High School	Extant	Bedford, Taylor Co.	Before 1928
Ida Grove High School	Nonextant	Ida Grove, Ida Co.	1923 / Tudor Revival
Clarinda High School	Nonextant	Clarinda, Page Co.	Early- to Mid-1920s / Tudor Revival
Creston High School	Nonextant	Creston, Union Co.	Early- to Mid-1920s / Tudor Revival
Storm Lake High School	Extant	Storm Lake, Buena Vista Co.	1928-1929 / Tudor Revival
Emmetsburg High School	Unknown	Emmetsburg, Palo Alto Co.	1929-1930
Estherville Junior High and Grade School (combined)	Unknown	Estherville, Emmet Co.	1929-1930
Mount Pleasant High School	Unknown	Mount Pleasant, Henry Co.	1932
Washington Junior High & Jefferson Grade School (combined)	Extant	Clinton, Clinton Co.	1934 / PWA funded
Muscatine High School	Unknown	Muscatine, Muscatine Co.	1936-1937 / PWA funded
Fairfield High School	Unknown	Fairfield, Jefferson Co.	by 1946
Horace Mann Elementary School	Unknown	Ottumwa, Wapello Co.	1940s

SOURCES: Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (1998), *Muscatine Journal & News Tribune*, 6/25/1936; "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster and/or Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works," 1946 (American Institute of Architect's Archives, 1946).

Future Plans

The school building has not been used for education purposes since 2015 when its boilers failed inspection and is currently vacant. Plans for its adaptive reuse as residential apartments or condominiums are in progress. Tax credits are contemplated as a part of the funding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

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9. Major Bibliographic References

“Auditorium Idea Leads to Storm Lake High School Renovation,” *Sioux City Journal*, 3/15/2015.

Buena Vista County Assessor records. Accessed at <http://buenavista.iowaassessors.com/parcel.php?gid=231565> on multiple dates, January-March, 2016.

Full, Jan Olive. “Washington Junior High School and Jefferson Grade School,” [Clinton, Iowa] National Register of Historic Places, 2015.

Gallagher, Tim. “Auditorium Idea Leads to Storm Lake High School Renovation.” *Sioux City Journal*, 3/15/2015.

Keffer and Jones. Plans for the Storm Lake High School, 1928. Collection of the Storm Lake School District. [Located at the Storm Lake School District Central Office.]

Kwikkel, Juli. South Elementary School principal. Telephone and email communications with author, various dates March and April, 2016.

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Sanborn Map Company, fire insurance maps of Storm Lake, Iowa, 1893, 1899, 1909, 1914, 1924, 1924 updated to 1948.

Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. Iowa City: University of Iowa, 1998.

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, multiple articles between 1927-1929; 1970-71 as cited in the footnotes.

Storm Lake Register, multiple articles between 1927-1929; 1970-71 as cited in the footnotes.

Storm Lake School District, Board of Education Minutes, 1927-1929; Building Record folders. [Located at the Storm Lake School District Central Office.]

Wegerslev, C.H., and Thomas Walpole. *Past and Present of Buena Vista County, Iowa*. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

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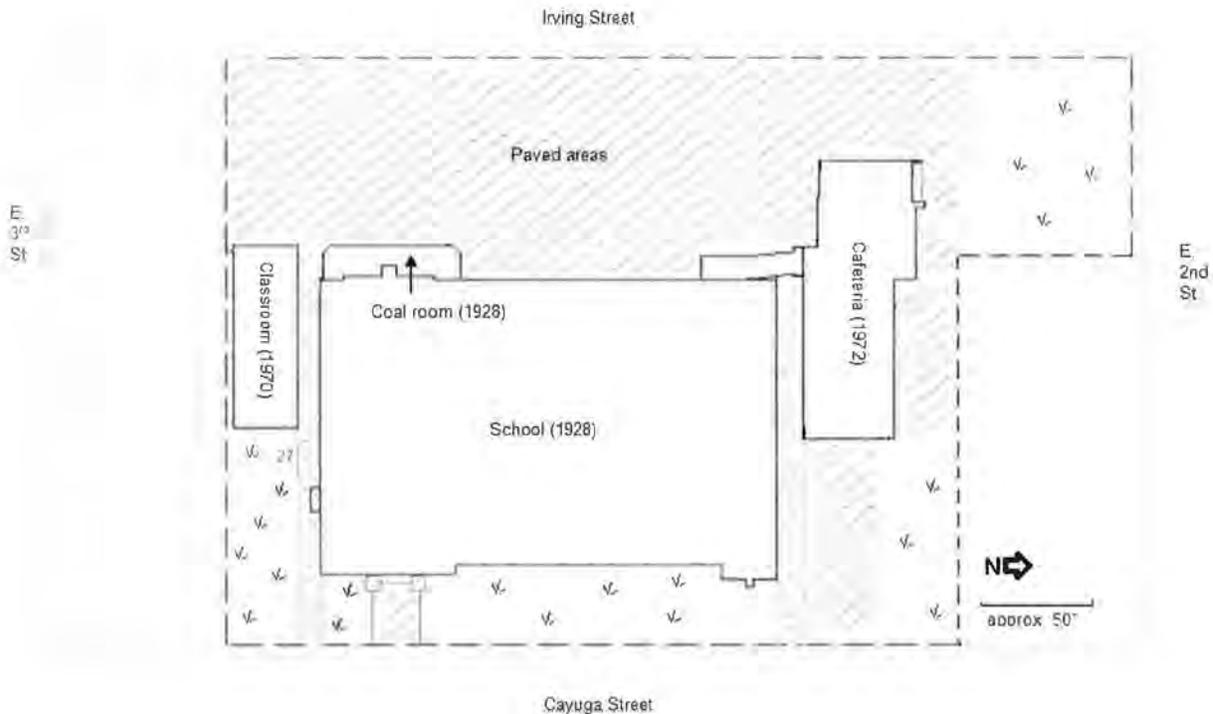
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the school building, cafeteria/multi-purpose building, and supplemental classroom building, all contained within a rectangular parcel, plus a small square of additional open land at the northwest corner of the rectangle. Public perimeter sidewalks are not included. Also not included is the former site of a nonextant school building at the northwest corner of E. 2nd and Cayuga Streets as this is now a parking lot not owned by the Storm Lake High School property owner.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the entire parcel historically associated with the Storm Lake High School during the period of significance and beyond, with the exception of the parking lot not owned by the Storm Lake High School property owner.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

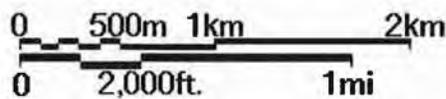
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Buena Vista County, Iowa
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Storm Lake in Buena Vista County, Iowa with the general location of the nominated property circled.

(detail from U.S.G.S. 7.5' topographic map, "Storm Lake," obtained 3/24/2016)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

