

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
other name/site number: WHEELING CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2. Location

street & number: 14TH & BYRON STREETS not for publication: N/A
city/town: WHEELING vicinity: N/A
state: West Virginia county: OHIO code: 069 zip code: 26003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet.)

William G. Sauer Signature of Certifying Official 11/15/96 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____ Date _____

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 _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

| | Signature of Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet. | _____ | <u>1-9-97</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> 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): _____ | _____ | _____ |

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
Name of Property

OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA
County and State

5. Classification

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
TOTAL

1

1

0

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education - School

Education - School

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL

Foundation Sandstone
Walls Brick
Roof Asphalt
Other Limestone

OTHER: VICTORIAN GOTHIC

Narrative Description

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

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
Name of Property

OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA
County and State

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

RELIGION

ARCHITECTURE

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
Name of Property

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County and State

Period of Significance
1896 TO 1946

Significant Dates
1896 1923 1937

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: WHEELING CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
Name of Property

OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA
County and State

=====
10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>17</u> | <u>523920</u> | <u>4434950</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Katherine M. Jourdan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: WV SHPO Date: 22 August 1996

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East Telephone: (304) 558-0220, 156

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

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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)

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL
Name of Property

OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA
County and State

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Property Owner
=====

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

Name: Bishop Bernard Schmitt, Wheeling-Charleston Diocese

Street & Number: 1300 Byron Street Telephone: 304/233-0881

City or Town: Wheeling State: WV Zip: 26003
=====

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

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL, 14TH & BYRON STS, WHEELING, WV, OHIO COUNTY
Section Number 7 Page 2

The Cathedral Parish School, or Wheeling Catholic Elementary School as it is now called, was constructed to serve the growing educational needs of the children in the St. Joseph Cathedral Parish. Constructed 1896-97, the Victorian Gothic school is one of three similar styled schools still standing in the city from the late 19th century with a central square tower design.

Located in the East Wheeling Neighborhood, the school is part of the square block complex bordered by Eoff, 13th, Byron and 14th Streets. Located on the northwest corner of 14th and Byron Streets, the other three corners of the block are occupied by the St. Joseph Cathedral, the Rectory, and Central Catholic High School.

The red brick edifice is three stories with a lower level, the first floor being elevated. The front (south) facade has a center square tower with a pyramidal roof. The base of the building is a rough cut sandstone. A similar form and style was used for two public grade schools, the Jefferson School on McColloch and 14th Street, and the Elm Grove School on Kruger Street.

The center front has a formal one-and-a-half story entrance of dressed stone surrounding double doors, with a fanlight transom, topped by a keystone with a cross at the apex. To each side are circular medallions with the inscriptions "A.D." and "1896". Above the medallions is a stone lintel with "CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL" inscribed. Quoins are along the side of the entrance with a ball atop the cornice ledge. Above the entrance are paired windows on the first floor. The second floor also has paired windows with a brick keystone and voussoir reflecting the first floor entrance. The tower has three openings with vents and pointed arches. The eaves of the building are wide with brackets.

The window openings on the front facade vary on each floor. The following pattern exists: the first floor has a gothic pointed arch with voussoir; the second floor has a flat lintel with limestone stringcourse at sill and lintel; the third floor has a gothic arch with limestone sill. The first and third floors have limestone details above the sash line.

The interior of the school has a center hallway reached by a flight of stairs from the front doors. The halls are lined with a painted wooden wainscoting and lockers.

The doorways to classrooms have a wooden panel inset, moulding and roundels. On the first floor the transoms have been covered over the doors and the hall has a drop ceiling with lights and a red tile floor. Opening off the hall are four classrooms and restrooms. Of the classrooms, three have the original tin ceiling, with decorative cove cornice with a spade design and center square panel with fleur-de-lis design surrounded by a vining cable. The original wooden floors have been covered by carpet. Steps at the end of the hall lead down to the gym; side stairs lead to the lower level and west side entrance. This doorway has a round arch transom with fanlight. Also off the center hall is a fire door with steps leading to the second floor.

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The second floor has a hallway with wood grained wainscoting and five panel doors with wood inset moulding in the doorways and transoms overhead. Lockers line part of the hallway. The stairs have a wood rail and newel posts; the steps are covered by the same red tile that now covers the hallways. On the stair landing is a round arch window with two side lancet windows. Their openings have wood moulding and roundels reflecting similar moulding at the other windows. Running up the stairs is wood wainscoting.

There are five classrooms on the second floor, with four having original tin ceilings, wainscoting, and blackboards. On the east side the middle room has a upper glass window wall which opens to the hallway. The connecting wall between this room and the classroom to the south has round arch transoms which provided more natural light to the center room. The middle room also has paired windows on the exterior wall and two narrow gothic windows.

The third floor has six classrooms and is reached by a long steep flight of stairs at the north end of the hallway. The center hallway is narrow with a linoleum floor and there is a fire door at the north end leading to the third floor of the addition. The rooms on this floor are simple with plaster ceilings. There is no wainscoting in the halls or rooms. Many of the rooms have coat closets.

A three story brick addition was added to the north end of the school for a gymnasium in 1939, with additional classrooms on the third floor. The exterior is red brick with a limestone foundation and moulding at the east side entrance with "CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL" inscribed below a large keystone. To the sides of the entrance are lancet windows with three vertical lights. Above the window is decorative iron grating with lights. A small breezeway was attached from the Rectory to the north of the school matching the scale and materials of the addition.

