

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 Kokomo High School and Memorial Gymnasium
other names/site number Central Middle School and Memorial Gymnasium 067-323-46142; 067-323-46143

2. Location

street & number 303 E. Superior St and 400 Apperson Way North N/A not for publication
city or town Kokomo N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Howard code 067 zip code 46901

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]
Signature of certifying official/Title
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

5/2/05
Date

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
- landscape

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	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 & 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
 RECREATION/CULTURE: Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School
 RECREATION/CULTURE: Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival
 MODERN: Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
 walls BRICK
 STONE: Limestone
 roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber
 other CONCRETE
 STUCCO

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

Period of Significance

1914-1950 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Dunlap, Elmer _____

McGuire & Shook _____

Clinton, R.W., & Associates (school) _____

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: _____

Kokomo High School and Memorial
Name of Property

Howard IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	573840	4481800
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

16	574060	4481680
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

16	574060	4481800
Zone	Easting	Northing

4

16	573860	4481650
Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Dixie Hayes, Assistant to the Superintendent and Paul Diebold
organization Kokomo-Center Township Consolidated School Corp date 09-01-2004
street & number 100 W. Lincoln Rd. telephone 765/455-8000
city or town Kokomo state IN zip code 46902

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 Kokomo-Center Township Consolidated School Corp
street & number 100 W. Lincoln Rd. telephone 765/455-8000
city or town Kokomo state IN zip code 46902

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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Section number 7 Page 1 *Kokomo High School and Memorial Gymnasium, Howard Co., IN*

Section 7 – Description

Kokomo High School is a complex of three historic buildings: the high school, consisting of the original 1914 brick building with additions or sections dating from 1929, 1949-50, 1973 and 1999-2000; the Kokomo Memorial Gymnasium, completed in 1949; and a 1938 boiler building. The complex stands on a level site on the eastern edge of the historic core of Kokomo, just blocks from the original downtown commercial district. Apperson Way divides the campus, running between the gym and boiler building, and the school. The historic portion of the school building is set well back from Superior Street and the public sidewalk against its curb. The curving path of Apperson Way gives the east lawn of the school a triangular plan with lawn, bicycle rack area, sidewalks, and a cluster of shorter deciduous trees to the south. The deep front lawn is slightly raised above the sidewalk and has mature deciduous and a cluster of large coniferous trees at the west corner junction with the '70s addition. A concrete walk with steps to the public sidewalk leads to small plaza with central flagpole and benches on the edges, all centered on the original main entrance. The 1970s wing to the west has a broad walk cut into the lawn at sidewalk grade, with a brick retaining wall on the east edge.

Kokomo High School Building

The footprint of the 1914-1929 school building is 202 x 146 feet, with three stories of classrooms equaling 29,492 square feet of space. The foundation is poured in place concrete, exterior walls are brick, and a combination of concrete framing and steel framing help support the built-up wooden joist and rafter system of the school. Stone veneer is used for decorative exterior elements. The roof of the building and its various additions are flat, and sheathed in variations of EPDM rubber roofing. The school's design reflects common early 20th century school planning ideas, primarily the double-loaded corridors surrounding a central auditorium space. Thus the exterior has the classic central pavilion with flanking wings and projecting "book end" sections. Architects could apply any style of ornament to this basic design; here the choice was Collegiate Gothic.

The central section of the main elevation of the 1914-1929 building spans three bays and projects several feet from the plane of the flanking wings (photos 1-3). A dressed stone foundation course runs across the entire elevation. Each bay is divided vertically by three story high stepped brick buttresses, with dressed stone wedge copings at each of two setbacks. A wide sidewalk leads to two tiers of front steps and hence to the main entrance. An angled sidewalk reaches a handicap access ramp built in 1998 with a switchback projecting at 90° to the building. The ramp allows visitors to reach an entrance at grade beside the front steps.

The limestone veneered entrance projects forward several feet and consists of a one and one-half story high fractable gable sheltering a broad Tudor arch. The arch has splayed jambs and multiple molded archivolt; the spandrels above are paneled with a raking arcade of blind Tudor arches with tri-cusped

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inner edges. Every other arched panel, starting with the ends and including the center one, has a bas-relief blank shield in the center. The central panel, rather than pointed, is raised and flat-topped. Engaged faceted colonettes begin with engaged finials just below the springing point of the arch and terminate as free-standing finials on either side of the entrance. The metal and glass doors, sidelights, and transoms set within the doorway date are less than ten years old. Originally, the entrance had a row of four wooden doors with pointed arch shaped large single lights, all topped by a transom with multiple vertical panes.

The school board replaced all windows in the 1914-1929 sections, as part of successive rehabilitations of the building. Typically, each bay has tripartite aluminum units with transom sections, tall middle panel, and small operative horizontal awnings at the sill. The original windows were steel multi-paned units. The lower level windows are nearly at grade, with the stone foundation belt serving as sills. There is one bay of windows on either side of the main entrance on the central section. A continuous limestone belt runs across the elevation at lintel height. Above the basement windows are slightly recessed spandrel stone tablets with a raised plain rectangular panel, then, another bay of windows. Some panels have been altered with metal vents. The entrance arch breaks the center bay and leaves room for four small fixed windows only.

Taller panels divide the second and third floor windows. The center bay is wider, with four window units on the third floor. Brick fills the spandrel areas over the third floor windows, capped by a belt course of stones that are beveled on the top with an ogee-profiled undersurface. This belt serves to define the parapet area, consisting of stone-coped brick walls with imitation crenels and merlons forming a continuous "battlement" along the parapet (photos 4-7). The coping mold is sculpted like the lower parapet belt. Where the buttresses break the lower stone belt, they are merged to the parapet by a stone faceted colonette like those by the entrance, its stone blocks toothed into the brick work in quoin-like fashion. For the center section, the parapet has stone linenfold tablets centered over each bay. The center tablet is an open book on a shield; the west bay, construction instruments including a mason's hammer, triangle and compass over a shield; the east bay, the torch of knowledge with victory wreath on a shield, all executed in bas-relief.

