NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Muncie Trade School

Other names/site number: T.W. Warner Company Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 1491 West Kilgore Avenue

City or town: Muncie State: IN County: Delaware

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ 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:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EDUCATION/school
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS (Commercial Style)

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:	CONCRETE
walls:	BRICK
	METAL/CONCRETE
roof:	ASPHALT
other:	

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Muncie Trade School is located at 1491 West Kilgore Avenue, approximately one mile southwest of the center of downtown Muncie, Indiana. It is sited on the southeast corner of West Kilgore Avenue and South Perkins Avenue immediately surrounded by rural, Beech Grove Cemetery to the north across West Kilgore Avenue, vacant land and railroad tracks to the east and south, and commercial architecture to the west. South Perkins Avenue turns west as it extends and a one-story masonry wing juts out to the lot line. There is a one-story corrugated metal building south of the original Muncie Trade School Building. The buildings take up most of the lot, but there is some green space and a walkway leading to the main entrance on the north façade and a dirt road east and south of the building.

The Muncie Trade School was constructed in stages. The original two-story, L-shaped 1912 building spans five vertical bays on the north elevation and seven bays west and features a steel structural system with masonry walls and wood flooring; it was built by the T. W. Warner Company as a factory for the manufacture of automobile parts. The building was substantially expanded into the 1920s and took a rectangular plan for continued manufacturing uses under various owners. Using federal funds, the building was leased in 1940 then purchased in 1942 by the trustees of the Muncie School Board. It was remodeled and converted to a regional center for national defense training and vocational classes as part of the domestic war effort. Following the end of World War II in 1945, the building continued to be used by the school

Board as a trade school until the 1970s, offering vocational training in auto mechanics, carpentry, drafting, electricity, machine shop, milling and cabinet making, printing, sheet metal work, and woodworking and patternmaking. From 1973 through the early 2000's, the building was used as a service center for the Muncie school system. A later one-story corrugated metal storage building did lie south of the original Trade School building; this non-contributing building was removed as part of the general site improvements in 2019. A paved parking lot replaced the metal building, and a small, non-contributing storage building was built at the far corner of this rear portion of the lot. The building's main pedestrian entrance is located along the primary north façade facing West Kilgore Avenue. Secondary pedestrian and vehicular entrances are located along the east, west, and south elevations.

The building served as a trade school and service center for the Muncie school system from 1940 until the early 2000s, when it closed. The Muncie Trade School building was purchased by Commonwealth Development Corporation in 2018. The building was renovated into thirty-six market-rate housing units and completed in spring 2019 (henceforth called the 2019 rehabilitation"). The 2019 rehabilitation was undertaken with the use of federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, requiring the oversight of reviewers at the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and the National Park Service, and adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

As of spring 2019, the Muncie Trade School operates as a housing facility and retains its significant historic interior and exterior features.

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Muncie Trade School is located approximately one mile southwest of downtown Muncie and approximately half a mile east of the White River. The building is set slightly back from the lot line on the north side with greenspace and a walkway to the main entrance. Gravel parking areas and driveways extend along the south and east ends of the lot. The rear south parking area was reconfigured as part of the 2019 rehabilitation. A small gabled wood utility shed with a pedestrian and rolling garage door was added (1 non-contributing structure). The shed has an adjacent wood fenced area for tenant garbage disposal. Across West Kilgore Avenue to the north is the Beech Grove Cemetery, a National Register site located along the White River. East of the building is a vacant parcel with train tracks that run north through the cemetery. The parcel just east was formerly the site of the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad Company turntable, fuel storage, paint shop, carpentry shop and storage. The T. W. Warner Company had its own tracks adjacent to the building. A spur of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway extended along the south end of the parcel. Some commercial properties are located to the west and south beyond the tracks.

Exterior

The Muncie Trade School is roughly rectangular in overall shape and footprint with additions off the west and south elevations. The east and west facades run mostly north-south, perpendicular to West Kilgore Avenue, while the north and south elevations run parallel. The primary, north, elevation of the building is clad with red brick in running bond with a concrete water table. The secondary elevations of the 1912 building and later additions are red brick laid in common bond. The roof on the two-story section of the building is flat. The roof on the one-story western addition is pitched.

North Elevation (West Kilgore Avenue)

The building's primary façade fronts onto West Kilgore Avenue and contains the building's main pedestrian entrance (photo 0001, 0003). The façade is two stories in height, approximately five bays wide and clad in red brick laid in a running bond. Brick pilasters that span from the foundation to the roof divide each bay. Two entrances are located, off-centered, in the first and second bays from the west. In the second bay, two concrete steps lead to the door, which is a non-historic metal and glass assembly with transom and sidelights to replicate the historic. The additional entrance located at the northwest corner with cast-stone surround and the word "Office" cast at the top has been painted brown. The door is a non-historic metal and glass assembly with transom. The sidelights to this entrance are glass block over one-over-one windows. The first story is regularly fenestrated with large rectangular window openings. The openings have three-part industrial sash with an operable section. A lean-to, one-story steel framed carport extends east one bay. The second story is regularly fenestrated with sets of three non-historic one-over-one windows set within the original window openings. The window openings feature cast stone sills and a continuous brick soldier course lintel. Door assemblies and windows were installed in 2019.

East Elevation

Most of the building's east elevation is one story in height, regularly fenestrated, and clad in red brick in running bond (photos 0004, 0005, 0006). The northernmost two bays are part of the original 1912 building and are two stories in height (photo 0004). The second story window openings have one-over-one replacement sash. The rest of the east elevation is a one-story addition completed circa 1918 and a one-story addition completed circa 1919. Original window openings on this elevation feature concrete sills and replacement industrial sash designed to match the historic sash. The industrial sash feature centrally located pivot windows. The eighth, tenth, and eleventh bays from the south end house fixed metal and glass storefront assemblies where there were formerly vehicular entrances (photo 0005). A metal and glass door assembly was installed in the pedestrian entrance located fifteen bays from the south end. Door assemblies, storefronts, and windows were installed in 2019.

South Elevation

The south elevation is nine bays long and clad in red brick in running bond (photo 0007 & 0008). The elevation is regularly fenestrated. The window openings in the four westernmost bays and the eighth and ninth bays contain replacement industrial sash designed to replicate the historic divided light sash. The window openings in the sixth and seventh bays from the west have a paired one-over-one window and single one-over-one windows. There is a pedestrian entrance five bays in from the west that has a non-historic metal and glass assembly.

