

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Locust School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

 VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Winneshiek

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Winneshiek Co. Historical Society, E.J. Weigle, President

STREET &amp; NUMBER

907 Pine Ridge Court

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Winneshiek County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Locust School is a one-room structure built of rubble ashlar, with approximate dimensions of 30' x 40'. The long sides are divided into three bays by 4/4 sash windows with broad stone lintels and narrow sills. The single entrance is centered in the south wall. The school has a gable roof, covered with composition shingle, and a narrow, plain wooden cornice. The covered bell platform has round-arched openings, and a small hipped roof. Directly behind this feature is a brick chimney, added at the time a proper furnace was installed in the 1930's. The original chimney was at the north end, connected to a stove.

The interior comprises one main room, with a wall forming a cloakroom at the entrance end. In the southwest corner is a set of stairs leading to the basement.

The school is located at the intersection of two county roads, with a small Lutheran Church to the east. Across the road, to the west, are a few dwellings which make up the unincorporated community of Locust. Locust is at a higher elevation, relative to the surrounding countryside, with long, sloping hills in all directions. Most of the immediate area is under cultivation.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES      1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Locust School is among the earliest school buildings in Winneshiek County. It is believed to have been built in 1854, shortly after the village of Locust was surveyed and first settlement begun. It is a typical example of its kind: the one-room rural school, built in simple form from local materials, and service all ages: characteristics ubiquitous during the early settlement period of Iowa history.

The school was used for all elementary grades until 1950, when only specific grades were assigned here. It was closed in 1960, and is now open to the public on an appointment basis as a museum.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beranek, James K. Historic Resource Survey, 1974.  
 Alexander, W.E. History of Winneshiek County, 1882, Reprinted 1972 by Moneek Press, Decorah, Iowa.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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6	0	3	5	0	0
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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2 of 3, SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 6, T99N R7W.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Klimesh, Historic Site Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Winneshiek County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Luther College Library

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa 52101

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian A. Andersen*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

7-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

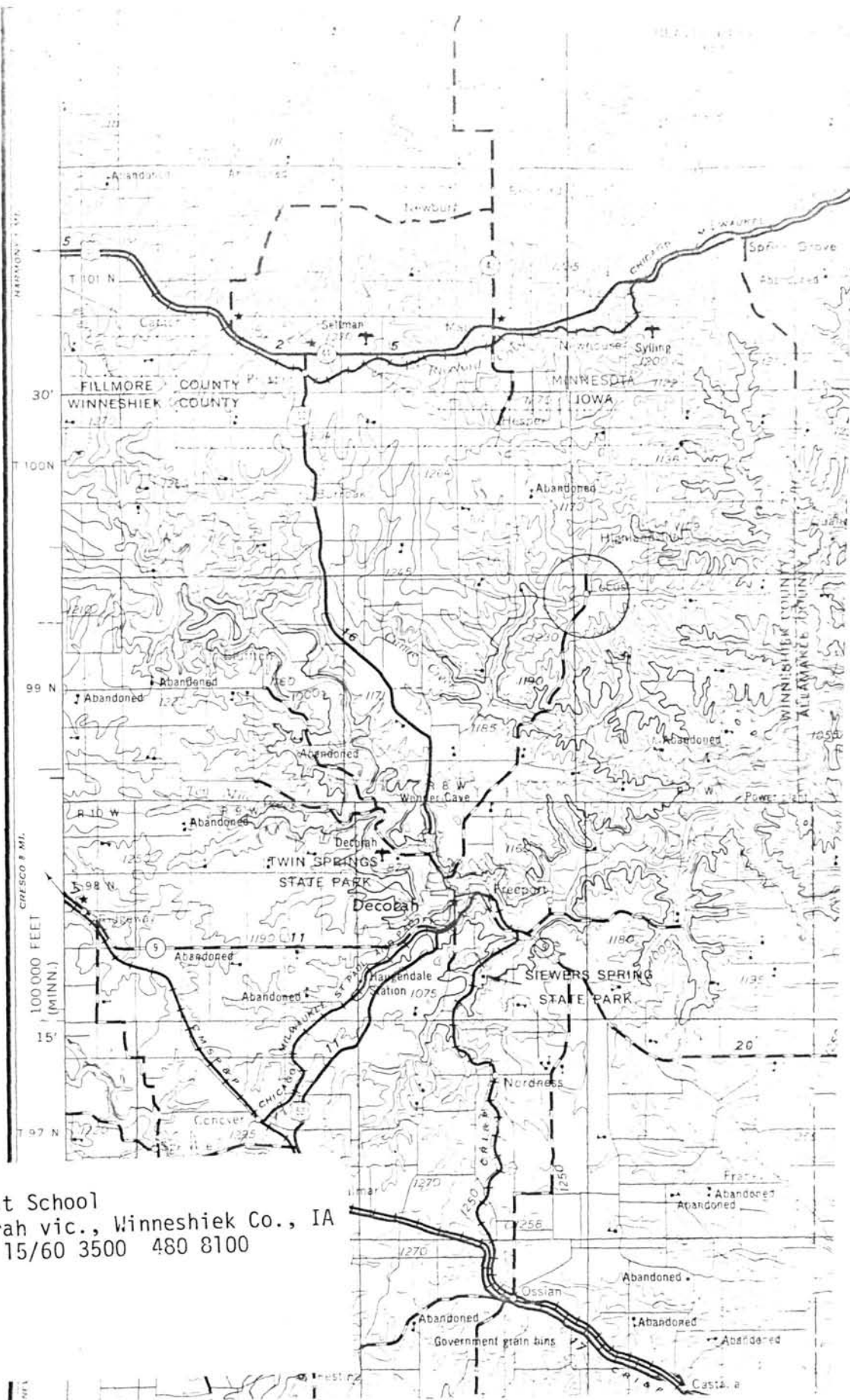
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Locust School  
 Decorah vic., Winneshiek Co., IA  
 UTM: 15/60 3500 480 8100



the Locust School  
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CONTACT HEAD LIBRARIAN  
Winneshiek County Historical Society  
Luther College Library  
Decorah, Iowa 52101

SITE NUMBER 96-029-001

**NO NEG**

**PHOTOGRAPHED BY**  
James K. Beranek  
Date 1974





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