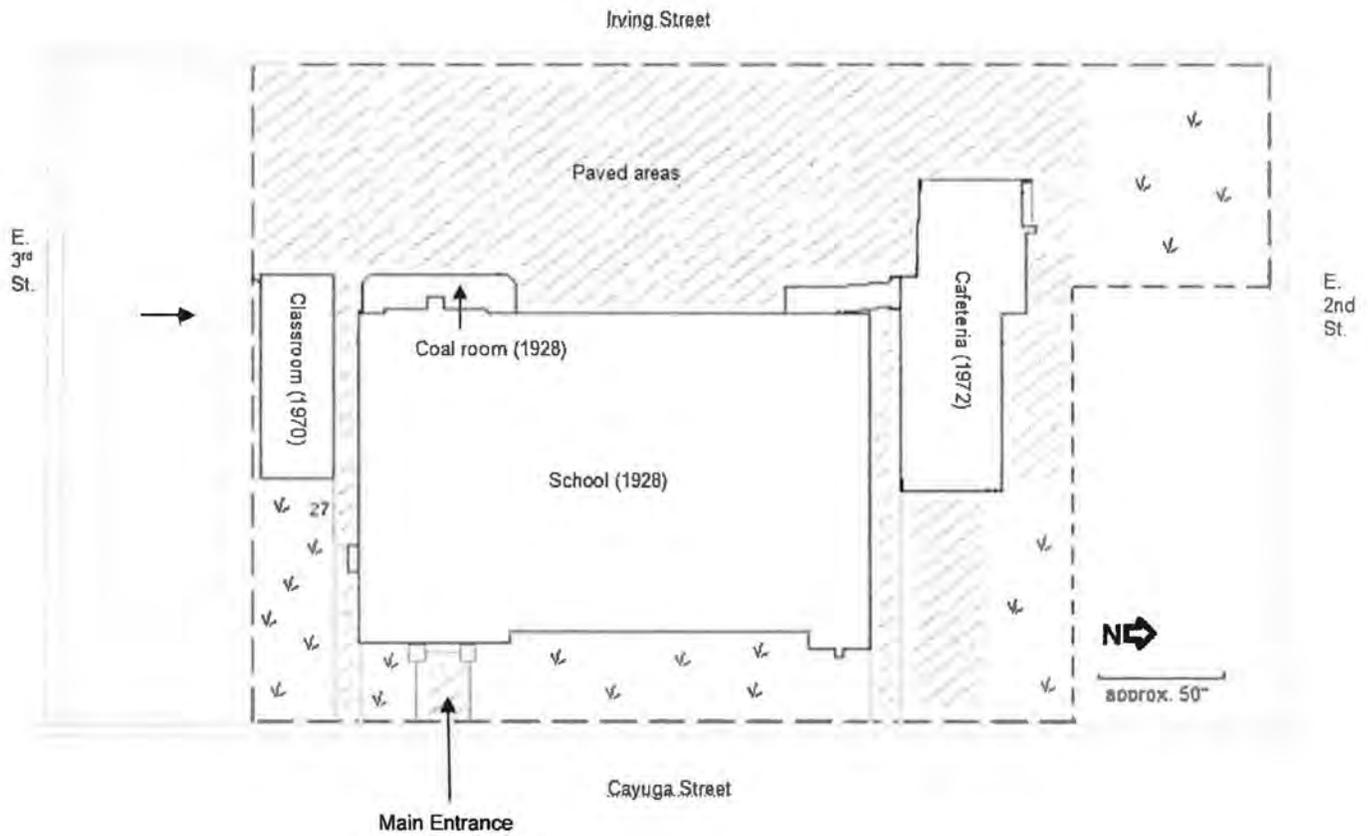
Storm Lake High School
name of property

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Site Plan showing boundaries of Nominated Property
(sketch map by Tallgrass Historians L.C., 2016)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
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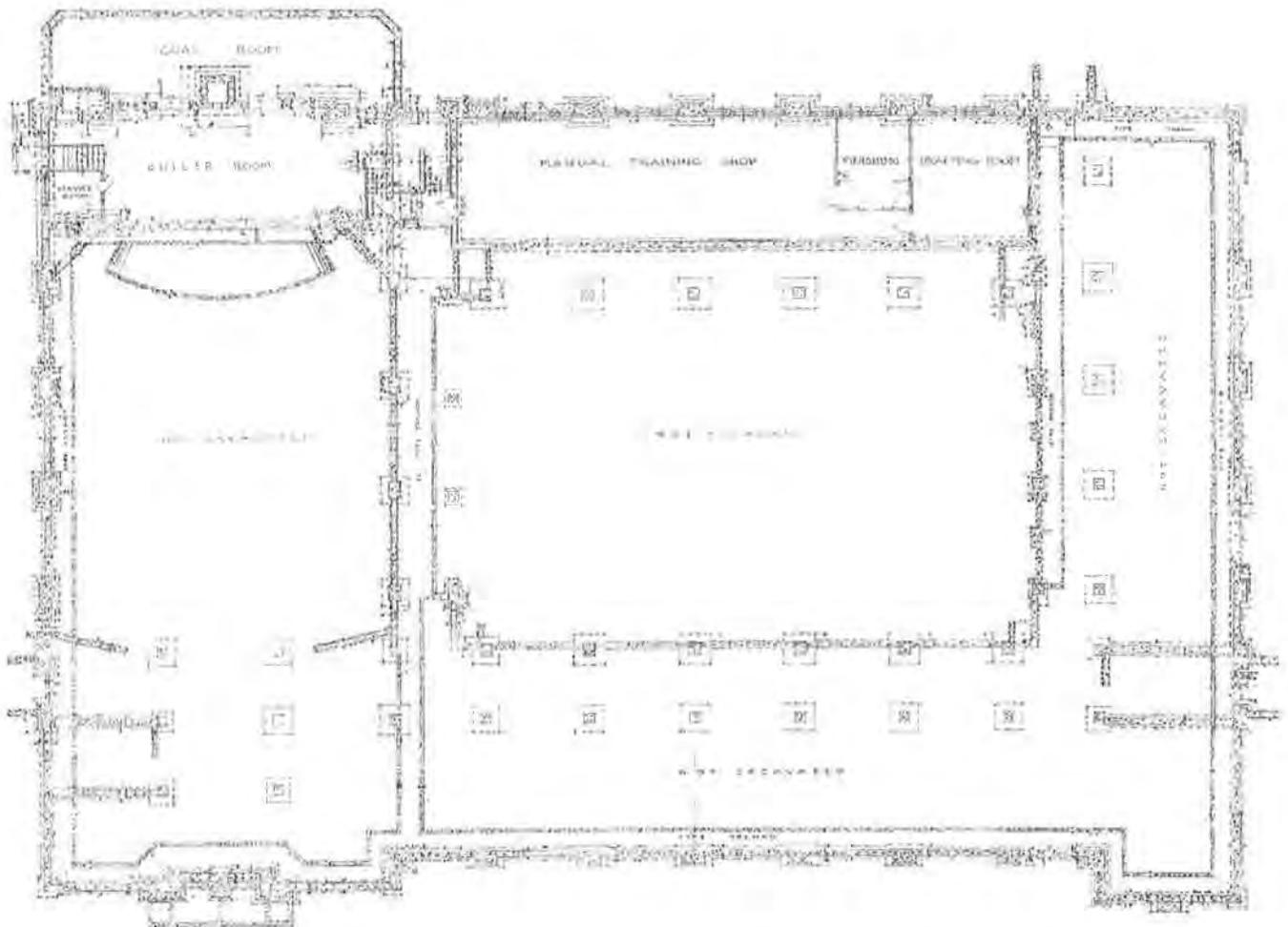
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Original Floor Plans with original functions noted (see also current plans) (Keffer and Jones, 1928)

Basement Plan



*The manual training and drafting rooms were last used as the art room and art supplies, respectively.
Source: Juli Kwikkel, elementary school principal during last school use of the building; telephone interview with author, 3/31/2016.

