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## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name 1937 Iowa High School

other names/site number J.I. Watson Middle School

### 2. Location

street & number 215 S. Kinney Avenue

NA

not for publication

city or town Iowa

NA

vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Calcasieu code 019 zip code 70647

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

*Pam Breau*

Pam Breau, State Historic Preservation Officer

*5/9/2011*

Date

Signature of certifying official/Title

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:)

*For Edson H. Beall*

*6-23-11*

Date of Action

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## 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	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

NA

**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.)

Education - School

## 7. Description

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

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick  
walls: Brick  
  
roof: Asphalt  
other: Cast concrete

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The 1937 Iowa High School building stands on the southwest corner of South Kinney Avenue and East Second Street in the community of Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The elementary and middle school campus covers an entire city block. Two large water oaks and one live oak tree are in front of the building along South Kinney Avenue. These were planted prior to the construction of the school building making them close to 100 years old. Other vegetation includes crepe myrtles on each side of the front entrance sidewalk, several small water oaks, and tall shrubbery near the building. The two story, brick, Classical Revival style building has been in continuous operation as a school since its construction in 1937. Despite alterations made for the building to meet modern educational and building code requirements, the school clearly retains its National Register eligibility.

### Narrative Description

The 1937 Iowa High School building is located on the current campus of J.I. Watson Middle School in the small town, of Iowa, Louisiana. This rural community with a population 3,000 on the eastern border of Calcasieu Parish has utilized this two story brick building since its construction in 1937. The school's architecture is primarily Early Classical Revival but includes features from other styles.

The architectural style of Early Classical Revival is typified by simplicity, monumentality, and purity of design. The building is suggestive of the five-part articulation of projecting and receding planes common to school buildings of the period. However, since it has only one projecting wing off the left hyphen and does not have a wing off the right hyphen, it is a four-part articulation of projecting and receding planes, from left to right:

Projecting Wing - Connecting Hyphen - Central Block - Hyphen-like Element

Classical Revival elements found on the building include the following:

1. the façade's central, monumental staircase of brick and cast concrete which rises from the ground to the upper story,
2. the lower level central arcade composed of three jack (straight) arches supported by corbelled capitals atop pillars
3. double-hung, nine-over-nine paired-wooden windows with semicircular transoms
4. brick extradoses (with cast concrete keystones) surrounding transoms, and
5. brick quoins on each of the building's corners.

Non-Classical elements found on the building include the following:

1. Gothic Revival style vertical pilaster buttresses,
2. French style copper hood, light fixtures, and brackets,
3. Craftsman style eaves, some with wooden brackets, and
4. double-hung, six-over-six paired-wooden windows.

These features are described more specifically below. The orientation will be standing in front of the building, which faces west, starting from left (north) and proceeding to the right (south), around the south end, across the back of the building, which faces east, then around the projecting wing (north side).

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**Projecting Wing:**

- Solid brick wall
- Corner quoins
- Hip roof

**Left Connecting Hyphen:**

- Lower than central block
- Multiple wooden windows with cast concrete sills arranged symmetrically on each floor
- Windows are nine-over-nine panes, double hung on each floor
- Window pattern: single/triple/single
- Low grade gable roof

**Central Block:**

- Architecturally, the most important and impressive part of the façade.
- Roof higher than adjacent parts
- Low grade gable roof
- Façade divided into five bays framed by six Gothic Revival style pilaster buttresses

**Upper Floor:**

- Five bays, each housing a window with a Classical Revival semicircular fanlight transom.
- Paired nine-over-nine wooden windows are mounted below each fanlight transom.
- A wooden panel separates the pair of windows from each semicircular transom.
- Extradoses surrounding transoms have a centrally located cast concrete keystone.
- The central bay also houses the gymnasium entrance featuring :
  - French style copper hood with ornate double scrolled iron brackets
  - Pair of iron light fixtures mounted the same height as the hood brackets and on the buttresses on each side of doors
  - Nine-pane horizontal transom
  - Original wooden doors (now lost) repeated the nine-paned window pattern

**Classical Monumental Staircase:**

- Consists of two concrete stairs with solid brick balustrades
- Cast concrete coping
- Each staircase leads 13 steps straight up vertically then stops at a landing.
- Landing turns toward center of building; four more steps rise to the upper level landing.
- Upper level landing leads to the gymnasium doors
- Four foot tall, solid brick balustrades surround the upper landing

**Lower Floor:**

- Classical Arcade beneath the staircase upper landing-
  - Formed by three jack arches supported by corbelled capitals atop pillars
  - Originally open air below upper landing, leading to three adjacent exterior doors each with nine window panes.



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- Regrettably in the 1980's, the three exterior doors were removed and the area was enclosed with glass walls to be used as a teacher's break room.
- Leading up to the staircase is the original sidewalk, which circles a flower bed where the flagpole once stood.
- Windows-
  - The two bays on either side of the central staircase have paired six-over-six ribbon wooden windows with cast concrete sills.
  - Windows are symmetrically placed in line with the windows and Classical Revival semicircular fanlight transoms above them on the upper level.

**Right Hyphen-like Element:**

Except for its corner terminating in quoins, the right hyphen-like element is similar to that to the left of the central block.

**South side wall:**

- Solid brick
- Quoins on each corner
- Craftsman style overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and wooden roof brackets
- Centrally located entrance on upper and lower floors
  - Upper level entrance has single door (flanked by windows) with decorative surround:
    - Quoins and jack arch
    - Fourteen light transom below jack arch
    - Steel fire escape descends to the east corner
  - Lower level entrance decoratively treated
    - Original exterior doors replaced with two solid metal doors
    - Flanked by quoins and topped by jack arch
    - Jack arch partially concealed by new canopy addition
    - Fourteen light transom below jack arch, covered with metal louvers to install the canopy to the bus stop

**Rear, East Elevation:**

Entire rear elevation characterized by projecting and receding planes, with the wing and central block stage areas projecting and the classroom hyphen sections receding. Each portion of this elevation will be described separately.

