

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09001194

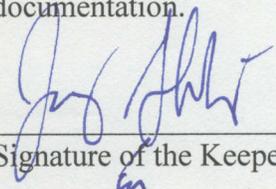
Date Listed: 12/30/2009

Property Name: Riverside School

County: Randolph

State: WV

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

12/31/2009

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Areas of Significance; architect/builder

The area of significance is hereby amended to read ETHNIC HISTORY: BLACK

The nomination is hereby amended to add: Frampton & Bowers as architects

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Riverside School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Block no. 1, River Street not for publication
city or town Elkins vicinity
state West Virginia code WV county Randolph code 083 zip code 26241

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
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

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<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:) _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

Riverside School
Name of Property

Randolph County, West Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

- 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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: two-over-two, central passage

Materials

foundation Sandstone
walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingle
other Wood

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage

Education

Period of Significance

1905-1954

Significant Dates

1905, 1928

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

The Independent School District of Elkins

Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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: _____

Riverside School
Name of Property

Randolph County, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 0.25

UTM References

<u>17</u> Zone	<u>599872</u> Easting	<u>4308801</u> Northing	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melvin Lester and Alice Sabatino
organization Mountain Partners in Community Development date March 11, 2009
street & number 401 Davis Avenue, Suite 218 telephone 304.636.6182
city or town Elkins state WV zip code 26241

Property Owner

name Riverside School Association Corporation
street & number #2 River Street telephone 304-636-6182
city or town Elkins state WV zip code 26241

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

LOCATION and SETTING

The Riverside School (hereinafter referred to as Riverside) is located on River Street in the City of Elkins, West Virginia. Riverside faces south on two lots which are adjacent to Tygart's Valley River. The view from River Street toward Riverside includes a private residence to the west and The Virginia Chapel, American Methodist Episcopal Church, to the east. Three to five feet separates Riverside from the private residence and the church in this urban setting. A twelve foot alley separates Riverside from private residences to the north. The school is composed of two over two rooms with a central passage.

DESCRIPTION

In plan, the original building was a single story, rectangular, double pen with a central passage built in the time period 1902-1905. A second story was added in 1928. Building dimensions are fifty-six feet and six inches by thirty-four feet with a height of forty-four feet. The foundation, water table, window lintels and window sills are of cut sandstone, while the eighteen inch thick walls are red brick with a 1:6 common bond on the exterior. The hip roof is covered with asphalt singles. Windows and doors are made of wood. The window openings have been covered with various materials such as plywood or pressed board.¹

The south (front) elevation is five bays wide at the first level. A central entrance, reached by a four-step masonry stoop, has a small shed roof over the door is supported by simple brackets. The door has six lights at the top with a single panel at the bottom. There are two two-over-two, double-hung sash windows to each side of the entrance. The window lintels and sills throughout the first floor are cut sandstone. The second story has a central window just above the door. Arranged higher, near the roofline, there are three windows to both sides of the central window. All windows on the second story have sandstone sills.

The north (rear) elevation (from west to east) has two, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows, a garage door, two additional windows, a then two additional garage doors. The three garage door alteration was made by the County School Board after desegregation to service and repair school buses. The second story has a central window and one set of ribbon windows to each side. Each set is made up of four double-hung sash windows.

The east elevation has three six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the first floor and no windows on the second floor. Because of the close proximity to the Virginia Chapel, the east elevation is almost obscured from street view. An inside brick chimney is visible in the hip roof above the center of the east elevation.

¹ Many of the building's windows have been removed and are stored inside the building. The current condition of Riverside is good, but some structural repair is needed for the roof and floor joists of the central passage on the first floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The west elevation has three, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the first story and two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on the second floor. Because of the close proximity to a private residence, the west elevation is also nearly obscured from street view. An inside brick chimney is visible in the hip roof above the center of the west elevation.

The interior of the first floor is divided primarily into three spaces. The central passage contains the staircase to the second level towards the front of the building and a restroom to the rear. A classroom is situated to each side of the central passage and each has a small section portioned off behind the blackboard for storage. After the 1954 desegregation concrete was installed as flooring in each of these rooms. Furthermore, a north to south partition was added in the west room to provide a two room space to facilitate the repair and servicing of school buses.

