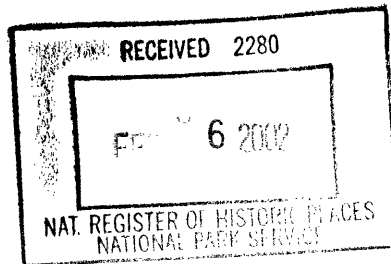


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Division Street School
other names/site number 043-446-34056

2. Location

street & number 1803 Conservative Street N/A not for publication
city or town New Albany N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Floyd code 043 zip code 47150

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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

J. C. SA 1-29-02
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall 3/20/02

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing		Noncontributing		
1		0		buildings
0		0		sites
0		0		structures
0		0		objects
1		0		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Indiana's Public Common and High Schools

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)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th Century Functional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____

ETHNIC HERITAGE: _____ Black _____

Period of Significance

1884-1946 _____

Significant Dates

1884 _____

1922 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Fite, Andrew _____

Kahl, Philip _____

9. Major Bibliographic 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: _____

Division Street School
Name of Property

Floyd IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	604500	4238790
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Laura Dreistadt, Field Coordinator
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 10-15-2001
street & number 113 West Chestnut Street telephone 812-284-4534
city or town Jeffersonville state IN zip code 47130

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name New Albany - Floyd County School Corporation
street & number 2813 Grant Line Road telephone 812-949-4200
city or town New Albany state IN zip code 47150

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Division Street School is located northeast of downtown New Albany, Indiana. New Albany, with a population of close to 40,000, is the seat of government for Floyd County and by far its largest community. The area of the city in which the school is located is primarily residential, but historic and recent commercial development is located nearby. The school is a simple, one-story frame building set on a high brick foundation. It features a hipped roof with a brick chimney located at the ridge. The walls are covered in beveled poplar siding, with exposed rafter ends and simple 5 ½" window casings providing the only decorative elements. The plan of the building is rectangular. The school is located on a large, open lot of approximately 1/3 acre, bounded on the north by Division Street, on the east by East 18th Street, on the south by Conservative Street, and on the west by Green Street.

The steeply-pitched hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles is one of the most prominent features of the building. However, this was not always the case: the roof was originally gabled and covered with pine shingles. A November 1922 fire destroyed the roof, and it was rebuilt in a hipped form and with 'non-inflammable' shingles at that time¹. A brick chimney approximately four feet tall is located slightly east of center on the ridgeline of the roof. Modern aluminum gutters are found along the edge of the roof on all but the south elevation. On all elevations the eaves overhang extends approximately eighteen inches, and the rafter tails are visible in this space.

The symmetrical main elevation is oriented to the north, and is composed of seven bays. The entry to the building is located in the center bay, and is reached from a modern porch built of pressure-treated lumber. The current porch steps are located flush against the building. A photo from the early 1920s shows five steps extending perpendicularly from the entrance without a landing or rail, which was likely the original configuration². The double doors themselves are modern steel replacements, but fit into the original opening. The large, six-pane transoms above each door remain, although they have been partially covered on the interior.

Each of the bays that flank the central entry contains one large, nine-over-nine, double hung wooden window. Some of the individual lights are missing or have been replaced in these windows, but much of the glass remains and the sashes are intact. A 1923 photograph of the north and east facades shows shutters at the windows, but these were removed sometime prior to 1941. Approximately three feet of the brick foundation, laid in a common bond, is visible across this elevation. Four rectangular window openings covered with wire screens are located in the foundation wall, although only the westernmost opening retains its three-light sash.

The west wall of the building features three nine-over-nine windows that match those on the north façade in size, detail, and general condition. The windows are not symmetrically arranged on this elevation, but rather are grouped at the north end of the wall. The lot slopes away toward the south; therefore, the amount of the foundation exposed increases from 2 ½ to almost 6 feet. Beneath the center window, an

¹ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume VII, pp.448, December 13, 1922.

² Rev. S. Holmes Wood, Picturesque New Albany. New Albany: self-published, 1923, p.41.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

opening measuring approximately 2' x 3', which appears to have originally contained a window, has been boarded over. The building's worst deterioration is found on this elevation, particularly in the northwest corner where several pieces of the weatherboard are badly rotted. A small percentage of the siding on this façade appears to have been replaced through the years with pine rather than poplar.

