

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Harrisville Grade School
other name/site number: Harrisville High School
Harrisville Public School

2. Location

street & number: 217 West Main Street not for publication: N/A
city/town: Harrisville vicinity: N/A
state: WV code: WV county: Ritchie code: 085 zip code: 26362-0342

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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally.

(___ See continuation sheet.)

Signature of Certifying Official 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

Harrisville Grade School
Name of Property

Ritchie County, WV
County and State

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
_____ entered in the National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the	_____	_____
_____ National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
_____ National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

=====

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) _____ object
_____ district
_____ site
_____ structure

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

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

Meeting Site (Historical Society)

Harrisville Grade School
Name of Property

Ritchie County, WV
County and State

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:	Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Late Victorian:</u>	Foundation <u>Stone</u>
<u>Vernacular Italianate and Greek Revival</u>	Walls <u>Brick</u>
	Roof <u>Asphalt Shingles</u>
	Other _____

Narrative Description

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

=====

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:

- N/A **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- N/A **B** removed from its original location.
- N/A **C** a birthplace or grave.
- N/A **D** a cemetery.
- N/A **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- N/A **F** a commemorative property.
- N/A **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Harrisville Grade School
Name of Property

Ritchie County, WV
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance
1878-1924

Significant Dates

1878 - Built

1904 - Addition

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: Ritchie County Historical Museum

Harrisville Grade School
Name of Property

Ritchie County, WV
County and State

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

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

1 17 495330 4339800
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

 see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Erin Beth Dower, State Survey Coordinator

Organization: WV SHPO Date: September 19, 1996

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

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

=====

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)

Harrisville Grade School
Name of Property

Ritchie County, WV
County and State

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

Name: The Ritchie County Historical Museum

Street & Number: 217 West Main Street Telephone: (304) 643-2986

City or Town: Harrisville State: WV Zip: 26362-0342
=====

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School

Section number 7

Ritchie County, WV

Page 1

The Harrisville Grade School is located in Ritchie County, West Virginia in the town of Harrisville. It is situated on the south side of West Main Street (also Secondary Route 5) and at the north end of School Street. A small 16.5 feet alley continues from School Street along the south side of the property to the east. The total dimensions of the property are: 164.20 feet (east) by 174.25 feet (south) by 227 feet (west) by 100 feet (north) which forms a rectangle with an obtuse triangle on the far northwest corner. The original 1877 lot was square measuring 100 feet by 164.20 feet, and was expanded in 1903 to include the lot on its west side, angling along the northwest curve of West Main Street as a natural boundary. The nominated property includes one contributing resource, the Harrisville Grade School. The school faces Main Street and is located in the eastern side of the property. The land has several mature trees with a concentration on the school's east side. The ground on the west side slopes slightly away from the school.

The Harrisville Grade School is a large Vernacular Victorian building featuring a blend of Italianate and Greek Revival details. Sited along West Main Street, the building is a two-story plan of more than three bays. The foundation is a rough-cut stone and rubble laid in an irregular course. Walls are of a brick laid in the English Common Bond with a variant of seven stretcher rows per header row. The hipped roof has a low slope and is covered with plain, coursed asphalt shingles. The north facade's projecting wing contains a three-ranked opening, and has a central, triangular pediment supported by brick pilasters. A semi-circular, eight-light pediment window is located in the upper center of the gable end. Classical dentil cornice returns proceed to the pilasters and continue around the building.

The pediment marks the main entrance comprised of a pair of single panel, wood doors with two-light glazing and an arched, two-light transom with hooded, brick lintel. The entrance is covered from the elements by a small, single-story wood covering or stoop with a single, arched 2/2 double-hung window also with hooded, brick lintels and stone sills on each side of the entrance. These lintels over the north facade's windows are the only painted brick on the building's exterior. The recessed sides of the main rectangle each have two arched, 2/2 double-hung windows on each level and are of the same Italianate design. Brick pilasters wrap around the corners creating a quoin-like element.

The east and west facades (left and right, respectively) each have two brick end chimneys, modified for furnace stacks and capped during the 1970s. The west facade has five bays. The central entrance is comprised of paired doors, a four-light transom and a hooded, brick lintel all covered by a shed roof constructed of metal pipe and wood and covered with asphalt

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School

Section number 7

Ritchie County, WV

Page 2

shingles. On either side of this entrance are two arched, 2/2 double-hung windows with hooded, brick lintels and stone sills. Each window is visually divided from one another by a brick chimney or brick pilaster. The upper level matches these five bays with the central bay having paired, half-arched, 2/2 double-hung windows sharing the same hooded, brick lintels and stone sill. The foundation is marked with four bays. The original north section of the building has two metal ventilation grates in the foundation while the 1904 addition (south section) has two 1/1 double-hung windows with opaque glass resting between stone sills and lintels. The east facade also has five bays with the upper and lower floors identical in design. These match the west facade but in place of the secondary entrance are paired, half-arched, 2/2 double-hung windows sharing the same hooded, brick lintels and stone sill as the upper central windows on the both the west and east facades.