The unchanged plan of the 1928 second-story addition contains an east to west partition in the western room which provides for three rooms on the second floor. The east room also includes a small office and “cloak room” as described on the plans. The walls and ceilings are plaster and the floors, trim and cabinetry are wood. The interior architectural elements and materials as well as the original arrangement of interior spaces convey the feelings and associations of the educational process that took place within this building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The Riverside School in Elkins, Randolph County, is eligible for listing under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage and Education at the local level of significance. The school served as the only public educational school for the education of African-Americans in Elkins and the surrounding area between 1905 and 1954. The school is reflective of the segregated society that developed after the American Civil War in American society and persisted in education through the early part of the 1950s. The school began as a single-story, two-room school for elementary grades. The desire of the African-American community for even greater educational opportunities became a reality in 1928 when Riverside became a four year high school and a second story, consisting of three classrooms, was built. African-Americans then had opportunities for a primary and secondary education in their own community. The period of significance is 1905 to 1954.

HISTORY

The development of African-American education in West Virginia and specifically Randolph County reflected those trends found in the post-civil war South. The education of African-Americans was largely the task of independent schools and private institutions. Typically, classes were held in churches and buildings of religious organizations and, in some cases, in private homes.² The Freedmen's Bureau, American Missionary Association, American Baptist Home Mission Society and other various religious organizations established schools that educated many of the African-American teachers in the South during the last half of the nineteenth century.³

Because the majority white society was molding and supporting segregation of the races, the establishment of elementary education for African-Americans through private or religious organizations became the norm.⁴ Segregation was firmly in place by the turn of the twentieth century and supported by statute in most southern states. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, "public education" for both races began to take hold in the southern United States, but in the context of "separate but equal."

Until the last decade of the nineteenth century, African-Americans had very few opportunities for spiritual guidance or education in Randolph County except for family and support within the African-American community. There are no records confirming the existence of African-American schools or churches in

² The Negro in Our History, Carter G. Woodson, (Washington, D.C., The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1922), 388-389.

³ Jessie Carney Smith and Joseph M. Polmisano, ed., Reference Library of Black America, Vol. 3, Independent Schools in the Late Nineteenth Century, (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, Inc., 2000), 624.

⁴ A History of Negro Education in the South from 1619 to the Present, Henry Allen Bullock, (Cambridge, MA; Harvard University Press, 1967), 71-77.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Randolph County during the 1870s and 1880s.⁵ Reverend John A. Garnett and other prominent members of the African-American community secured land and established the Baptist and A.M.E. Church (currently Shiloh Baptist Church) on Fifth Street in Elkins in 1897. Additionally, John L. Griffith and several trustees bought Lot 706 on River Street in Elkins and built the Virginia Chapel, A.M.E. Church in 1905.⁶ Katherine Fagan writes in *Legacy of Riverside* that classes were held in Shiloh Baptist Church, the Virginia Chapel, A.M.E. Church, Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall, Masonic Hall, Scott Building, Harness Shop and other facilities.⁷

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Elkins had become an industrial transportation center for Randolph County and labor was in demand. This demand was one of the reasons that the black population in the area increased during this time.⁸ West Virginia segregation law required that Independent School Districts have thirty black children between the ages of six and twenty-one before a public school would be provided for blacks.⁹

The Independent School District of Elkins bought lots 704 and 705 on River Street from Harry R. and Sue S. Warfield of Monongalia County in July 1905.¹⁰ Riverside School is located on these two lots. The publication, *Elkins, West Virginia -1906*, reported that the Elkins Public Schools included one school with thirty colored pupils and one teacher.¹¹ The first principal, Lee A. Harris, also taught classes during his administration. Other principals included Bessie Cundiff, the first female principal, Robert L. Franklin, who added liberal and vocational courses, George W. Williams, who helped foster legislation to form the Negro State Board of Education, and Portia Hill McDonald. Under McDonald's leadership the school was proclaimed a legacy of Black Academic Excellence.

Riverside opened as an elementary school that provided grades one through eight. Over the years, several children from neighboring counties came to Riverside for their education.¹² While many students who attended Riverside in the early years went on to the West Virginia Collegiate Institute for high school education, the African-American community petitioned the School District of Elkins to expand Riverside's curriculum and in 1928 Riverside became a four year high school. Riverside was the only African-American elementary school in Randolph County from 1905 to 1954 and the only African-American high school in

⁵ William H. Rice, "The Education of Blacks in Randolph County before 1920" (Elkins, WV: 2004, typewritten), 2.

