

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 Middle River School

Other names/site number Callaway County District #57

Name of related Multiple Property Listing One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c.1774 to c. 1973

2. Location

Street & number <u>6587 County Road 305</u>	N/A	not for publication
City or town <u>Fulton</u>	N/A	vicinity
State <u>Missouri</u> Code <u>MO</u> County <u>Callaway</u>	Code <u>027</u>	Zip code <u>65251</u>

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D
B. K. Do DEPUTY SHPO 2-13-24
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 _____

Middle River School
Name of Property

Callaway County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	7	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
1	0	objects
3	8	Total

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.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD
roof: ASPHALT
other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Middle River School
Name of Property

Callaway 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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1875

ca. 1927-ca. 1929

Significant Dates

ca. 1875

ca. 1927

ca. 1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Middle River School
Name of Property

Callaway County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 20 acres

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>38.823632°</u> Latitude:	<u>-92.013775°</u> Longitude:	3	<u>38.822064°</u> Latitude:	<u>-92.018481°</u> Longitude:
2	<u>38.823776°</u> Latitude:	<u>-92.018504°</u> Longitude:	4	<u>38.821989°</u> Latitude:	<u>-92.013841°</u> Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Sheals and Joshua Amelunke. Research assistance by Rachel Appleton.

organization Building Preservation, LLC date November 21, 2023

street & number 29 North Ninth St. #207 telephone 573-874-3779

city or town Columbia state MO zip code 65201

e-mail Debsheals@gmail.com

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**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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.

Middle River School

Name of Property

Callaway County, Missouri

County and State

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

1. Location Map. (Google Earth, *earth.google.com*, accessed 2023.)
2. Aerial View of the Property. (Google Earth, *earth.google.com*, accessed 2023.)
3. Callaway County Assessor's Map. ("Callaway County Assessor." *Callaway County*. accessed 2023. [https://callawaycounty.org/assessor/.](https://callawaycounty.org/assessor/))
4. Site Plan of the 20-acre Parcel. (Deb Sheals, 2023.)
5. Schoolyard plan. (Deb Sheals, 2023.)
6. 1918 Photo of Middle River School. (1918 Middle River Photo, Book M, Box B004, Folder 071, Shelf 3, Accession # 00716, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society)
7. 1933 Photo of Middle River School With Vestibule in the Background. (1933 Middle River Photo, Donor Betty Keeney, Book M, Box 001, Folder 141, Shelf 004, Accession 00497 Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)
8. Current Floorplan of Middle River School. (Deb Sheals, 2023.)
9. 1876 Callaway County Atlas showing a schoolhouse on the 20-acre parcel. (*An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Callaway County, Missouri, 1876, The State Historical Society of Missouri*, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/6002>, 39.)
10. Oldest Known Image of Middle River School, Photo Taken in 1899. (1899 Middle River School Photo, Donor Joe Holt, Book M, Box B005 Folder 054, Shelf F11, Accession # 2013-0058-01, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)
11. Carrington Schoolhouse in 1914. (1914 Carrington Schoolhouse, Scan of Fulton Sun Gazette Photo (Fulton, Missouri) March 28, 1996, Accession # 2008-0089-02, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)
12. 1930 Schoolhouse Remodeling Plans. (Fletcher B. Dresslar, *Rural Schoolhouses, School Grounds and Their Equipment*, Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, Bulletin No 21. 1930, 63, 69.)
13. GEM Pump Advertisement. ("1906 Griffin & Turner Co. Farm Catalogue, 83" accessed 2023, [https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/16641077896.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/16641077896/))
14. 1960s Middle River Interior Views. (Courtesy of Sandy Starkey. Her husband and his sister are in the photos.)
15. Middle River Schoolhouse in 1963. (1963 Middle River Class Photo Class Photo, Donor Nancy Conner, Accession # 2023-0019-03, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)
16. Advertisements for Social Events. Mutton BBQ Advertisement, (*Jefferson City Post* (Jefferson City, Missouri) July 6, 1961.); Middle River Picnic Advertisement, (*Callaway Gazette* (Fulton, Missouri), June 26, 1885.)
17. Other Early Rural Schools in Callaway County. (Compiled by Deb Sheals with photos by Rachel Appleton and Joshua Amelunke, 2023.)
18. Location Map of Intact Mass Vernacular Single Teacher Schools in Callaway County. (Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)
19. Photo Key. (Debbie Sheals, 2023)

Middle River School
Name of Property

Callaway County, Missouri
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Middle River School**

City or Vicinity: **Fulton**

County: **Callaway** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Deb Sheals**

Date

Photographed: **September 30, 2023**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. of 23. Photo looking northwest at the Middle River Schoolhouse.
2. of 23. Photo looking west at the Middle River Schoolhouse.
3. of 23. Photo looking southwest at the Middle River Schoolhouse and Storm Cellar.
4. of 23. Photo looking south at the Middle River Schoolhouse and Storm Cellar.
5. of 23. Photo looking southeast at the Middle River Schoolhouse.
6. of 23. Middle River window on the north wall, looking south.
7. of 23. Photo looking east at the Middle River Schoolhouse.
8. of 23. Photo looking north at the Middle River Schoolhouse.
9. of 23. Middle River Well Pump, looking northeast.
10. of 23. Photo looking northwest at the Middle River Schoolhouse and Well Pump.
11. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's vestibule interior, looking south.
12. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's vestibule interior, looking north.
13. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's interior, looking east.
14. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's interior, looking west.
15. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's interior, chalkboard looking north.
16. of 23. Middle River Schoolhouse's interior, chair rail and wainscot detail.
17. of 23. Photo looking north at Middle River Schoolhouse and County Road 305.
18. of 23. Photo looking south at County Road 305 and Lot D, 6555 County Road 305 house and garage #2, and Lot C, 6367 Country Road 305 Carport and House.
19. of 23. Photo looking west at Lot D, 6555 County Road 305 House.
20. of 23. Photo looking west at Lot D, 6555 County Road 305 Garage 2, and Shed 1.
21. of 23. Photo looking west at Lot C, 6367 County Road 305 Carport and House.
22. of 23. Photo looking southwest at Middle River Schoolhouse.
23. of 23. Photo looking east at Middle River Schoolhouse.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Middle River School
Name of Property
Callaway County, Missouri
County and State
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 - c. 1973
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary:

The Middle River School at 6587 County Road 305 in Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri, is a one-story wood frame building with a stone foundation and original painted weatherboards. It occupies a 20-acre lot in a rural area approximately four miles southwest of Fulton, Missouri. It was built ca. 1875 and served as a one room school until 1973. The schoolhouse has a rectangular footprint and a front-facing gable roof. The front wall, which faces east, has an enclosed vestibule that was added to the school ca. 1927. The building has two rooms—the small vestibule, and a large original classroom.¹ The classroom has three tall windows along each sidewall. Both rooms have original painted wood wainscoting and painted plaster walls. The classroom also has one original blackboard and original wood flooring. The schoolhouse looks much as it did in the 1920s and it meets the registration requirements for the property type “Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School” described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, ca. 1774 to ca. 1973*. Character-defining original features include the roof form, stone foundation, evenly spaced double hung windows on the long walls, and weatherboards. A vestibule, added in 1927, also meets the MPDF’s requirements for character-defining features.² The site and setting are also largely intact. The 20 acre site being nominated currently includes four lots—the school and schoolyard are in the southeast corner of the parcel, two small lots north of the school contain modern houses and outbuildings, and the west 16 acres of the nominated property are wooded and undeveloped. The area immediately adjacent to the school contains a pump and well cover that were in place before 1927, and a concrete storm cellar that was built for school use ca. 1929. The schoolhouse is a contributing building, the pump is a contributing object, and the storm cellar is a contributing structure. The periods of significance are ca. 1875, the year the school was built, and ca. 1927-ca. 1929, the period in which the vestibule and storm cellar were added. The residential properties to the north have all modern resources. Those two lots contain two houses, three garages, two small sheds and a carport. Each house, garage, and shed is a non-contributing building (a total of 7), and the carport is a non-contributing structure. All told, the 20-acre property includes one contributing building (the schoolhouse), one contributing object (the pump and well cover), one contributing structure (the storm cellar), seven noncontributing buildings and one non-contributing structure. Because all of the non-contributing resources are clustered in the northeastern part of the lot, they have a minimal impact on the schoolhouse setting, and the school property strongly evokes a sense of its time and place. The Middle River School is an excellent example of a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School that looks much as it did when it served as a place for educating the children in the area.

¹ “Original” is used through this document to describe features that date to the three periods of significance—ca. 1875, ca. 1927 and ca. 1929.

² Tiffany Patterson, “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to 1973: National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form,” United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2011, F-39.

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Middle River School
Name of Property
Callaway County, Missouri
County and State
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 - c. 1973
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Elaboration:

Site and Setting

The schoolhouse occupies a 20-acre site approximately four miles southwest of Fulton. (See Figure 1. Location Map.) The 20-acre parcel was purchased by Callaway County School District # 57 in 1841, specifically to house a school.³ The property is in a rural area that includes a mix of cultivated fields, pastureland, and mature forests. The site is bounded on the east by Callaway County Road 305, and State Highway H is less than 100 yards to the south. The Middle River runs north-south roughly 500 feet from the west property line. The north side of the property is adjoined by fields and woodlands, and another residential property. (See Figure 2. Google Earth View.)

The original 20-acre parcel being nominated was divided several times over the years, and it currently encompasses four lots. (See Figure 3. Callaway County Assessor's Map.) The school is on lot A, a 1.3-acre lot in the southeast corner of the property. (See Figure 4. Site Plan of the 20-acre Parcel.) Lot A contains the schoolhouse and pump, which are contributing resources, plus the storm shelter, which is non-contributing. Lot A has been associated with the schoolhouse since ca. 1875.

Lot B, which is close to 16 acres, is the heavily wooded west end of the 20-acre lot; it includes no other resources. (See Figure 4.) Lots C (1.4 acres), and D (1.5 acres), are in the northeast corner of the property, along County Road 305. Each lot contains one modern house and a variety of outbuildings that are described below. Most of Lot B was sold by the school district in 1916 and part of Lot C was sold in 1921. The rest of C and D were sold after the period of significance.⁴

1. Middle River Schoolhouse. Built ca. 1875, vestibule added ca. 1927. Contributing Building. (Photos 1-17.)

The original one-story frame school building has a rectangular footprint approximately 22 feet wide and 33 feet long. It was constructed ca. 1875, which is the first period of significance.⁵ It has a stone foundation, a steeply pitched front-facing gable roof, three evenly spaced double hung windows on each long side wall, and original weatherboard siding. The front wall is partly

³ Callaway County Recorder, Callaway County, Missouri, Deed Books 82, 90.

⁴ Callaway County Deed Book 82: 108; Directors of the School District #57 & William Henry Craighead and Mary C. Craighead, April 22, 1916; Callaway County Deed Book 90: 616; Directors of the School District #57 & Mary C. Craighead, August 9, 1921; Callaway County Courthouse.

⁵ *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Callaway County, Missouri, 1876*, (Philadelphia, PA: Edwards Brothers of Missouri, 1876), *State Historical Society of Missouri*, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/6002>, 39.