**Southeast side rear wall – South classroom hyphen-like element:**

- Lower than central block
- Multiple wooden windows with cast concrete sills arranged symmetrically on each floor
- Windows are nine-over-nine panes, double hung on each floor
- Window pattern: single/triple/single
- Low grade gable roof
- Corner ends in quoins

**Gymnasium walls flanking the central block stage projection:**

- Higher than classroom adjacent wall because it is part of the central block
- Upper level has one Classical Revival semicircular window transom that features the fanlight pattern window panes, as does the front of the building.

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- Paired nine-over-nine wooden windows originally mounted below the semicircular transoms have been filled in to install central air system in the gymnasium.
- Large, rectangular lower level window area is partly filled in for air conditioning.
- Gothic Revival pilaster buttresses at site where gym and classroom wall and wall of south hyphen meet

**Stage Projection Side Walls on South and North sides:**

- Upper level has large single 5 foot X 6 foot, thirty pane rectangular steel window with cast concrete sill
- Lower level has two steel windows with cast concrete sills. Although their sizes differ, they are presented in a paired configuration:
  - One single 4X5 twenty pane window
  - One single 3 foot X 5 foot 15 pane window
- Lower level has one door

**Stage Projection Back Wall:**

- Craftsman style overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and wooden roof brackets
- Upper level solid brick wall
- Lower level has two single doors, one double door, and three single, 3 foot X 5 foot, fifteen pane steel windows. The fenestration pattern is window, single door, double door, window, single door, window.
- Two outer windows partially filled in to accommodate single air conditioning units.
- Small rectangular vents located above single doors.

**Northeast rear wall – North classroom hyphen:**

With one exception, this wall is identical to that of the South classroom hyphen. The exception is the presence of a second-level fire door that opens to a steel fire escape at the point where the hyphen joins the projecting wing.

**Rear side wall of Projecting Wing:**

- Overhanging eaves without brackets
- Steel fire escape turns corner as it descends from second floor
- Brick wall pierced by two second-level fire doors opening to the fire escape
- Corner quoins

**Rear wall – Projecting Wing:**

- Overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails but without brackets
- Solid brick wall with corner quoins
- Steel fire escape turns corner as it rises from first level

**North side Projecting Wing:**

- Hip roof
- Craftsman style overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails but without brackets
- Quoins on each end
- Windows
  - Multiple wooden windows with cast concrete sills arranged symmetrically on each floor
  - Windows are nine-over-nine panes, double hung on each floor

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- East end window pattern: single/triple/single
  - West end window pattern: single/triple/single/single
- Central entrance on upper and lower floors
- Upper level single door has no decorative treatment
- Lower level entrance
  - Double doors set back into building approximately six feet
  - Entrance has decorative surround with jack arch treatment and quoins
  - Transom above doors covered with wooden panel
- Quoins on corners
- Steel fire escape leading to upper level central entrance door

### **Interior Features and Floor Plan:**

Originally the building was heated by a furnace in the winter and used open windows for cooling in the summer. The gymnasium and classrooms currently use central air systems.

The first floor has a central hallway running the length of the building. There are two classrooms and an enclosed wooden staircase to the second floor in the south hyphen. The central area under the gymnasium was originally the principal's office, the teacher's lounge, storage rooms, and rest rooms. The north hyphen contains four classrooms and an enclosed wooden staircase. The projecting wing also contained two classrooms. Each classroom in the building was originally constructed to have its own separate cloak room. The walls and doors to these cloak rooms have been removed in most of the classrooms. The back walls of each classroom have coat racks and overhead storage shelves, which is all that remains of the cloak rooms.

The location of the gymnasium on the second floor was unusual then as it is now. Basically the same as built in 1937, it features a stage that no longer has curtains. However, it is still used by the students and faculty for entertainment events. The balcony along three sides of the gymnasium is covered by beaded board wainscot, with the original beige brick visible on the wall above it. Wooden brackets provide the balcony's support. The original overhead, exposed metal roof trusses in the gymnasium are structurally supported by the exterior buttresses. The ceiling tiles have been replaced. The interior brick walls have been painted from the balcony to the floor level. The wooden bleachers on the west (entrance) side of the gym were removed in the 1980's when the gym was temporarily subdivided to provide needed classroom space. The gym has since been returned to its original purpose for basketball games and physical education classes.

The second floor has two classrooms in the south hyphen, with a central hallway leading to the gymnasium and the terminus of the staircase. The second floor's north hyphen has its own central hall and stair terminus, along with two classrooms. The north hyphen's hallway extends into the wing, which also contains two classrooms. The classrooms on both floors of the projecting wing and on the second floor of the north hyphen are larger than the others in the building because they accommodated special curriculums like commerce, science, and home economics. Additionally, the original cafeteria and library appear to have been located in some of these larger spaces.

Other original features found in the interior include solid wooden doors, beaded board wainscot, wooden floors, and wooden framed chalk boards.

### **Alterations:**

Because the building continues in use as a school, Calcasieu Parish School Board members have made changes to meet modern educational needs and building code requirements. Most of these have been mentioned above but will be summarized here. In addition to the construction of covered walkways to connect the original building to later structures added to the campus, these alterations include:

1. Removed the three front ground level exterior doors, replaced the two exterior doors to the gymnasium, and covered the semicircular windows on the back, east side of the building with wood to accommodate the air conditioning units.