⁶ Ibid., 3.

⁷ Katherine Wright Fagan, ed. *The Legacy of Riverside* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1985), 5.

⁸ The West Virginia Encyclopedia, s.v. "The Economy" by Larry Sonis.

⁹ Rice, *The Education of Blacks*, 3.

¹⁰ Ibid., 4.

¹¹ Ibid., 4.

¹² The Riverside School Reunion, "Memories of A Priceless Era", (The White House, 329 Davis Ave., Elkins, WV, 1988), 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Randolph County from 1928 to 1954. Segregation ceased in Randolph County in 1954 and Riverside closed as a public school.

Summary

The last use of the building during the School Board's ownership was a repair facility for school buses. The present owner, the Riverside School Association, plans to stabilize the building and then start a rehabilitation process to develop a museum of the Elkins/Randolph County African-American community and to develop an education center that will include an archival data base and a library for the Allegheny region.

The building retains a high level of integrity even though a small amount of the interior historic fabric has been removed. The north façade, the rear of the building, was altered to incorporate three garage doors. The exterior of the building, with the exception of the north façade garage doors, appears as it did when the school closed in 1954. Riverside School serves as an identifying symbol of the African-American education process in Elkins and Randolph County in the early part of the twentieth century. It is significant under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage and Education and is a representation of the rise of a segregated educational system during the industrial development of West Virginia. As the industrial boom in the coal and timber industries required transportation centers such as Elkins to grow rapidly; the resultant lure of jobs to African-Americans and other minorities produced "separate but equal" public schools to educate the children of a segregated society. Riverside exists today as the lone historical example of the development of education in a segregated society in Randolph County in the first half of the twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bullock, Henry Allen. A History of Negro Education in the South From 1619 to the Present. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967.

Fagan, Katherine Wright. The Legacy of Riverside. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing, 1985.

Hill, T. Edward. West Virginia Bureau of Negro Welfare and Statistics, Biennial Report 1924/1926. Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company, 1926.

Rice, William H. "The Education of Blacks in Randolph County before 1920". Elkins, WV: typewritten, 2004.

Riverside School Association. The Riverside School Reunion, "Memories of A Priceless Era". Elkins, WV: The White House, 1988.

Smith, Jessie Carney and Polmisano, Joseph M. Reference Library of Black America, Vol. 3, Independent Schools in the Late Nineteenth Century. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, Inc., 2000.

Sonis, Larry. The West Virginia Encyclopedia, "The Economy". United States of America: Thomson Shore, Inc., 2006.

Woodson, Carter G. The Negro in Our History. Washington, D. C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1922.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot # 704 Randolph County, WV Assessor's Office --- Assessment District, Elkins
Corporation --- Map No. E, Plot No. 39, Block 49 --- Lot Size 60 Feet by 75 Feet.

Lot # 705 Randolph County, WV Assessor's Office --- Assessment District, Elkins
Corporation --- Map No. E, Plot No. 39, Block 49 --- Lot Size 60 Feet by 75 Feet.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries used for this application coincide with the legal ownership boundary of the lots that accommodate the Riverside School building. It includes the entire parcel associated with the school during the period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