The school's south elevation has been the most altered from its historic appearance. During the time that the School Corporation used the building as a repair shop, two large corrugated metal additions were built on, completely obscuring this façade. The additions were removed in 1999 when the Maintenance Department vacated the building, but some of the changes that were made to accommodate them have not been reversed. For example, a wide board where the addition tied into the main structure runs across this elevation at the top of the windows, and five rows of siding were removed at the eastern end of the wall. A 27' x 56' concrete slab that served as the floor of the addition also remains, running the length of the building.

Like the north elevation, the south is composed symmetrically; however, it features five bays rather than seven. The center bay contains double doors that appear to be original. They are wooden, with three recessed panels below and four lights above. Each door is topped with a six-pane, wood frame transom window matching those on the north elevation. Early photos show a wooden staircase with a small landing at this entrance, but it has since been removed and not replaced. The flanking bays are each composed of regularly spaced window openings, matching in size and details those found on the other elevations. The window unit has been removed from the easternmost opening and replaced with plywood, but the other three openings retain their nine-over-nine sashes. The brick foundation is exposed to a height of approximately five feet on this elevation, and two openings are found along its length. The first measures 42" x 67" and contains a wooden door recessed 6". It is located at the western end of the wall and appears to be a later addition to the building. The second, located directly under the easternmost window, is a one-over-one wooden window.

The upper portion of the east elevation is very similar to the west, with three nine-over-nine windows grouped at the north end of the wall. A vent pipe for a gas space heater installed by the Maintenance Department pierces the wall above the northernmost window. Beneath the center window, a one-over-one wooden window helped to illuminate the basement but is currently boarded. The slope of the lot from north to south exposes three to six feet of the foundation. At the south end of the foundation wall, a short concrete staircase leads to a four-panel wooden door into the basement.

Like the exterior, the interior retains much of its scholastic character. Division Street was originally laid out as two rooms with a central hallway, a configuration that remains intact. The classroom to the east housed the fourth through sixth grades, while first, second and third graders used the western room. Both

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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classrooms measure approximately 27' x 23' and retain their plaster walls, twelve-foot ceilings, and a picture rail located about eighteen inches below the ceiling. Both rooms had small (approximately 4' x 9') coatrooms along the south wall; in the east classroom the Maintenance Department converted this space into a lavatory. The floors throughout the classrooms and hallway are composed of two-inch-wide maple. School Board records show that the original floors (bid as hard pine) were replaced in January 1923 following the roof fire³.

Although the hallway itself has had some alterations its essential character remains intact. At the north end, drywall and a door have been added to separate about twelve feet of the entry area from the rear of the hall. A dropped ceiling has been added in this area as well, diminishing the ceiling height to 8 ½ feet and bisecting the transom windows over the front doors. Also at the north end, the walls and doors that originally separated the classrooms from the hallway were removed sometime after the school's closure. Evidence on the floor indicates the location of these walls, which will be rebuilt as part of the restoration project. The walls of the south portion of the hallway are covered in a beadboard wainscot to a height of five feet, with plaster above.

The basement, reached by two sets of stairs at the south end of the hallway, runs under the entire school and features exposed brick walls and a concrete floor. During the latter half of the school's history, this space contained restrooms and also functioned as a lunchroom. When constructed, the school did not have indoor plumbing – students used a double privy to the south of the main building. According to the construction bid, the basement was limited to an 8' x 14' cellar that ran under the hall. When indoor facilities were added in 1916, the basement was fully excavated and the building raised to accommodate the improvements. According to the Superintendent's Report, "As the Board is under obligation to improve the Division Street School building by the introduction of a sanitary water closet system, I would advise that the building be raised and that a hot air furnace be introduced which will keep the sanitary closets from freezing during the winter and at the same time warm the building."⁴

The schoolyard has also developed through the years, but has traditionally been an open recreation space without trees or playground equipment. The earliest (1891) Sanborn maps of the area show the school occupying the eastern 2/3 of a double lot, with one house to its west and two to the east on the block. Subsequent maps, from 1898 and 1905, show a house constructed in what had been the right-of-way of West (East 18th) Street, and the extension of the block to 19th Street. The School Corporation purchased the lot to the west of the school in January 1917 for \$400, and the house that stood there was demolished. The work that was done in 1916 also included a slight shift of the school to the west, allowing the reopening of East 18th Street immediately to the east of the school sometime after 1945. Today, the portion of the lot to the west of the school is a gravel parking area, while the remainder is grass-covered.

³ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume VII, p.454, January 15, 1923.

⁴ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume VII, p.140, June 1, 1916.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Division Street School is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, as an excellent, intact example of a segregated African-American school. Built a generation after the end of the Civil War to serve New Albany's growing black population, it continued to serve this role until eight years before *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, when it was consolidated with another segregated school. It is believed to be one of the oldest remaining African-American schools in the state. Division Street School is a property type described in the *Indiana's Public Common and High Schools MPDF* and meets the registration requirements set forth within that document.

New Albany was founded in 1813 on the banks of the Ohio River by Joel, Abner and Nathaniel Scribner. They selected the site because of its location just below the Falls of the Ohio, the only natural barrier to navigation along the 981-mile length of the river. Its location made New Albany a natural port, and the surrounding area offered an abundance of high-quality timber. As a result the town grew rapidly, first as a shipbuilding center and later through the manufacture of glass. By 1850 New Albany was the largest city in the state of Indiana, with a population of 8181⁵. Although its primacy was soon eclipsed by Indianapolis, New Albany has remained an important regional industrial center.

From its early days onward, New Albany has had a strong African-American presence. The earliest state census figures, from 1820, show black population concentrated in southern Indiana's border counties. In that census Floyd County ranked fourth in the state in black population, with 69. By 1830 it had risen to third with 265 black residents. The total number of African-American residents in Floyd County continued to increase until the outbreak of the Civil War (402 in 1840, 574 in 1850, and 757 in 1860), although Quaker-dominated areas in Eastern Indiana had higher percentages of black residents. New Albany's African-American population growth mirrored that of Floyd County. In 1860, New Albany had 627 black residents out of a total population of 12,647. This was equal to approximately 5% of the population, one of the highest rates in the state⁶. The sizeable black presence can be attributed to the city's location in a free state immediately adjacent to the Ohio River and across from slave-holding Kentucky. The city's industrial-based economy also attracted black laborers, although in practice these jobs were largely reserved for whites.

Educational opportunities remained scarce for this portion of the population, however. New Albany's School Board, one of the first in the state, passed a resolution in 1831 that colored children were not to be admitted to the city schools⁷. An 1843 law enacted by the Indiana General Assembly mandated that public schools were open only to white children between the ages of 5 and 21. While few African-Americans used the public schools prior to that time, they had not been specifically excluded from doing so throughout the state. This decision was reaffirmed by an 1852 law that allowed the formation of school systems and first provided state funding for public schools: again, African-Americans were specifically excluded from the benefits of the law. Because of these restrictions, the only methods whereby black children could receive

⁵ City of New Albany Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. New Albany: City of New Albany, 1994, p.11.

⁶ Emma Lou Thornbrough. The Negro in Indiana Before 1900. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1993, pp.44-46.

⁷ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume I, p.107, August 11, 1831.

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a formal education were through individual tutoring or private schools, generally run by churches. The 1854 African Methodist Episcopal annual conference reported a church-run day school in New Albany, although its location and length of operation is now unknown⁸.

Following the Civil War, New Albany's black population continued to expand, reaching 1,462 by 1870⁹. Changes in state law in 1869 and 1877 forced the city to address the education of this portion of its populace. On January 5, 1870, the *New Albany Daily Ledger* reported that no schools existed in the city for black students. By the end of February, the School Board announced that it would open a school in the Colored Baptist church on Lower Second Street, apparently only until the end of the school year.¹⁰ The next month, the School Board voted to purchase a piece of land on the south side of Olden Street for \$300 in order to build a colored school¹¹. This facility, known as the West Union School, opened for the fall semester of 1870 and operated until 1879. In the ensuing years, African-American elementary schools operated at Upper Fourth Street (in a former Presbyterian Church, open 1874-77), Lower Second Street (new building, 1875-1907), and Upper Eleventh Street (leased existing building, 1877-83). In 1880 a colored secondary school, later named Scribner High School, opened downtown and remained in operation until 1951. Other than the Presbyterian Church building (listed in the National Register as part of the Mansion Row Historic District), none of these earliest segregated schools survive in New Albany today.

These schools were located throughout the city in areas where black population was concentrated; however, the eastside 'Providence' neighborhood was not served. School Board minutes from June 19, 1884 show that "the question of building a new school house for colored schools [sic] was discussed at some length. No definite conclusions were arrived at." However, when the Board met again two days later, "It was unanimously decided to purchase a lot and build a school house for colored children. Bids for said building were received from Fite and Kahl, Jas. Johnson, Citizen, and Daniel. The bid of Fite and Kahl, being the lowest, was approved subject to modifications." Less than seven months later, records of the Board meeting of January 1, 1885 include the following: "The Secretary reported having paid Fite and Kahl contractors for building colored school house on Division Street in full as per contract amounting to \$1752.00 which was concurred in." The school housed first through third grades in one room, and fourth through sixth in a second. Milton Sparks was the first principal and taught the older students. He was assisted by Jennie Clay, who taught the primary grades¹².

⁸ Thornbrough, p.170.

⁹ Betty Lou Amster. New Albany on the Ohio, Historical Review, 1813-1963. New Albany: Sesquicentennial Committee, 1963, p.51.

¹⁰ New Albany Daily Ledger, February 24, 1870, p.2.

¹¹ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume III, p.124, March 1, 1870.

¹² Ibid., Volume III, p.519, June 16, 1885.

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Division Street School operated as a typical public school over the next decades. African-American enrollment in New Albany schools remained consistent, at 313 in 1892, 363 in 1907 and 311 in 1931¹³. Of these, 60-70 were generally students at Division Street. A small fire in March 1913 caused a brief interruption in the school's operations while plaster and carpentry repairs were made. A more serious fire on November 26, 1922 destroyed the roof of the school, causing more than \$2500 worth of damage. Classes were held in the Sunday School room at nearby Howard Memorial Chapel until repairs were completed in January 1923¹⁴.

Other segregated elementary schools operating concurrently were Olden Street (operated c.1900 until it was destroyed by a tornado in 1917), Jackson Street (in the former white West Union School, 1925-1940), and Griffin Street (new building, 1939-1966). Scribner High School also housed elementary classes from 1907, when Lower Second Street School was closed, until 1946. Of these, only Griffin Street School stands today, although it has been altered. All grade levels of New Albany schools were officially integrated in 1954.

In August 1944 the School Board authorized the use of Division Street School for grades one through seven, rather than one through six. Less than two years later, on May 14, 1946, the Board voted to close the school and transfer the students to Griffin Street School, another segregated elementary. According to the account published in the *New Albany Tribune*, "A report issued by the trustees stated that better educational opportunities will be available to the students under the plan of combining the schools¹⁵." School officials also reorganized the remaining segregated schools so that all elementary-age students were housed at Griffin Street School, and all secondary students were at Scribner High School.

After Division Street School closed, the New Albany School Corporation retained possession of the building. Following a brief stint (1946-48) as a Veterans' Affairs office after World War II, the school stood vacant until 1959. At that time the School Corporation's Maintenance Department began to use it as a storage shed and repair shop, a use that continued until the spring of 1999 when the building was vacated. A group of concerned citizens, organized as Friends of Division Street School, Inc., secured a lease on the building and are currently raising funds to restore it. One room will be used as a working turn-of-the-century classroom, while the other will house displays interpreting New Albany's African-American heritage. The basement will be adapted for community meeting space.

¹³ Daily Ledger, September 6, 1892, p.3; Department of Public Instruction, 24th Biennial Report of the State Superintendent, Indianapolis: State of Indiana, 1908, p.516; Carl Zimmerman, A History of the School City of New Albany, Bloomington: Indiana University, 1932, p.176.

¹⁴ New Albany School Fund Record, Volume VII, pp.444-454, Nov. 28, 1922-Jan.15, 1923.

¹⁵ New Albany Tribune #116, May 16, 1946, pp. 1,4.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Geographical data

Boundary description

Lots numbers 7, 8 and 9 in Plat 325 of the City of New Albany

Boundary justification

This is the legal description of the property and encompasses the land historically associated with the school.

Photographic information

The following information is the same for all photographs

1. Division Street School
2. Floyd County, Indiana
3. Laura Dreistadt
4. July 5, 2001
5. Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

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View of Division Street School looking southwest, c.1923

Included in Rev. S. Holmes Wood, Picturesque New Albany. New Albany: self-published (1923), p. 41

