

Fulton Township

Fulton Township had eight school sub-districts, with the average duration at each school being nine months of the year (Richman 1911).

Unknown School - Section 1

A schoolhouse was depicted at this location on the 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse had been removed by the late 1930s with the site then under cultivation. The location is at the intersection of what are now 110th Street and York Avenue, with the former school site still a cultivated field (Figure 139). This location has some potential for intact archaeology and is recommended for future archaeological investigation.



Figure 139. Location of unknown schoolhouse in Section 1, intersection of 110th and York Ave in 2020.

Center Grove School No. 2 - Section 8

The Center Grove School No. 2 was shown in the SW1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 8 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse was still standing on this parcel into the 1970s, with the parcel still discernible by a remnant tree row along its north boundary. Figures 140-141 are photographs of the Center Grove Schoolhouse in 1953 and the site location in 2020. The 1953 photograph shows a frame, one-story front-gabled schoolhouse with a centered door on the gable end and an open belfry on the roof ridge above the front door. The schoolhouse site is now grass-covered and surrounded by trees. There is a prominent depression where it is suspected that the schoolhouse had been located, with one small frame, gabled outbuilding still standing in the woods behind the depression (see Figure 141). This outbuilding may be one of the privies. This location has a good potential for intact archaeological evidence of the former Center Grove School from 1874 to the 1950s. It is recommended for future archaeological survey, with the location recorded herein as archaeological site 13MC376 because the location is so well defined and identifiable as the former schoolyard.



Figure 140. 1953 photograph of the Center Grove Schoolhouse when it was wired for television. Note the likely privy structures in the background to the left.
Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 141. Former location of the Center Grove School showing depression where schoolhouse was likely sited and a small outbuilding (privy?) in the trees behind it (circled). Photo taken in 2020.

School No. 4 - Section 11

A school was shown in Section 11 in 1874 and labeled “School No. 4” in the NW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4. This school was on the east side of what is now Yellow Avenue. In 1884, the school was located one-quarter mile to the north but also on the east side of Yellow Avenue. It is likely that the 1874 schoolhouse was moved to this location by 1884. However, the school was not depicted in Section 11 on the 1899-1930 plat maps. The school building is non-extant. Both locations are in a cultivated field and have some potential for archaeological evidence of both the 1874 and 1884 locations. These two locations are recommended for future archaeological investigation to determine if there is archaeological evidence of this former school (Figure 142).



Figure 142. Location of schoolhouse in 1874 (top) and 1884 (bottom). Photos taken in 2020.

Crabapple School - Section 19

The Crabapple School was shown in the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 19 on the 1884, 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. Some of the maps spell the name as “Crab Apple.” The school was still operating through at least 1949. Aerial photographs suggest that the schoolhouse was still standing as late as 2007, after which the building was removed and the location put into cultivation. Figure 143 is a painting of the Crabapple School showing a frame, front-gabled school with a projecting front-gabled vestibule that was entered from its side. Figure 144 is a photograph of the former school site in 2021.

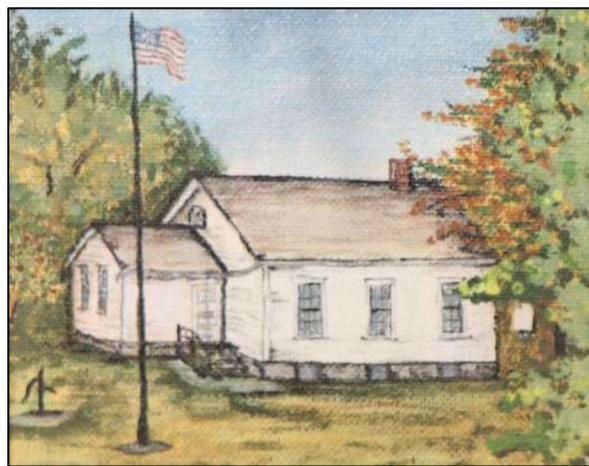


Figure 143. Painting of the Crabapple School. Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 144. Location of Crabapple School site in 2021. Photo taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

The former school site has some potential for intact archaeology and is recommended for future archaeological survey.

Nolo School No. 7 - Section 22

The Nolo School was at this location in the NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 22 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. Some of the maps spell the name as “Nola.” The schoolhouse is extant but has been converted into a residence. The residence currently on this site is a hip-roofed rectangular house with a hip-roofed vestibule centered on the façade (Figure 145). The exterior has replacement siding and replacement windows that include windows that are larger or smaller than the original windows. It is uncertain whether the standing house is the former Nolo Schoolhouse; examination of the aerial photographs suggests that this house is not the Nolo Schoolhouse. The 1950s aerial clearly shows a front-gabled building closer to Western Avenue than the extant house. The standing house appears to have been built by the 1960s at a location just east of the schoolhouse site, although the Assessor assigned a build date of 1974 to the house. This location certainly warrants further research to determine if this is the former Nolo Schoolhouse that was perhaps modified and moved back on the site or if it is a 1974 house built on the former schoolhouse site. A historical photograph of the Nolo Schoolhouse would help address this question. The street address of the extant house is 1361 Western Avenue.



Figure 145. Residence at the southeast corner of Western Avenue and 135th Street at the former Nolo Schoolhouse site. It is suspected that the historic schoolhouse sat in what is now the front yard of the extant house. Photo taken in 2020.

Nicholson School No. 8 - Section 25

The Nicholson School was shown in the southwest corner of Section 25 on the 1874, 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps, but for some reason, the school was not depicted on the 1884 map. This could have been an error on the 1884 map, or perhaps the 1874 school was destroyed or demolished and had not yet been replaced by 1884. The location along what is now 150th Street just northeast of the intersection with York Avenue. However, a 1939 photograph of the Nicholson School shows a rather unusual Colonial Revival design compared to the standard schoolhouse designs seen elsewhere in the county (Figure 146). Specifically, this was a side-gabled frame building with a centered front door having a classical lintel over the front door and 6/1 windows to either side. The was a fanlight in the gable end, with the entire building on a raised basement. In fact, this was one of the three “model schools” built or remodeled in Muscatine County by the WPA in the late 1930s, with the newly-built WPA schools all having this type of Colonial Revival stylistic influence (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1939). The buildings included heating plants, built-in book cases, slate blackboards, electric lights, and new “unit-type” seats (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1939). The 1939 Nicholson Schoolhouse was still standing into the 1960s but had been removed by the 1970s. The site location in Section 25 is now a grassy field or pasture (Figure 147). This location has some potential for archaeological evidence of this former schoolhouse and is recommended for future archaeological survey.

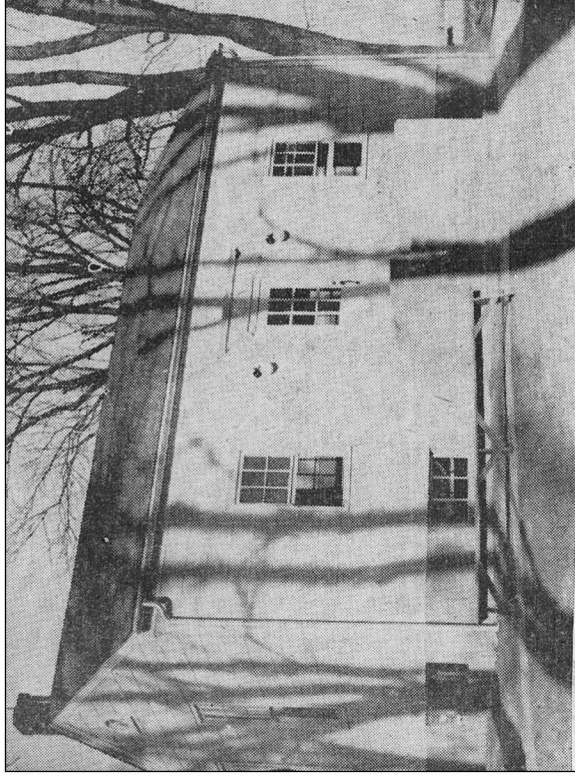


Figure 146. 1939 photograph of the new Nicholson School built by the WPA.
Source: *Muscatine Evening Journal*, 29 Dec 1939



Figure 147. Current location of the former Nicholson School in Section 25 in 2020.

Maple Grove School No. 6 - Section 27

The Maple Grove School was shown in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 27 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse is still standing but has been converted into a residence that has the address of 3713 150th Street. In the late 1930s, the Maple Grove Schoolhouse was remodeled by the WPA. In the process, it was elevated on a new basement and the interior was remodeled and redecorated (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1939). Figure 148 is a 1939 photograph of the remodeled Maple Grove School. This photograph shows a front-gabled frame schoolhouse with centered front door on the gable end flanked by 4/4 windows. There was now a ground-level side door that provided access to the new basement level (see Figure 148). Despite the new schoolhouse, Maple Grove School was closed in 1945 for having an insufficient number of students (*Muscatine Journal*, 07 Sept 1945). A news item from 1948 noted burglars had made off with metal from the heating plants at some of the rural schools including Maple Grove but it was noted that “this will prove no detriment in the case of the Maple Grove school since it had been closed for some time and it was not contemplated to reopen it” (*Muscatine Journal*, 17 Aug 1948).

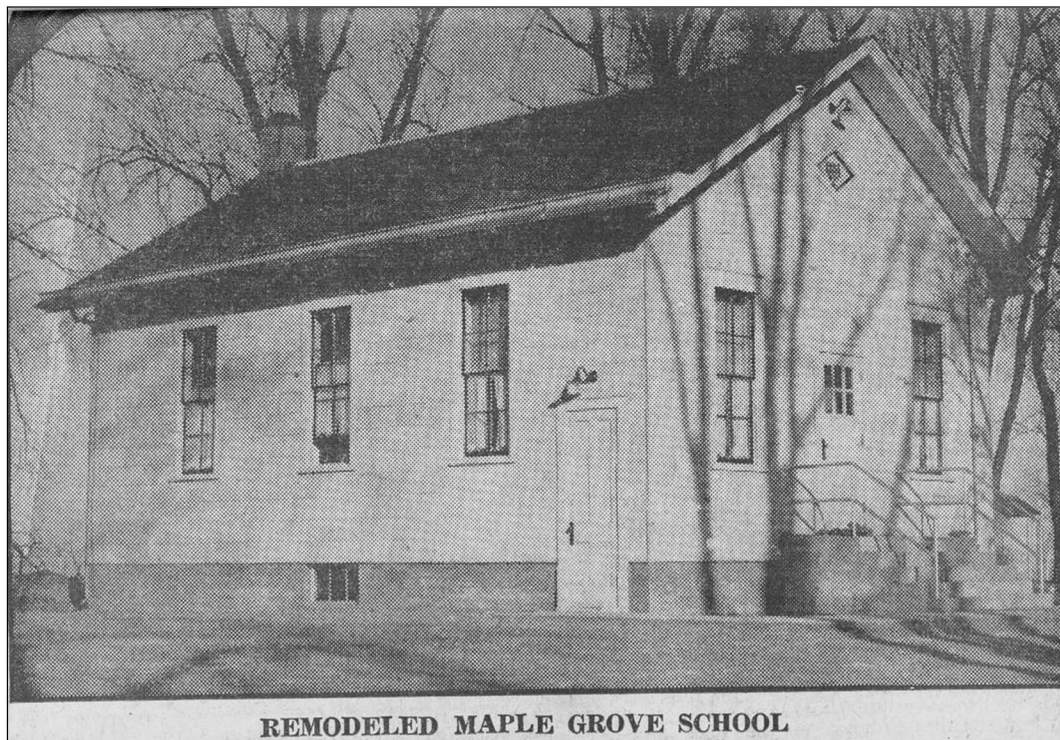


Figure 148. 1939 photograph of the remodeled Maple Grove School.