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Middle River School
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

covered with a one story vestibule that has a hipped roof and weatherboard siding. (See Photo 1.) The vestibule was added ca. 1927, within the second period of significance.

The roof has simple enclosed eaves and asphalt shingle roofing that is a few decades old. Historic photos show that the school originally had split wood shake roofing, as well as a central brick chimney.⁶ The chimney was replaced with a chimney on the east wall of the classroom ca. 1951; the second chimney was removed above the roofline in recent decades. A photo taken in 1899 also shows shutters on the windows of the school, but they were gone by 1916, and no associated hardware survives. The schoolhouse is surrounded by an open lawn that includes scattered mature trees. Outhouses were located behind the building when the school was in use but are no longer extant.⁷ A small area near the back wall of the school has a modern wire fence with a metal gate. (See Figure 5. Schoolyard plan.) There is a small concrete well cover and pump (Resource 2 below) near the southeast corner of the school, and a large concrete storm cellar (Resource 3 below) by the northeast corner.

Facade (East Wall)

The building's facade, the east wall, faces County Road 305, which is approximately 50 feet away. Most of the original front wall of the schoolhouse is covered by an enclosed vestibule that was added for the 1926/27 school year.⁸ (See Photo 2.) The vestibule replaced an open porch that was roughly the same size. (See Figure 6. 1918 Photo of Middle River School.) The vestibule has four fixed six-light wood windows, set in pairs on its front wall. Each pair of windows is surrounded by flat painted wood trim that is topped with a small band of molding. The window frames and trim are original; the sashes replaced similar sashes sometime after 1963.⁹ The vestibule has a concrete foundation, a hipped roof and the same type of weatherboards used on the main building. It also has the same type of roofing—both roofs have asphalt shingles that are less than 20 years old. Early photos show that there was a large round quatrefoil medallion in the upper gable of the schoolhouse which was later replaced or covered by a flat sign that read "Middle River School District No 57."¹⁰ (See 1963 photo in Figure 6.) Neither the medallion nor the sign is extant. The gable is clad in weatherboards that match the original weatherboards found behind the vestibule addition in the attic. A pair of square louvered

⁶ "1899 Middle River Photo," "1918 Middle River Photo," Book M, Box 004, Folder 071, Shelf 3, Accession # 00716, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

⁷ Bruce Hackmann, et. al., *Callaway Chalkboards: Celebrating the Heritage of Callaway County's Rural Schools*, (Fulton MO: Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, 2023), 206.

⁸ Nancy Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School," from the owner's files, n.d., 3.

⁹ "1963 Middle River Class Photo," Donor Nancy Conner Womack, Book M, Accession # 2023-0019-03, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

¹⁰ "1963 Middle River Class Photo," Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

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vents just above the roof of the vestibule were added between 1918 and 1963, possibly when the vestibule was built ca. 1927.¹¹

North Side Wall

The north side wall of the building has painted original wood siding and a stone foundation. The lot slopes gently to the west; the top of the foundation wall is roughly one foot above the ground at the front of the building, while the back corner is two to two and one-half feet above grade. (See Photo 4 and 5.) As is the case on all exterior walls, the original frieze boards, base trim and corner boards are intact.

The north wall of the school has three tall evenly spaced windows that open to the classroom. The window frames, wooden sills, and flat wide painted wood exterior trim are original; the 6/6 sashes within the frames replaced original 2/2 sashes ca. 1951. (See Photo 6, and Figure 7. 1933 Photo of Middle River School.) The east and west windows on that wall have modern white aluminum storm windows and screens. The center window has storm window framing attached, but the storm window and screen have been removed, presumably to make room for a modern window air conditioning unit that is in that opening. (See Photo 3. What looks like a vertical seam in the weatherboard is a wire that has been painted.) An electrical box for the HVAC compressor unit is installed between the center and western windows, and there is a small cable box on the east end of the wall. The east vestibule wall has a small modern electrical meter and one attached cable box.

West (Rear) Wall

The back wall of the school has original painted weatherboards and a high stone foundation. (See Photo 7.) Like the east wall, it has a wide frieze board at the eave line and narrow corner boards. The fascia boards have simple raking molding. There is one louvered attic vent high in the gable wall; it appears to be modern. The stone foundation has a crawlspace entrance near the north side, covered with a small plywood door.

South Side Wall

The south wall of the school building is nearly identical to the north side wall. It also has three original window openings that have ca. 1951 6/6 sashes. (See Photo 8.) All three windows have modern white exterior storm windows and screens. The south wall of the vestibule contains the entrance to the school. The doorway has original painted wood trim, with a newer door and frame set within the original frame. (See Photo 10.) The modern six-panel metal exterior metal door appears to have replaced an older six panel wood door sometime after 1987.¹²

¹¹ "1899 Middle River Photo," Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society; "1963 Middle River Class Photo Class Photo," Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

¹² "1963 Middle River Class Photo," Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

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School Interior (Photos 11-16.)

The ca. 1927 vestibule looks much as it did when it held boots and jackets for the students at the school. (Photos 11-12.) It is a single room with painted plaster walls and high beadboard wainscot that is topped with a wide flat band of trim. The windows are edged with comparable flat wood trim that continues in continuous bands above and below the window openings. The walls have been patched and covered with gypboard in places; the painted wainscot, baseboards, and window trim are all original and in good condition. The original concrete vestibule floor is covered with modern sheet vinyl, and the ceiling has modern plywood sheeting. A small modern wood ceiling hatch near the wall of the older section accesses the attic of both rooms. There is a modern electric box on the north wall. The school's original front door sits in the center of the vestibule's west wall; it opens into the original ca. 1875 schoolhouse. (The door to the classroom is on the left in Photo 12.)

The original 1875 section of the building contains a single open classroom. (See Figure 8. Current Floorplan of Middle River School.) There is just one door, which leads to the vestibule, and six windows, three on each side wall. (See Photo 13.) A small, raised platform on the west end of the room, which is referred to as the stage by former students, housed the teacher's desk when the school was in use.¹³ (See Photo 14.) The stage appears to be original. The stage and the classroom floor have early hardwood flooring. The classroom flooring appears to date to ca. 1875. The wood flooring is intact, but water-damaged in a few areas.

All four walls have low wainscoting that is formed of flat boards topped by a molded chair rail that is also original. The wainscoting and chair rail are applied directly to wall studs with cut nails, which indicates that they are original and were installed before ca. 1880. The building was converted into a residence ca. 1974, and the chair rail is damaged in a few areas where modern walls were installed to fit the new use. (See Photo 16.) The 1970s walls have since been removed. All woodwork in the classroom is painted.

Most of the walls above the chair rail are plastered; some wall surfaces have a modern textured topcoat, and all are painted. The ceiling is covered with small acoustical tiles that were installed over original plaster ca. 1951.

The front (east) wall has a central doorway with a half-light door that appears to be the same age as the vestibule, ca. 1927. A brick chimney north of the doorway was added for a new furnace ca. 1951. The chimney replaced an original central chimney. Built-in bookshelves and cabinets south of the doorway were also added ca. 1951.

¹³ Hackmann, et. al., *Callaway Chalkboards*, 204.

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The north side wall has a small original chalkboard at the north end of the stage. It runs from the room's northwest corner to the westernmost window on the north wall. (See Photo 15.) The writing surface is painted plaster; it is currently painted black; that paint is peeling to reveal an older coat of green paint. A band of painted trim runs along the top of the chalkboard.

The west end wall above the stage has no doors or windows. Part of the west wall is covered with modern drywall and rigid insulation; that part of the wall served as the kitchen when the building was a residence, and it appears that original wainscot and plaster on that part of the wall were removed during the remodeling project in the 1970s. (See Photos 14 and 15.)

The south side wall has most of its original plaster and wainscot, and all window trim is intact. There are two sections of damaged chair rail and wainscot where the trim was cut back to accommodate interior walls. (See Photo 16.)

2. Pump, ca. 1927. Contributing Object. (Photos 9-10)

The pump sits to the south of the school entrance on a round slab of concrete that is adjacent to a short concrete sidewalk that leads to the school entrance. (See Photo 10.) The well has been in use since at least 1899; the current pump may have been installed when the vestibule was added ca. 1927.¹⁴ The pump is about three feet tall, with a metal cover that is painted silver and a rounded cap that is painted dark red; both are original. The east side of the cover is heavily dented and missing a spout. The cap features the word GEM spelled out in perforations.¹⁵ (See Photo 9.) Although the pump is not currently functional, historic photos indicate that the pump was in use at least into the late 1960s. The pump is believed to be part of the ca. 1927 construction project and it contributes to the later period of significance.

3. Storm Cellar, ca 1930. Contributing Structure. (Photos 3, 4, and 22.)

The concrete storm cellar was added to the site just north of the schoolhouse for the 1929-30 school year. (See Photo 3 and 22.) It is a poured concrete structure that is mostly below ground. (See photo 4.) It has concrete walls and a curved concrete roof. Concrete steps lead down to an entrance on the north end of the structure. The storm cellar was probably built in response to a 1927 tornado that caused casualties and severe damage in the area.¹⁶ The cellar saw minor repairs in 1950 but is otherwise unchanged.¹⁷ The storm cellar was built during the second

¹⁴ 1899 Middle River Photo, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society; 1933 Middle River Photo, Donor Betty Keeney, Book M, Box 001, Folder 141, Shelf 004, Accession # 00497, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.

¹⁵ The Gem company made galvanized steel chain pumps in the early twentieth century. Ad for a GEM pump, *Western Spirit* (Paola, Kansas), September 8, 1916, 5; "Hall & Son Hardware," *Parsons Sun* (Parsons, Kansas), October 24, 1930, 5.

¹⁶ "Six Killed Sunday Night By Callaway County Tornado," *Milan Republican* (Milan, Missouri), May 12, 1927, 1.

¹⁷ Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School," 3.

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period of significance, and it was associated with the school for decades. It is a contributing structure.

4. 6367 County Road 305 Carport, ca. 1980s. Non-contributing Structure. (Photo 21.)

The carport covers a gravel driveway in front of the house next to County Road 305. (See Photo 21.) It is a modern steel-framed structure with aluminum cladding on the side walls and the roof, and no floor. The ends are open. The carport is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

5. 6367 County Road 305 House, ca. 1970s. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 21.)

The house at 6367 County Road 305 is a modern one story house with a walk out basement. It has a side-facing gable roof with asphalt roofing and wide painted lap siding. It has a roughly U-shaped plan, with small projecting bays on either end of the front wall. (See Photo 21.) The house sits back approximately 20 feet from County Road 305, and it is flanked by fencerows on the north and south. It is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

6. 6367 County Road 305 Garage, ca. 1980s. Non-contributing Building.

The garage sits just behind the house, to the west. It is rectangular, with a gambrel roof covered with metal roofing. It is framed, with metal wall cladding, and a garage door in the south gambrel end. The garage is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

7. 6555 Country Road 305 House, ca. 1980s. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 18 and 19.)