N →
no scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

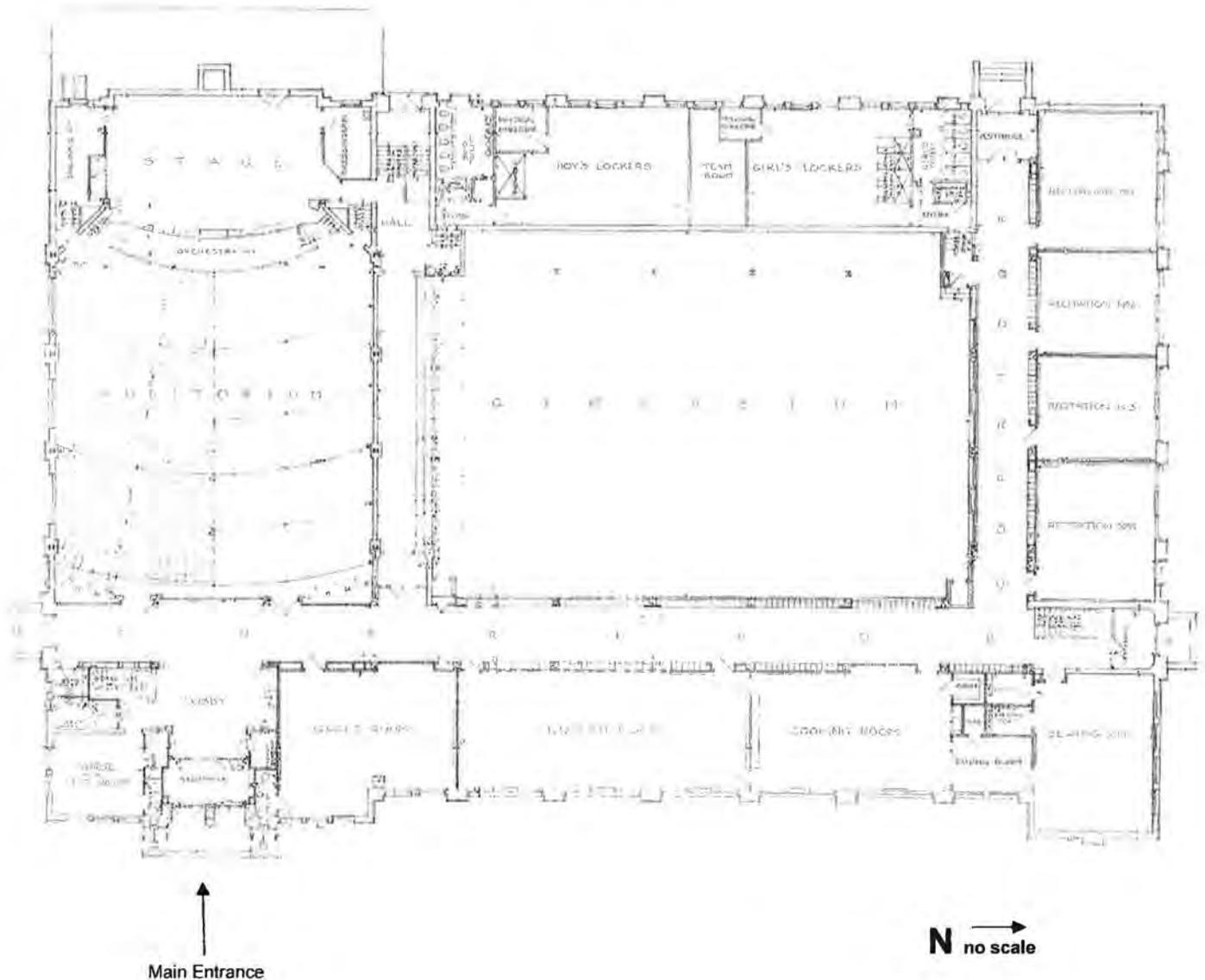
Storm Lake High School
name of property

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First Floor



*All functions in the building as it was last used remained as noted on the plans above, with the following exceptions: the sewing, cooking, lunch, and grade room became classrooms for elementary grades (kindergarten and 1st grade), and the nurse's room became a counselor's office. "Recitation" rooms are now called classrooms. Source: Juli Kwikkel, elementary school principal during last school use of the building; telephone interview with author, 3/31/2016.
**Note: A partition wall has been removed between Recitation No. 2 and Recitation No. 3. See the Current Plans for what has been added since these plans were drawn; field confirmed 5/6/2016.

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National Park Service

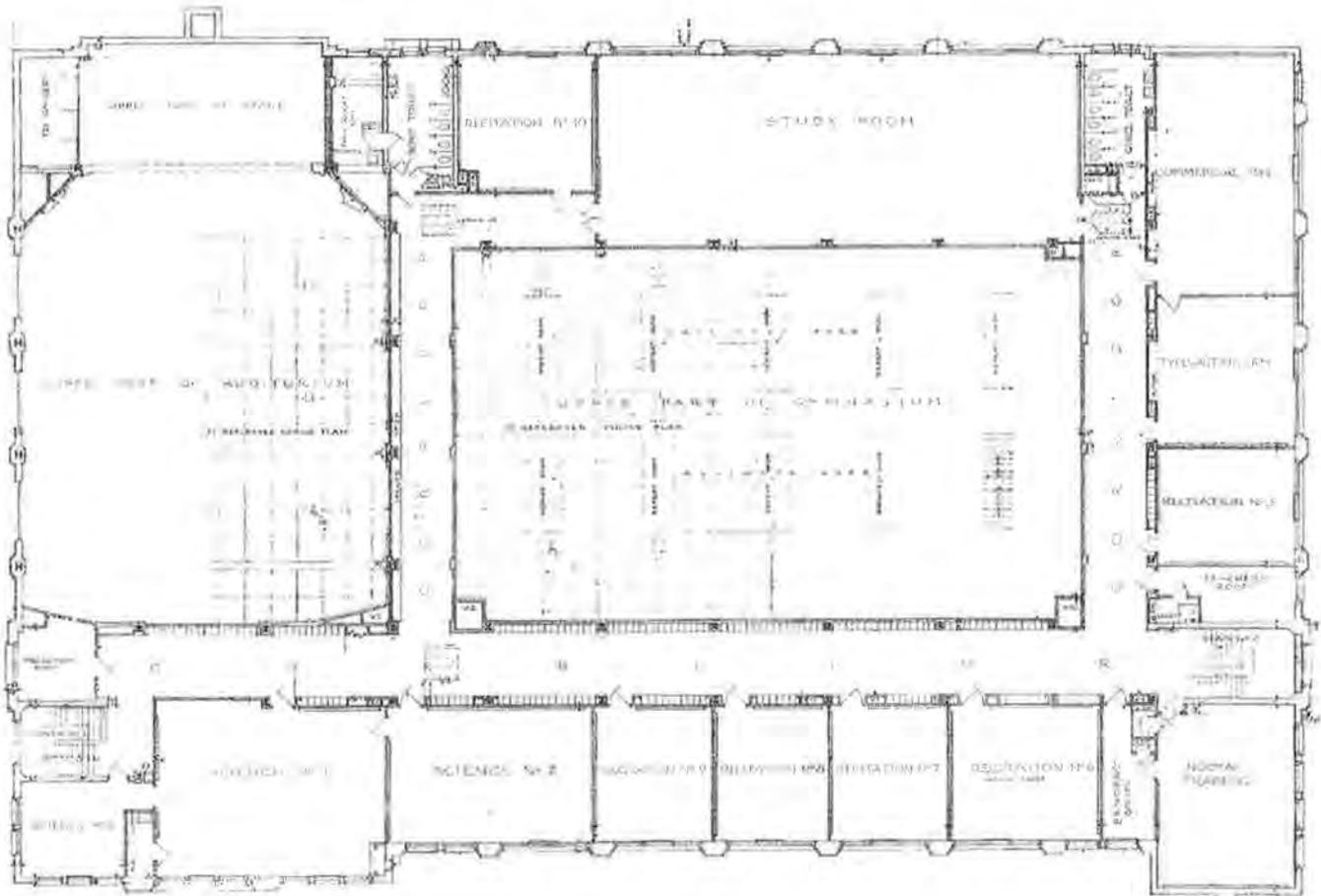
Storm Lake High School
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Second Floor



N →
no scale

*Functions in the building as it was last used remained as noted on the plans above, with the following exceptions: recitation no. 10 became the computer room; the study room became the library/media room; the commercial, typewriting, and recitation rooms no. 5-9 became 3rd and 4th grade classrooms; science rooms No 1 and 2 became 2nd grade classrooms; the teachers' room became the "talented & gifted" room; and the normal training room was converted to the administration, copy, and nurse's rooms. Source: Juli Kwikkel, elementary school principal during last school use of the building; telephone interview with author, 3/31/2016.

**Note: Partition walls have been removed between Recitation Room No. 5 and the Typewriter RM, and between Recitation Rooms 9 and 8. See the Current Plans for what has been added since these plans were drawn; field confirmed 5/6/2016.

Current Floor Plans and Spatial Functions – (modified from Keffer and Jones, 1928)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

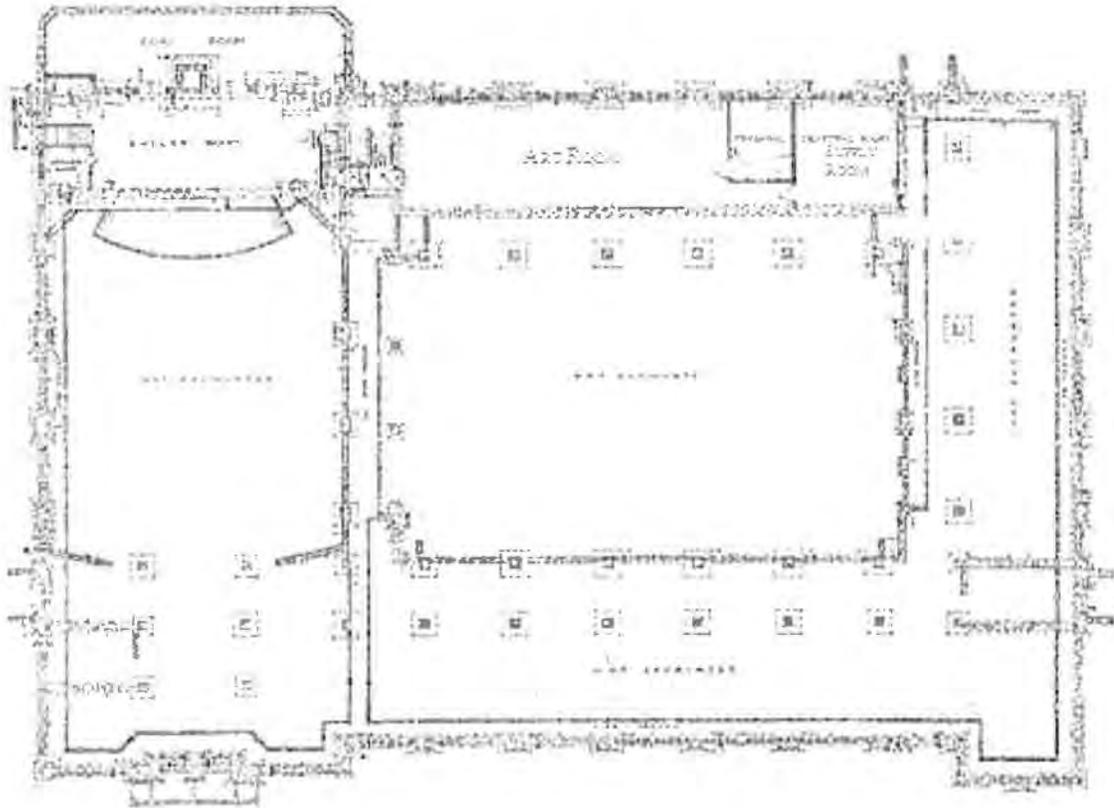
Storm Lake High School
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Basement Plan



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

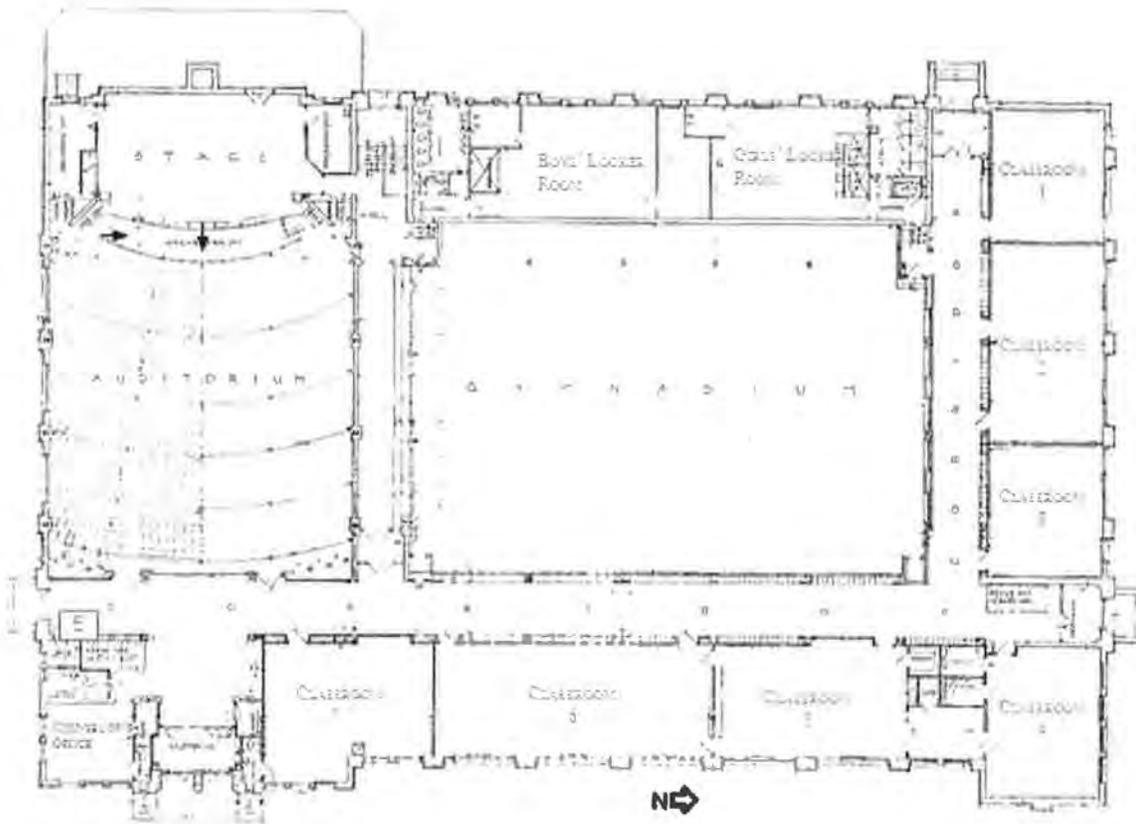
Storm Lake High School
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county and state

Section Additional Documentation Page 33

First Floor



Note: The elevator's placement is approximate only.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

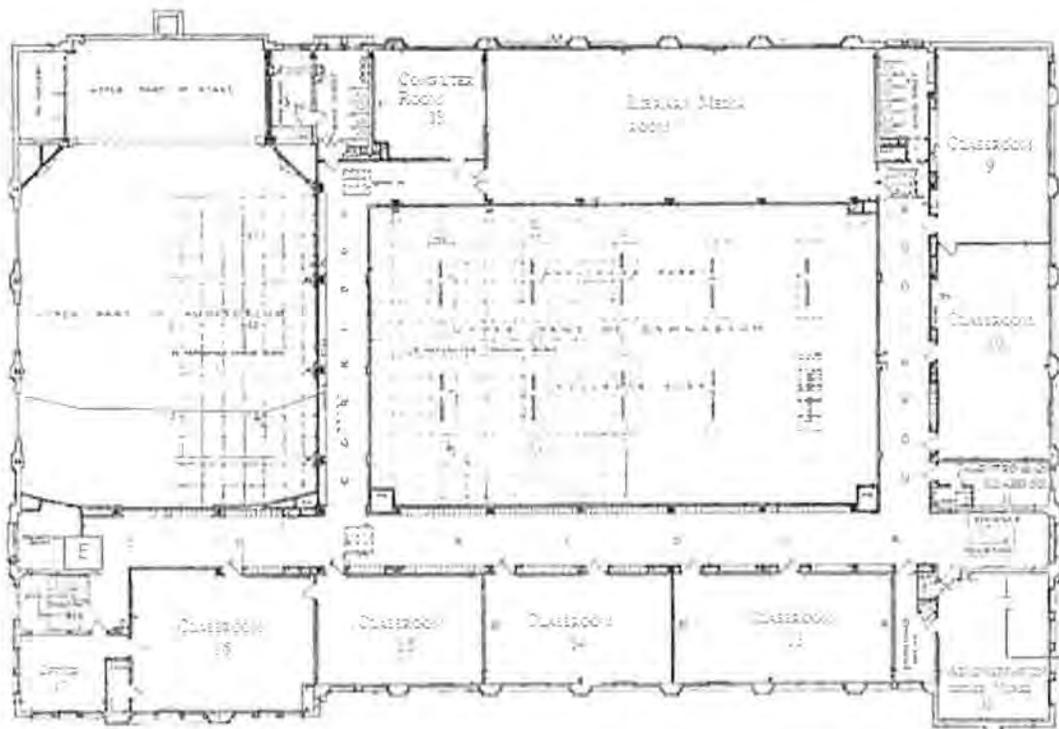
Storm Lake High School
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Second Floor