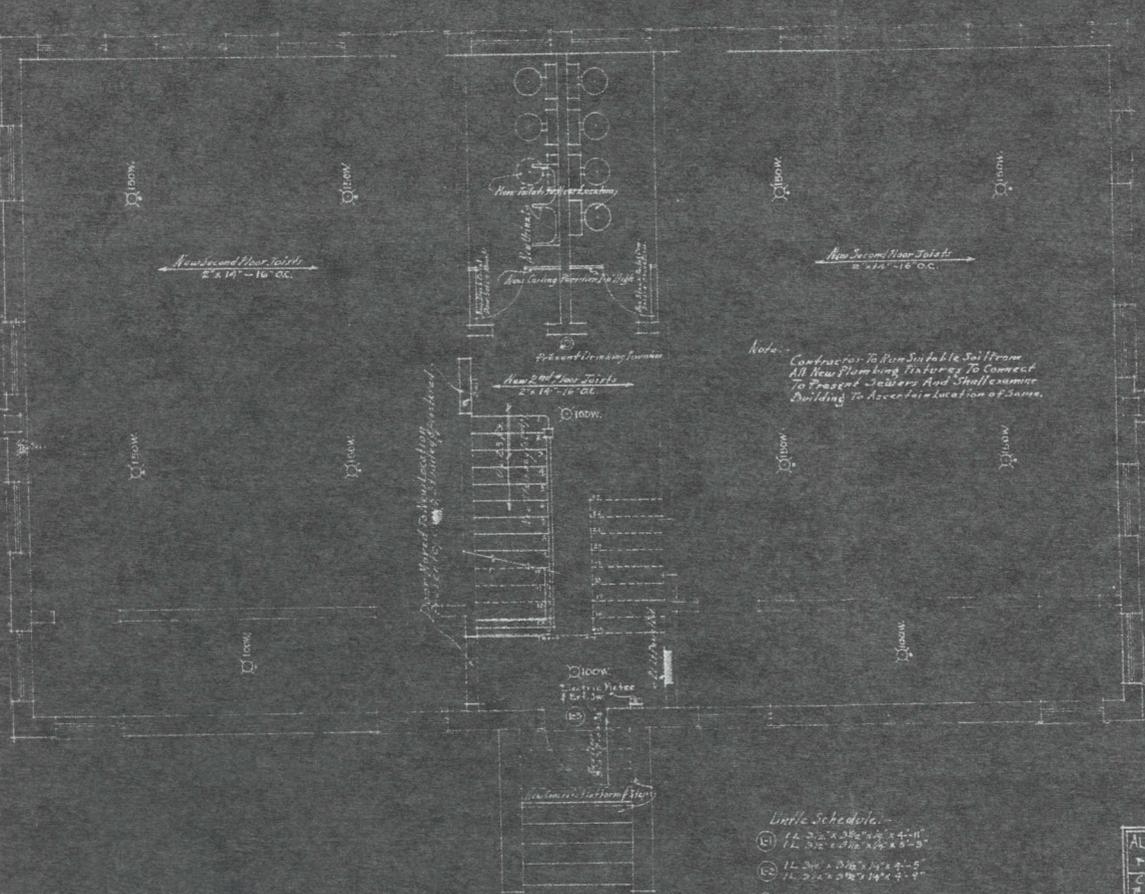
Section number Photos Page 8

Name of Property: Riverside School
City or Vicinity: Elkins
County: Randolph State: WV
Photographer: Melvin Lester
Date Photographed: April 21, 2008

Negatives: Riverside School Association Corporation
 c/o Mountain Partners in Community Development
 P. O. Box 1184
 Elkins, WV 26241

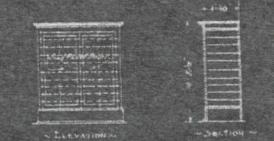
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 1 of 8 | South elevation; camera facing northeast |
| 2 of 8 | South elevation; camera facing northwest |
| 3 of 8 | East view of River Street; camera facing east |
| 4 of 8 | North elevation; camera facing southwest |
| 5 of 8 | North elevation; camera facing southeast |
| 6 of 8 | First floor, east wall of east room; center window with surround and blackboard in place
camera facing east |
| 7 of 8 | First floor, northeast corner of east room; some window sash, window trim and blackboard
trim in place; camera facing northeast |
| 8 of 8 | Second floor, central passage with top of stairwell visible; camera facing south |

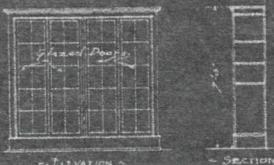


FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Scale = 1/4" = 1'-0"

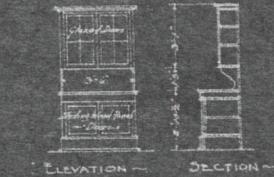
- Bill of Materials -
- (1) 22 2" x 8" x 10' x 4'-0"
 - (2) 12 2" x 8" x 10' x 4'-0"
 - (3) 12 2" x 8" x 10' x 4'-0"
 - (4) 2 12 2" x 8" x 10' x 4'-0"
 - (5) 2 27 10' 16" 10' 16" Long with Standard Pipe Separators
 - (6) 1 1 1/2" x 2" x 11' 2"



DETAIL OF WINDOW IN DOMESTIC ART ROOM
Scale = 1/4" = 1'-0"



DETAIL OF CASE IN MANUAL TRAINING ROOM
Scale = 1/4" = 1'-0"