The house at 6555 Country Road 305 is a one story frame house with a side-facing gable roof. The house sits back approximately 30 feet from County Road 305. (Photos 18 and 19.) It has asphalt roofing, white vinyl siding and dark shutters. The front wall includes a central front door, with windows to the south and a single garage door to the north. The house is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

8. 6555 Country Road 305 Garage 1, ca. 1980s. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 19.)

Garage 1 is a single car frame garage that sits northwest of the house. (See Photo 19.) It is framed, with a front facing gable roof, white vinyl siding and asphalt shingles. It has one single garage door in the front gable end wall. The garage is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

9. 6555 Country Road 305 Garage 2, ca. 2012. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 20.)

Garage 2 is a large frame outbuilding with a side-facing gable roof. It has asphalt shingles and white vinyl siding. (Garage 2 is on the far left in Photo 20.) The front (north) wall has one double

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and one single garage door and a pedestrian entrance. The garage is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

10. 6555 Country Road 305 Shed 1, ca. 1990. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 20.)

The small frame shed has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. It has painted plywood wall sheathing and asphalt shingles on a gable roof. (Shed 1 is on the right in Photo 20.) The roof extends to the rear to a fenced enclosure. The shed is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

11. 6555 Country Road 305 Shed 2, ca. 1990. Non-contributing Building. (Photo 20.)

The frame shed has a front facing gable roof with asphalt shingles. The walls are clad with vertical wood planks or textured plywood siding and there is a vehicle entrance in the east gable end. (Shed 2 is on the left in Photo 20.) The shed is a non-contributing building due to lack of relationship to the periods and area of significance.

Integrity

The school has seen remarkably few alterations over the years, and it looks very much as it did during the periods of significance. Many of the changes listed below took place when it was still a school, and although they are outside the period of significance, they are related to the building's original function and have a minimal impact on a sense of its time and place. The most impactful modern alterations, which took place in the 1970s, have recently been reversed. A storm cellar was added to the site for the 1929-30 school year and several interior changes took place during the 1951-52 school year. Changes from the 1950s included the removal of a central stove and flue, which were replaced by a new furnace and brick flue on the east wall of the classroom, construction of a small set of built-in cabinets and bookshelves, acoustical tiles over the plaster ceiling, and a new concrete cap for the well.¹⁸ The 1950s project also included the installation of new window sashes. There were no changes to the original window frames, or the interior and exterior trim, and the newer sashes are exactly the same size as the originals. The windows do have different muntin patterns now; the newer sashes are 6/6 while the older ones were 2/2. The windows sashes in the vestibule were also changed sometime after 1962. As on the older part of the building, all original frames and trim are still in place; only the sashes are new.

The most notable alterations took place when the building was converted to residential use. That project included adding plumbing, upgrading 1940s electrical systems, and subdividing the original open classroom. Floors were covered with carpet and linoleum. Some of the original wainscot was damaged when the new walls were added, and a relatively small portion of plaster and wainscot were more heavily damaged when a kitchen was added to the west wall. Site

¹⁸ Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School," 3.

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changes include the addition of modern residences near the county road in the northeast corner of the original parcel, but the vast majority of the 20-acre lot retains its original rural character.

Conclusion

The Middle River School appears today much as it did when it was used as a school. The schoolhouse occupies the same 20-acre plot of rural land that it was constructed on in ca. 1875. The surrounding landscape is also largely rural, with small clusters of residential properties set close to county roads. The school building retains all essential character defining features as described in the MPDF, including rectangular footprint, gabled roof, weatherboard siding and original patterns of fenestration. The essential interior feature—the classroom, retains its original open plan and most of its original finishes. The schoolhouse stands as an excellent example of a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School. It evokes a sense of its time and place and clearly reflects its century long tenure as a one room school.

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Summary Statement of Significance

The Middle River School at 6587 County Road 305 in Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The one-story wood frame building is an excellent example of the Mass Vernacular One-teacher School property type described in the Multiple Property Documentation (MPDF) *One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to 1973*. It is a locally rare example of a once common building type, the one-room schoolhouse. The Middle River School, built ca. 1875, uses dimensional lumber and other materials common to Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools and retains almost all of its original features, including a rectangular plan with evenly spaced side windows, a front-facing gable roof, and a single large classroom. It has seen just one addition since it was placed into service. In keeping with common practice at the time, a small front vestibule was added in 1927.¹⁹ The building functioned as a schoolhouse until 1973, when the state completed a long program to consolidate rural school districts. The property has three periods of significance, which correspond to its initial construction, ca. 1875, the vestibule addition, ca. 1927 and the storm cellar, ca. 1929. The notably intact building occupies its original rural 20-acre site, and it appears today much as it did when it functioned as a single teacher school.

Criterion Consideration A

The Middle River School is owned by a religious organization and therefore subject to Criteria Consideration A, although it has never had a religious function. Under Criterion Consideration A, properties with ties to religious organizations are generally not eligible for listing in the National Register on religious merits alone. National Register Bulletin 15 does, however, note that they can be eligible for significance related to "architectural, artistic, or historic grounds."²⁰ The Middle River School exhibits significance in the area of Architecture, as a good local example of Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School property type.

Elaboration:

Early Schools in Missouri

Early school classes were often conducted in private homes and the first county schoolhouses frequently looked much like modest log houses. John W. Henry, the first state superintendent of schools in Missouri later described log schools of the 1850s as being "ten by twelve [foot] log cabins, with one door in the middle and one oblong window extending from the door casing to

¹⁹ Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School," 3; Patterson, "One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to 1973," F-39.

²⁰ *Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991), 26.

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the corner of the house.”²¹ He expressed sympathy for the students who had to attend classes in the “low, dismal, dreary things.”²²

The state’s first constitution, enacted in 1820, included provisions for public schools and declared that “one school, or more, shall be established in each township as soon as practicable and necessary.”²³ Although education was enshrined in the constitution, responsibility for funding and administering schools was left to local authorities, and school development was slow and scattered. A bill passed in 1835 provided a mechanism for counties to form school districts and vote to tax themselves for the support of education. Local districts were to be overseen by a board of three trustees who had “the power to employ teachers, appoint visitors and make all needful arrangements for the school.”²⁴

Early Schools in Callaway County

Callaway County was organized on November 25, 1818. The county, named after Captain James Callaway, held its first session of circuit court on February 5, 1821, at a local tavern where they began dividing the county into townships. A few months later, the township of Fulton was created, and the city of Fulton became the county seat in 1825.²⁵ The county was still sparsely settled at the time. With little access to materials other than what the forests provided, the first white settlers frequently built houses of round or hewn logs, with pole rafters and hand split boards for roofing. Glass was hard to come by, and many early residents did not have the means to afford it in any case. When families could, they used greased paper to cover windows to allow a little light, or simply left them open to the elements.²⁶

By the 1840s numerous small school districts had been formed in Callaway County, each containing a single school for white children.²⁷ Some districts, like the Middle River School District, which later became Callaway County District #57 also had a Black school at a different location within district boundaries. Many of those schools’ exact locations, like that of the Middle River Colored School, have not been found.

²¹ Claude Phillips, *A History of Education in Missouri: The Essential Facts Concerning the History and Organization of Schools*, (Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1911), 47.

²² Phillips, *A History of Education in Missouri*, 47.

²³ Quoted in Perry McCandless, *A History of Missouri, Volume II: 1820 to 1860* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2000.) 190.

²⁴ Phillips, *A History of Education in Missouri*, 9.

²⁵ Ovid Bell, *A Short history of Callaway County* (Fulton, Missouri: Fulton Gazette Publishing, 1913), 7, 8, 9.

²⁶ *History of Callaway County, Missouri* (St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1884), accessed <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/mocohist/id/14485/>, 101, 102.

²⁷ Bill Hamilton School Notes: District # 56, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton, MO, n.d.

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In 1841, the Trustees of the Middle River School District purchased the 20 acre parcel of land being nominated with the present schoolhouse.²⁸ The school district was named for the Middle River, which runs a few hundred feet from the west edge of the 20 acre parcel. (There is also an unrelated Middle River Church and small community of the same name in southeast Callaway County.) Middle River School is close to Carrington, a small town three miles southwest of the school in the Round Prairie township.

It is not clear how soon the Middle River School board constructed a schoolhouse on the land they bought in 1841. There are few records of the county's first schools. There was little funding available for school construction, and early classes in the district may have been held in a private residence or a log schoolhouse. Records show there was at least one log schoolhouse in the Middle River District. Research by Callaway County historian Bill Hamilton includes notes about a "1 room log school called Middle River School" that was used as a Black school in 1903.²⁹ No date of construction or location was found for the school.

That log school may have been built for white students in the Middle River district and passed along for use as a Black school after the nominated frame schoolhouse was completed. It is very unlikely that either schoolhouse ever housed integrated classes. Early twentieth century deed records document a strong racist policy by the school board that was likely in place in the late 1800s as well. When the school district sold portions of the original 20-acre parcel in 1917 and 1921, the deeds specifically stated that the land could "never be sold or conveyed in any manner whatsoever to a negro," and specified that failure to comply would mean that the land would "immediately revert to the Directors of School District #57".³⁰

That prohibition almost surely extended to use by Black students as well. Callaway County schools were segregated until at least 1968, and there is no indication that the frame Middle River schoolhouse nominated here was ever available to Black students.³¹ Separate schools for Blacks did apparently operate in the district at least sporadically. There is at least one other mention of a Black school in the Middle River district in the 1930s. Hamilton cites a courthouse record that reads "District #57 Middle River (col), 1932-33 -- Hazel Dixon, teacher."³² Black children from both Carrington and Middle River shared the school. The only description of a location for the Middle River Colored School is from Bruce Hackman's book that it "operated out

²⁸ Callaway County Deed Book K, p. 344-345, Callaway County, Missouri Recorder's office.

²⁹ Bill Hamilton School Notes: District # 56, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton, MO, nd.

³⁰ Callaway County Recorder, Callaway County, Missouri, Deed Books 82, 108, April 22, 1916.

³¹ Tina Mann, et. al. "George Washington Carver School, Fulton, MO" National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996. NRIS # 96001381.

³² Bill Hamilton School Notes: District # 57, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton, MO, n.d. Note: (col) refers to "colored".

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of a former residence that sat on the north side of a road that ran between the village of Carrington and Middle River School.”³³

Schoolhouse Construction

The current frame Middle River schoolhouse is believed to have been constructed before 1880 on the same site that it occupies today. Construction methods and materials indicate a pre-1880 construction date. Cut nails, which fell from use around 1880, are visible in the attic and within a damaged portion of chair rail, and the native stone foundation is typical of the nineteenth century.³⁴ A county atlas published in 1876 shows a schoolhouse in the location of the current building, which supports a ca. 1875 construction date.³⁵ (See Figure 9. 1876 Callaway County Atlas.) The nominated schoolhouse was definitely in use by 1899, the date of the oldest known photo of the building. (See Figure 10. Middle River School in 1899.)

The new building had a rectangular footprint, with the front gable end wall facing east. The entrance was centered on the front wall and the side walls each had three tall windows. It was clad with painted weatherboards and the roof was covered with split wood shakes. By 1918, it also had an open front porch. (See Figure 6. 1918 photo of the school.) Heat was supplied by a stove in the center of the schoolroom that vented out of a brick chimney. (The chimney is visible in Figures 6 and 10.)