The lower portion (8 feet) of the gym walls has tan glazed tile block with concrete block on the upper courses. The window openings on the north and south walls are glass block. The hardwood floor has a basketball court with concrete steps on two sides creating levels for wooden bleachers. Entrances to the gym are from the center hall of the school building or from the Byron Street (east) entrance. The latter entrance also has steps leading to the third floor which has three classrooms, lounge, and restrooms.

There are few interior changes to the building with the classrooms essentially intact. The floor plan has been altered to comply with fire regulations enclosing the wooden stairwell on the west side. A second fire stairs has been added from the third floor of the rear addition, to exit into the courtyard area. This is visible from the side alley, as is a small two bay garage. Both the exterior fire stairs and the garage are noncontributing elements. Also due to fire law changes, the upper two floors of the main school are not in use at this time by the children, but are used for storage. The wooden floors of the hallway and steps have been covered with red tile, similar to the tile in the later addition.

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CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL, 14TH & BYRON STS, WHEELING, WV, OHIO COUNTY
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The Wheeling Catholic Elementary School remains one of the last late 19th century neighborhood schools still in use by the Catholic Diocese in the city of Wheeling. The building is relatively unchanged from its original design and still has many decorative details such as the tin ceilings, wainscoting, and original windows and moulding.

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CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL, 14TH & BYRON STS, WHEELING, WV, OHIO COUNTY
Section Number 8 Page 2

The Cathedral Parish School, or Wheeling Catholic Elementary School was built at the close of the 19th century to serve as an educational facility for the Cathedral Parish of Wheeling. It is being nominated under Criteria A for Education and Religion, and Criteria C for Architecture. The period of significance is from 1896 to 1946, when the school was constructed and used for boys of elementary and high school age, and later as a co-educational facility.

The Catholic school system in Wheeling began with the German community, which in 1846 opened a school with the assistance of a Pittsburgh priest. Part of the purpose of the school was to continue the German language amongst the children. The Sisters of Visitation came from Baltimore in 1848 and established an academy for girls. The academy evolved into the Mt. de Chantal Academy, with a large building complex constructed on the outskirts of the city in 1865.

The Sisters of St. Joseph came to Wheeling in 1853 and helped to set up several major institutions within the city. One of their early undertakings was to establish the first major hospital in (West) Virginia and the first nursing program. Beginning in a small residence on a side street in 1853, the hospital grew to become known as Wheeling Hospital. The Sisters of St. Joseph also began one of the first orphanages with the St. Johns Home for Boys and St. Vincents for Girls.

The Sisters of St. Joseph also responded to the need for Catholic education in the Diocese of Wheeling. Their order was involved in organizing many of the parish schools. Individual parishes began to recognize the need for elementary education in 1859, when St. Alphonsus School in Center Wheeling was opened and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph in a one-room area of the basement of the church.

The St. Joseph Cathedral Parish followed this example in 1865, when it opened an elementary school for boys in the basement of the Cathedral. This space was also used in the evenings for the education of adults, as the Sisters of St. Joseph taught English to the Italian, Irish, German and Polish immigrants that settled in Wheeling during that era. The school for elementary girls, established as the St. Joseph Benevolent School, was located across the street in a two-story building commonly known at that time as the "Fruit House". Today this site is occupied by the Formosa Apartments.

In 1882, the Sisters of St. Joseph took charge of St. Vincent Select School for boys of 7th and 8th grades. The boys were taught in the former Sprigg home on 14th and Byron Streets, which had classrooms on the first floor. The home was razed in 1896, and a new Cathedral High School for Boys was constructed. A newspaper account from August 24, 1896, calls the laying of the cornerstone "An Imposing Ceremony", with remarks by Archbishop J.J. Kain, former Bishop of Wheeling, and Dr. C.A. Wingerter and attended by a crowd of over 2,500.

The Cathedral Parish School blended Gothic Revival architecture with later Victorian influences such as the strong central square bell tower. The red brick facade has a elevated first floor creating a massive sandstone foundation creating a formidable impression. Details

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CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL, 14TH & BYRON STS, WHEELING, WV, OHIO COUNTY
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include limestone stringcourses, sills and lintels, or brick voussoirs. The building is relatively unchanged since it opened, with the rear 1939 addition reflecting the original architecture.

The new high school opened in 1897, conducted by the Xaverian Brothers who provided "excellent advantages for a thorough English and Commercial Education", according to a 1898 City Directory. Coursework included mathematics, shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, penmanship, classics, military tactics and the German language. The first years enrollment had almost 300 male students.

The boys in the grade school were relocated from the basement of the Cathedral to the first floor of the new high school a year later. The building consequently housed both the high school and elementary school. A second new building was constructed by the parish in 1900, between the Sisters Motherhouse, at 14th and Eoff, and the Cathedral. This was the St. Joseph's Academy for high school girls. When it was completed, the girls in the elementary grades moved from the Fruit House to the new academy building.