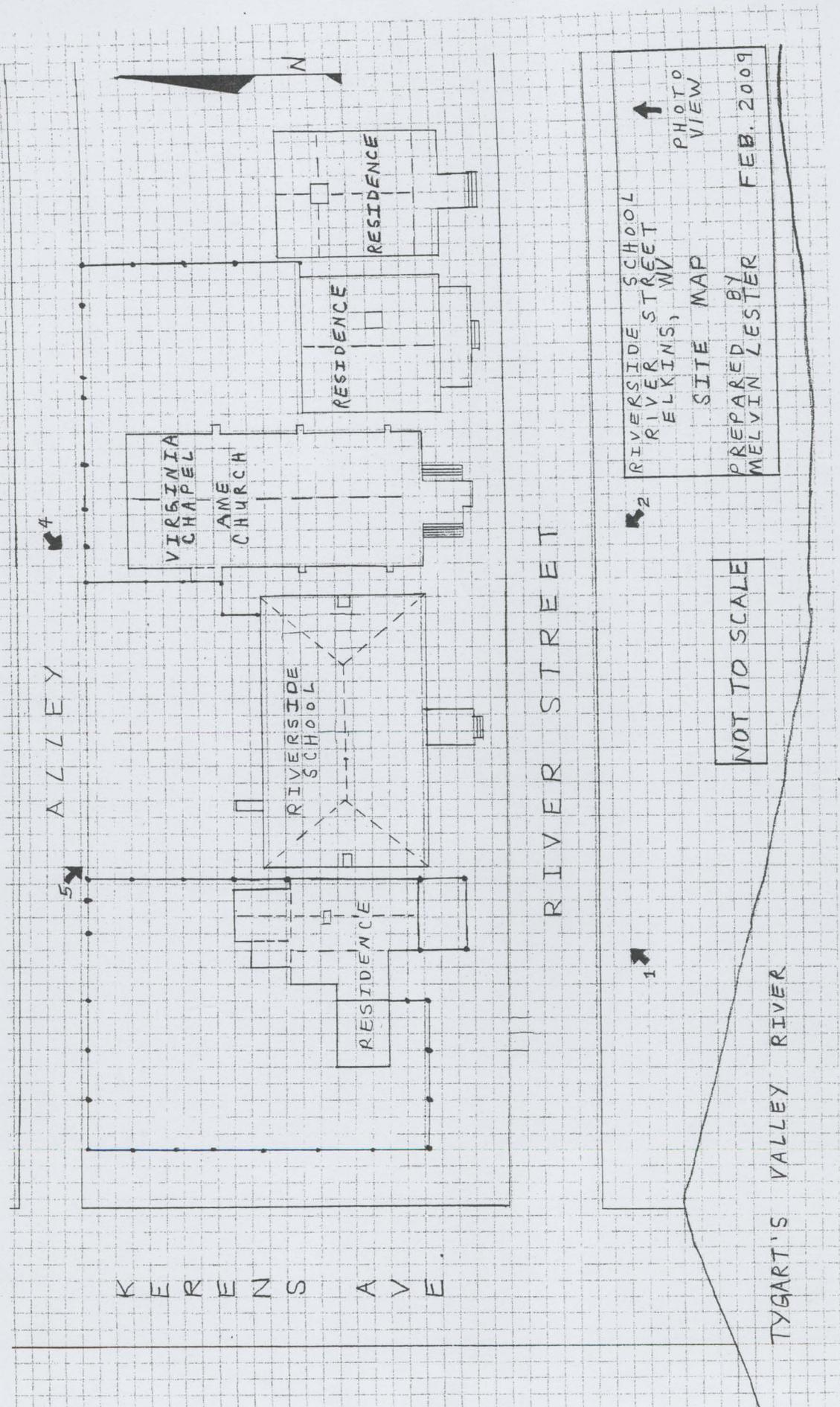
DETAIL OF CABINET IN DOMESTIC SCIENCE ROOM
Scale = 1/4" = 1'-0"

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO RIVER STREET SCHOOL BLDG.
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION - ELKINS W. VA.