The new Middle River schoolhouse was comparable to many one-room schools in the area, including Carrington School, which was built just a few miles away around 1860. (See Figure 11. Carrington Schoolhouse in 1914, and Figure 18, Map of One Room School in Callaway County. Carrington School is the first school west of Middle River on that map.) Carrington schoolhouse is no longer extant. A 1931 description of rural schools in the state that was written by State Superintendent of schools William T. Carrington could have been penned with Middle River and Carrington Schools in mind. Carrington was the son of the founder of Carrington village and was raised in the area.³⁶ He described a “box-car type” of schoolhouse as “one room frame, usually 20-24 feet long by 30 to 36, three or four windows in each side, one door in one end, a blackboard across the opposite...the teacher’s desk was on a low platform under the blackboard.”³⁷ Carrington was speaking from experience. As a child, he attended Carrington School, and returned in 1875 to teach there for a short time.

³³ Hackman, et. al, *Callaway Chalkboards*, 23.

³⁴ Hugh Howard, *How Old Is This House: A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses*, (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1989), 54.

³⁵ *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Callaway County, Missouri*, 1876, 39.

³⁶ Bill Hamilton School Notes: District # 56, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton, MO, n.d.

³⁷ “W. T. Carrington Notes,” Hamilton, “Bill Hamilton Schools: District # 56,” Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society, Fulton, MO, n.d.

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One-Teacher Public Schools in Missouri

The Middle River school features a popular schoolhouse form classified as “Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School” in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri: ca. 1774 to ca. 1973.”³⁸ That 2011 document written by Tiffany Patterson, incorporated data on some 924 one-teacher schools, in 76 of the state’s 114 counties. Like Middle River school, most of those schools were rural. Some were already listed in the National Register, but most were identified during architectural surveys including local and regional surveys of various resources, plus a large survey of African American Schools and a survey of rural schools in Greene County. The MPDF includes good overall context on education in Missouri and of one room schools in particular. Patterson also developed context and registration requirements for three small school property types: I. Folk Vernacular One-Teacher Schools, II. Mass-Vernacular One-Teacher Schools, and III. Architect Designed/Plan Book One-teacher Schools. Middle River School is an excellent local example of II. Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools.

The property types in the MPDF are loosely based on categories identified by historian Fred Schroeder, who divided modest rural school designs into four categories: folk vernacular, mass vernacular, architect/plan book, and architect/commissioned.³⁹ Because very few one-teacher schools in Missouri were architect-designed, the MPDF groups the last two categories into property type III.⁴⁰

Folk Vernacular One-Teacher Schools are, or were, simple buildings constructed of readily available materials with little to no attention to architectural styles or the latest trends in building. The local log schoolhouses described above would be best categorized as Folk Vernacular. To date, no examples of log schoolhouses have been identified in Callaway County. As Schroeder noted, “in most cases, [folk vernacular schools] were temporary pioneer buildings to be abandoned or recycled as soon as a more respectable schoolhouse could be built.”⁴¹

Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools, by contrast, were built in greater numbers and were constructed to last. They combine vernacular building forms with mass produced building materials. Those buildings have simple forms that were so frequently used that they became as much a part of the local building tradition as vernacular house types. As Schroeder put it, “the builder (not an architect) builds not according to blueprints, but according to a cultural template in his mind of what a schoolhouse ‘looks like’.”⁴²

³⁸ Patterson, “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to 1973,” 2011. F-39, F-40.

³⁹ Fred E. H. Schroeder, “Schoolhouse Reading: What You Can Learn from Your Rural School,” *History News* 36, no. 4 (1981): 15–16. [http:// www.jstor.org/stable/42656249](http://www.jstor.org/stable/42656249). 15.

⁴⁰ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” F.33.

⁴¹ Schroeder, “Schoolhouse Reading,” 15.

⁴² Schroeder, “Schoolhouse Reading,” 15.

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Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools have the same form that Carrington referred to as a “box-car type.” Patterson describes it as having a rectangular plan, most often with one or two doors in the short front wall, and three to four widely separated windows on each longer side wall. Gable roofs were extremely common, especially on schools built before ca. 1890. Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools are also characterized by the use of mass-produced building materials such as dimension lumber, wood siding, prefabricated millwork, and manufactured hardware.⁴³ Although brick and stone examples were built, Patterson observes that “By and large, Missouri examples of this property type are of frame construction with clapboard siding.”⁴⁴ The dimensional lumber framing and presence of curved saw marks on the back of the siding used for the Middle River School confirms that those materials were purchased ready-made.

Patterson’s description of interior spaces in Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools shows that the finishes in the Middle River school are also typical of the property type. She notes that walls and ceilings were generally plastered, and it was common to see blackboards on one or more walls.⁴⁵ Wood wainscoting like that found at Middle River was also described as a typical feature of the property type. At least one other Callaway County School, Williamsburg School, had nearly identical wainscoting.⁴⁶

The Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School form started appearing in the 1850s, but it did not become widespread until the last quarter of the nineteenth century.⁴⁷ Increased numbers can be attributed to a general growth in the state’s public school system as well as better availability of construction materials. Improved transportation networks in particular brought access to mass-produced building products.⁴⁸ In 1872, the Chicago-Alton Railroad line opened up through Callaway County, linking nearby Carrington and Fulton to national markets. Missouri State Superintendent of Schools reports show that Callaway County saw a marked increase in the number of frame schoolhouses between 1870 and 1874, however there are no specific references to county districts in the report. Between 1870 and 1874, the number of frame schoolhouses in the county jumped 48%, from 28 to 58. At least some of those schools may have replaced older log buildings. The number of log schoolhouses dropped from 50 to 33 in the same period.⁴⁹

⁴³ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” F.39.

⁴⁴ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” F.39.

⁴⁵ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” F.39.

⁴⁶ Hackman, *Callaway Chalkboards*, Cover Photo of Williamsburg School, which is no longer extant.

⁴⁷ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” E-23.

⁴⁸ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to 1973,” E-6, E-23.

⁴⁹ T. A. Parker, *Fifth Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri*, Jefferson City: Horace Wilcox Private Printer, 1871, 138; Sam A. Barker, *Ninth Annual Report of the*

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In the early twentieth century, new ideas on school design began to impact the design and layout of schools. Interior layouts included coatrooms, bookshelves, and small service rooms, which one school publication claimed would “keep the interior tidy and homelike in appearance.”⁵⁰ Changing views about lighting also spurred new patterns of fenestration that featured grouped windows on one side of the classroom, to reduce glare. The state superintendent of schools began recommending that type of fenestration around 1910, and schools built after that date frequently have large, grouped windows on just one sidewall. One surviving early school in Callaway County, the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse in Auxvasse township, features that type of layout. (See Figure 17 below. Comparable Schools in Callaway County.) The windows are grouped on one long side wall in a manner more common to post 1910 schools.

Changing attitudes were reflected in all-new designs popularized by plan books, and in rare cases, individual architects. The movement spurred development of the third property type discussed in the MPDF: III. Architect Designed/Plan Book One-Teacher Schools. That property type is narrowly defined in the MPDF as having a design that is directly linked to a particular plan book or individual architect.⁵¹ Examples given in the MPDF tend to be larger and have more complex forms and interior layouts than Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools. No such examples of that property type have been identified in Callaway County.

The Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School property type did not fall from use at that time, however. The traditional mass vernacular form remained popular well into the twentieth century. New examples sometimes incorporated minor design changes, and existing schoolhouses often saw remodeling projects that would bring them closer to twentieth century standards. Those changes ranged from the addition of closets and other rooms within the original classrooms to moving windows and/or expanding the footprint of the building. Coatrooms were suggested for the storage of school lunches as well as jackets and coats. School guides also suggested replacing central potbelly heating stoves with more efficient “jacketed” stoves that were located in a corner or, if available, a basement.⁵² (See Figure 12. 1930 Schoolhouse Remodeling Plans.)

Updates to Middle River School

Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City: Regan & Carter, State Printers, 1875, 171.

⁵⁰ Fletcher B. Dresslar, *Rural Schoolhouses, School Grounds, and Their Equipment* (Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, Bulletin No 21. 1930), 64.

⁵¹ Patterson, “One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri,” F.45.

⁵² Dresslar, *Rural Schoolhouses*, 62, 64.

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Upgrades to the Middle River schoolhouse that were made in 1927 reflect those changing standards in school design. That project included replacing an open front porch with an enclosed vestibule that spans most of the front wall. (See Figure 7. The Middle River School class of 1933 in front of the vestibule.) Although some publications recommended separate coatrooms for boys and girls, the small vestibule at Middle River served all of the students. Nancy Conner Womack, who attended school there in the early 1960s described the vestibule as the place where “we hung up our coats and took off our muddy boots,” and recalled that there were two sets of coat hooks there--one for taller students one a lower set for younger pupils.⁵³

About the same time the vestibule was built, an existing well that is a few feet from the front door of the vestibule received a new pump. The well may have been placed in service when the school was first built. A photo taken in 1899 shows the edge of a wooden well cover at that location. (Figure 10.) A pump is visible there in a 1916 photo, but it appears to have been slightly different than the one there now. (Figure 6.) The current pump is a GEM brand, which was popular in the early to mid-twentieth century. (See Figure 13. GEM Pump Advertisement.) The pump has therefore been assigned a construction date of ca. 1927. The well no doubt supplied water for a large Western Stoneware water crock that was kept on a table in the vestibule. The school did not have running water until after the 1960s, and possibly not until it became a residence in the 1990s. Mrs. Womack recalls separate outhouses for boys and girls when she attended in the 1960s.⁵⁴ Another former student, Steven Werder, recalled the outhouses being located behind the school next to a baseball diamond, and noted that the one for girls was closer to the building.⁵⁵

The schoolhouse and grounds saw various other upgrades over the years. A concrete storm cellar was added to the property for the 1929-30 school year. That addition may have been spurred by a tornado that swept through the area in 1927, killing six people and destroying several buildings.⁵⁶ Other additions include electricity in 1942, and a new furnace for the 1951-52 school year. The new furnace replaced the old centrally located stove which used an original central brick chimney. The old chimney and stove were removed, and the furnace was installed in the east end of the classroom, next to a brick flue that was added as part of the project. That same year, the floors were sanded, new window sashes were installed within the existing window frames, and built-in bookcases were added to the east wall of the classroom.

⁵³ Nancy Connor Womack, “My Family’s Special Link to the Past,” undated copy of an article in the owner’s collection, np.

⁵⁴ Conner Womack, “My Family’s Special Link to the Past,” np.

⁵⁵ Hackman, Callaway Chalkboards, 206.

⁵⁶ “Six Killed Sunday Night By Callaway County Tornado,” *Milan Republican*, 1.