The three bays flanking each side of the central section are similarly detailed to the central section, except that a stone shield marks the parapet rather than the more elaborate tablets. The end cap bays project forward to a plane equal to that of the stone entrance. The short inside wall of each has a buttress close to the corner. The first floor of the front of the end caps has no windows. The second level has a single, tall opening with stone long and short work surround with flat label lintel. At the third story, the architect placed a stone-surrounded recessed blind panel. The same parapet treatment as the wings continues across the end bays.

The east elevation is an impressive, block-long brick and stone façade with two auxiliary entrances next to the end bays (photo 12). The end bays are wider on this elevation than on the front, and they project several feet forward. The first floor has a small, gabled glass greenhouse obscuring the original

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windows. Vertically, the end bay is framed by two three story high buttresses on either side, close to either corner. The windows are grouped by brick flat pilaster strips that divide single flanking units from central triple groups on the second and third floors. Stone spandrel panels divide the floors. The continuous parapet and other details mimic those of the Superior Street elevation.

The next vertical division to the south is an entry and internally is a staircase. The entry is similar to the front central entrance, but is several feet more narrow than the front doorway. The one story entryway projects forward, housing a small foyer. It too had triangle-topped single light doors and vertical pane transom originally. A one and one-half story window grouping fills the upper wall over the entrance, it is three windows wide (rather than the four units wide of the front entrance). Both this section and the next bay south have no three story buttresses.

This next section is set back another foot or so from the plane of the entrance bay. It has three windows on each story. A centered four bay section projects forward to a plane even with the doorways. This section follows the lead of the front elevation carefully, with similar three-story-high buttresses; three window units per bay, per floor and a similar parapet treatment. The parapet does lack the stone shields and has only stone-surrounded crenels.

Building back up to the southern end section, the next two vertical divisions of the building repeat the formula on the other side of the central four-bay section. Even the entrance is virtually identical to the northern one. The end bay section is virtually the same as the north end bay, except that the first floor has no glass greenhouse, instead it repeats the window/pilaster/three windows/pilaster/window composition of the other floors. School officials added this end bay section to the building in 1929, extending classrooms and a corridor across the southern end of the 1914 building.

The southern face of the 1914-1929 building continues the articulation of the other elevations, however, the amount of detail in both plan and surface ornament is drastically reduced (photos 26 and 28). A 1999-2000 two story addition to the school abuts the central bays of the building and extends south and west, obscuring part of the 1929 wing. The rear wall of the 1929 wing is divided into projecting end bays, recessed wings, and a central projecting section. The end bays have no fenestration, with only stone belts carrying the sill and lintel courses on the first story around to this side. The belt course defining the bottom of the parapet is continued, however, the parapet lacks crenellations or other ornament, and has only a coping of limestone. The wings on either side of the central bays have three bays each of three windows, without the stone spandrel tablets or any buttresses. The central four bays project forward and have simpler buttresses dividing the second and third stories. The first floor of the center and west areas are hidden by the addition.

The west elevation of the 1914-1929 building is obscured by additions. The third floor remains visible and is a virtual mirror image of the east elevation.

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Additions to the 1914-1929 Building

In 1973, the Kokomo-Center Township School Corporation completed construction on a major addition that linked a separate 1950 building to the 1914-1929 buildings. This addition is a two story high, flat roofed, modern building that extends west the rest of the block (photo 25). The entrance and a portion of the Superior Street elevation are sheltered under a one story high, flat-roofed overhang with concrete panel facing. Rectangular brick piers support the overhang which projects well forward of the brick exterior walls of the addition. An at-grade additional entrance is located at the junction of the addition and original 1914 building. Windows are functionally placed to serve a variety of interior classrooms, however, they are generally paired and break the flow of the brick walls. The overhang serves as the header for the first floor windows and sill level for the second floor. At the top of the addition, a band of flat concrete panels runs across the roofline. To the west, where the overhang abruptly stops, the massing of the building changes and the exterior walls project forward. This marks the location of the 1950 building once called Haworth Vocational Building, now subsumed in the 1973 addition. When built, Haworth Vocational complemented the Art Moderne style of the gym, with brick and stucco on the exterior. It has since been redesigned to blend with the rest of the modern additions, however, on its south face, traces of the former building are evident in the high-set ribbon of glass block fenestration (photo 27). The west side of the former vocational building likewise has several remaining horizontal glass block windows (photos 32, 33). There is a loading dock on the west side of the building. The rear or south face of the 1973 addition is similar to the front elevation, however, the forward projecting first story is not an arcade but is blank wall enclosed class space (photos 28, 29). The second floor has similar paired windows to the front.

In 1999-2000, the School Corporation converted the entire building to use as a middle school, and completed an addition to the south facing Wildcat Creek. The brick and stone-faced addition links the back of the 1950, 1973 and 1914-1929 sections and is a scant two stories high. Most of its walls are blank, but the east side has a one story, flat-roofed projection with recessed double door entry (photos 26, 31).

Interior of the High School Building

The 1914-1929 school had a typical plan of the era: a double-loaded corridor leading to classrooms with generous banks of windows around the square perimeter, a large central space (now a library). The original main front entry off of Superior Street retains much of its historic character (photos #9-11.) Floors are terrazzo on the grade level landing, and walls are paneled in gray-veined white marble with dark marble base. Each side of the foyer retains its cast metal grills. The original steel staircase with octagonal Gothic Revival newels and lancet arched open metal balustrades rises, divided in two by a central balustrade railing. The balustrades have wooden handrails. A Tudor archway frames the grade

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level foyer, the spandrels of this arch facing into the school are wood paneled with rectangular topped panels. Above this is an open balcony with blind cusped arch panels and faceted newel posts.

