

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Trenton High School

other name/site number Adams High School and Junior College; Adams Middle School

street & town 1312 East 9th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Trenton N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Grundy code 079 zip code 64683

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

Mark A Miles MARCH 3, 2010
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

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.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	BRICK
	CONCRETE
roof	
other	METAL

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Description

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1924 - 1960 _____

Significant Dates

1924 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Sanneman, Raymond H. (Architect) _____

Ebbe, C. C. (Builder) _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

Grundy County Jewett Norris Library _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Trenton High School
Name of Property

Grundy County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 4/4/8/4/0/0 4/4/3/5/9/6/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

All of the "College Block" in College Addition

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the parcel of land historically occupied by Trenton High School.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal, and Rachel Nugent, Associate

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date December 1, 2009

street & number 215 W. 18th Street telephone 816-472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

name/title Cardinal Developers, LLC

street & number 3556 S. Culpepper, Suite 7 telephone 417-883-7887

city or town Springfield state MO zip code 65804

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

SUMMARY

Trenton High School at 1312 East 9th Street, Trenton, Grundy County, Missouri sits atop a slight hill within a predominantly residential neighborhood east of downtown Trenton. The three-story rectangular building rests on a concrete foundation. It has a concrete structure and brick walls. Shaped parapets with cast stone coping obscure the flat tar and gravel roof. Regular fenestration patterns dominate all four elevations. The front (north) elevation is organized symmetrically around the main entrance. The east and west ends of the building are offset slightly from the main block, projecting forward on the front elevation and recessed on the rear. Decorative cast stone trim includes two beltcourses, narrow horizontal bands at the base, simple geometric patterns on the north and south elevations, and single diamond medallions within the shaped parapets. The pressed metal cornice has oversized dentils. Many of the original interior features and finishes are extant, including the original configuration of corridors and classrooms and the original interior wood doors. The symmetrical massing, brick construction, cast stone trim, and cornice details communicate elements of the building's Classical Revival style. While it has experienced some alterations, primarily the replacement of many windows and doors, these changes do not diminish one's understanding of the building as a public school from the era of its construction. It maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with its period of significance (1924 – 1960).

ELABORATION

SETTING

Trenton High School sits in the center of the rectangular block facing north. The block is bounded by East 9th Street (MO-6) on the north, East 8th Street on the south, Kumler Street on the east, and Emma Street on the west. The land adjacent to the building is relatively flat, although the grade is slightly higher than the sidewalks that encircle the block. Concrete stairs and walkways lead from the sidewalks to the east and west entrances. There is an asphalt parking lot south of the building. A short driveway connects this lot to East 8th Street. The grassy lawn surrounding the building and parking lot contains several mature deciduous trees at the perimeter of the block. A flag pole sits in a small landscaped area within the north lawn, west of the central entrance. Two brick posts topped with metal light fixtures are centered on the north sidewalk. They originally flanked a walkway to the main entrance; the walkway is no longer extant. While East 9th Street is a commercial thoroughfare, the neighborhood is predominantly residential. The modest single-family dwellings are late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century vernacular homes.

EXTERIOR

The long front and rear elevations face north and south respectively. The front (north) elevation contains five bays and the rear (south) elevation contains nine bays. Fenestration defines the bays. The front elevation is

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

symmetrically organized around the projecting center bay. This center bay contains the formal main entrance to the building in the first story and single window openings in the second and third stories. The remaining bays contain single window openings flanking tripartite window openings. The bays on the rear elevation have only tripartite window openings. The east and west ends of the building are offset slightly from the main block, projecting forward on the front elevation and recessed on the rear elevation. The east and west elevations are mirror images of each other with five irregular bays each composed of single and tripartite window openings.

The façade is organized in the three-part base-shaft-cap configuration typical of the Classical Revival style. The first story and a low cast stone foundation compose the base of the building. Narrow horizontal bands of cast stone alternate with the brick to ornament the base. A wide cast stone beltcourse caps the first story. Immediately above it is a simple, narrow beltcourse.

The second and third stories, the building shaft, have very little ornament. The window openings have cast stone sills and steel lintels. Ornament is restricted to the east and west ends of the north and south elevations. Simple geometric patterns in brick and cast stone ornament these façades.

A simple but wide beltcourse caps the third story and marks the transition to the building cap. A pressed metal cornice with oversized dentils encircles the building. A low brick parapet with cast stone coping rises above the cornice. The parapet is stepped with shallow peaks in the bays above the entrances on the north, east, and west elevations, and above the east and west wings on the north elevation. Single diamond-shaped cast stone elements ornament the stepped sections of the parapet.

There are three identical formal entrances to the building, one at the center of the north elevation and one each on the east and west elevations. The main entrance on the north elevation contains the original paired wood doors and transom. The entrances on the east and west elevations have metal replacement doors. The cast stone door surrounds feature simple classical pilasters without ornate capitals. Above each door, an unadorned entablature supports a shallow balcony with a low balustrade. Cast stone quoins with an exaggerated keystone frame the rectangular window above the doorway at the second story. The rear elevation contains two entrances on either end of the central block. These entrances are simple punched openings filled with metal doors.

All of the window openings contain single, wood replacement windows. These non-historic windows are one-over-one double-hung sashes. Insulated, finished in-fill surrounding single one-over-one replacement windows fill the original tripartite openings. The masonry openings themselves are not altered and retain the original cast stone sills and steel lintels. Historic architectural plans and photographs indicate that the building was designed with one-over-one double-hung windows.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

INTERIOR

The main entrance on the north elevation opens into a small vestibule. A short hallway leads to the wide, double-loaded main corridor that runs east-west (*See First Floor Plan*). The main corridor leads to north-south corridors at the east and west ends of the building. The U-shaped corridor system surrounds the gymnasium and the auditorium, which are stacked at the center of the building, while the classrooms ring the outer perimeter. Wide, open staircases are at the east and west ends of the main corridor. They have solid concrete railings with dark-stained wood caps. The corridors have high ceilings and plaster walls with a simple wood chair rail. The integral concrete base trim is missing in several locations. Linoleum tile covers the concrete floors.¹

The original large, two-panel wood doors are extant throughout the building, although some have been painted. Single doors lead from the corridors into the classrooms, while paired doors access grander common spaces, such as the gymnasium, auditorium, and the original cafeteria. Paired doors also separate the end corridors from the main corridor.

Most of the rooms retain their original configurations. A few openings have been cut into the brick walls to enlarge some spaces and several non-historic partition walls have been constructed. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Non-historic interior wood window sills were added when the windows were replaced. Drop ceilings were added, although many have been removed. Floor finishes vary depending upon the original function of the classroom. Rooms designated for the instruction of traditional academic subjects, such as English, math, and history, had wood floors. Rooms for vocational instruction and laboratories had a polished concrete finish. In some rooms these original finishes are extant; in other rooms linoleum tile was installed over the original floor surface. Many of the original slate blackboards are extant, either exposed, painted, or hidden beneath recently-added whiteboards. The original principal's office, on the second floor above the main entry vestibule and hallway (*See Second Floor Plan*), retains wood floors and the original school safe.

The library was located above the principal's office on the third floor (*See Third Floor Plan*). The door to the library has a small opening for returning books. Tall wood shelves line the narrow room. Small offices with glass-panel doors and side-lights occupy the south ends of the east and west corridors on the third floor.

The largest girls' and boys' lavatories are on the first floor. These rooms retain their original toilets and wood stall doors. Minor alterations included making one stall and sink in each lavatory ADA-compliant. The smaller girls' lavatory on the second floor retains the original wood stall doors, but the boys' lavatory does not. These rooms have plaster walls and ceilings, and polished concrete floors.

