

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 16 2013 831

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Forest Grove School No. 5

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 24040 195th St.

City or town: Bettendorf State: IA County: Scott

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

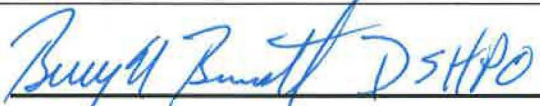
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>8/27/2013</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10-16-13
Date of Action

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>2</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
<u>3</u>	_____ objects
<u>5</u>	_____ Total

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

October 24, 2013

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 2013

This is due to the fact that there was a lapse in appropriations by Congress and our offices were closed from October 1-16, 2013. "Nominations will be included in the National Register within 45 days of receipt by the Keeper or designee unless the Keeper disapproves a nomination" (30CFR60.(r). If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day.

The documentation is technically sufficient, professionally correct and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation. Thus, this property is automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian/Italianate
Other/One-Room Schoolhouse

Materials:

(enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Wood/Weatherboard
Foundation: **Concrete**
Roof: **Wood/ Asphalt Shingle**

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Forest Grove School No.5 was erected in 1873, as one of five schools in the Pleasant Valley Township¹ but is the only one that survives in its original form and location. Forest Grove School No.5 sits on a small triangular-shaped lot, less than 1 acre in size, with two of the ~15 original burr oak trees that remain of the forest grove for which the school was named². The school is surrounded on three sides by agricultural farmland that has not changed ownership in over 100 years.³ The fourth side of the school is bordered by Forest Grove Drive. Forest Grove School No.5 is a wooden one-room schoolhouse (dimensions 22'6" x 36'-4") with late Victorian/Italianate details⁴, with a single front-gabled roof protected by remnants of asphalt shingles over the original cedar shingles. A bell tower, present in pre-1949 photos, is nonextant but will be reconstructed in current rehabilitation efforts under the direction of a preservationist. Eight windows, (2 with Italianate U-shaped window crowns), an ornate sign above the door displaying "Forest rove" (the "G" in Grove is missing), and a full-size cellar constructed of concrete block complete the structure. Inside, the framework of the walls and original coved ceiling are well preserved. Other contributing resources include a wooden garage/fuel shed, and three pieces of the early playground equipment: two swing sets, and the pole of a Giant Stride. Therefore, the historical integrity of Forest Grove School No. 5 is evidenced by its original location and unaltered design. Its setting is upheld by preservation of the original lot and three early pieces of playground equipment. The wooden materials (e.g., wood framing, coved ceiling, and weatherboard) are intact, with the workmanship evidenced in the late Victorian/Italianate ornamentation above the door. Although the school has not been well maintained, its form and most of its character-defining features are intact.

Narrative Description

¹ Interstate Publishing Co., *History of Scott County, Iowa* (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Co, 1882), 1187-1201.
² Original Articles of Agreement from 1895-1917, Teacher Contracts from 1895-1921 and Teacher reports from 1925 and 1939-1952. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.
³ Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 69.
⁴ McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1988).

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Forest Grove School No. 5 is located north of Forest Grove Drive and west of County Road Z30, just outside of the Bettendorf city limits (2010 population: 33,217; **Images, Fig.1**) in Scott County, Iowa. Forest Grove School No.5 is completely visible and accessible from all sides (**Images, Fig. 2**). The front of the school faces south to Forest Grove Drive (see Photo key; **Images, Fig.3**). To the west is a swing set positioned between two burr oak trees from the original grove of trees for which the school was named. Northeast of the school is a wooden garage/fuel shed. To the east is a second swing set and a pole from a Giant Stride. The Giant Stride was a piece of playground equipment common in the early 1900's^{5,6} and present among the early playground equipment pieces in the "model playground" created by Jane Addams in 1892⁷. It consisted of a vertical pole with a rotating hub at the top from which several chains extended. At the bottom of each chain were 1 to 3 bars that children would hang onto while running around the pole. The centrifugal force generated would swing the children into the air. With great enough speeds, this force would be too much for the children to maintain their hold on the bar, and consequently they would go flying off into the dirt, or in the case of Forest Grove School No.5, into cinders⁸. It is no wonder that in 1921, the National Recreation Association recommended that all Giant Strides be banned from public playgrounds for safety.⁹ Despite this ban, Giant strides were still in use on playgrounds across America through the 1970s.¹⁰

Forest Grove School No.5 is a one unit rectangular structure, with dimensions of 22'6" x 36'-4" (**Photo #1**). The exterior walls of the school are protected by wood weatherboard. The single front gabled, low-pitched roof with projecting eaves is protected by remnants of asphalt shingles. A bell tower, present in pre-1949 photos of the schoolhouse, and removed in the summer of 1949, is nonextant but will be reconstructed in current rehabilitation efforts by Forest Grove School Preservation (see discussion below) under the direction of a preservationist to ensure the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are met. The front facade of the schoolhouse faces south and contains the primary doorway centered between two tall, narrow windows with inverted U-shaped Italianate crowns, both with missing sashes. Above the entry are two original ornamentations, also of Italianate design: a sign displaying the words "Forest rove" (the "G" in Grove is missing) and a round wooden ornate decoration above the sign (**Photo #2**). The only features on the east (**Photo #1**) and west (**Photo #3**) facades of the school are three tall, narrow windows on each side, all with missing sashes. The north wall of the school is partially covered in wood weatherboard with shadowing where an exterior chimney existed. Exposed framing and doorway on this façade are the consequence of ongoing rehabilitation of the building to its pre-1949 floor plan (see below).

Time and weather has taken a toll on the exterior framework of Forest Grove School No. 5, and rehabilitation of its structure was emergent. The concrete block foundation was deteriorated and supported the building only at its four corners. Consequently the walls were beginning to sag for lack of support. Forest Grove School Preservation (FGSP) is leading the rehabilitation of Forest Grove School No. 5. The structure has been lifted, its crumbling concrete block foundation removed, new footings poured and a replacement concrete block foundation has been laid. To provide a single, exterior access to the basement, a new cement block stairwell was added in the northeast corner of the schoolhouse (**Photo #3**) and will be enclosed with a cellar door.

The interior framework of the schoolhouse is beautifully preserved and there are pieces of the original trim still present around a doorway (**Photo #4**). However, much of the original lath and plaster walls and wood flooring are disintegrated. Rehabilitation by FGSP will restore the floor plan of the schoolhouse to its pre-1949 design (**Images, Fig. 4**), with the exception of retaining the full-sized basement to house maintenance equipment and

⁵ Playgrounds and Public Recreation (1898-1929) <http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/timeline/playgrounds-public-recreation>

⁶ Preservation in Pink. <http://preservationinpink.wordpress.com/2010/03/30/preservation-photos-25/>

⁷ <http://www.pgpedia.com/ajjane-addams>

⁸ Oral interview with Charles Watkins by Sharon Andresen on March 6, 2013, Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

⁹ Hazards lurk on uninspected playgrounds. www.ednewscolorado.org/news/hazards-lurk-on-uninspected-playgrounds.

