

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 South Grade School Building

and or common Administration Building, Twin Lakes School Corporation

2. Location

street & number 565 South Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Monticello N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county White code 181

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 Board of School Trustees, Twin Lakes School Corporation

street & number 565 South Main Street

city, town Monticello N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47960

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number White County Building

city, town Monticello state Indiana 47960

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The South Grade School Building is located at the northeast corner of Main and South Streets along the main north-south artery of Monticello. The 1½ story brick building with brick laid in stretcher bond, has a square main building mass with a central pavilion on the front (west) facade. The main hip roof is pierced by a gable roof surmounting the pavilion. Originally, a belfry was positioned on the gable ridge. The building has a high brick foundation with a course of header brick at the water table line. The basement is located well above ground level and has bays similar to and aligned with the main level bays.

Facing west along Main Street, the symmetrical main facade (Photos 1 and 2) is seven bays wide and has a three-bay wide central pavilion surmounted by a pediment. According to a 1906 picture, there was a wooden vestibule fronting the building at one time. The center bay of the pavilion contains the main entry, which is recessed in a round arch defined by several rows of corbeled brick. Square brick pilasters with flared caps support the arch at the impost level. The wood entry door has panels below and nine lights above; it is framed by narrow, three-paned sidelights and surmounted by a fanlight. Above the brick is a decorative brick panel containing an inscription which originally said "Public School," and is now missing the "S". A small hood shelters the inscription. The entry is flanked by narrow, double-hung sash windows with single lights. Set in a segmental arch, each window is surmounted by a radiating voussoir of two rows of soldier brick with a projecting brick cap, and each has a stone sill. An identical window is positioned on each side wall of the pavilion. Like all windows on the building, they are original and have recently-added storm windows.

At the roofline, there is a wide brick frieze which is decorated with slightly projecting header brick creating a nubby pattern, and corbeled and angled brick coursing below it, forming an architrave which continues around the building but is broken at the larger windows and the main entrance. Surmounting the pavilion, the pediment is framed with wood molding and has a fanlight which is identical to the one above the main entry. Wood siding radiates out from the fanlight arch and runs horizontally under the window.

The two windows which flank each side of the projecting pavilion are similar to those of the central pavilion except they are wider and have four lights in each sash. Each side (north and south) facade (Photos 2 and 3) is three bays wide and contains windows identical to those on the front facade of the main building mass.

The rear (east) facade (Photo 5) is six bays wide. Originally, this exterior contained six windows identical to those on the side facades, except their radiating voussoirs consist of two rows of header brick. In 1947, the two center bays were made into plain wood doors surmounted by the upper sashes of the original windows, which are covered with wood. A small porch with a wrought iron railing provides access to the doors. A door is also located in the southernmost bay of the basement level.

The main hip roof and the gable roof surmounting the pavilion are covered with asphalt shingles. A large interior brick chimney is located on the rear of the hip roof. Added at a later date, a large rotating vent is positioned on the gable ridge.

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Continuation sheet South Grade School

Item number 7

Page 1

Inside the main entrance there is a foyer with slightly rounded walls which give a rotunda effect. A central staircase leads to the main level. At the top of the stairway there is an open hallway with a doorway leading to each side (north, south) of the building. Cloak-rooms once used by the schoolchildren are also located off the stairway.

A thick brick wall originally divided the main level into two large rooms which housed four grade school classes. Presently, each large area is partitioned into offices used by the school administration. Fourteen-foot tin ceilings imprinted with designs are common throughout the building. Toilets were added in 1944.

The basement level is accessed by stairways flanking the central stairway in the foyer. Originally, the basement had its rough stone foundation exposed and was used for general storage, restrooms, a utility closet, and coal and wood bins. The basement has been modernized and now houses records, a fireproof vault, and general storage.

Shrubs and bushes border the building and several large trees are located on the property. A parking lot is behind the building.