¹ Historic plans indicate a "cement" or polished concrete finish for the corridor floors.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

The gymnasium and auditorium are stacked south of the main corridor at the center of the building. Both these spaces are double-height. The gymnasium floor is accessed from the basement level (*See Basement Floor Plan*). The original wood floor has been removed, and the concrete sub-floor is now exposed. Six 52-inch-deep steel girders span the gymnasium ceiling from north to south. These girders support the auditorium. Walls are painted plaster. Windows on the south wall of the gymnasium provide natural light into the space.

A continuous concrete balcony encircles the upper level of the gymnasium, supported on steel posts that encircle the perimeter of the playing floor. Three sets of paired doors access the balcony from the north, east, and west corridors on the first floor. The concrete balcony structure is tiered on the north and south sides. The east and west sides contain moveable wood bleachers. A steel pipe railing runs along the front of the balcony on all four sides.

Below the balcony, the basement also contains the boys' and girls' showers and locker rooms. The fixtures for these two rooms have been removed, and only the floor drains remain. At some point the locker rooms were converted to a concession stand and square holes were punched in the wall facing the gymnasium.

Above the gymnasium is the auditorium. Paired doors from the east and west corridors on the second floor access the space. Wood auditorium seats with metal frames fill the lower level, facing the stage at the north end of the room. The walls and ceiling are painted plaster. Decorative plasterwork of flowers and rosettes outlines the proscenium arch. A continuous balcony frames the south, east, and west sides of the auditorium facing the stage. Access to the tiered balcony is from the east and west corridors on the third floor. Steel columns support the balcony from below and steel cables anchor it to the ceiling. There is a fire escape door centered on the south wall of the balcony. The auditorium retains its original light fixtures. Three large skylights placed above the first few rows of seats allow natural light into the front of the auditorium. Two dressing rooms flank the stage. These rooms contain their original built-in wood cabinets and drawers.

The original boiler room and coal room are in the basement. The boiler is no longer extant.

INTEGRITY

Trenton High School retains excellent integrity in the areas of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. On the exterior and the interior, the property clearly conveys its historic educational function, while the massing, materials, and ornament communicate its vernacular Classical Revival style. Although the original windows have been replaced and some openings infilled, the new fenestration does not alter the historic masonry openings. The corridors, gymnasium, and auditorium remain substantially intact. The majority of the classrooms retain their original configurations and finishes. Overall, the building clearly communicates feelings about and associations with its original design and educational function.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

SUMMARY

Trenton High School at 1312 East 9th Street, Trenton, Grundy County, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for the area of EDUCATION and Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. The building, and its site, has a long history of meeting the educational needs of the citizens of Trenton and Grundy County, Missouri. Avalon College constructed a three-story Victorian-style brick building on the site in 1891. The Trenton School District purchased the Avalon College building in 1906, operating it as a high school until increased enrollment necessitated a new structure. When it opened in 1924, the new high school was hailed as the pride of Trenton. The design incorporated all of the newest modern features and was tailored to fit the educational requirements of the community. Trenton High School offered students a first-class education. Specialized instruction incorporated a wide variety of vocational training courses in addition to traditional academic subjects. In keeping with Progressive-Era public school design, fenestration patterns maximized natural light and fresh air in the classrooms. An increased emphasis on safety prompted the design of a fireproof structure with concrete floors, brick walls, wide corridors, and open stairwells. Restrained cast stone and pressed metal architectural details convey elements of Classical Revival architecture, which was popular nationwide and commonly applied to educational buildings at this time. The period of significance for this property is 1924 through 1960. This period begins with the date of construction and ends with the fifty-year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance but no more-specific date can be defined.

ELABORATION

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES²

Local, private educational institutions serving only a limited number of students were scattered throughout early American towns and settlements. The lack of standardized curricula among these schools resulted in wide differences in learning.³ During the early nineteenth century, educational reformers, led by Horace Mann in Massachusetts and Henry Barnard in Connecticut, advocated for free standardized public education for all elementary-age children. They considered education a social as well as a civic responsibility. By the middle of the century, public education became a reality as most of the nation's cities and towns established elementary schools.⁴ The movement to create public high schools followed soon thereafter. By the late 1800s, most cities

² Information on public education in the United States and early-twentieth century school architecture comes from Elizabeth Rosin and Kristen Ottesen, National Register of Historic Places Nomination for "Wyman School," 10 March 2008, Rosin Preservation, LLC, Kansas City, Missouri, unless otherwise noted.

³ "Education in the United States," *The History Channel website*, <http://www.history.com/encyclopedia.do?articleId=208260> (accessed 20 October 2009).

⁴ *Ibid.*

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

and towns had high schools, although not all of them had adopted a standardized curriculum. There were more than 20,000 public high schools in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century.⁵

In Missouri, an 1874 law gave individual towns control over the organization, grading, and governance of schools within their jurisdiction.⁶ The State did not mandate the creation of high schools until 1883, when a second law required local school boards to establish a suitable number of both primary and secondary schools to serve the children in their districts.⁷ The first school district in Grundy County was organized in Trenton Township in 1840, only two years after Trenton's first school opened.⁸ The first high school was organized in 1865 with twenty-three students. When the first high school building was erected five years later, the student population had grown to 370.⁹ Sustained growth at this rate led to the construction of a new Trenton High School building in 1924.

The State Superintendent's Report for 1909 detailed the physical and educational requirements for secondary schools in the state. At the time Missouri had 270 first, second and third-class high schools. These schools were accredited and classified by the University of Missouri and inspected by the State Superintendent. To be ranked first-class, a high school had to offer a four-year course of study with a nine-month annual term. Second-class high schools offered a three-year course of study with a nine-month annual term, while third-class high schools offered a two-year course of study with an eight-month annual term. All accredited schools had to maintain a curriculum that included English, math, science and history. Typical high school subjects were algebra, geometry, geography, chemistry, general history, astronomy, English literature, and English, French, and German languages.¹⁰ When Trenton High School opened it offered a first-class program that included all of the with traditional subjects, as well as six additional courses: physical education, physical hygiene, public speaking, world history, advanced agriculture, and Latin.¹¹

⁵ Brenda Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, 22 April 2005, E-4.

⁶ Claude A. Phillips, A.M., *A History of Education in Missouri*, (Jefferson City, MO: The Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1911), 60.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 61.

⁸ James Everett Ford, *A History of Grundy County*, (Trenton, Missouri: News Publishing Company, 1908), 145, 153.

Accessed 24 September 2009. Available online at:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=BX0UAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA281&sig=a6XG5McCF7TELHZ3k1vIrGTzKv0#v=thumbna&l&q=&f=false>

⁹ *Ibid.*, 153.

¹⁰ Phillips, 70.

¹¹ "New High School Building Ready," *Trenton Daily Republican & Tribune*, 4 September 1924, page 1, Evening edition. (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

EARLY-TWENTIETH CENTURY SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE

The standardization efforts among school districts affected school curricula, teacher qualifications, teaching materials, and even school designs.¹² Architects and educators published plan books for school buildings, similar to those that popularized residential designs. Their ideal school was two or three stories tall with a symmetrical facade and a flat roof. Limestone, pressed metal, or terracotta trim commonly ornamented red brick walls using elements from one of the revival architectural styles popular during this period, although the expression of style was typically restrained. Articulated entrances centered on the front elevation and cornices were the most ornate elements of school buildings.¹³

Materials and construction methods reflected a concern for safety. Fireproof materials, such as concrete, steel, and masonry, were widely used for building structures. Brick, concrete or stone clad the exterior of the structure, while combustible woodwork was minimized on the interior. Wide hallways and stairways enabled efficient evacuation of a school in the event of an emergency. These features were often highlighted in promotional literature published during a school's construction or upon opening.