Main corridor floors are terrazzo. Walls are plaster applied over hollow core block and suspended ceilings were installed during one of several rehabilitations (photos 45, 46). Doors leading to classrooms are 1972-73 replacements of originals. Wood panels above doors mark locations of former transoms (photo 49). Classrooms maintain their basic layout, but, with suspended ceilings and more recent windows.

The 1972 addition has two floors of space, drywall walls, and suspended ceilings with troffer fluorescent fixtures. This section has a core of art rooms in the north one-third, a commons, cafeteria and kitchen in the center, and auditorium-style music rooms (one for bands, one for choir) in the south one-third.

A corridor runs north and south between the 1972 addition and the former Haworth Vocational Building. When the school functioned as a high school, this part of the building housed large functional rooms for auto shop, machine shop, and other mechanical classes, all outfitted with power lathes, drills, and other state-of-the-art equipment. It now serves as a print shop and supply storage for the school district.

In 1999-2000, officials completed a new middle school gym to the south of all previous additions. It also included corridors to improve circulation linkages between all other parts of the building.

Kokomo Memorial Gymnasium

In 1923, the school board constructed Haworth Gymnasium on land immediately west of the school building. On March 22, 1944, a fire completely destroyed the gym. School officials rebuilt on the old gym site in 1949-1950, completing a structure called Haworth Vocational Building. In the meantime, the school began to plan Memorial Gymnasium on lots they owned to the east, across Apperson. The building was completed in late 1949. In 1970, the school added a rear section to the gym, with additional lockers and a swimming pool.

The over-all footprint of the gym is 376 x 160 feet, and has 60,160 square feet of usable space. The north elevation sits back 27 feet from East Superior Street while the west elevation varies at 80 feet at the northwest corner to 38 feet at the southwest corner from Apperson Way North, due to the curve in the street. The building sits on 3.55 acres.

At its main entrance, poured concrete extends from the building to the street to accommodate pedestrian and fan traffic in and out of the gym. Trees surround the structure. A small blacktop parking lot is located to the immediate south of the gym between the building and Wildcat Creek.

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The gymnasium is a three story, steel framed, brick and stone veneered structure with poured concrete foundation. The flat roof is protected by a rubber EPDM membrane. The exterior has strong Art Moderne lines. The main façade is oriented to face the east side of the school, overlooking Apperson Way (photos #13 and 14). The façade is organized into three sections: a wide central portion with horizontal window bands set low on the first and third stories, and two flanking entries with marquee overhangs a vertical band of rusticated brick work behind each.

The base of the gym is rusticated, with alternating projecting stretcher courses with flush header courses. The rusticated belt surrounds all sides of the building, extending about three feet up from grade level. The rest of the walls are laid 5:1 common bond. The central section has a dressed stone frame containing three sets of triple windows; the square profile lip of the frame projects several inches past the brick work. Squat stone mullions with stepped back jambs divide the groupings. The faces of the mullions are divided into two raised squares on each, with Moderne-style bas-reliefs of major sports of the era: the south mullion; basketball and baseball, the north; football and track. Narrow recessed windows flank the stone-surrounded grouping. The second level is blank brick. Near what is on the interior, the level of the third floor, raised metal letters spell out "KOKOMO MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM." Above this, is another similar triple window group. This one has no ornament on the mullions, and rather than a frame, has simple projecting lintel and sill, and all windows are glass block. A dressed stone flush coping runs atop all masonry walls.

The sections flanking the center are flush and continuous with the center, only the three story vertical band of rusticated brick, like that of the base, differentiates them from the center. Each flanking section has a first floor entry of two sets of double doors, recessed into the wall with rounded jambs, under a bulky rectangular marquee covered in ribbed metal siding. The exterior double doors at all entrances are made of steel with square, opaque windows. A grid of dressed limestone houses small recessed windows over each marquee; internally, these light stairways.

This entire façade projects forward roughly twenty five feet from lower, two story high brick wings. While the wings have no windows facing west, the flanks of the main entry area have three dressed stone framed oculi, all aligned vertically, one per floor.

The north side of the gym fronts closely along the sidewalk of Superior Street (photos 37, 38). It has a centered, recessed series of doors under shallow canopies like those of the front. On the second story, there are two symmetrically placed horizontal glass block window groups like the one on the third floor of the front. Each window group is centered in a full height rustication band of brick.

The south wall of the gym is similar in design (photo 34). There is an additional flush service door west of the main doors. The rear section of the gym has a two story section that is narrower in plan; this area houses the 1970 swimming pool (photo 36). From several sides of the building, the raised front section

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partially obscures a clerestory level. Originally glazed to provide natural light to the main basketball floor, the clerestory is now covered in white metal vertical ribbed siding.

Interior, Memorial Gymnasium

The interior of the gym retains key historic spaces and finishes. The interior is arranged around the main ball court, with a block of rooms, vertical circulation and corridor to the west and two sets of boys and girls lockers divided by a corridor on the east, and finally the swimming pool extending eastward from the main bulk of the building.

Original concession stands are located inside the two entrances on the west side of the gym. Arches are used to define both of the concession stand areas. Similar arches grace the entrances to the Memorial Room which is located between the north and south entrances on the ground floor of the building.