¹⁰ Alkire, Harold L. "Buddy". "Playground Safety – Are Your Children's Play Areas Safe?" *American Society of Safety Engineers*, ASSE Professional Development Conference and Exhibition, June 28-July 1, 2009, San Antonio, TX.

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a new HVAC system. The vestibule will span the central one-third of the south side of the building and provide a single central entry to the large rectangular classroom with a beautiful coved ceiling (**Photo #5**), an unusual feature of one-room schoolhouses. Adjacent to the vestibule, on the east and west sides, will be enclosed rooms with single access from the classroom. This will involve rebuilding the floor to the room east of the vestibule that was removed in the summer of 1949 to accommodate a stairwell to the basement (**Photo #6**). In addition, a section in the wall in the northeast corner of the classroom will be rebuilt and where an addition and doorway to a second stairwell to the basement existed (**Photo #3**), and covered using replacement weatherboard consistent with the existing weatherboard. Evidence of features that were added in the summer of 1949, but removed in the rehabilitation, will remain on the north wall of the building post rehabilitation. These include shadowing where the exterior chimney stood and the aforementioned weatherboard where an addition stood in the northeast corner of the schoolhouse.

Additional plans for the rehabilitation of Forest Grove School No. 5 to its pre-1949 structure include but are not limited to replacing the roofing, flooring and window sashes and door with period materials. The wood weatherboard will be restored where possible. A concrete basement floor will be poured and a new HVAC system installed. The final phase of the project will be to add period furnishings and to reconstruct the original bell tower (**Photo #7**), placing it proudly atop the finished school. The original bell is stored locally and will return to its place of honor in the bell tower.

The rehabilitation currently underway is being done according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and will not diminish the integrity of the school. The integrity of the design will be upheld in the current rehabilitation of the schoolhouse. The interior of the schoolhouse will be reconstructed to an earlier period in its history (pre-1949). When the basement was added in the summer of 1949, the bell tower seen in **Photo #7** was removed. To maintain the integrity of the exterior design in the pre-1949 era of the schoolhouse, this tower will be reconstructed in the rehabilitation project. Evidence of the 1949 renovations will remain in the full-size basement, and by shadows on the north façade where the exterior chimney and stairwell addition existed.

The setting of Forest Grove School No. 5 has been preserved over time, largely due to the fact that the land the school rests on and the surrounding property remains agricultural land that has not changed ownership in over 100 years. Two oak trees remain from the original oak grove for which the schoolhouse was named.

The materials originally used for construction of the schoolhouse remain intact with some exceptions. The 1949 concrete block foundation was deteriorated and supported the building only at its four corners. A replacement concrete block foundation was laid in Fall, 2012. The interior framework of the schoolhouse is beautifully preserved, and there are pieces of the original trim still present around a doorway (**Photo #4**). Most of the original lath and plaster has disintegrated or is missing. Some remnants of the wood flooring are present in the main classroom area. All of the window sashes are missing. With the exception of the rafters, much of the roof has deteriorated, and only remnants of the asphalt shingles remain. These will be replaced in current rehabilitation efforts of the schoolhouse, using materials and methods that adhere to the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

The integrity of workmanship is apparent in the remaining original trim around the west doorway into the classroom (**Photo #4**), as well as in the preserved Italianate ornamentation on the front facade (**Photo #2**).

The integrity of the association of Forest Grove School No.5 with the history of education in our nation is reflected in the fact that Forest Grove School No. 5 is the only remaining one-room schoolhouse of the five schoolhouses built between 1838 and 1873 in Pleasant Valley Township that remains with integrity of form and

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function. Forest Grove School No. 5 is a representation of the rural education system, and as such has been included in the Emmy-nominated film documentary, "Country School: One Room-One Nation".

The integrity of the feeling of Forest Grove School No. 5 is upheld by the preservation of the school's location, and the boundaries of the surrounding property. The school remains on its historic location where it has been situated since 1873. The atmosphere of Forest Grove School No.5 remains *via* the still present playground equipment (**Photo #9** and **#10**) and single unit wooden garage/fuel shed (**Photo #8**, dimensions 16'-3" x16'-3"), located northeast of the schoolhouse (see **Images, Fig. 2**). The presence of Forest Grove School No. 5 on the well-travelled Forest Grove Drive evokes in the public a reverence for the one-room schoolhouse and the sense of community that the one-room schools once provided. The desire of the public to preserve this integrity of feeling is reflected in the frequent visits by local residents and out-of-town travelers, and the use of the schoolhouse as a backdrop for photos of local school athletic clubs and countless graduation photos. Forest Grove School Preservation will strive to continue this integrity of feeling by working with local elementary schools to provide re-enactments for students that would meet Iowa History curriculum requirements.

While the focus of this nomination project is on the historical significance of Forest Grove School No.5, there is archeological evidence apparent in the 1907 photo of Forest Grove School No.5 (**Photo #7**). This photo shows an outhouse located northwest of the schoolhouse and a water pump located directly south of the schoolhouse. While the outhouse and water pump are nonextant, the location of the well is apparent (see **Images, Fig.2**).

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.)

- 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

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- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1873-1957

Significant Dates

1873
1957

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Forest Grove School No.5 is of local significance as a one-room school under criterion A as an example of rural schools in Iowa and of the national trends in education. Forest Grove School No. 5 was the fifth independent school district formed in Pleasant Valley Township and served to educate students in grades

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kindergarten to 8th grade beginning in 1873, when the schoolhouse was built, to 1957, when it closed. A photo taken in 1881 of a schoolhouse near Davenport, IA, with very similar structural features as Forest Grove School No. 5¹¹ suggests that a common design plan may have been used for construction of rural schools in eastern Iowa during the late 19th century. Unfortunately, Forest Grove School No.5 is the last representative of these original five rural schoolhouses that once served the early settlers of Pleasant Valley Township. The preservation of the original form and location of Forest Grove School No. 5, with its three pieces of original playground equipment (**Photos #9 and #10**) provide physical evidence of early education in Iowa. Forest Grove School No. 5 remains a cherished landmark of our local heritage representing 84 years of education in Iowa.

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

According to recorded history of Pleasant Valley Township¹², the first settlement in Pleasant Valley Township was a log cabin built by Roswell H. Spencer in 1833, at the mouth of Pigeon Creek, and first inhabited by J. B. Chamberlain and his family. Within the next four years, Pleasant Valley saw the construction of two gristmills and three sawmills, providing Scott County with more mills in operation than any other township within 40 miles. In 1836, Pleasant Valley Township established a post office called "Pleasant Valley" with J. A. Birchard serving as postmaster for twenty years. The fertile soil in Pleasant Valley was ideal for growing onions, and in 1837, Captain Isaac Hawley was the first settler who raised onions extensively¹³. Fourteen years later, Henry Schutter and many other farmers began to raise onions commercially, providing an economic resource that stimulated the early growth of Pleasant Valley Township and continued to be the primary economic resource of Pleasant Valley until 1928, when the Yellow Dwarf virus destroyed the crops. Despite research efforts to eradicate the virus, the onion growers never recovered, and by 1968 only five onion-producing fields remained in Pleasant Valley.¹⁴ However, the memory of the success of onion growth in Pleasant Valley remains today as competing teams chant "onion pickers" at Pleasant Valley athletes at local sporting events.