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 checked="" 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 1892

Builder Architect

L. C. Welker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A fine example of turn-of-the-century schools in Indiana, the South Grade School is significant as one of the few remaining historic structures in Monticello. The building has played an important role in the city's educational system since 1892 and is significant for continuing to function as a part of the school system. It is one of a few such structures in Indiana that has retained its educational use. The simple structure with distinctive detailing possesses a high degree of integrity for schools of this period, and stands as a landmark to Monticello's educational system.

Designed by L. C. Welker of Toledo, Ohio, the two room brick schoolhouse was built in 1892 by Jacob Rathfon, who was awarded the contract for \$3,384. The school was built to relieve the overcrowded condition existing in Monticello's only other school building, the Lincoln Building, which housed the Monticello High School and West Grade School. Built in 1869, the Lincoln Building was an imposing, ten room structure that was used as a school facility until 1971, and destroyed by a tornado in April, 1974. It was believed that the Lincoln Building would satisfy the town's educational needs for at least 50 years; however as early as 1890, the school building was so crowded that a portion of the students were limited to half-day attendance.

In the early 1890's, Monticello was in the process of recovering from a recession. Because of this situation, the school board was only able to commission a modest school building to meet the town's present needs. The school was built on the south side of town where housing additions were developing. The school accommodated approximately 80 pupils and contained two large classrooms. First and second grade classes were taught in one room and third and fourth grade classes in the other room with one teacher per room. At a later date, only first and second grades occupied the building. The school year was six months long with a school day lasting from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

One of the most memorable school events was the annual May Day extravaganza, which included the crowning of a May Day queen and culminated in the winding of colorful ribbons around a May pole. The event became so popular that bleachers were set up for spectators.

In 1958, the building ceased to be used as a school when the Woodlawn Elementary School and Oaklawn Elementary School were built. In the fall of the same year, the south half of the structure was used as a school bookstore and depository, and the north half of the building was partitioned to house the Administration Office of the Superintendent of Schools. In 1963, the school bookstore and depository were moved from the building, and the south room was divided into administrative offices for the enlarged school system. Today, the building continues to serve Monticello's educational needs as administrative offices. Its long history of educational endeavor is a source of civic pride.

The two room, brick schoolhouse is typical of turn-of-the-century schoolhouses. The structure has decorative brick detailing on the entryway, window heads, and frieze which gives the school a distinctive appearance. The fanlight above the main entry door and the segmentally arched bays add to the building's appearance. The exterior has retained much of its architectural integrity. South Grade School is one of only about 25 historic structures remaining in Monticello due to the devastation wrought by a tornado on April 3, 1974.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnson, Mae Gorman, "History of Education in White County."
 Hamelle, W. H. History of White County. Chicago, Illinois: F. A. Battey, 1883.
 Monticello Herald Journal. September 24, 1891, August 10, 1905.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Monticello, S. Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	2	0	1	6	0
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4	5	0	9	4	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Lots #1, #2, #3, Cochell's Addition, Town of Monticello, White County, Indiana. Each lot measuring 165 feet by 70 feet 6 inches, bounded by South Main Street and South Street

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Rodney R. Rich, Superintendent of Schools

