

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Prill School

and or common Prill School Museum

## 2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Fort Wayne Road and County Road 700E not for publication

city, town Akron X vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Indiana 46910 code 018 county Fulton code 049

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
X district	X public	X occupied	agriculture X museum
X building(s)	private	unoccupied	commercial park
structure	both	work in progress	educational private residence
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	entertainment religious
object	in process	X yes: restricted	government scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial transportation
		no	military other

## 4. Owner of Property

name Henry Township

street & number Claire Ellis, Trustee

city, town Akron vicinity of state Indiana 46910

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Rochester state Indiana 46975

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Prill School, built in 1876, is a one story, red brick, rectangular structure, covered by a gabled roof. The south facade is the building's main facade, containing its only entrance. Four rectangular windows penetrate the walls of the east and west facades. The red brick structure is a Flemish variation of common bond construction supported by a low limestone foundation. The gabled roof is made of slate and is partially constructed of a fishscale pattern. Just under the roof eaves is a frieze of pointed vertical boards, which extends around the entire structure.

On the south facade, the two limestone steps lead to the central, arched, recessed doorway. Two small metal handrails flank the doorway. The most decorative aspects of the south facade are its slightly projecting archivolt and dentils. An archivolt with dentils is located above the arched doorway. Above the doorway is a denticulated "shelf" approximately the same width as the doorway. Above the "shelf" is another arch with projecting archivolt and dentils, containing a cement slab which once held an iron plaque inscribed with the date "1876." The raking trim frieze under the roof eaves has a truncated point at the apex of the two sides. The pointed ends of the vertical frieze boards extend a short way down the length of the wall edges.

The four over four doublehung sash windows of the east and west facades are rectangular in shape and have stone sills, and brick jack arches. The raking trim frieze, visible under the roof eaves, extends the length of the east and west facades. The trim continues around the structure to hug the corners of the north facade, creating frieze extensions on the north and south facades.

The ridge of <sup>the</sup> slate, gabled roof extends north and south. The first row of slates on either side of the roof ridge are rectangular in shape. The following row on both east and west sides of the roof is of a fishscale design followed by four more rectangular rows. Eleven more rows of fishscales are followed by six more rows of rectangular slates. A small brick chimney is located near the north end of the roof. The southwest corner of the roof was replaced in 1971 with rectangular slates.

A dinner bell hangs from a post in the front yard of the school, replacing one that is known to have been there at an earlier time. The original water pump with its common tin cup, located fifty feet south of the school door, has been replaced by a similar pump so that visitors may pump drinking water from the well. A wooden privy, constructed in 1971, is located in the western section of the back yard, and replaces the two brick outhouses that were there, originally, one for boys on the northwest, and one for girls on the northeast.

The interior of the schoolhouse consists of one room, except for the cloak rooms on the south wall, east and west of the door. A pot bellied stove is placed in the center of the schoolroom, which replaces an earlier wood burning, iron box stove.

The lower portion of all four walls is covered with pine wainscoting, approximately three feet high. A slate blackboard extends the length of the entire north wall. Smaller blackboards were created along the east and west walls by painting the plaster black. The remaining walls and ceiling are made of plaster. Pine woodwork adorns the windows.

Electricity was installed in the Prill School in 1971. Four kerosene lanterns, converted to electric lights, were installed on both the east and west walls, and one light each on the north and south walls.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1876

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Prill School is significant because it is a well-preserved example of the one room, rural schoolhouse, characteristic of educational institutions of the nineteenth century. Built in 1876, on property that was donated by John L. Prill, the red brick, rectangular structure served the local community well into the twentieth century as an educational institution. Today, it serves the community as a cultural institution dedicated to preserving the memory of school days of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The land donated to the Henry Township trustees by John L. Prill was deeded in 1894. The Prill School represented a high level of rural educational advancement at the time of its building. It was more comfortable, better equipped, and better supervised than had been customary in rural schools prior to that date. In 1907, consolidation began in Fulton County, which threatened the existence of one room schoolhouses. The Prill School closed its doors in 1925.

The school was restored in 1971 by a group of local citizens and opened to visitors as a museum. The structure now stands as a living example of an American educational institution that has now vanished. The interior has been furnished with some of the school's original equipment. The school is used year-round by the Prill School Museum Association for meetings and more educationally oriented events such as spelling bees, box socials, and kite contests. These activities are free and open to the public.

The Fulton County Round Barn Festival, which takes place during the second weekend in July, brings many visitors to the Prill School. Mock classroom sessions are conducted by a teacher in period dress and "pupils" are allowed to experience how an average school day would have been spent in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fulton County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol.9, No.1, P.26-28; Vol.13, No.2, P.33-36.  
Prill School Museum Association yearbooks.