The history of education in Pleasant Valley Township parallels that of education in Iowa. The one-room schoolhouse first appeared in Iowa in 1830, in Lee County.¹⁵ Pleasant Valley Township enjoyed the distinction of having the first school in Scott County.¹² In the winter of 1835-36 in the home of J. B. Chamberlain, Simon Cragin, a veteran of the War of 1812 and a discharged soldier from the nearby Fort Armstrong (currently Arsenal Island), taught school for a four-month term¹⁶. In 1838, the first schoolhouse was erected in Pleasant Valley Township in an area known as Valley City (see **Images, Fig.5**, 1882 Plat of Pleasant Valley Township).¹³

In the 1830s, Horace Mann began the "Common School Movement" with the principles that schools should be free for all children and publicly funded, and no child should be forced to walk more than 2 miles to school.¹⁷ In 1858, these principles evolved into an established Iowa Rural School System. This initiative in education was reflected in the construction of four additional schools in Pleasant Valley Township between 1845 and 1873, each in different regions of the township (see **Images, Fig. 6**, 1894 Plat of Pleasant Valley Township). In 1873, these five Districts became independent sub-districts and took the following names: District 1 in the east central region became Pleasant Valley School No.1, District 2 in the northwest corner of Pleasant Valley

¹¹ Deiber, Camilla and Beedle, Peggy. *Country Schools for Iowa* (J&A Printing, Hiawatha, 2002).

¹² Interstate Publishing Co., *History of Scott County, Iowa* (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Co, 1882), 1187-1201.

¹³ Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 53-55.

¹⁴ Schipper, Kristen with Speer, Mary Louise, *Bettendorf, Iowa: The First Century 1903-2003* (Bettendorf, IA: City of Bettendorf, Iowa, 2003), 32-33.

¹⁵ "Iowa Pathways: One Room Schools," Iowa Public Television, accessed July 4, 2012, http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/myopath.cfm?ounid=ob_000114.

¹⁶ Interstate Publishing Co., *History of Scott County, Iowa* (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Co, 1882), 1187-1201.

¹⁷ Kessler Host, Sandra, *Iowa's Rural School System: A Lost Treasure* (Omaha: Standard Printing Company, 2011).

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township became Hopewell School No.2, District 3 in the west central region became Belmont School No.3, District 4 in the southern region of the township became Duck Creek School No.4, and District 5 in the northeast region of Pleasant Valley Township became Forest Grove School No. 5.¹⁶

The history of Forest Grove School No.5 began on March 16, 1873, when Dr. Taleyrand S. Smith (one of the oldest physicians of Scott County and prominent farmer) and wife, Mary E. Smith, sold a parcel of their land to Pleasant Valley Township for the sum of \$150 for the purpose of building a schoolhouse (see **Images, Fig. 5**).¹⁸ The architect and builder of Forest Grove School No. 5 are unknown; however, the cost of construction and furnishings was \$1500.¹⁵ A photo taken in 1907 (**Photo #7**) illustrates the unusual design of this one room rural schoolhouse with Italianate windows and belfry.

Teachers at Forest Grove School No.5 were paid salaries ranging from \$35/month in 1895, \$40/month from 1898-1905, \$50-\$55/month from 1905-1917, \$65/month from 1917-1919, at which time salaries increased the most to \$90-\$105 a month by 1925.¹⁹ However, in 1941, the salary was reduced to \$75/month, reflecting the compromised state of the national economy during the Great Depression, and the suppressed economic status of Pleasant Valley due to the Yellow Dwarf epidemic that destroyed the onion crops. As the country began to recover from its economic depression, teachers were again making \$100/month, a salary that continued to increase with time to a value of \$260/month by 1951.

The economic development of the region and nation was also reflected in class enrollment at Forest Grove School No. 5. The average enrollment of children in grades kindergarten-8th at Forest Grove School No. 5 was highest in its earlier years of operation. Between 1904 and 1936 an average of 41 students (21 male, 20 female) attended Forest Grove School No.5 between the ages of 5 and 20.²⁰ Between the years of 1939 and 1946, when our nation was engaged in WWII, this number dropped to only 18 (7 male, 11 female). However, between 1947-1952, Forest Grove School No. 5 saw an increase in the average enrollment to 30 (14 male, 16 female).¹⁹ During this time, the education system in America was undergoing change to establish a more consistent education across our country.²¹ In the summer of 1949, Forest Grove School No.5 underwent major renovations (see Narrative Description above) that provided a more efficient heating system and a means to administer school lunches. Despite these improvements and because of a push to consolidate rural schools in Iowa that escalated in 1953, Forest Grove School No. 5 closed its doors in 1957. The school consolidated with Pleasant Valley School No.1, Hopewell School No.2, Belmont School No. 3 and Riverdale (built in 1948) to form the School Township of the Pleasant Valley.^{22,23}

As stated in the original deed for the land sold to Pleasant Valley Township by T.S. Smith in 1873, "...when the above described premises shall cease to be used for a school house site, it shall revert to owner of the simple title of the land upon repayment of the original sum herein indicated."²⁴ the ownership of the school reverted back to the surrounding land owner, Delbert Blunk, son of Mabel (Boeh) Blunk. In 1982, the Blunk farm received the Iowa Century Farm designation, which recognizes farms owned by the same family for 100 years or more.²⁵ In 2012, ownership of Forest Grove School No. 5 was transferred to Forest Grove School Preservation for the purpose of historic rehabilitation. The land on which the schoolhouse and surrounding contributing building and objects rests remains under the ownership of Forest Grove Properties, LLC.

¹⁸ Scott Co Abstract Office

¹⁹ Original Articles of Agreement from 1895-1917, Teacher Contracts from 1895-1921 and Teacher reports from 1925 and 1939-1952. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

²⁰ Original Heads of Families entries from 1904-1936, Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

²¹ "The 1940s: Education: Overview." American Decades. 2001. *Encyclopedia.com*. (July 3, 2012). <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3468301461.html>.

²² Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 139.

²³ Newsletter #1, Belmont Sub-district, School Township of Pleasant Valley (February 26, 1957)

²⁴ Scott Co Abstract Office

²⁵ Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 69.