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Later upgrades to the school building and grounds had a minimal impact upon the overall appearance, and the schoolhouse stands as a notably intact example of a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School. The form, interior layout, and patterns of fenestration are all character-defining features of the property type, particularly of nineteenth century examples. The 1927 vestibule addition is a historically significant alteration that reflects early twentieth century changes in school design standards. As noted in the MPDF, that type of change is a significant reflection of the schoolhouse's evolution.⁵⁷

Education at Middle River School

For nearly a century, the Middle River School operated as a single-teacher school, where local children of various ages and grade levels attended classes in the same room. (Figure 14. 1960s Middle River Interior Views.) One-room school teachers taught first through eighth grades in combined classes that averaged ten to thirty or more students. One Middle River School student recalled having 65 students in the class during the 1891 school year, and historic photos show that later classes ranged from 44 in 1899 to less than a dozen in 1962.⁵⁸ (Figure 15. Middle River Schoolhouse in 1963.)

To manage the range of grade levels, teachers used student-to-student tutoring. When older students finished assignments, they would partner with and help a younger student still working on theirs. This system benefited the younger students and reinforced concepts for the older children.⁵⁹ Mrs. Weddle, a teacher from Brick Monroe School in Clay County, Missouri, described the system as "more of a family situation than a school situation."⁶⁰ A former teacher at Middle River recalled that students enjoyed helping the teacher. Mrs. Helen Weigle Danuser noted that it "was a privilege to be chosen to do chores around the schoolhouse."⁶¹

Over the years, hundreds of local students began their education at the Middle River Schoolhouse. One of the more notable early students was Helen Stephens, who graduated from Middle River School in 1930 and went on to attend Fulton High School. Stephens later won two gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, earning the nickname the "Fulton Flash."⁶² Stephens later said the exercise of working on the family farm and traveling to Middle River school served

⁵⁷ Patterson, "One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri," F.44.

⁵⁸ Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School," 4, and interview with Rachel Appleton, September 2023.

⁵⁹ "One-Room Schools," *Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society*, accessed August 4, 2023, <https://www.callawaymohistory.org/one-room-schools>.

⁶⁰ "One Room Education Given Final Recess," *Springfield Leader and Press* (Springfield, Missouri), December 25, 1972, 11. Mrs. Weddel's first name was not included in the article; she is described only as Mrs. Robert Weddel.

⁶¹ "One Room Schools," *Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society*.

⁶² "Helen Stephens," *Historic Missourians*, accessed August 4, 2023, <https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/stephens-helen/>.

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as early training. Her cousin rode a horse to school, and Helen ran beside them. She recalled: "I would grab the stirrup and run with the horse."⁶³

Another former student of the school, Nancy Conner Womack, a distant cousin of Stephens, attended Middle River School ca. 1960-1968 and later wrote about her time there. (See Figure 15. Middle River Class Photo taken when Conner Womack was a student there.) She represented the third generation of Conners to study at Middle River. Her father was a classmate of Helen Stephens', and her grandmother and great aunt were students there before that. Like many who attended one-room schools, Womack credits one of her teachers at Middle River School as "the best teacher she ever had."⁶⁴

Beyond education, one-room schoolhouses frequently served as de facto community centers. Often among the few buildings in the school district that could accommodate a crowd, they were frequently the site of social events. Middle River was no exception; public gatherings at the school included local elections, school and church picnics, pie suppers and union meetings.⁶⁵ (See Figure 16. Mutton BBQ and Sunday School Picnic advertisements.)

Consolidation of Rural Schools

The State of Missouri began consolidating small school districts in the 1910s, but that movement did not begin in earnest until after WWII. A 1945 report on rural education influenced legislators to pass a consolidation law in 1948. This law helped Missouri's counties to develop larger school districts by providing state funds for improved school buildings.⁶⁶ An increase in reliable transportation facilitated the change to larger districts after 1948. In the following few years, Missouri school districts decreased by 45 percent, and their numbers continued to decline over the next few decades.⁶⁷

Finally, in 1968, the state mandated that all three-director school districts (described in the MPDF as independent, usually one-room) be consolidated into larger districts by January 1973.⁶⁸ While many rural areas fought the consolidation, the State Board of Education explained that "the physical limitations of the schools, in addition to the range of courses

⁶³ "Helen Stephens," *Historic Missourians*.

⁶⁴ "Conner Womack, "My Family's Special Link to the Past," np.

⁶⁵ "A Joint Sunday School Picnic," *Callaway Gazette* (Fulton, Missouri), August 4, 1882, 4; "Mere Mention," *Callaway Gazette*, May 25, 1883, "Judges of Primary Election," *Fulton Telegram* (Fulton, Missouri), August 14, 1890, 7.

⁶⁶ Patterson, "One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri," E17.

⁶⁷ Patterson, "One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri," E21.

⁶⁸ Patterson, "One Teacher Public Schools of Missouri," E17-E21.

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offered, prohibit educational opportunities comparable to the larger school districts.⁶⁹ By December 1972, only six small rural schools were still in operation in Missouri.⁷⁰ Two of those—Middle River School and the nearby Brown School—were in Callaway County. Brown School had been expanded in 1963 to include two classrooms, making Middle River School the last one-room school in Callaway County. Brown School is located about a mile south of Fulton, MO on County Road 401. (See Figure 18. Brown School is immediately east of Middle River School.) The building is extant and has been converted into a residence. (See Figure 17a. Comparisons and Figure 18. Location Map of Callaway County's Rural Schools.)

The final mergers with larger districts went into effect at the end of the school year, July 1, 1973.⁷¹ That fall, 20 former Middle River students became part of Fulton's school district, which served 2,393 students.⁷² The schools' closing marked the end of a system of learning that served generations of rural Missourians.

After the Middle River school district was disbanded, the schoolhouse was sold and remodeled to serve as a private residence. That project included subdividing the original classroom to create two bedrooms, a bathroom and a small kitchen. There were no notable changes to the vestibule or exterior of the schoolhouse. After the property changed hands in 2023, the 1970s alterations were reversed via the removal of all interior partitions and modern finishes, and the building once again contains just two rooms—the large original classroom and the ca. 1927 vestibule. The vast majority of the original floorboards and wood wainscoting are in place inside the building, and the exterior walls are still clad in the original clapboard siding.

Other One-Room Schools in Callaway County

Although Callaway County once had more than 100 small rural school districts and scores of mass-vernacular schoolhouses, few have survived. Research conducted by Bruce Hackmann for a recently published book on small rural schools in Callaway County, *Callaway Chalkboards*, found that only a handful of early schoolhouses are still standing. Mr. Hackmann recently observed that most of the schoolhouses that have survived have been greatly expanded or otherwise altered, while others are in ruin.⁷³ A survey of early county schools by Hackmann and researchers and the Kingdom of Callaway Research Center found that even fewer early schoolhouses in the county retain sufficient integrity to reflect their ties to education.

⁶⁹ Associated Press, "Missouri Closes One Room Schools," *The Sunday News and Tribune* (Jefferson City, Missouri) December 24, 1972, 5.

⁷⁰ "One-Room Schools Nearing Extinction," *Daily Capital News* (Jefferson City, Missouri), December 13, 1972, 8.

⁷¹ "One-Room Schools Nearing Extinction," 8.

⁷² "One Room Education Given Final Recess," *Springfield Leader and Press* (Springfield, Missouri), December 25, 1972, 11.

⁷³ Bruce Hackmann, Interviewed by Deb Sheals by telephone, August 14, 2023.

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Recent fieldwork and review of surviving small rural schoolhouses conducted for this document identified just ten small rural schoolhouses in the county, including Middle River. Fieldwork included site visits to twelve sites identified by the Kingdom of Callaway Research Center. Ten contained school buildings. The surviving buildings were photographed and basic research on each was reviewed at the Kingdom of Callaway Research Center. (See Figure 17a, 17b, 17c. Schoolhouse comps.) That study identified six Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools that retain sufficient integrity to reflect their ties to education. Middle River is part of that group; it is one of just two examples located in Fulton Township.

The Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School Buildings listed below are relatively intact and constructed before 1973, the last year small rural school districts were in existence. (See Figure 17 for photos of all known early rural schools in Callaway County and Figure 18 for their locations.) Construction dates are rough approximations, based on construction details, a review of records on file at the Kingdom of Callaway Research Center, in Fulton, MO, and notes in *Callaway Chalkboards*.

Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, ca. 1915

Auxvasse Township

The one story frame school has a rectangular footprint and front-gable roof common to 19th century Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools, but a recessed entry and irregular patterns of fenestration that are more often seen on schools built after 1910 or 1920. The building has early clapboard siding, early or original metal roofing, and a brick flue. It appears to contain just one classroom. It is in fair condition and may be vacant.

McClellan Schoolhouse, ca. 1920s

Auxvasse Township

This one story frame school has a front-facing gable roof and original weatherboards. The overall form is typical of early Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools and the patterns of fenestration point to a post 1910 construction date. It is long-vacant and in poor condition.

Middle River Schoolhouse, ca. 1875, ca. 1927

Fulton Township

There is a school on this site in the 1876 atlas and the first known teacher worked in 1876. Like the previous two examples, Middle River School has features common to the 1800s and the 1900s. Original nineteenth century features include a stone foundation, rectangular footprint, and front facing gable roof. The enclosed front vestibule is a historic alteration that was made in ca. 1927. The building is highly intact and in very good condition.

Muir Schoolhouse, ca. 1875

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Fulton Township

There is a school on this site in the 1876 atlas and the first known teacher worked in 1876. The Muir schoolhouse is one of the largest schools in the study group. Pedimented lintel trim above the windows points to a nineteenth century construction date. It is a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School that has seen only minor alterations since the 1800s. A one-story modern frame porch covers the main entrance, which is in the front facing gable end. It is in just fair condition and may be vacant.

Herbet King (col.) Schoolhouse, ca. 1900

Auxvasse Township

This very small frame school appears to be the smallest Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School in Callaway County. It is the only Black school of the study group. It has original wood siding and standing seam metal roofing, and at least some original window sashes. It is in fair to poor condition and appears to be used only for storage.

Williamsburg Schoolhouse, ca. 1881

Nine Mile Prairie Township

There is no school on this site in the 1876 atlas and the first known teacher worked there in 1881. One of the larger schools in the group, this Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School is also the only one in the group to exhibit stylistic embellishments. It has a rectangular form, original weatherboards, and a front facing gable roof. Exterior embellishments include pilaster corner boards, dentil trim on the front porch and fish-scale shingles in the gable ends of the porch and the main building. It is in fair condition and may be vacant.

Conclusion

The Middle River School is an excellent local example of a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School Property Type. It meets registration requirements laid out in the MPDF and reflects two historical periods of development of the Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School property type discussed in that document. The property type came into widespread use in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when it became so common that it is still widely considered to be the prototypical one-room school form. After the first decade of the twentieth century, minor alterations to the design developed as educators identified ways to make the modest buildings more efficient. Middle River was constructed relatively early in the first period, ca. 1874, and upgraded in 1927 to address changing norms for schoolhouse design. The building's character-defining shape, patterns of fenestration, interior layout, and interior and exterior finishes are all identifying features for the property type. The schoolhouse has seen no major permanent changes in its century and a half of use, and it is a notably intact example of a Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School.

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Timeline of Middle River School 6587 County Road 305, Fulton, MO 65251

Periods of Significance: ca. 1875 (construction) and ca. 1927-ca. 1929 (Vestibule and Storm Cellar.)