School buildings evolved from the vernacular one-room schoolhouse to have multiple classrooms arranged on either side of a double-loaded corridor. The most common floor plans were T, I, L or U-shaped.¹⁴ Large expanses of windows admitted natural light and fresh air. Gymnasiums, auditoriums, libraries and cafeterias served specialized functions. Auditoriums and libraries were often utilized by the larger community for meetings and other functions. By the 1910s school buildings also had specially-designed areas for the study of science, home economics, and agriculture, industrial and manual training.

The design of Trenton High School illustrates these standards. It is a fireproof concrete structure with wide corridors and stairwells. On the exterior, the brick walls have cast stone and pressed metal ornament that present restrained elements of Classical Revival styling. On the interior, the U-shaped corridor system surrounds the gymnasium and auditorium, placing classrooms on the perimeter where banks of windows provide natural light and promote air circulation. Rooms designed for specific courses of study, including agriculture, home economics, and manual training, are distributed among all three floors. The school featured an auditorium for assemblies and performances, and a gymnasium for physical exercise.

HISTORY OF TRENTON

Trenton is located amongst the rolling hills of north-central Missouri, on a bluff east of the Grand River. The first permanent settlers arrived in 1833. James S. Lomax, a founding father of the community, opened the first store in

¹² Spencer, E-18.

¹³ Spencer, E-20.

¹⁴ Ibid.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

the nascent village in 1838. Eight years later Grundy County and the city of Trenton were officially incorporated, subdivided from the larger Livingston County. Lomax deeded an 80-acre tract of land, containing the platted village, to Grundy County in 1841 for \$1 so that the city would be named the county seat. The city of Trenton, also known at intervals as Lomax's Store or Bluff Grove, was incorporated in 1857.¹⁵

The small town grew slowly but steadily until the first railroad arrived in 1871.¹⁶ After several years of votes, propositions, and township subscriptions, the Chicago & Southwestern Railroad Company agreed to construct a railroad line through Grundy County with a stop in Trenton. The citizens of Trenton understood the power of the railroad to increase the wealth and prosperity of their community. With an offer of money and land valued at \$13,000, Trenton enticed the railroad company to also build machine shops and a division roundhouse within the town limits.¹⁷ The tracks of the north-south route were laid at what was originally the eastern edge of town. As the town grew, it spread eastward across the tracks. Again in 1889, the citizens of Trenton raised \$40,000 to bring an east-west line of the Quincy, Missouri & Pacific Railroad to the town. This second rail line opened in 1881.¹⁸

The town of Trenton grew in wealth and physical size as a direct result of the presence of the railroads. The area's first coal mine, opened in 1873, was also an important factor in the growth of Trenton. The population and the physical size of the town increased significantly over the following decades. From the handful of settlers who arrived in the 1830s, the town grew to 945 persons by 1870. The population was 3,370 by 1880; 5,039 by 1890; and 5,396 by 1900.¹⁹ New additions were platted north and east of the original town. Businesses of all types were attracted by the proximity of two major rail lines and the accessibility of two major sources of power: coal and the Grand River.

A series of events marked the progress of Trenton from a pioneer settlement to a viable town. In downtown Trenton, brick commercial buildings quickly replaced earlier frame structures as a display of increased prosperity and for fear of fire. Three major fires in 1882 and 1885 caused extensive damage to several commercial blocks, despite the efforts of the "Rough and Ready Fire Company." The fires prompted the town to install its first water

¹⁵ Ford, 118.

¹⁶ Gloria Carpenter, Evelyn Trickel, and Vicki Wheeler, ed., *Grundy County Missouri And Its People* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 2007), 32.

¹⁷ *The History of Grundy County. An Encyclopedia of useful information and a compendium of actual facts* (Kansas City: Birdsall & Dean, 1881), 237-238. Accessed 24 September 2009. Available online at: http://books.google.com/books?id=Bn0UAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_v2_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=&f=false

¹⁸ *The History of Grundy County*, 318-319.

¹⁹ Ford, 118.

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Trenton High School
Grundy County, Missouri

system in 1887.²⁰ The city also installed streetlights in 1890,²¹ and many of the major avenues were paved with brick, beginning with Water Street in 1904.²²

Agriculture was originally, and remains today, the leading industry in Trenton and the surrounding township. The railroads gave Trenton farmers access to regional markets. In 1887 Grundy County farmers shipped out livestock (horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry), produce (grain, timothy seed, pressed hay, and apples), natural resources (native timber and coal), and processed items (flour, wool, brick, ties and piling, hides and tallow, hoops, and hay rakes).²³ By mid-twentieth century, most farms were dairy farms. Today, the main crop is grain.²⁴

The population of Trenton peaked in 1940 with just over 7,000 residents. The current population hovers around 6,000.²⁵

HISTORY OF TRENTON SCHOOLS²⁶

Trenton, Missouri has a long history of providing its citizens with public education. The earliest school in the town began in 1838, three years before the county was organized, when an Englishman named Moore taught local children out of a private home. Demand for education soon led to a series of small, one-room log structures scattered around the township where children were taught reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. The county first organized a school district in Trenton Township in 1840 to address the numerous log schoolhouses. Other towns and townships followed suit over the next decade. The town of Trenton organized its school system in 1844.

In 1863, R.C. Norton arrived from Ohio to teach in Trenton. He rose to become superintendent of the Trenton School District, and in 1865 organized the town's first proper high school. The first class included 23 students. Within one year, enrollment grew to 100 students. Enrollment in Trenton schools continued to increase as the general population grew. There were 370 students in 1870, 532 students in 1871, and 1,414 students by 1885. The high school quickly outgrew its facilities, necessitating the construction of new buildings in 1870 for \$17,000 and in 1882 for \$20,000.

²⁰ Ford 120.

²¹ Carpenter, 32.

²² Ford, 228.

²³ Ford, 94.

²⁴ Carpenter, 32.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Information about the history of education in Trenton comes from James Everett Ford, *A History of Grundy County*, (Trenton, Missouri: News Publishing Company, 1908), Chapter IX Educational, p. 143-156, unless otherwise noted.

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Since its incorporation, Trenton has had various institutions of higher learning within its boundaries.²⁷ Grand River College, founded in 1850, was the first such institution. The college offered subjects well beyond the course of study taught at the secondary level, such as orthography; natural, mental, and modern philosophy; astronomy; surveying; and bookkeeping. Grand River College closed in 1893, two years after Avalon College relocated to Trenton from Livingston County.

The Avalon Academy was founded in 1869 in the village of Avalon just southeast of Chillicothe. Renamed Avalon College in 1881, the school's success was hampered by its remote location. The board voted to relocate to Trenton in 1890. The school purchased a large tract of land east of the Trenton town center and sold off the subdivided lots in order to raise money. With the funds raised, Avalon College erected a three-story brick building at the center of the original tract, College Addition, in 1891. The non-sectarian Avalon College operated in association with the Church of the United Brethren, offering Bachelor's degrees in Arts, Science, and Pedagogy, and Master's degrees in Arts and Science. The school closed in 1898 and in 1900 "the building was turned over to a band of socialists," led by Englishman William Vrooman.²⁸

William Vrooman and his wife moved to Trenton from Oxford, England to establish an institution of higher learning based on the principles of John Ruskin and "Christian Socialism." Vrooman founded the "Multitude Incorporated," a corporation that oversaw and administered a number of cooperative movements across the United States. The profits generated by the cooperatives supported the college. The local cooperative, the Trenton-Ruskin Manufacturing Company, came to own many businesses in Trenton. The company employed many area residents as well as students of Ruskin College. The cooperative movement quickly fell out of favor within the town, and the school closed in 1905. The Trenton School District purchased the building for \$10,000 that same year.²⁹

Trenton High School opened in the newly-acquired three-story building, taking full advantage of its many rooms, including those designed for specific courses of study (*See Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914*). It offered a first-class (four-year) education in three different areas: the English course, for those who would not continue their education beyond high school; the science course, for those who would pursue engineering at university; and the classical course, for those who would pursue arts and sciences at university. Trenton High School was also one of thirteen Missouri high schools approved by the Northern Federation of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This

²⁷ The following information about Grand River College, Avalon College, and Ruskin College comes from William Ray Denslow, *Centennial History of Grundy County Missouri. 1839-1939*, (Trenton, MO: William Ray Denslow, 1939) 238-246, unless otherwise noted.