The community planned the gym to be a memorial to veterans of World War II; true to this purpose, the front main room on the first floor is the John E. Turner Memorial Room (photo #22). The room was dedicated on May 28, 1950, and is the product of the efforts and finances of Helen Turner, and her husband, Earl Turner, a prominent businessman in the city of Kokomo, and the Turner's daughter, Helen Politz, to honor the Turner's son who died in combat. Fine finishes in this room include terrazzo floors with marble base, natural oak wood veneer paneling, and simple frieze boards. Many furnishings are original. Glass trophy cases flank the north and south entrances to the Memorial Room.

The walls in the Memorial Room are natural oak. A stained glass window on the west wall bears service insignias in the corners of the window, as well as names of important American battlefields in World War II. The window has a central image of the U.S. Army eagle, along with blocks of names of major campaigns and battles on either side, including Kasserine Pass, Anzio, Cassino, Normandy, Bastogne on one side and Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Aleutians, Okinawa, Philippines on the other. The border includes stars, olive branches, and at the corners, symbols of the armed forces such as crossed rifles, star with wings, a tank, wings with propeller. Several plain panes are crossed by random coming, symbolizing perhaps the damage of war and subsequent healing. The room has all of its original components except the ceiling. Original metal heat registers are painted a faux wood finish to blend into the décor of the room.

On the east wall are pictures of Kokomo High School teammates, John E. Turner, George Arbuckle, and William Hale, who lost their lives in service to their country.

The north wall of the Memorial Room holds a large bronze plaque bearing the names of Howard County citizens who died in WWII. The plaque contains the following inscription: "As long as free people pass this way there shall be love, respect, and enduring gratitude for those sons of WWII whose names are

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indelibly cast on this tablet. May we dedicate ourselves to uphold the ideals they so nobly advanced by their heroic deeds and sacrifices.”

The south wall contains a plaque with the following inscription: “This memorial, conceived in loving memory and enduring gratitude, is dedicated to those promising sons who grew to manhood in our homes and schools of Howard County, and who, mindful only of duty to their country and loved ones offered their lives and all else they possessed that liberty, justice, and individual freedom might be enjoyed by future generations. That their deeds may never be forgotten, this room was erected in the year 1948 by Earl E. Turner, Helen E. Turner, and Helen Turner Politz in memory of their son and brother, John E. Turner.”

The circle inlaid in the center of the terrazzo floor of the Memorial Room floor contains a military star that represents honorable service. Around the perimeter of the star is the inscription, “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his country.” The Memorial Room was rededicated in 1988.

The thirty-two foot tall main ball court is capable of seating 5,300 persons, a reduction from the original capacity of 6,465 (photos 17-21). The west wall bleachers were replaced in 2002, and this along with modifications for wider aisles to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) legislation reduced the number of seats. These plastic bleachers retract into the west wall, at both floor and balcony levels. When the bleachers are closed, the words “The Kats” are painted in 20-foot letters, and the available space is free for gym class or other activities that require additional floor space.

The east sections of seating include retractable floor bleachers and fixed balcony bleachers. The wood benches of these east seats were recapped in 2002. The short ends of the court have floor bleachers and balconies for seating. The hardwood court floor is original, but goals are modern replacements. Exterior walls are painted concrete block. The high-set banks of glass block windows on the north and south sides of the ball court area provide natural light. The original massive steel trusses that allow the clear span are exposed to view. The central suspended pylon scoreboard and ceiling mounted metal halide type light fixtures were added in 2002. HVAC duct work has been added among the ceiling trusses as well.

The permanent bleachers on the east wall mask locker and shower areas for basketball players. Corridors on either side of the locker area also lead to offices and storage rooms along the outside walls. A wide north-south corridor divides the locker and office area from another set of lockers and showers for the swimming area (added 1970). Behind this, to the east, is the 1970 swimming pool.

The upper level of the gym has a block of rooms at the front (west) end of the building, with stairways and restrooms flanking a central storage room. A corridor allows access to the upper bleachers. The east end of the building has enough room under the main permanent balconies for two non-regulation size basketball courts. The room behind this has a wrestling competition area and weight room.

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Boiler Building

Both the high school and gym were heated by steam boilers located in the adjacent heat plant just south of the gym (photo 40). The heat plant was built in 1938 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. Today, the boilers in this building heat only the gym. The boiler house is a two story, flat-roofed brick building, rectangular in plan. It has pairs of flush metal doors on the west side, with an offset bank of three window square openings on the second floor. The south elevation has tall roll-up doors flanked by flush personnel doors, and two square windows toward either corner. Other sides are functional in appearance. The massive circular tapered brick chimney rises from beside the building toward the southeast corner.

Section 8 – Statement of Significance

The Kokomo High School and Memorial Gymnasium complex meets National Register Criterion A for its role, as a campus, in the history of education in Kokomo. The school has served the community continuously (except for interruptions due to new construction) since 1914, first, as Kokomo's main high school, and since 1999, as the city's central middle school. It is one of only six existing historic school buildings remaining in Kokomo. The school and Memorial Gymnasium retains sufficient architectural integrity to meet Criterion C. The gym is a locally outstanding example of Art Moderne design by a significant Indiana firm, McGuire & Shook. The 1949 gym symbolizes the importance of school athletics to the development of education in Indiana, and it remains one of the finest classic basketball palaces in the state. The school, though more altered on its interior, is the best example of Collegiate Gothic design in Kokomo, and was the work of well-known Indiana school designer, Elmer Dunlap. Both the school and gym meet the registration requirements established in "Indiana's Public Common and High Schools" MPDF. The period of significance is 1914-1950 (ending with the completion of the Vocational wing).