Source: *Muscatine Evening Journal*, 29 Dec 1939

The Maple Grove schoolhouse is still standing and was subsequently remodeled into a residence. It is still recognizable as a former school and even retains the diamond pattern it had originally in the gable end in 1939 (Figure 149). The windows have obviously been replaced along with the front door. In 1939, there was no porch hood over the door; therefore, the extant porch hood is a later addition. The concrete steps with the metal pipe railings remain in place. This building is inventoried by the current survey as 70-01775. It is considered to have some potential for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C because it is located on its original site and is still recognizable as the Maple Grove School as remodeled by the WPA in 1939. There have been some obvious modifications and any final determination of eligibility under Criterion C likely will depend on the extent of the interior remodeling.



Figure 149. Former Maple Grove School as a residence at 3713 150th Street in 2016 (left) and 2020 (right). Photographs taken 10/05/2016 and 2020.

Pleasant Prairie School No. 5 - Section 32

The Pleasant Prairie School was shown at the northwest corner of Section 32 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps; however, the 1939 schoolhouse built by the WPA is located farther to the south of the original school location and sits on a high hill overlooking the intersection of 150th Street and Pleasant Prairie Road. Both the original site and the 1939 site are in the NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 32. The late 1930s aerial is unclear but appears to show a front-gabled schoolhouse closer to the 1939 schoolhouse location but closer to Pleasant Prairie Road. It may be that the older schoolhouse was moved to the higher ground by the late 1930s and was then replaced with the new school. By the 1950s, the front-gabled building was gone and the cross-gabled WPA schoolhouse was in place. In 1939, there were three schools in the county that were remodeled or built new in 1939 by the WPA. Pleasant Prairie School was one where a new schoolhouse was built (Figure 150). In the process, the old schoolhouse was sold at auction as it no longer was needed (*Muscatine Journal*, 06 July 1939). The design of the 1939 schoolhouse is similar to the 1939 Nicholson School showing a Colonial Revival influence. The Pleasant Prairie School is cross-gabled, with a centered entry on the broad front gable having the same kind of molded lintel board as on the Nicholson School but having cornice returns on the gable ends (see Figure 150). It remained open until January 24, 1963 when the students started attending the Colorado School in Muscatine. The photograph in Figure 151 was taken shortly after it had closed. It appears that the WPA-built Pleasant Prairie Schoolhouse is still standing but has been remodeled into a residence. It is located at 1511 Pleasant Prairie Road (Figure 152). The building now has an enclosed wrap-around porch and is attached to a modern garage on one end. It does retain the cross-gabled form and has the cornice returns on the gable end. The porch now covers the original entrance. The concrete steps up to this property and the concrete retaining wall along Pleasant Prairie Road are likely associated with the school occupation. The building is still recognizable as the 1939 schoolhouse but it has been extensively remodeled to the point that its historic integrity is marginal at best. Further research into the extent of the interior remodeling would help address the question of eligibility. The original site is a grassy lawn area now at the road intersection (Figure 153). It may have potential for intact archaeology related to the original schoolhouse location and is recommended for future survey.

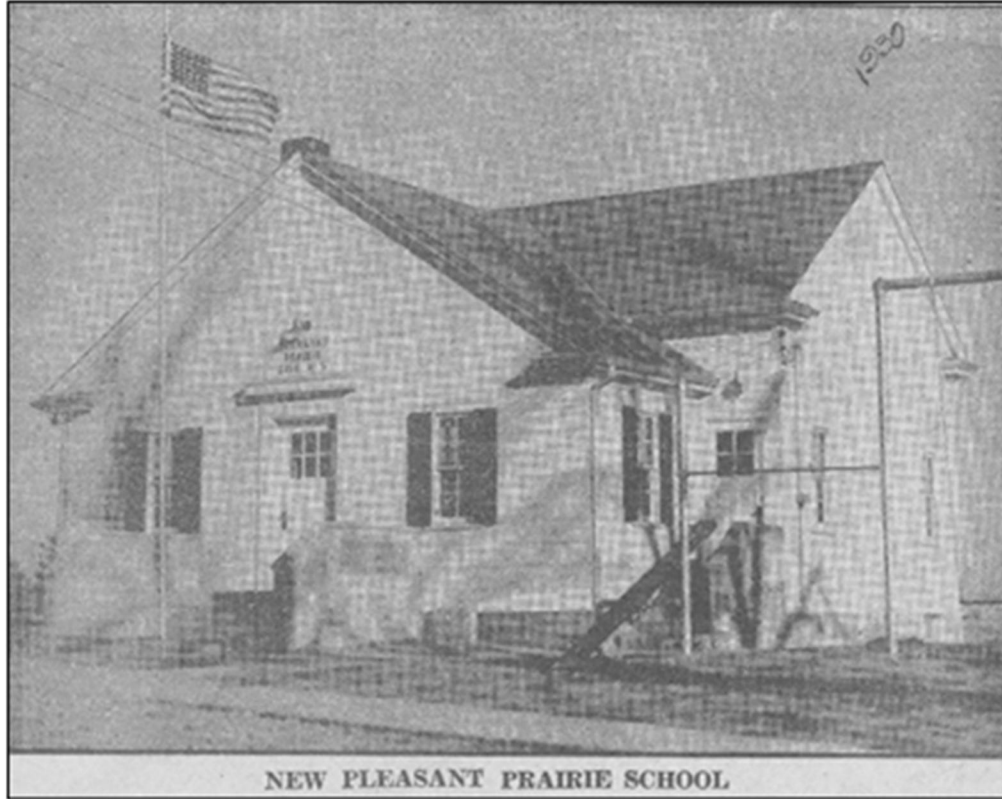


Figure 150. 1939 photograph of the new Pleasant Prairie School built that year by the WPA.
Source: *Muscatine Evening Journal*, 29 Dec 1939.



Figure 151. 1963 photograph of the Pleasant Prairie Schoolhouse built in 1939.
Source: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963

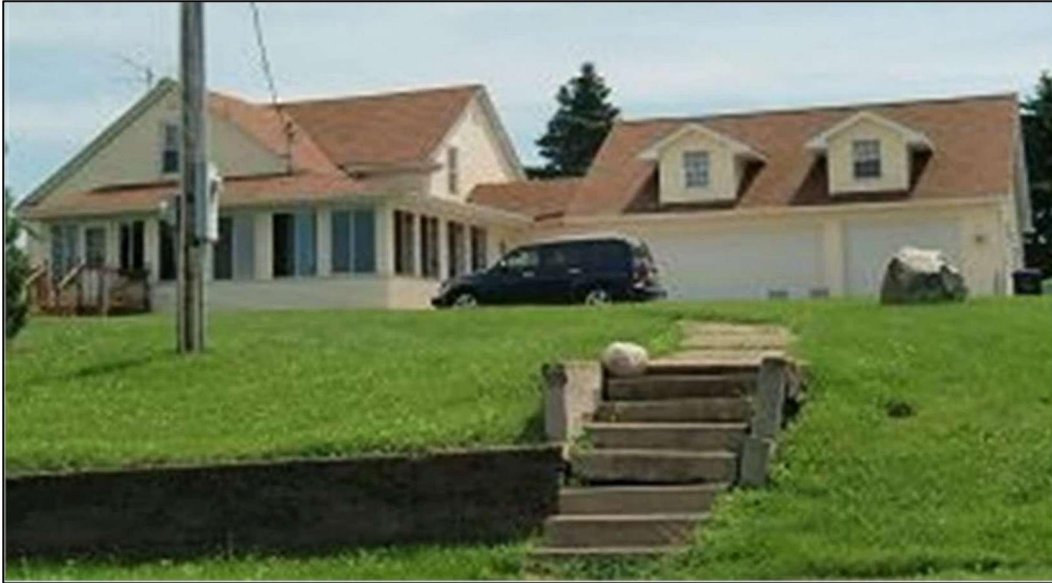


Figure 152. 1939 Pleasant Prairie Schoolhouse today as a remodeled residence (1511 Pleasant Prairie Road). Photo obtained from the Muscatine County Assessor's website (Beacon).



Figure 153. Original Pleasant Prairie School site located downhill from the extant 1939 schoolhouse (uphill to the upper right). 2021 Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Stockton Consolidate School (Town of Stockton)

In 1856, there was a one-room schoolhouse built in the town of Stockton. This school was located on Commerce Street (Lot 8 in Block 4 on the south end of the lot) on the 1874 map and had an addition of a second room made in 1875 (Richman 1911). A circa 1909-10 photograph of this school shows that the addition was made to the rear of the original 1856 schoolhouse, which retained an open belfry on the roof ridge above the gabled end (Figure 154). When the 1875 addition was made, the entrance to the schoolhouse was shifted to the side where a front-gabled vestibule was added at the junction of the two sections (see Figure 154). In 1938, a new two-room school house was built with WPA funding (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1939). This schoolhouse was used by the community as a meeting place as well as for Sunday School classes. The 1856/1875 schoolhouse was purchased by Victor Krebs for \$300 to salvage the lumber. The WPA schoolhouse was sold to Harold and Helen Sinkler in the late 1950s or

early 1960s and converted into two apartments (Figure 155). The Sinklers lived in one side and their daughter and son-in-law (Holly and Loren Arp) lived in the other half. Later this building was sold to Dave and Loretta Clark. This building is still standing at 415 Commerce Street, which is on the same lot as the original school site but the school was built to the north of the original schoolhouse site (Figure 156). The extant schoolhouse has been greatly modified for its use as a dwelling but is still recognizable as the 1938 schoolhouse. It is likely not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP in its current state.

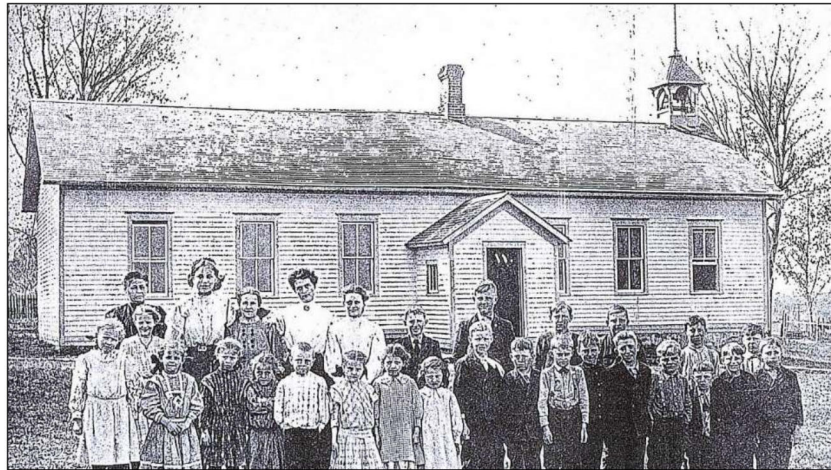


Figure 154. Stockton Consolidated School circa 1909-10. Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.

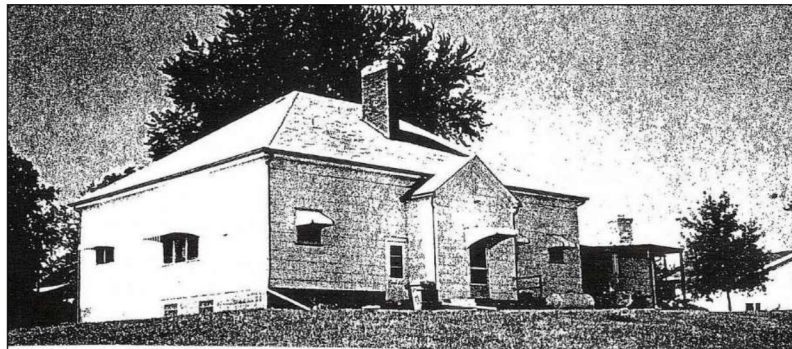


Figure 155. WPA schoolhouse erected in 1938 and converted into two apartments in the late 1950s or early 1960s. Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 156. 1938 Stockton School in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Prairie School (#10) - Section 15

The Prairie School was shown in the SW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 15 on the 1899-1930 plat maps but was not depicted at this location on the 1874 or 1884 plat maps. Today, this location is near the intersection of Weaver Avenue and 120th Street. Historical photographs of Prairie School #10 show a front-gabled, frame school with a diamond pattern (similar to Maple Grove) above the centered front door, which is flanked by two windows (Figure 157). A shed and two privies are also visible in these photographs that appear to have been taken in the early 1900s (see Figure 157). The aerial photographs show the school building still standing at this location into the 1970s, but it had been removed by the 1980s. Today, the site is a cultivated field that has potential for intact archaeological evidence of this former schoolhouse (Figure 158). The location is recommended for future survey.

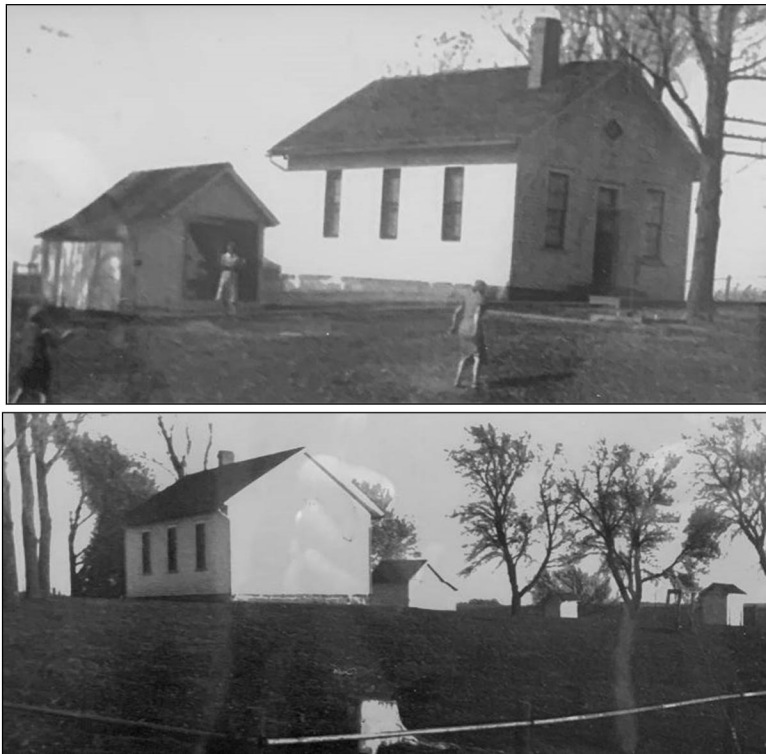


Figure 157. Early 20th century photographs of Prairie School #10.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 158. Former Prairie School site in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Center Grove M.E. Church - Section 8

There was a Methodist Episcopal Church at this location in the southeast corner of Section 8 on the 1874 and 1884 plat maps, but by 1899 the church was no longer depicted on the map or any subsequent plat maps. The church is non-extant. It was at the same intersection of what is now Vine and 120th Street as the Center Grove United Brethren Church, with the two churches diagonal across the intersection from one another. Today, the location of the Methodist Church is a cultivated field that has some potential for archaeological evidence of this former church. The location is recommended for future survey (Figure 159).



Figure 159. Former location of the Center Grove Methodist Church in Section 8. Photo taken in 2020.

Center Grove United Brethren Church - Section 16

The United Brethren Church was shown at this location in the northwest corner of Section 16 on the 1874 and 1884 plat maps but was no longer depicted in 1899 or any subsequent plat maps. The church building was planned to be moved to Moscow according to an October 3, 1890 notice in the Muscatine Journal that “Moscow people have bought the Center Grove U.B. Church and expect to move it to their village soon.” However, a December 4, 1890 item in the same newspaper stated that “the U.B. Church at Center Grove was taken down last week and moved to Lime City to replace the one that was burned down at that place a short time ago.” The original site in Muscatine County has no buildings and is a cultivated field diagonal across the road from the former Center Grove Methodist Church (see above) (Figure 160). The cultivated field has some potential for archaeological evidence of this former church and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 160. Former location of the Center Grove United Brethren Church. Photo taken 2020.

Pleasant Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church

This Methodist Church was shown in the SW1/4, SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 29 on the 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps on the north side of what is now 150th Street between Vine Avenue and Pleasant Prairie Road. However, by the late 1930s aerial photograph, the church building had been removed and

the location put into cultivation. A news item in 1900 noted that “Pleasant Prairie has a church, the same being of the Methodist denomination” (*Muscatine Journal*, 15 Dec 1900). This was a Methodist Episcopal Church. The church is now non-extant, with the location a cultivated field just to the east of an occupied farmstead (Figure 161). This location has some potential for archaeological evidence of the former church and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 161. Location of former Pleasant Prairie M.E. Church. Photo taken in 2020.

Montpelier Township

Glendale School (#2)

The Glendale School was noted in the *Muscatine Journal* beginning in the 1920s, although it had likely been established long before then. In fact, it was shown on the 1874 and 1884 plat maps in the SE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 14. However, it was not depicted at this location on the 1899 plat map or any of the subsequent plat maps through 1930. The town of Montpelier was represented on the plat maps starting in 1899 with a school shown on the northeast corner of that plat but just outside of the plat boundary. That school continued to be shown at this location through the 1930 plat map. It may be that the Glendale School was moved to the Montpelier location in Section 23 where it was still called the Glendale School. A new single-room framed addition was planned in 1951; however, by 1962, a new Montpelier School was planned to replace the Glendale School and the Pine Mill School, “the only two remaining rural schools in the county” (*Muscatine Journal*, 21 Feb 1951, 7 Apr 1962). At the end of 1963, the Glendale School, including the grounds, was offered for sale (*Muscatine Journal*, 26 Dec 1963). However, the building remained standing and was still referred to as the Glendale School in newspaper notices of Farm Bureau meetings being held there in 1966 and 1967 (*Muscatine Journal*, 25 Jan 1966 and 14 Feb 1967). It was noted in 1987, that the Glendale School #3 had consolidated with the Muscatine School District on July 1, 1964 (*Muscatine Journal*, 28 Dec 1987).

The first location of the Glendale School was on the north side of Yellow Avenue in what is now a wooded area (Figure 162). This location would require archaeological investigation to determine where exactly the school was located and if significant archaeological evidence remains. This location is recommended for further survey.

The second location for the Glendale School is on the east side of Zachary Avenue. There is a hip-roofed bungalow house now on this second location but it is not immediately identifiable as a former schoolhouse (Figure 163). Given that the schoolhouse was still standing at this location into the late 1960s, it is questionable that this location on Zachary Avenue was its second location unless the extant

house is the former schoolhouse. The Assessor gives a very specific build date of 1913 for this house at 1943 Zachary Avenue; therefore, further research is recommended to determine if the extant house was the Glendale Schoolhouse or not.



Figure 162. First location of the former Glendale School on the north side of Yellow Avenue.
Photo taken November 19, 2020.



Figure 163. Reported second location of the Glendale Schoolhouse at Zachary Ave.
Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Hazel Dell School (No. 3)

This school was mentioned in the *Muscatine Journal* on October 5, 1878, as the site of a political meeting. The school continued to operate into at least the late 1950s when it was mentioned several times in the newspaper (*Muscatine Journal*, 16 Dec 1902, 16 Feb 1937, 10 Sept 1955, 14 Mar 1956, and 24 Jan 1957). The schoolhouse is now non-extant, with the former school site next to a modern house and garage at 1660 Yankee Avenue. Even though the Assessor estimated that this house was built circa 1900, examination of the available aerial photographs confirm that it was not yet built until circa 2002. The same aerials show the schoolhouse extant through the 1950s but it was clearly gone by the 1960s. The roadway and ditches have also been reworked in the modern era in this location. The schoolhouse was located where the modern garage and driveway are now located indicating that the schoolhouse site has

been impacted if not destroyed (Figure 164). There may be some potential for intact features such as privies in the back yard area behind the garage but any site would be unlikely to retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion D (archaeological significance) or any other criteria. Location not recommended for further investigation.

Examination of the Iowa Site Inventory files and the 1998 school survey reported in Sherman ed. 1998 indicates that the Hazel Dell Schoolhouse (identified in 1998 as “Hazeldale No. 3”) had been moved to a location along the south side of Highway 61 where it was converted into a dwelling (see Figure 10). In 1992, this schoolhouse was inventoried as 70-00079 and was described as on the south side of US61, 0.3 miles west of Jct Y26. The inventory noted the suspicion that the schoolhouse had been moved to this location but did not identify it as a specific school. However, the photograph (Figure 165) that accompanied the 1992 inventory form matches the later 1990s photograph of the Hazel Dell School in Figure 10. This schoolhouse is no longer standing.



Figure 164. Location of former Hazel Dell Schoolhouse where garage and driveway are now located at 1660 Yankee Ave, which was built circa 2002. Photo taken November 19, 2020



Figure 165. 1992 photograph of the Hazel Dell Schoolhouse at its moved location along Highway 61. This building is no longer standing. Source: Iowa Site Inventory Form 70-00079.

Patterson School

The Patterson School (No. 4) was shown in the NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 8 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse was still standing on the 1930s-1970s aerial images, with a road extending

due east in the late 1930s from 170th Street, which now ends at the intersection with Pleasant Prairie Road. The schoolhouse was located at the southeast corner of this intersection. The road extension had been abandoned by the 1930s, with a driveway then entering the school yard. This school was mentioned in the *Muscatine Journal* in 1904, with a 1936 item noting that the school had hosted many religious services before church buildings were constructed in the township (*Muscatine Journal*, 13 Feb 1904 and 06 June 1936). In 1961, it was being voted to combine Patterson School #4 with the Muscatine Area Six School District. It was noted that the Patterson Schoolhouse had no basement and no plumbing. By that time, Patterson School was a learning center for 15 seventh and eighth graders plus one kindergarten student a half day (*Muscatine Journal*, 22 Feb 1961). In January 1964, Patterson School closed along with 21 other rural schools (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). Figure 166 is a photograph of the Patterson School in 1961 and shows a frame, front-gabled building with a small belfry on top of the roof ridge above the façade. This schoolhouse is non-extant, with the former school site now a brushy timber (Figure 167). There is an old power pole set back on the parcel that may have carried electricity to the schoolhouse. This wooded parcel has a good potential for intact evidence of the former Patterson School occupation and is recommended for future archaeological investigation. This site is being recorded by the current survey as 13MC377 because it is definable as a site and appears to have good archaeological potential.



Figure 166. Patterson School in 1961. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 22 Feb 1961.

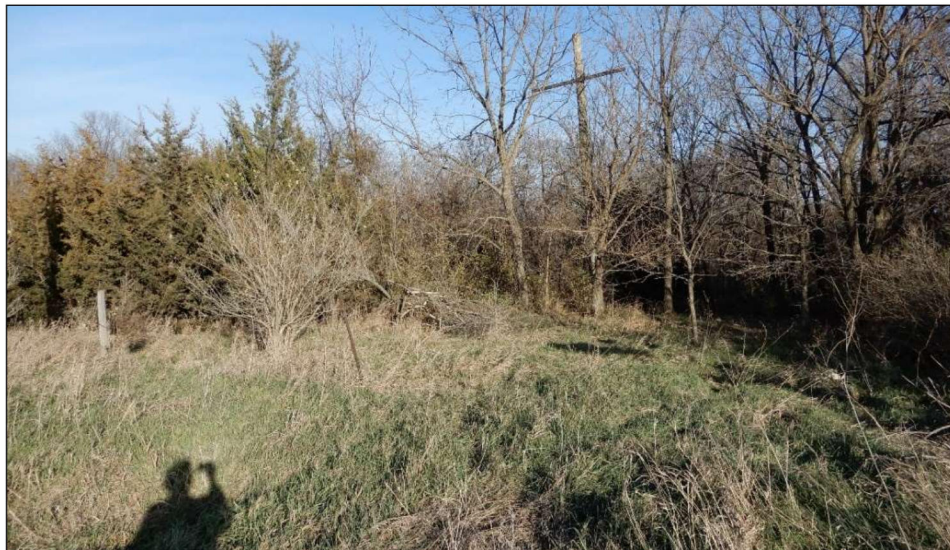


Figure 167. Former Patterson School #4 site at the T-intersection of Pleasant Prairie Rd and 170th St. The power pole visible in the trees may have carried electricity to the schoolhouse, which probably stood to the south (right) of this pole. Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Pine Mill School

The Pine Mill School No. 1 was shown at this location in the NE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 16 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The 1874 map showed it on the west side of a 90-degree bend in the road, with the 1884 showing the road rerouted to the west side of the schoolhouse location. It does not appear that the school moved but rather the road was extended to the west and then south of the 1874 location. However, by 1899, the road was again on the east side of the school, which remained the configuration through the 1930 plat map. The late 1930s to 1960s aerial images showed the schoolhouse at this location but by the 1970s, the building had been removed. This school closed in 1962, with the newspaper noting at the time that it had been a school for over 90 years, indicating it was built circa 1872 (*Muscatine Journal*, 25 May 1962). In 1962, it was noted as the last one-room school in the count to accommodate nine grades. It was also noted that the school was on the site of a log cabin school that had preceded it. When it closed, the students went to Montpelier School, which had been built in 1962. Figure 168 is a photograph of the Pine Mill School showing a frame, front-gabled building with an open belfry on the roof ridge above the gable end façade. There were 6/6 windows on the side that had shutters and a small shed-roofed addition on the rear. This building was torn down, with a house now located on the former site that was built in 1968 according to the Assessor (Figure 169). Examination of the available aerial photographs suggest that the schoolhouse was built over by the circle drive into the modern house location. As such, any evidence of that former schoolhouse has likely been impacted. No further investigation appears warranted.

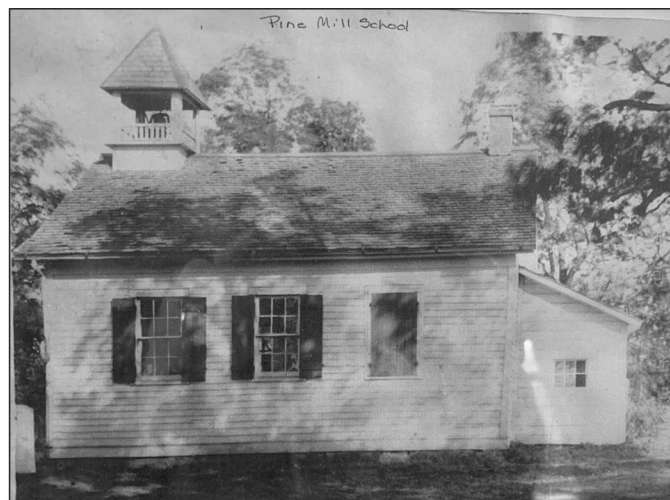


Figure 168. Undated photograph of Pine Mill School.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 169. Former Pine Mill School site in front of the modern house at 1876 Ward Ave
Photo taken November 19, 2020

Montpelier School

The Montpelier School was built in 1963 but closed in 1986, with the township then seeking permission to use the closed school that same year. In 1988, the Montpelier Elementary School building was sold to the Open Door Church (*Muscatine Journal*, 9 Sept 1964, 29 Jan 1980, 11 Mar 1986, 15 Sept 1986, and 23 Jan 1988). Figure 170 is a photograph of the former school in its current use by the church. This 1960s elementary school has been modified to some degree but also lacks the architectural significance to be considered NRHP eligible. Property is recommended not eligible.



Figure 170. Photograph of the former Montpelier Elementary School at 1953 Yellow Avenue, now used by the Open Door Baptist Church. Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Unknown Church - Section 7

The 1874 map of Sweetland Township suggests a church was located in the southwest corner of Section 7 in the adjacent Montpelier Township; however, the 1874 map of Montpelier Township shows no church in that corner of Section 7 but does show a Congregational Church to the east on the north side of what is now 180th Street. The location in Section 7 has been reworked and cut back for road alignment changes and is unlikely to contain intact archaeology of a church if this location is correct on the 1874 map. However, this location seems questionable but is recommended for further historical research.

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church

This church is located at the intersection of two rural roads in Montpelier Township. It is built of native stone from a nearby quarry and is a rectangular one-room building used for services and Sunday School (Figure 171). It was built in 1867. Prior to its construction Sunday school had been held in Muscatine (then Bloomington) in the late 1830s and by the early 1860s in a log cabin at Pine Mills and then in the Patterson and possibly the Chambers schools. The Pine Mills stone church was built by Hendrick Kemper, a stone mason from Germany. The location of this church is perched on a very high hilltop overlooking the valley below. The church never had electricity or plumbing and never was added onto. The church was used by its rural congregation until they disbanded in 1910, although their numbers had dwindled to the point in 1905 that the church had closed (*Muscatine Journal*, 17 Dec 1930). The church then passed into private hands and was variously used for storage of agricultural products and as a workshop. In the late 1940s, it was purchased by Edgar Kemper, grandson of the man who superintended the construction of the church. The building then fell into disuse and deteriorated. The building was listed in the NRHP in 2003 to aid in its restoration (Schoenig 2003).

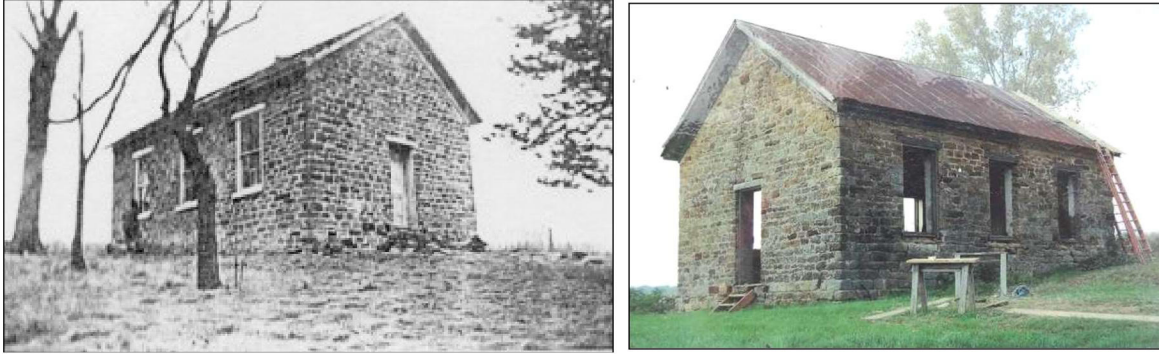


Figure 171. Undated historical photograph of the Pine Mills German M.E. Church (left) and in 2008 when restoration efforts were just beginning (right). Copies obtained from http://www.oldstonechurch.us/?page_id=6, April 2021 and from the exhibit at the Pine Mills Church.

The historical associations of this church document the German immigration to Muscatine County in the late 19th century. Davenport and Muscatine were important centers for German settlement. It was during this time that a number of German immigrants settled in the Pine Creek area about ten miles north and east of Muscatine. Fulton, Montpelier, and Sweetland townships gained a number of German settlers. The Pine Mills Church was one of four German-speaking churches in this area (Schoenig 2003). The church was restored in 2008-2010 by the Muscatine Area Heritage Association and the Friends of the Old Stone Church (Beaudette 2008). It stands today as a preserved German stone church that is open to the public as a historical exhibit (Figure 172).



Figure 172. Pine Mills German Methodist Church on November 19, 2020.

Congregational Evangelical German Church

Based on the historical plat maps, the Congregational Church in this area was located on the north side of what is now 180th Street south and west of Pine Creek in the SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 7. It was depicted at this location on the 1874, 1875, and 1884 plat maps. This location is now a wooded area and warrants

further historical research into its exact location as it was depicted closer to the creek in 1874-75 and farther west from the creek in 1884. There are no standing buildings at this location.

Reportedly, the second location of the Congregational Evangelical German Church is now farther west at 3439 180th Street where it is still standing. It was also used as a school for a time. Today, the old church building is being used as a grain bin. This remains unconfirmed as no photographs were taken during the survey.

Montpelier Methodist Episcopal Church

This church was built in 1894 when it was mentioned in reference to some boys firing a pistol within 300 feet of the church, although the extant cornerstone at the church has “1895” as the year built (*Muscatine Journal*, 20 Jun 1894). The construction date was confirmed in a 1971 news item about its history (*Muscatine Journal*, 15 Jan 1971). In 1948, the local election for incorporating the town of Montpelier was held in this church (*Muscatine Journal*, 16 July 1948). By 1960, the church had become the Montpelier Community Church, with the church noted in 1971 as becoming an independent church in 1963 and was the only church in town in 1971. At the time it was known as the Montpelier Community Bible Church (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Dec 1960 and 15 Jan 1971). Figure 173 is a photograph taken of the façade of the church in 1971. This shows a frame, front-gabled church with an entry bell tower projecting from the gable end of the face. The 1971 news article also notes that the church was first affiliated with the Methodists and then with the Lutherans before becoming independent by 1963 and open to all denominations.



Figure 173. Montpelier Church in 1971. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 15 Jan 1971.

The Montpelier M.E. Church is extant at the base of the hill along the highway that extends through Montpelier but it is longer used as a church. Figures 174-175 show that the front-gabled building still has a front-gabled vestibule with hipped enclosures to either side stepped down on the façade. The door is centered and reached by a set of concrete steps. But the door is now boarded over as is the transom window above. The transom and the side windows all have peaked lintel boards. The windows are 4/4 wood-sash windows. The foundation is rusticated concrete blocks, with the church raised up for this basement level addition likely in the early 20th century. The building is deteriorating but still retains its clapboard siding and many of its exterior details. The interior condition is unknown.



Figure 174. Montpelier M.E. Church in 2016.



Figure 175. Montpelier M.E. Church on November 19, 2020.

The Montpelier M.E. Church does retain sufficient historic integrity (at least on the exterior) to be considered potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion C and possibly Criterion A for its historical significance in Montpelier's religious community. It is recommended for further research into its history and an inspection of its interior integrity before a final determination can be made. It is inventoried by the current study as 70-01776.

Sweetland Township

On September 30, 1859, the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* noted political meetings were being held across the county. Many of the meetings were in rural schoolhouses, with one in Sweetland Township referred to as the Stone School House. The location of this early school is not certain.

Unknown School (possibly School No. 10)

A school was reportedly at or near this location in the NE/14, NE1/4 of Section 12 where a modern house now is at 1722 Vail Avenue. It was shown at this location only on the 1874 plat map. The aerial photographs from the 1930s onward also do not show a schoolhouse on this location. This schoolhouse may be the one commonly referred to as “Number 10” located along the boundary line of Sweetland and Montpelier townships in 1874. Reportedly, when School No. 10 closed, the students went to the Melpine School. The Number Ten Schoolhouse was then moved from its original location circa 1900 to a farm where it was still standing in the 1940s and used as a granary (Memories of Sweetland Township School Number Ten on display at the Melpine School at Wildcat Den State Park). Since there was only one school depicted along the boundary between Sweetland and Montpelier Township, this appears to be the location of No. 10 but this remain uncertain. Further research into the history and location of this school. Because of the uncertainty of location and history, no field photographs were taken during this survey.

Fairport School

The Fairport School is located at 3385 Pearl Street in the town of Fairport. A school in Fairport was mentioned in 1876 in the *Muscatine Journal* (01 Dec 1876). The town school continued to operate until January 1964 when the students began attending the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). The original schoolhouse appears to have been replaced in the early 20th century with the extant building, which is a Colonial Revival style building with a hipped roof, rectangular ground plan and having a projecting front-gabled ell that has cornice returns and a circular window in the gable peak (Figure 176). There was an ornate belfry on the roof ridge of this ell. The doors were on the sides of this ell, with students climbing long sets of concrete stairs up to this hilltop school. Those stairs are either gone or overgrown. The windows were 2/1 wood-sash windows. This schoolhouse is raised on a basement level as well. The schoolhouse was later extensively remodeled for a dwelling with the belfry removed, the windows altered and replaced, and the siding replaced (Figure 177). The current view shows that it has been modified even further, with new, taller windows or doors now inserted on the front-gabled ell façade (Figure 178). While this is a somewhat rare survivor of a town school and certainly is still recognizable as a school building, it has been extensively modified on the exterior to the point that it would not be eligible under Criterion C. There may be some potential for eligibility for historical significance under Criterion A, a potential which is recommended for further research. The extent of the interior remodeling is also unknown and likely would factor into its eligibility.



Figure 176. Circa 1960s photograph of the Fairport School.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 177. Fairport School after it was remodeled into a dwelling.
Source: Display Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 178. Former Fairport Schoolhouse at 3385 Pearl Avenue in 2020 showing additional modifications to the front-gabled façade. Photograph taken November 19, 2020.

Geneva School

The Geneva School was mentioned in 1876 as the site of a Sunday school (*Muscatine Journal*, 01 Dec 1876). In 1935, an election was held to decide on building a new Geneva School building as the old one was in poor condition. This was a WPA project, with the new two-story school nearing completion in December 1937 (Figure 179). The school continued to operate until January 1964 when the students started attending the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). In 1986, there was a reunion of Geneva School students that noted the original schoolhouse was now a house and that the first school was named Hare School after the landowner. The road that went by the school was on the north side of the school originally but the road was moved to the south side when the road was paved. The 1937 building was noted as still standing in 1986 (*Muscatine Journal*, 08 Apr 1986). Figure 179 is a photograph of the 1937 Geneva School showing its design was influenced by the Colonial Revival style having cornice returns on the gable ends and a centered door with transom and side lights and a cornice above the door. This schoolhouse is still standing at 2923 Hwy 22E at the intersection with Geneva Hill Road. It is still recognizable as a schoolhouse having rows of windows on the sides (Figures 180-182). It retains the cornice returns as well. It appears to have a rusticated concrete block foundation. At least one of the windows is now boarded over, with most of the windows likely to have been replaced. The siding is now Masonite, which is either replacement or cover-up siding. A shed-roofed addition was made to the former front of the school, with this addition covering the original front door. Depending on the extent of the interior modification, this former schoolhouse may have some potential for eligibility under Criterion C as a surviving example of one of the WPA-built schoolhouses in Muscatine County. It is recommended for further research before a final determination of eligibility can be made. It is inventoried by the current survey as 70-01777.

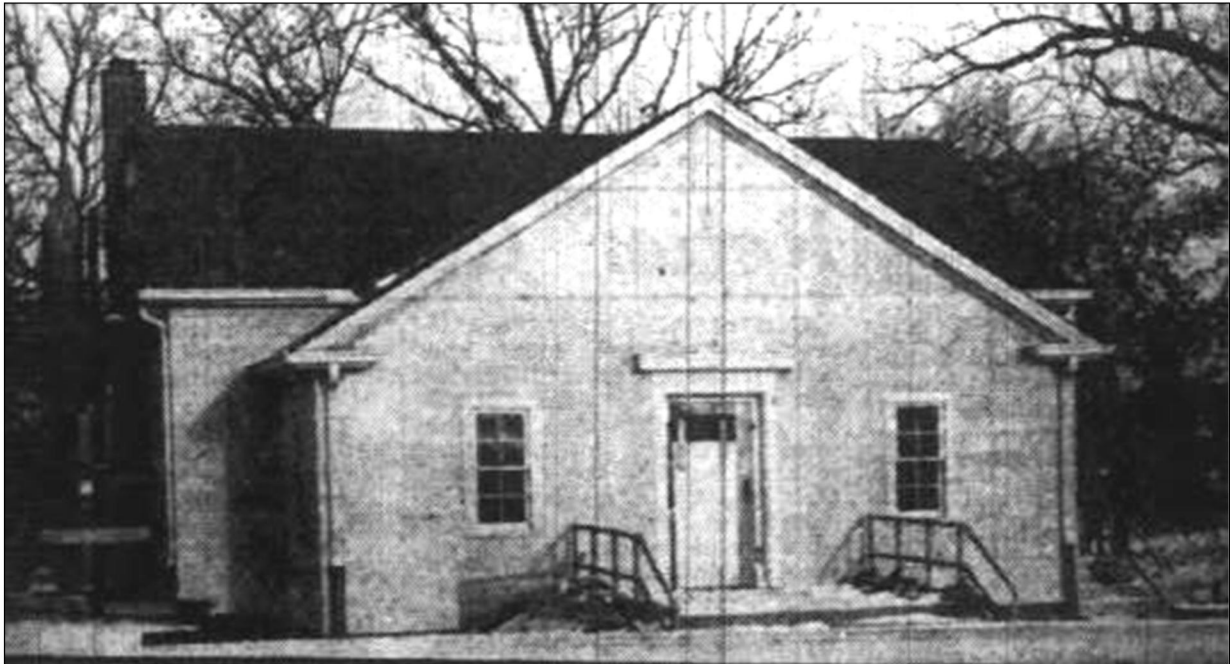


Figure 179. WPA-built Geneva School in 1937. View is looking SE.
Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 30 Dec 1937.



Figure 180. Late 20th century photograph of the Geneva School. Photograph on display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park



Figure 181. Assessor's photograph of the former Geneva School at 2923 Hwy 22E. View is looking ESE. Obtained from <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>, April 2021.



Figure 182. Former Geneva School built in 1937, now a dwelling at 2923 Hwy 22E. View is looking north. Photo taken November 19, 2020

Highland (aka Redwood) School

The 1874 and 1875 maps depicted the location of this school in the SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 22 just southeast of its later map depictions on the 1899-1930 plat maps in the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 21. The 1884 map showed it on the north side of the road in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 21. However, by 1899, the “Highland School” was shown in the same location as the 1916 and 1930 plat maps in the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 21 on the southwest side of the road, which today is Trolley Avenue. However, the late 1930s-1960s aerials clearly show the schoolhouse located at the earlier Section 22 location; therefore, there appears to be a question whether this school was ever located in Section 21.

This school was reportedly built circa 1878 (although again, it was shown on the 1874-1875 maps) and continued to operate until January 1964 when it closed and the students began attending the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 27 May 1958 and 23 Jan 1964). A 1930s photograph of the school shows it was a front-gabled, frame building with a single, centered entry door on the gable end that had a transom window (Figure 183). A circa 1892 photograph shows the school had 6/6 windows with shutters on the side and a brick chimney on the roof ridge (Figure 184). This schoolhouse is now non-existent with a modern house now built on the site. As such, this location has little or no potential for intact archaeological evidence of the former school occupation given the size of the modern construction. The owner did not wish a photograph to be taken of the house; therefore, there is no current photograph included herein. No further investigation is recommendation of this location along what is now Trolley Avenue.

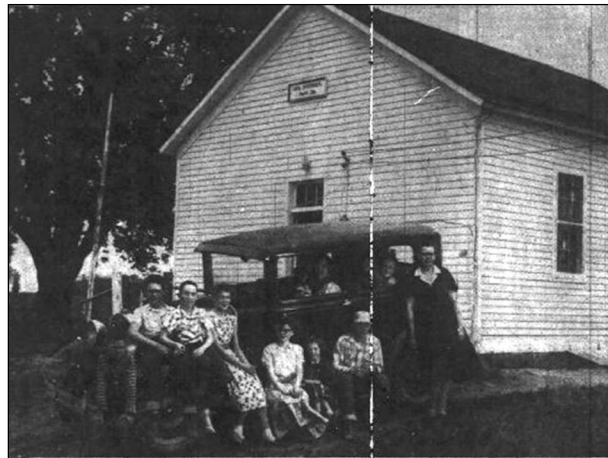


Figure 183. 1930s photograph of the Highland School. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 27 May 1958.



Figure 184. Circa 1892 photograph of the Highland School (background with shed to the right). Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.

Union School (No. 8)

The Union School was shown in the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 18 on the 1874, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps. It was not represented on the 1884 plat map. The schoolhouse was still standing at the 1874, 1899-1930 location in the late 1930s through the 1990s but had been removed by 2002 for the widening of US Highway 61. This school was mentioned in the *Muscatine Journal* in 1863 (24 March), with mention again in 1878 (24 Jun 1878). The school continued to operate until 1963 when the school was closed and put up for sale. In 1964 it was noted that the ground had been leased for the construction of this school in 1861 (*Muscatine Journal*, 20 Feb 1964). The school that was still standing in 1963, was a frame, front-gabled school with an entrance on the side that had a transom and another in the rear gable end that was centered and had a wood-paneled door flanked by 2/2 windows (Figure 185). That door was reached by a set of wood stairs. This building was raised on a concrete block basement, which was likely added in the early 20th century. While the side entrance seems odd, it was being used as such in the 1930s (Figure 186). It is suspected that the centered gable-end door was the original front door, with the entry rearranged when the basement was added.



Figure 185. Union School No. 8 in 1963 as the school was being put up for sale.
Source: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963



Figure 186. 1931 photograph of the Union School showing the students entering by the side door.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.

Given that the aerial images suggest that the schoolhouse was still standing into the 1990s, it had probably been converted into a dwelling. Today, the site location is now within the highway right of way, which has been greatly altered for the highway expansion (Figure 187). As such, the location likely has little or no potential for intact archaeology associated with the Union School. It is recommended for no further investigation. A check of the I-Sites database shows no archaeology sites or architectural properties recorded at the Union Schoolhouse location, with the nearest recorded property having been the Davidson - Burnside - Potter property to the southwest of the school location. That property was recorded as a farmstead and was removed for the highway expansion (70-00055, 70-00531, and 70-00052). It is possible that this farmstead included the former schoolhouse and is simply mapped incorrectly in I-Sites.



Figure 187. Location of former Union School in the ditch area between Highway 61 and the old highway now a frontage road. Source: Google Instant Street View taken December 2018.

Pleasant Valley School (No. 9)

This school was located in the SW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 32 on the 1899-1930 plat maps but was not depicted at this location on the 1874 or 1884 maps. It should be noted that the top tier of sections in Sweetland Township was in Wilton Township originally but was later attached to Sweetland Township, although in 1930, they were again attached to Wilton Township. Newspaper mentions of the Pleasant Valley School date from 1902 when it was mentioned in the *Muscatine Journal* (11 Feb) and through at least 1924 when the literary society was meeting at the school (*Muscatine Journal*, 22 Dec 1924). The schoolhouse was shown on the late 1930s-2002 aerials but had been removed by 2004. Today, the school site is in cultivation (Figure 188). This location has the potential to contain intact archaeology associated with the former school site and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 188. Location of former Pleasant Valley School site on Taylor Avenue. Source: Google Instant Street View taken August 2009.

Mount Grove School

The Mt. Grove School was mentioned in the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* in 1859 (30 Sept) as the site of a political meeting. It was shown in the northeast corner of Section 14 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. It was still standing at this location on the late 1930s-1960s aerial photographs but had been removed by the 1970s. The school operated until January 1964 when the students started going to the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 30 Dec 1963). Figures 189-190 are photographs of the school showing it was a front-gabled frame building with an open belfry on the roof ridge above the façade on the gable end. The façade had a single, centered door. It appeared to have a closed pediment to the front gable end, perhaps with decorative shingle siding but this is unclear from the 1950s photograph. The earlier photograph shows it had 2/2 windows on the sides, with a privy visible behind the school. This schoolhouse is now now-extant, with the original site now occupied by a farmstead and just southwest of a modern machine shed (Figure 191). The road ditch has also been widened in this area. The location may still have some potential for intact archaeological features from this former school and is recommended for future archaeological survey.

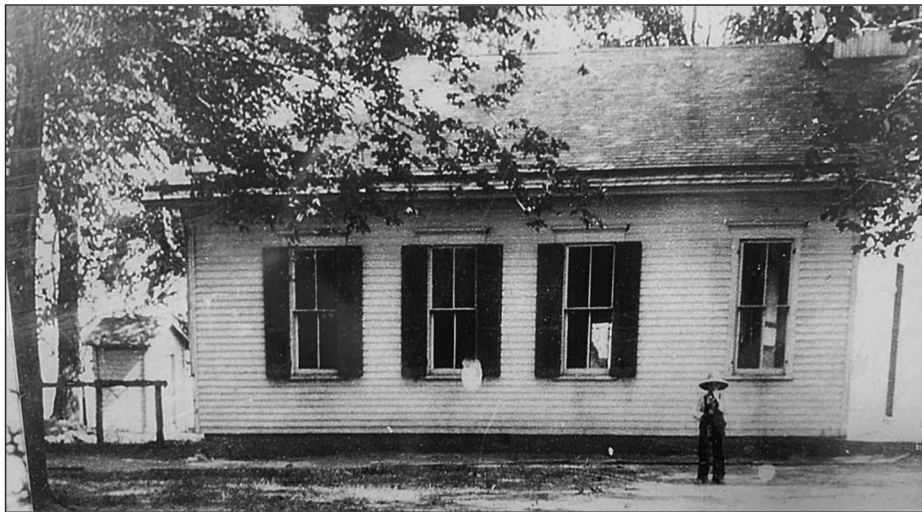


Figure 189. Undated but probably early 20th century photograph of the Mount Grove School.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 190. 1950s photograph of the Mount Grove School. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 11 Sept 1987.



Figure 191. Former Mt. Grove School site, 3207 180th St, in the trees near the modern machine shed.
Photo taken November 19, 2020

Pine Bluff School (No. 4)

The school was shown at the location in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 13 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. It was mentioned in 1891 in the *Muscatine Journal* (13 Aug 1891). In 1927, bids were being taken for a new addition to the schoolhouse (*Muscatine Journal*, 18 Aug 1927). This one-room schoolhouse was a frame, clapboard-sided building with a bell tower on top and tall windows on either side. It was located seven miles from the nearest town of any size along a gravel road at a large triangular rural intersection next to the farm of Herman Budzine. This school operated into the 1950s when it was closed due to school consolidation. There was a well with a hand pump and a cistern just outside the front door of the school. Two privies were located out back “just a short run from the side door” (A One Room Country School -- Pine Bluff No. 4 by Duane Syassink in 1995. On display at the Melpine School in Wild Cat Den State Park). There was a lean-to on the back of the school for corncobs, kindling, and coal for heating the potbellied stove at the rear corner of the schoolroom. There was a wooden teeter totter and tree swings for a playground. Figure 192 is a photograph of the Pine Bluff School in 1964 after it had closed. In May 1964, the vacant Pine Bluff School was destroyed by fire. It had been purchased by Raynold Dahlms in March of that year and it had been considered for moving into the Wildcat Den State Park for a memorial to country schools (*Muscatine Journal*, 15 May 1964). Instead, the Melpine School served that role. At the time, the Pine Bluff Schoolhouse was said to be “more than 70 years old,” which would be circa 1894, although as noted above it was mentioned in 1891 in the newspaper. The former school site is now on a grassy parcel that has a Ranch house and is located at 1872 Vail Avenue (Figure 193). The schoolhouse was still standing at the site location on the late 1930s-1960s aerials but the Ranch house had been built by the time of the 1970s aerial, with the schoolhouse removed. Aerial photographs suggest that the schoolhouse sat in the front yard of the Ranch house, which the Assessor indicates was built in 1966. Therefore, there may be some potential for intact archaeology in the front yard of this property. The location is recorded herein as 13MC378, with the site recommended for future archaeological testing.



Figure 192. Photograph of the Pine Bluff School in 1964.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 193. Location of former Pine Bluff School site in the front yard of the house at 1872 Vail Road.
Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Sweetland Center School (No. 6)

The Sweetland Center School was mentioned in the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* in 1859 (30 Sept) as the site of a political meeting. The Methodist Sabbath School was being held here in 1876. This school continued to operate until 1964 when it closed and the students began going to the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). The location of this school was in the SE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 4 within the settlement known by the Sweetland Center Post Office in the late 19th century. This community once included the M.E. Church, a store, a creamery and an M.B.A. Hall in the late 19th century. The school was shown at this location on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The location was tree-covered on the 1930s-1960s aerials, with the trees cleared by the 1970s and no schoolhouse then standing. Figure 194 is a photograph taken in 1963 of the schoolhouse as it was being closed. This photograph shows a front-gabled frame school with a centered entry door on the gable end that had a transom window above. There was a belfry tower on the roof ridge above the façade that showed decorative spindle work, with another Late Victorian element being a decorative gable screen in the peak of the façade above the door. There may also have been decorative shingle siding in the gable end. The rest of the building had clapboard siding. It was raised on a concrete block basement that was likely added

in the early 20th century. The front door was reached by a set of concrete steps that had a pipe railing. The windows were 2/2 wood-sash windows (see Figure 194).



Figure 194. 1963 photograph of Sweetland School No. 6 after it had closed and was put up for sale. Source: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963.

Today, the location of the former Sweetland Schoolhouse is a grassy lawn at the northwest corner of the intersection of Sweetland Road and 170th Street (Figure 195). This location may have the potential for intact archaeology associated with this former schoolhouse and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 195. Location of former Sweetland Center School in grassy lawn at the intersection of Sweetland Road and 170th Street. Source: Google Instant Street View taken August 2011.

Sweetland Valley School (No. 9)

This school was mentioned in the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* in 1859 (30 Sept) as the site of a political meeting. It continued to operate until 1964 when it was closed and the students started going to the new Colorado School in Muscatine (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). The location of this former school is uncertain as it is not labeled either by name or number on any of the historical plat maps. It may be one of the unknown schools in this township. Further historical research is recommended.

Melpine School

Technically, the Melpine School was in two townships at the same location. It was shown in Section 35 of Wilton Township in 1874; however, the lower tier of sections of Wilton Township were later annexed to Sweetland Township. So the Melpine School was then located in Sweetland Township in the 1880s-1920s. Sometime between 1922 and 1930, the boundary changed again, and Melpine School was once again in Wilton Township (see Wilton Township school summaries for more information and photographs of this schoolhouse). In 1969, the Melpine Schoolhouse was moved to Wildcat Den State Park where it remains to the present day.

Unknown School - Section 11

This non-extant school was shown only on the 1884 plat map in the NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 11 at the southeast corner of Tucker Avenue and 172nd Street. It was not shown on any of the other plat maps or indicated on the aerial photographs. Little else is currently known about this short-lived school. The location is currently a cultivated and grassy field at the intersection (Figure 196). The location is recommended for future archaeological survey to determine if there is any archaeological evidence of this school occupation.



Figure 196. Location of non-extant unknown school site at the SE corner of Tucker Avenue and 172nd Street. Photo taken November 19, 2020

Unknown Church/Oakdale Church - Section 21

A church was shown in 1874 at the SW corner of what is now New Era Road and Sweetland Road. None of the other plat maps depicted a church at this location in the NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 21. It is suspected that this was the Oakdale Church, which had been established by 1860 when it was noted as the site of a meeting (*Muscatine Journal*, 17 Feb 1860). It continued to hold services through at least 1870 (*Muscatine Journal*, 10 Sept 1870). The location of the church was reported to be four miles northeast of Muscatine in 1870, which would place it in this area of Sweetland Township (*Muscatine Journal*, 02 Sept 1870). A 1904 news item referred to the Oakdale Church as having been built circa 1851 “on the old Sherfey homestead in Sweetland Township,” which may be the “Church” mapped in the NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 21 on the 1874 plat map (*Muscatine Journal*, 05 July 1904). However, the church is not depicted at this location on any of the later plat maps from 1884-1930. The article went on to note that the church building had been moved circa 1864, although this statement is in conflict with the 1874 plat map. It was eventually moved to Moscow Township where it may have been used as the North Prairie M.E. Church prior to the construction of new North Prairie Methodist Church in 1904. Regardless, the Oakdale Church is non-extant.

The location in Section 21 of Sweetland Township is now a farmstead at 3042 New Era Road. This farmstead has a large American Foursquare house, a machine shed and other farm outbuildings on this parcel. The church site on the 1874 map was in the vicinity of the front yard area of the house. The

roadways at this intersection have been substantially widened and the ditches cut back to the point that the former church location may have been impacted if not destroyed (Figure 197). This church is recommended for further research to clarify its historical associations. The front yard area may still have some potential for intact archaeology of this church occupation and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 197. Unknown church (possibly the Oakdale Church) site shown only on the 1874 plat map at what is now a farmstead at 3024 New Era Rd. Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Sweetland Friends Meetinghouse

The sabbath school for this church was noted in the *Muscatine Journal* in 1864 (01 Dec). It continued until November 1894 when it was noted that the services were being discontinued because many of its members had moved away (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Nov 1894). The location of this meetinghouse is uncertain and it is not represented as such on the 1874-1899 plat maps. Further historical research is recommended.

Sweetland M.E. Church

This church was established in 1866 and celebrated its centennial in 1966. It had its beginnings in the schoolhouse at Sweetland Center, and in the spring of 1866 a church was erected. This church is located in the NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 9 just south of the intersection of Sweetland Road and 170th Street in the former settlement of Sweetland Center. Two major additions were later made to the church. In 1913, the building was raised and a new basement was constructed that had a furnace and gas plant. The new foundation was made of rusticated concrete blocks. In 1950, the front entrance was remodeled and an extension was added to the north side of the building. The basement was also enlarged, with class rooms in the addition. A third addition was made in 1964 when a three-story addition was made to the east end of the church and included nine classroom, a restroom, the pastor's study, and a new chancel. Figure 198 is a 1940 photograph of the church before the extensive remodeling and shows a front-gabled frame building with two front-gabled enclosed entry vestibules on the gable end reached by concrete steps up to a large concrete platform. There was no belfry or bell tower in 1940, just a corbelled brick chimney on the roof ridge above the façade. Figure 199 is a photograph of the church in 1966 showing the many additions and remodeling of the front entrance. Figure 200 is a photograph taken in 2016 showing even more extensive remodeling has taken place including addition of a tall spire to the tower roof, new siding, closing in of the bell tower, new windows on the front gable end and new front entrance door. The church has been too modified in the modern era to qualify for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C. Further research is recommended to determine if it qualifies under Criterion A for its historical association with the Sweetland Center community.



Figure 198. Sweetland Methodist Church in 1940.
Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 199. Sweetland Methodist Church in 1966. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 18 May 1966.



Figure 200. Sweetland Methodist Church in December 2016 (left) showing even more extensive remodeling of the exterior and the Assessor's photograph (right). 2016 photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC; Assessor's photograph accessed at <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=MuscatineCountyIA>, June 2021.

Fairport Church

There is one extant church building in Fairport built on the same side of the hilltop road as the schoolhouse. Figure 201 is a photograph of that church, which shows a front-gabled, frame building with an open belfry on the roof ridge. The church is raised up on a rusticated concrete block foundation/basement level that was likely added in the early 20th century. The entrance was through a projecting front-gabled vestibule centered on the façade and is reached by a long sets of concrete steps. The church was sided with vinyl, with the windows also vinyl replacement windows. Since that photograph was taken in Figure 201, the church has been remodeled into a residence, with that remodeling including the construction of a completely new concrete block foundation. In the process the front steps were removed and have not been replaced (Figure 202). The belfry has also been removed. While still recognizable as a church building, the most recent remodeling has impacted the historic integrity to the point that it would no longer qualify for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion C. This is a common church type in the county and its alteration has removed most if not all of the historic exterior material. The interior may also have been remodeled extensively for its current use as a dwelling. Historical research into its history is recommended but it is doubtful it would rise to a level of significance sufficient to overcome the integrity issues.



Figure 201. Photograph of Fairport Church in 2016.



Figure 202. Former Fairport Church, now a house at 3383 Pearl Ave, with modern foundation and stairs removed. Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Zeigler Memorial Lutheran Church at New Era

In 1952, this church held its 45th anniversary of the organization of the Ziegler Lutheran Church, circa 1907. The congregation had actually formed in 1890 as the Pine Bluff Sunday School and met in the public school in the winter and later in the German Congregational Church. In 1892, William Ziegler built a Sunday School building on 3.5 acres of land donated by Conrad Brandt and known as New Era. A parsonage was added in 1895, with the Grace English Lutheran Church organized in 1907 and a new church building completed. This was renamed Ziegler Memorial Lutheran Church in 1909. A gymnasium was added in 1910 and was known as the New Era Community House. It was remodeled in 1927 and a new community building was constructed (*Muscatine Journal*, 07 May 1952). This church is still active into the present day. This is a very distinctive church design that may have its roots in the ethnic heritage of its congregation (Figure 203). It has a hipped roof with a belfry on the front roof slope above a hip-roofed entry vestibule that bumps-out from the lower façade. This vestibule has a round-arched entrance that is framed by a massive gabled hood with round-arched barge boards and large double corbels underneath the eaves to either side of the doorway. The Community House has a massive clipped-gabled roofline, with even the newer addition repeating that roof type (Figures 203-204). The church today has been modified to some degree with vinyl siding and newer entrance decks and stairs on the side doors; however, this is a significant building architecturally and historically. It was previously inventoried as 70-00556 and was found to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.



Figure 203. Original 1907 portion of New Era Church (left) and additions (right). Taken in 2016



Figure 204. New Era Church and clipped gabled additions. Taken November 19, 2020.

Melpine Presbyterian Church

This church was built in 1867. It was depicted in the NE1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 35 on the 1874 and 1930 Muscatine County Atlas in Wilton Township. Since the township lines were changed during the time that the 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1922 Plat maps were made, the church was then located in Sweetland Township. Its current location is in Sweetland Township. A *Muscatine Journal* item from Feb. 21, 1922 noted that the Melpine church building was moved into the Pleasant Prairie Community (Fulton Township) to replace an M.E. church that had been destroyed by fire. As for the original location of the church, that location is now a cultivated field. However, the circa 1915 photographs in Figure 205 both have the notation that the Melpine Church was built in 1867 and torn down in 1922. The photographs show a frame front-gabled building with a distinctive double-gabled entry vestibule with the door flanked by round-arched windows (see Figure 205). An 1867 newspaper clipping from the *Muscatine Evening Journal* (29 May 1867) about Melpine noted that a “new Presbyterian (O.S.) church edifice” had just been completed and had been designed by architect W.L. Carroll of Davenport. The late 1930s aerial shows the outline of the church parcel, which was likely still fenced, but no buildings were then standing. Given the location of the church in what is now a cultivated field diagonally across from the Melpine Cemetery, there is some potential for archaeological evidence of the 1867-1922 rural church. The original location in Section 35 is recommended for future archaeological survey. This location is at the SW corner of Underwood Avenue and 150th Street. A photograph was not taken of this location during the survey.

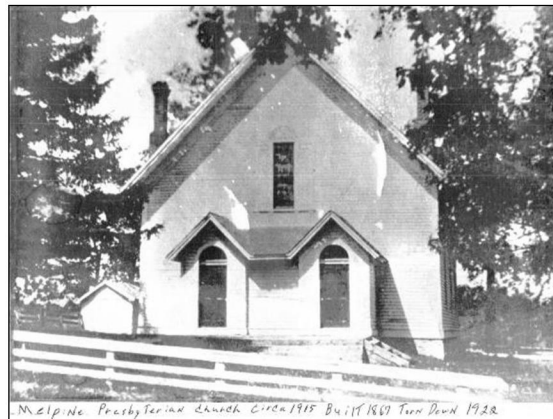
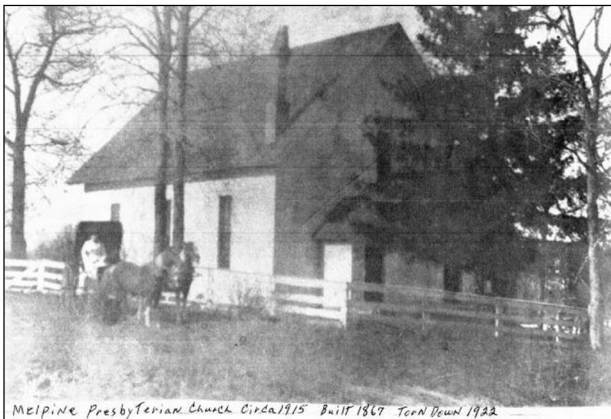


Figure 205. Two views of the Melpine Church taken circa 1915.
Source: Photographs on display in building at Melpine Cemetery.

Bloomington Township

Fairview School (#5)

Historical plat maps show the Fairview School at the same location in the SE.1/4, SE1/4 of Section 5 on all available maps from 1874 to 1930. The school closed in January 1964 as part of the Area Six school consolidation (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). This school was a frame, front-gabled schoolhouse that never had a basement level (Figure 206). The open belfry was on the roof ridge above the centered gable end doorway. There were rows of windows along the sides. This schoolhouse is still standing but was moved a short distance from its original location to the southeast onto the adjacent farmstead at 1685 N. Mulberry Road where it was used as a machine shed. The building is now derelict and deteriorating. The extant building is definitely lacking the original height that it once had because it is not sitting on any kind of substantial foundation. The belfry was removed and a large machine door opening was cut into one side that was then covered with a sliding door. The window glass is broken out but some of the wood sash remains. The door is also missing and its transom is now covered over. The building now has a metal roof but it does retain the original clapboard siding (Figure 207). This building had some potential for NRHP eligibility because it was not moved far from its original site and still faces the same road that it did historically. It is also still recognizable as a country schoolhouse; however, the integrity has certainly been diminished by the adaptation of this building for a machine shed and the loss of the historic belfry, windows, and door. The interior integrity is uncertain as well. As such, it does not appear to retain sufficient historic integrity to be considered individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.



Figure 206. Fairview School circa 1960.
Photograph on display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 207. Fairview Schoolhouse at its moved location (70-01778). Photo taken October 31, 2020

The original site to the northwest is now a cultivated field but has some potential for archaeological evidence of this former school occupation and is recommended for future survey (Figure 208). It should be noted that the 1970s aerial of the original site location shows an area of disturbance on the old school site, with the 1980s aerial showing a somewhat large building then on site that appears to have been removed by 2013 (Iowa Geographic Map Server 2020). Therefore, the original site may have been impacted by that earthmoving and construction/demolition. Both the schoolhouse (70-01778) and the original school site (13MC379) are being recorded by the current study.



Figure 208. Original site of Fairview School #5 (13MC379) on hilltop near the fence and tree.
Photo taken October 31, 2020.

Kalorama School

The Kalorama School (#3) was shown on the 1874-1930 plat maps in the NE1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 22. It was labeled as the “Kalorama School” on the 1899 and 1916 plat maps but may also have been known as “Katorama.” It operated until 1964 when it was closed due to the Area Six consolidation (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). The historical aerial photographs show the schoolhouse still standing into the 1960s but it had been removed and a farmstead built on the site by the 1970s. This farmstead is at the southwest corner of N. Tipton Road and Bayfield Road at what is now 1902 N. Tipton Road (Figure 209). It is likely that the former school site was impacted in the process of the construction of this farmstead in the 1970s. As a result, it has a low potential for significant, intact archaeological evidence of this former schoolhouse and is recommended for no further investigation.

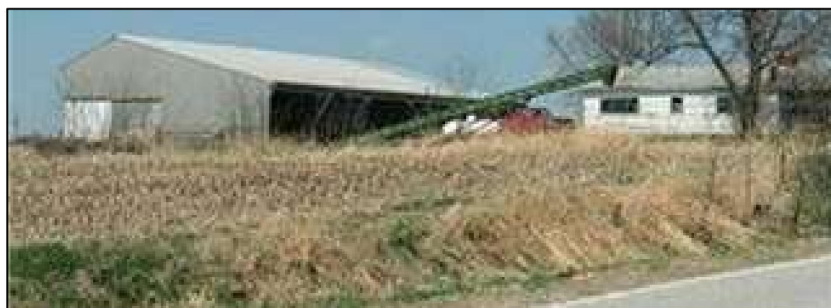


Figure 209. Kalorama School #3 site at location of 1902 N. Tipton Road.
Photograph obtained from Assessor’s website.

Locust Grove School (#2)

Locust Grove School No. 2 was located near Mad Creek in the SW1/4, SE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 22. The school was just southwest of a former railroad that extended along Mad Creek. It was shown at this location on the 1874-1916 plat maps but was not depicted on the 1930 plat map. However, the schoolhouse appears to still be standing on the 1930s-1970 aerials but had been removed and the modern

church built nearby on the 1980s aerial. This location is to the southeast of the Church of the Living Water in a grassy part of the church property (Figure 210). There may be some archaeological potential within this grassy lawn and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 210. Locust Grove School site to the left (SE) of the extant Church of Living Water at 3120 Park Ave N (Old Highway 30). Photo obtained from Muscatine County Assessor's website.

Unknown School Site - Section 23

There was also a second school site shown along Mad Creek to the northwest of the Locust Grove School in Section 23 on the 1884 plat map. Nothing is known of that school and it was only depicted on the 1884 map. This location is not easily accessible and was not photographed during the current survey. This school is recommended for further research.

North Star School

The North Star School (#1) was located in the NE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 11 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse appears to have been standing into the 1960s but was gone by the 1970s on the aerial images. This school was a one-story, frame school, with two entry doors with transom windows on the front gable end, with a window in-between (Figure 211). There were rows of windows on the sides, with an open belfry on the roof ridge above the entry door. This building does not appear to have had a basement level. The school is non-extant, with the site location now along the Highway 38 right of way and partially within a cultivated field (Figure 212). The location is recommended for future archaeological survey.

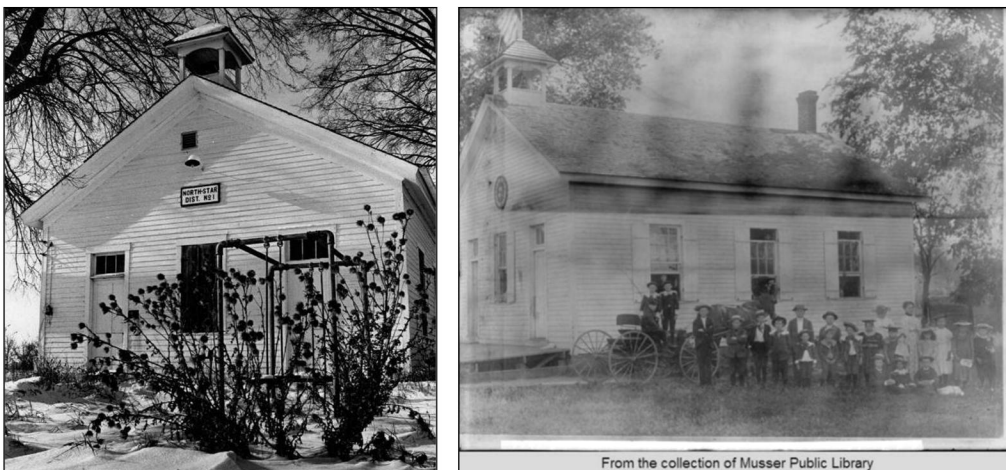


Figure 211. 1963 photograph of the North Star School (left) and 1938 photograph of the North Star School (right). Sources: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963 and Musser Public Library, Oscar Grossheim Collection.



Figure 212. Former North Star School #1 site looking SW along Highway 38.
Photo taken October 31, 2020.

Oak Grove School

Oak Grove School was shown in the SW1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 28 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse was still standing on the late 1930s-1970s aerials but had been removed by the 1980s. Mention was made of Oak Grove School in 1892 when there was a school presentation for the closing of the spring term (*Muscatine Journal*, 31 May 1892). Another program was noted in December 1923 at the Oak Grove School (*Muscatine Journal*, 13 Dec 1923). The school was still open in 1933 when there was mention made of Oak Grove School when discussing cutting tuition for rural students who attended city schools so that they could continue to do so (*Muscatine Journal*, 17 Jan 1933). The school remained open until 1964 when it closed due to the Area Six consolidation (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). A photograph accompanying a 1970 news item may be of Oak Grove, but this is uncertain (Figure 213). The schoolhouse is non-extant, with the original location now in the street (Baton Rouge Road) of a modern residential subdivision (Figure 214). The extent of the earthmoving to build this road and the subdivision has likely destroyed the former school site. No further investigation is recommended.



Figure 213. 1970 photograph of a “closed one room school at the north edge of Muscatine,” possibly Oak Grove School. Source: *Times-Democrat*, 31 Aug 1970.



Figure 214. Site of former Oak Grove School #6 in Baton Rouge Rd, now a modern subdivision. Photo obtained from Google Instant Street View taken August 2013.

Park Place Schools (2)

The original school was located in the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 25 north on Isett Avenue, “following the Interurban tracks, crossing the old Mad Creek Bridge on Lake Park Blvd, sauntering up the dusty road and climbing the hill filled with stately old trees” to the school (Display in Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park). This school was built in 1902 and continued to house 8 grades until 1954 when it closed. The schoolhouse was later converted into a residence and is still standing at its original location now 703 McArthur Street (Figure 215). This school was a front-gabled frame building with a stepped down front-gabled vestibule. The gable ends of the main building and the vestibule had cornice returns. An open belfry was on the roof ridge of the main building on the front gable end. There was a centered door flanked by two windows. The door had a transom window. When the building was converted to a residence, the vestibule was opened up as a porch, with a small window in the gable end of the porch. The windows on the sides were also modified and replaced.



Figure 215. Photographs showing the 1902 Park Place School still in operation (top left) and its later conversion to a residence on what became 702 McArthur Street (top right and bottom). Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park and Muscatine County Assessor’s website.

There was a second Park Place School that was built next to the 1902 school in 1936 for primary, first, and second grades (Figure 216). The 1902 school was then used for 3rd through 5th grade and is located on what became the far west end of McArthur Street. The 1936 school was also later converted into a residence that is still standing at 623 McArthur Street and was completely modernized inside and out (see Figure 216).

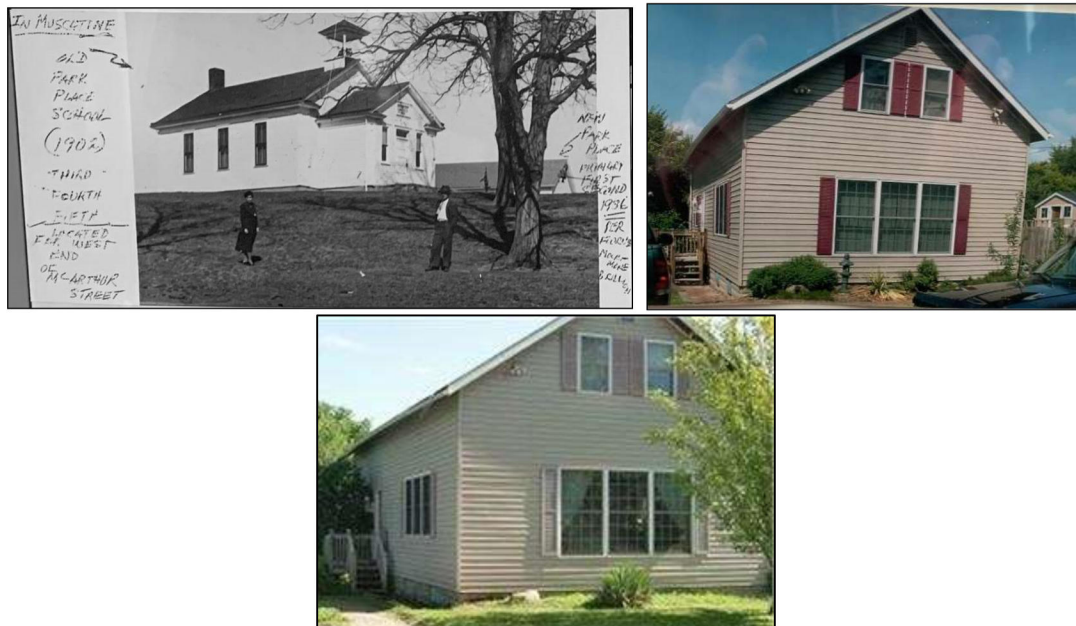


Figure 216. 1902 School with the roof of the 1936 school visible in the background (top left) and a late 20th century photograph of the 1936 School after it was converted into a residence at 623 McArthur Street (top right) and that same house from the current Assessor's website (bottom).

Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.

Shiloh School (#4)

The Shiloh School was in the NW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 10 at the southeast corner of the intersection of what are now 170th Street and N. Tipton Road. It was shown at this location on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The school operated until 1964 when it was closed due to the Area Six consolidation (*Muscatine Journal*, 23 Jan 1964). This school was a truncated hip-roofed squarish building with a projecting front-gabled vestibule that had two entry doors (Figure 217). The gable end of the vestibule had shingle siding, with the body of the schoolhouse covered with clapboard siding. An open belfry was on the roof ridge of the vestibule (see Figure 217). This schoolhouse would have been built in the early 20th century, likely replacing an older schoolhouse. This schoolhouse is non-extant, with a house and garage now built on site. There may be some potential in the yard area of this house for archaeological evidence of this school; however, from the aerial photos, it appears that the current house is on the old school site. The current house is a small Ranch type house that the Assessor assigns a circa 1930 date of construction; however, a much later date of construction is more likely as the schoolhouse appears to have still be standing through at least the 1970s (Iowa Geographic Map Server 2020) (Figure 218). The modern address is 1701 N. Tipton Road.



Figure 217. Photograph of the Shiloh School circa 1960.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 218. Former Shiloh School site, now has modern house and garage on site, 1701 N. Tipton Road.
Photo taken October 31, 2020.

Bloomington Friends Church

The Society of Friends church and cemetery is located at the NW corner of the intersection of Highway 38 and 180th Street at 2698 180th Street. The cemetery is historic but the church is a modern construction. The congregation and the cemetery date from the 1850s, with the congregation still active and the cemetery still receiving new burials. The church was built in 1978 and the Cape Cod-style parsonage was built in 1951 (Figure 219). As a modern property, the church does not meet the exceptional significance required for a property less than 50 years of age to be considered NRHP eligible.



Figure 219. Bloomington Friends Church at 2698 180th Street. Photo taken October 31, 2020.

Spangler Chapel Methodist Church

The Spangler Chapel United Methodist Church is still standing and in use at 1899 N. Mulberry Road at the intersection with Bayfield. This is a front-gabled frame church (Figure 220). There is a commemorative stone in front of the church that is inscribed with “Spangler Chapel/Methodist Church/1880-1964.” There is also a stone column that holds the bell from the original church. It appears from looking at the available aerial photographs, that either the 1880 church was replaced in 1964 with the current building or the older church was enlarged/remodeled in 1964. Either way, the building now has modern siding, a modern accessible ramp that wraps-around the front and one side and has a modern spire on the roof. The front door and the gabled porch hood above the door are also modern. There is a one-story section on the rear that is a later addition. If this is the 1880 church, then it has been modernized on the exterior and added onto. As such, it is unlikely to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion C. Further research is recommended to clarify the construction history of this building.



Figure 220. Spangler Chapel United Methodist Church located at 1899 Mulberry Rd
Photo taken October 31, 2020