²⁸ Ford, 152.

²⁹ "School Building has Long History," *The Trenton Weekly Republican*, 28 June 1923, (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

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meant that Trenton students could enroll in any college or university in any of thirteen Midwest states without taking an entrance exam.³⁰

Trenton's exponential population growth in the early decades of the twentieth century increased the number of students who continued their education through high school. Rising enrollment forced the school board to investigate the construction of a new high school building in 1923.

Raymond H. Sanneman, an architect from Kansas City, prepared "Drawings for a High School for Trenton, MO," which included detailed floor plans and partial elevations.³¹ A school bond issue passed in April of 1923 provided \$200,000 for two new buildings. The school board allotted \$180,000 for the high school and \$40,000 for a new elementary school, the Norton School. The board raised the additional \$20,000 from the sale of the bond and from salvage following demolition of the Avalon College building.³² Local contractor C. C. Ebbe received the general contract to build both schools in mid-June 1923.³³ The cornerstone of the new high school was laid November 13, 1923 using a trowel that, according to local sources, was the same trowel George Washington used to lay the cornerstone of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.³⁴

Trenton High School formally opened to great fanfare and a big reception on the evening of September 4, 1924. The *Trenton Weekly Republican and Tribune* issued a special evening edition describing the school, the teachers, and the opening ceremony. The new building was clearly the pride of the town, with many hailing the school and its courses as among the state's finest.³⁵ Members of the public filled the new 1,050-seat auditorium to hear speeches from the district superintendent, the High School principal, the president of the school board, local religious leaders, and the presidents of Kirksville State Teachers College and Maryville State Teachers College. After the opening addresses, the public was invited to tour the building.³⁶ The directory of rooms published in the newspaper listed Home Economics, Sewing, Vocational Agriculture Lab, Music, and the Gymnasium on the first floor; the Auditorium, Offices, and classrooms for traditional academic subjects on the second floor; and

³⁰ Ford, 155.

³¹ Raymond H. Sanneman, "Drawings for a High School for Trenton, MO," Drawings No. 275, Kansas City, Missouri, no date. Sources do not indicate how the architect was selected.

³² "School Bonds at \$3,098 Premium," *The Trenton Weekly Republican and Tribune*, 19 April 1923, pg 12, (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

³³ "Local Contractors to Build Schools," *The Trenton Weekly Republican and Tribune*, 14 June 1923, pg 4, (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

³⁴ "Simple Ceremony Marks Laying of H.S. Cornerstone" *The Trenton Daily Republican and Tribune*, 13 November 1923, (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

³⁵ "Trenton May Open a Junior College Next," *The Trenton Weekly Republican and Tribune*, 11 September 1924, pg 6, (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

³⁶ "Lamkin to Speak at School Tonight," *Trenton Daily Republican & Tribune*, 4 September 1924, page 1, Evening edition.

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Bookkeeping, Typewriting, Science Recitation and Lab, and the Library on the third floor (*See Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1938*).³⁷

One year later, Trenton Junior College was founded with the assistance of school district superintendent O. G. Sanford and the support of local civic groups. Although the Junior College occupied the third floor of the High School, the college administrators and students worked hard to maintain a separation between the two institutions. The College offered separate activities and athletics in addition to a two-year course of study.³⁸

Trenton High School, along with the Jewett Norris Library, received WPA building improvements in 1938, although the specific work undertaken is not known. Local WPA projects also included the construction of a stadium for Eastside Park where the High School's track, football field, and baseball fields were located.³⁹

In 1964, after the tragic accidental death of Nevin Adams, a Trenton businessman and president of the school board, Trenton High School was renamed Adams High School and Junior College.⁴⁰ The school district constructed a sprawling, one-story high school building in 1967 on the eastern edge of the town. When the new Trenton Senior High School opened, the Junior College moved to a former elementary school building on Main Street, and the middle school moved into Adams School.⁴¹ Adams Middle School operated until 2005, when a new middle school was built adjacent to the high school on Oklahoma Avenue.

The AMS (Antiques Merchandise Specialties) Mall opened in the building shortly after the school closed. Private businesses leased space in individual classrooms, customizing their space through the alteration of finishes. The classrooms were not significantly altered, except for the installation of a few temporary partitions. Businesses located in the former school building included a beauty salon, a café, antique dealers, and specialty gift shops. The classroom doors, the corridors, and the gymnasium and auditorium were left largely unchanged. The AMS Mall closed in 2007, and the building is now vacant.

³⁷ "School Takes Limelight as Opening Nears," *Trenton Daily Republican and Tribune*, 4 September 1924, page 5. (Microfilm), Grundy County Jewett Norris Library, Genealogy section.

³⁸ Tom Brown, "*Better Than They Knew*," *The 75-Year History of Trenton Junior College/North Central Missouri College*, (Trenton, MO: North Central Missouri College, 2000) 22.

³⁹ Carolyn G. Lenhart and Steven E. Mitchell, National Register of Historic Places Documentation Form "WPA Stock Barn and Pavilion, Trenton, Grundy County, Missouri," 25 April 1994, Trenton, Missouri, Section 8-6 – 8-7. The Jewett Norris Library was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 7 September 1984.

⁴⁰ Brown, 16.

⁴¹ Carpenter, 258.

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RAYMOND H. SANNEMAN - ARCHITECT

Not much is known about Kansas City architect Raymond H. Sanneman. He was first listed in Kansas City directories in 1909 as part of “Sanneman Lorey & Company.” Along with partners Frank W. Lorey of Kansas City, Kansas, and Richard W. Van Trump of 2622 Lockridge Avenue, Sanneman’s architecture and engineering firm had an office in the Commerce Building at 10th and Walnut Streets.⁴² A year later, Lorey started his own construction company, leaving Sanneman and Van Trump to maintain the practice. The company became “Sanneman, Goold, and Van Trump” in 1912 when Wilfred M. Goold joined the firm at its new location in the Reserve Building at 10th Street and Grand Avenue.⁴³ In 1913, Van Trump left to pursue a career in real estate, and the architecture firm became “Sanneman and Goold Architectural Company”. From 1917 to 1935, city directories list Sanneman as a sole practitioner, maintaining the same office in the Reserve Building. The last listing for Sanneman appeared in 1936 as a draftsman. Raymond H. Sanneman changed residences every year or so, although all of these residences were located near his office between the 600 and 900 blocks of East 9th Street.⁴⁴

A number of Sanneman’s designs are listed in the National Register. These include the Linn County Courthouse (1911) in Linneus, Missouri; and the Joseph Foresman Residence (1910), the Dixon Hotel (1912), the Monroe Hotel (1920), the Crane Company Building (1925), and the Jackson County Democratic Club (1926) in Kansas City, Missouri.⁴⁵ Most of these are simple, masonry-clad structures with restrained Classical Revival details. Trenton High School, constructed in 1924, aligns with Sanneman’s known design aesthetic.

CONCLUSION

Trenton High School was constructed in 1924 as a state-of-the-art secondary school building with all of the modern features and amenities recommended for public schools of the period. Architect Raymond H. Sanneman adopted the Classical Revival style for the project, in keeping with popular trends in public school architecture as

⁴² The National Bank of Commerce Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 5 May 1999.

⁴³ The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 10 April 2007.

⁴⁴ Kansas City Directories. Vols. XXXIX – L. Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Company, 1909 – 1920. Kansas City (Missouri) Public Library. Microfilm.