- 1841 Property Deed 20 Acres. Wm. H. McCullah to Trustees of Middle River School. 20 acres for \$25. S ½ of the Se ¼ of Sctn 26 T 47N R 10W. (possibly filed in 1848)
- 1850 Earliest mass vernacular schoolhouse buildings in Missouri. [MPDF]
- 1850s-60s Thomas Fischer Teacher at Middle River. [Middle River District #57 notes.]
- 1876 County atlas shows a school in the same 20-acre parcel purchased in 1841. [1976 Callaway County Atlas]
- 1899 First known photo of the school. White with dark windows. [Dorothy Houchins donor, Callaway County Historical Society]
- 1916 School district sold the west 17 acres of the original parcel to William Jatho and John Willet for \$340. The deed included restrictions against selling to "a Negro". [Conner, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1921 Trustees of the school, including Henry Jatho, sell one acre of land to Mrs. Mary S. Craighead. It is mostly west of the current lot, with a narrow strip along the north edge, presumably to get to CR 305. [Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1926-27 Vestibule added. A common addition per MPDF. [Conner, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1927 Deadly Tornado Sweeps Through the Area. [Milan Republican (Milan, Missouri), May 12, 1927, 1.]
- 1929-30 Storm Cellar built to the north of the school. [Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1941-42 Electric and lights installed. Carl Davis was the teacher. [Conner Womack, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1951-52 Tile ceiling, floors sanded, new windows, new concrete top for well. Flue built, and gas heater and tank installed. [Conner, "History of Middle River School"]
- 1972 As part of a statewide consolidation of small districts, the State Board of Education assigned Middle River School to the Fulton School District; it was one of the last 25 one-room schools open in the state. [Associated Press, "Missouri Closes One Room Schools," The Sunday News and Tribune Jefferson City, Missouri December 24, 1972, 5.]

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Verbal Boundary Description

The south half of the southeast ¼ of Section 26, Township 47 North, Range 10 West, in Callaway County, Missouri, containing 20 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all of a 20-acre parcel that the trustees of Callaway County local school district #57 purchased for school use in 1841. It is the same parcel of land upon which the Middle River Schoolhouse was constructed ca. 1875.

The original 20-acre parcel was divided several times over the years, and it currently encompasses four lots. (See Figure 3. Assessors Map.) The school is on lot A, a 1.3-acre lot in the southeast corner of the property. (Figure 4. Site Plan.) Most of Lot B was sold by the school district in 1916 and part of Lot C was sold in 1921. The rest of C and D were sold after the second period of significance, ca. 1926-ca. 1929.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Callaway County, Missouri, Deed Book 82: 108; Directors of the School District #57 & William Henry Craighead and Mary C. Craighead, April 22, 1916; Callaway County Courthouse; Callaway County, Missouri, Deed Book 90: 616; Directors of the School District #57 & Mary C. Craighead, August 9, 1921; Callaway County Courthouse.

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Figure 1. Location Map. (Google Earth, *earth.google.com*, accessed 2023.)



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Figure 2. Aerial View of the Property. (Google Earth, *earth.google.com*, accessed 2023.)



Coordinates:

1. Latitude: 38.823632° Longitude: -92.013775°
2. Latitude: 38.823776° Longitude: -92.018504°
3. Latitude: 38.822064° Longitude: -92.018481°
4. Latitude: 38.821989° Longitude: -92.013841°

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Figure 3. Callaway County Assessor's Map. ("Callaway County Assessor," *Callaway County*, accessed 2023, [https://callawaycounty.org/assessor/.](https://callawaycounty.org/assessor/))

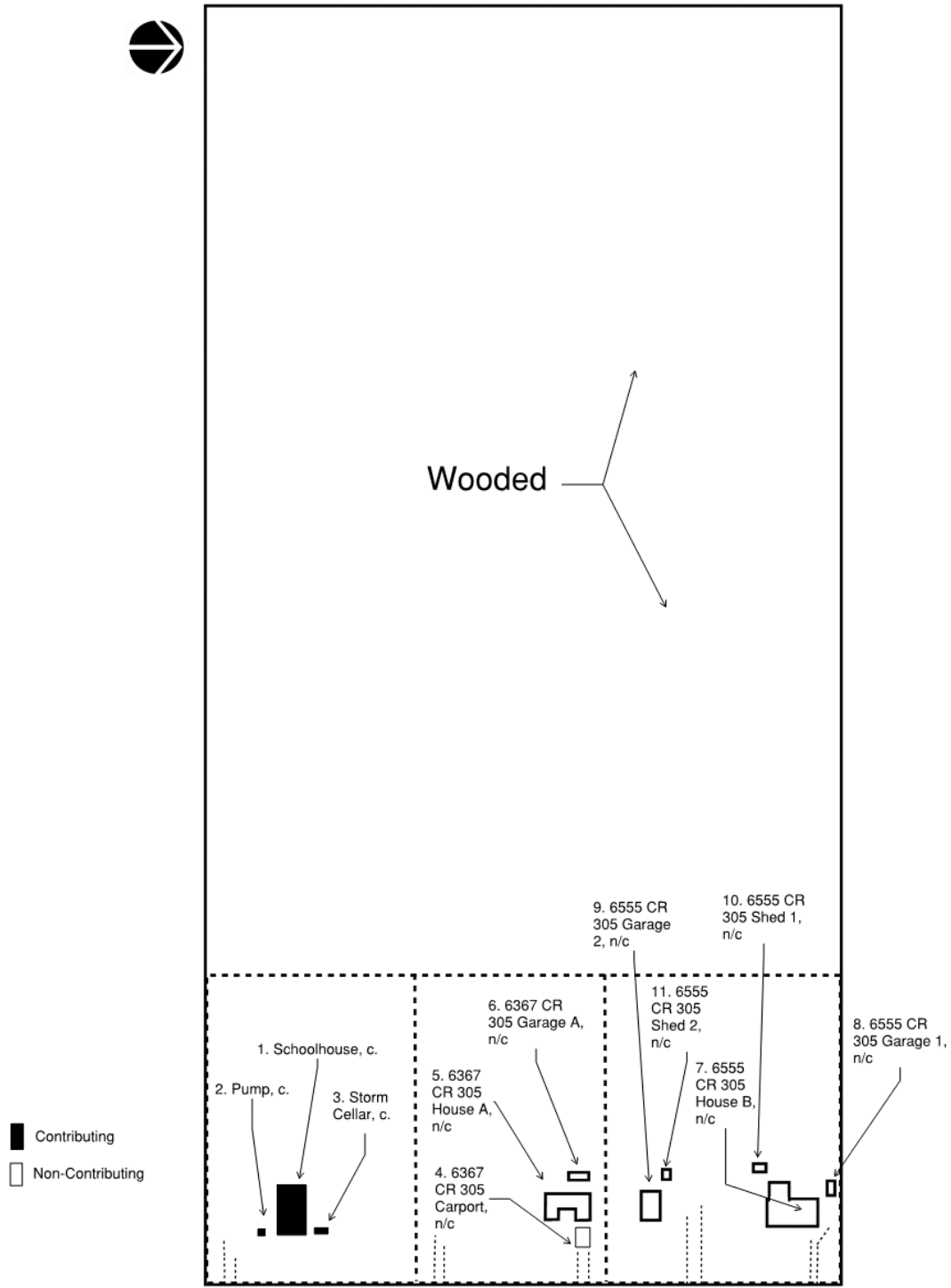


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Figure 4. Site Plan of the 20-acre Parcel. (Deb Sheals, 2023.) See Figure 2 for Vegetation Patterns.

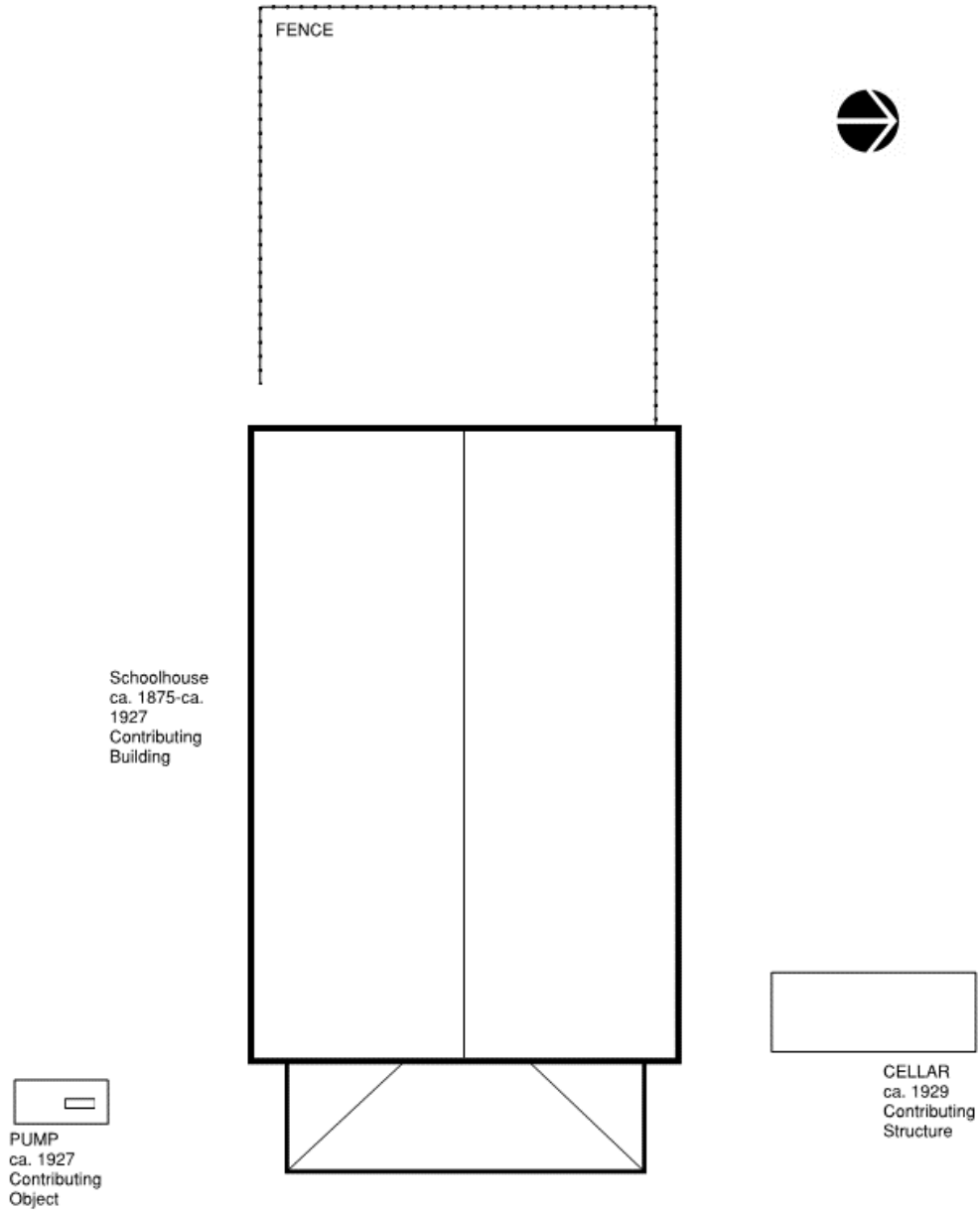


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Figure 5. Schoolyard plan. (Deb Sheals, 2023.)



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Figure 6. 1918 Photo of Middle River School. (1918 Middle River Photo, Book M, Box B004, Folder 071, Shelf 3, Accession # 00716, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society)



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Figure 7. 1933 Photo of Middle River School with vestibule in the background. (1933 Middle River Photo, Donor Betty Keeney, Book M, Box 001, Folder 141, Shelf 004, Accession 00497 Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)

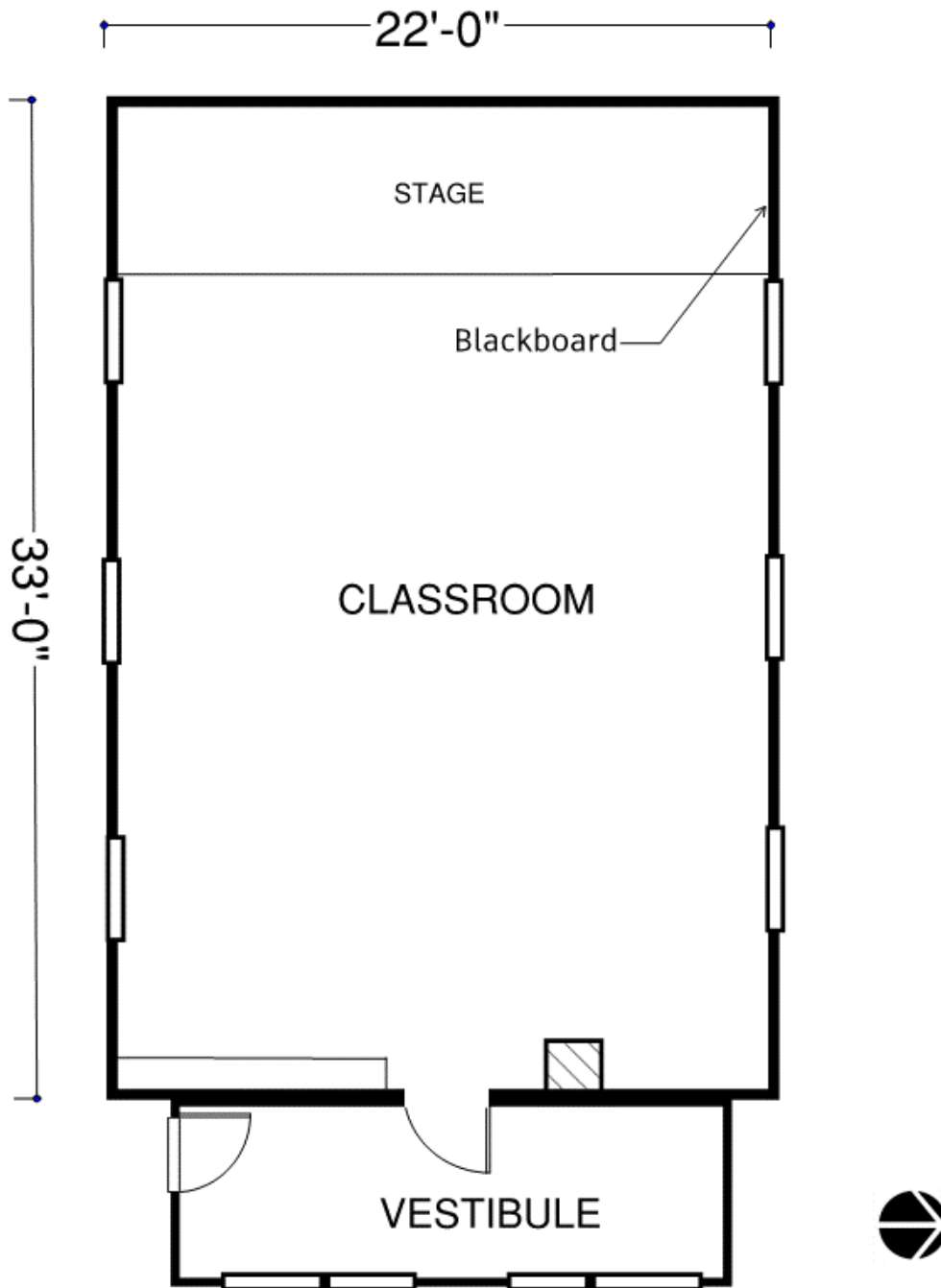


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Figure 8. Current Floorplan of Middle River School. (Deb Sheals, 2023.)

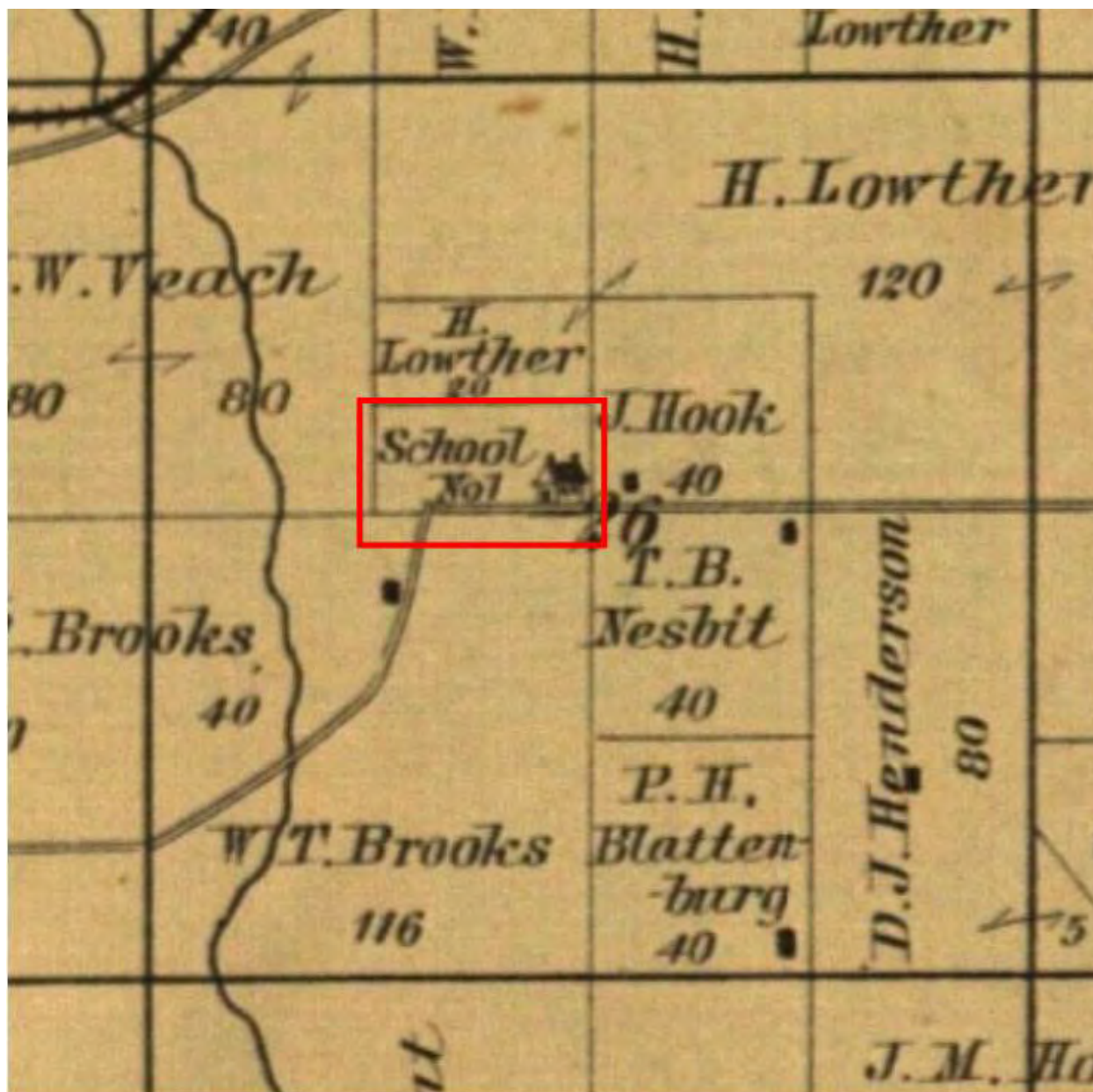


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Figure 9. 1876 Callaway County Atlas showing a schoolhouse on the 20-acre parcel. (*An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Callaway County, Missouri, 1876, The State Historical Society of Missouri*, accessed September 25, 2023, <https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/6002,39>.)



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Figure 10. Oldest Known Image of Middle River School, photo taken in 1899. (1899 Middle River School Photo, Donor Joe Holt, Book M, Box B005 Folder 054, Shelf F11, Accession # 2013-0058-01, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)



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Figure 11. Carrington Schoolhouse in 1914. (1914 Carrington Schoolhouse, Scan of *Fulton Sun Gazette* Photo (Fulton Missouri), March 28, 1996, Accession # 2008-0089-02, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)