Other Catholic parishes throughout the city began to open schools in their own church communities. South Wheeling's St. Mary's School opened in 1897, as did St. Ladislaus, in 1905. Sacred Heart in North Wheeling began in 1907, and Blessed Trinity on Wheeling Island in 1927. Typically, classes began in the basement of the church, with a nearby home or building later serving as a school. St. Ladislaus students were taught by the Felician Sisters of Pittsburgh, while the other schools were started or staffed by teachers from the Sisters of St. Joseph. One of the primary aims of the schools was to foster a Catholic education among the parish children.

In 1923 under new Bishop Swint, the girls of the Cathedral Elementary School were moved in with the boys on the first floor of the Cathedral Grade School, then known as Central Grammar School. The Sisters of St. Joseph took over the teaching duties of the boys' grades one through six. The high school was renamed Central Catholic and continued to be taught by the Xaverian Brothers for another 10 years until the Marist Brothers of Poughkeepsie, New York took their place. The co-educational system continues today.

Just over a decade later, the school was enlarged in 1937 with a wing added to the rear for a gymnasium, and classrooms for the high school students to fill a pressing need for more space. This red brick addition blends well with the older school matching the height of the foundation with a new limestone base, and featuring a east entrance with limestone moulding and transom.

Central Catholic High School left in 1960 to move into a newly constructed building next door, which had been the former site of the Sisters Motherhouse and the St. Joseph Academy. This left the grade school as sole occupant. During the summer of 1972, renovations were made for fire stairs, lower ceilings in the hallways, carpeting, and tile floors.

Wheeling Catholic Elementary School remains as the only viable grade school in the downtown area. The building retains the original

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architectural details on the exterior as well as many of the interior features such as tin ceilings, wainscoting, and moulding. It has been an important part of the Cathedral parish and Catholic instruction for the children.

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CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL, 14TH & BYRON STS, WHEELING, WV, OHIO COUNTY
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WHEELING CITY DIRECTORY, 1898, Wheeling Room, Ohio Co. Library.

"School History, Wheeling Catholic Elementary School" handout, Wheeling Catholic Elementary School.

"Catholic Schools - A Tradition in Wheeling" handout, Wheeling Catholic Elementary School, 1981.

"First Years of St. Alphonsus School, Wheeling, WV 1859-1860", handout, Wheeling Catholic Elementary School, 1989.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, ALUMNI DIRECTORY 1990. White Plains, NY: Bernard C. Harris Publishing Co. Inc., 1990.

"An Imposing Ceremony", Newspaper unknown, August 24, 1896.

Gulliford, Andrew, AMERICA'S COUNTRY SCHOOLS. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1984.

Interview with principal Sister Mary Palmer, June 1996.

Interviews with Margaret Brennan, Wheeling Area Historical Society, June to August 1996.

Section Number 10 Page 2

Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point of the northwest corner of 14th and Byron Street, and running north along the west edge of Byron Street to the rear of the 1939 addition, and following a line along the edge of the rear of the building, including the breezeway to the rectory, to the northwest edge of the rear addition; thence turning south to the southwest corner of the addition; thence east along the edge of the building and around the garage to a line with the center of the alley; thence south following a center line with the alley to the north edge of 14th Street; thence east with the north edge of 14th Street to the corner and point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

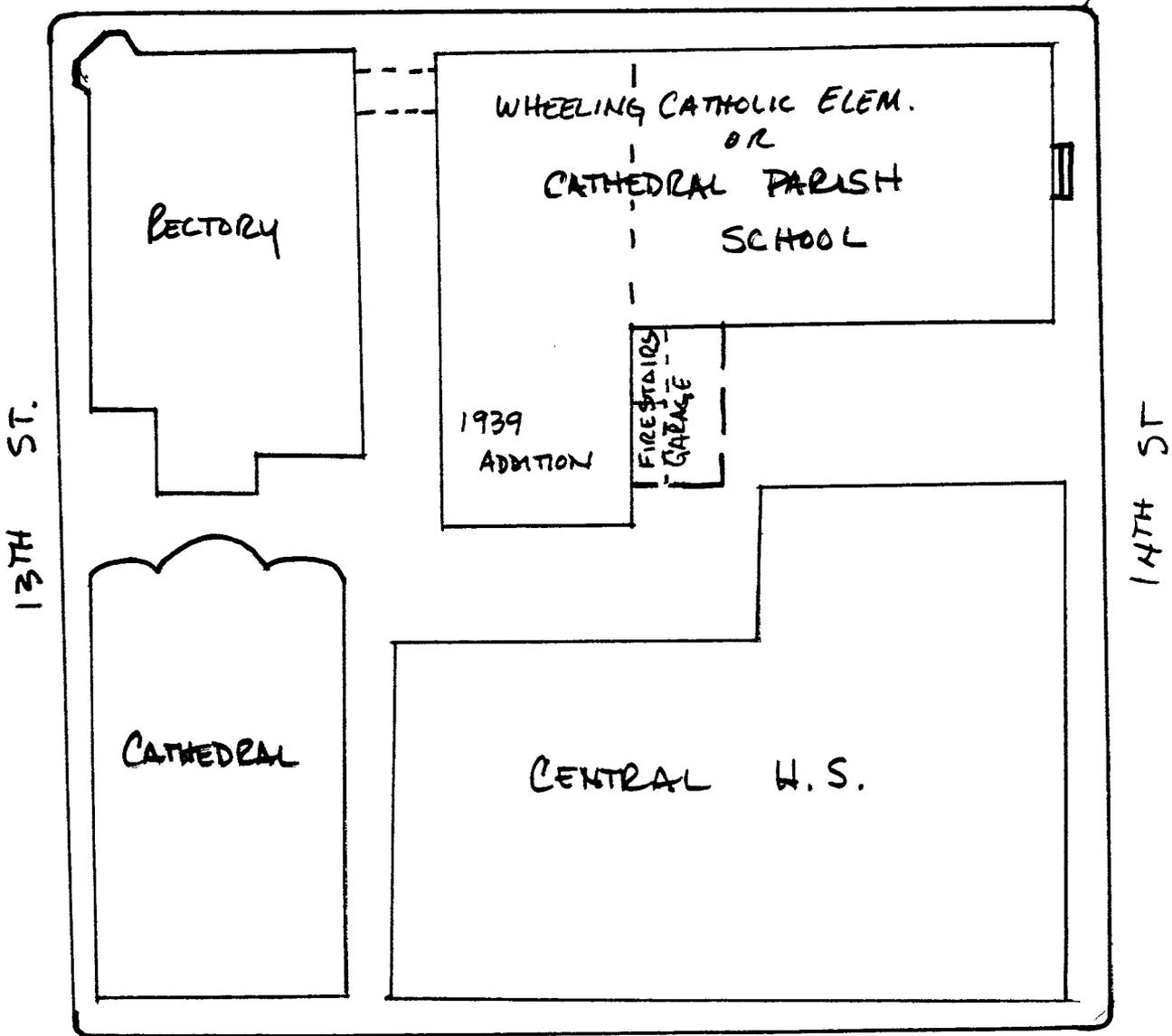
The boundaries primarily include the site of the Wheeling Catholic Elementary School building, which is bordered by buildings on two sides. Those buildings are the Central Catholic High School on the west, and the St. Joseph Cathedral Rectory on the north.