The south (rear) facade has a central brick pilaster visually dividing the six bays into two sets. Each set of bays consists of three arched, 2/2 double-hung windows with hooded brick lintels and stone sills. On the upper story, the third window from the right was modified to allow for an emergency exit. The upper portion of the window is undisturbed while the lower portion and stone sill were replaced with a wood door with wood surround. The basement is more exposed on this facade and reveals six 1/1 double-hung windows with opaque glass. Each has a narrow stone lintel and the stone sills are at ground level.

The main entrance leads to a small foyer which projects slightly from the remainder of the building. The foyer opens into a large hallway with two classrooms on each side. The walls are plaster with a narrow tongue-and-groove wainscotting. On each side of the central hallway is a staircase leading to the second floor. At the landing the original, narrower stairs lead to the central administration offices flanked on each side by a classroom, and the rear stairs lead to the restrooms and the central auditorium. These small stairs create a physical separation from the original building and the addition. From the first floor, the west staircase descends to the basement and four gas furnaces. The original section of the basement was used as a janitorial office and storage while the newer addition had three large classes. One of these classrooms was designed for the newly developed Domestic Science course and had a fully-operating kitchen. Later the basement served as the school cafeteria.

Originally built in 1878, the Harrisville Grade School had four classrooms, two on each of the two floors. The building was expanded in 1904 adding two more classrooms, an auditorium and restroom facilities. Each classroom is a square room characterized by 10-foot ceilings and two arched 2/2 double-hung windows per outside wall allowing for cross-

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School
Section number 7

Ritchie County, WV
Page 3

ventilation and more natural light. When the addition was made in 1904, the front entrance was also changed to its present appearance. While still having a front projecting bay, the roof was hipped with a small front center dormer. The original cupolas was square with a mansard roof. The new entrance was changed to have a front end gable with returns, and a fan light window in the peak. The cupola was modified to its well-known octagonal shape. During the 1970s, the cupola was removed and the chimneys capped to allow for roof repairs. The original gray slate was patched in sections with asphalt shingles.

The Harrisville Grade School was recently purchased by the Ritchie County Historical Museum, Inc. from the Ritchie County Board of Education. It is currently vacant with plans for a local museum underway. The museum will be named the General Thomas M. Harris School Museum in honor of the Civil War veteran who donated the original property for the purpose of community education. At this time, the Ritchie County Historical Museum, Inc. is removing the modern partitions and drop ceilings from most of the classrooms.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School
Section number 8

Ritchie County, WV
Page 1

The Harrisville Grade School is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the development of the education system in Ritchie County and West Virginia, and Criterion C for architecture.

The Harrisville Grade School is significant for the role it played in the development of the free school system in Ritchie County and West Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia passed legislation in 1846 allowing for counties to establish free schools but public education was readily available. The first school in Ritchie County (then Wood County, Virginia) was established in 1818 but was private with courses taught in an extra building on the Lawrence Maley farm outside Harrisville. When the new state of West Virginia was formed, the first constitutional convention established a free school system supported by interest from and investment fund and personal property taxes. In 1864 there were fifty counties in the new state and twenty-two had school systems with eleven in progress. Harrisville, the Ritchie County seat, had its first public school built that same year. The two-room frame building continued to provide free education for the community until 1872. During that time, Ritchie County created school districts based on the magisterial districts with Harrisville in Union Magisterial District.

Five years later, General Thomas M. Harris donated land from his homestead to build a four-room brick school, replacing the wood two-room school. The building was completed, and open to students the following year, becoming the second public school in the town. Harrisville then established a school district separate from the county system in 1883, and the Harrisville Independent District was supported financially by the town's citizens rather than county taxpayers.

