

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Belvidere South State Street Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Street between Logan Avenue and Madison Street and vicinity not for publication
city or town Belvidere vicinity
state Illinois code 012 county Boone code 007 zip code 61008

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 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

_determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

_other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
43	6	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: business

COMMERCE: restaurant

COMMERCE: financial institution

EDUCATION: school

COMMERCE: business

COMMERCE: specialty store

COMMERCE: restaurant

COMMERCE: financial institution

GOVERNMENT: city hall

SOCIAL: civic

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C: Commercial Style

LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C: Prairie School

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER

foundation: STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Belvidere, with over 25,500 residents, is situated on the banks of the Kishwaukee River in north-central Illinois. The city encompasses just over nine square miles, with 16 acres within the boundaries of the South State Street Historic District. The district includes 50 properties located on five city blocks between Pearl Street and Whitney Boulevard, bordered on the north by Pleasant Street and on the south by First Street and Logan Avenue. Among the 44 contributing resources are a series of remarkable Italianate buildings dating from the late nineteenth century as well as a school complex previously listed in the National Register, which is now given over to residential and social uses. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district. The historic structures in the vicinity of these two blocks of State Street tell the story of the city's growth after the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1851. The situation of the rail stop about a half-mile south of the Kishwaukee River encouraged development of the South State Street Historic District. The buildings in this district form a cohesive group that conveys the significance of the district as an important commercial center of the City of Belvidere from 1852 through 1962.

Narrative Description

Overall, the buildings of the South State Street Historic District are in good condition and retain adequate integrity to portray their significance as components of a mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century commercial district. Contributing buildings retain their original massing and character-defining elements of design, and the district as a whole retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, setting, feeling, association, and materials. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district.

Setting

Early settlers to the area commented on the natural beauty of the countryside near this crossing of the Kishwaukee River, and originally called the settlement "Elysian Fields." When the city of Belvidere was first platted, the courthouse square was located on a rise a few blocks north and east of the primary river crossing, with the idea that the commercial and civic center of the city would be on the north side of the river. State Street, named for its designation as part of the Illinois State Road connecting Chicago with Galena, later carried Federal Highway 20 through Belvidere, which contributed to the city's growth and the area's development. With the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad located south of the river, development in Belvidere shifted south to accommodate the trains. Although the entire area along State Street from north of the river to Logan Avenue served Belvidere as a single civic and commercial district, the blocks of State Street nearest the railway were an early focal point for commercial development. The buildings along this stretch of State Street south of the railroad tracks have maintained a high degree of integrity and define the South State Street district. The district includes resources on nearby Whitney Boulevard and Pearl Street, adding civic uses including city hall, a community center and housing to the district's commercial focus along State and Buchanan Streets. Today, State Street is a two-lane paved road. Brick paved sidewalks and crosswalks with streetlights that combine tall contemporary fixtures with street-level traditionally-styled lights line State, Buchanan and First Streets, with contemporary lighting only on the other streets of the district. Street furniture along State and Buchanan Streets includes metal benches and planters provided and maintained by the building owners. The majority of buildings are attached commercial structures, with few gaps in the street walls resulting from demolition of structures. Comparison with period photos and Sanborn Maps indicate that, with few exceptions, streetscapes in the South State Street Historic District are largely unchanged since the mid-1950's.

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Building Descriptions

Below are brief descriptions of the district's resources. A full inventory follows these descriptions. Buildings are organized by number beginning at the north end of State Street, followed by the north-south streets (Pearl and Whitney) then the east-west streets (Pleasant and First). Numbers correspond to those provided on the full inventory and on the accompanying maps.