Kingman, A.L., Combination Atlas Map of Fulton County, Indiana (N.P.1883)  
Branhart, Henry A., ed. An Account of Fulton County Indiana, in Logan Esarey, History of  
Indiana (3 volumes, Dayton, Ohio, Dayton Historical Publishing Company, 1923).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Akron

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 574 460 4547400  
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C            

D            

E            

F            

G            

H            

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state    code    county    code   

state    code    county    code   

## 11. Form Prepared By

name title Dewey L. Zolman, Board of Directors

organization Prill School Museum Assn.

date October 17, 1978

street & number Box 12

telephone 213/223-6477

city or town Athens

state Indiana 46912

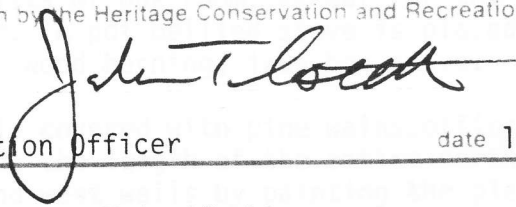
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-30-81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

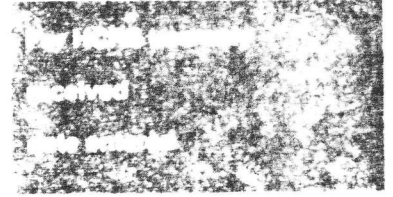
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

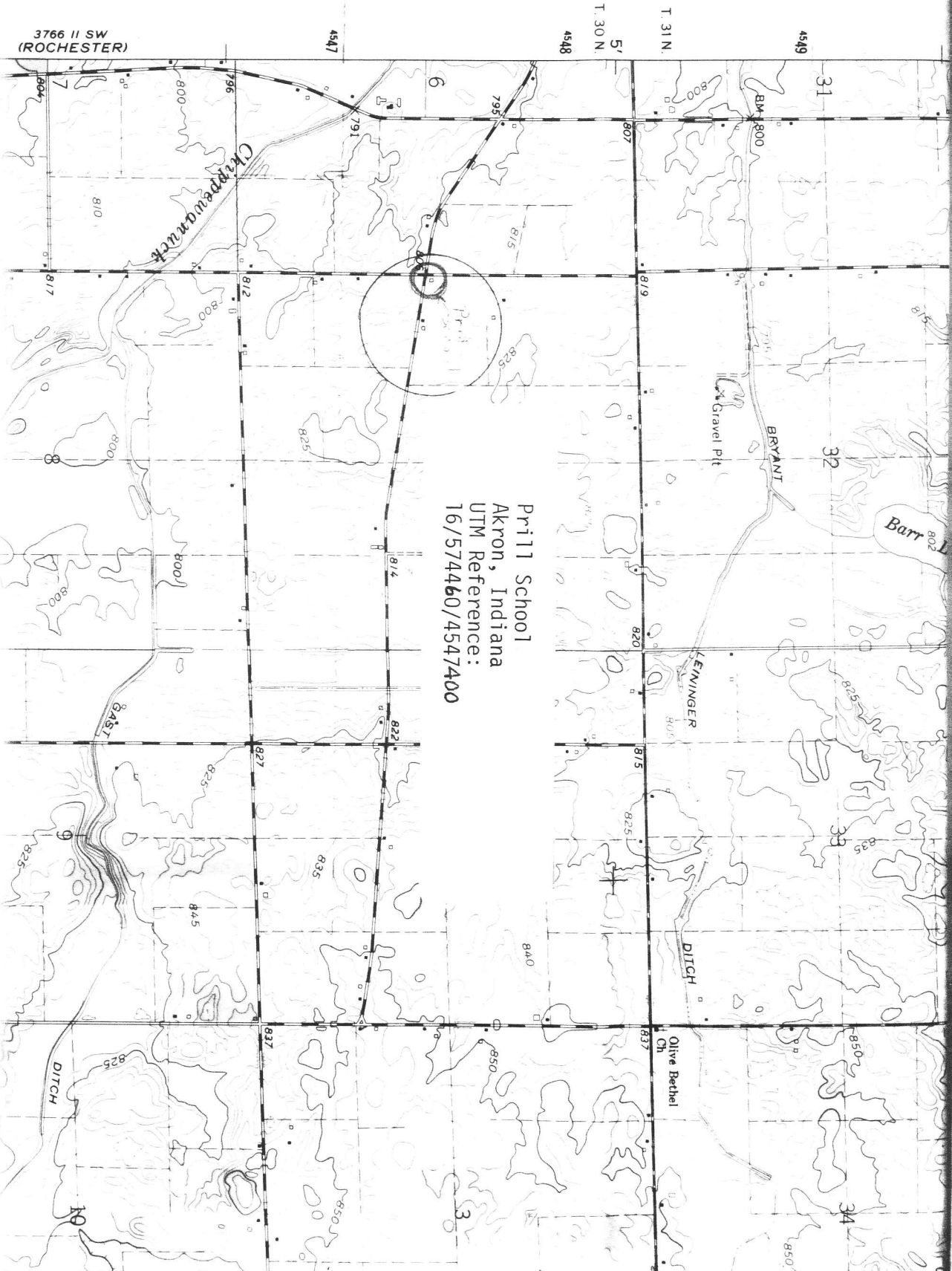
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Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 10

Page 1

Commencing at the southwest corner of the northwestern quarter of Section 5, Township 30, N. Range 4 East, thence east six and one-third rods ( $6 \frac{1}{3}$ ) on the  $\frac{1}{2}$  Section line, thence north parallel with the Section line six and one-third ( $6 \frac{1}{3}$ ) rods, thence east one (1) rod thence south to the center of the public highway, thence northwesterly along the center of said public highway to the Section line, thence north on the Section line to the point of beginning.



3766 II SW  
(ROCHESTER)

Prill School  
Akron, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/574460/4547400

4549

31

T. 31 N.

5'  
T. 30 N.

4548

32

Barr

33

34

BRYANT

Gravel Pit

LENINGER

DITCH

Olive Bethel  
Ch

4547

6

3

Chippewa Creek

Baist

DITCH

7

10

96

791

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