Built in 1878, the school is a very well preserved example of late 19th-century brick, educational buildings of vernacular architecture in Ritchie County and West Virginia. Single and two-room schools were the norm throughout the county and the new four-room, two-story Harrisville Grade School demonstrated the progress of its citizens. The school is one of the few remaining examples of early multiple-room, two-story schools in West Virginia. The school retains a great deal of its architectural integrity, including the arched, Italianate windows, the wide entablature with dentil detailing, and the original tongue-and-groove wainscoting on its walls.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Ritchie County had an economic boom created by an abundance in natural gas and oil. In 1894, the Harrisville School altered its curriculum to also serve as a high school. Students came from local communities such as Auburn, Smithville and Washburn, to attend the high school, staying with family or in boarding houses. It was one of four high schools in the county, possibly the first constructed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School

Section number 8

Ritchie County, WV

Page 2

In 1904, the property located on the lot to the west was deeded to the school for use by the expanding student body. A compatible addition was placed on the rear of the school, doubling its size and adding more space for administration, assemblies and modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing. The original exterior was also modernized at this time. The mansard roof was replaced by a low-pitched hipped roof; the small, dormer above the main entrance was removed and the roofline extended to form a classical gable-end; and the mansard belfry, in the center of the original building near the north facade entrance, was modified to an updated, classical octagonal-shaped cupola.

At the turn of the century, Harrisville School served as the local "normal school," teaching and training future teachers for the growing county. The county's population continued to grow and in 1924 a separate high school was completed to meet those needs. At this time, the older school was distinguished from the new high school by the name change to Harrisville Grade School. The local population continued to grow and a small frame shed located in the southeast corner of the property was used for as a classroom. It was torn down when the school took possession of the Harrisville Methodist Protestant Church located opposite the school on West Main Street during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The school remained in operation until 1965 when a new elementary school was built on East Main Street to replace it. From that time until 1994, the Board of Education used the building for administrative purposes.

Over the years, the ceilings were dropped and the rooms divided to create additional space. During the 1970s, the 1904 cupola was removed and the chimneys capped to allow for roof repairs. The original gray slate was patched in sections with asphalt shingles and eventually the entire roof was replaced with asphalt shingles. These wood partitions and ceiling tiles are currently being removed to restore the rooms to their original size.

The Harrisville Grade School is significant for its association with the development of the free school educational system in Ritchie County, serving as the town's first high school and providing training for teachers as the local "normal school." The school is an excellent example of a late 19th century educational building. It retains many of the original features and details, especially its many windows with brick hoods and dentil trim.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School
Section 9

Ritchie County, WV
Page 1

Major Bibliographic References:

Harrisville High School Yearbook. Harrisville, WV: Harrisville High School, 1923; 1986.

Lowther, Minnie Kendall. History of Ritchie County, 1911. Parsons, WV: McClain Printers for WVU Libraries, 1990.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Moats, Sandra, Chair of the Ritchie County Historical Museum, Inc. Personal interviews and correspondence: February 15, 1996, June 10 and 12, 1996, July 23, 1996, and September 19, 1996.

Phillips, Steven J. Old House Dictionary. Lakewood, CO: American Source Books, 1989.

Poppeliers, John and S. Allen Chambers. What Style Is It? Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1983.

Powell, M. M. "A Report of Harrisville Public Schools," Education Report: Ritchie County Schools. Harrisville, WV: the Sigler Printery, 1918.

Ritchie County Deed Book. Deed Book #19, page 603. Harrisville, WV: Ritchie County Courthouse.

Ritchie County Deed Book. Deed Book #51, page 317. Harrisville, WV: Ritchie County Courthouse.

Ritchie County Historical Society. The History of Ritchie County, West Virginia to 1980. Paoli, PA: Taylor Publishing Co., 1980.

Wiffen, Marcus. American Architecture since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1969.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School
Section number 10

Ritchie County, WV
Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Harrisville Grade School National Register nomination is shown on the accompanying map titled "Plat Survey Map" dated March 8, 19**.

Boundary Justification:

The Harrisville Grade School reflects the legal and historical boundaries associated with the property. On the north, West Main Street forms the boundary; on the east, the lot line for the school forms the boundary; on the south, School Street and the attached alley form the boundary; and on the west, the lot line for the school forms the boundary.

Maps:

Fowler print: Birds-eye-view Harrisville, Ritchie County, WVa., 1899. On record with the Library of Congress since November 30, 1943.

Harrisville, Ritchie County, West Virginia Tax Map number 5, plot number 123.

Plat map of survey for Joan Powell, Harrisville Corporation, Ritchie County, West Virginia. March 8, 19**. Property owner listed as Board of Education.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map: Harrisville Quadrangle, West Virginia-Ritchie County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Harrisville Grade School
Section number Photographs

Ritchie County, WV
Page 1

Harrisville Grade School
217 West Main Street
Harrisville, West Virginia
Ritchie County

Photographs by:

Alan Harway
October 1995

Negatives:

Ritchie County Historical Museum, Inc.