⁴⁵ These buildings were listed in National Register of Historic Places, respectively, on 14 October 1999, 4 September 1980, 6 May 2004, 17 September 1999, and 5 September 1991. All were individual designations, except the Crane Company Building, which is a contributing resource to the Walnut Street Warehouse and Commercial Historic District.

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well as his own personal design aesthetic. Trenton High School retains the Progressive-Era characteristics integral to its design such as the brick and concrete fireproof structure and the wide corridors and stairwells. The building originally contained many classrooms designed for specific courses of study that were tailored to the needs of the agricultural community of Trenton. Most of the classrooms retain their original configurations and their original wood two-panel doors. The corridors, auditorium, and gymnasium are substantially unaltered. The Classical Revival details, including the symmetrical façade, pressed metal dentils at the cornice, and sparse cast stone trim are extant and clearly communicate the function of this building as a public school.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Photographer: Kristen Ottesen
Rosin Preservation, LLC
Kansas City, Missouri

Date of Photographs: September 2009

Digital images submitted with nomination on CD-ROM

Photograph Number	Description	Camera View
1.	North and west elevations	Southeast
2.	North elevation	South
3.	West elevation	East
4.	South elevation	North
5.	East elevation	West
6.	Entry vestibule	North
7.	Corridor – second floor	East
8.	Corridor – second floor	South
9.	Stairwell – second floor	East
10.	Typical classroom – second floor	East
11.	Typical classroom – second floor	East
12.	Specialty classroom with built-ins	Northeast
13.	Home economics classroom	Northeast
14.	Auditorium with balcony	Southeast
15.	Auditorium stage	North
16.	Gymnasium	West

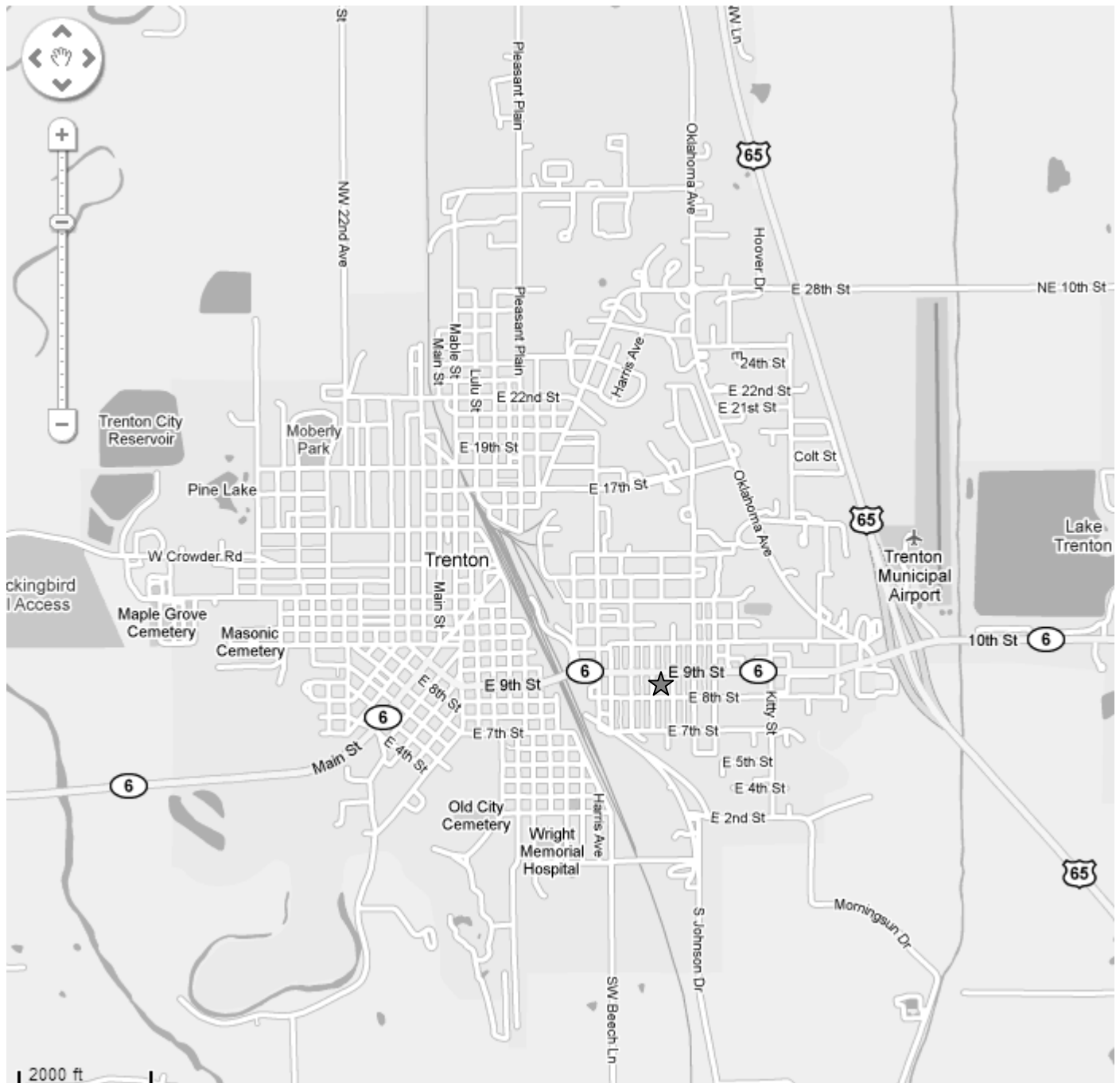
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Location Map