Notes: The balcony was built at the original time of construction but the feature was added to the design after these plans were completed. A plan page showing the balcony in place was not included with the historic plans provided by the school district. The elevator's placement is approximate only.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

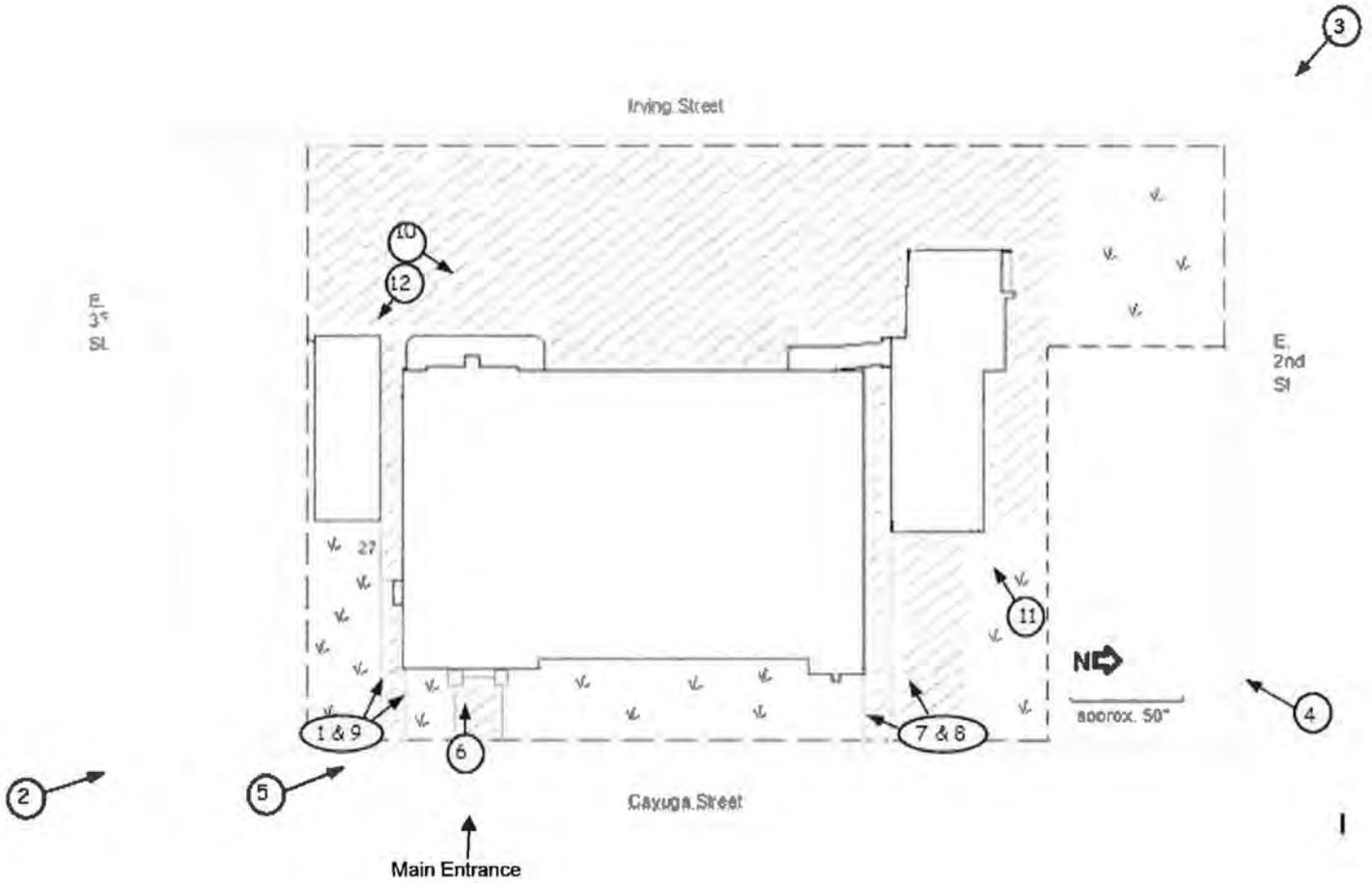
Storm Lake High School
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Photograph Locations