FORM # 284	NAME	DESIGNER	DATE	SCALE
	DATE	SCALE	SCALE	SCALE

1-10-25

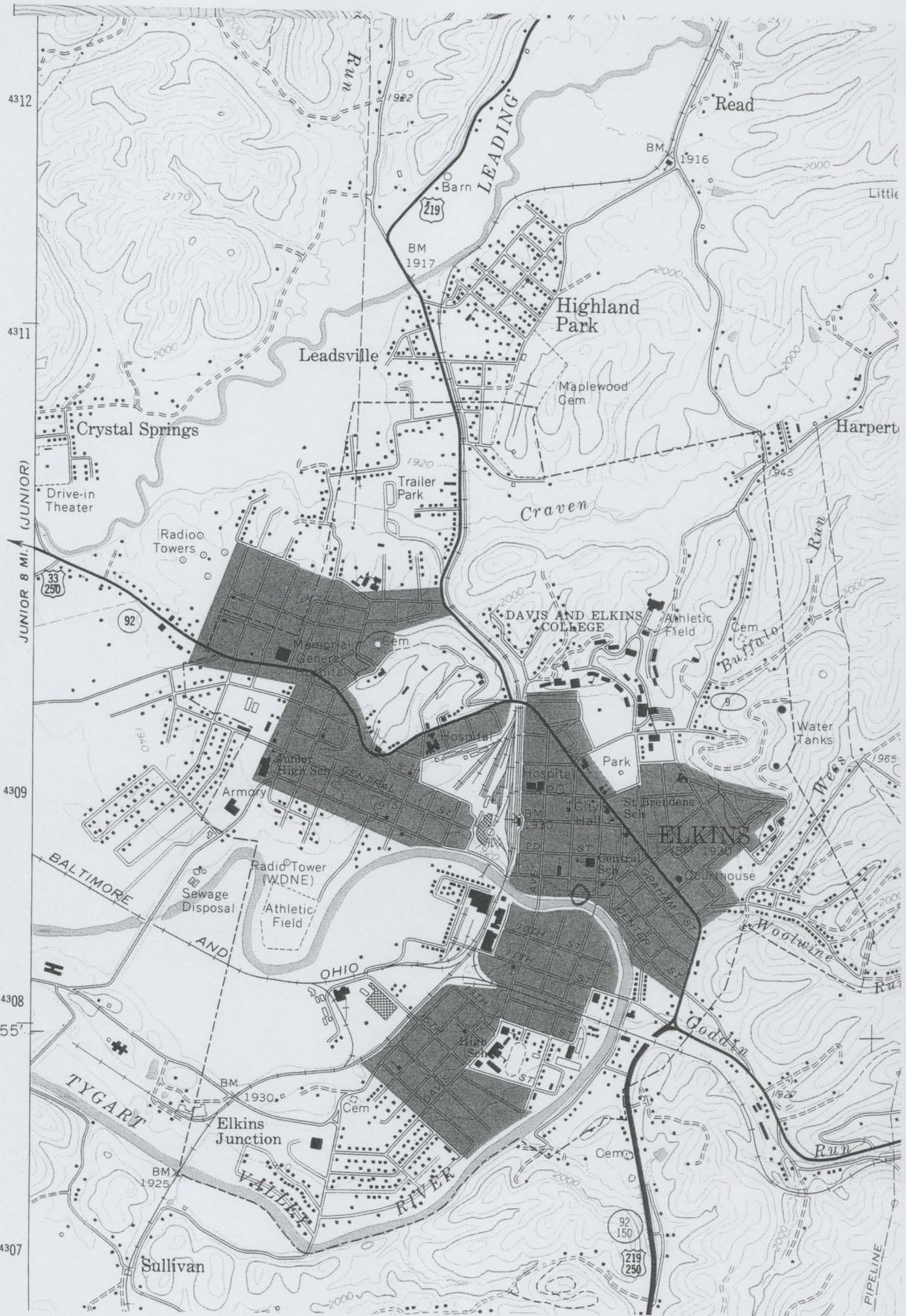
FRAMPTON & BOWERS ARCHITECTS.
412 1/2 E. 11TH STREET
HUNTINGTON - WEST VA.



RIVERSIDE SCHOOL
 RIVER STREET
 ELKINS, WV
 SITE MAP
 PREPARED BY
 MELVIN LESTER
 FEB. 2009

NOT TO SCALE

TYGART'S VALLEY RIVER



Riverside
Mason Co., WV
17 599872 430800











NO
PARKING
IN
ALLEY



Please
Watch Your
Step

STOP