Cathedral Parish School
14th and Byron Streets
Wheeling, WV

Site Plan



BYRON ST

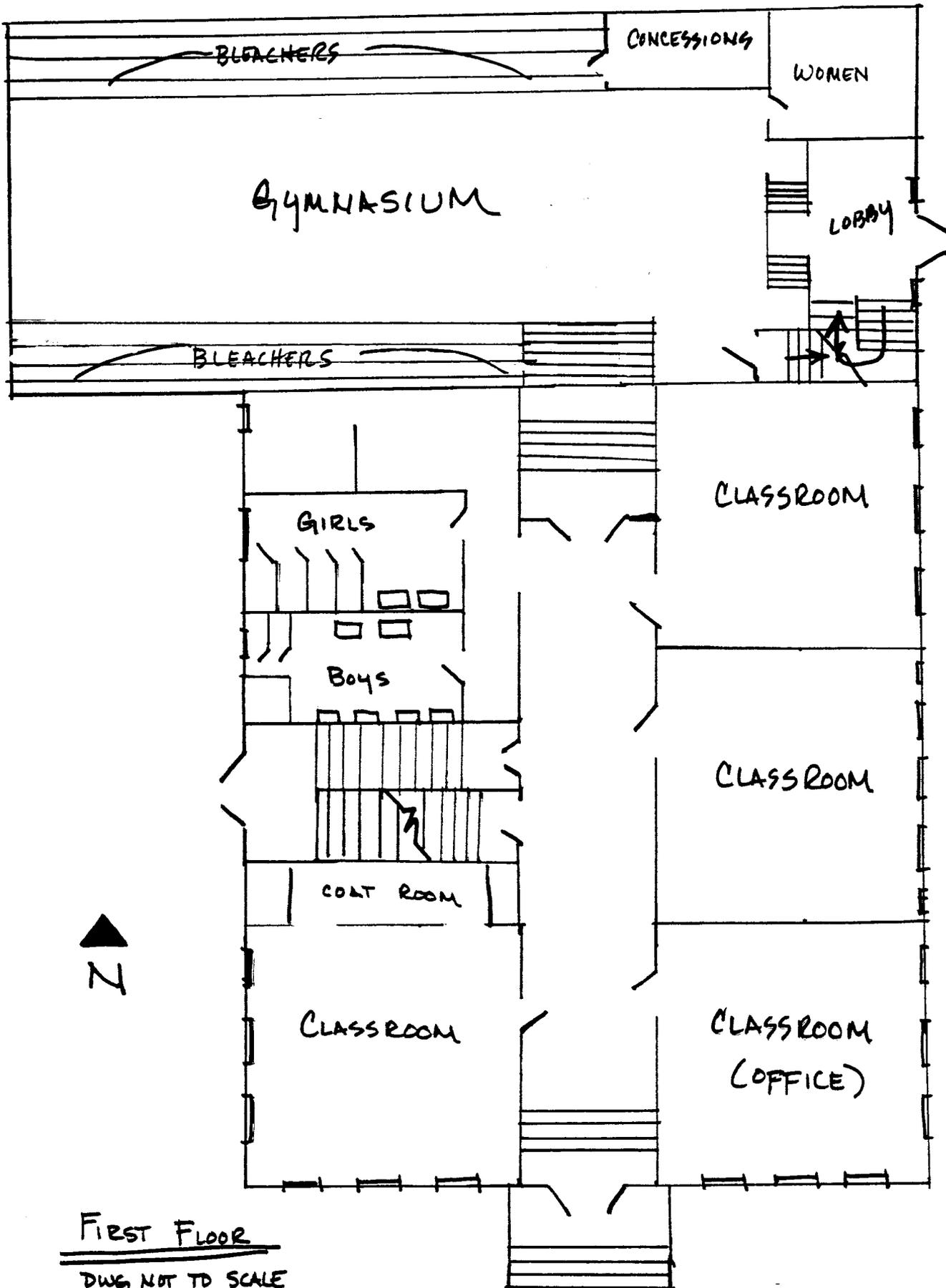


13TH ST.