West Elevation (South Perkins Avenue)

The west elevation is eighteen bays long and regularly fenestrated featuring cast stone sills and a continuous brick soldier course lintel (photos 0002, 0009, 0010, 0011). The first seven bays are part of the original 1912 structure and the next eleven were added in 1916. This elevation closely resembles the primary, north façade with two stories and brick pilasters dividing each bay. The windows openings have three-part industrial sash with an operable section. The twelfth bay from the north, which once contained a vehicular entrance, has a fixed garage storefront assembly. The ninth and eighteenth bays from the north contain pedestrian entrances. There are three additional west elevation bays on the one-story 1919 wing at the south end of the building (photo 0010). Like the earlier sections of the building, window openings have cast stone sills and brick soldier course lintels with industrial sash. There is a single-leaf metal and glass door in the southwest corner. Door assemblies, storefronts, and windows were installed in 2019.

Interior

Typical of early 20th-century industrial buildings, the Muncie Trade School Building historically had largely open interior spaces with little ornamentation. The Muncie Trade School was converted to thirty-six market-rate housing in 2019. New apartments are constructed along a double-loaded corridor that runs north to south through the center of the building then jogs west at the south end of the building on the first floor and along a single-loaded corridor that runs north to south along the eastern wall on the second floor. Structural systems and outer masonry walls are largely exposed and painted. Floors in the 1912 section are wood and later additions are concrete. The building features an exposed steel structural system.

The Muncie Trade School retains its one freight elevator at the center of the building (photo 0015). The building retains two of its three historic stairs: a decorative woods stair with wood railings at the 1912 building's north entrance (photo 0013) and a metal staircase towards the center of the building in the 1918 addition (photo 0015). A third metal staircase was added in the historic location of a wood utilitarian staircase at the south end of the building in the 1916 addition.

The first floor was historically divided into several large work spaces. The 2019 rehabilitation reconfigured the space with a double-loaded corridor that runs from north-to-south for the length of the building then jogs to the west. Common spaces and corridors retain metal columns, concrete floors, and exposed the wood decking and steel structural systems (photos 0014, 0015, 0019). Corridors incorporate historic wooden doors and interior windows (photo 0019). All units are separated by floor to ceiling partitions. Unit flooring consists of vinyl tile in kitchens, bathrooms and living rooms. Exterior walls in most units show the existing plaster with brick exposed and painted white (photos 0017, 0018, 0020 & 0021).

The second floor was historically classroom and office space with a corridor located along the eastern wall. The second floor mostly maintains this layout with units located along the single-loaded corridor that runs north to south. Some vestiges of the historic offices remain, including historic wood doors and trim (photos 0022 & 0023). The second-floor corridor has both historic and replacement wood floors. Historic wood floors remain in the 1912 portion of the building. The corridors feature the historic steel sash on the eastern, exterior wall and exposed structure of the ceiling (photo 0024). Unit floors consist of wood. Exposed existing plaster and masonry exterior walls remain (photo 0023). Windows in the 1912 section feature original wood trim. Unit ceilings are mostly exposed to the wood decking above with dropped ceilings in bathroom areas.

Integrity

The Muncie Trade School retains good exterior and interior historic integrity. The building retains its original massing and historic brick masonry facades. The main entrance and historic surround remain and feature a replacement doorway, while former vehicular entrances have been retained and converted to storefronts to delineate them for the window openings. The building retains its original exterior fenestration pattern; deteriorated original steel framed windows have been replaced in kind, while other non-historic windows have been replaced with one over one sash windows. These changes do not impact the building's historic character.

The building's interior displays typical hallmarks of industrial buildings, with exposed structure and utilitarian spaces, along with elements of the historic offices and classroom spaces on the second floor. These features remain very visible despite the addition of apartment units.

Overall, the Muncie Trade School Building retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, details, feeling and association to convey its significance under National Register Criterion A for Education as a locally-significant trade school, built to address the needs of local industries.

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.)

- [X] 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.)

- [ ] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EDUCATION
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1940-1973

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Spangler, William
Indiana Bridge Company

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance for the Muncie Trade School spans from 1940, the year the Muncie Trade School first occupied the building, to 1973, the year the school left the building, encompassing the years of the Muncie Trade School's significant contributions to the domestic war effort and to the city's postwar industrial economy.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Muncie Trade School Building, located at 1491 West Kilgore Avenue in Muncie, Indiana, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for Education as the primary public trade school in Delaware County and for its associations with the broad trend of vocational education in the United States. The school provided important vocational training in the region during World War II into the 1970s.

The Muncie Trade School Building was originally constructed by the T. W. Warner Company in 1912 during a time of growth in the automobile parts industry in Muncie. Suffering from a decrease in economic development in the late 1890s and early 1900s due to the rapid decline of natural gas production, Muncie welcomed the automobile industry to the city. By 1921, the T. W. Warner Company was sold to General Motors and became part of the Chevrolet Division. The building was occupied by a number of smaller companies throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1939, the Board of Trustees of Schools for the City of Muncie assessed the growing need of technical training in the community by surveying local industries. Although the city originally planned a new school, a tight budget and immediate need for wartime training led the first to the rental, then the acquisition in 1942 of the former T. W. Warner Building, whose open floor plan offered maximum versatility for the growing vocational classes. The building remained in use as a school until 1973 when it became a service center for Muncie schools until the mid 2000s.

Today, the Muncie Trade School is the only remaining physical reminder of a significant time in educational history for the city and illustrates the importance of vocational training in an Indiana city heavily reliant on its industrial economy in the mid 20th century.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Muncie Trade School closely follows the national initiative to increase training for wartime industries essential in World II. In 1939, upon the recommendation of the Muncie Board of School Trustees, the Muncie Superintendent of Schools appointed a steering committee to explore expanding trade and industrial education

offerings of the city.[1] The timing of the survey corresponds closely with President Franklin Roosevelt's directive to assess current vocational education availability throughout the country. The committee determined that vocational equipment at the Central High School should be immediately put to full use, anticipating that this was only the first step. A General Advisory Committee with representatives from local industries and unions was formed to develop a new trade program. Subsequent committees were formed for each trade. The General Advisory Committee determined that more space was needed. The Committee's original plan was to build a new school "of the industrial type"[2] specifically for industrial training purposes and cost estimates were acquired. This plan was changed to purchase an existing factory building, because cost would not allow a building of proper size and by the terms of the National Defense Training Program, which was instituted by the Federal government.[3] The National Defense Training Program created an urgent need for more space, which did not allow time for the construction of a new facility.

The General Advisory Committee settled on Muncie's vacant T.W. Warner Company Building for the new city vocational school and the building was leased for one year. The T.W. Warner Company building in Muncie was the second factory for the automobile parts manufacturer, which was based in Toledo. The building was modest in size. It was a two-story L-shaped building built by contractor William P. Spangler and the Indiana Bridge Company, a local steel company.[4] The T.W. Warner Company grew quickly and expanded south in 1916 with a two-story addition that seamlessly matched the original. In 1918 and 1919 the T.W. Warner Company constructed one-story additions to the east and south of the building, both by the Indiana Bridge Company. In 1921, GM bought the site for its Chevrolet manufacturing plant. The company name was changed to Muncie Products and it operated until 1927. The plant stood vacant for over a year until 75,000 square feet of it was purchased by the Thomas Auto Top Company and Thomas Furniture Company in 1928 for the making of automobile tops and seat covers.[5] The Company operated under the name Thomas Griffith Company on the site until about 1935. A number of small companies used the building until 1940.

The industrial building gave the school a large open floor plan in which to develop vocational education programming. The Board of School Trustees initially leased only 60,000 square feet for the vocational school because there were a number of small companies already occupying the building. These included The Omar Baking Company, The Muncie Finance Co., the W. P. A. office, J. W. McAbee, Associate Investment Co., and the Chevrolet Co. as well as storage. The Board ultimately developed a five-year plan to occupy the whole building.[6] All equipment and classes were moved from the Central High School to the T.W. Warner Company Building, now officially called the Muncie Trade School Building.

Although an increased vocational program with facilities separate from the high school was planned by the Board prior to the National Defense Program, the growth of the program in Muncie was dictated by the needs of the Federal government. The plans and assessment of needs in the Muncie community were overshadowed by the war training initiatives. When the steering committee surveyed the needs of the city in 1939, they determined the fields of machine trade, electrical, drafting, auto mechanics, building trades, commercial cookery, practical nursing and cosmetology to be in the highest demand.[7] None of the classes for girls were offered at the Muncie Trade School. Courses were divided into two categories: industrial arts and vocational classes. The main difference was the industrial arts were for 10th grade students and the vocational classes

[1] The State Board of Education. *Vocational Education In Indiana: Information Relating to the Establishment and Administration of State Aided Vocational school.* Indianapolis, March 1914. p 5.
[2] Ibid p. 9
[3] Ibid p. 9.
[4] Contract Card for Wm P. Spangler, Indiana Bridge Company April 3, 1912.
[5] Stone, Charles C. "Weekly Indiana Survey," *The Indianapolis Times.* April 23, 1928.
[6] "Muncie Deserves More From Defense Program, Real Training for our Students" *The Post-Democrat,* February 21, 1941
[7] Ibid p 5.

were for 11th and 12th grades and were on a stricter, more-advanced preparatory tract. Classes relating to the National Defense Program included machine shop, building trades, drafting, electricity, auto and airplane mechanics, welding and general shop. Although the advisory committee did not indicate aviation mechanics as a need in the community, it was the Federal government's primary concern and was therefore added to the curriculum. Classes were set up in a joint partnership between the United States Office of Education and Purdue University in eighteen cities across Indiana. By 1941, Muncie had the largest number of adult students in their evening classes, 169 of the 1200 total.[8] The school and classes only continued to grow. The building was purchased in 1942 and with $40,000 funds from the U. S. Office of Education and filled with new equipment and machinery. Other tenants shared the space. In coordination with the National Youth Administration (N. Y. A.), the school received an additional $60,000.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, training was ramped up to accommodate the growing interest from high school boys in the community. The Muncie Trade School was initially open for classes 24 hours a day for five days a week; as the war progressed, operations were expanded so that the school never closed. Instead it had ongoing training at all hours of the day and night every day of the week. A total of 1600 students attended the school during the first year.[9] The Omar Baking Co. was required to leave, which opened up an additional 125,000 square feet of space to be used for offices. When the Muncie Trade School eventually acquired all of the factory space there were many training programs working simultaneously, including the Apprentice School, Adult Evening School, War Production Training, National Youth Administration program, Purdue University War Production Extension Division, and Distributive Occupational Training. In addition to the training, guidance and administrative staff were always available to support students.

In order to better function as a trade school, a number of improvements were made to the building during World War II. Concrete floors were installed on the first floor, storage and tool rooms were built, a drinking stand and washrooms were installed, and a new cafeteria was added. Additionally, on the exterior a new entrance was installed toward the center of the building.[10] The Muncie Community Schools commissioned a contractor to infill the windows with glass block in 1944.[11] Approximately 5,000 people completed training through the War Production Training program by the end of the war in 1945.[12]

After World War II the Muncie Trade School transitioned to peace time training. The Muncie Trade School continued to serve the community and high school students with practical training. Apprentice programs were in place which required students to spend half the day in the shop to receive a certificate.[13] In the early 1960s, the City of Muncie was experiencing high dropout rates among high school students. It was calculated that 261 students dropped out in the 1960-61 school year and 111 more at the beginning of the 1962 school year. With an estimated only one-third of students going to on to college after high school, most students looked for employment in local industries after high school. Course offerings from the 1961-62 school year included auto mechanics, carpentry, drafting, electricity, machine shop, mill and cabinet making, printing, sheet metal work, and woodworking and cabinet making.[14] As the only vocational school in Delaware County, the Trade School offered much needed training to aid students in gaining employment.

Later History (1966-2015)

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[8] "Nearly 1200 in Night Classes: Defense Workers Receive Special Work in Courses," *The Post-Democrat,* October 24, 1941.
[9] Ibid. p 11
[10] "Students Learn Building Trade at Muncie Vocational School" Date unknown
[11] "Legal Notice," *The Post-Democrat,* August 4, 1944
[12] *The Flyer: Serving Aviation in the Midwest.* Vol 4, No. 7. October 1964. P.
[13] Shaffer, R. D. "Your Schools," Vol 1, No. 1. May 1951
[14] King, Sam W., *Preparatory Trade and Industrial Programs in Public Schools.* U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1963.

In a 1968 report of schools, it was recommended that a new vocational-technical school be constructed.[15] The Muncie Trade School was in use for five more year before closing.

In 1973, the Muncie Trade School closed its doors at its West Kilgore location. The Muncie Trade School became the Muncie School Services center which was used as storage and for vehicle maintenance. The Muncie Community Schools surveyed the building and deemed the cost of upkeep was no longer manageable. It was eventually sold in the mid 2000s to be used as a storage and warehouse facility. It has been vacant for approximately three years as of June 2016.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Industrial Development of Muncie

Muncie Trade School is located in Muncie, a city of slightly more than 70,000 residents as of the 2010 United States Census. Muncie is located approximately 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis in eastern central Indiana. The city is situated on land that was inhabited primarily by Delaware Native Americans through the late 1700s and early 1800s. With the Treaty of St. Mary's Ohio in 1818 the Delaware Native Americans ceded their land to the United States government and the land was opened for settlement in 1820. In 1827 Delaware County was formed. The arrival of the Indianapolis & Bellefontaine Railroad in 1852 spurred population growth. Just two years after the railroad arrived, Muncie was incorporated as a town, and just over a decade later, in 1865, it was incorporated as a city. The railroad continued to be the significant economic engine of the city through the late 1800s, leading to the construction of machine shops, foundries, repair shops and blacksmith shops.