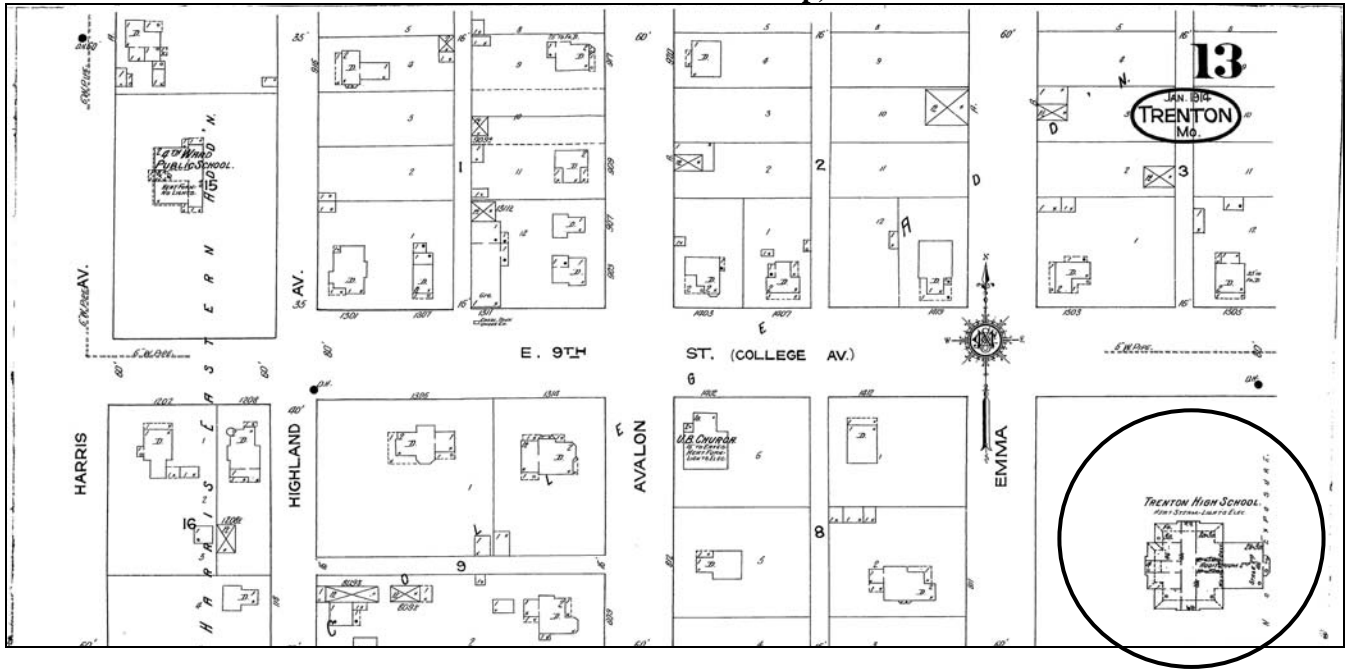
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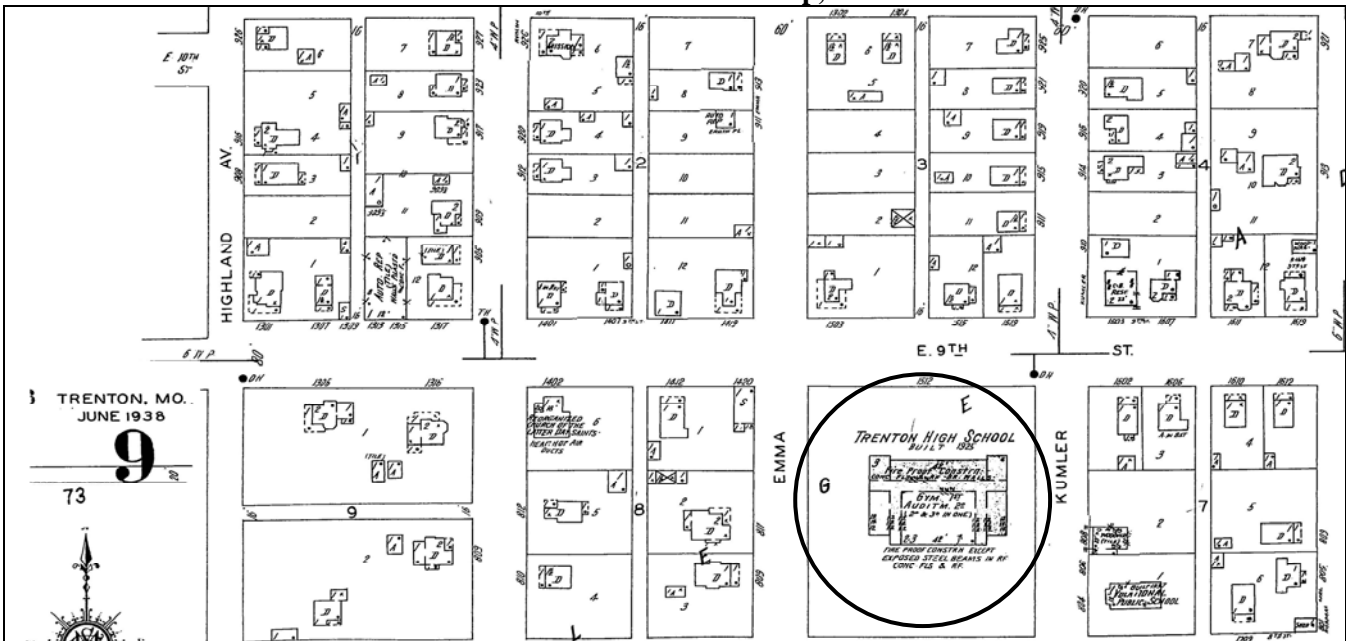
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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1938.



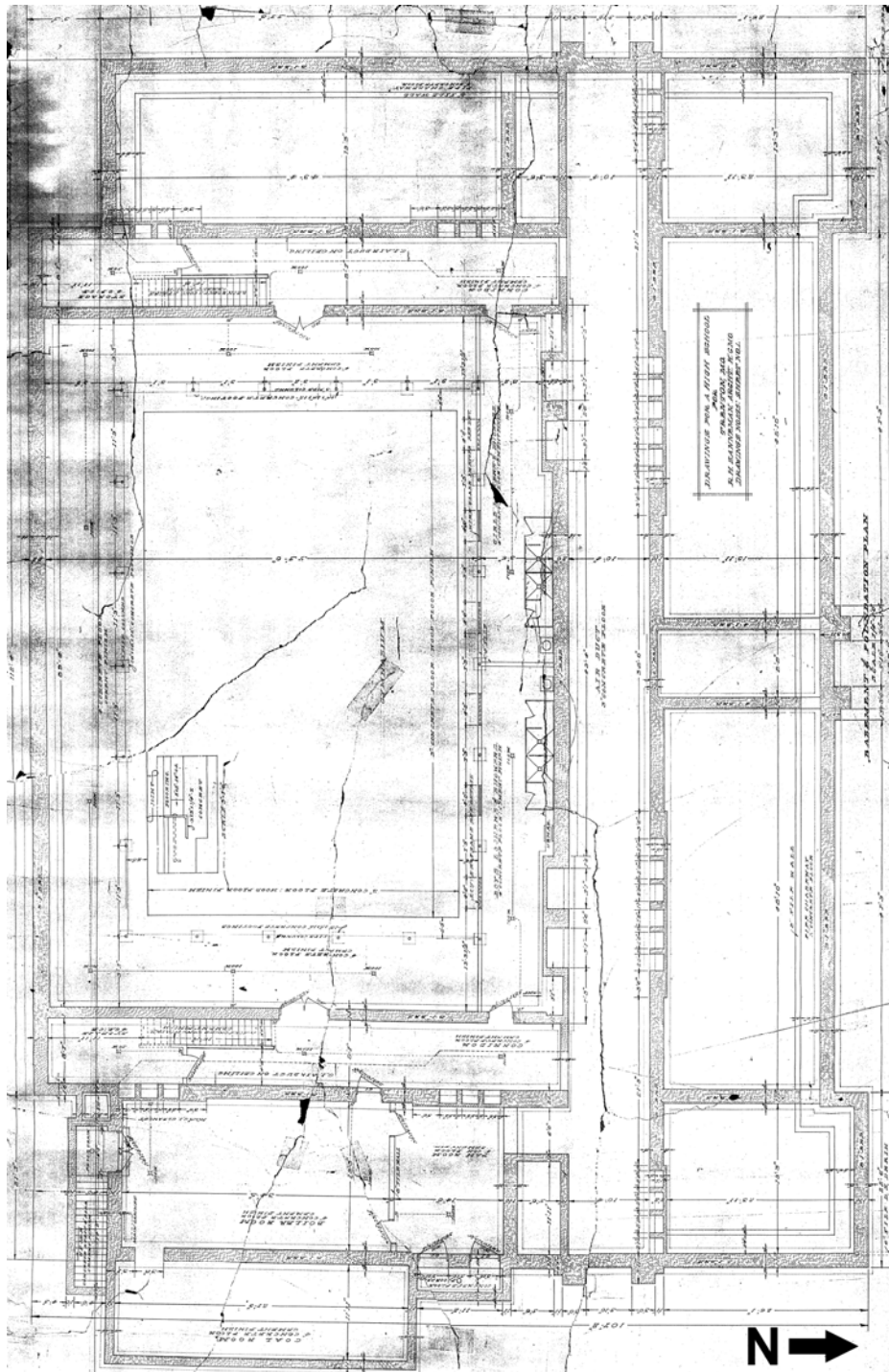
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Trenton High School
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Basement Floor Plan