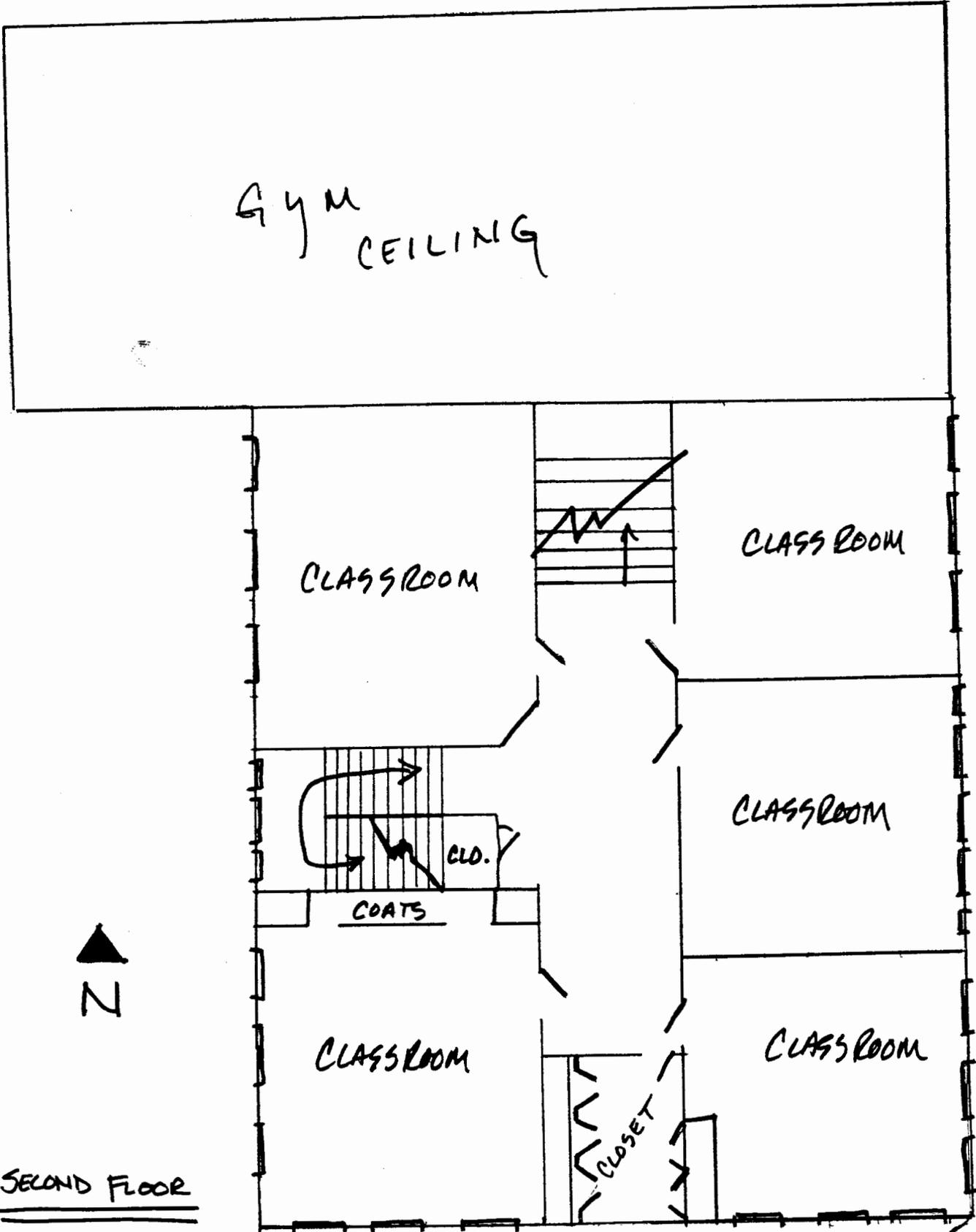
14TH ST

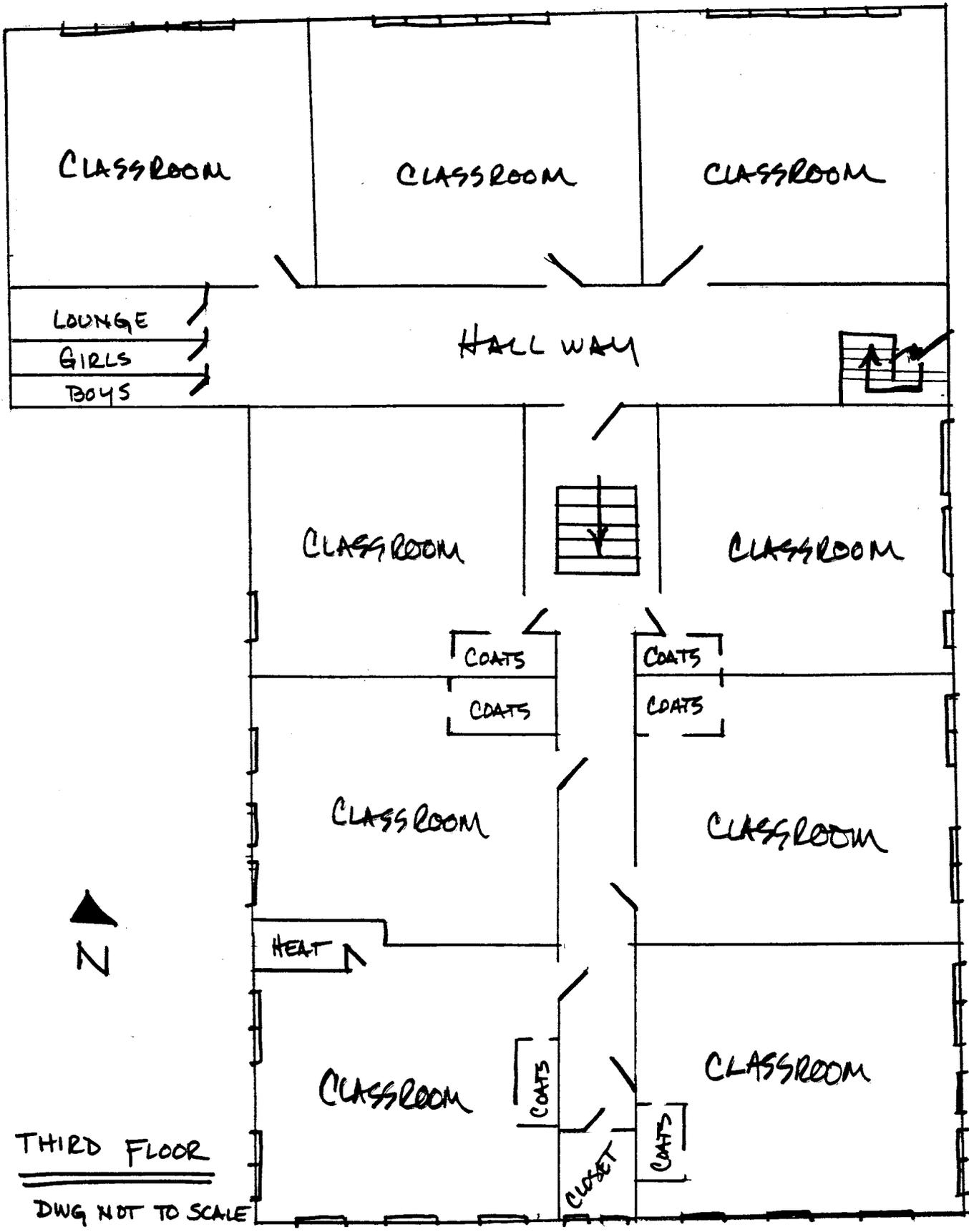
COFF ST.