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In 1998, just over 2,900 rural schoolhouses remained standing in Iowa. Approximately 350 of these stood vacant, over 100 had been converted into museums, and roughly 1,500 had been converted into houses or outbuildings.²⁶ Forest Grove School No.5 is the last representative of the original five rural schoolhouses that once served the early settlers of Pleasant Valley Township, representing 84 years of education in Iowa. It remains a cherished landmark of our local heritage. In 1856, a new brick schoolhouse replaced the original Pleasant Valley School No.1 and was erected about a half a mile east of the original location. Today, this schoolhouse is a family residence. The original Hopewell School No.2 was replaced in 1871 with a new schoolhouse, and in 1875, it was moved to a more central location within District 2. In 1951, this school was destroyed by fire and never replaced. The original Belmont School No. 3 burned down in 1869, and a new schoolhouse was erected in 1870. This building was converted into administrative offices for the Pleasant Valley School District, and was later demolished to accommodate new road construction. Duck Creek No.4 was converted into a private residence and moved to a location off of the current Wells Ferry Road.

In contrast, Forest Grove School No. 5 closed its doors in 1957, and has remained vacant ever since, with its early playground equipment still on location (**Photo #9 and #10, Images, Fig.2**). A.G. Spalding & Bros, Inc. (Chicopee, Massachusetts) was a common manufacturing company of Giant Strides and other playground equipment.²⁷ Physical evidence of the manufacturer and year of purchase of the playground equipment at Forest Grove School No. 5 is non-extant. However, oral history provided by Alberta Young who attended Forest Grove School No. 5 from 1922-1932, indicates that the Giant Stride was first installed in circa 1925.²⁸ Alberta recalls that there were three rungs at the end of the chains to the Giant Strides and she'd hang onto the rungs while the bigger, older boys would run as fast as they could to get the apparatus spinning and she'd go flying off the ground. Oral history by Rodney Blunk reveals that the Giant Stride was still operational and "in original condition" after the school closed in 1957.²⁹ Though Rodney did not attend Forest Grove School No. 5, his family owned the school after it closed. His siblings and neighbor children played on the Giant Stride until he was at least 10 years of age, in 1965. Given the risks of the Giant Stride and its recommended ban from playgrounds, Forest Grove School Preservation has no plans to restore its functionality.

Currently, there are 8 schools in Scott County, Iowa, listed on the National Register of Historic Places³⁰ and none of these represent the wooden, one-room schoolhouse most common in the Midwest in the late 19th century. Forest Grove School No.5 is an excellent representation of these national icons as it has never been removed from its original location, the size and shape of the lot on which it stands has been preserved (including the playground equipment), and the surrounding property has remained agricultural, owned by the same family for over 100 years.³¹

Forest Grove School No. 5 contains several architectural features that illustrate the late Victorian/Italianate style.³² These include the single front-gabled, low-pitched roof with projecting eaves, the tall, narrow windows, two of which display inverted U-shaped crowns (**Photo #1**), the wooden sign above the front entry to the school displaying the words "Forest rove" (the G in Grove is missing), and a round wooden ornate decoration above the sign (**Photo #2**). This architectural form is extended to the interior of the structure *via* a coved ceiling that is thought to be unusual in one-room schoolhouses. A search of the National Register of Historic places³³ indicated that there are 3,230 buildings in the Register with Italianate design; however, only 182 of these are buildings with educational significance. There are only 161 buildings of Italianate design in Iowa that are on the

²⁶ "Iowa's Historic Schools: Statewide Surveys of Iowa's Public Schools", State Historical Society of Iowa, accessed July 4, 2012, <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/statewide-inventory-and-collections/schools/index.html>

²⁷ Playgrounds and Public Recreation (1898-1929) <http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/timeline/playgrounds-public-recreation>

²⁸ Oral interview with Alberta Young, age 92, by Sharon Andresen on March 7, 2013. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

²⁹ Oral interview with Rodney Blunk by Sharon Andresen on March 7, 2013. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

³⁰ National Register of Historic Places. <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov>. Search conducted on February 10, 2013.

³¹ Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 69.

³² McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1988).

³³ National Register of Historic Places. <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov>. Search conducted on February 10, 2013.

Forest Grove School No. 5

Scott, IA

Name of Property

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Register, and only 5 of these (3 seminaries, 1 house and 1 library) have educational significance. The Italianate architecture is common in Iowa structures; however, it is believed to be unusual in one-room rural schoolhouses. Forest Grove School No.5 and its Italianate ornamentation have made this one-room schoolhouse a local, regional and national attraction for photographers. Its photos can be purchased online³⁴ or viewed on postcards, a music album cover,³⁵ and the backdrop for local school athletic clubs and graduation photos. Recent publications in the local newspaper introduced the current rehabilitation efforts of the school, presented interviews with local residents who attended the Forest Grove School No.5, and demonstrates the interest of the community in preserving this local and national icon.^{36,37,38} Together, these data support the argument that Forest Grove School No.5 would be an excellent representation of the significance of education of the one-room schoolhouse in Scott County, Iowa, and should therefore be considered for acceptance into the National Register of Historic Places.

³⁴ http://public.fotki.com/DWDarby/then_and_now/forest_grove_school/ or <http://shunpikingtoheaven.blogspot.com/2012/03/forest-grove-school-scott-county-iowa.html>

³⁵ 2nd Best, *Put Your Heart Where Your Mouth Is* Hole In The Wall Productions, 2002, compact disc.

³⁶ Gaul, A., "Landmark gets chance at new life", *Quad Cities Times*, February 25, 2012.

³⁷ Gaul, A., "Forest Grove School can be saved at high cost, architect says", *Quad Cities Times*, March 2, 2012.

³⁸ Gaul, A., "Memories of a one-room school: Alumni reminisce about Forest Grove", *Quad Cities Times*, April 17, 2012.

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property

Scott, IA
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Alkire, Harold L. "Buddy", "Playground Safety – Are Your Children's Play Areas Safe?" *American Society of Safety Engineers*, ASSE Professional Development Conference and Exhibition, June 28-July 1, 2009, San Antonio, TX.

Deiber, Camilla and Beedle, Peggy, *Country Schools for Iowa* (J&A Printing, Hiawatha, 2002).

Gaul, A. "Landmark gets chance at new life", *Quad Cities Times*, February 25, 2012.

Gaul, A. "Forest Grove School can be saved at high cost, architect says", *Quad Cities Times*, March 2, 2012.

Gaul, A. "Memories of a one-room school: Alumni reminisce about Forest Grove", *Quad Cities Times*, April 17, 2012.

Hazards lurk on uninspected playgrounds. www.ednewscolorado.org/news/hazards-lurk-on-uninspected-playgrounds.

http://public.fotki.com/DWDarby/then_and_now/forest_grove_school/ or

<http://shunpikingtoheaven.blogspot.com/2012/03/forest-grove-school-scott-county-iowa.html>

<http://www.pgpedia.com/a/jane-addams>

"Iowa Pathways: One Room Schools," Iowa Public Television, accessed July 4, 2012, http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob_000114.

"Iowa's Historic Schools: Statewide Surveys of Iowa's Public Schools", State Historical Society of Iowa, accessed July 4, 2012, <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/statewide-inventory-and-collections/schools/index.html>

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Kessler Host, K., *Iowa's Rural School System: A Lost Treasure* (Omaha: Standard Printing Company, 2011).

McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1988).

National Register of Historic Places. <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov>. Search conducted on February 10, 2013.