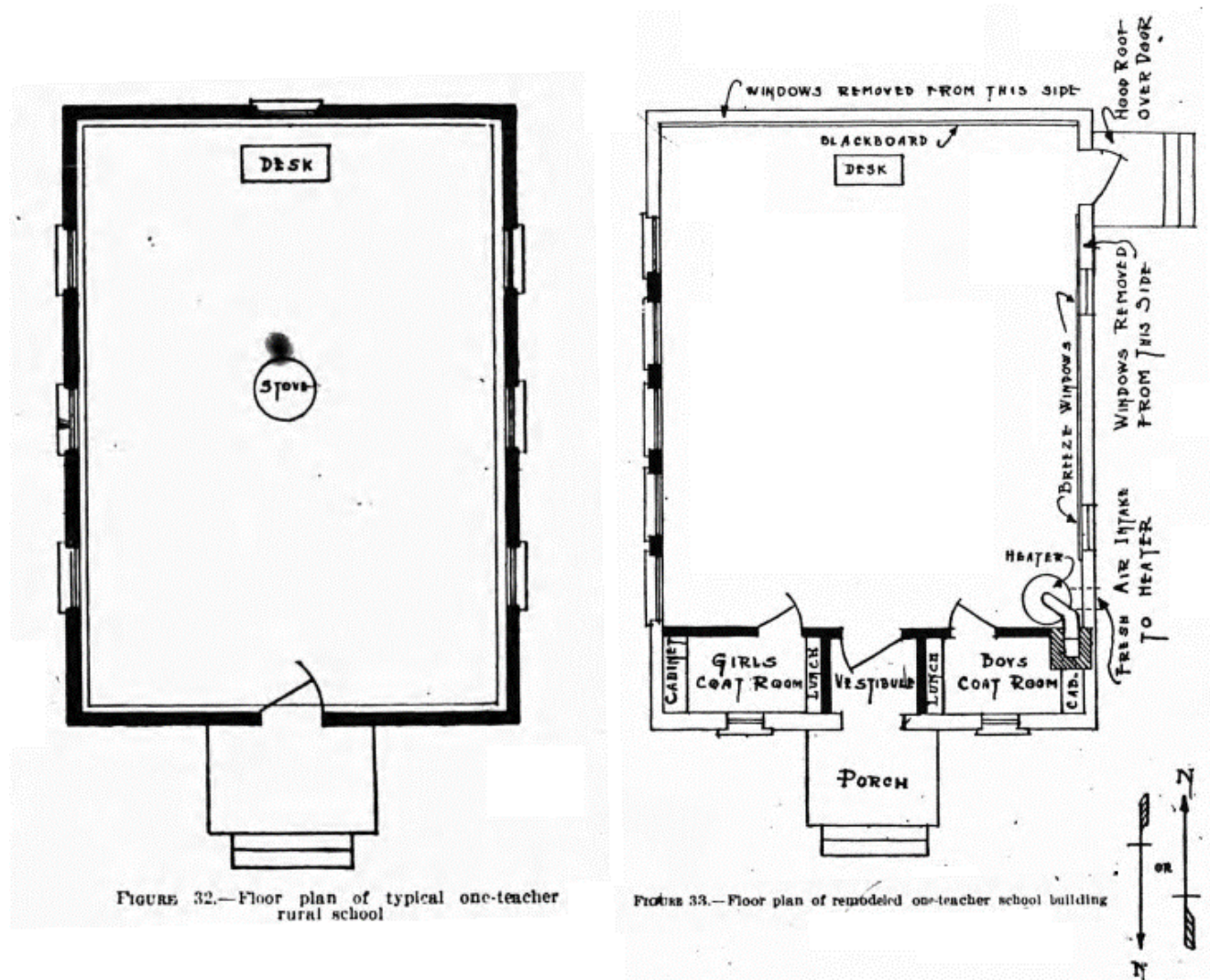


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Figure 12. 1930 Schoolhouse Remodeling Plans. (Fletcher B. Dresslar, *Rural Schoolhouses, School Grounds and Their Equipment*, Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, Bulletin No 21. 1930, 63, 69.)



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Figure 13. GEM Pump Advertisement. ("1906 Griffin & Turner Co. Farm Catalogue, 83" accessed 2023, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/16641077896/>.)

IXL GALVANIZED STEEL CHAIN PUMP & TUBING
MFD BY SCHRIEVER & CO. CINCINNATI OHIO

It will not rot or accumulate and leaves the water clear and pure.
It is anti-freezing, as the reservoir piece has a small hole in same, which allows the water to run out.
It can be used in wells as deep as 40 feet.

PRICES.

Galvanized Curb.....	\$
Tubing, per foot.....	
Coupling.....	
Rubber Buckets.....	
Iron Platform.....	
Chain, per lb.....	

The Gem Curb

GEM GALVANIZED STEEL Chain Pump
MFD BY SCHRIEVER & CO. CINCINNATI OHIO

Similar to the above, but little lighter in construction. Anti-freezing. There are neither rivets nor solder on it.

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Figure 14. 1960s Middle River Interior Views. (Courtesy of Sandy Starkey. Her husband and his sister are in the photos.)



BETTY GRADUATING FROM 8TH AT MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOL



1960 MIDDLE RIVER SCHOOL

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Figure 15. Middle River Schoolhouse in 1963. (1963 Middle River Class Photo Class Photo, Donor Nancy Conner, Accession # 2023-0019-03, Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)



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Figure 16. Advertisements for Social Event at Middle River School. Mutton BBQ advertisement. (*Jefferson City Post* (Jefferson City, Missouri) July 6, 1961.); Middle River Picnic advertisement. (*Callaway Gazette* (Fulton, Missouri), June 26, 1885.)

BARBECUE	MUTTON & BEEF
SATURDAY, JULY 8, Starting 5 P. M.	
Middle River School	
2 Miles South of Fulton, Mo. 2 Miles West on Route "H" Next to Al's Fishing Lake	
Adults: \$1.25	Self Service

Middle River Picnic.

There will be a child's picnic at Middle River school house on July 4th. All children are cordially invited to attend with baskets well filled. An invitation is extended to all school teachers, and a special invitation to Prof. Samuel Simcoe and Prof. Boreland of Reform who has been employed to take charge of the Middle River school this fall.

A committee on arrangements consisting of sixteen young ladies, a committee on fun composed of seven youths, and four marshals of the day have been selected.

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Figure 17a. Other Early Rural Schools in Callaway County. (Compiled by Deb Sheals with photos by Rachel Appleton and Joshua Amelunke, 2023.)



Brown School
ca. 1869
Fulton Township

The schoolhouse started out as a mass vernacular schoolhouse and was expanded to contain two classrooms in the 1960s. The building is now a residence with modern additions and vinyl siding.



Calwood Schoolhouse.
ca. 1900s, possibly mid century
Calwood Township

The schoolhouse is constructed of concrete block and has modern steel roofing. The window grouping aligns with more modern school fenestration patterns. It could be a one room school, however it is not a mass vernacular school per the MPDF.



Intact Mass Vernacular

Cedar Hill Schoolhouse
ca. 1915
Auxvasse Township

The one story frame school has a rectangular footprint and front-gable roof common to 19th century mass vernacular schools, but a recessed entry and irregular patterns of fenestration that are more often seen on schools built after 1910 or 1920. It appears to have just one classroom.

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Figure 17b. Other Early Rural Schools in Callaway County. (Compiled by Deb Sheals with photos by Rachel Appleton and Joshua Amelunke, 2023.)



Flint Schoolhouse
ca. 1910s
Liberty Township

The schoolhouse looks like it might have started out as a large mass vernacular schoolhouse, but it has seen numerous alterations. The building is now a residence with a large modern cross gable addition and multiple rooms. It has a concrete foundation.



Intact Mass Vernacular

McClellan Schoolhouse
ca. 1800s, with later changes
Auxvasse Township

This frame school has a front-facing gable roof and original weatherboards. The overall form is typical of early mass vernacular schools and the patterns of fenestration point to a post 1910 construction date. It is long-vacant and in poor condition.



Intact Mass Vernacular

Muir Schoolhouse
ca. 1875
Fulton Township

The Muir schoolhouse is one of the largest schools in the study group. It has seen only minor alterations since the 1800s. A one-story modern frame porch covers the main entrance.

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Figure 17c. Other Early Rural Schools in Callaway County. (Compiled by Deb Sheals with photos by Rachel Appleton and Joshua Amelunke, 2023.)



Intact Mass Vernacular
Herbert King (col) Schoolhouse
ca. 1800s
Auxvasse Township

A very small intact mass vernacular school house. It has original wood siding and standing seam metal roofing.



Intact Mass Vernacular
Williamsburg Schoolhouse
ca. late 1800s
Nine Mile Prairie Township

One of the larger schools in the group, this mass vernacular schoolhouse is also the only one in the group to exhibit stylistic embellishments. It has a rectangular form, original weatherboards, and a front facing gable roof.



Millersburg Schoolhouse
ca. early 1900s
Bourbon Township

Much altered, with a side entrance, vinyl siding, and modern windows and doors.
No longer one room.

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Figure 18. Location Map of Intact Mass-Vernacular Single-Teacher Schools in Callaway County. Each dot represents an early school district. Marked locations indicate surviving single teacher schoolhouses. (Base Map of Rural School from the Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society.)

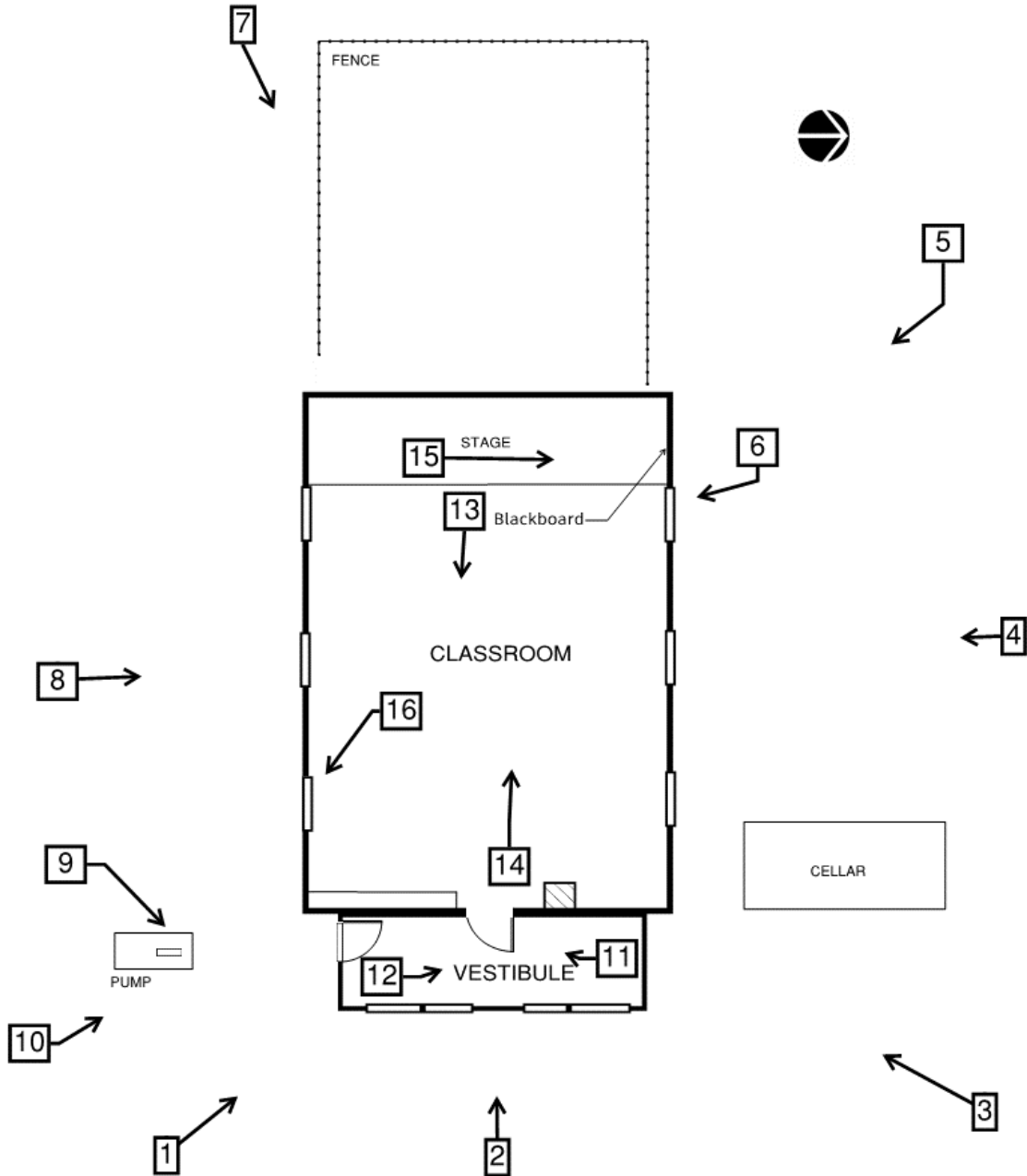


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Figure 19a. Photo Key.



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Figure 19b. Photo Key.