Between 1865 and 1880, the population of Muncie rose from 2,200 to over 5,200, and in the next decade more than doubled to over 11,000 in 1890. The discovery of natural gas deposits in 1876 in nearby Eaton, Indiana sparked rapid growth of industry in Muncie. Wells were dug across Delaware County and Muncie had its first successful wells by 1886. While some gas wells began to deplete as early as the late 1890s, their prominence peaked in 1902 Delaware County boasted 5830 wells; by 1906, however, the number of wells dropped significantly to just 2,000. Prominent industrial concerns in Muncie during the late 19th century also included glass companies, most notably the Ball Brothers and Maring, Hart and Company.

For the first decade of the 20th century, growth of industry and population stagnated. Industries shrank and no new industries were entering the market, until the advent of the automobile. In the early 1900s Indiana's growing automobile industry underwent rapid expansion, and the City of Muncie became one of the state's centers of automobile parts manufacturing.

Vocational Education in the United States

Since the United States' founding, vocational education (or education in occupation-specific skills) has been a critical component of the country's industrial development and an important alternative to academic higher education. In industrial cities across the country, skilled labor was an essential component to the workforce. In many communities with only a small percentage of students going to college after high school, students needed to be prepared for employment opportunities offered in their community. For these students, a vocational education that consisted of organized training for careers that did not require a college degree was critical.

The earliest form of vocational education in the United States dates to apprenticeships of the colonial period. A master provided an apprentice with food, clothing, shelter, religious instruction, reading and writing skills and specialized training in their particular field. Although apprenticeships were not formal schooling, it was the largest system of education at the time. By the early 1800s in America, apprenticing declined due to many

[15] Usher, Brian. "The Flesher School Survey: An in depth analysis," *Muncie Star Press.* July 7, 1968.

factors including the rise of manufacturing, availability of public elementary education, skilled labor from Europe, and the centralization of many industries.[16] Some apprentices remained, but many others learned in larger groups and on the job.

Starting around the 1820s two new and distinct educational models formed in the United States: the Mechanics' Institute and the Lyceum. Mechanics' Institutes, popular first in England, formed in major cities across the United States starting with Philadelphia in 1824 and offered mechanics education through lectures, models, and day and night schooling.[17] Though similar to Mechanics' Institutes, American Lyceums encompassed both cultural and educational needs of the community by staging public lectures, educational instruction, and dramatic and musical performances in cities across the country.

Though interest in industrial and agricultural education expanded in the mid-1800s, public vocational education did not become widespread until the late 19th century. Early precedents included Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts which added production work to its curriculum in 1868 and Washington University in Missouri which added shop classes in 1870. A major influence in the development of vocational education was the Russian Exhibit at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 which provided information on the country's manual training system. John Runkle, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, adapted this idea and provided mechanical skills education to engineering students in 1877 and secondary students at the School of Mechanic Arts in 1878. The first public trade school opened in Baltimore in 1884. By the 1880s and 1890s, trade schools in their modern form began to take shape in cities across the country.

The United States Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917 which enabled federal funds to be used for vocational and industrial education for both men and women. The Smith-Hughes Act emphasized the separation of vocational education from classical education and used the 50-25-25 formula which dictated that 50% of a student's time should be in the manual training shop, 25% of time spent studying in closely related subjects, and the remaining 25% of time spent in the pursuit of academic classes.[18] Initially vocational schools that were independent were more heavily funded than those affiliated with a traditional public school. In 1929, the George-Reed Act extended and amended this Act by increasing Federal funds. This was replaced by the 1935 George-Ellzy Act which further expanded and increased Federal funding for vocational education.

The Federal government dictated which types of vocational training programs were eligible for Federal funding. These programs expanded over time, but initially began with the advancement of agriculture, industry and trades, and homemaking skills. The emphasis was on providing students with skills that would help them find practical employment. These programs were altered to address important Federal concerns relevant to current events, such as training for National Defense efforts in the 1920s, reducing unemployment during the Great Depression, and assisting the war effort during World War II.[19]

In 1938, the United States government, specifically the War Department, began to analyze the state of mechanical training programs, specifically in regards to aviation mechanics, and weighed whether to develop training in the military or seek assistance from outside agencies. The Office of Education stepped in to share the wealth of vocational programs already present throughout the country. On May 17, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the U. S. Office of Education to raise the standards of instruction at vocational schools,

[16] Gordon, Howard R. D. *The history and growth of vocational education in America*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1999. p.8
[17] "Independent Action: 1826-1876," *The American Vocational Journal*, May 1976. P. 32
[18] Lynch, Richard L. *New Directions for High School Career and Technical Education in the 21st Century.* ERIC, Columbus, OH. 2000. p. 8
[19] Muncie Trade School Brochure 1942, p. 5

determine the industries essential to the War Department, and increase aviation mechanics training.[20] The President's directive was sent to all states, which was in turn passed to local governments. Schools were eager to assess and develop their classes to fit the needs of the government. States that were not prepared requested funding from the U. S. Office of Education. While some schools dipped into local educational funding, others desperately needed financial support to develop the programs and supply equipment.

Federal vocational education efforts of the early 1940s focused on training in wartime industrial production skills. Among the most successful was the National Defense Training program officially started in July of 1940. The program spread over 2,600 facilities employing 18,000 teachers. Immediately following the war, the Federal government recognized the importance of maintaining trade schools and passed the George-Barden Act in 1946 to again increase Federal funding to vocational schools. The law hoped to encourage the growth of new industry while providing more flexible funding. More legislation in the 1950s and 1960s targeted disenfranchised groups. In 1961, President Kennedy called for an evaluation of the current laws which concluded that students were not being trained efficiently and in enough occupations. The Vocational Education Act of 1963 was written to strengthen and expand vocational education once again in the United States. The Act was amended several times through the late 1970s.

Vocational Education in Indiana

Since the United States Constitution did not make provisions for education, states carried this function. Legislation creating a standard for public education in Indiana was initiated in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, but it did not gain sufficient support until the 1850s. In 1824 the Indiana General Assembly passed a law requiring the appointing of school trustees for every township, but this did not immediately result in the development of public schools. Although the Indiana Constitution of 1816 had similar language, public education in Indiana essentially began after changes to the state Constitution were made in 1851 to read "it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to encourage by all suitable means, moral, intellectual, scientific, and agricultural improvement, and to provide, by law, for a general an uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge and equally open to all."[21]

The state saw an increase in public schools in the 1850s, primarily at the elementary level with more communities buildings high schools in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1888, the school board in Indianapolis petitioned the Indiana General Assembly to allow school boards to levy taxes for building vocational schools. In 1891, the bill passed and Indianapolis built its first public vocational school, the Industrial Training school, in 1895. By 1904, a handful of cities had manual training school and others had programs within their high schools.[22]

The demand for vocational education in Indiana stemmed from a rapid transition from an agricultural society to an industrial society in the early 20th century. A study of Indiana's industrial training education in 1910 showed a lack of sufficient schools and programs. In 1913, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law providing organization and maintenance for vocational schools offering agricultural, industrial, and household skills education to students over the age of fourteen.[23] State aided funds, separate and distinct from those allotted to general education, were set aside to provide students going into the trades the same level of preparation as those continuing with their education. The State defined vocational education as follows, "Vocational education shall mean any education, the controlling purpose of which is to fit for profitable employment."[24] The goal was to

[20] U.S. Office of Education. *The Final Report of War Training Programs*
[21] Indiana State Constitution, Article 8, Section 1, 1851.
[22] Fassett, Cotton A. *Education in Indiana. An outline of the growth of the common school system, together with statements relating to the condition of secondary and higher education in the state and a brief history of the educational exhibit.* W.B. Burford, 1904.
[23] The State Board of Education. *Vocational Education In Indiana: Information Relating to the Establishment and Administration of State Aided Vocational school.* Indianapolis, March 1914. P.4
[24] Ibid p. 11

provide two avenues, one for students who had already determined an occupation and sought to advance their knowledge and skills and one through "practical arts" to introduce students to a variety of industrial occupations in hopes that they may determine their career path. The first option took place at a dedicated vocational school while the latter classes were part of the regular school curriculum.[25] The law applied to day schools, evening schools, and part-time classes.[26] The law allowed a single city, town or township to create its own school or for surrounding schools to share one school.[27] The law was amended many times through the late 1920s and served as an organizational and funding basis for state vocational education for decades to come.

Vocational Education in Muncie

Following the altered State Constitution, the first three public schools in Muncie were built in 1855. The educational system grew in Muncie as the population of the city continued to rise. The first high school space was a rented basement from the Universalist Church until Muncie High School was built in 1881. Muncie High School was in use until 1913 before being replaced in 1915 by the Muncie Central High School on the same site.

The Smith-Hughes of 1917 and subsequent acts did not immediately facilitate construction of a separate trade school in Muncie, but Industrial Arts classes were offered at the Muncie Central High School in the early 20th century. The Central High School held evening classes for young men, ages 16 to 21, starting in about 1917. With the completion of the field house at Central High School in 1928, vocational classes moved into the basement. Prior to the construction of the Muncie Trade School, even a number of the junior high schools had classes such as auto mechanic classes at McKinley School, building trades at Jefferson School, and welding at Wilson Jr. High.

Comparable Properties

The Muncie Trade School was the only building specifically dedicated to vocational education in Delaware County. Central High School, which provided training space in the basement of its gymnasium has since been demolished. The Muncie Trade School represents a specific, yet important time period in which vocational schools were highly valued in the community for their potential to aid in the needs of the Federal and local economies.

Conclusion

The Muncie Trade School Building is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education as the Muncie Trade School, a significant school building that served the community during World War II and beyond. The Muncie Trade School exemplifies the importance of vocational training to the community from 1940 through 1973.

[25] Ibid p.12
[26] Ibid p.17
[27] Ibid p. 28

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"Legal Notice," *The Post-Democrat,* August 4, 1944

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"Nearly 1200 in night classes" *The Post-Democrat,* October 24, 1941

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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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 035-442-45126

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __~2_____

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 635935	Northing: 4449649
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Muncie Trade School is set slightly back from the lot line on the north side with greenspace and a walkway to the main entrance which faces West Kilgore Avenue. Gravel parking areas and driveways extend along the south and east ends of the lot. Across West Kilgore Avenue to the north is the Beech Grove Cemetery, a National Register site located along the White River. East of the building is a vacant parcel with train tracks that run north through the cemetery. The parcel just east was formerly the site of the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad Company turntable, fuel storage, paint shop, carpentry shop and storage. The T. W. Warner Company had its own tracks adjacent to the building. A spur of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway extended along the south end of the parcel. Some commercial properties are located to the west and south beyond the tracks.
See attached property survey.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entire parcel of land associated with the Muncie Trade School building in Muncie, IN

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Emily Dominijanni/Associate & John Cramer/Senior Associate
organization: MacRostie Historic Advisors
street & number: 263 Summer Street
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02210
e-mail edominijanni@mac-ha.com
telephone: 617-531-7159
date: May 15, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figures:
Figure 1: "T.W. Warner Co. Office Building" ca. 1910s
Figure 2: T.W. Warner Co. (Muncie Trade School), ca. 1916
Figure 3: Muncie Trade School Brochure ca. 1939
Figure 4: 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Figure 5: Muncie Trade School, 1991
Site Plan exterior photo key – 1491 West Kilgore Avenue
First floor plan and photo key – 1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Second floor plan and photo key – 1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Site Map – showing site boundary and location

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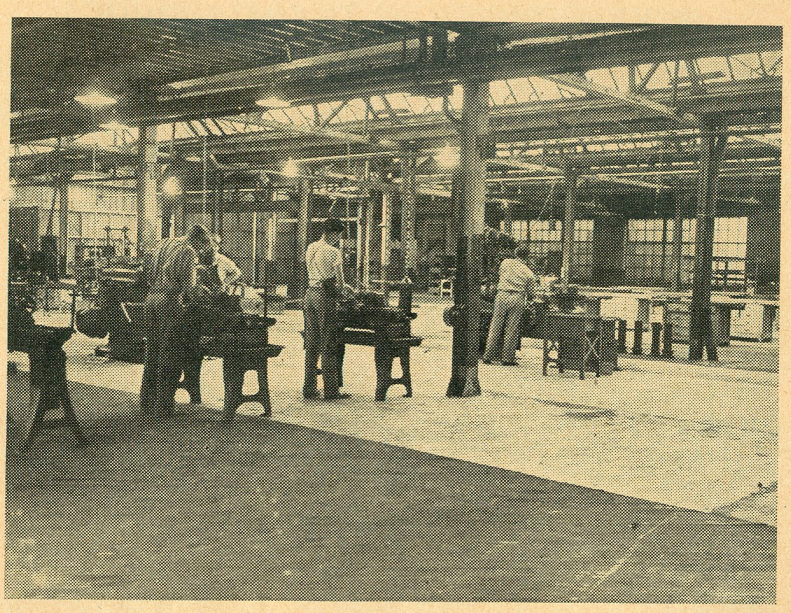
Figure 1: T.W. Warner Co. Office Building ca. 1910s

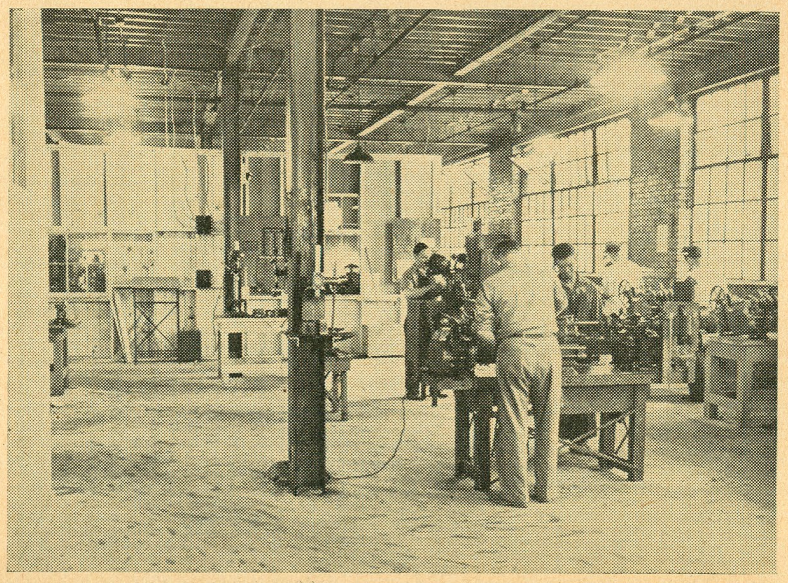
Sellers, Otto. T.W. Warner Co. Office Building. Circa 1910s. Otto Sellers Photograph Collection. Ball State University, University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections, Muncie. http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/P20-0026/mode/exact (accessed March 17, 2017).

Figure 2: T.W. Warner Co. (Muncie Trade School), ca. 1916

Fish, Henry R. Souvenir of Muncie Indiana. Circa 1915. Muncie Historic Souvenir Booklets Collection. Ball State University, University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections, Muncie. http://libx.bsu.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/F534-M9-F58-1900Z (accessed March 17, 2017).



First Machines Moved to Trade School



Second Machine Shop Established

6

Figure 3: Muncie Trade School Brochure ca. 1939
Muncie City Schools. Muncie Trade School Brochure. 1939. Small Manuscripts Collection. Ball State University, University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections, Muncie.

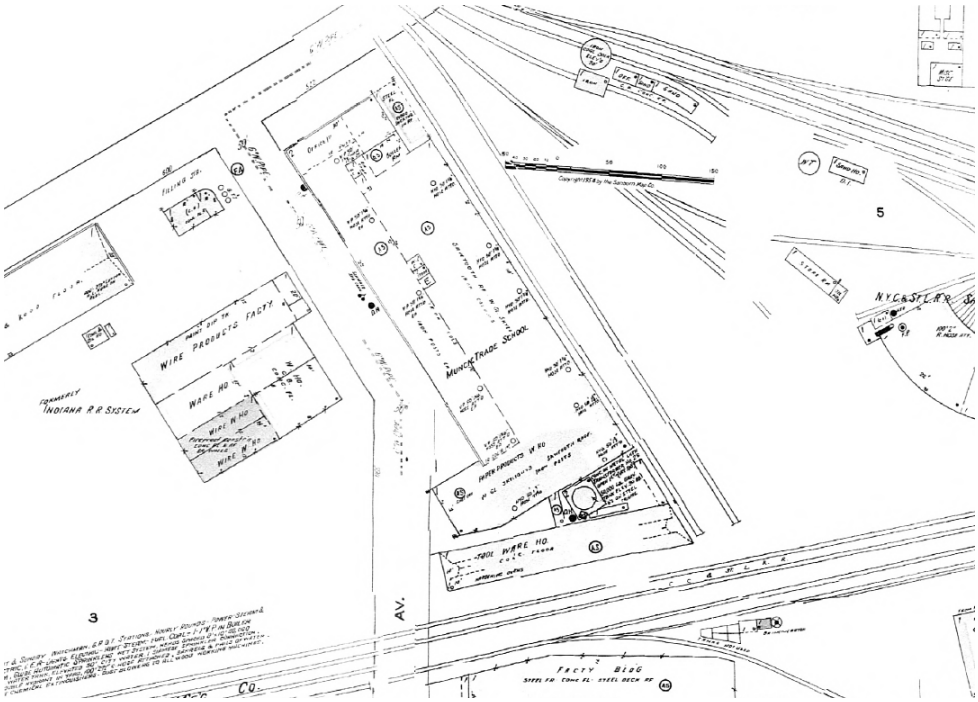


Figure 4: 1955 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Muncie

Sanborn Map Company. *Muncie, Indiana*. Map. Muncie: Sanborn Map Publishing Co., 1955

Figure 5: Muncie Trade School, 1991

Muncie Community Schools. History of Public Education in Muncie, Indiana, 1850-1950. 1991. Muncie Community Schools Collection. Ball State University, University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections, Muncie. http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/archives/findingaids/MSS094.pdf (accessed March 17, 2017).

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Muncie Trade School

City or Vicinity: Muncie

County: Delaware County State: IN

Photographer: Mary Nastasi

Date Photographed: April 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:
1 of 25: Facing south east toward north elevation
2 of 25: Facing east toward north and west elevations
3 of 25: Facing south toward north elevation
4 of 25: Facing west toward east elevation
5 of 25: Facing northwest toward east elevation
6 of 25: Facing north toward south and east elevations
7 of 25: Facing west toward east elevation
8 of 25: Facing east toward south elevation
9 of 25: Facing north toward west elevation
10 of 25: Facing east toward west elevation
11 of 25: Facing north toward west elevation
12 of 25: Facing south toward north elevation
13 of 25: First floor wood stair facing west
14 of 25: First floor corridor facing south
15 of 25: First floor corridor facing south
16 of 25: First floor metal stair facing west
17 of 25: First floor unit facing west
18 of 25: First floor unit facing northeast
19 of 25: First floor corridor facing east
20 of 25: First floor unit facing southwest
21 of 25: First floor unit facing south
22 of 25: Second floor corridor facing south

23 of 25: Second floor unit facing south
24 of 25: Second floor corridor facing north
25 of 25: Second floor unit facing south

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Muncie Trade School

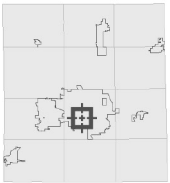
1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana

Key

Site Boundary

N

Overview

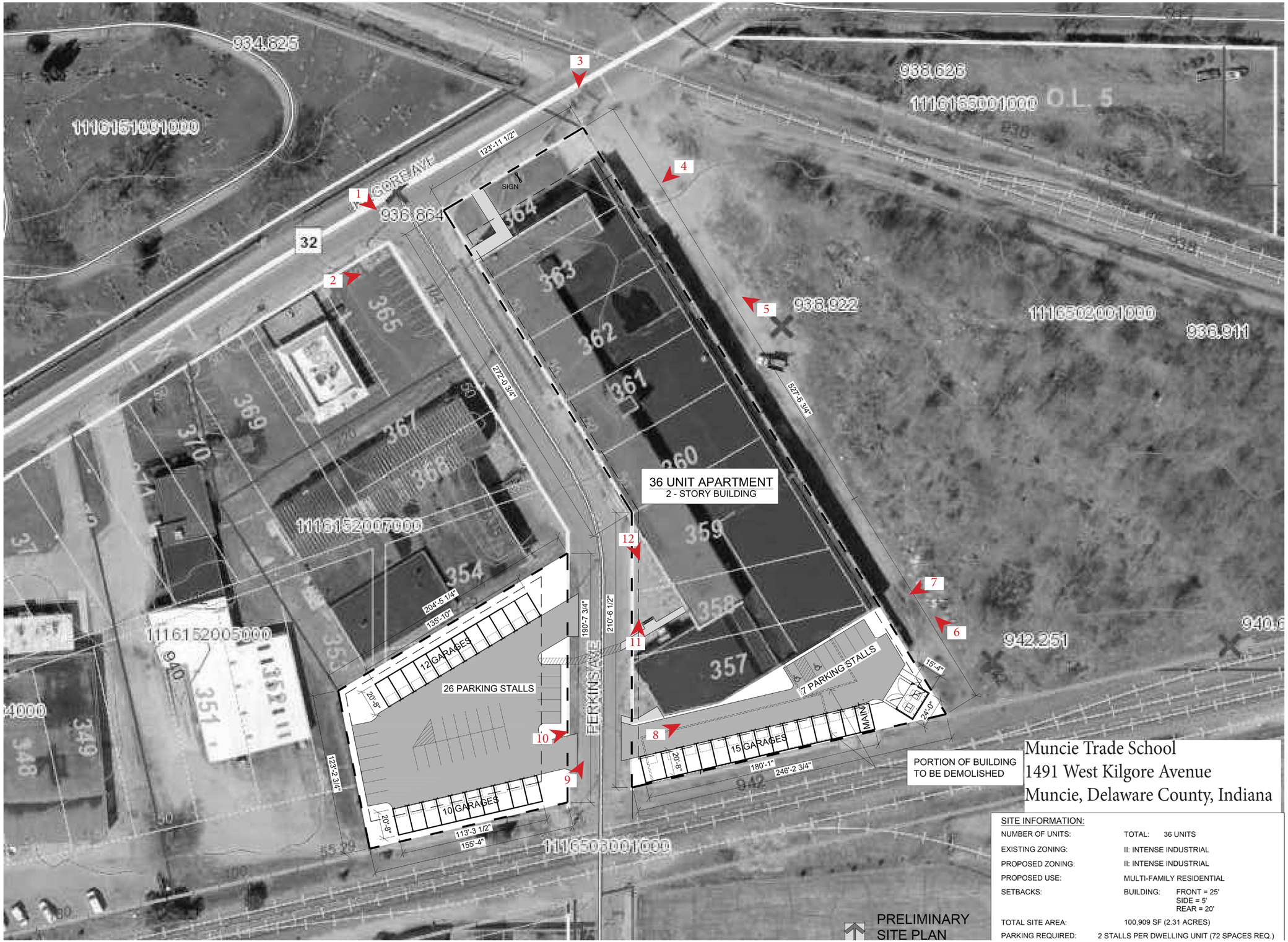


Legend

Major Roads

- INTERSTATE
- MAJOR ROAD
- STATE ROAD
- US HIGHWAY
- **Airport Runways**
- **Muncie Parks**
- **Major Waterbodie**
- **Corporate Boundaries**
- **Political Township**

Parcel ID	1116153001000	**Alternate ID**	18-11-16-153-001.000-003
Sec/Twp/Rng	n/a	**Class**	Other Commercial Structures
Property Address	1491 W KILGORE AVE MUNCIE	**Acreage**	n/a
District	MUNCIE		
Brief Tax Description	WILLARD ST S ADJ & VAC ALLEY E 0.0000Acres STR: 162010 IN: OUT: (Note: Not to be used on legal documents)		



Muncie Trade School
1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana

PRELIMINARY
SITE PLAN

SITE INFORMATION:

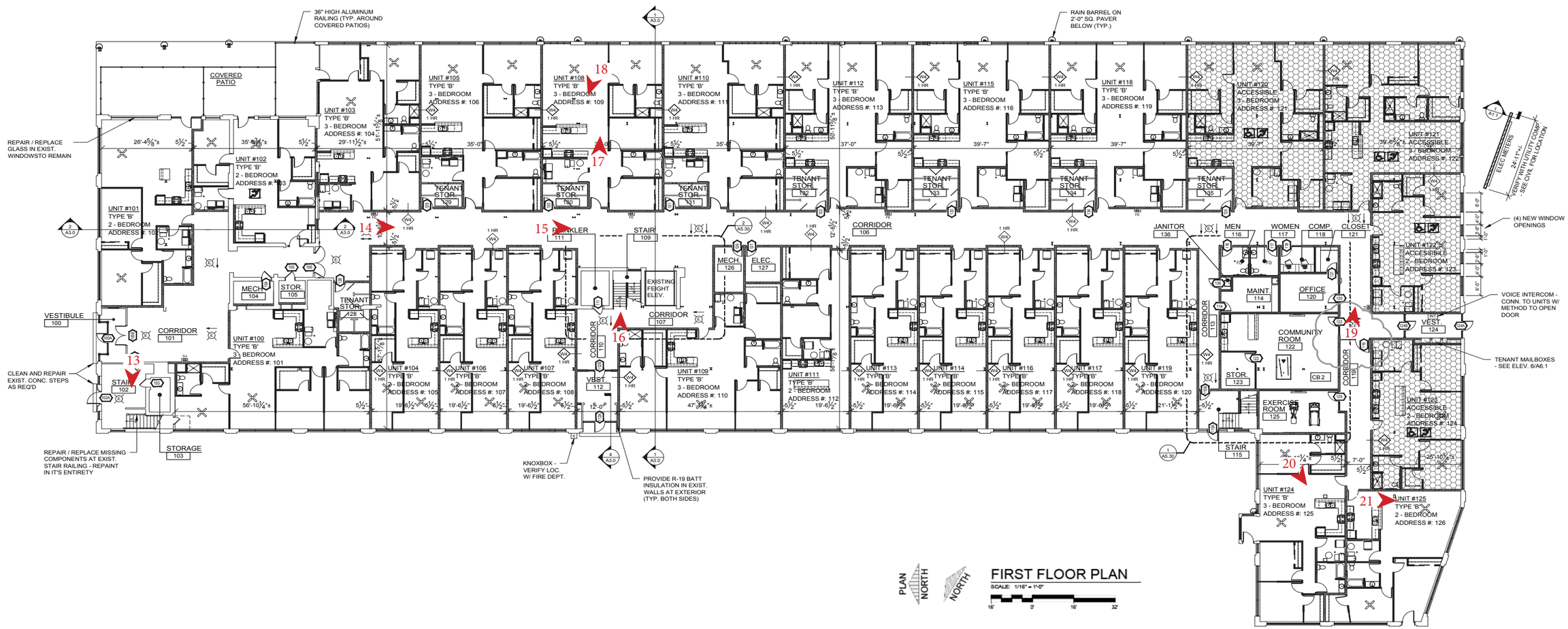
NUMBER OF UNITS:	TOTAL:	36 UNITS
EXISTING ZONING:	II: INTENSE INDUSTRIAL	
PROPOSED ZONING:	II: INTENSE INDUSTRIAL	
PROPOSED USE:	MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	
SETBACKS:	BUILDING:	FRONT = 25' SIDE = 5' REAR = 20'
TOTAL SITE AREA:	100,909 SF (2.31 ACRES)	
PARKING REQUIRED:	2 STALLS PER DWELLING UNIT (72 SPACES REQ.)	

PRELIMINARY DRAWING - NOT FOR C

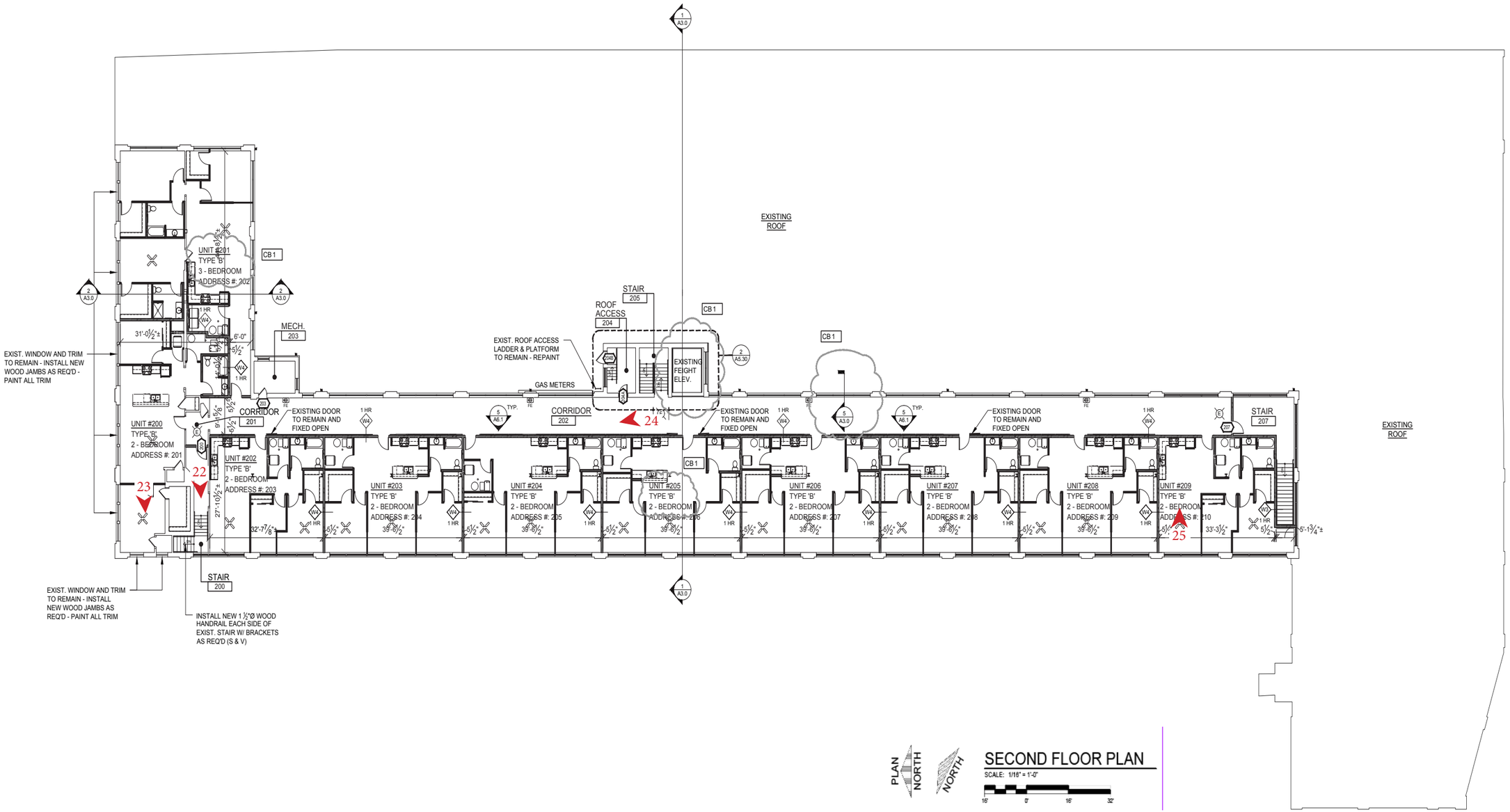
M+A DESIGN, INC.
25 South Main Street
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
l.petrie@madesigninc.net (920) 922-8170

COMMONWEALTH
CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
9 SHEBOYGAN STREET, FOND du LAC, WI 54935
(920) 922-8170 FAX: (920) 922-8171

PREOJECT FOR:
FOURTEEN 91 LOFTS
1491 W. Kilgore Ave, 1200 W 8th Street, 217 S. Council Street
Muncie, IN



Muncie Trade School
1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana



Muncie Trade School
1491 West Kilgore Avenue
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0001

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0002

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0003

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0004

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0005

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0006

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0007

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0008

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0009

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0010

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0011

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0012

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0013

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0014

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0015

Muncie Trade School,
Delaware County, IN,
photo 0016

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0017

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0018

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0019

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0020

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0021

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0022

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0023

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0024

Muncie Trade School, Delaware County, IN, photo 0025