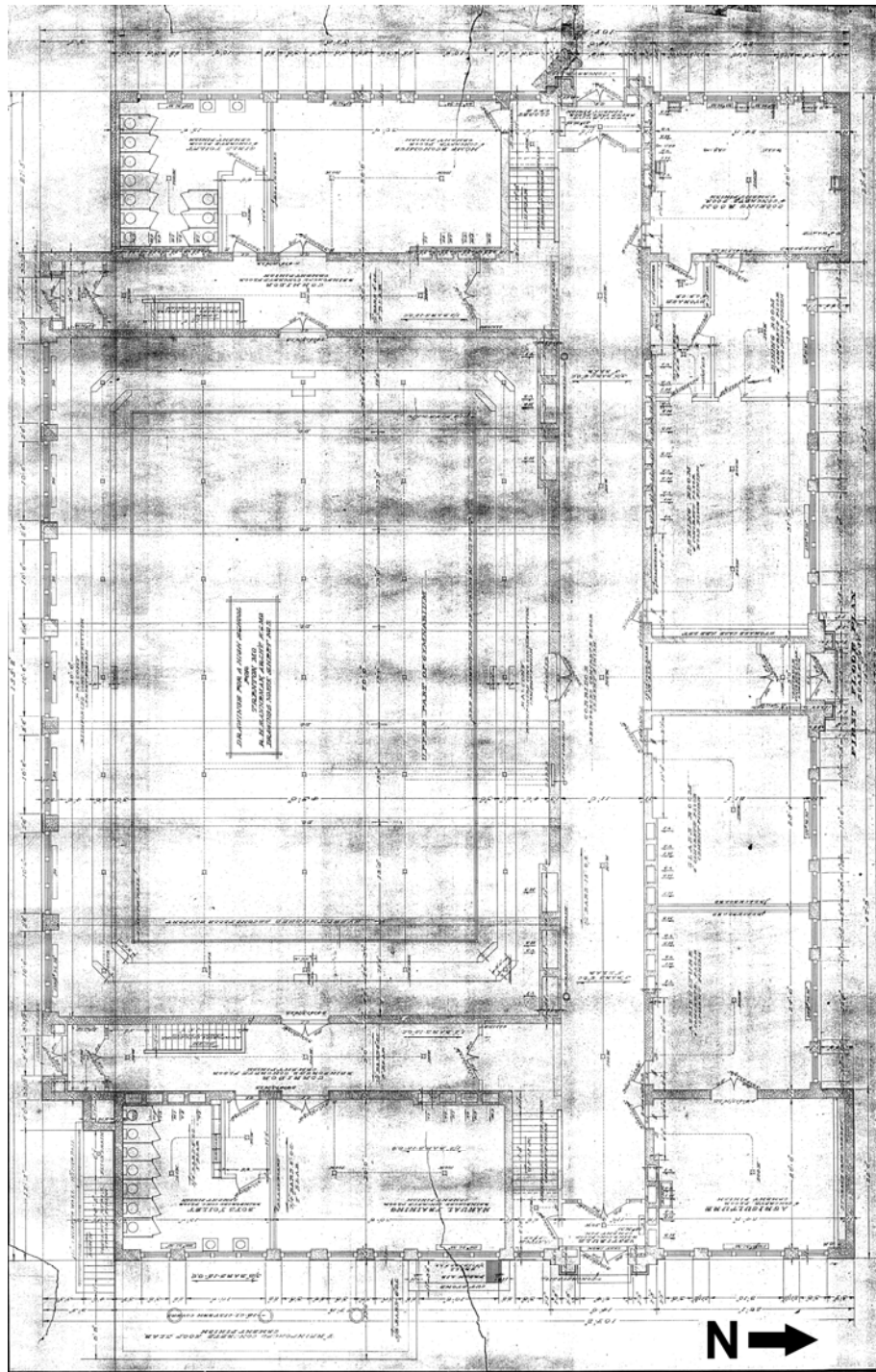
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Trenton High School
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First Floor Plan



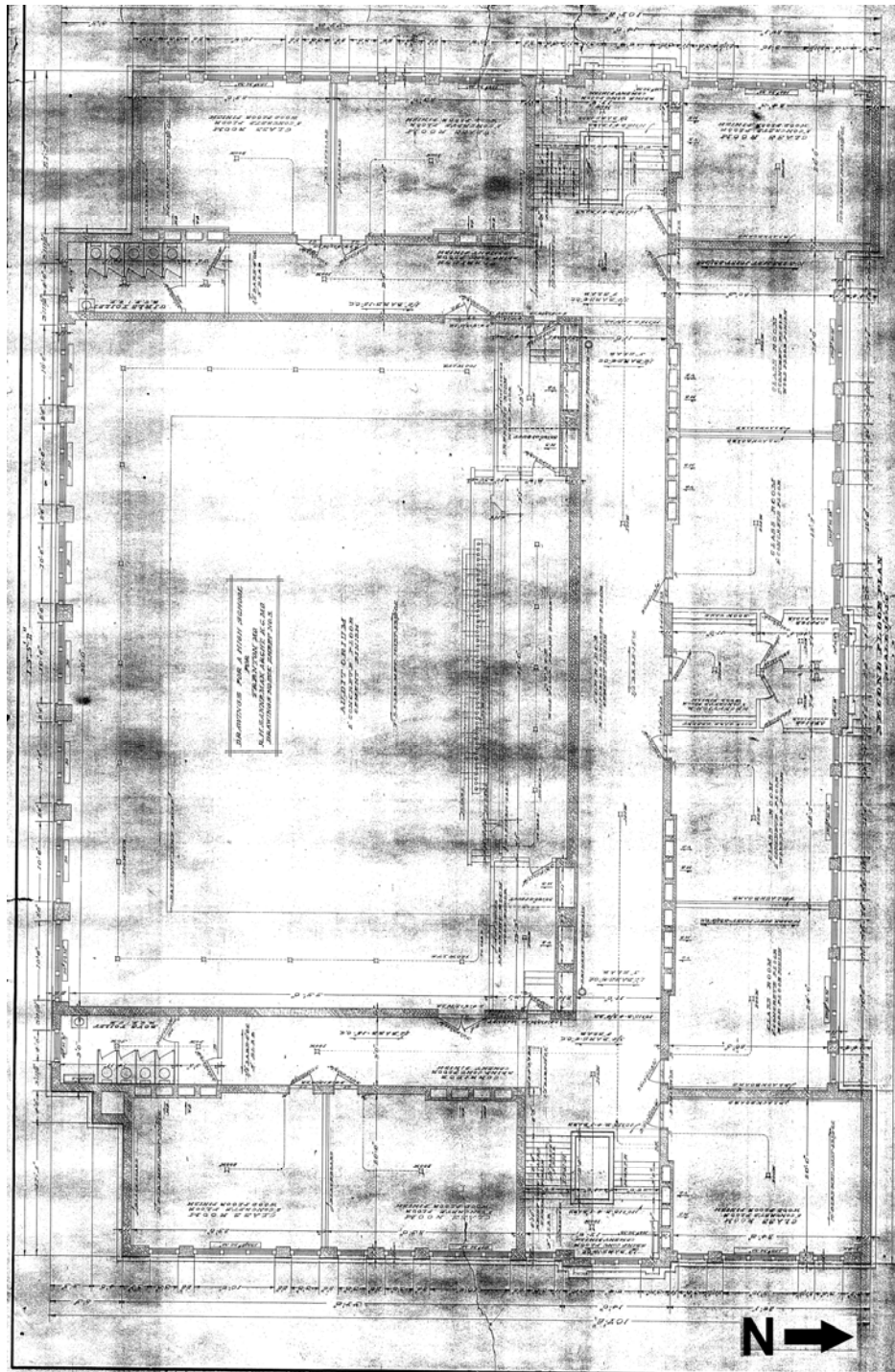
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Trenton High School
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Second Floor Plan