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

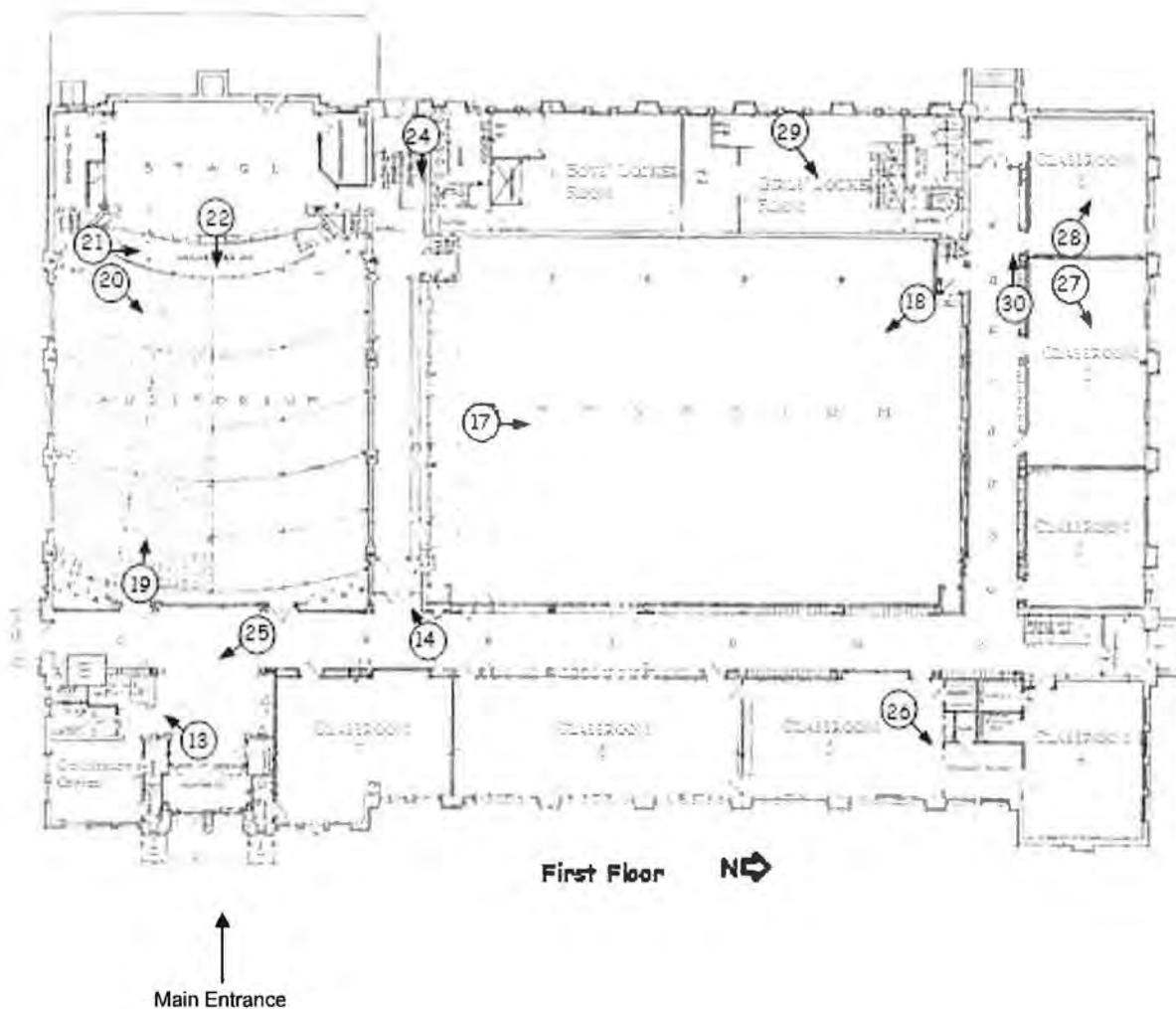
Storm Lake High School
name of property

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Photograph Locations



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

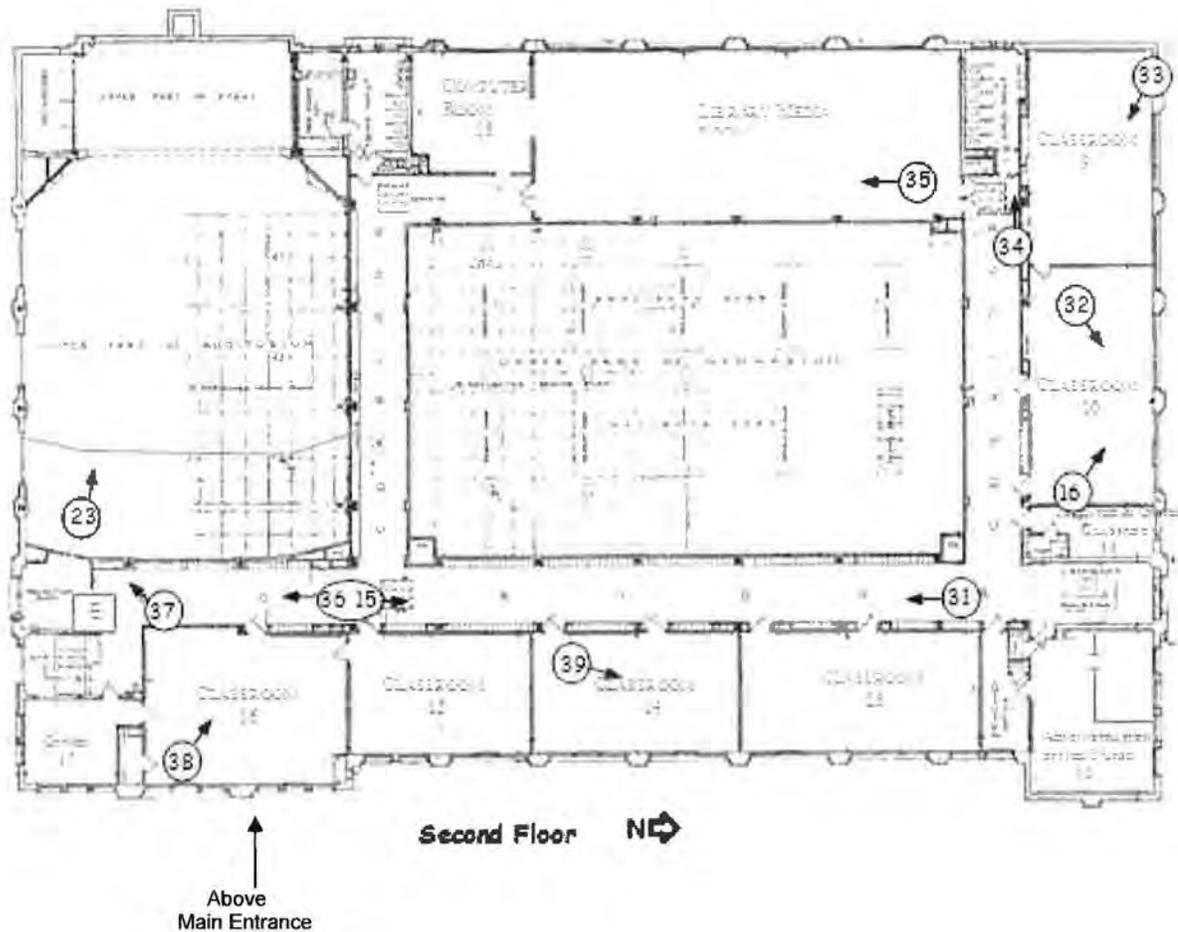
Storm Lake High School
name of property

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Photograph Locations



Photograph Label Information (##1- 5 share the same information)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
name of property

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1. Storm Lake High School
2. Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, IA
3. Jan Olive Full; Rebecca Conard & Feryle Berkland for Tallgrass Historians LC
4. January, April, May 2016
5. N/A (digital photographs)
- 6.-7. Description of view and photo number
 - 1 Exterior, main entrance and south entrance, looking NW
 - 2 Neighborhood view, from SE corner, looking NW
 - 3 Neighborhood view, from NW corner, looking SE
 - 4 Neighborhood view, south wall of cafeteria/multi-use building & church beyond, looking NE
 - 5 Exterior east façade & south end wall, facing NW
 - 6 Exterior, main entrance detail, looking W
 - 7 Exterior, east façade, looking SSW
 - 8 Exterior, north elevation and side entrance, looking SW
 - 9 Exterior, south elevation and side entrance, looking NW
 - 10 Exterior, west rear elevation, looking NE
 - 11 Exterior, cafeteria addition, looking WSW
 - 12 Exterior, classroom addition, looking SE
- INTERIORS:
 - 13 Interior, 1st floor, south stairwell, looking SW
 - 14 1st floor, east corridor vestibule doors to gymnasium, looking WSW
 - 15 2nd floor, east corridor (lockers removed), looking N
 - 16 2nd floor, representative classroom, looking NW
 - 17 Gymnasium, looking N
 - 18 Gymnasium looking SE
 - 19 Auditorium, looking W
 - 20 Auditorium, looking NE
 - 21 Stage apron & orchestra pit, looking N
 - 22 Center stage, looking E
 - 23 Stage from balcony, looking W
 - 24 West entrance stairs & handrail, looking E
 - 25 Main lobby, 1st first floor, looking SW
 - 26 Arched openings in Classroom 5, first floor, looking NE
 - 27 Classroom 2, 1st floor, looking at non-original glass insert in white board, looking NE
 - 28 Classroom 1, 1st floor, looking NW
 - 29 Girls locker room, looking NE
 - 30 West staircase to 2nd floor, looking W
 - 31 East hallway, 2nd floor, looking W
 - 32 Classroom 10, 2nd floor, looking NE
 - 33 Classroom 9, 2nd floor, looking SE
 - 34 Second floor doors to girls' restroom, looking W
 - 35 Library/media room, 2nd floor, looking W
 - 36 East hall, 2nd floor, water damage, looking S
 - 37 Balcony doors, 2nd floor, looking SW
 - 38 Classroom 16 with non-original cabinetry, 2nd floor, looking NW
 - 39 Classroom 14, looking NE

**Other classrooms are being used as storage for desks, wall panels, etc., and filled to the point that photos would not be useful.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Storm Lake High School
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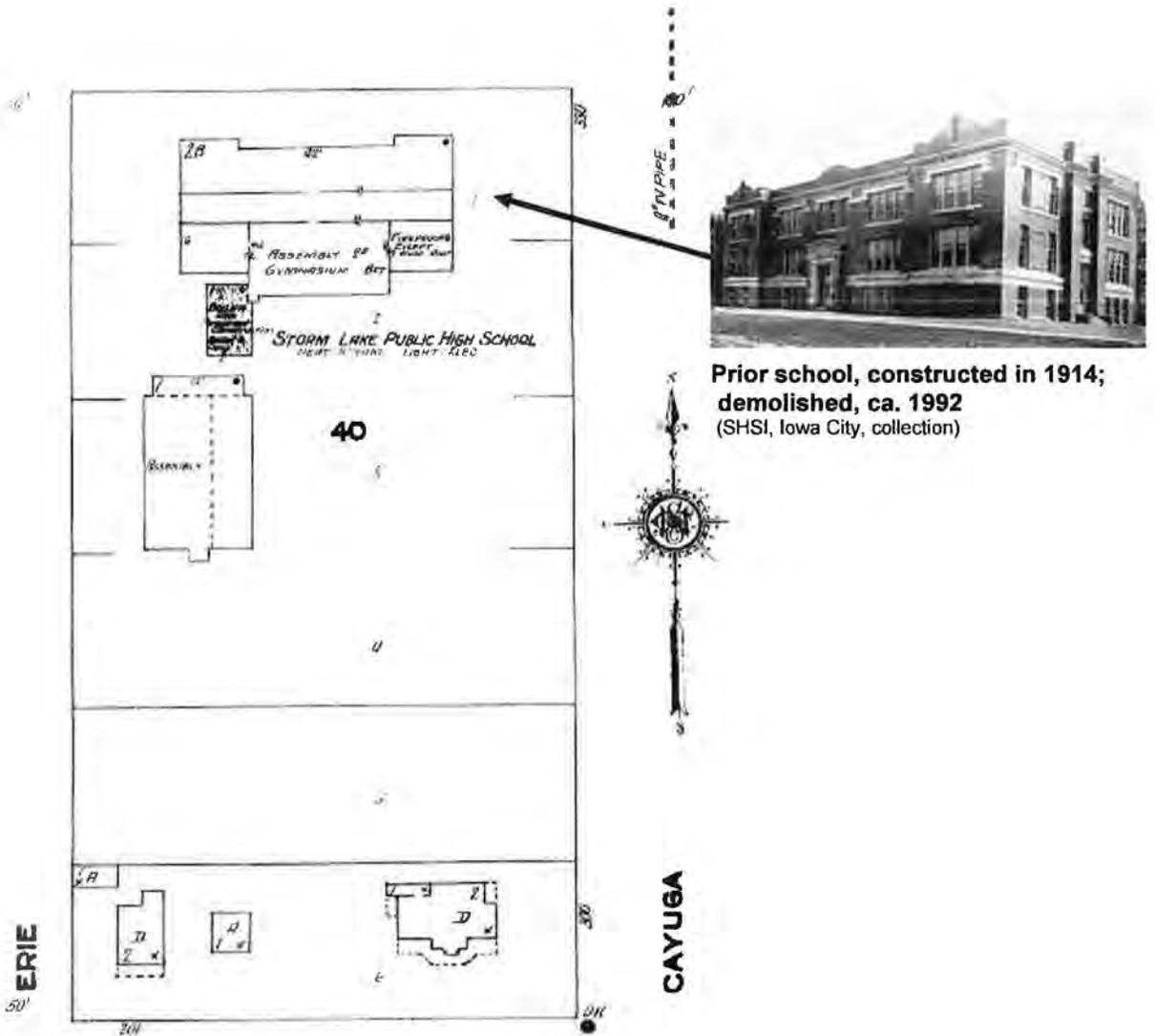
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Buena Vista County, Iowa
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Sanborn Map Co. fire insurance maps of Storm Lake, Iowa

1924 (4 years before construction of the nominated resource)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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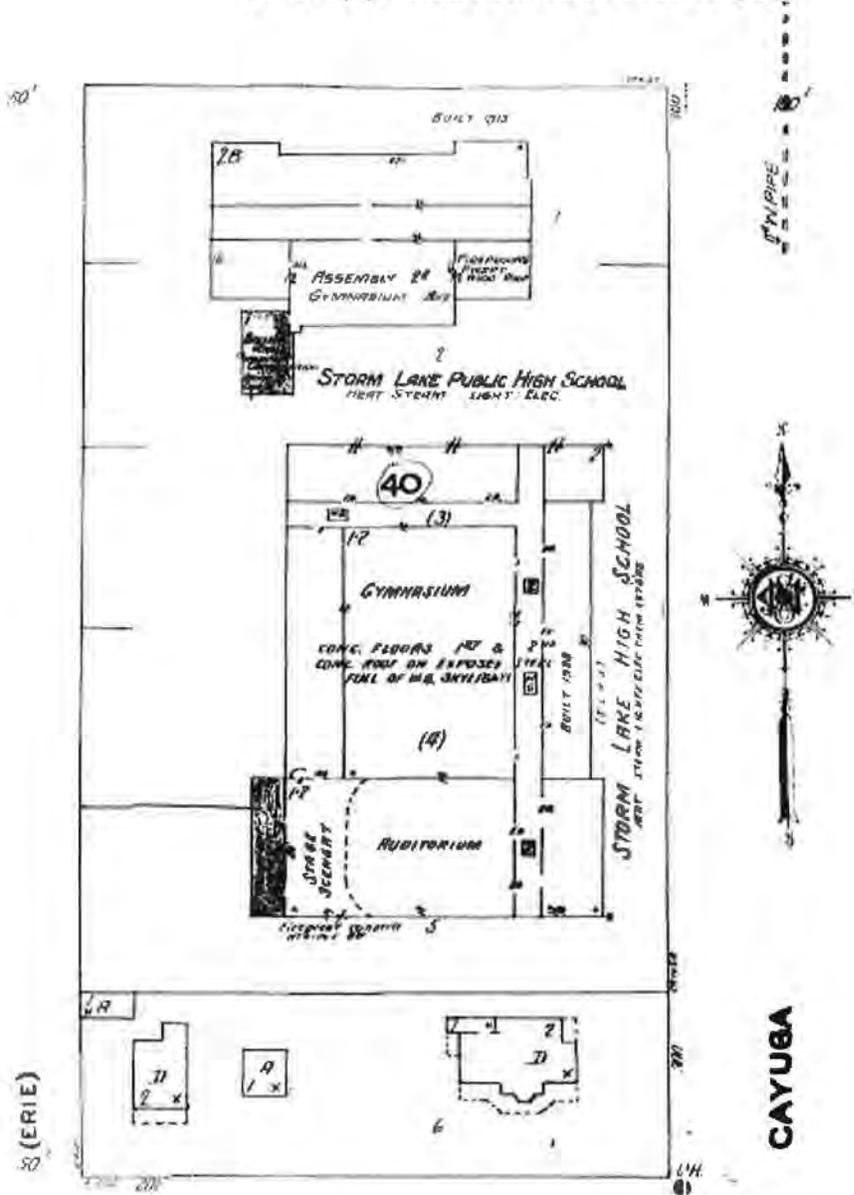
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Sanborn Map Co. fire insurance maps of Storm Lake, Iowa

1948 (updated from 1924 base maps)



See detail of school next page.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

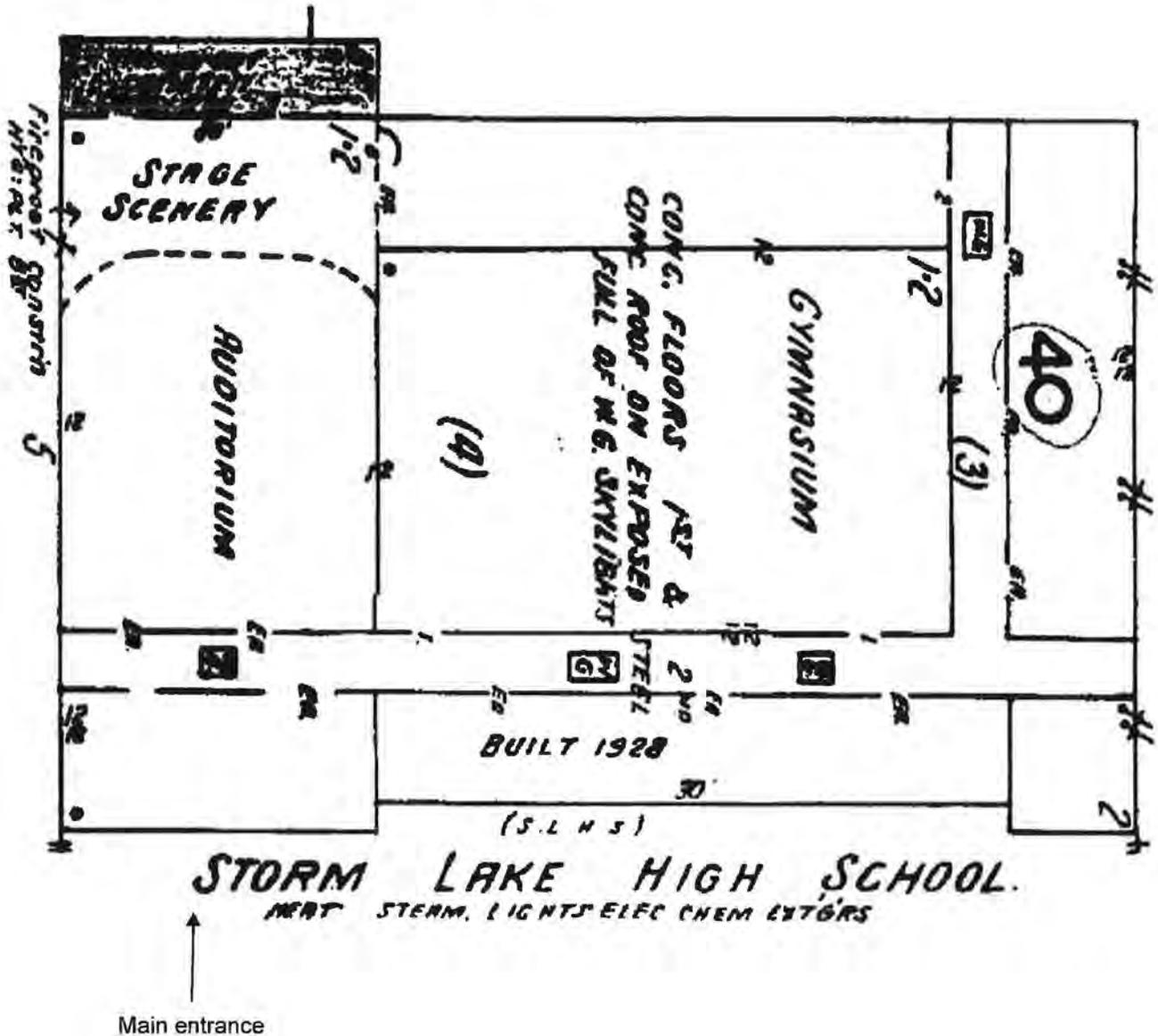
Storm Lake High School
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Detail of 1948 Sanborn Map Co. fire insurance map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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name of property