Photo 1 of 4:

Front or North Facade
Camera facing south

Photo 2 of 4:

Rear or South Facade
Camera facing north

Photo 3 of 4:

West or Right Facade
Camera facing east

Photo 4 of 4:

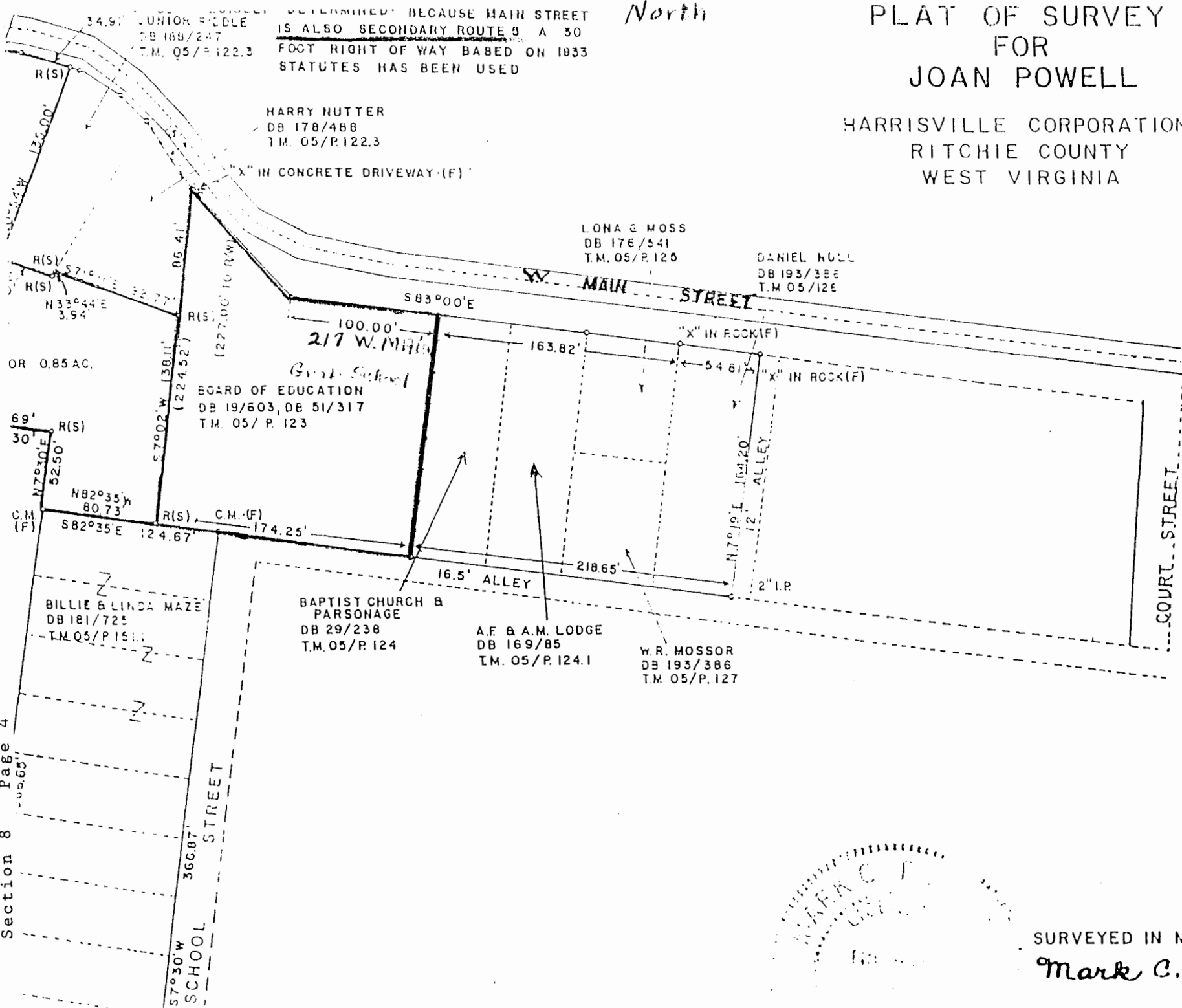
East or Left Facade
Camera facing west

HARRISVILLE CORPORATION
RITCHIE COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA

HARRISVILLE CORPORATION
RITCHIE COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA

MAGN
4049
HAR
MAR

SURVEYED IN MARCH 8
Mark C. Echa



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
REPRESENTED BY THE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES