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2. Enclosed the arcade with glass walls to serve as a teacher's lounge, converted one classroom into a kitchen and laundry area, and converted the original cafeteria and office area to storage rooms.
3. Covered the wooden floors with tile, covered the wooden stair steps with rubber for safety purposes, covered the chalk boards with white and cork boards, and dropped the ceilings in most classrooms.
4. Removed cloakroom walls and doors and added storage cabinets in classrooms.

Of these changes, the loss of the open arcade is the most significant. Regrettably, the original three exterior doors were removed and the area was enclosed with glass walls to form a teacher's lounge in the 1980's due to the need for extra interior space. Since this is no longer used as a teacher's lounge, the glass walls can easily be removed and converted back to the original attractive entrance.

Clearly no change has been significant enough to prevent former students from recognizing the building when they see the campus today; and all the original features that give the school architectural significance survive. As the symbol of an educational milestone and as an architectural landmark in the surrounding community of Iowa, the 1937 Iowa High School building is a strong candidate for National Register listing.



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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.
- ☒ Not applicable

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.
- ☒ Not applicable

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1937

### Significant Dates

1937

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

### Cultural Affiliation

NA

### Architect/Builder

Architect: Herman J. Duncan and Company, Inc.

Builder: T. Miller and Sons

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is based upon the date of the school's opening.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) NA**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The 1937 Iowa High School building is locally significant under Criterion A: Event, in the area of education. Additionally, it is locally significant under Criterion C: Design, in the area of Architecture. Its historical/educational significance is based upon its role as the first state-of-the-art school building in the community of Iowa. Its architectural significance rests upon its status as the town's most outstanding landmark building. The period of significance for both cases is 1937, the year the school opened.

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

**Education/History**

The first formal education for the children in the Iowa area took place in one-room schools, begun during the early 1900's, located near groups of families in the Chloe, Manchester, Bayou Arsene, Jones Bluff, Foreman, Thomson, and Iowa communities. Iowa had a one-room school in 1913 with Mr. Guffie Robinson as the only teacher. In 1914 an additional teacher was added and the first multi-classroom school house was erected on the site of the present elementary school, the corner of First Street and South Kinney Avenue. The following year a third teacher and the first principal, Gibson Dugas, were hired. The teachers lived inside the school building.

In 1917 the elementary enrollment consisted of 37 boys and 31 girls. The high school enrollment was one boy and three girls; totaling 72 students in a four classroom school building. The faculty consisted of three elementary teachers and one high school teacher. The average annual salary was: \$562.50 for elementary teachers and \$945.00 for high school teachers. The 1919 school year saw an increase of eight teachers, five in elementary and three in high school, and a new brick school building with eight classrooms. Mr. J.I. Watson was appointed to be the principal of the school. In 1920, when the Iowa School applied to the state for official high school status, the enrollment almost doubled to 128 total students (elementary: 52 boys, 46 girls and high school: 20 boys, ten girls). Average annual salary at this time was: Elementary, \$1,057.00 and High School, \$1,335.00).

Iowa High School obtained its certification to award the State of Louisiana full high school diplomas in the 1921 - 1922 school sessions. Percy Denison was the first student to graduate after this status was achieved. Students of the second high school graduating class in 1922 were Horace Denison, Margaret Longenbach, and Emma Wait. The faculty still only consisted of three high school teachers and 5 elementary teachers. Their combined annual salaries amounted to \$8,685.00 or an average of \$1,085.00 for each teacher. The school roster was now made up of 199 elementary and 56 high school students with 12 classrooms.

By 1920 the Iowa school was one of 12 schools under the Calcasieu Parish School System. The small one-room schools around the Iowa community slowly consolidated with the large multi-classroom school in Iowa and by 1932 all the one-room schools mentioned previously became a part of Iowa High School. A strong parish educational system recognized the growth of the Iowa community and realized the school building was inadequate for the number of students it was serving.

On October 13, 1936 the Calcasieu Parish School Board awarded a building contract to T. Miller and Sons in accordance with the plans of Herman J. Duncan, Architect, to build a new state-of-the-art high school in the small town of Iowa, Louisiana. The construction of the school made headlines in the March 4, 1937 issue of the *Lake Charles American Press* newspaper. A portion of the article reads:

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### Building Activity Continues, Iowa is a Busy Town.

The town of Iowa continues in progress and prosperity, and is rapidly becoming known as one of the liveliest little towns along the line. With the advent of the oil field a few years ago Iowa has grown in many ways. One of the buildings that are outstanding is the beautiful \$75,000 school building which is nearing completion.

It is clear that Iowa's 1937 high school building represented an improvement in the physical plant, which translated into a considerable improvement in the quality of public education provided. The heated facility contained an administrative office, library, cafeteria, indoor restrooms, and gym providing sheltered space for physical education and athletic competition. In addition, fourteen large, well-lighted classrooms with accompanying cloakrooms allowed better separation by grade level, less crowded classes, and more individualized instruction for students.

The above is confirmed by the memories of former students and teachers interviewed for this nomination. According to 1940 Iowa High School graduate, teacher, coach, and principal of Iowa High School, Joe Foreman, now 88 years young, prior to 1937 the classrooms were heated by cast iron coal heaters in the winter. Boys would help janitors haul coal into each classroom. The new building was heated by a steam heat boiler located on the back, east side of the building and piped into the classrooms to the radiators lining the classroom walls. There was no indoor plumbing prior to the new 1937 building. All sports were played outside on dirt and grass fields, including basketball games. The cafeteria in the new building provided the students with hot lunches for the first time. Specialized classrooms for science, bookkeeping, and home economics were all available in the new school building. Miss Lucille Bernard, now Mrs. Joe Foreman, was a first year home economics teacher in 1947. She recalls the upstairs north wing had the sewing room, a small vestibule set up as a living room and a large food preparation room. She also remembers that 1946 was the first year boys were offered home economics classes. The first Junior/Senior Prom was held in the gym in 1947 sponsored by the Home Economics Department. Other fond memories she shared: "We held open-house visitations and formal teas for the mothers of the students. On special occasions students prepared and served large banquets in the gymnasium for the Lion's Club."

The construction and opening of the new school also had considerable symbolic value as a milestone. Iowa was and is a small rural community, and its buildings are low-scale and modest. Within this context, the large and elaborately ornamented new school must have seemed quite grand. In fact, the excitement of watching the new high school being built from the classroom windows of the older school was what brothers Frank and Joe Foreman remember. Frank said it was amazing to watch every day as the building was constructed in five short months. Frank, retired Iowa Post Master, is now 91 years young. His class of 13 was the first to wear caps & gowns and graduate in the new 1937 school building on May 27, 1937.

### Architecture

The 1937 Iowa High School building is of local architectural significance under Criterion C when viewed within the context of the town of Iowa, Louisiana.

Iowa is located in Calcasieu Parish, in the southwestern section of Louisiana. This section during the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century was prairie land and populated by cattlemen with Spanish and French ancestry. Large herds of cattle from Mexico were driven across the prairies surrounding Iowa, when the price was \$4.00 per head. They were then sold in Opelousas, St. Martinville, and New Orleans for \$13.00 per head. Imperial Calcasieu Parish was formed from Imperial Opelousas Parish in 1844. During the 1860's more settlers arrived from the northern and midwestern states. They were of German, Scottish, and English ancestry. The first railroad tracks in 1880 connecting New Orleans to Texas ran through Iowa, which opened up a vast section of Southwest Louisiana that heretofore had been virtually isolated by the lack of adequate transportation.

Sturdy, two-story moderately sized and styled galleried cottages, mostly in the Queen Anne Revival, were built in the town of Iowa by the new settlers. Only a handful of these houses are still standing and being used as homes today. Two of these survivors are important because they illustrate Iowa's early architectural patrimony, a Midwest interpretation of the Queen Anne characterized by verticality, elaborate massing, a two-story configuration and small porches or galleries. These characteristics were in marked contrast to the one-story, simply massed, galleried cottages that were the



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South Louisiana interpretation of the style. One of the oldest homes in Iowa, built around 1889, is the third home of importance to local residents. They value it because of its age rather than for its very simple massing and ornament. The only other home of note is a two-story residence whose boxed colossal columns are suggestive of the Colonial Revival style. Other than these few, the housing in the Iowa community is a mixture of simple bungalows, many small dwellings, and slab-on-grade modern and ranch style houses. Thus, only the two larger Queen Anne houses can be considered architectural landmarks, and one of those is in poor condition. Additionally, it is only their massing that makes these houses important; for they display few Queen Anne decorative motifs.

The town's collection of historic public buildings is also very limited. The first large public building constructed in Iowa was the railroad section house/depot which was built in 1887. This depot was unfortunately torn down in 1967, but parts of it live on, since most of the bricks, cypress wood, and cypress doors were salvaged and purchased by locals who used them on their personal home construction projects. Mr. James Storer owned the first General Mercantile Store which also housed the first Post Office in 1891; however, this building no longer exists.

Other than the candidate, the only public buildings of note are churches. Distinctive only for its shape, the sanctuary of the current United Methodist Church, located across Second Street from the 1937 school building, is a mid-twentieth century modern A-frame structure built in 1950. At best, it might present a weak, technical case for National Register listing. The Zion Baptist Church (owned by the Methodist congregation until 1947) is over 100 years old. Its Gothic Revival side windows remain intact, but its frame façade has received a brick veneer. The First Baptist Church was built in 1951. Although it is a classical composition characterized by round arch openings and Tuscan columns, it lacks the level of detail found on the school. The rest of the commercial and public buildings currently in Iowa are primarily of modern design with no notable architectural characteristics. Against this limited residential and public architectural background, the 1937 Iowa High School building is a conspicuous landmark and is clearly the single most architecturally significant building in the town.

As the symbol of the "coming of age" of education in the Iowa community, and as the most architecturally significant building, the 1937 Iowa High School building is a strong National Register candidate. The community in Iowa is fortunate and proud to have one of the few remaining old school buildings from the era when construction of school buildings had artistic appeal as well as functional characteristics. The Classical Revival architectural style is slowly becoming only a memory for many schools of this era. Preserving this fine example of what past school buildings looked like, and what they mean to the students and community, should make it a prime choice for the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Historical Note:

In 1937 this new high school building became the center of community life as well as a state-of-the-art educational facility. It was the first school building with central steam heat, indoor plumbing, a cafeteria, a gymnasium and stage, library, and fully furnished Home Economics, science and business classrooms.

The school building became not only the best thing that happened to education in Iowa, but filled the void of not having a large enough building where the community could gather for many non-school activities. These included different community organization meetings like Lion's Club, temporary shelter during the historic Hurricane Audrey in 1957, skits, traveling shows, magic shows, movies, boxing matches, and donkey basketball for entertainment, as well as wedding ceremonies and other church services during 1959 when the new St. Raphael Catholic Church was being built. Jackie Bouquet Heitkamp was married on Easter Sunday, March 29, 1959, in the Iowa High School gymnasium, the temporary accommodations for St. Raphael's Catholic Church. Jackie recalls, "I do remember the fund raising shows put on in the auditorium/gym. One was for the Lion's Club that hired a woman to put on the show; she had tryouts, costumes, and skits. I remember my Dad was dressed as a woman one time."