Kokomo, Its Development and Its Schools

The site of Kokomo was held by the Miami during Indiana's formative years. It was not until more than twenty years after the Indiana General Assembly established the capitol in Indianapolis, just sixty-three miles south, that Kokomo was platted. David Foster obtained the right to purchase a site along Wildcat Creek from Chief LaFontaine in 1842, and named it in honor of Chief Kokomoko. At the first meeting to form the county in 1844, Foster pressed to have seat located on his lands at the center of the would-be county. He also offered a free site and helped build the first courthouse in 1845. Chief LaFontaine died in 1847, and Euro-American settlers were eagerly vying for the rich glacial-tilled lands of north central Indiana. Agriculture and related occupations dominated these early decades.

By 1850, Howard County had a population of 1,857 and railroads were planning to reach the trading post and county seat village of Kokomo. The Peru and Indianapolis Railroad was the first to come in 1853.

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Kokomo was incorporated as a town in 1854. After the Civil War, the town began to industrialize. In 1870, the town had a population of several thousand, and a new brick courthouse. It remained a typical rail stop and county market town until 1886. In this year, many north central and east central Indiana communities discovered that they lay over vast natural gas deposits. Kokomo began to attract heavy industry with the lure of cheap fuel.

Within a decade, entrepreneurs started new industries in the city. Kokomo Opalescent Glass Company, Diamond Plate Glass, as well as a strawboard plant were all in operation. By 1900, Kokomo was a city of 10,609 persons. Interurban rails connected the city to Indianapolis and other Indiana cities beginning in the early 1900s. But the horseless carriage was on the minds of many in Kokomo at the turn of the century. Auto industries were a specialty of the economy, sparked by the innovations of resident Elwood Haynes, who successfully built and drove an early gas-powered car in 1894. The Apperson brothers opened an auto plant in 1898, which continued until 1925. Various parts of the Apperson firm and other local auto parts makers have been gradually subsumed into branches of major manufacturers that remain to this day. Industry brought jobs and opportunity to Kokomo; the population doubled from 17,010 in 1910 to 30,067 in 1920. The rate of growth slowed during the late twenties, Depression and war years; by 1950 the city was steady at 38,672 residents.

The growth of Kokomo's free public schools mirrored that of the community. Higher education always has been a priority of the citizens in Kokomo, Indiana. Dr. Adam Clark, Howard County's first teacher, opened the town's first school in a log cabin church in 1844 east of Washington Street on Superior Street. Tuition was \$2 per student for a 13-week term. Tuition schools continued in Kokomo until 1853 with an annual attendance of 16-38 students.

Conforming to the general movement of free schools, in 1853, the township trustee erected at log schoolhouse at the corner of Washington and Walnut streets. This was the first building specifically built for use as a school in Kokomo, and was the first free school in the county. The Rev. Denton Simpson, a Baptist minister and farmer, was the first teacher. When Kokomo became a town in 1855, free schools were continued under the supervision of the town board. In 1856, 145 students were enrolled in the free schools.

A joint stock company, Normal School Association, was organized in 1859 under the tutelage of Professor Joseph Baldwin. His emphasis was placed on the "normal" method of instruction to prepare students to become teachers. Center Township provided \$3,000 for the construction of a Normal Building which was built on the southeast side of East Sycamore Street between Market and Lafountain streets. The money was provided on the condition that the township would have the use of the four lower rooms of the building for a free school known as the Indiana State Normal School of Kokomo. Officials chose a site on Superior Street facing the area that later would be the site of Kokomo High School. Classes at the Normal School began in 1863-64 with Professor H.K. Curtis as the teacher.

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The school remained open during the Civil War even though enrollment declined as young men enlisted in the Union Army. Following the war, many of the men returned to complete their education and some became teachers.

In 1865, Kokomo was incorporated as a city and the first Board of School Trustees—Richard Nixon, president; David Brown, treasurer, and Dr. Orseman Richmond, secretary—was appointed by the City Council. That school board assisted in the organization of schools and was instrumental in implementing the grade system in Kokomo and Howard County.

Howard College was organized in 1869 with Milton B. Hopkins as president. The college was moved into the Normal Building in 1879, with six teachers and 69 students. With no high school available, advanced students were sent directly to the college after elementary school and their tuition was paid from school funds.

Professor Hopkins left Kokomo in 1872 to become the first state superintendent of public instruction, and with his departure, Howard College was closed. The Board of School Trustees approved the construction of the city's first high school at the corner of Armstrong and Taylor streets with J. Fred Vaile as the first principal. Student enrollment totaled 101 during the 1872-73 school year, the only term ever held in the building. It later was sold to a Baptist church for religious purposes. The board purchased the then-empty Normal Building in 1873, and opened its doors to students in grades 8-12 in the fall of 1873. The discovery of natural gas in Kokomo spurred unprecedented growth for the city and its school system. By 1902, two more school buildings had been constructed.

In March of 1898, the new Kokomo High School building opened its doors to students. It was a massive brick and stone structure situated on the southeast corner of Market and Sycamore Streets. C.V. Haworth was named KHS principal. That building was destroyed on March 24, 1914, by a fire probably caused by an over-heated furnace.

C.V. Haworth began his 33-year career as superintendent in 1913, and is considered one of the great contributors to the educational process in the history of Howard County. In concert with C.E. Henshaw, principal of Kokomo High School, the two educators contributed greatly to the expansion of education in Kokomo.

Under Haworth's leadership, the school board secured land on Superior Street just south (across Superior Street) of the high school. The acquisition proved to be timely when the original high school building burned on March 24, 1914. The school board hired local contractors Moore and Danner to build a new school at a cost of \$237,694.55. Elmer E. Dunlap, an Indianapolis architect, designed the building (Dedication of High School Building). J.A. Kautz laid the cornerstone. Students completed their academic year with half-day classes conducted at the Kokomo Public Library, the YMCA, and City Hall. During the 1914-15 school year, while the new high school was being built, students attended classes in

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the Tabernacle Building. The new Kokomo High School building at 303 East Superior Street opened to students in the fall of 1915.