Newsletter #1, Belmont Sub-district, School Township of Pleasant Valley (February 26, 1957)

Oral interview with Alberta Young, age 92, by Sharon Andresen on March 7, 2013. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

Oral interview with Charles Watkins by Sharon Andresen on March 6, 2013, Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

Oral interview with Rodney Blunk by Sharon Andresen on March 7, 2013. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

Original Articles of Agreement from 1895-1917, Teacher Contracts from 1895-1921 and Teacher reports from 1925 and 1939-1952. Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

Forest Grove School No. 5

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Original Heads of Families entries from 1904-1936, Forest Grove School Preservation, Bettendorf, IA.

Playgrounds and Public Recreation (1898-1929)

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/history/timeline/playgrounds-public-recreation>

Preservation in Pink. <http://preservationinpink.wordpress.com/2010/03/3/preservation-photos-25/>

Schipper, K. and Speer, M.L., *Bettendorf, Iowa: The First Century 1903-2003* (Bettendorf, IA: City of Bettendorf, Iowa, 2003), 32-33.

Scott Co Abstract Office

Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 53-55.

Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 69.

Scott County Heritage Book Committee, *Scott County Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co, 1991), 139.

"The 1940s: Education: Overview." American Decades. 2001. *Encyclopedia.com*. (July 3, 2012).

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3468301461.html>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Forest Grove School Preservation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property < 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
- 2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
- 3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
- 4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: **15T** Easting: **714246** Northing: **4607605**
- 2. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
- 3. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
- 4. Zone: _____ Easting : _____ Northing: _____

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

The boundary of said property is triangular in shape, with the northern side following a fence line separating the school lot from surrounding farmland and measuring 330 feet. The western boundary is drawn to incorporate two trees and a swing set on the property at the cusp of a hill measuring 187 feet, and the hypotenuse of the triangle following Forest Grove Drive and measuring 359 feet (see **Images Fig.2, page 18**).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Forest Grove School No.5.

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property

Scott, IA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Brenda R. Sorensen and Sharon Andresen
organization: Forest Grove School Preservation
street & number: PO Box 603
city or town: Bettendorf state: IA zip code: 52722
e-mail sorensen1@csteldridge.com and imsapilot@gmail.com
telephone: (563) 940-6516 or (563) 349-7805
date: 12/17/2012

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
 - **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

The following information is common to all the photographs, unless noted otherwise:

Property name: Forest Grove School No.5

County and State: Scott County, Iowa

Name of Photographer: Brenda Sorensen

CD-R number:

Type of digital Ink and paper: Canon ChromaLife 100 on HP Advanced Photo Paper, Glossy.

Forest Grove School No. 5

Scott, IA

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs:

(see Photo key (Fig. 6 on page 22) for reference)

- Photo #1 of 10: South and east façade; camera facing northwest. Photo taken on 2/11/2013.
Photo #2 of 10: Italianate ornamentation on South façade; camera facing north. Photo taken by Sharon Andresen on 2/24/2012.
Photo #3 of 10: North and west façade; camera facing southeast. Photo taken on 2/11/2013.
Photo #4 of 10: Close-up of original framing around interior doorway into classroom from west storage room; camera facing north. Photo taken on 2/11/2013.
Photo #5 of 10: Interior west (left), north (middle) and east (right) walls depicting coved ceiling, tall, narrow windows, entry to classroom from addition at northeast corner of the building, and remnants of framing of chimney. Camera facing north. Photo taken by Sharon Andresen on 7/4/2012.
Photo #6 of 10: Hole in floor from stairwell created 1949 renovation, where original southeast storage room existed. Camera facing east. Photo taken on 2/11/2013.
Photo #7 of 10: South façade; camera facing north. Photographer unknown. Photo taken 1907.
Photo #8 of 10: South and east facades of garage located northeast of schoolhouse; camera facing northwest. Photo taken by Sharon Andresen on 9/28/2011.
Photo #9 of 10: Photo of swing set and pole for Giant Stride located east of schoolhouse; camera facing southeast. Photo taken by Sharon Andresen on 7/6/2012.
Photo #10 of 10: Photo of second swing set located west of schoolhouse; camera facing northwest. Photo taken by Sharon Andresen on 7/6/2012.

Property Owner – Forest Grove School No.5

Name: Forest Grove School Preservation Attn: Sharon Andresen
Street & number: PO Box 603 Telephone 563-349-7805
City or Town Bettendorf State IA zip code 52722

Property Owner – Land on which Forest Grove School No.5 rests

Name: Forest Grove Properties, LLC Attn: Barbara Andersen
Street & number: 2448 Prairie Rose Ridge Telephone 563-607-0844
City or Town Muscatine State IA zip code 52761

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property

Scott, IA
County and State

Images:

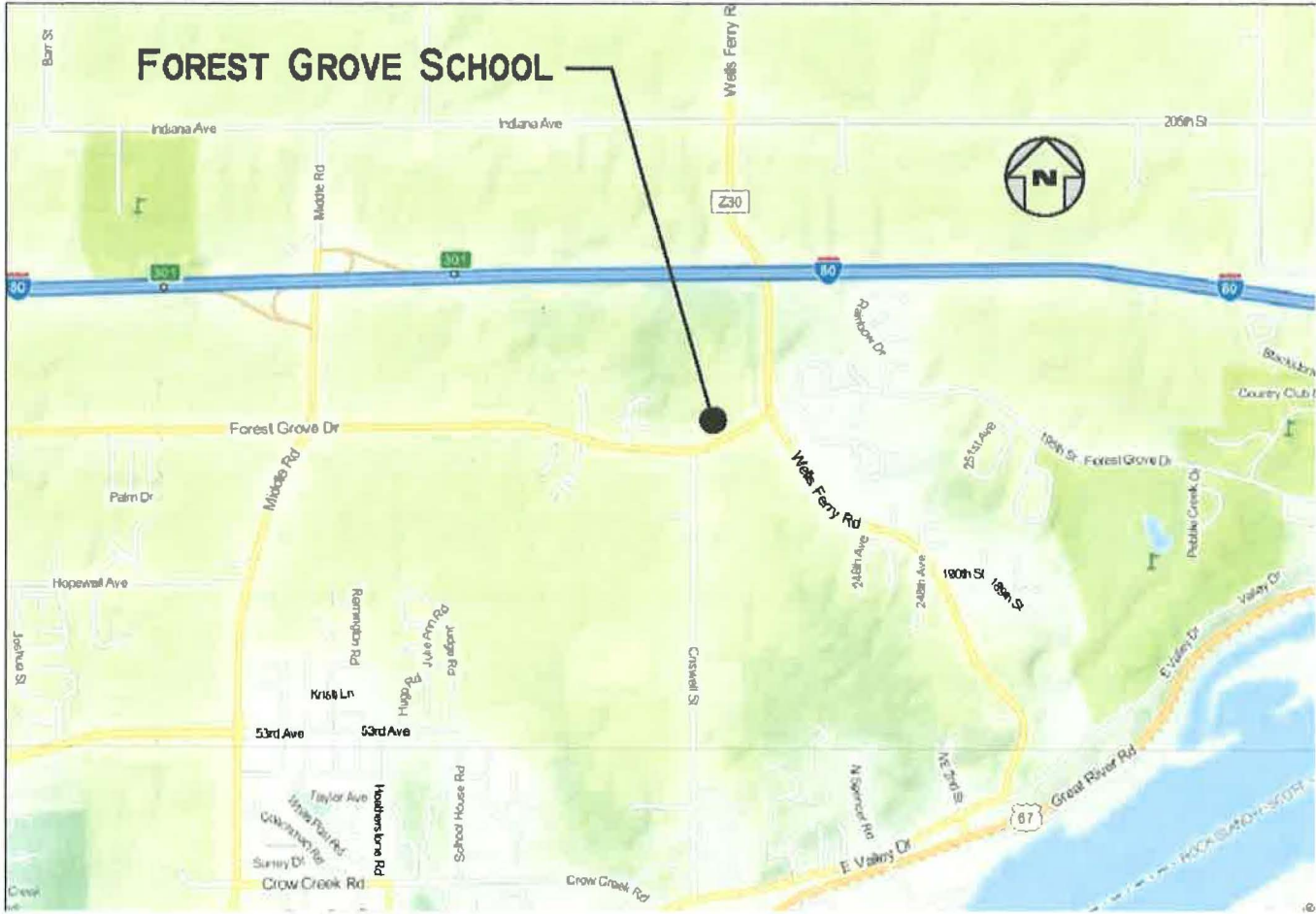


Fig. 1: Location Map
Google map annotated by Doug Steinmetz, 2012

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property
Images, cont.

Scott, IA
County and State

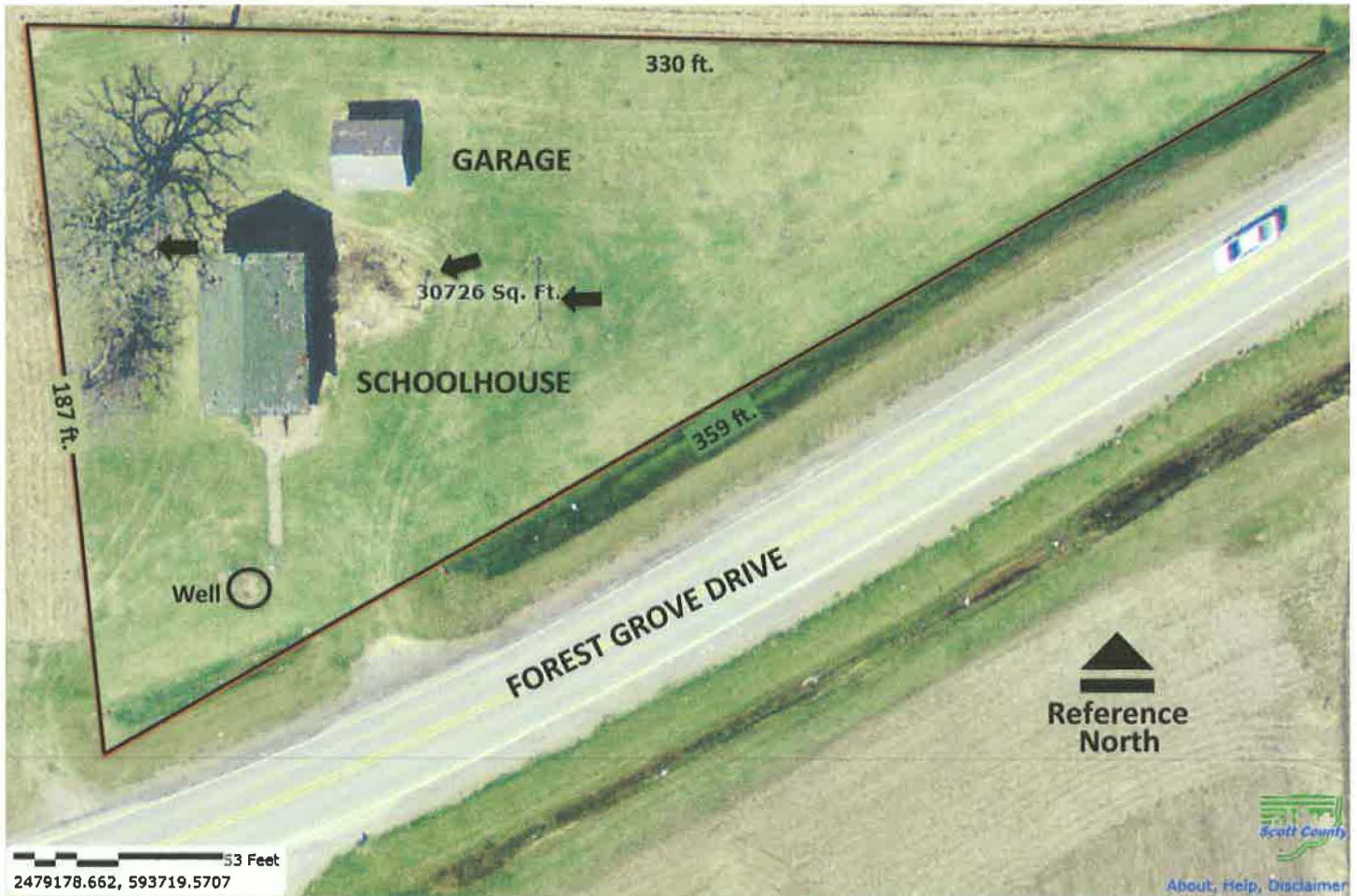


Fig. 2: Site Map
Created from Scott County Assessor's website, 2013. Arrows highlight the location of the playground equipment.

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property
Images, cont.