Since 1937 Iowa has continued to grow in population and two more high school buildings were built, one in 1958 then again in 1968 when the high school campus had to be moved to its current location on the Miller estate, near Interstate 10. But neither one of these school buildings have been as educationally and historically significant as the beautiful 1937 Classical Revival school building to the community of Iowa.

When the 1937 building and campus became the elementary and junior high campus, it was fitting to name it after Mr. J.I. Watson, since not only he, but also his wife, Margaret Bishop Watson, his son J.C. Watson, and his daughter-in-law, Margaret Goss Watson, all taught in the Iowa schools. The family will always be honored and appreciated for their many years of devoted service to the community by being the middle school's name sake.



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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate) NA

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Calcasieu Parish Court House, School Record Book, Original Contract to build the school dated 10/13/1936 and the Notice of Acceptance of Contract for erecting the Iowa High School building dated 03/30/1937.

Calcasieu Parish Tax Assessor's Office, Description of property.

Correspondence with Louisiana Archives, Assistant Administrator/ Records Management, Mr. Lewis Morris and Mr. Bill Stafford, November 24, 2004 about locating the original architect drawings in the State Fire Marshall collection of architectural blueprints for buildings by R.S. 40:1574 AND 40:1596.

History of J.I. Watson written by Jade Tiffany Perry, eight grade essay assignment as a student at J.I. Watson Middle School, 2003.

Interview with Mrs. Arlie Denison Haney, former teacher and librarian at Iowa High School.

Interview with Frank Foreman, former student and in the first graduating class in the new 1937 school building. WWII veteran and retired Iowa Post Master.

Interview and questionnaire from A.J. "Joe" Foreman, 1940 Iowa High School graduate, WWII veteran, former teacher, coach, and principal of Iowa High School from 1950 – 1984.

Interview and questionnaire from Lucille Bernard Foreman, Home Economics teacher at Iowa High School from 1945 – 1947, married to Joe Foreman.

Interview and questionnaire from Jackie Bouquet Heitkamp, 1959 Iowa High School graduate; St. Raphael Catholic Church wedding ceremony in the 1937 Iowa High School gymnasium.

Iowa High School yearbooks from 1947 (first one) – 1957

*Lake Charles American Press* Newspaper articles about the construction and use of the 1937 Iowa High School on microfiche in the Lake Charles Carnegie Memorial Branch Library, dated March 4, 1937, March 29, 1937, April 1937, and May 27, 1937.

Louisiana National Register of Historic Places website. Listings to National Register of Historic Places by Parish.

Research from McNeese State University Archives, by Kathy Bordelon.

Speech written by Lawrence Touns, Iowa High School graduate and Mayor for the Town of Iowa, given at the dedication of the new Iowa High School on November 10, 1968.

Welcome to Iowa Louisiana Brochure written by Sheila Goeger, Jean Cape, and Lucille Foreman, 1983.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Not Applicable

### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

1937 Iowa High School  
Name of Property

Calcasieu Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than an acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	498860	3344880	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

Please refer to attached sketch map.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The western and southern boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel upon which the school stands, thus including the historic setting at the front of the building. Boundaries do not follow the property lines on the east and north because to have done so would have meant including several modern buildings that are now part of the campus. On the east side of the school, the boundary is cut approximately twenty five feet from the eastern-most exterior wall of the building in order to exclude those non-historic buildings. On the north side of the school building, the boundary is cut approximately ten feet from the exterior wall in order to exclude the other non-historic classroom building.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Corbello  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date Winter 2011  
street & number 310 E. Second Street telephone 337 582-1244  
city or town Iowa state LA zip code 70647  
e-mail corbello@ppg.com

### Property Owner:

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

name Calcasieu Parish School Board  
street & number 3310 Broad Street telephone 337-217-4000  
city or town Lake Charles, state LA zip code 70615-3808