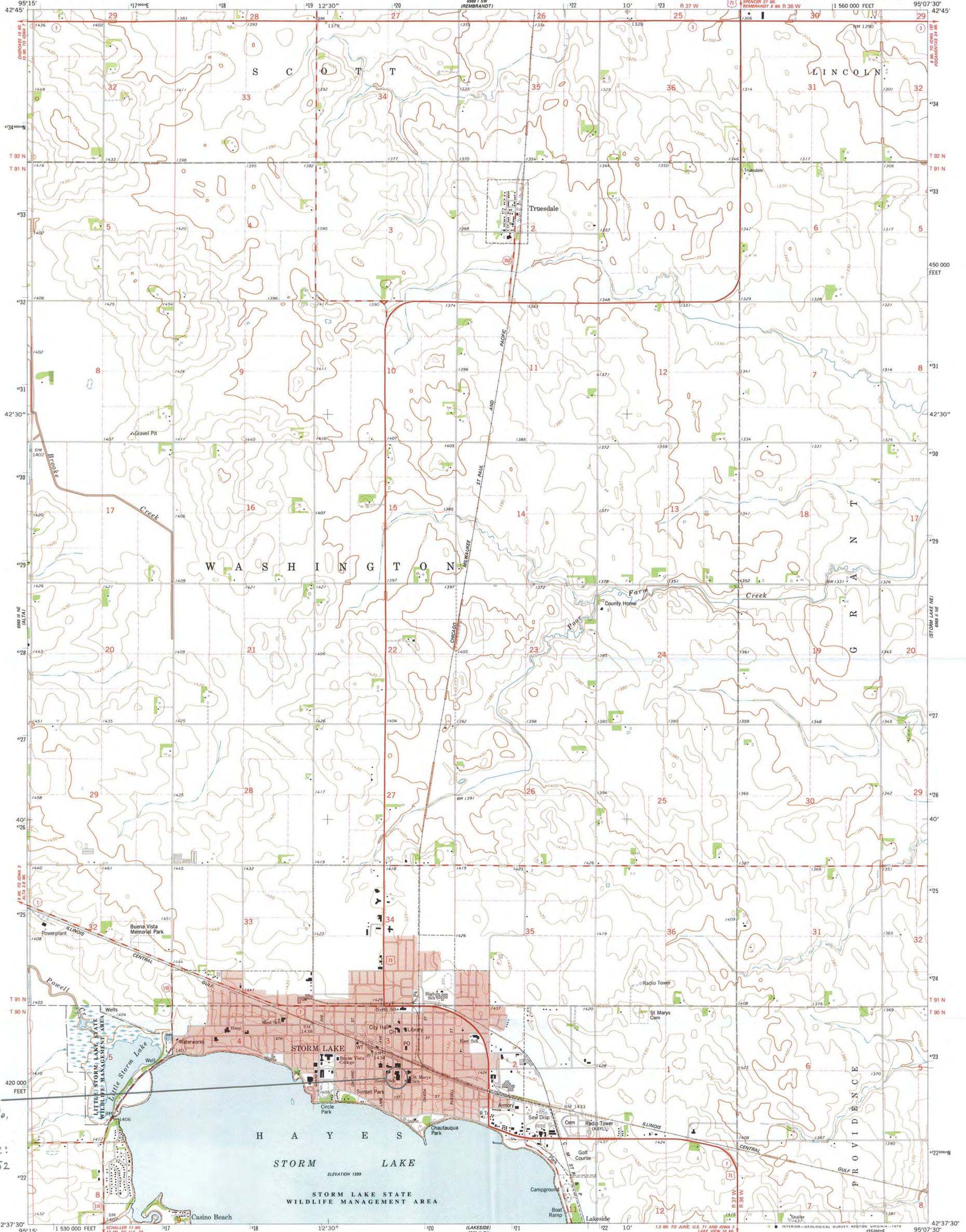
Buena Vista County, Iowa
county and state

HIGH SCHOOL, STORM LAKE, IOWA



IA1590

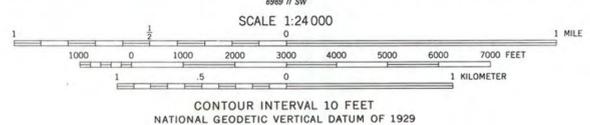
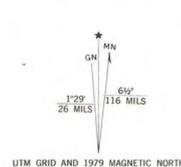
Historic postcard of the Storm Lake High School from around 1935.
Author's collection



Storm Lake
High School
Storm Lake,
Buena Vista Co,
IA

UTM Reference:
15/319752/4722952

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1973. Field checked 1974. Map edited 1979
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
USCS
Historical File
Topographic Division
STORM LAKE, IOWA
N4237.5-W9507.5/7.5
1979
AMS 6969 II NW-SERIES V876

SEP 17 1979

1500



FORI - WING - DISTRICT



Life House
Reading Room
Living Room

E 2ND ST









FORM-MERID

FORM-MERID



































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: 12/2/2016 Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016 Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017 Date of Weekly List: 1/25/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/17/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

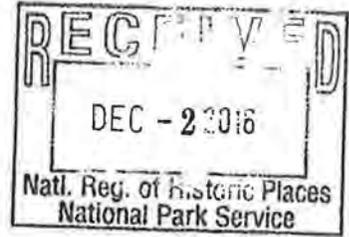
DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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

MARY DOWDIE, DIRECTOR
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



November 30, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmarks
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

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

- Bricker-Price Block, 105-115 S. Chestnut Avenue, Earlham, Madison County
- The Priester Building, 601 Brady Street, Davenport, Scott County
- Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Des Moines Building, 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Polk County
- Mack-International Motor Truck Corporation Building, 121 12th Street, Des Moines, Polk County
- Washington and Elizabeth Miller Tract-Center-Soll Community Historic District, roughly 35th St. west to 38th St. between 3500-3607 Grand Ave. north to Center St., Des Moines, Polk County
- Walnut Tire & Battery Co. – Globe Publishing Company Building, 1417-1425 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Polk County
- Storm Lake High School, 310 Cayuga Street, Storm Lake, Buena Vista County
- Hotel President, 500 Sycamore Street, Waterloo, Black Hawk County
- Park Hotel, 115 NW State Street, Sac City, Sac County
- Hamburg Historic District (amendment, increase, decrease), hill to northwest of downtown: roughly W. 5th St from Western to Brown, W. 6th St from Harrison to Warren, W. 7th St, W. 8th St and W. 9th St from Ripley to Vine, Davenport, Scott County
- Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 Building, 430 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Linn County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster
National Register Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa

STATE HISTORIC SITES

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA