

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

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 Lima Township School

and or common Lima School

2. Location

street & number Market and Broad Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Howe N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county LaGrange code 087

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lakeland School Corporation

street & number 200 South Cherry Street

city, town LaGrange N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46761

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. LaGrange County Courthouse

street & number Detroit Street

city, town LaGrange state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old section of the Lima School is a two and one-half story structure with a raised basement. The building, which is of brick laid in a variation of Flemish bond, has a rectangular plan and a hip roof.

On the first story there is one window in each bay. These are double-hung with two lights in each sash. Second-story windows are variously arranged singly or in groups of two or three. These are double-hung with one light in each sash. All windows have pointed-arch transoms and stone sills. On both the first and second stories at the springline of the window arches is a projecting brick band which curves to follow the arch of each window. The first story brick band follows the arch of the main entrance, as well.

The main entrance is on the south side of the building in the fourth bay from the east. Masonry steps lead up to the entrance which is a double, glazed, paneled door with a pointed-arch transom. The bay in which the door is located projects slightly from the east part of the facade and has a steeply pitched gable roof. There are two gable roof dormers on each side of the building, except for the east side which has only one. Windows in the dormers are double-hung in pointed arch openings. Dormers have paired, double-hung, blind, pointed-arch windows. Centered above the four westernmost bays of the facade is a gable roof wall dormer with paired, single-sash, pointed-arch windows. Basement windows are double-hung with two lights in each sash and pointed arched openings. A double row of headers follows the arch of each basement window.

In addition to banding around the windows, there is a projecting brick band between the first and second stories, and brickwork encircling the top of the structure which comprises the entablature. The cornice is a metal, molded box cornice which encloses the gutter. There is a stone water table encircling the building at the base of the first floor level.

Surmounting the roof above the main facade's wall dormer is a wood frame belvedere with pointed-arch windows, a hip/gable roof, and brackets under the eaves.

The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Between the groups of three windows on the second floor of the main facade is a panel which reads, "Erected A.D. 1874." (See photos 1, 2.)

Behind the main building to the north is the 1911 auditorium addition. This two story brick addition butts against the eastern portion of the main building's rear facade. The auditorium's west wall is unadorned brick, with few doors and windows. The north and east walls, however, have more decorative detailing. The main entrance bay projects from the east facade, although the entrance is now obscured by a later addition. Ground floor windows are very tall, multi-paned rectangles, with a brick string course traveling at the impost level and going up over the tops of the windows. Another brick string course follows the sill line of the second story windows, which are shorter than the ground floor windows, but are also multi-paned rectangles. Their heads are framed by a soldier brick course, with stone blocks at the upper corners of the windows. Another string course above this is surmounted by a parapet wall. The detailing from the front facade carries around to the north, although there are only two small, segmentally arched windows on the ground floor here. (See photos 3,4.)

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1874-75

Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lima School is significant for its high style Victorian era architecture, and as the first commissioned township high school in Indiana. According to a 1982 article in the South Bend Tribune, it is also the second oldest operating school in Indiana.

The monumental brick building, constructed in 1874-75, is an eclectic mix of styles, with the Victorian Gothic predominating. The Lima School is one of the finest and least altered examples of this style in the state. Its exterior bears resemblance to the East College at DePauw University in Greencastle, which was built at approximately the same time, and which was listed on the National Register in 1975.

The possibility of building the structure was first considered at an 1874 meeting, when John B. Howe stated that he would give \$2,500 to the enterprise if the people would raise by subscription half the funds necessary for building a structure worth \$12,000 to \$15,000. Howe was the first teacher, first lawyer, and first banker in LaGrange County, and later the founder of Howe Military School. The name of the town was changed from Lima to Howe in 1909 to honor him.

Howe's proposition was accepted, and the building was finally constructed at a cost of \$18,000. In 1881 Lima High School became the first commissioned township high school in the State of Indiana. During the early years of the school, all the grades were housed on two floors; the third floor was the auditorium. All the school assemblies, plays, concerts, and meetings of the literary society were held there. The third floor was perceived to be a fire hazard in 1883, and an exterior fire escape was built on the front of the building. An auditorium and assembly room were added in 1911 due to increased enrollment. The building was also wired for electricity and inside toilets were installed at the same time.

In 1927 the gymnasium was added. In 1961 ground surrounding the school was acquired and a new, six room elementary school was added onto the gymnasium.

The Lima School still houses students from kindergarten through the sixth grade, although the school board may abandon it in the near future.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name LaGrange

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	3	1	3	9	0	4	6	2	0	2	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name title Lillian Matthews

organization LaGrange County Historical Society

date 4-21-83

809 Cooper Drive

street & number

telephone

city or town Howe

state Indiana

46746
46796

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11-7-85

For NPS use only

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

date

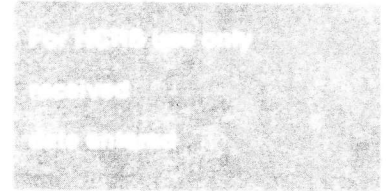
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Lima Township School

Item number 7, 9 and 10

Page 1

The interior of the old building retains many of its original features. Notable among these are the cloakrooms and storage closets, which have doors that roll upwards, not unlike a roll-top desk. (Photos 9, 10.) Marble partitions on pedestals are still extant in the girls' restroom. The original seating is in use in the 1911 auditorium. (Photos 11, 12.)

A low passageway connects the 1911 addition to the 1924 gymnasium, a two-story, gable roofed brick structure. Decorative detailing on this building is limited primarily to the brick wall buttresses on all sides, with stone weatherings. The main facade of the gymnasium faces south. Extending east from the gymnasium is the 1961 elementary school addition, a low, one-story classroom building. The 1970 cafeteria addition adjoins both the gymnasium and the 1961 addition at their northwest juncture. (See Photos 4, 7.)

This nomination includes only the old Victorian Gothic building and its 1911 addition.

Item No. 9

Alumni Records of Lima High School Graduates.

Counties LaGrange and Noble, Indiana, Historical and Biographical. Published 1882, by F. A. Battey, Pub., Chicago, Illinois, begin P. 148.

Department of Public Instruction, State of Indiana, 23rd Biennial Report of Supt. of Public Instruction 1905-06.

Lima Schools Bulletin - 1906-07.

LaGrange County Superintendent Records and Examiners, beginning in 1865. Office of Lakeland School Corporation.

Minutes of Lima Literary Society.

Item No. 10

Beginning on the north side of Market Street at its intersection with an imaginary line running south from the southwest corner of the 1875 Lima Township School building; thence north 225 feet running along the west wall of the building; thence east 105 feet running along the northernmost wall of the 1911 addition; thence south 225 feet along the east wall of the 1911 addition and the 1875 building to Market Street; thence 105 feet to the place of beginning. Including only the 1875 school building and its 1911 addition. Less than one acre.