1937 Iowa High School  
Name of Property

Calcasieu Parish, LA  
County and State

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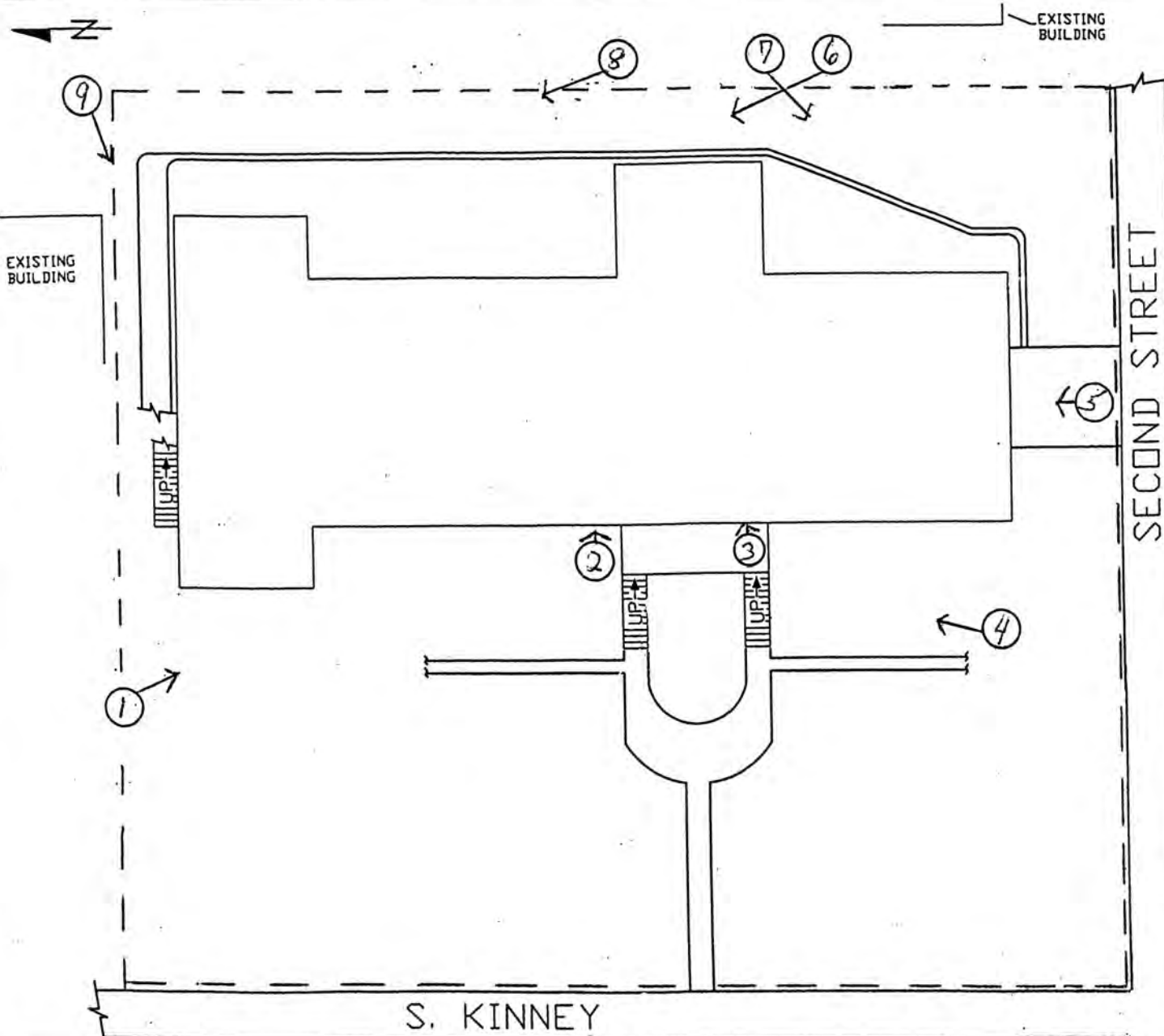
**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**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 18 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.



LEGEND:

Scale: 1" = 30'

Boundary: - - -

1937 Iowa High School

Iowa,  
Calcasieu Parish, LA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY 1937 Iowa High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Calcasieu

DATE RECEIVED: 5/13/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/08/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/23/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/28/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000397

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 6.23.11 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.



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPA Digital Archives

Southeast

photo 1 of 13

0141164.04x21/11  
1-014

LA-Calcasieu Parish - 1937 Iowa High School - 0001.tif





1937 Iowa High School

Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fenterot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

East

Photo 2 of 13

0141164.04/21/11

LA-Calcasieu Parish\_1937 Iowa High School\_0000.tif



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA  
Tim Fontenot  
Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives  
East

Photo 3 of 13

LA\_Calcasieu Parish\_1937 Iowa High School\_0003.tif





1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA  
Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010  
LASHPO Digital Archives

North, Northeast

Photo 4 of 13

LA-Calcasieu Parish-1937 Iowa High School\_0004.tif

0141164.04/21/11  
2-019



1937 Iowa High School

Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASH PO Digital Archives

North

Photo 5 of 13

0141164, 04/21/11  
5-022

LA-Calcasieu Parish-1937 Iowa High School-coas.tif







1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

North Northwest

0141164.04/21/11  
7-024

Photo 6 of 13

LA-Calcasieu Parish-1937 Iowa High School-0006.tif



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tia Fontenot  
Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives  
Southwest

Photo 7 of 13

0141164\_04/21/11  
6\_023

LA-Calcasieu Parish-1937IowaHighSchool-0007.tif





1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tia Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives  
North, Northwest

Photo 8 of 13

0141164, 04/21/11  
8-025

LA Calcasieu Parish - 1937 Iowa High School - 0008.tif



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA  
Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

Southwest

Photo 9 of 13

0141164.04/21/11  
9-026

LA-Calcasieu Parish-1937 Iowa High School-0009.tif





1937 Iowa High School

Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Interior: Gymnasium

Photo 10 of 13

0141164.04/21/11  
10\_015

LA - Calcasieu Parish - 1937 Iowa High School - 0010.tif



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA  
Tim Fontenot  
Fall 2010

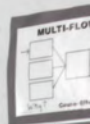
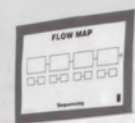
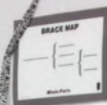
LASHPO Digital Archives  
Interior: Gymnasium