In 1929, an addition to KHS included a music room, library, cafeteria, print shop, and more classrooms. Total cost of the addition was \$164,027.13. Enrollment in 1929 was 1,600. In the same year, the school newspaper was presented to the students as a surprise from the administration, and a contest was conducted to name the publication. The Red and Blue won and remains today as the Voice of KHS. During that same year, through the generosity of A.J. Kautz, the school was presented with Kautz Field, the home football field of the Kokomo Wildkats. That area is located east of Memorial Gymnasium.

Emphasis on education blossomed under the guidance of Haworth, and he oversaw the construction of Central, Jefferson, McKinley, Riley, Roosevelt, Wallace, Willard, and Douglass schools. Today, McKinley and Wallace are still used for educational purposes. Haworth also was instrumental in the development of additions to the high school. A gymnasium that bore his name was opened in 1925 and it served as the home of the Wildkats basketball team until the building burned in 1944. During this time, the Kokomo High School basketball team fought its way to the state championship game. Noted writer John R. Tunis attended the basketball tournament and was so impressed with the fever pitch of Kokomo basketball that he wrote a book entitled "Yea Wildcats".

Records of the descendant firm Odle, McGuire & Shook, indicate that McGuire & Shook began schematic plans for the new gym in 1944 – immediately after the fire that destroyed Haworth Gym. Reporters missed this fact and the prime newspaper account of the gym's opening states that the school board retained the firm and had plans drawn in early 1947, only to have the board shelve the idea due to cost (Hamp). The school board voted to issue bonds to finance the gym in December, 1947. The Earl W. Turner family donated \$50,000 to the project, which would go to the World War II Memorial Room. Even so, the bonds and donations could not meet the complete the funding. Kokomo residents held a community wide meeting and voted to organize a private fund raising campaign. The effort included sales of five year passes to games and lifetime awards for donations and involved the Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups. In a few weeks' time, the campaign drew in about \$64,000. Finally, the Kokomo High School Athletic Association removed the final obstacle of \$50,000 by taking out a five year loan. The total bill came to roughly \$804,000.

Proof of the remarkable entertainment draw of Hoosier basketball in pre-television days, school officials drew plans for a gym building that could hold 6,465. Kokomo's population in 1950 was 38,672; therefore, the gym could hold roughly 17% of the total population of the city! The previous gym had 4,000 seats, and, reportedly, in the 1930s, fans waited in line as long as 12 hours to buy season tickets (Hamp). The same article notes that while citizens recognized the need for a new gym in the late 1930s, construction of Washington Junior High School using WPA funds in 1939 took precedence over the gym. The new gym idea had to survive the outcome of World War II. With 4,000 citizens in attendance, the forty-five minute dedication program included the school band, full color guard, and speeches on the

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evening of October 20, 1949, just in time for the 1949-50 basketball season. From the point of view of many residents, the gym also symbolized post-war economic revitalization – it was the biggest construction project in town since the completion of the Howard County Courthouse in 1937. Kokomo Memorial Gym remains one of the finest hardwood palaces in the state, over fifty years after it opened.

O.M. Swihart was named superintendent of schools in 1946. Several more schools were built during his era, and in the late 1950's, he introduced A-5 courses for students to offer pupils a greater challenge in the areas of English, math, and science.

Due to overcrowding in the mid 1960's, a second high school was built at 2501 S. Berkley Road, in the southwest area of the city, at a cost of \$8,400,000. It opened in 1968 and was named for C.V. Haworth. Its principal was Harry McCool.

By 1984, declining enrollment resulted in another reorganization and Haworth High School lost its name and became Kokomo High School/South Campus. It housed students in grades 10, 11, and 12. The original Kokomo High School was reconfigured and served grades seven, eight, and nine as Kokomo High School/Downtown Campus.

As a part of the corporation's 21st Century Project, planning began in the early 1990's with a review of several buildings in the corporation and their futures as education facilities. Initial reports in the 21st Century Project called for the demolition of the historic KHS structure. As final plans for the demolition progressed, a member of the Board of School Trustees requested another thorough inspection of the building. Learning that the building could be brought up to code in most areas, members of the Board of School Trustees voted to restore the building to accommodate middle school students. The structure, now known as Central Middle School, houses grades six, seven, and eight and also contains administrative offices and additional areas for such programs as Title 1 and staff development. As part of the project, a new gymnasium also was added to the back (south) of the building. The rehabilitated structure was dedicated on November 12, 2002.

For all its 160 year history, Kokomo has only a handful of historic buildings to represent the development of education. In 1939, at the height of pre-war development of the school system, the city had thirteen school buildings, including the high school (Howard County Book). The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory identified five historic schools besides the nominated building. The oldest, 3rd Ward School at 900 S. Webster, dates to 1895 and is now an apartment building. Window openings have been reduced in size on this building, and its interior condition is unknown. McKinley School on W. Carter St. dates from about 1913 and retains much of its historic character. The school built offices in a school-like building at 1400 N. Webster in 1913, this building has good integrity (this building appears to have been built as Columbian School, a school of this name is listed in The Howard County Book at 1227 N. Webster). Douglas School at 1112 Bell occupies a special place in history of public education in Kokomo; it was built for the African-American community in 1919 but is now used as part of church's

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operations. Washington School, 1500 S. Washington, is a significant Art Deco/Moderne structure built in 1938-39 as a WPA project. It is still in public school use.

