

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name North Ward School

other names/site number Bolivar High School, Polk County North Ward Museum

2. Location

street & number 201 W. Locust St.

N/A not for publication

city or town Bolivar

N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Polk code 167 zip code 65613

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

Mark A. Miles
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

May 23, 2011
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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

North Ward School
Name of Property

Polk County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other:

North Ward School

Name of Property

Polk County, Missouri

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education

Period of Significance

1903-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hohenschild, Henry H./architect

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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: **Historical Society of Polk County**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

North Ward School

Polk County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.89

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>463477</u> Easting	<u>4163310</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tiffany Patterson

organization Missouri State Historic Preservation Office date March 2011

street & number 1101 Riverside Drive, P.O. Box 176 telephone 573-751-7800

city or town Jefferson City state MO zip code 65102

e-mail tiffany.patterson@dnr.mo.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Historical Society of Polk County

street & number 201 W. Locust St. telephone 417-326-6850

city or town Bolivar state MO zip code 65613

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 18 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.

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Continuation Sheet

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Summary:

Constructed in 1903, the North Ward School is located at 201 W. Locust Street in Bolivar, Polk County, Missouri. The stately two-story building has a symmetrical façade dominated by a central, four-story entrance tower flanked by slightly projecting classroom wings. The footprint of the building is T-shaped with a rear wing slightly narrower than the front block of the building. The foundation is rough cut ashlar block limestone. The roof is hipped and clad in asphalt shingle. The second story, round arched wood windows and some of the brick and limestone was salvaged from an earlier school building. Segmental arched windows were used on the first floor and are topped by decorative brick hoods. At the north end of the west elevation is a one-story addition, constructed in c. 1990. The addition is brick veneer with a low pitched gable roof. Though the addition is out of character with the architecture of the school, it is recessed from the façade and does not significantly impact the integrity of the property. The school sits on a large, flat lot and contains two non-contributing resources: a small log building moved to the site in the 1980s and a modern conical roof gazebo. The grounds also contain some scattered trees and foundation plantings.

Elaboration:

Setting

North Ward School is located in Bolivar, Missouri, a city of just over 9000 residents. Constructed on outlot 11 of the original town plat, the school sits three blocks north of the courthouse square sandwiched between the historic commercial district and residential neighborhoods. Across the street from the school is the city water tower, a replacement for the standpipe that one shared the school's lot. Also across Locust are some small scale residential buildings.

The school building sits on a large 1.89 acre lot. A split rail fence, installed after the historical society purchased the property, lines a portion of the Pike Avenue (east) side of the lot. A limestone slab walk with some concrete patching leads from Locust Street to the front door of the building. To the east of the school is a large graveled parking lot under separate ownership.

To the west and north of the building are large green spaces that were historically part of the school yard. (see photo 6 and 9) The lawn is sown in grass and there are scattered trees in the southeast corner of the lot and lining Pike Avenue on the west. Also in the southwestern quarter of the lot are the property's two non-contributing resources. The log building, though constructed in 1867, was moved to the site in the 1980s and is not associated with the school's educational significance or period of significance. A modern gazebo is located along Pike Avenue and was also constructed after the period of significance of the building. (See photo 6.)

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

South Elevation

North Ward School faces south toward Locust Street. The broad façade of the two-story building is symmetrically arranged with a central four-story tower. The tower is slightly recessed behind the wall planes of the flanking classroom wings. The tower contains paired entrance doors on the first floor topped by a rectangular transom. To either side are tall wood sash windows with stone sills and segmental arched openings. The entrance and windows are sheltered by a one story shed roof porch supported by simple classical columns. The porch floor and steps are concrete. Across the porch are the words "North Ward" spelled out in individual letters attached to the entablature. On the second floor of the tower are three closely spaced round arched 2/2 wood sash windows. The second and third stories are separated by a slightly projecting brick water course, above which are two small 1/1 wood windows. An arcaded belfry with vented openings and decorative brick surrounds tops the tower. The tower originally had a medium pitched pyramidal roof, which has since been replaced by a very low pitched gable. (See photos 1 and 5)

The two classroom wings that flank the tower are three bays wide. The bays are marked by windows. On the first floor are segmental arched 2/2 wood sash windows with stone sills. These windows have decorative brickwork hoods with large keystones of soldier bricks. Between the first and second story are two rows of projecting bricks, the uppermost one inline with the stone sills of the second story windows. The second story windows were salvaged from the previous building on the site and are round arched with 2/2 wood sash. The roofs over the classroom wings are hipped. Centered in each are hipped roof dormers. Historically, these dormers contained paired casement or wood sash windows. They have since been covered in modern siding.

East Elevation

The east elevation is nine asymmetrical bays wide and shows the setback of the rear ell or base of the building's T-shaped footprint. The stone basement rises approximately three feet above grade and consists of rock-faced ashlar blocks. The basement contains four small window openings that have been infilled with brick and concrete block for security reasons.

The south four bays of the east elevation are in the projecting block of the building. The fenestration is similar to that on the front elevation with round arched 2/2 windows on the second floor and segmental arched openings with decorative brick hoods on the first floor. To the north the wall steps back 4 feet, at which point is an original secondary entrance. The wide door opening has been blocked in, but the original portico supported by brackets remains over the opening. Above the portico is a round arched window with paired windows and a half-round transom. To the north are small segmental arched windows that marked the location of restrooms and storage rooms on the interior. The northern most bays mark the location of a

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

classroom on the first floor and auditorium on the second. The windows on both floors are round arched with 2/2 sashes. (See photo 3)

West Elevation

Originally the west elevation was nearly identical to the east elevation with four evenly spaced windows in the slightly projecting south wing, an entrance door at the setback of the rear ell, and three round arched windows on both floors at the northern most bays. The original design of the west wall, however, was different at the entrance bay. The bay contains its original door and surround. Instead of having a large round arched window, however, this bay has paired segmental arched windows at the stair landing level, and a second paired segmental arched opening at the landing to the attic level. (see Photo 2)

The west elevation has been further modified by the construction of the museum annex, a one story brick-clad building with low-pitched gable roof attached to the rear half of the west wall. The west end of the annex contains a large garage door opening which allows large artifacts such as sleds, tractors and automobiles to be displayed inside. The annex abuts the original building, but does not alter the historic features of the building's west elevation. The original first floor window openings and wood sashes can be seen from the interior of the annex.

North Elevation

The north elevation includes the original block of the school building and the long low wall of the addition. The original block consists of the raised stone foundation, two stories of classrooms topped by a gable on hip roof. The eight bays of round arched 2/2 wood windows are evenly divided by a wide section of brick wall in the middle of the façade. To the west is the long brick wall of the building's annex. The annex's north elevation has two widely spaced window openings infilled with fiberglass and two openings for air conditioning units.

Interior

The first and second floors have similar, though not identical floor plans. The first floor contains four classrooms divided by a T-shaped hall way. The entrance hall includes a small foyer with obscure glass 1/1 sash windows. The obscure glass in these windows and in all of the interior transoms over classroom doors is yellow in tint with a repeated circular pattern. Doors to southeast and southwest classrooms lead off the front entrance hall. The connecting hall runs east and west and has a set of stairs at each end. This hall also connects to two secondary entrances, only one of which (west) is open and in use. Entrances to two northern classrooms connect to this hall as do small closets and restroom facilities. (See photo 9 for front hall and photo 10 for back hall and stairs).

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

On the second floor a small office/classroom is located over the entrance hall on the first floor. This is flanked by two classrooms of similar size to those on the first floor. The northern most classrooms have been combined to form a large assembly room with a stage on the east end.

The third floor was historically used as a science lab for the high school and temporarily served as a cafeteria. This is essentially an attic space consisting of a T-shaped room, small hall with stair access and the unfinished belfry.

The interior has seen some alterations since construction. The most notable change is the application of paneling on the hallway walls and in some of the classrooms. However, the original trim, transoms and ceiling heights have been maintained. Additionally, the north classrooms on the second floor were combined at some point to provide a large assembly hall and stage. This appears to be an early alteration, very likely completed in the early part of the period of significance.

Log Building

This small log building was constructed in c. 1867 and moved to the North Ward School site in the 1980s, after the property was purchased by the Historical Society of Polk County. The building has a rectangular footprint and side gable roof. The façade faces south and has a centered door with a closely spaced multi-light window to the east. On the rear (north) wall is a centered slab door. A split-rail fence lines the front of the building. The building is non-contributing because it does not relate to the educational history of the North Ward School. (See photos 2, 6, and 7)

Gazebo

The gazebo sits to the northwest of the log building and was constructed after the Historical Society purchased the lot and building. It has a concrete base and conical roof supported by squared columns. The gazebo is non-contributing because it does not relate to the educational significance of the North Ward School. (See photo 6)

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Summary:

The North Ward School located at 201 W. Locust in Bolivar, Polk County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education. Constructed in 1903 from a design attributed to Henry H. Hohenschild, the building is the third school to be built on a lot donated by the Jamison Family in 1851 for the purposes of building a “seminary of learning.”¹ From its construction in 1903 to c. 1953, the school housed elementary students living in the city’s north ward. The building also housed Bolivar’s central high school until a new building was constructed for that purpose in 1927. As the only first class high school in the county for many years, the school attracted students from beyond the borders of Bolivar. In addition to a traditional high school curriculum, the school offered a teacher training course and hosted county-wide teacher examinations. Students graduating from the high school and training course filled teaching positions in surrounding rural school districts, expanding the influence of the school on education across the county. The period of significance for the property is 1903 to 1953, the date of construction through the date that new elementary school construction effectively ended the use of the property as a public education facility.

Elaboration:

Bolivar and Polk County

An act of the Missouri Legislature established the original boundaries of Polk County in March 1835. That year William Jamieson, appointed to locate the county’s seat of government, purchased land from the U.S. Government to establish Bolivar.² Though founded in 1835 and incorporated in February 1840, Bolivar saw little growth prior to the Civil War. What little business growth the community gained was “almost utterly prostrated” by the war.³ A gazetteer published in 1867 listed daily coaches through the town along with “seven dry good stores, 1 clothing store, 1 drug store, 2 saddlers shops, 2 blacksmith shops, 2 carding machines, 2 newspapers, 4 doctors, 4 lawyers, and 2 hotels.”⁴ Real growth and recovery, however, did not occur until c. 1880 when there were “three projected railways through Bolivar, the county seat.”⁵ The Laclede & Fort Scott branch of the St. Louis & San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad to Bolivar was completed in 1884. The contribution of the railroad to the growth of Bolivar is reflected in its incorporation as a city of the fourth class in 1881. Bolivar soon became a major shipping point for the region.

¹ Verna Lea (Lunceford) Peterson. “School Children Moved Out, Pigeons Moved In.” Unpublished manuscript on file with the Polk County Historical Society, n.p.

² History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Date and Barton Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889. p. 286 and 300. Published online at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>, accessed March 23, 2011.

³ Ibid, 321.

⁴ *Missouri as it is in 1867: An Illustrated Historical Gazetteer*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1867, p. 364.

⁵ Missouri Immigration Society. *Hand-Book of Missouri*. St. Louis, Times Printing House, 1880, p.224. Published online at <http://digital.library.umsystem.edu>, accessed March 21, 2011.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Education in Polk County and Bolivar

For most of its history, Bolivar has been the county's largest town though not always the center of education. The earliest schools in the county were in rural areas, likely subscription schools like the one led by a Mr. Wilson in Looney Township in 1835.⁶ The first sale of public lands to support county public schools occurred in 1836, but public schools did not gain popular support locally until the 1870s. Private education remained an important part of the local culture, notably for higher education, throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1872, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South established a high school and college in Morrisville. By 1898 the school had 7 teachers, 189 students and property valued at \$30,000.⁷ As part of the larger consolidation of Methodist colleges in Missouri, the school merged with Scarritt Collegiate Institute of Neosho, Missouri in 1908 to become Scarritt-Morrisville College.⁸ In c. 1924, the college closed and its assets were turned over to Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri.

Morrisville College had some early competition for students seeking high school and college educations. Chartered in 1879, Southwest Baptist College opened its doors in Bolivar. The school was beset by financial difficulties in its early history and closed after a devastating fire in 1910.⁹ The school reopened as a junior college in 1913 and has since grown into Southwest Baptist University.

Bolivar's public educational system also had its roots in a private institution. Bolivar's first known school organized in 1841 in the Methodist Church. This small private school would become the Bolivar Academy after 1851, when the Jamison [possibly Jamieson] family donated a portion of lot 11 in Bolivar for the construction of a coeducational "seminary of learning." Like many such academies, the school was forced to close during the Civil War but reopened in 1866. The school struggled to remain open in the years immediately following the war, and in the 1870s the private academy merged with the Bolivar public school system. The public school took over the old academy building and lot,¹⁰ building a new building in 1873. The 1889 history of Polk County called the building "a handsome brick edifice, in a beautiful grove in the central part of the city." The account noted, however, that the school was "inadequate to the demands upon it" and several rented rooms were used to accommodate the overflow of students.¹¹ At that

⁶ Goodspeed, p. 339.

⁷ Howard Louis Conard. *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, Vol. IV. St. Louis: Southern History Company, 1901, p. 492. Published online at <http://books.google.com>, accessed March 22, 2011.

⁸ Horace M. Du Bose, D.D. *A History of Methodism*. Nashville, TN: Publishing House of the M.E. Church, South, 1916, p. 539. Published online at <http://books.google.com>. Accessed March 22, 2011.

⁹ Sandra L. Brown. "132 Years of "Greater Southwest": An Illustrated Timeline of the History of Southwest Baptist University." Southwest Baptist University Archive, <http://www.sbuniv.edu/library/uarchive/timeln1.htm>. Accessed 3/23/2011.

¹⁰ Peterson, n.p.

¹¹ Goodspeed, 341.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

time, the school board was considering the construction of an addition that, apparently, was in use by c. 1890.¹² The academy building continued to be used as a public school until 1903, when the Bolivar School Board constructed the North Ward School Building.

North Ward School

Even with the expansion of the 1873 school building in c. 1890, by the turn of the century the old building was once again in need of repairs. In May of 1902, the Bolivar School Board published an appeal to support a \$3500 loan to remodel the building. The newspaper account listed a host of deficiencies in the building, as follows:

The old building has been in use 28 years and has had but very little repairs for several years past, and now needs and must have a new roof, both on the old part and the annex; also needs replastering of both the side walls and ceilings, and new blackboards; needs new floor, new gutters and down spouting. The stairway needs new treads and hand rails, and we should have an additional stairway to conform with the present laws relating to public school buildings. All exterior and interior woodwork needs repainting. We should have new out houses and also sidewalks on the east and south sides of the school lot. We also need new stoves or some more modern heating apparatus; as the shape and construction of the old building makes it impracticable to put in a hot air furnace we think it more advisable to put in steam heat, and although it will cost more to put it in yet we are advised that it is much better and takes less fuel and in the end would be the cheapest.

With these repairs the building will be practically new and with very little repairs will last for at least another generation. We have had the building examined by a competent architect, who pronounced the walls good, and who made the estimate for the proposed improvements.¹³

The results of the election could not be found in the following additions of the *Bolivar Herald*. A notice of a second election for a school loan, published in June, provides insight into the results of the previous election. Instead of repair of the old school "it was developed that a great many voters would have preferred to vote a loan sufficient . . . [to build] a new building."¹⁴ A petition to that effect circulated after the first election, and the new election was to vote on an \$8000 loan for construction of a new building. In a nod to economy, materials from the old building were to be salvaged and used in the new.

¹² Peterson, n.p.

¹³ "A \$3500 Loan Necessary." *The Bolivar Herald*, Thursday May 22, 1902.

¹⁴ "To the Voters and Tax-Payers of Bolivar School District." *The Bolivar Herald*, June 19, 1902.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

The results of this election, and the construction of the new building, were overshadowed by the proposal to build a new county courthouse in Bolivar. *The Bolivar Herald* and rival *Bolivar Free Press* abounded with accounts of the courthouse proposal, including the publication of proposed courthouse floor plans and elevations. County voters did not support the construction of the courthouse in 1902 or 1903,¹⁵ but little else on public building construction in Bolivar was reported in the local press. The only other indication of funding to support the construction of the North Ward School came in April 1903 when *The Bolivar Herald* published a notice of an upcoming election to vote on a school levy “for building purposes.”¹⁶ The notice did not specifically mention the construction of North Ward School, but a portion of the levy proceeds were likely used to construct or pay the bond on the loan for the school’s construction.

The imposing two-story building with center tower was constructed on the same lot and nearly the same location as its predecessor. To reduce the cost of new construction materials from the 1873 school building and later annex were used in the new building. The second story, round arch windows seen in the current building were salvaged from the old as was some of the brick and foundation stone. The 1903 building has a larger footprint and required another \$8000 in materials and labor to complete. It is unknown when the school opened, though it may have been ready for the fall 1903 semester.

The new school building provided additional space for students and teachers, including assembly rooms for larger events. While an improvement on the earlier building, the new building lacked some of the amenities that were becoming increasingly common in urban school buildings of the same period. The school had improved lighting, ventilation and circulation patterns found in modern schools of the time but lacked indoor plumbing and electricity. The 1909 Sanborn Map of Bolivar, the first produced after the construction of the school, notes that light was provided by lantern. Also on the map is a frame outhouse located about 30 feet north of the building (see figure 2).

North Ward School may be best remembered as the home of Bolivar High School from 1903 to 1927. The new building opened in a period of Missouri educational history when there was an increasing demand for secondary education. Two Polk County communities—Pleasant Hope and Humansville—supported public high schools as early as 1876,¹⁷ but it was not until 1886 that Bolivar’s first high school class graduated. Classification and standardization of high school coursework in Missouri did not occur, however, until c. 1909. By 1911, the city’s well established high school was ranked as a “first class high school.” According to state regulation, this required that a school maintain a “four-year course of standard work in English, mathematics, science and history for a term of at least nine months each year” and have at least

¹⁵ Voters supported a bond to construct a new courthouse in 1905, with construction completed in 1906.

¹⁶ “Notice of School Levy.” *The Bolivar Herald*, April 2, 1903.

¹⁷ George Francis Hopper and James C. Sterling. *Polk County Classics: Sesquicentennial Photography Album*. Bolivar: Bolivar Free Press, 1985, p. 14.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

three qualified teachers dedicated to teaching high school classes.¹⁸ That year, Bolivar had the only first class high school in the county. A third class high school (2 year course, 8 month term, 1 dedicated teacher) in Humansville and an unclassified high school in Fair Play were also offered in Polk County in 1911.¹⁹ Bolivar maintained the only first class high school in the county until the 1917 school year, when Humansville's school was reclassified.

The classification of the high school as "first class" was a source of pride for the community and was used to lobby for additional school funding. In March 1917, the *Bolivar Free Press* published an appeal to voters from the Bolivar School Board to levy additional taxes to make improvement to the schools and continue to support a high quality school system. The appeal noted that the town supported a "first class high school of 23 approved units as shown by the reports of the State authorities; the only first class public school in Polk County."²⁰ The appeal was apparently successful as the newspaper reported that, "The vote for additional levy of 20 cents on the \$100 for school purposes was 296 for and 54 against . . . The favorable vote on the bond proposition will enable the Bolivar School Board to continue a first class High School in Bolivar and meet the requirements of the State Department of approval of first-class High Schools." The bond also paid for the remodeling of the heating plant in the North Ward school building.²¹

The approval of the school bond also allowed for the construction of an addition to the South Side elementary school. The new construction allowed several of the elementary school classes sharing the North Ward School building with the high school to move to the south school addition. This provided some much needed space for the ever-growing high school enrollment. An advertisement for the Bolivar High School published in the summer of 1917 noted an increased enrollment from 78 in 1913 to 133 in 1916. The ad also stated that "The Board of Education is spending \$7,000 this year on new buildings and equipment for the schools, and three new rooms will be occupied by the High School."²²

The school facility, faculty and coursework provided by the Bolivar High School (North Ward School) in 1917-1918 illustrates the typical requirements of a "first class" high school in Missouri. The term beginning September 3, 1917 was taught by:

Guy H. Capps, Superintendent, Teacher-Training (Warrensburg Normal School)
Emma M. Boardman, Principal, Mathematics (Missouri University)
Arthur H. Eddins, Science (Missouri University)
Lucille R. Vernaz, Home Economics (Warrensburg Normal)

¹⁸ Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1911. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing, 1911, p. 68.

¹⁹ Ibid., pp. 69-71.

²⁰ "To the Voters of Bolivar School District." *Bolivar Free Press*, March 29, 1917.

²¹ "Library Tax and School Bonds Voted." *Bolivar Free Press*, April 5, 1917.

²² "Announcement Bolivar High School Bolivar, Missouri, 1917-1918," *Bolivar Free Press*, Thursday, July 5, 1917.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Grace Gresham, History (Drury College, State Normal)
Mildred Sylvester, English (Post-graduate, Chicago High School, Warrensburg
Normal)²³

The school was obviously proud of its teachers' qualifications as the college or normal school attended by each was noted in the school's advertisement.

The four year course of study was well regimented and included the following courses:

Freshman Year: English I, Algebra, Ancient History, Physical Geography, Latin I, German I

Sophomore Year: English II, Geometry, M. & M. History, Agriculture, Latin II, German II

Junior Year: English III, Algebra (½), Advanced Arithmetic (½), English History, Physics, Home Economics, Education I

Senior Year: English IV, American History and Government, Sanitation (½), Sociology (½), Home Economics, Education II and III

The education courses noted above were for those in the teacher training tract. The graduates of the teacher training program received teachers' certificates that "are changed into first grade certificates after eight month's experience. Students receive practical teaching experience by being used as substitute teachers under close supervision of the Bolivar Schools."²⁴ Extracurricular activities were not ignored by the school which also offered two literary societies (membership by students was required), sports (basketball, baseball, and track), a cadet corps, orchestra, several glee clubs and other organizations.

The population of the town of Bolivar in the first quarter of the 20th century ranged from 1,869 in 1900 to 2,256 in 1930,²⁵ a size sufficient to support a local high school. Because of the limited number of high schools in the county and the range of coursework provided in Bolivar, the town's high school attracted students from outside its district. In 1917, the school charged tuition of \$2.50 a month or \$11.25 for an 18 week term. According to the schools ad "Students can live as cheaply in Bolivar as any good school town. Many rent rooms and do light housekeeping" to pay room and board.²⁶

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Missouri Census Data Center, "Missouri Population 1900-1990 (All Incorporated Places." Published online at: <http://mcdc.missouri.edu/trends/tables/cities1900-1990.pdf>, accessed March 24, 2011.

²⁶ *Bolivar Free Press*, Thursday, July 5, 1917.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

As one of the county's largest and most centrally located school buildings, the county superintendent of schools used the North Ward School for county-wide educational events and celebrations. In an announcement in 1910, County Superintendent W. B. Lee, invited all district schools to "School Day at Bolivar." The event, partnered with a local street fair, included a parade of all district schools. Lee wrote that:

[T]here have come numerous requests from citizens, teachers and pupils asking that we have another parade this year. So I have decided to have a parade similar to the one we had last year. We will meet at the Bolivar high school building at 10:00 o'clock, promptly, Saturday [October 1] morning. I will engage the band to lead the procession, then taking the shortest route possible, march to and around the square, as before, gathering on the north side, where we will all sing America, after which I want that we give a POLK COUNTY YELL.²⁷

In addition to a gathering point, the county superintendent also used North Ward School to host teacher examinations. The two-day examinations occurred several times a year on a wide range of subjects such as geography, language and orthography, arithmetic, literature and science. Tests for subjects such as physiology and pedagogy were also given. The announcements for teacher's examinations included a note that the test would be held at the high school building in Bolivar.²⁸

The high school housed in North Ward School provided an important service for the community and county. The building housed the high school from 1903 until the school board constructed a new \$50,000 high school building in 1926. The new high school opened for the spring term of 1927.²⁹ From its construction in 1903 through its closing in the 1950s, North Ward School also housed elementary students. In fact, these students outnumbered the high school population nearly 2 to 1. In 1917, for example, the building housed 140 high schoolers and 227 elementary students. In the fall of that year, the older elementary students were moved to the south school to provide additional classrooms for the high school but the first and second grades remained in the building.

High school news and events tended to be the focus of newspaper accounts. The *Bolivar Free Press*, however, provided the occasional insight into the workings of the town's elementary schools. A humorous account published in "Public School Notes" gives a taste of the classroom at North Ward School:

²⁷ "School Day at Bolivar, Saturday, October 1." *The Bolivar Herald*, September 22, 1910.

²⁸ "Teacher's Examination." *Bolivar Herald*, June 6, 1912, July 18, 1912, and May 14, 1914.

²⁹ "To Dedicate Bolivar High." *Bolivar Free Press*, September 13, 1917.

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Section number 8 Page 12

North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

The children in Grades 3 and 4, North Side [North Ward], have been observing and studying birds lately, birds already here and the new arrivals. They have been especially interested in ways to keep the English sparrows away. One boy had a rather unique way. He brought his bird house to school, and with it the sign, painted in huge letters, "No sparrows allowed here," which he intends to put up by his bird house. The teacher and pupils are waiting to see what effect the sign will have on the sparrows.³⁰

Increasing population, school consolidation, and growing school enrollment forced the Bolivar school board to construct a new high school in 1926, which opened in 1927. Rooms once housing high school classes in North Ward were soon filled with elementary classes. The North and South Ward School buildings continued to house elementary students until the town voted to support bonds to construct the Mitchell and Polk elementary schools in 1953. North Ward School effectively closed that year, though it was used intermittently into the early 1960s to house overflow from the Mitchell and Polk elementary schools.³¹

Sale and Current use of North Ward School

After closing the two old elementary schools in the 1950s, the school board sold the South Ward school building. The future of the North Ward School was left in doubt. The disposal of the property was complicated both by the caveats of its original donation to be used for educational purposes, and by lease agreement made between Bolivar Academy and the public schools when the two merged in the 1870s. The 999 year lease entered into by the school board made disposition of the property difficult, especially since heirs of the original donators could not be located. While school system lawyers addressed the question of disposition, the school began to deteriorate. As one historian noted, "school children moved out, pigeons moved in."³²

After several years, the school board was finally able to sell the property. The First Baptist Church of Bolivar purchased a portion of the original school lot for parking, leaving the majority of the school yard and the building for another purchaser. A third party interested in preserving the school purchased it and donated it to the Historical Society of Polk County. Using donated materials and labor, the organization began restoration and opened a small museum in July 1982. Today, the museum collection fills the building. Staffed by volunteers, the museum is open from May to September.³³

³⁰ Public School Notes." *Bolivar Free Press*, March 27, 1917.

³¹ Peterson, n.p.

³² Ibid.

³³ Peterson.

National Register of Historic Places
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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

North Ward School Architect: Henry H. Hohenschild

The construction of a new school was generally big news in small towns and cities in Missouri in the early 20th Century. However, Bolivar's two newspapers, the *Free Press* and *Herald*, did not provide any accounts of the construction or opening of the new building. The Historical Society of Polk County, the current owner of the building, did not know the architect or builder of the school. Recently, however, the school was found on a partial list of buildings designed by H. H. Hoenschild. The list was compiled by Earl Strebeck in his brief, unpublished, biography entitled "Henry H. Hohenschild, Missouri Architect."³⁴

Born in St. Louis in 1862, Hohenschild began practicing architecture at an early age—opening an office in St. Louis in 1880. He moved to Rolla in 1881 where he established a regional practice, designing numerous commercial and residential buildings in Rolla and courthouses and public buildings in neighboring counties. He designed several buildings on the University of Missouri—Rolla Campus (some have been razed), the State Hospital campus in Farmington, and numerous courthouse buildings across the state, including the National Register-listed Scott County Courthouse which was also featured in the 1928 publication *Missouri's Contributions to Architecture*. Hohenschild also served in the Missouri State Senate. During his term in office, Governor Lon V. Stephens appointed Hohenschild to the position of State Architect. During his tenure as State Architect, Hohenschild designed several state buildings.³⁵

Hohenschild was no stranger to school design. His first commission in Rolla was for a new public school building in 1881. This first commission was followed by a small school building for Rolla's African-American students, the Lincoln School in 1881 or 1882. Before his commission for the North Ward School, it is known that Hohenschild designed at least six other public school and college buildings.

According to Strebeck, Hohenschild favored historic revival styles in his building designs. His preferred styles and architectural features changed overtime as did popular taste. At the time he designed North Ward School, Hohenschild's public buildings often included dominant towers, round arch fenestration and red brick construction. These features can be seen on North Ward School as well as the Pulaski County Courthouse, also constructed in 1903. The Washington County Courthouse (1907) has similar architectural details.

Hohenschild continued his architectural practice in Rolla and St. Louis until his death in February 1928.

³⁴ Earl Strebeck. "Henry H. Hohenschild, Missouri Architect." Unpublished paper on file at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, 1994.

³⁵ Ibid.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes 1.89 acres of land in Bolivar on an outlot of the original town plat, as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of outlot 11 then northwesterly 383 feet, northeasterly 186.04 feet, southeasterly 157.44 feet, northeasterly 53 feet, southeasterly 225.56 feet, then southwesterly 239 feet to point of beginning.

The boundary is also as shown on Figure 3: Site Plan.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the original school grounds associated with the school building that are currently owned by the Polk County Historical Society. A portion of the original grounds was sold for church parking prior to the historical society's ownership of the property. This plot of ground has been excluded from the boundary due to different ownership and loss of integrity due to parking lot conversion.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

The following is true for all photographs:

North Ward School

Bolivar, Polk County, Missouri

Photographer: Tiffany Patterson

Date: March 31, 2011

Original digital images on file with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri

1. South elevation, looking north.
2. West elevation, looking east.
3. East elevation, looking west.
4. North elevation, looking southeast.
5. Detail of tower, south elevation, looking north.
6. School yard with gazebo, log building and school, looking northeast.
7. School yard with school in the background, looking southeast
8. North elevation, looking south southeast.
9. Entrance hall looking south toward front entrance foyer.
10. Central hall looking east toward one of two stairwells.
11. Typical schoolroom. First floor, southeast corner, looking northwest.
12. Second floor auditorium, looking east.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

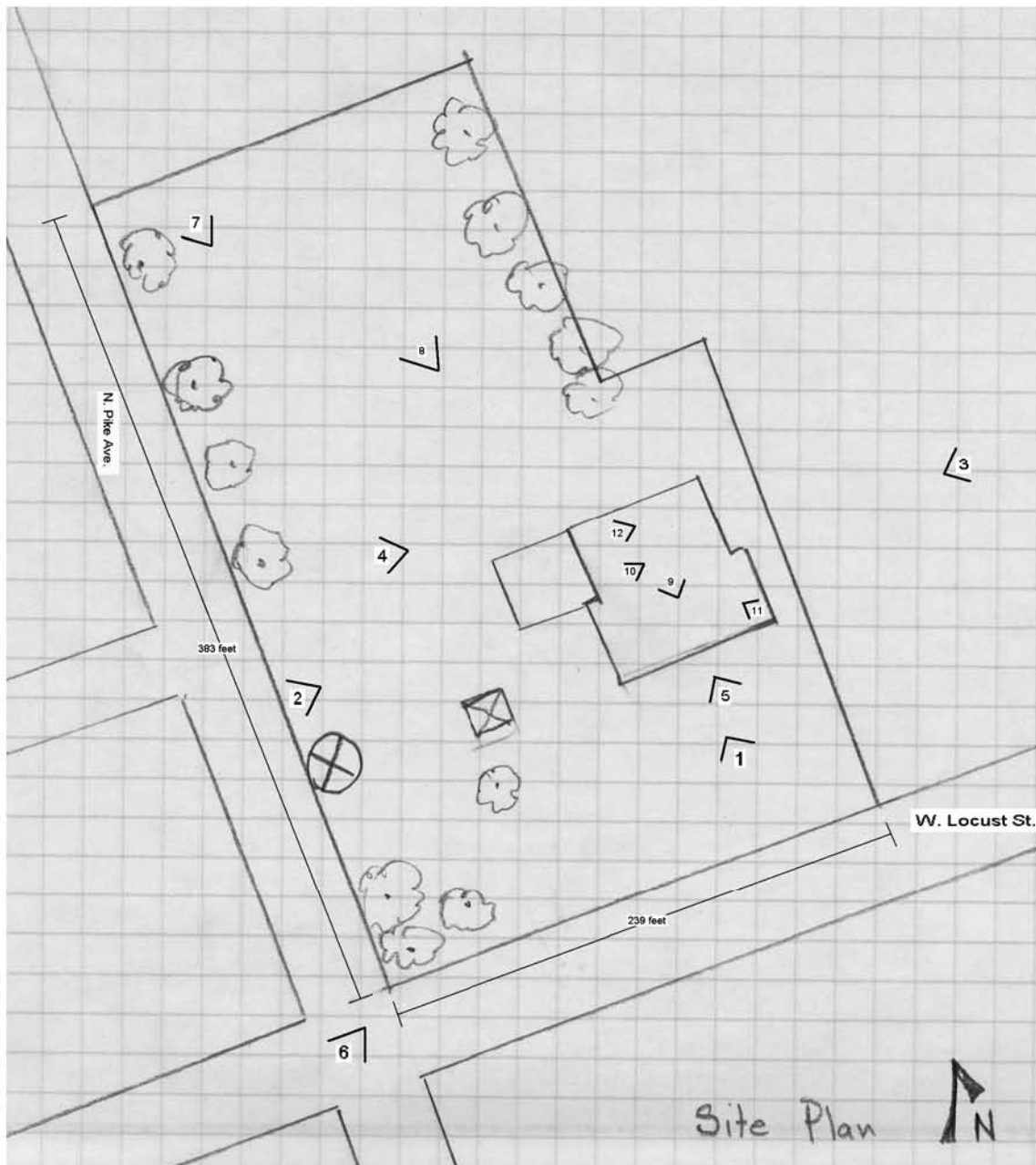


Figure 1: Site Plan with photo angles. Not to scale.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

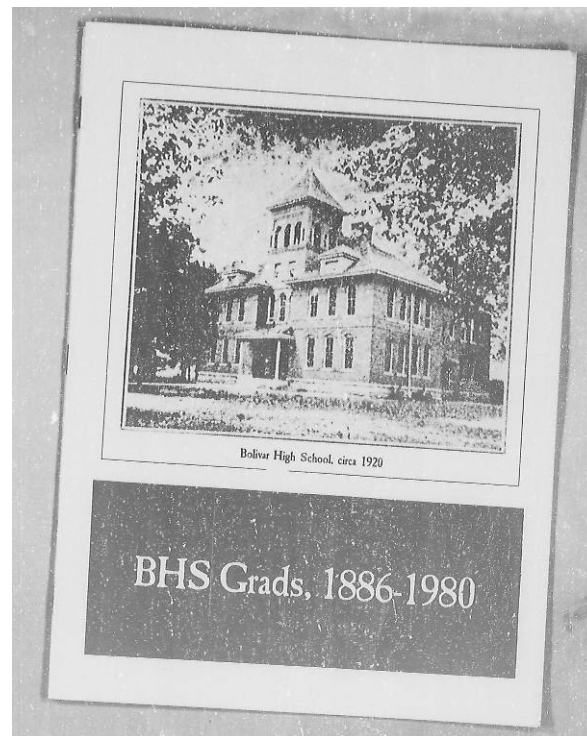


Figure 2: Cover of “BHS Grad, 1886-1980” published by the Bolivar High School Journalism Department, Bolivar, MO, 1980. Cover features a c. 1920 photo of the North Ward School.

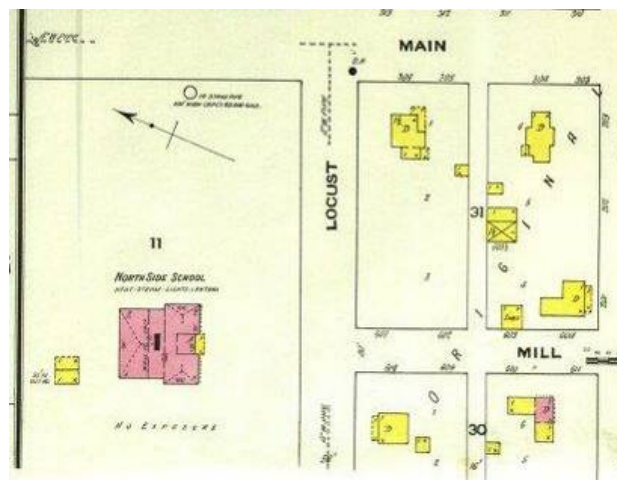


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1909, showing school and associated frame outhouse.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri



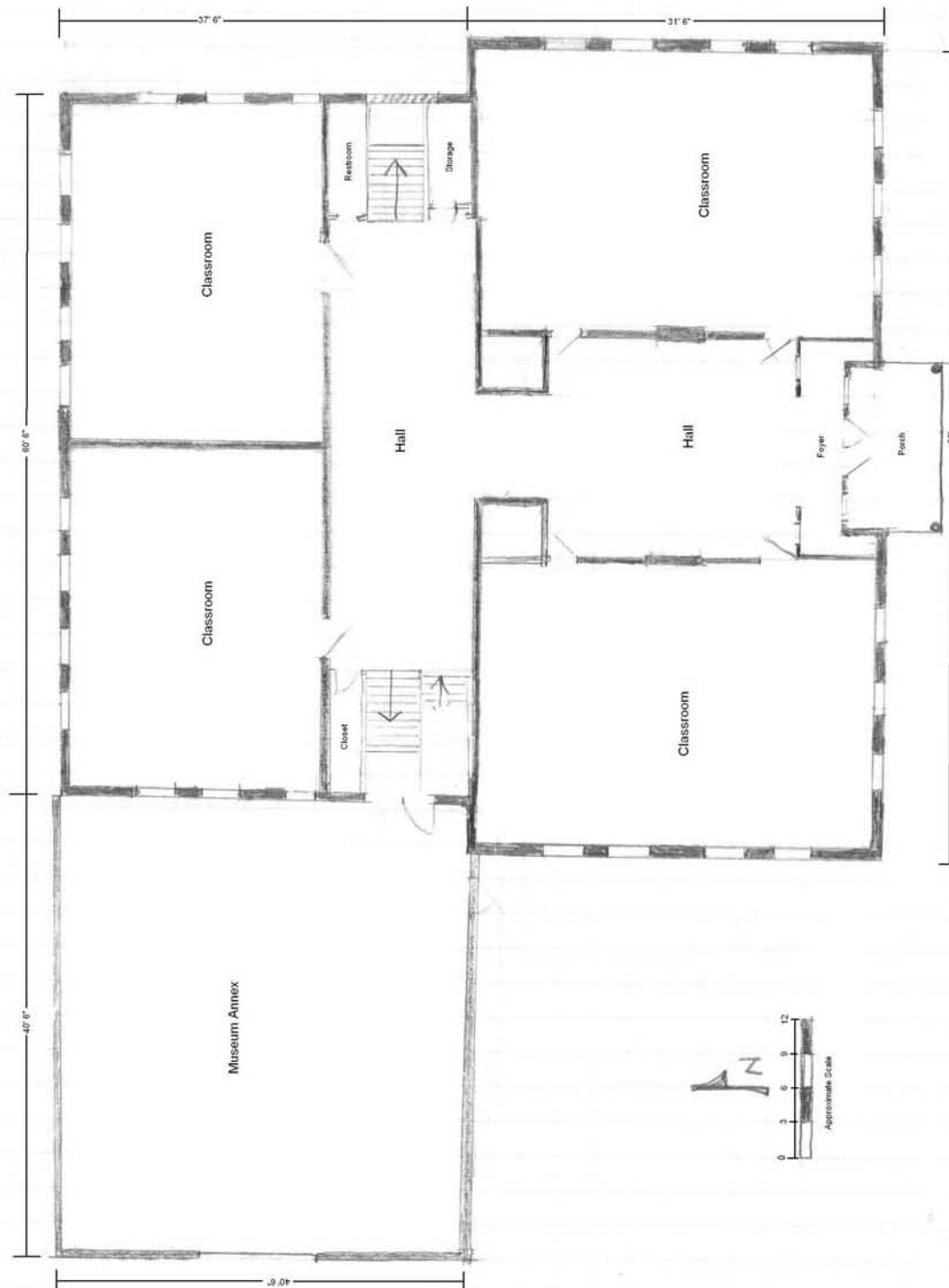
Figure 4: Site Plan of North Ward School Property. Base map from www.polkcountygis.com/public.

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North Ward School
Polk County, Missouri

Figure 5: First floor plan.

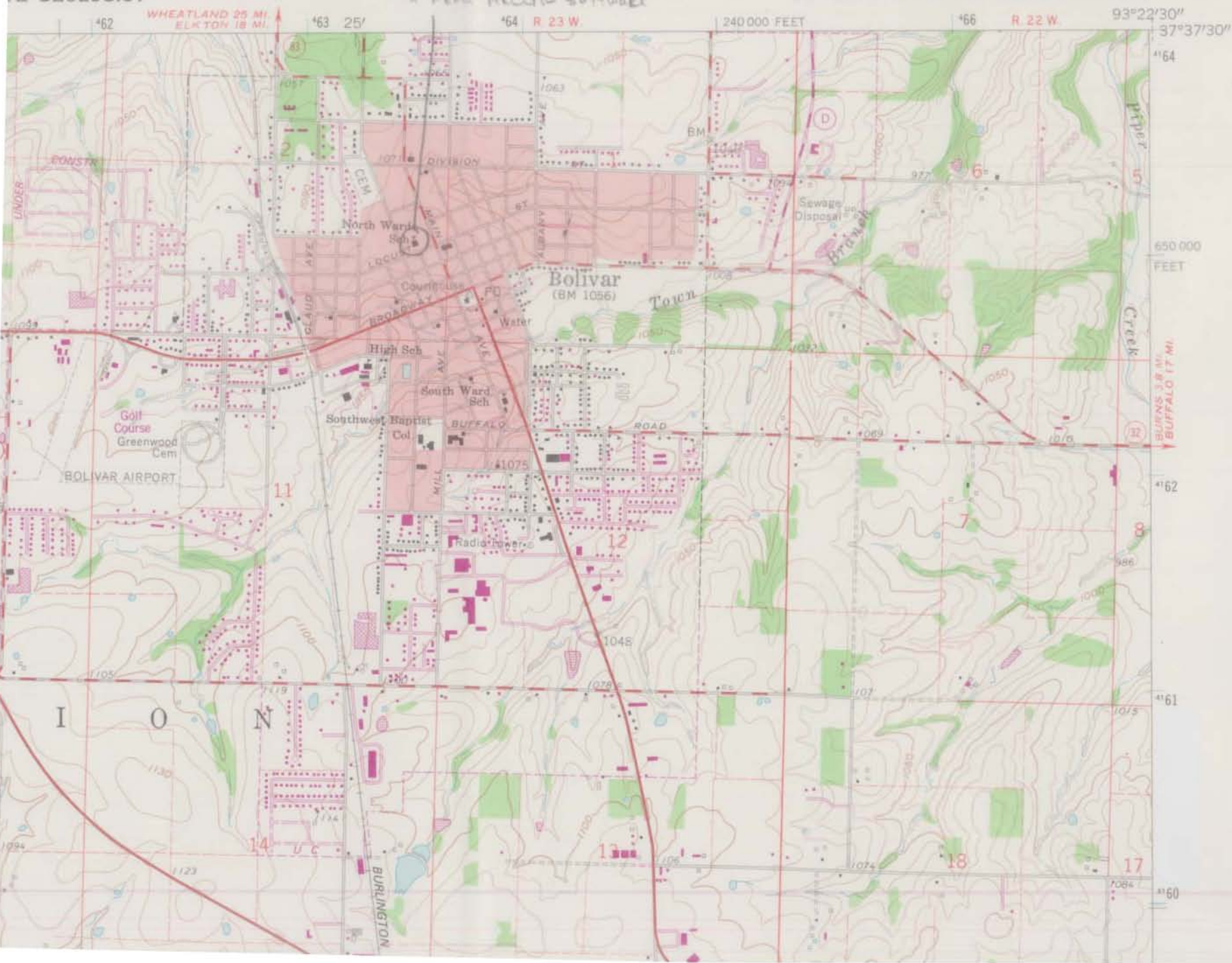


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North Ward School
Bolivar, Polk County, Missouri
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* From ARCGIS software

BOLIVAR QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI-POLK CO.
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NORTH WARD









NORTH WARD













