

FINAL

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 Collins School (Jamestown Township District #3 School)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number SR 120, 0.7 mile east of CR 450W N/A not for publication

city or town Fremont vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Steuben code 151 zip code 46737

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

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

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other: CONCRETE

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____
 ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1877-1943 _____

Significant Dates

1877 _____
 1917 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	661060	4623160
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 Louise A. Miller

organization _____ date 05-25-2002

street & number 16 Stantonville Court telephone 510/531-9711

city or town Oakland state CA zip code 94619

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 June E. Collins

street & number 9690 W. SR 120 telephone 260/829-6152

city or town Orland state IN zip code 46776

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

DESCRIPTION

The Collins School, built in 1877, is a one story gable-front, rectangular brick building with some Italianate detailing. It has a closed square-plan belfry which contains the original bell. The walls and chimney are laid in common bond brick. The foundation is of local cut fieldstone with a cement footer at the base which was added in 1917. The roof is finished with asphalt shingles. The property is in excellent condition and has had little alteration since its construction.

The schoolhouse is surrounded by rolling farmland, lakes, and woods. It is located on State Road 120, which was historically called the Vistula Road. A major man-made landscape element is Interstate-80 (Indiana Tollroad), located about one quarter mile north of the site.

The building faces north with the main facade containing two symmetrically placed five-panel wood doors with semi-circle three-light transoms and arched lintels. They have inverted U-shaped window hoods with brackets. Only the left door is functional. It is reached by cement steps leading to a landing which extends from the left front to center front. Originally there were wooden steps and porch that extended across the entire front of the building. These were replaced in 1917. The doorsill is of sandstone, worn down by many years of use. The main facade, as well as the side and rear facades, is marked by applied pilasters of common bond brick with decorative dentation. Centered in the front gable is a round sandstone tablet defined by a surrounding course of brick headers. The limestone tablet bears the inscription: School District, No. 3, AD 1877, Jamestown, Ind.

The side walls--west and east-- are virtually identical. Each has three tall and narrow four-over-four wood double hung windows set within semi-circular arched openings with sandstone sills. The arched windows have inverted U-shaped brick window hoods with brackets. Originally there were green wooden shutters that were attached to the window frames. The south (rear) wall has two symmetrically placed windows of the usual window type. A brick chimney is in the center of the south wall and extends from the base of the stone foundation up through the roof.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

The steep gabled roof was originally wood shingle. It was replaced with asphalt in 1966 and again in 2001. The wooden belfry is situated on the north end. The arched vents have inverted U-shaped hoods with brackets. Its roof meets at an apex that once held a weather vane which is now in the interior of the school on top of the southeast corner cupboard.

An historic photograph (see photo #1) from before 1900 shows the Collins School much as it is today, but without the 36 maple trees that were planted on Arbor Day 1900.

Also located on the site is a wood privy which dates from about 1914. It is located in the southeast corner of the yard and has a wood floor and a wood seat with three openings. The roof is of asphalt shingle. There was originally another privy located in the southwest corner.

The interior of the Collins School remains a single open room, 36 feet x 24 feet. The ceiling is 15 feet tall, which is oriented so that students faced north. A portion of the plaster ceiling has been recently repaired with drywall and plaster. The upper walls retain plaster, and the floor is tongue and groove quarter-sawed oak. There is a 32 inch vertical wood board wainscot around the entire classroom. A large slate chalkboard fills the north wall above the wainscot. There are built-in cupboards in the southwest and southeast corners. There was a wood burning stove in the center of the room. It has been replaced by a similar stove which sits on a heat reflecting metal pad. The stove pipe extends up from the stove, turning at a 90 degree angle to the chimney in the south wall. Most of the furnishings were removed after it closed (except the chalkboard), but the current owner has restored it to appear much as it did during its active use.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Collins School is a good example of an eligible property type (one-room schoolhouses) as identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form - Indiana's Public Common and High Schools. It is one of 3 (out of a total of 7) remaining one-room schoolhouses in Jamestown Township of Steuben County. It is the only one that has been used exclusively for educational and community purposes. It is now being used as a museum.

For its association with the development of a significant educational trend, the district school system, and as a fine example of a gable-front vernacular building with Italianate detailing, the Collins School (Jamestown Township District #3) meets Criteria A and C.

Jamestown Township is located in Steuben County on the Michigan-Indiana border. It includes Pokagon State Park (named for the chief of the Potawatomi Indians who resided in the area) and many lakes, one of which is Lake James, the second largest natural lake in Indiana. Historically the area was mostly farmland interspersed with lakes and woods. The School sits on the Old Vistula Road, a French and Indian trail that ran from Lake Erie to Lake Michigan. It was one of the oldest trails through the Midwest. It is now State Road 120.

The land on which the school sits was originally donated by Barton Collins, great grandfather of the current owner, June Collins. The first school teacher taught in the neighborhood in 1839. A log schoolhouse was built on the site and used until the Collins School was erected and dedicated in November 1877. Until 1852, log houses were the rule and were never open for more than three months a year. After the adoption of the new state constitution in 1852, a tax of 16 cents on each \$100 worth of property was assessed for school purposes. Schoolhouses were erected in every township wherever they were needed, and a short term of free school was taught in each. In Steuben County they were located about five miles apart so that a child would not have to walk more than 2.5 miles. Teachers boarded within walking distance of the school where they taught. They served as the janitors as well as the teachers.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

By 1894 there were 72 brick and 22 frame schoolhouses in Steuben County. The Collins School was the only brick schoolhouse with two front doors, although only one was ever functional. About twenty five students attended at any one time. Each grade had from zero to five students. After the eighth grade, they were transferred to three area high schools.

The Collins School was closed in the spring of 1943 as a result of school consolidation and mergers. It remained the property of Jamestown Township until July 1947 when it was purchased at an auction by June Collins for \$940. She, along with her four siblings, attended their first eight grades at the school, and she taught there from 1939 to 1941. Her father, Lynn Collins, served as township trustee from 1913-1915 and oversaw the operation of the school.

For twenty three years the schoolhouse stood idle. Then in 1966 former students met with Ms. Collins to begin planning its restoration. As knowledge of the proposal spread, community support grew beyond expectations. After hours of volunteer work, including cleaning, finding furniture to replace that which had been sold at auction, clearing the school yard of brambles and vines, and locating former students, the School was ready to reopen. On June 18, 1967, Collins School District No. 3 was re-dedicated before six hundred former students and residents of the county.

The Collins School has architectural significance as well. It is a fine example of the gable-front vernacular building type once common in rural Indiana. It has some Italianate detailing, such as the tall, narrow arched windows and doors and the inverted U-shaped brick window hoods with brackets. The arched windows and window hood pattern are carried over to the vents and hoods on the belfry.

Of the three surviving schoolhouses in Jamestown Township, the Collins School (District #3) is the best preserved. District # 1 is now a home and looks nothing like a schoolhouse. It was built in 1883 and was closed in 1940.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

District #4 is also a home but the exterior looks much as it did when it was used as a school. It was built in 1879 and was closed in 1946. It has the same Italianate details as the Collins School (tall narrow arched windows and inverted U-shaped brick window hoods and brackets). The belfry has been removed and some of the arches above the windows and above the door have been bricked in. It has a single front door. The builders' names are listed on the tablet above the door. Because of the similarities in architectural details with the Collins School and the close proximity, it is possible they were the builders of the Collins School, but there is no verification.

Since 1967 Ms. Collins has held the schoolhouse open to the public every Sunday afternoon during the summer. She and her two older sisters serve as docents, giving tours and explaining how it was for them to attend school there as young girls. She also welcomes school groups, historical societies, and other organizations so they can experience first hand a well preserved one-room schoolhouse. This nomination is intended to encourage the school's continued preservation as one of the last survivors of one-room schoolhouses in Steuben County.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atlas of Steuben County, Indiana. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1880.

Collins, June. Personal interviews with Louise Miller, various dates 1999-2001.

Deed for property from Jamestown Township Trustee to June E. Collins (1947).
Original with owner.

Harmon, Wilma, compiler, *The History of Steuben County Schools* (Angola, Indiana: privately printed, 1976). Original at Carnegie Public Library, Angola, Indiana.

Grove, Myrna *Legacy of One-Room Schoolhouses*. Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2000.

History of Steuben County, Indiana. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1885.

"Jamestown Jottings." *Steuben Republican* [Indiana] 14 Nov 1877.

Miller, Dorothy. Oral History with Louise Miller, 11 Mar 1994. Unpublished transcripts in possession of Louise Miller, Oakland, CA.

"One-Room School Reopens: It's a Steuben County Memorial." *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* [Indiana] 20 Aug 1967.

Photograph of school, prior to 1900. Original held by Dorothy Miller, Angola, IN. Copy submitted with application.

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Collins School
Steuben County, Indiana

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

One-half acre of land in Jamestown Township, Steuben County, Indiana, commencing at the northeast corner of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 20, Township 38 NR13E and running west in the center of State Road 120 4 rods, thence south 11 rods, thence east to the line dividing the east and west halves of the northwest quarter of said section, thence north 4 rods to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Entire plot historically associated with the school.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANAPPC

JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP
DISTRICT #3 SCHOOL
16 661000 4023100