Registration Requirements and Architectural Significance

Kokomo High School and Memorial Gym meets the registration requirements of the Indiana's Public Common and High Schools Multiple Property Documentation Form. Additions to the school are large, however, in massing, and height, the original building remains clearly visible. Indeed, when the school was planned, reporters noted that the school is "situated and so constructed that, as the growth of the city calls for it, enlargement can be made." (Dedication of High School). While only portions of the interior retain high integrity, the overall plan of the historic building has been maintained. Classroom and corridor location is consistent with their original locations. Additionally, the former Hayworth Vocational Building (1950) retains some semblance of its original character; in fact, educational activities were underway within the period of significance in this part of the building, though, it has been altered. The significance of the school is singular, being the only historic high school in the city. Its Collegiate Gothic exterior is the best example of the style in Kokomo. Taken together with the Memorial Gym, the complex has good overall integrity.

Elmer Dunlap was the architect of the school, as credited in a newspaper article and by an accompanying rendering marked "Elmer E. Dunlap Architect Indianapolis." Dunlap was a significant designer of schools and public buildings throughout Indiana. Born in 1874, Dunlap graduated with degrees in engineering and architecture from University of Illinois in 1897. He moved to St. Louis, where he worked from 1902 to 1906. During this time, nationally known school designer William Butts Ittner was active in St. Louis, and some have speculated that Dunlap was influenced by Ittner's work. Certainly, Dunlap's schools reflect many of Ittner's ideas regarding ample corridors, natural light and adequate ventilation. Dunlap moved to Indianapolis in 1906, opening an office and staying until 1925, when he moved to Columbus, Indiana to manage the family's construction business following his father's death. Documented Indiana schools by Dunlap include Hope (1906); Central (Columbus, 1904); Eggleston (Madison, 1906); several Indianapolis schools; Bedford; and Huntington. Dunlap also had a reputation for designing Indiana county courthouses, including Carroll County (1916), Spencer (1919) and Pike (1921). He also planned complete remodelings for the Jackson and Franklin County Courthouses (both 1910). The Kokomo High School is a good example of his work, especially granted that schools were a specialty of Dunlap's. It retains most of its essential character. (Information for this section paraphrased from Thayer, Grieff and DHPA Historic Architect's Database)

Kokomo Memorial Gym meets the registration requirements for gymnasias. The building retains significant architectural character on both the exterior and interior. The rear addition to the gym does not compromise its essential architectural characteristics. The gym has been home to many of the most significant high school athletic competitions in the community for over fifty years. Under Criterion C, the gym is also the work of a master as well as being one of the best examples of Art Moderne in the city. William McGuire and Wilbur Shook merged their Indianapolis offices in 1916, beginning one of the

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city's and state's longest running practices. The firm designed middle and upper middle class housing in Indianapolis. They also developed a reputation for school design. McGuire & Shook designed five IPS schools beginning in 1924, including Schools 62, 82, and Howe High School, a 1927 design finally completed in 1937 with WPA funds. While many Indiana architects closed their doors in the 1930s, McGuire and Shook found prospects through federal funds, such the WPA-funded Federal Building addition in Indianapolis, or through specific endowments like the series of Art Deco buildings in Versailles, Indiana, funded by Walgreens magnate James Tyson. The Tyson United Methodist Church of 1937 (NR, 1994), the Tyson Library and the adjacent public school (both 1942) were all McGuire & Shook designs sponsored by the Tyson Fund.

The Kokomo Memorial Gym continued the trend of modernistic design by the firm seen in the Tyson commissions. While the Tyson Church, school and library are Art Deco buildings executed in glazed terra-cotta, the gym design makes the transition to Moderne, with its clean, contrasting brick and limestone detail, curved entry walls, use of glass block, and simple, rectilinear geometric forms. The Memorial Room of the gym also embodies significant Art Moderne elements: use of rich materials, seen in the use of marble, terrazzo, stained glass, and natural wood; and simple geometric forms, seen in the floor designs, archways, and square window proportions. The structure of the gym, with its steel trussing and framing, was pioneered decades before at gyms like Hinkle Fieldhouse (1928, NR, NHL, 1983). The Kokomo gym shows a refinement of the open span, steel framing concept of pre-war gyms, in that it has much improved lines of sight and greater capacity. Modern fabrication meant little need for hand-assembled laced beams like those of the Martinsville Gym (1924, NR 1981) or Hinkle. Also, rather than relying on a polygonal truss, architects of the Kokomo Gym used a truss with a flat top chord, a transition to the flat-roofed school gyms of recent decades. By the 1960s, lack of budget or concern for fine materials, changing social ways, and use of suspended ceiling finishes to hide trusses spelled the end of the classic era of Hoosier gym design.

Other Art Moderne buildings in the area include the now-empty Hansell Coal Building at the corner of Mulberry and Phillips streets, and the C.C. Midwest Trucking building at 1200 S. Home Avenue, once the home of the Kokomo branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the former Med-O-Bloom Dairy building located on West Jefferson Street. The buildings were constructed of buff brick and featured glass blocks of windows. The Hansell building and the dairy building boast curved front entryways. None of these buildings embody Art Moderne styling to a greater degree than the gym.

A final note to the significance of the Kokomo High School came in 2002, when the National Trust for Historic Preservation chose to profile the successful rehabilitation of the building in their second edition of *Why Johnny Can't Walk to School*. The publication highlights the cost savings the school district realized in rehabilitating the school, rather than destroying it, as an example for other school districts across the nation.

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Section 10 - Verbal Boundary Description

This is the legal description of Kokomo High School, Memorial Gymnasium and the boiler building.

Kokomo High School

Parcel 34-03-36-288-015.790-002: J.M. Leeds Third Addition Lots 75 through 79.

Parcel 34-03-36-288-016.790-002: Out lots 82 and 83 in Howard County, Kokomo, Indiana.