Photo 11 of 13

LA-Calcasieu Parish - 1937 Iowa High School. 0011.tif  
19~~37~~

0141184.04/21/11

11-016



W =  
S =  
R =  
E =  
I =  
P =

Target  
Quest



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

Interior: Classroom

Photo 12 of 13

LA-Calcsieu Parish\_1937 Iowa High School\_0012.tif

0141164\_04/21/11

12\_017



1937 Iowa High School  
Iowa, Calcasieu Parish, LA

Tim Fontenot

Fall 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

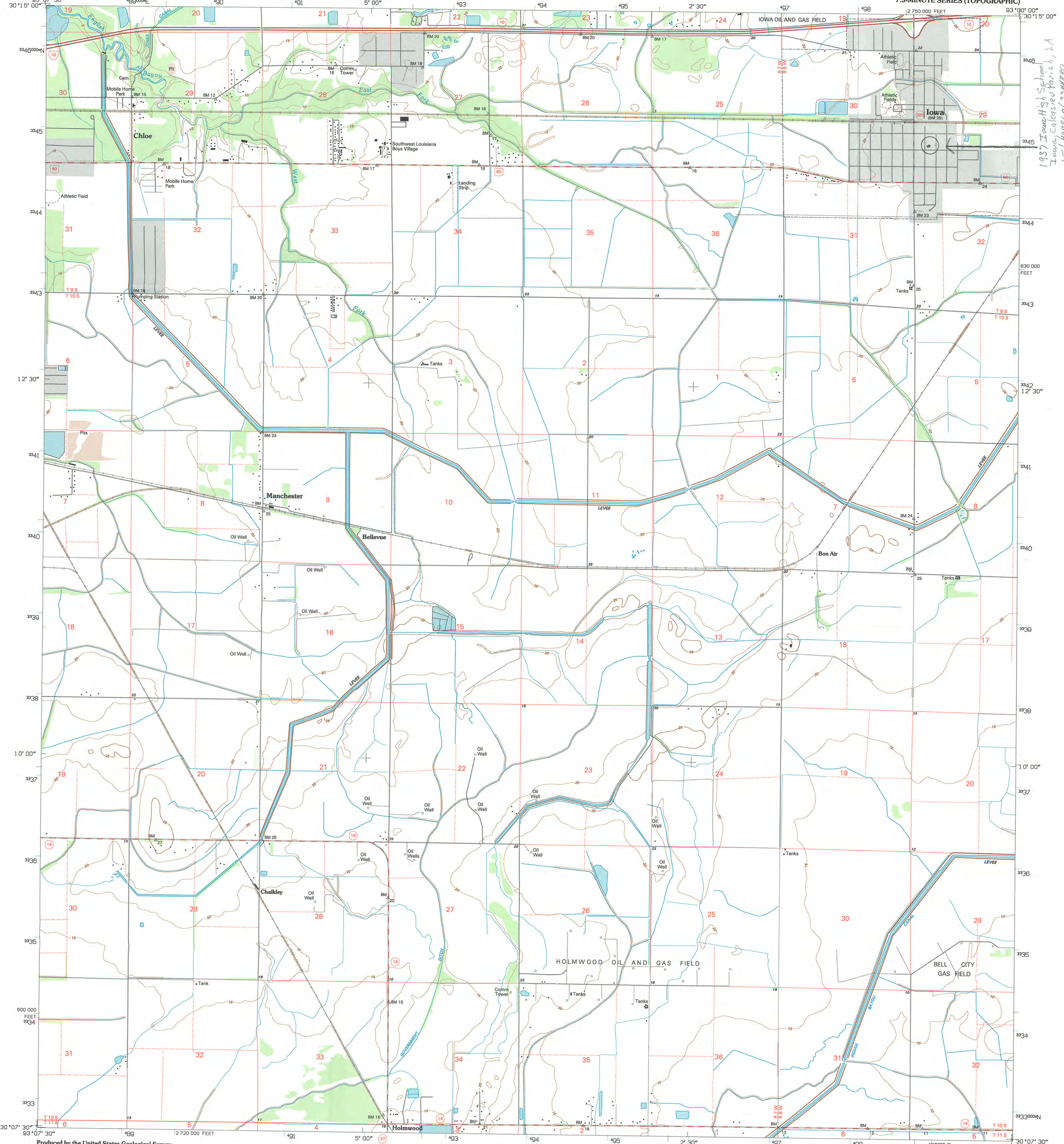
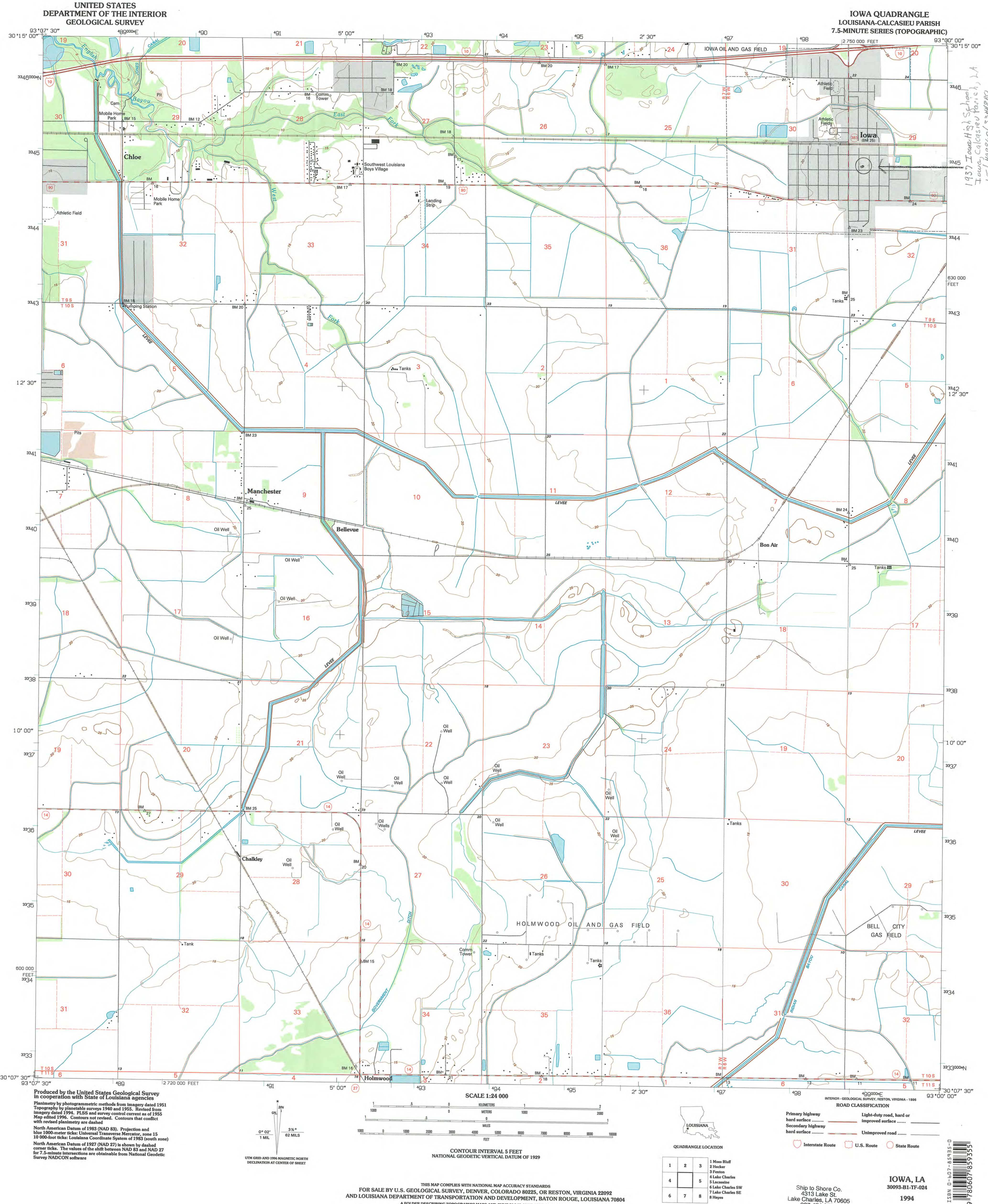
Interior : Cloakroom wall

Photo 13 of 13

0141164\_04/21/11  
13\_018

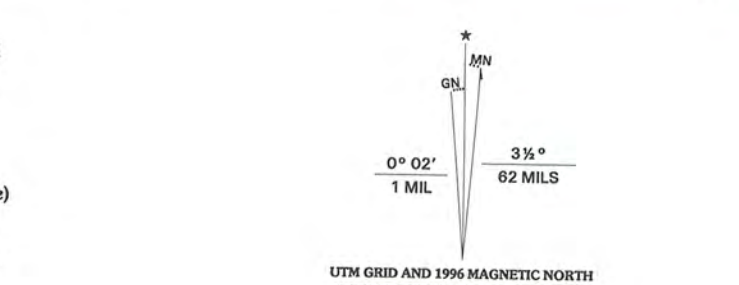
LA-Calcasieu Parish\_1937 Iowa High School\_0013.tif



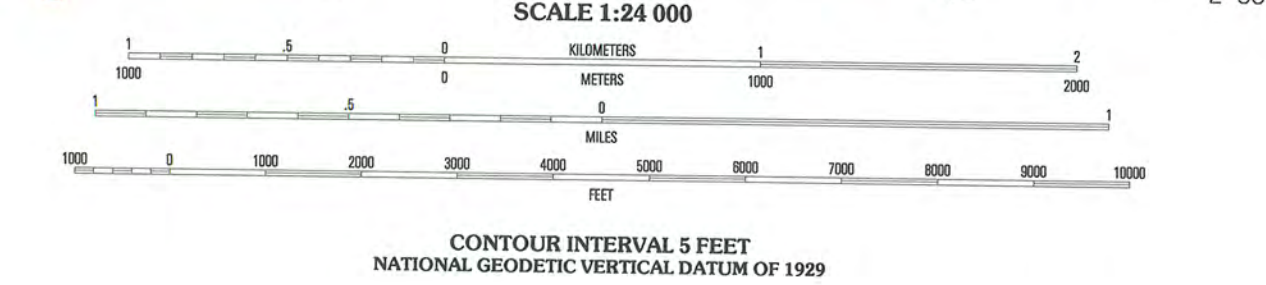


Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Louisiana agencies  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1951  
Imagery by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1951  
Map edited 1996. PLSS and survey control current as of 1955  
Map edited 1996. Contours not revised. Contours that conflict  
with revised planimetry are dashed.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and  
blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15  
10 1000-foot ticks: Louisiana Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27  
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic  
Survey NADCON software

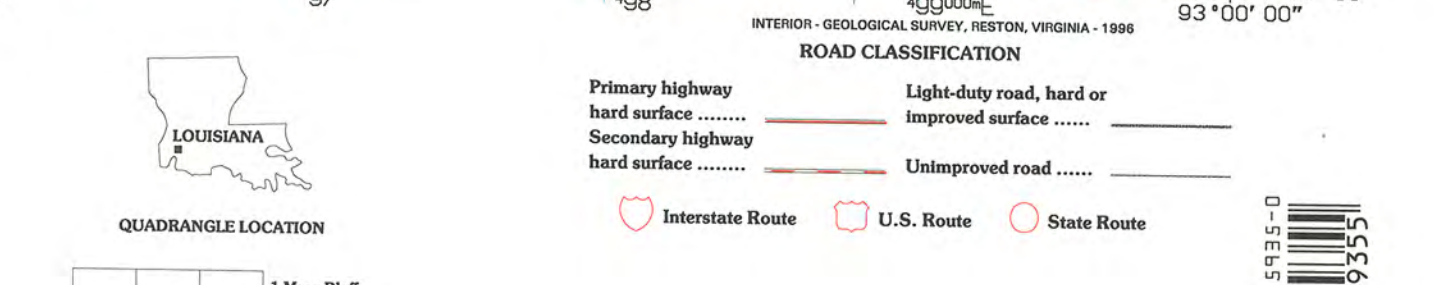
UTM GRID AND 1996 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
1 Moss Bluff  
2 Hecker  
3 Fenton  
4 Lake Charles  
5 Lacassine  
6 Lake Charles SW  
7 Lake Charles SE  
8 Hayes



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
secondary highway  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route





JAY DARDENNE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PAM BREAU  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

May 9, 2011

National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: 1937 Iowa High School, Calcasieu Parish, LA

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595.

Sincerely,

Patricia Duncan  
Architectural Historian  
National Register Coordinator

PD/pld  
Enclosures