Cathedral Parish School
14th and Byron Streets
Wheeling, WV



FIRST FLOOR
DWG, NOT TO SCALE





THIRD FLOOR

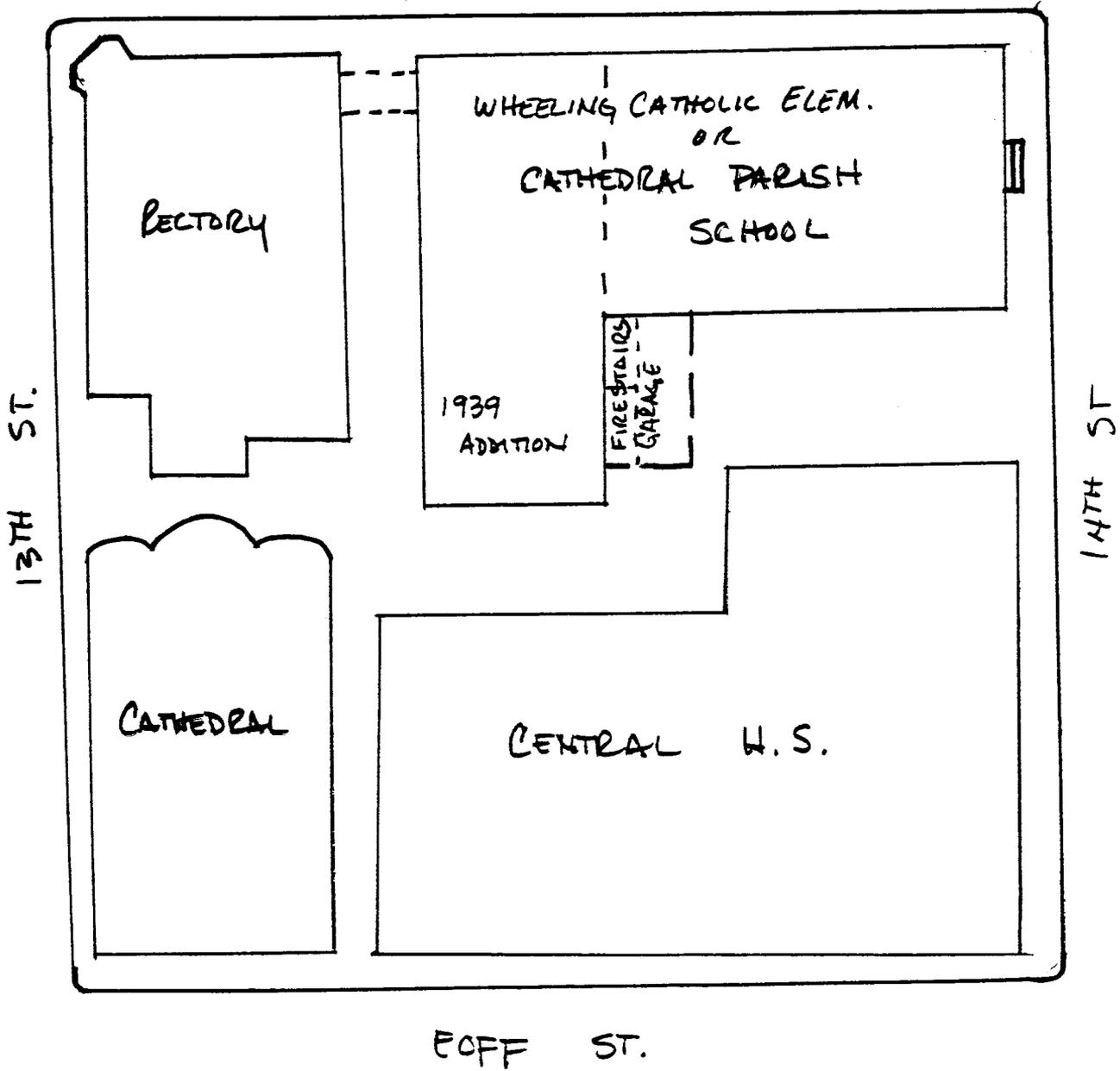
DWG NOT TO SCALE

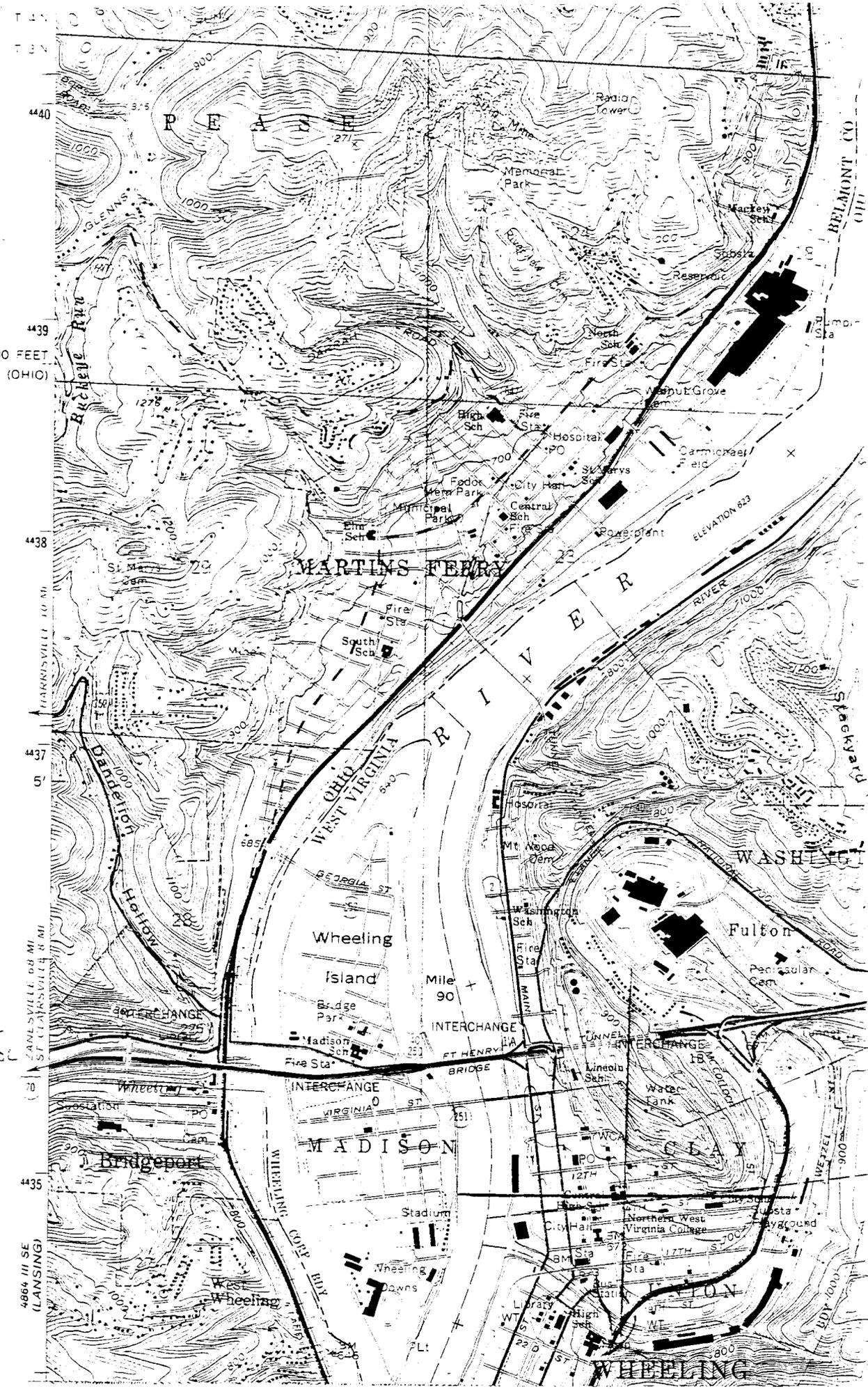
Cathedral Parish School
14th and Byron Streets
Wheeling, WV

Site Plan



BYRON ST





WHEELING CATHOLIC
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 17523920
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PHOTO INFORMATION Page 1

NAME: Wheeling Catholic Elementary School
ADDRESS: 14th and Byron Streets
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003
Ohio County
West Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Katherine M. Jourdan

DATE OF PHOTOS: June 1996

NEGATIVE: SHPO of West Virginia

PHOTO 1 OF 5: View of South (front) facade and west side.
Camera looking northeast

PHOTO 2 of 5: View of main entrance, south side
Camera looking north

PHOTO 3 of 5: View of East facade
Camera looking northwest

PHOTO 4 of 5: View of East facade of rear addition, and north side.
Camera looking west

PHOTO 5 of 5: View of West facade along alley
Camera looking north

Cathedral Parish School
14th and Byron Streets
Wheeling, WV

Site Plan
AND PHOTO MAP



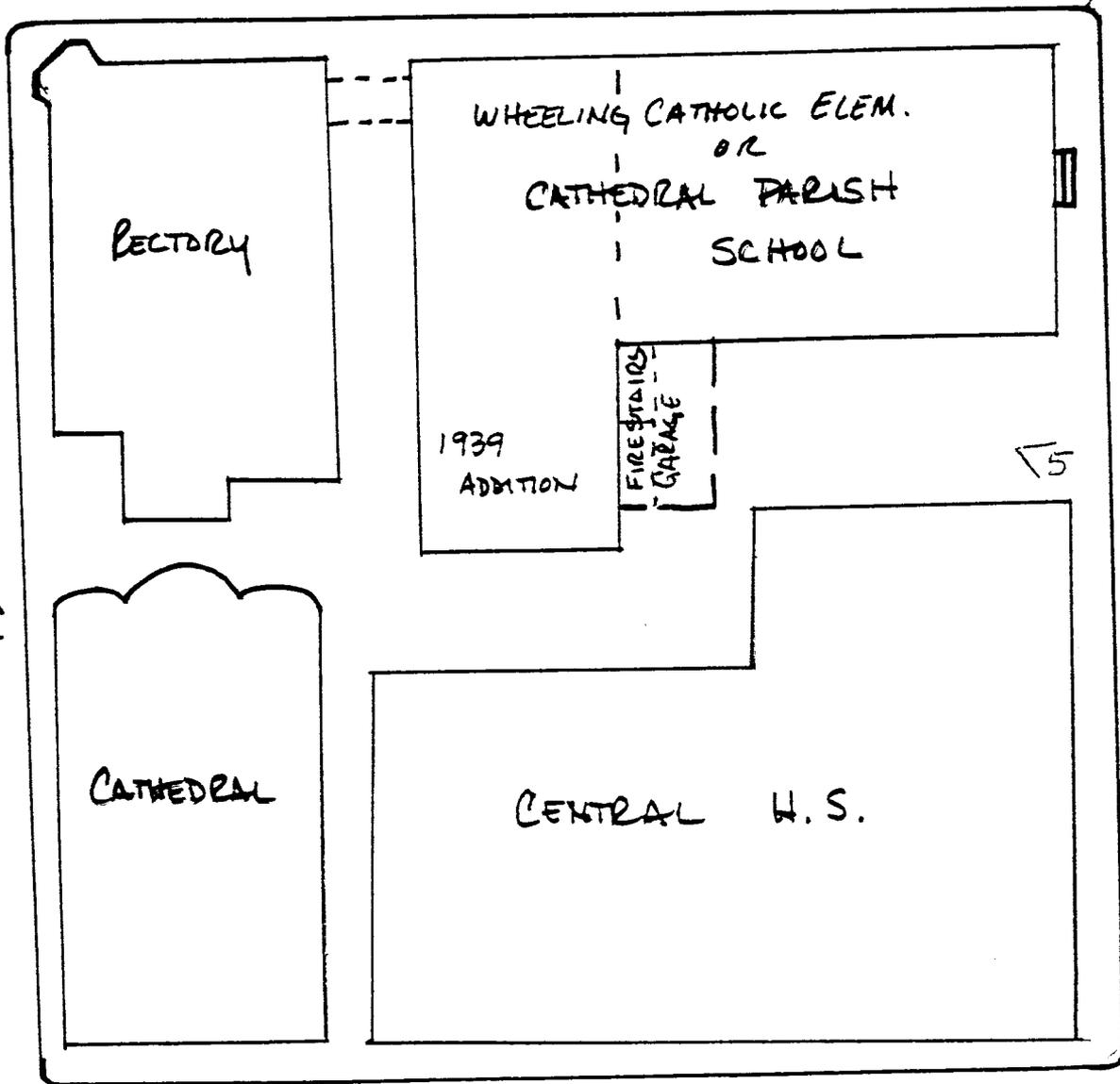
BYRON ST



14TH ST



13TH ST.



ECCE ST.



HATFIELD BROS. CO.