Scott, IA
County and State

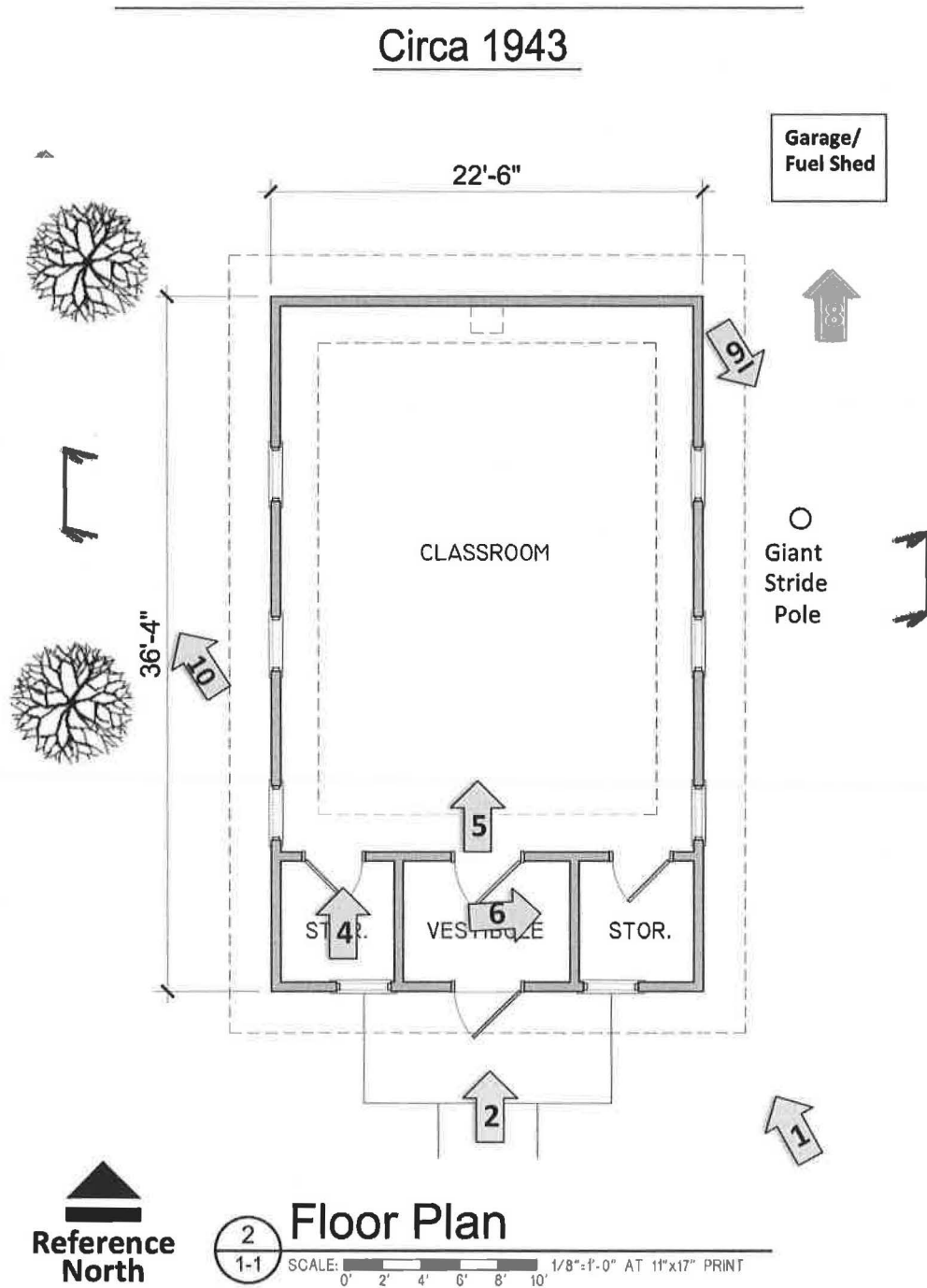


Fig. 3: Photo Key

Forest Grove School No. 5

Name of Property

Images, cont.

Scott, IA

County and State

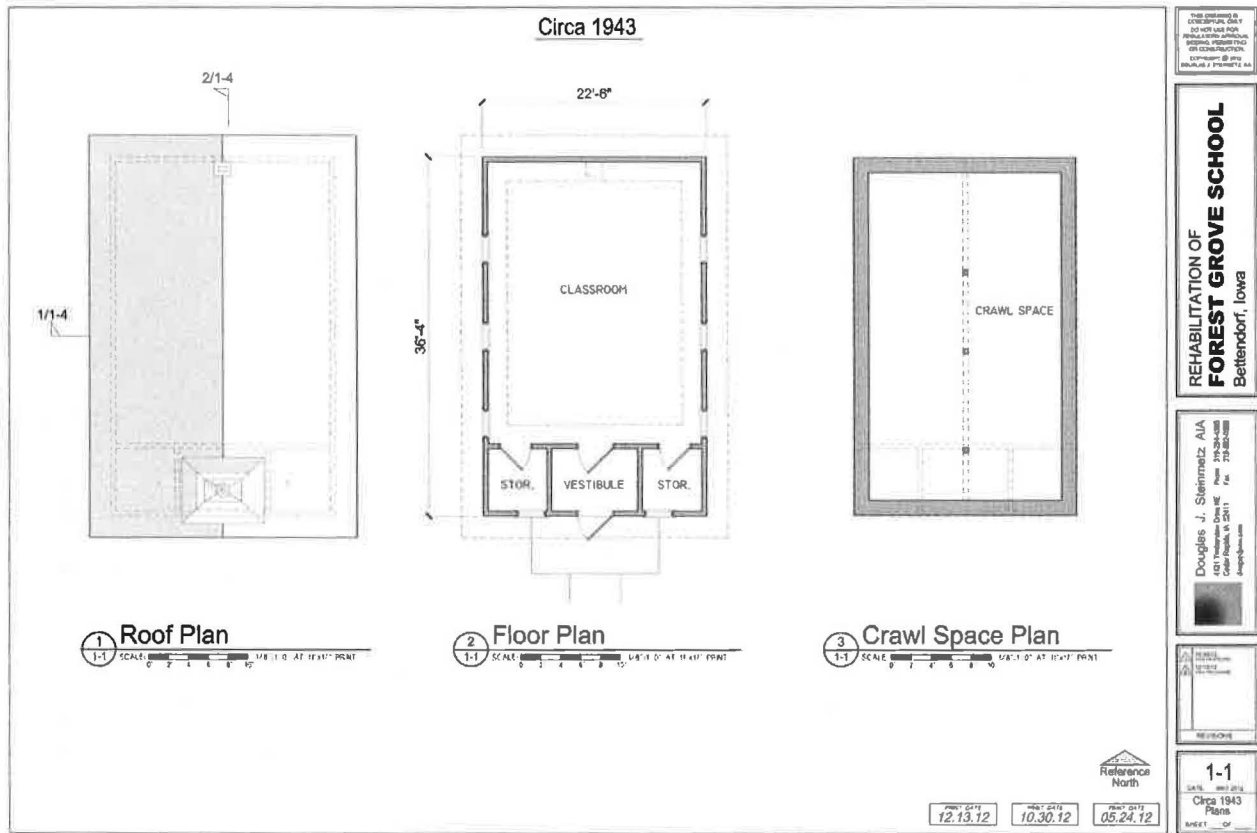


Fig.4: Pre-1949 Floor Plan
 Created by Doug Steinmetz, 2012

Forest Grove School No. 5
Name of Property
Images, cont.

Scott, IA
County and State

PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

No. 78 N. Range No. 4, East of the 5th Meridian.