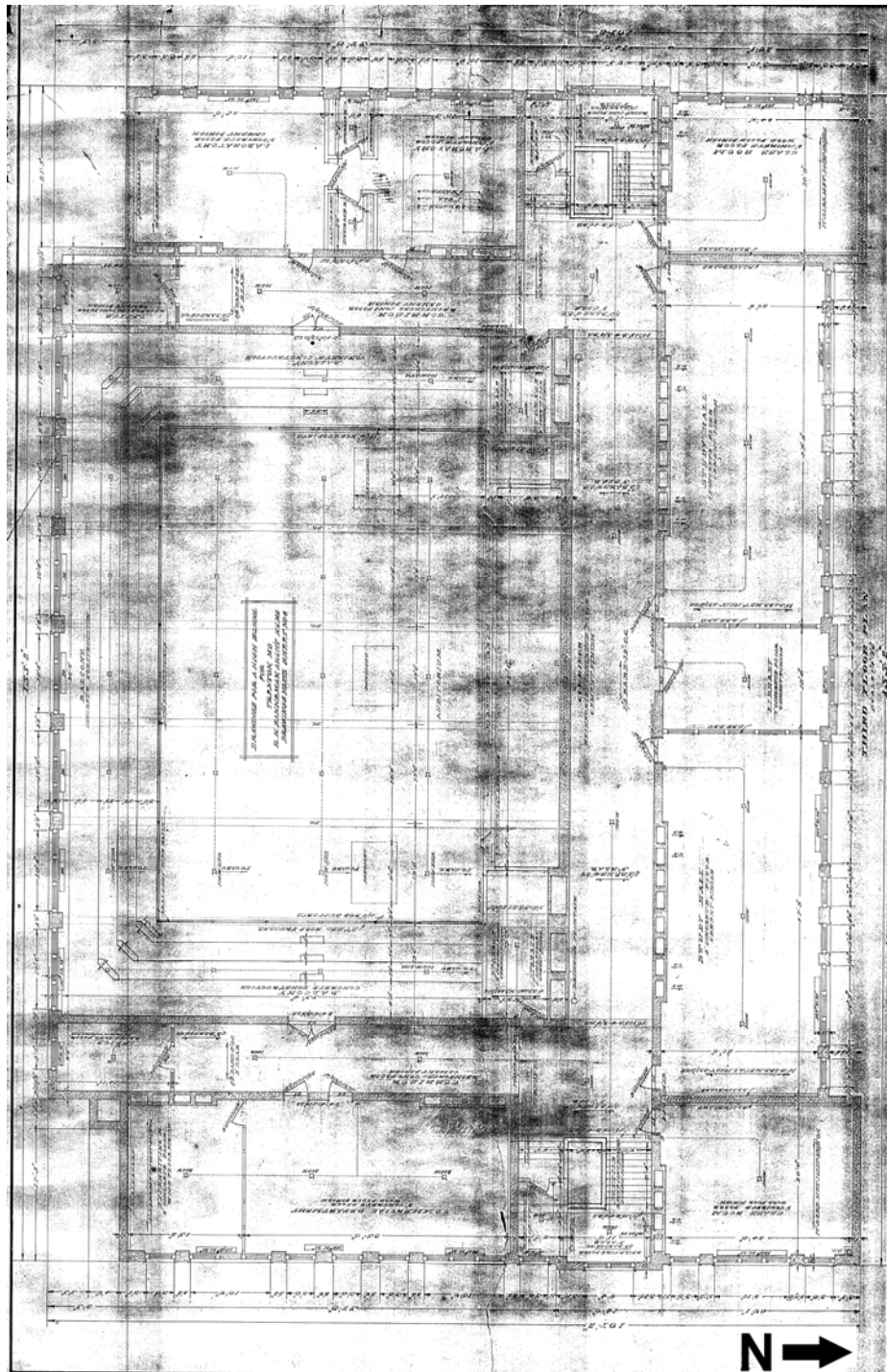
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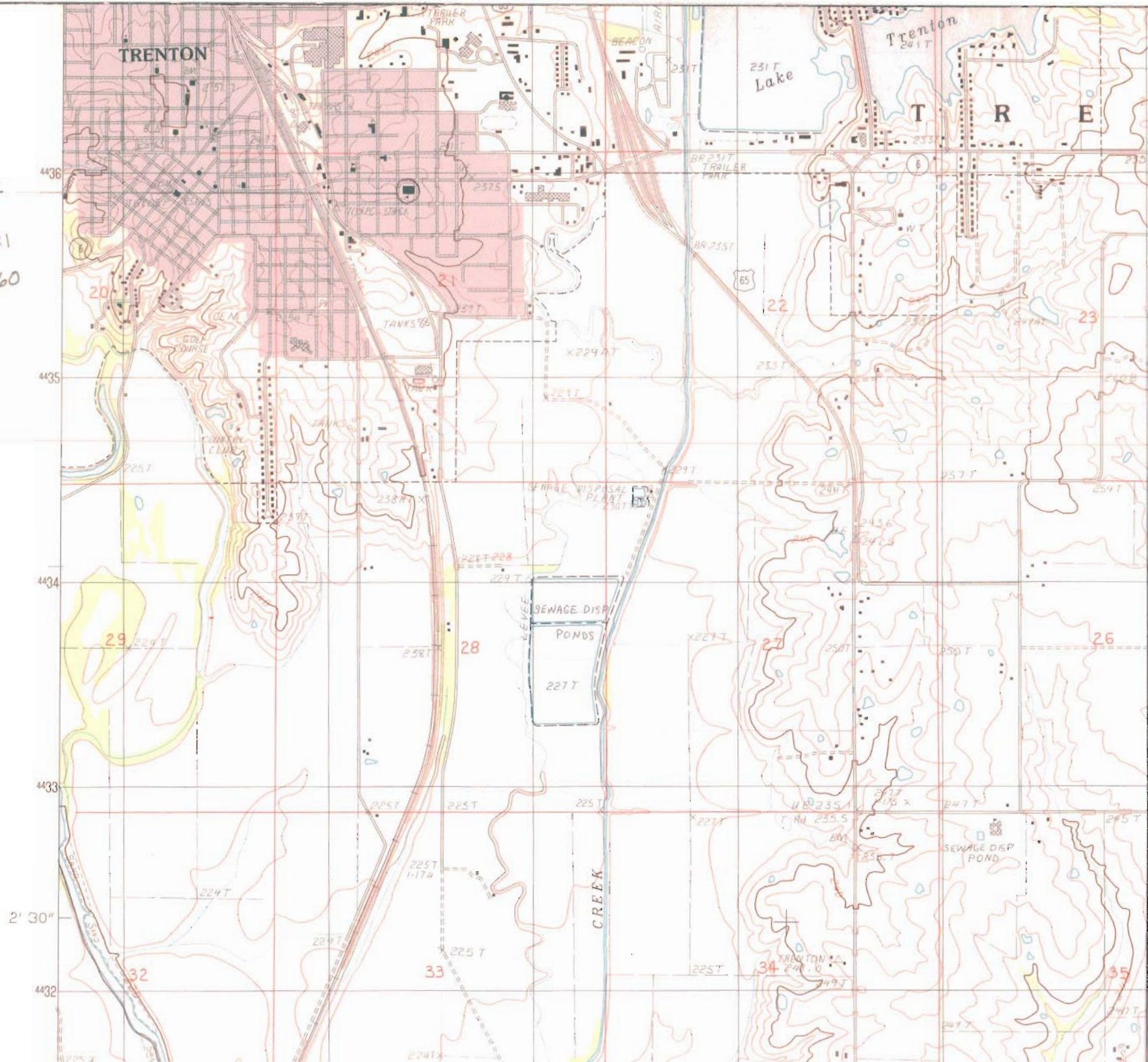
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Trenton High School
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Third Floor Plan



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Pink 10/14 12
White 10/14 12
Black 10/14 12
Grey 10/14 12
Brown 10/14 12









