

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Rott School

other names/site number Rott Elementary School, Judevine Center for Autistic Children

2. Location

street & number 9455 Rott Road [ n/a ] not for publication

city or town Sunset Hills [ n/a ] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63127

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐ .)



Signature of certifying official/Title

Mark A. Miles / Deputy SHPO

08/02/05

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐ .)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet ☐ .

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet ☐ .

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, explain see continuation sheet ☐ .

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-state  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

contributing

noncontributing

1 0 building  
sites  
structures  
objects  
1 0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.  
n/a

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register. 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

OTHER: COLLEGIATE GOTHIC

**Materials**

foundation concrete

walls brick  
limestone

roof asphalt  
other limestone

see continuation sheet [ ].

see continuation sheet [ ].

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

See continuation sheet [x]

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

☐ 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

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave

☐ D a cemetery

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

### Periods of Significance

1930

1948

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person(s)

n/a

### Cultural Affiliation

n/a

### Architect/Builder

Boulicault, Marcel J. / architect

Denny, Robert F. / architect

## Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☒ Other:

Name of repository: Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Rott School

St. Louis (Independent City), MO

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 3 acres**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	724 700	4268 245
C. Zone	Easting	Northing

B. Zone	Easting	Northing
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D. Zone	Easting	Northing
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[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Matthew Bivens/Researcher with Carolyn Toft/Executive Directororganization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date January 3, 2004street & number 917 Locust Street, 7th floor telephone 314-421-6474city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name CCND, LLCstreet & number 1425 S. 18th St. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63104

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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**Summary**

Rott School, located at 9455 Rott Road in Sunset Hills, St. Louis County, Missouri is a two-story red brick Collegiate Gothic school building originally designed and built for Rural School District Number 68 between 1930-31; a sensitive addition was constructed at the west and north elevations in 1948. Two steep gabled roofs connected by a hipped roof with an oriel window below comprise the south end of the building; a steep gable and a flat roof addition are on the north end. The 120 foot façade contains a main entrance bay which includes three pointed arch doors framed in a limestone ashlar surround. The entrance is flanked by projecting front steep-gabled bays; an additional bay at the north completes the elevation. The building is accented with smooth-cut limestone and includes an elaborate bell tower (with original bell) and a limestone sundial panel with engraved Roman numerals. The building also features unusual brickwork in which every fourth course has headers placed three or more stretchers apart. The building's Collegiate Gothic details are reflected in such elements as the pointed arch doors with stone or brick surrounds, an oriel window, parapeted cross gable roofs, limestone quoins (on the chimneys only) and stone trim, a large chimney (and an additional one made as a bell tower) and grouped windows. Exterior alterations include a replacement door (surrounded by glass block) on the south (a secondary) elevation and newer windows with single or one-over-one sash; two rear elevation window portions have boards and AC units. The interior of the building retains its original configuration and materials and is virtually unaltered other than some rooms have been temporarily partitioned. Of note are extant variegated glazed tiles covering the main stairwell, ground floor hall, classrooms and upper hall. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**Site**

Rott School is on three acres and is part of the west ½ of Section 23, Township 44 North, Range 5 East in Sunset Hills, St. Louis County, Missouri. The school has a paved driveway and parking lot to the east and a playground to the immediate south; a low field and a wooded hillside are farther south. Residential properties (including older farm houses and new construction) surround the school property. Two golf courses are nearby. The Missouri River is approximately ½ mile south of the nominated property.

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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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**Exterior**

The primary (east) elevation (**photo 1**) contains a main entrance (reached by a series of steps) with three pointed-arch doors framed in a limestone ashlar surround; "ROTT SCHOOL No 68" is inscribed above (**photo 2**). The heavy wooden doors contain multi-lights and sidelights above wooden panels. Five single-pane windows above the entrance are contained within a limestone frame. The entrance bay is slightly recessed and is flanked by limestone-capped steep front-gabled bays. Two-story stone panels (centered in each bay) contain four windows with transoms at both stories; transom bars are limestone. Both panels are topped with an incised inscription— to the left is "LITERATVRE," to the right "ARTS / SCIENCES." An additional two-over-two window flanks each side of the center panel at both stories; windows have brick sills. A small recessed vent, framed by limestone, is just under the apex of each gable. A 1948 building addition (at the farthest north) blends seamlessly into the original design. It contains five windows with transoms framed with limestone on both stories; again, transom bars are limestone. A chimney stack with limestone quoins rises above the roof. Most windows have one-over-one sash. Downspouts have ornamental heads (**photo 1**).

The south elevation contains two limestone-capped steep gables connected via a hipped roof (**photo 1**). The easternmost gable end contains an elaborate bell tower (complete with bell); corbelled out from the wall; it is accented with limestone quoins, belt courses and brackets (**photo 3**). A brick pointed arch frames a ground floor entrance with a multi-light transom and sidelights; glass block flanks the door. At the right of the entrance is the limestone cornerstone which reads "ROTT SCHOOL DISTRICT No 68 ERECTED 1931." A paired one-over-one window is to the left of the door, slightly above it. The second gable contains a small recessed vent, framed by limestone, under the apex. A limestone sundial panel with engraved Roman numerals is centered below at the second story. The first story contains a multi-light entrance, one single and a paired one-over-one window. Between the gables at the second story is an oriel window (with three one-over-one windows) protruding from a limestone surround. Below are paired one-over-one windows (**photo 1**). The exposed western elevation of the original building contains two tripartite one-over-one windows. A portion of the concrete foundation is exposed below. Windows have brick sills.