Parcel 34-03-36-288-018.790-002: Part of Lot A in the Northeast Quarter of Section 36 Township 24 North Range 3 East being southwest of Apperson Way.

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Memorial Gymnasium

Parcel 34-04-31-156-001.790-002: Out lot 89 in Howard County, Kokomo, Indiana.

Parcel 34-03-36-288-017.790-002: Foster's Eastern Addition Lots 9 and 10 and Part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36 Township 24 North Range 3 described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said lots and running thence South to Wild Cat Creek; thence East with the meanderings of said Creek to a point in range with the center of the alley on the East side of Lot 10 between lots 10 and 11 in said addition; thence North to the south end of said alley; thence West to the place of beginning. Also known as that portion of Lot A in the Northeast Quarter of said Section, Township, and Range being Northeast of Apperson Way.

Boundary Justification

These parcels include the school building, gym, and boiler building and any connected additions to these buildings.

Photograph Information

The following is the same for photos 1 – 25:

Kokomo High School and Memorial Gymnasium
Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana
Photographer: Kathy Eades
Location of Negatives: Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
Photos taken on March 31, 2004

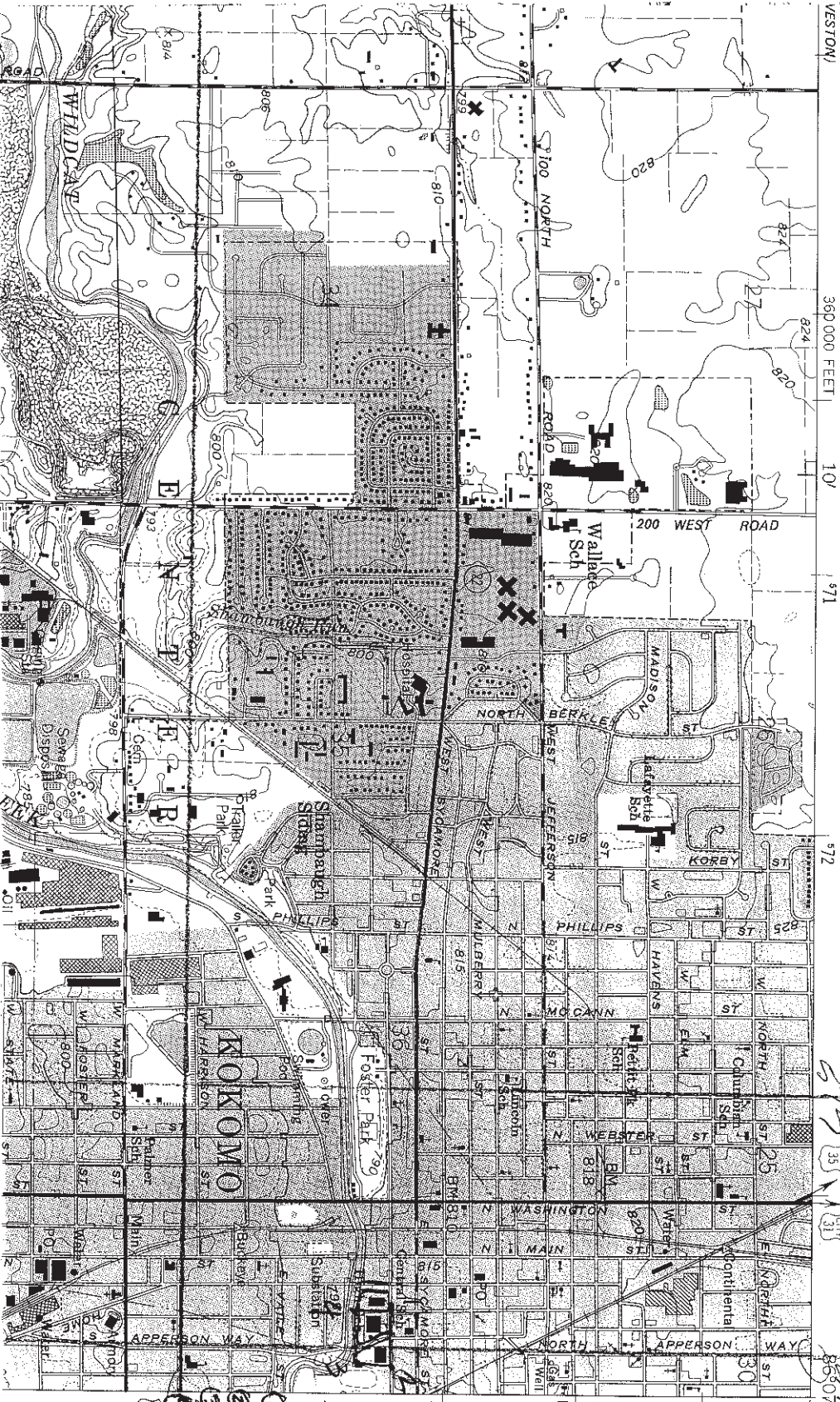
1. Front (main elevation) of 1914 section, camera facing south
2. Main elevation of 1914 section, with 70s addition to right, camera facing south
3. 1914 and 1970s addition, camera looking southeast
4. Parapet detail, carved panels on 1914 building, camera looking south
5. Central panel on parapet, detail, camera looking south
6. East panel on parapet, detail, camera looking south
7. West panel on parapet, detail, camera looking south
8. 1914 main entrance, detail, camera looking south
9. Interior, 1914 section, main stairs, camera facing south
10. Interior, 1914 section, main stairs, camera facing north from second floor to entrance
11. Interior, 1914 section, foyer marble wainscot, recessed heat register with grille, camera facing east
12. East elevation, 1914 section and end of 1929 section, camera looking west

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KOKOMO WEST QUADRANGLE
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7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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