organization Twin Lakes School Corporation date November 1, 1984

street & number 565 South Main Street telephone 219/583-7211

city or town Monticello state Indiana 47960

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 James M. Rideron

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-22-85

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

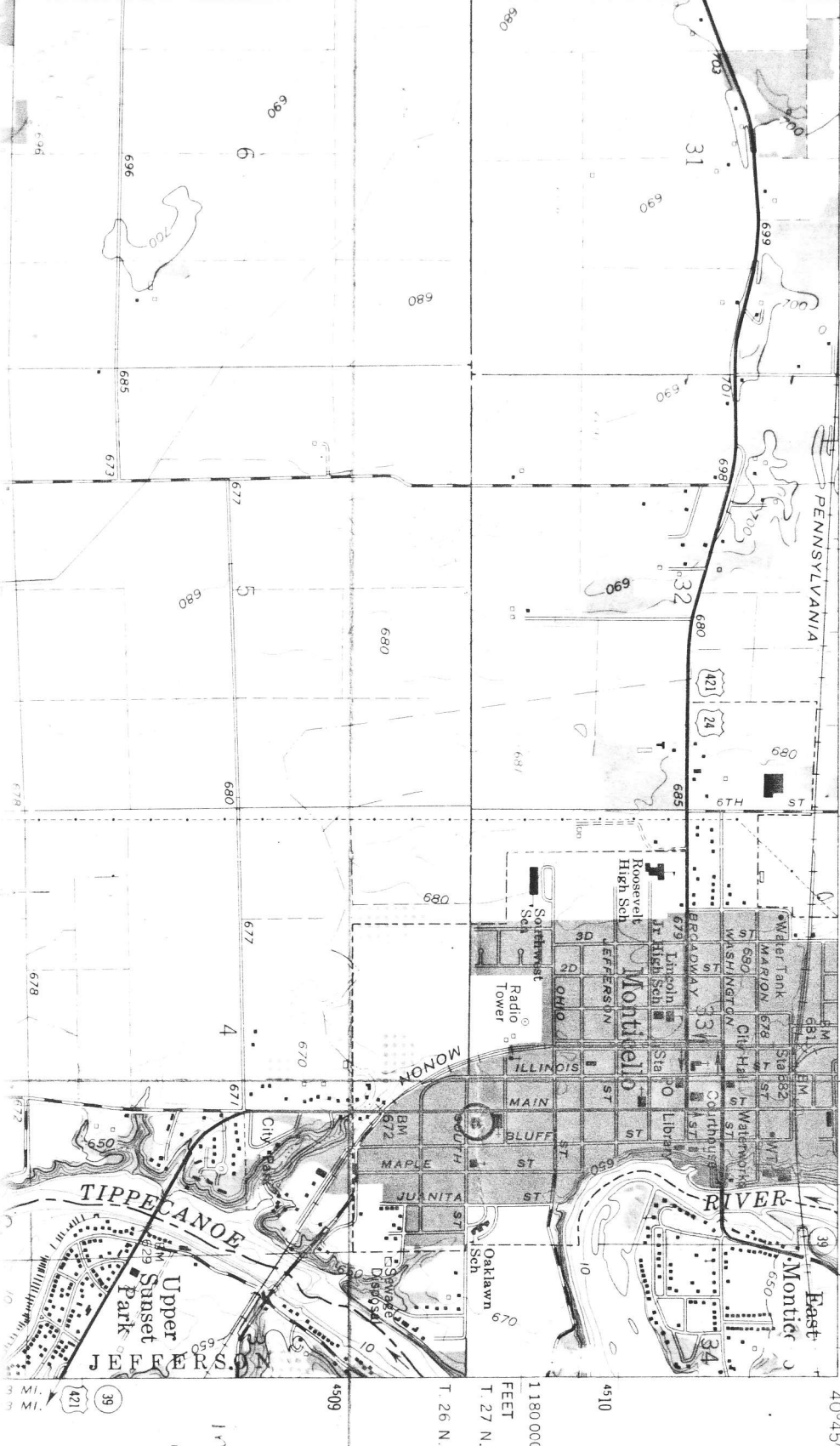
INDIANA
OF CONSERVATION

MONTICELLO SOUTH QUADRANGLE
INDIANA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

INDAVILLE (VIA U.S. 24) 6 MI
\$90 000 FEET

86°45'

3665' SW
(INDAVILLE)



South Grade School
Monticello, Indiana
UTM Ref: 16/520160/4509480



For Reference
in the nomination
of
South Grade
School Building
SUS S. MANST.
MONTICELLO, IN.
4/11/15