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St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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Visible at the rear (west) elevation of the building is the 1948 addition, a high-ceiling one-story protrusion (**photo 4**). The elevation contains four tall multi-pane windows flanked by an entrance at either end. Two additional identical windows are at the north and south elevations. Windows have brick sills. Also visible at the west (farthest north) is a one-story portion with a flat roof; two tripartite one-over-one windows are centered. Windows have brick sills (**photo 5**, the pattern is identical to the exposed western elevation of the original building not pictured).

The north elevation contains a blank brick wall with the exception of an entrance with transom and a paired one-over-one window near the center of the facade; a concrete landing with iron railing continues around the west side. Windows have brick sills. Under the apex of the gable is a small vent (**photo 6**). Both the skillful construction, attention to detail and the unavailability of building permits and original plans make it difficult to determine what the two building phases included on secondary elevations. However, figure 2 (**section 8, page 8**) is a photograph of the primary façade and side of the original school building as it appeared when it was dedicated in 1931.

**Interior**

The interior of Rott School retains its original variegated clay tiled walls; a field of beige tiles above a dark brown belt course rises above a golden base. Original pointed-arch openings are extant on the ground floor (**photo 7**) as is the double staircase with iron railings. The original school building configuration is intact with a few temporary walls installed to subdivide class spaces; drop ceilings installed below original plaster ceilings are removable. Original leaded-glass and built-in oak bookcases are extant on the second floor. A chair-rail height band of variegated clay tiles wraps around the interior classes and second floor hall. As originally designed in 1930-31, the ground floor contained an auditorium, kitchen and (inside) restrooms on the first floor; the second floor had three classrooms, a long hall and an office. The 1948 addition added a gymnasium, two classrooms upstairs and one classroom downstairs. The interior spaces of both portions match remarkably in style, materials and craftsmanship. Again, the skillful construction, attention to detail and the unavailability of building permits and original plans make it difficult to determine what the two building phases included.

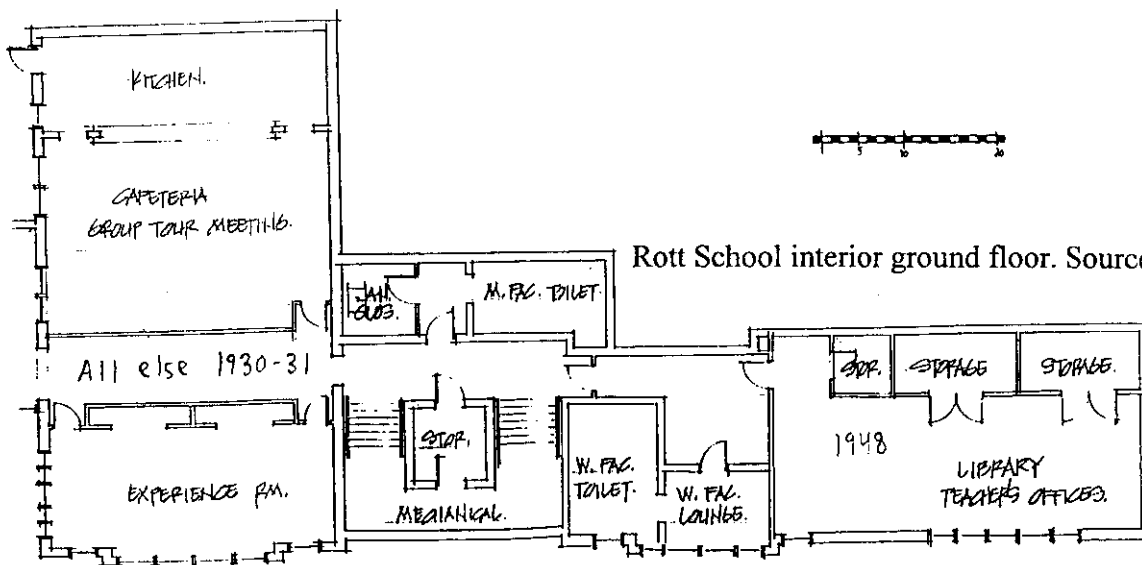
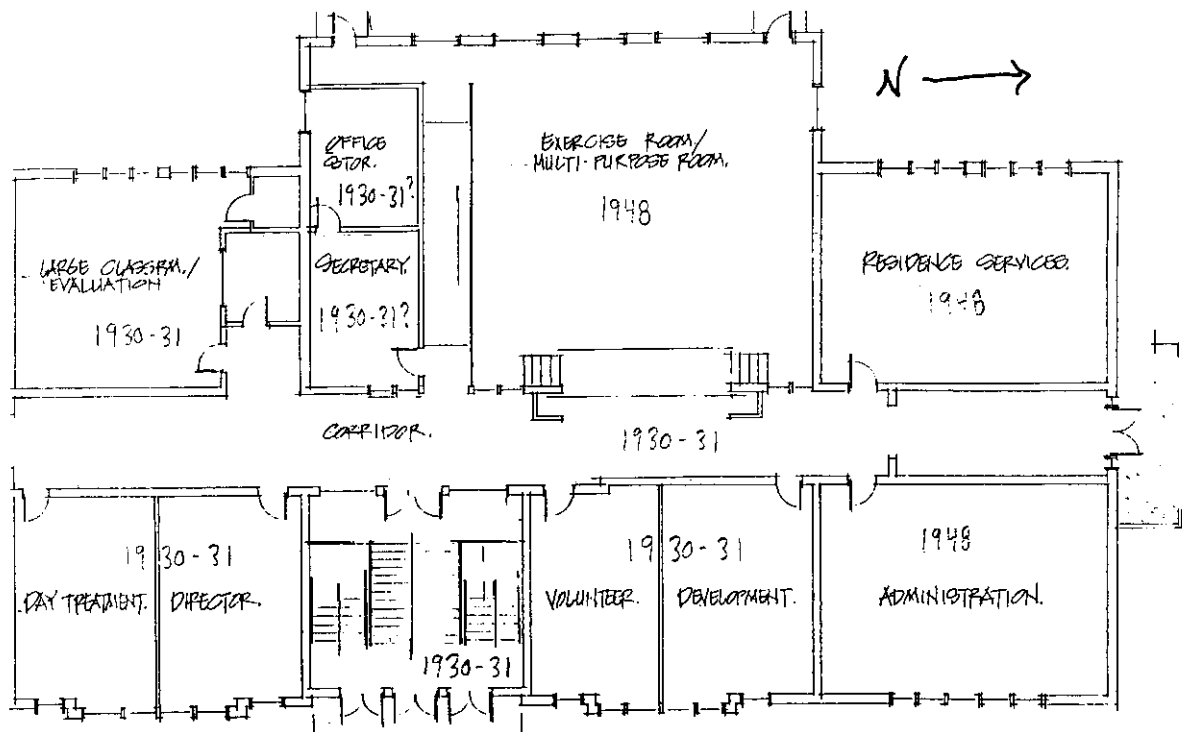
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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Figure 1: Rott School interior second floor plan. Source: Team Four Architects, 2000.



Rott School interior ground floor. Source: Same



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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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**Integrity**

The building is in excellent condition with reversible exterior alterations including a replacement door (surrounded by glass block) on the south (a secondary) elevation and newer windows with single or one-over-one sash; two rear elevation window portions have boards and AC units. The interior of the building retains its original configuration and materials and is virtually unaltered other than some rooms have been temporarily partitioned and drop ceilings have been installed. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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**Summary**

Rott School, located at 9455 Rott Road in Sunset Hills, St. Louis County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Designed for Rural School District # 68 in 1930 by Marcel Justin Boulicault in association with Robert Francis Denny, the new school—a spare but sophisticated interpretation of Collegiate Gothic—replaced a patched-together, three-room frame structure built circa 1885 to 1925. The unanimous 1930 decision to finance an architect-designed brick building represented a major commitment from a rural district still so small in numbers that it could not receive state aid toward bus transportation. (The district apparently hired the same team to design and build a sensitive addition at the west and north elevations bringing the building to its present size in 1948.) Exhibiting fine materials displayed in the face brick and sophisticated Bedford stone trim at the exterior and the variegated glazed clay tiles and leaded-glass oak bookcases used in the interior, Rott elementary school is an unusual and intact example of high-style architecture built for a rural single-school district. The first building to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places from Sunset Hills, it retains excellent integrity. The period of significance is 1930 and 1948 (the year of original design and the year of a significant addition).

**Background**

Baldazar Rott, one of the prosperous pioneer German settlers in South County, arrived with his wife and son Jacob in 1842 and purchased a strip of land along the Meramec River running the entire length of the present city of Sunset Hills. Jacob increased the family holdings, helped found and support construction of St. Lucas Evangelical and Reformed Church and bestowed the Rott name on the area's first school—an 1864 log building on an acre of land donated by John Steiniger. Members of the first school board were Jacob Rott and Martin Rott, Sr.; a third director remains unnamed. Around 1884, school directors (and building committee members) including Henry Rott, purchased an acre of land at the junction of Rott and Watson Roads (near the present Rott School) and constructed a one-room frame schoolhouse with a bell tower on the land acquired from John and Annie Burgoyne.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sunset Hills Bi-Centennial Commission. *The History of Sunset Hills*. (St. Louis: SHBCC, 1976), p. 27.

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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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During the early days in rural South County, farm work often took precedence over school attendance. Both students and teachers at schools like Rott sometimes traveled long distances on foot; many came by horse or mule. Only primary education through 8<sup>th</sup> grade was available in St. Louis County until Kirkwood High School was completed in 1896. Before that, any high school students would have to join the men commuting to work in downtown St. Louis via horse and buggy to the train station at Main and Webster (Kirkwood and Argonne Roads).

By 1876, St. Louis City and County formally separated and the County had eighty-two active school districts. In 1910, the County Court (the administrative body for St. Louis County at the time) reorganized the rural school districts and assigned numbers to seventy-five rural districts.<sup>2</sup> Sunset Hills became Rural School District Number 4 (later Number 68).

The student body at Rott began to increase a bit (to 40 students) during the 1890s as County population rose from 36,307 in 1890 to 50,040 by 1900—reflecting growth primarily in and around rail-based suburbs such as Webster Groves and Kirkwood. By the 1900-01 school year, 65 students were enrolled at Rott. The old frame building was enlarged by a second room in 1906; a third room (a gymnasium) was added in 1925. County population stood at 211,593 in 1930 compared to 821,960 in the City. Student numbers continued to rise and in August of 1929, the little district purchased two additional acres of land from the Val Haus Realty Company just west of the existing building. The bond issue to finance a new building passed by a vote of 50 to 0 in the spring of 1930; \$32,000 was appropriated for a new school building that would be constructed in spite of the onset of the Depression.<sup>3</sup>

### **Elaboration**

A building committee composed of W. A. Rowe, William Greenwald and Andrew Waterhout were appointed by the Board to work with them on preliminary plans and specifications. Due to a potential conflict of interest, builders Greenwald and Waterhout

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<sup>2</sup> Esley Hamilton and Mary Webb. *Historic Buildings Survey: Schools Built Before 1941 in St. Louis County*. (St. Louis, 1991), p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*, p. 33. And *Sappington-Concord: A History*. (St. Louis: Sappington-Concord Historical Society, 1999).

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Rott School  
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would resign before the project was assigned to a contractor. Evidence suggests that they were, in fact, in charge of construction.<sup>4</sup> Rott School was dedicated on November 1, 1931 (**figure 2**); the first official school body comprised approximately 80 students. General curriculum included social studies, reading and language arts, math and spelling and recess twice daily.

Design had been entrusted to a pair of young local architects who were well known in the area for different reasons. Robert Francis Denny was the grandson of Samuel Denny, a pioneer settler whose farm at Denny Road and Conway Roads appears to be the street address given for architect Robert in the 1929 County Directory.<sup>5</sup> **Little information is available** about his professional life; the only other work identified to date is a 1937 house of minimal architectural note in Compton Heights (Compton Heights/Fox Park District, City District, 11-1978 and 3-1985). The collaboration with Marcel Justin Boulicault for Rott School, apparently their only joint venture, brought to the project an architect with a distinguished reputation as a Beaux-Arts trained designer and a short but helpful period of experience in school design. **(Unaccountably, Denny is the only architect named in the souvenir program for the dedication of Rott School on November 1, 1931. One can speculate about why Boulicault's name was omitted but perhaps it was simply inadvertent.)**

St. Louis native Marcel Justin Boulicault (1896-1961) attended local public schools and the School of Fine Arts (from 1912 to 1914) before enrolling in the Beaux Arts Institute of Design— an adjunct of Washington University sponsored by the Saint Louis Architectural Club. His apprenticeship there under the direction of Beaux-Arts-trained and much-traveled architect H. Guy Study helped him gain the coveted Spiering Prize awarded by the Beaux Arts Society of America in 1915 plus a job with Study & Farrar after service as a second lieutenant in the Army Engineers during World War I. By 1919, Boulicault had been put in charge of their drafting room and design department.

During his tenure the firm completed a number of expensive revival-style houses, mostly for St. Louis County clients. In 1924, Boulicault left the firm to establish a similar

<sup>4</sup> "Souvenir Programme: Dedication of New Building, Rott School, November 1, 1931." (St. Louis: Menaugh & Lyster, 1931), p. 11.

<sup>5</sup> Esley Hamilton. Historic Inventory Form for Rott School. April 1989.

<sup>6</sup> Design attribution of Rott School to Marcel Boulicault is based upon circumstantial evidence, especially the fact that there is no comparable body of work by Denny. Shortly before Rott School was constructed in 1930-31, Boulicault had designed two other schoolhouses in St. Louis County, Black Jack School in Black Jack (1928) and Point Elementary School in Oakville (1929). These two school buildings are smaller and simpler than Rott School. In 1989, Boulicault was identified as one of Rott School's two architects by Esley Hamilton of the St. Louis County Department of Parks & Recreation.

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practice.<sup>7</sup> In 1925, he applied for and gained membership in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; that same year his former employers completed four-room Price School (NR 2-14-85) for the Ladue district in St. Louis County. Two examples of Boulicault's work on his own (the Dazey House from 1925 and the Mellow House from 1927) were published in John Albury Bryan's exemplary tome, *Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture*, produced specifically for the 1928 AIA Convention in St. Louis.

Prominent architects had been commissioned to design school buildings in the City of St. Louis as early as 1856 (the old high school by William Rumbold) and more recently by William B. Ittner and Rockwell Milligan. However, that tradition was not nearly so well established in emerging County districts. Study & Farrar's modestly scaled, brick and stucco Price School for Ladue from 1925 (enlarged by Boulicault in 1933 by a transverse corridor across the west end with gymnasium below) was a fine Arts & Crafts design for a wealthy district that had been transformed within a generation from farmland to the homes and most exclusive county clubs of St. Louis' elite.<sup>8</sup> Five years later in 1930 the firm's former chief designer, Marcel Boulicault, and Robert Denny were assigned a very similar program for a less affluent and still rural district. Boulicault had already designed a school at 4655 Parker Road for Black Jack (later adapted as the Black Jack City Hall) in 1928 and completed Point School (razed) at 66790 Telegraph Road in 1929.

Rott School's restrained interpretation of Collegiate Gothic seemed well suited to the bucolic site and to the client's budget as well as its aspirations. A popular, nostalgic style for early 20<sup>th</sup> century universities from Princeton (with Ralph Adams Cram supervising architect) to the competition for Washington University in St. Louis won by Cope & Stewardson, Collegiate Gothic (sometimes referred to as late Gothic Revival) proved flexible enough for applications less elaborate than those examples. Described by Marcus Whiffen as "quieter and 'smoother' in design" than the early Gothic Revival<sup>9</sup>, the style became more spare and less ornamented. Originally sited to great advantage on a gradual slope at the rear of the lot, Rott displayed both the massing and details associated with Collegiate Gothic.

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<sup>7</sup> *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin*. Marcel Justin Boulicault v. XVII, April 1961. pp. 313-14.

<sup>8</sup> Esley Hamilton. Price School National Register Nomination. Listed 2-14-1985.

<sup>9</sup> Marcus Whiffen. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. (Cambridge and London: The M. I. T. Press, 1969), p. 173.

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Rott School  
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Although pointed arches, two-story window groupings, decorative brickwork accented by Bedford stone trim, leaded glass, an elaborate central chimney and front gables were all handled in a crisp, straightforward manner, the building for District #68 was indeed an accomplishment for South County. Three classrooms and an office linked by a long hall looked out over the lawn from the second floor; an auditorium, kitchen, boiler room and indoor restrooms were located on the first floor. The dedication booklet from November 1, 1931 stated: "The present splendid building is a lasting tribute to these untiring workers, constituting the Board and Committee, who were responsible for its completion."<sup>10</sup> A brief statement by Denny in the same booklet seems at least to acknowledge (albeit indirectly) the presence of another architect:

We express our sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, the Building Committee, the Parent-Teachers Association, and every member of the Rott School District for the wonderful cooperation which made possible the design and execution of this representative St. Louis County School.<sup>11</sup>

Attributing the design of Rott School to Robert Denny alone rather than to both Denny and Marcel Boulicault would be to ignore the fact that there is no comparable body of work by Denny, while Boulicault was actively designing schoolhouses in St. Louis County during the period when Rott School was constructed. If Boulicault was in fact the primary architect, as believed, Rott School was by far the best example of his brief foray into rural school design. Rott School also represented the culmination of the first phase of a highly successful career that ultimately became characterized by large-scale buildings for major institutions. In addition to rural schools, Boulicault designed state and regional hospitals and state office buildings including Public Works Administration projects throughout Missouri.<sup>12</sup>

America was in the grip of the Great Depression when Rott School opened its doors to rural elementary students in the fall of 1931. There was no kindergarten at Rott. Students of high school age went to nearby Kirkwood; their tuition was paid by the school district. Enrollment was too low to qualify for public transportation so these early students at Rott School walked or rode horses or mules to their classes, at least until the late 1930s.<sup>13</sup> A

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<sup>10</sup> "Souvenir Programme," p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.* p. 21.

<sup>12</sup> *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin*. Commissions to Boulicault's credit include Clayton Public Library; the Missouri State Office Building and Travelers Insurance Building (St. Louis); the Missouri Psychiatric Hospital at Nevada; the Missouri State Office Building, an addition to the Highway Commission Building, the Employment Security Building and the Farm Bureau Building in Jefferson City; Southwest Missouri Hospital at Cape Girardeau; new geriatrics and administration buildings at the State Hospital and the School for the Deaf in Fulton; a medium-security prison in Moberly; St. Mary's Hospital for Franciscan Sisters at Humboldt, Tennessee; and the Employment Security Regional Offices at Joplin, Springfield, Sedalia, Sikeston, St. Joseph and Hannibal.

<sup>13</sup> *Sunset Hills Bi-Centennial Commission*, p. 33. The number of students was not specified.

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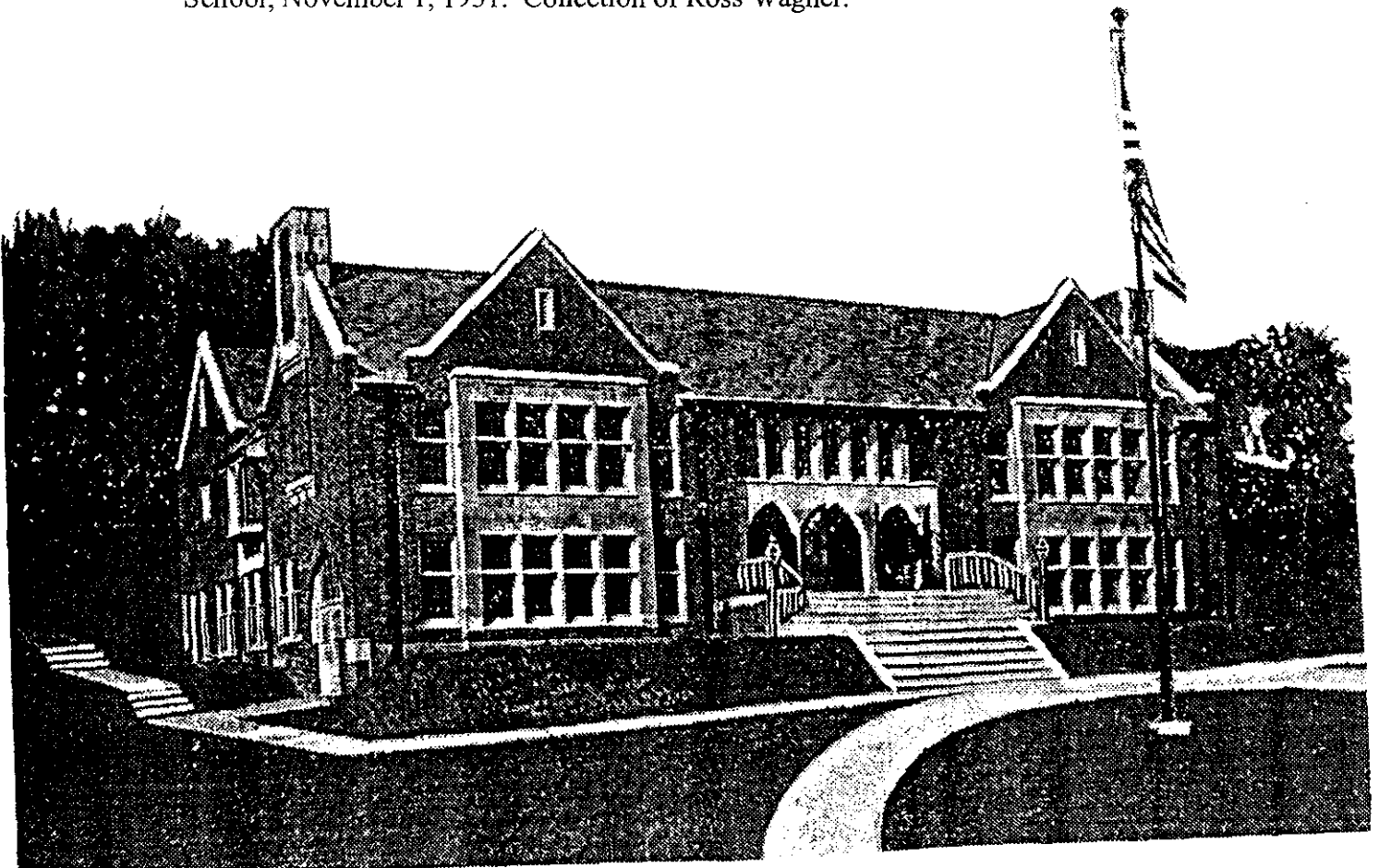
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campaign spearheaded by a Mrs. Carrie Morris promoting a school bus to serve Rott School (in addition to the district's parochial students attending St. Peter's Catholic School and the older students attending Kirkwood High School) resulted in an affirmative vote by the District. Following World War II and rapid residential development in South County, the school became overcrowded with over 100 students. Another favorable district vote led to the expansion of Rott School in 1948: a sensitive addition (most likely by the same architects and builders) included a gymnasium (at the rear of the building) and three additional classrooms. Both the skillful construction and the lack of building permits or original plans make it difficult to decipher the addition from the original (compare figure 2 to photo 1).

Figure 2: Rott School. Source: Souvenir Programme: Dedication of New Building, Rott School, November 1, 1931. Collection of Ross Wagner.



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Rott School  
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The State of Missouri ordered a reorganization of school districts in 1949. The elementary schools of Sappington, Concord, Fenton, Grant, Rott and Washington discussed the possibility of forming a district. All (except for Washington, now demolished) formed the R-8 Grand View School District (renamed Lindberg after 1950); 850 students were housed in twenty-five classrooms.<sup>14</sup> The modern Lindberg school district includes five schools: Rott (D68), Sappington (D49), Glendale (D50), Fenton (D67), and Concord (D69). Only four schools built before World War II remain in the Lindberg district: Sappington School (1011 Gravois Rd.) from 1927, Rott School (9455 Rott Rd.) from 1930, Concord School (10305 Concord School Rd.) and Grant School (393 W. Old Watson Rd.) both from 1939. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s an explosion in school population resulted in the construction of many new schools; existing schools received massive additions. Rott School was spared any additional changes thanks to the number of students transferred to Watson School (in a separate District) when it was completed in 1954.

Sunset Hills finally elected to incorporate as a city in 1957. In 1966, with the concept of the Middle School being tried for the first time in the state, Rott sent its sixth graders to another school.<sup>15</sup> The following year, Rott School's fifth graders were sent to Fenton School. School population dropped radically in the 1970s. When Rott School finally closed in 1976, all of its 94 students were transferred to Watson School.<sup>16</sup> The nominated building was then leased to the Judevine Center for Autistic Children. In 1984, the District sold by building, but the tenancy remained in force until just recently.

### **Rott School and the Historic Buildings Survey**

Rott School was included in a 1991 survey of St. Louis County schools titled *Historic Buildings Survey: Schools Built Before 1941 in Saint Louis County*.<sup>17</sup> In addition to identification, a goal of the survey was to provide a context for evaluating the significance of old public school buildings in St. Louis County, according to the survey report prepared by Esley Hemilton and Mary Webb. Before this survey was completed,

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<sup>14</sup> *ibid*, p. 34.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*, p. 35.

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*, p. 34.

<sup>17</sup> With the assistance of Barbara Bernsen and Daniel Thorn for the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation under a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



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no comparative documentation was available for ranking the potential (architectural, historical or physical) of these school buildings. The survey encompassed 23 county school districts and included almost 120 individual schools. Seven of the schools had already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing of Rott School would make it the first Sunset Hills building to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A new owner is considering an adaptive reuse to include luxury apartments and condos.

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**Boundary Description**

Rott School is on 3 acres in Sunset Hills, St. Louis County, Missouri. The Missouri Corporation Warranty Deed (File No. 220183) describes the parcel as "a tract of land being part of the west half of section 23, township 44 north, range 5 east, St. Louis County, Missouri, and being more particularly described as follows: beginning at a point on the south line of parcel 2 of the property conveyed of R. S. C. D. B., Inc., as described in deed recoded in book 8470 page 347 of the St. Louis County Records, said beginning point being the intersection of the west line of Watson Road 40 foot wide with aforesaid south line of parcel 2 being also the north line of property conveyed to Andrew W. Bornhop and wife as described in the deed recorded in book 3663 page 564 of the St. Louis County Records, thence westwardly along the south line of said R. S. C. D. B., Inc. property being also the north line of the Bornhop property north 89 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west 292.78 feet to a point, thence north 01 degree 00 minutes 00 seconds east 446.35 feet to a point, thence south 89 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds east 292.78 feet to a point on the aforesaid west line of Watson Road 40 foot wide, thence southwardly along said west line south 01 degree 00 minutes 00 seconds west 446.35 feet to the point of beginning. The parcel is also identified with locator number 27N540067. The nominated parcel is indicated by a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Rott School Boundary Map."

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel includes all of the property historically associated with the Rott School.

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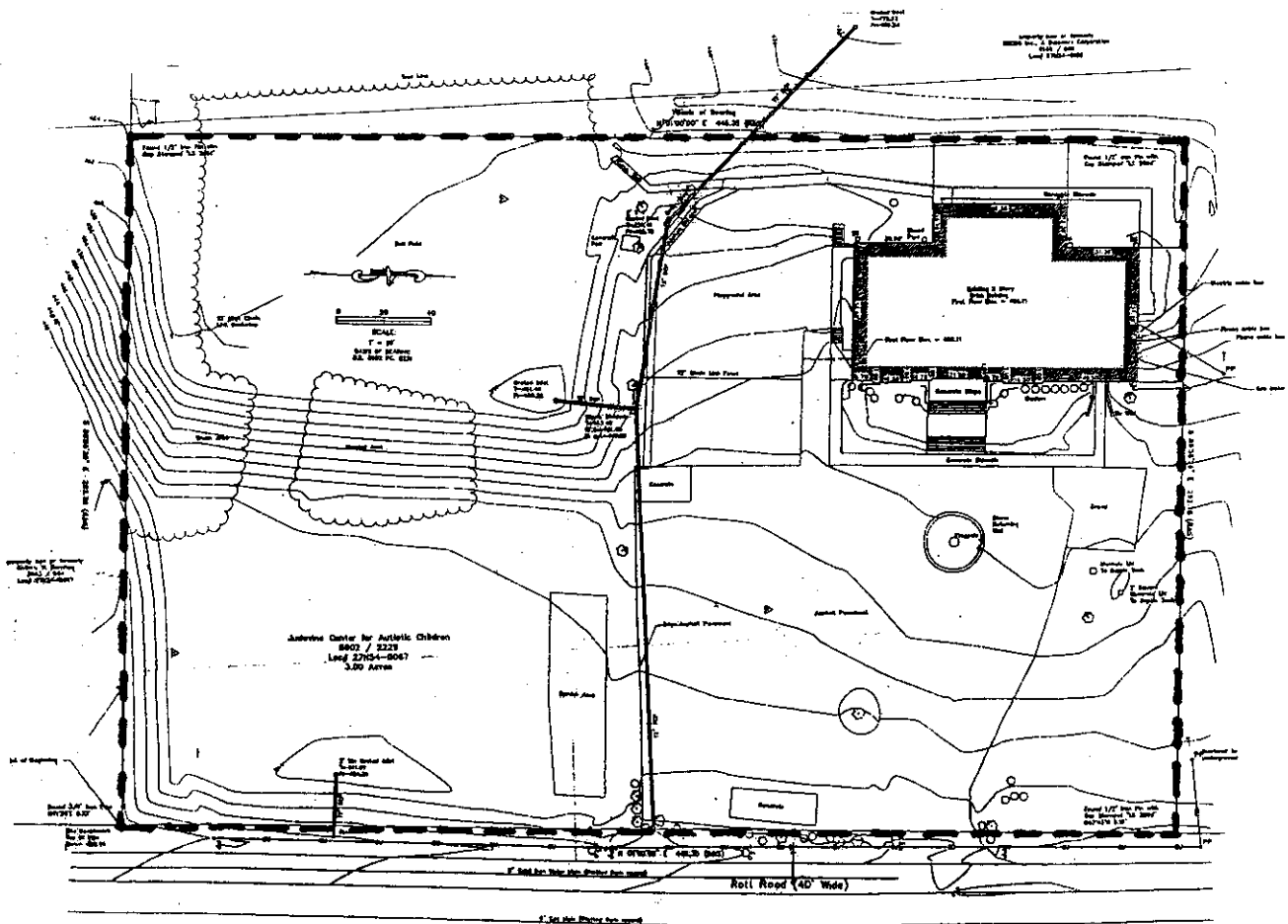
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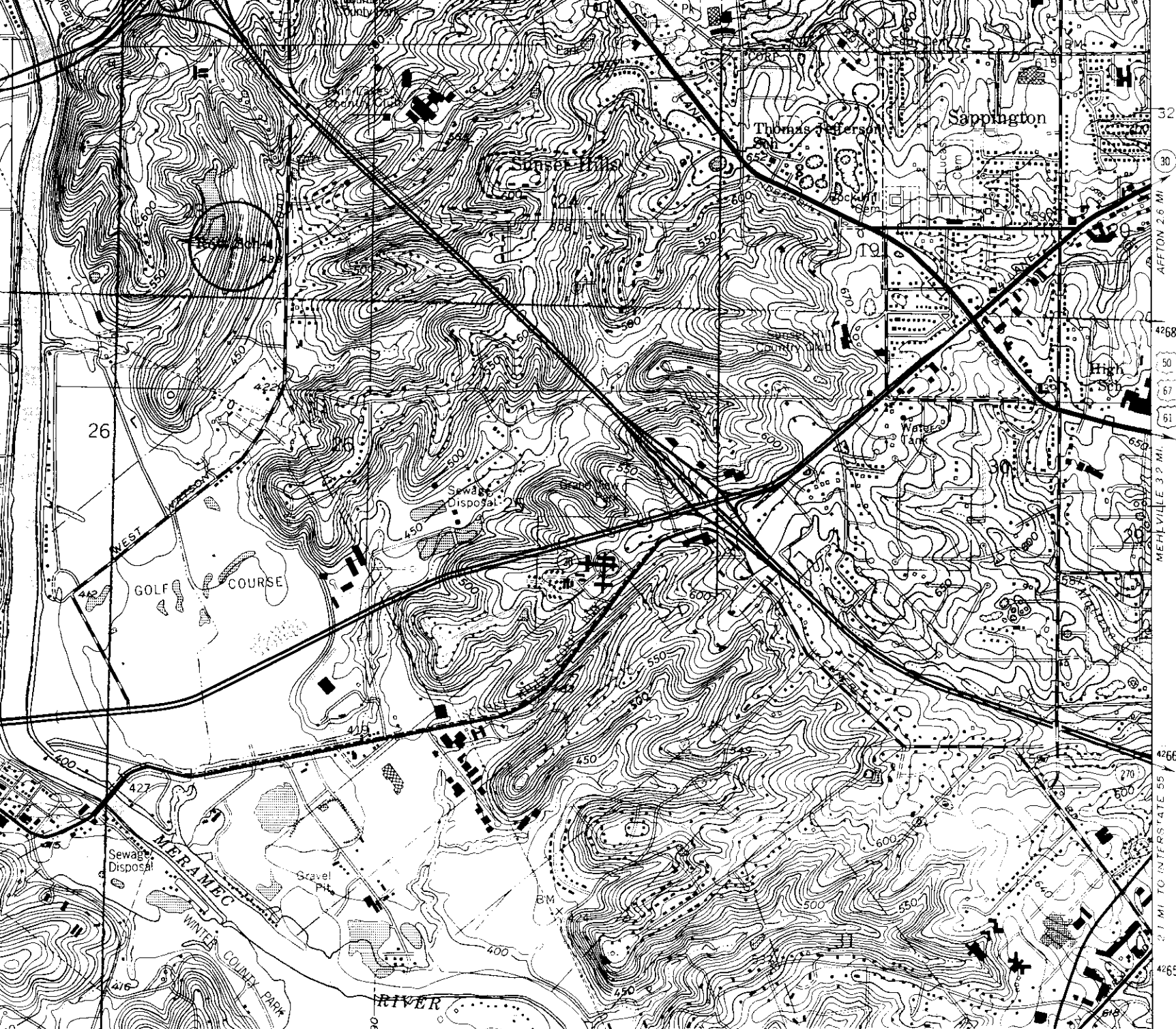
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**Rott School Boundary Map**

Source: Judevine Center Boundary & Topographical Survey. Marler Surveying Co., 2001





32'30"

30

AFFTON 2.6 MI

4268

50

67

61

MEHLVILLE 3.2 MI

4266

2.1 MI TO INTERSTATE 55

4265000m N

Sappington  
Missouri  
St. Louis County, MO  
Zone 15  
Easting 701 000  
Northing 4268 245



JUDEVINE CENTER

ROTT SCHOOL No 68