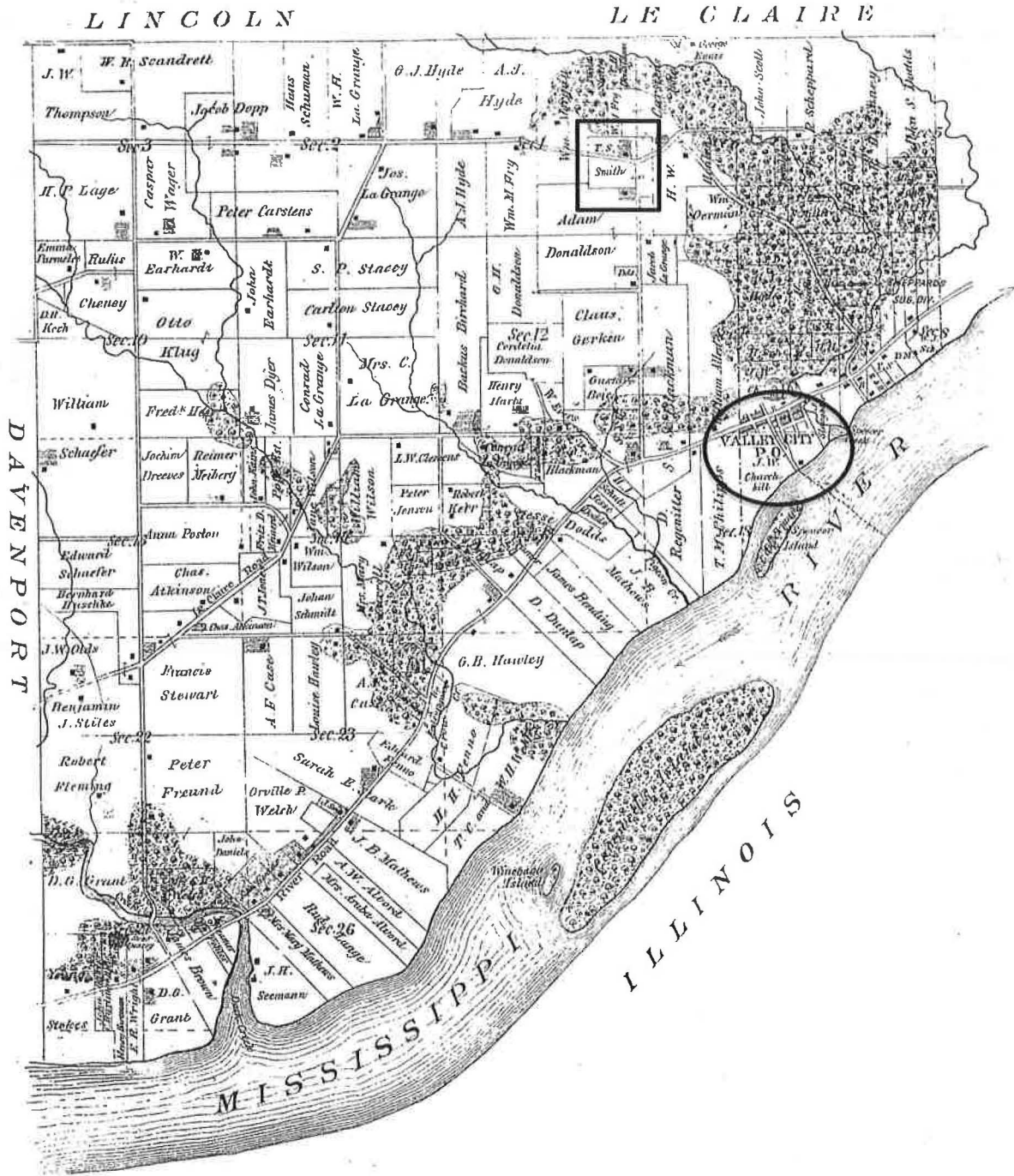


Fig. 5: Plat of Pleasant Valley Township (1882 Scott County Atlas, Davenport Public Library). A circle highlights the location of Valley City and a square highlights the T. S. Smith property.

Forest Grove School No. 5
 Name of Property
 Images, cont.

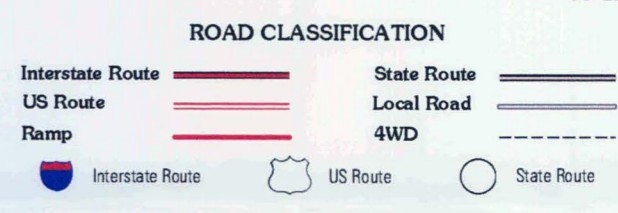
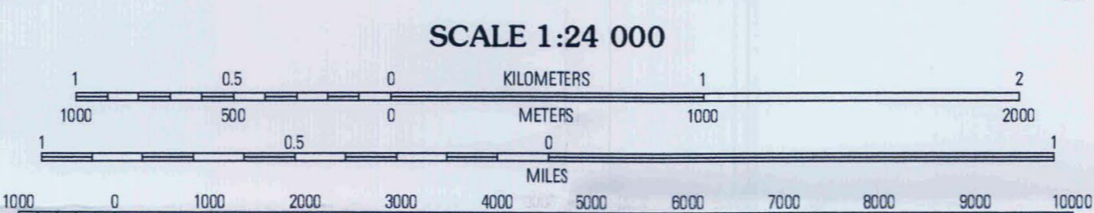
Scott, IA
 County and State



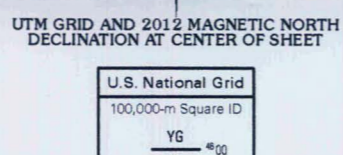
Fig.6: Plat of Pleasant Valley Township (1894 Scott County Atlas, Davenport Public Library) illustrating the boundaries of the five independent school districts of Pleasant Valley. The Forest Grove School No. 5 schoolhouse is highlighted with a box.



Produced by the United States Geological Survey North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15T 10 000-foot ticks: Iowa Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone), Illinois Coordinate System of 1983 (west zone)



Imagery: NAIP, September 2010 - August 2011
Roads: ©2006-2011 TomTom
Names: GNIS, 2011
Hydrography: National Hydrography Dataset, 2010
Contours: National Elevation Dataset, 2012
Boundaries: Census, IBWC, USGS, 1972 - 2010



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with the National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011. A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.3

Eldridge	McCausland	Cordova
Davenport East	Silvis	Port Byron
Milan	Coal Valley	Green Rock



FOREST
ROVE



FOREST
ROVE













FOREST
GROVE







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Forest Grove School No. 5
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Scott

DATE RECEIVED: 8/30/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/23/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/08/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/16/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000831

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10-16-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY TIFFANY COWNIE, DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY of
IOWA

JEROME THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATOR



MATTHEW HARRIS
ADMINISTRATOR

600 E. LOCUST
DES MOINES, IOWA
50319

T. (515) 281-5111
F. (515) 282-0502

CULTURALAFFAIRS.ORG

August 28, 2013

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

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

- Belle Plaine Main Street Historic District, Centered Along 12th Street from 7th Avenue on the West to 9th Avenue on the East, from 11th Street on the South to 13th Street on the North, Belle Plaine, Benton County, Iowa
- Des Moines, Building, 405 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa
- Forest Grove School No. 5, 24040 195th Street, Bettendorf vicinity, Scott County, Iowa
- Bregant, Jean and Inez (Lewis), Residence, 517 South 4th Street, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster Hill, Manager
National Register and Tax Incentive Programs