South State Street

1. 401 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the right bay of a three-bay building. The contemporary storefront is sheathed in wood and presents a central entrance flanked by plate glass windows. The storefront is shaded by a fixed wooden awning sheathed in asphalt shingles. At the second floor, an expanse of contemporary brick is broken by two small double-hung windows set at the edges of this portion of the façade. Above, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

2. 402-404 South State Street 1885

1 contributing building

International Order of Odd Fellows

The storefront of this building has been completely replaced with contemporary materials. Corrugated metal sheathing is the primary material. In the center of the building, a metal and glass entry with fixed transom provides access to the second floor. On either side are identical storefronts presenting a recessed entry on the right with plate glass windows filling the remainder of the storefront. Fabric awnings shelter each of the storefronts. Above the awnings, a string course of stone stretches across the building. The second floor façade presents three groups of windows. In the center, a single tall double-hung window with transom rests on a narrow stone sill and has a complex stone lintel carved with a foliate pattern. On either side of this central windows stands a pair of similar windows, separated by a narrow band of masonry. Each group of two windows has a single sill and lintel that repeat the size and shape of those on the central window. A prominent bracketed cornice of pressed metal finishes the parapet and includes a central plaque identifying the International Order of Odd Fellows and the construction date of 1885.

3. 403 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the center bay of a three-bay building. At the right side of this portion of the façade is a door providing access to the second floor. The remainder of the storefront, which appears to have retained its original cast iron structure, presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows reaching almost to the ground. At the second floor, an oriel window with a center pane of plate glass flanked by two double-hung windows fills the bay, which is separated from those on either side by a recessed panel of brick. Above the window, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

4. 405 South State Street, ca 1900

1 contributing building

This building presents as the left bay of a three-bay building. At the left side is a recessed pair of doors: the one on the left providing access to the second floor and the other opening onto the storefront. The remainder of the first floor façade, which appears to have retained its original cast iron structure, presents two plate glass windows reaching almost to the ground, with multi-paned transoms. At the second floor, an oriel window with a center pane of plate glass flanked by two double-hung windows fills the bay, which is separated from those on either side by a recessed panel of brick. Above the window, the parapet wall is decorated by a series of diamond-shaped recessed panels. A bracketed projecting cornice of pressed metal is attached to the wall beneath the top of the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

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- 5. 406 South State Street, ca 1880 1 contributing building**
The storefront of this building is divided into four sections. The center two sections present a recessed entry and plate glass window for a first-floor office. Flanking these two bays are two other entrances, both of which are flush with the street and present contemporary steel and glass doors. These four bays are divided by narrow columns ending in corner blocks similar to those one would expect to find used on interior millwork. The section of the storefront which originally would have held transom windows is sheathed in wooden rounded shingles, with the central section used as signage, as is the area above the storefront up to a string course of stone which serves as a sill for the second floor windows. A plate glass window flanked by two narrow double-hung windows forms a single grouping in the middle of the second floor façade. This grouping is topped by a segmental arch of rusticated stone. The tops of the windows are covered by a fabric awning which fits within the arch. On either side of the windows are recessed panels of rusticated brick. This design element is repeated in two square recessed panels on either side of the stone arch. Above this, a bracketed cornice of pressed metal adorns the parapet.
- 6. 407 South State Street, ca 1880 1 contributing building**
This building presents as three bays of a seven-bay building, as defined by the recessed panels in the building's parapet wall. The storefront is composed entirely of glass, with an entry set slightly left of center. Above the fabric awning, two window groupings fill the façade, each with a single narrow sill. On the right, a single double-hung window and on the left, a group of three double-hung windows. Above these, a simple cornice of brick includes three evenly spaced recessed panels and is topped with coping tiles.
- 7. 408 South State Street, 1852 1 contributing building**
P. Curtis's Block
This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a central recessed entry with transom and large plate glass windows. The beam with rosettes has been maintained, and beneath it a simple fabric awning shelters the storefront. At the second floor, three double-hung windows with stone lintels and sills are evenly spaced across the façade. In the parapet wall above, a plaque reads "P. Curtis's Block A.D. 1852" above which a bracketed metal cornice of pressed metal decorates the parapet.
- 8. 409 South State Street, ca 1880 1 contributing building**
This building presents as four bays of a seven-bay building, as defined by the recessed panels in the building's parapet wall. A door to the second floor stair stands to the right of the storefront, directly beneath a single double-hung window and a narrow recessed panel in the parapet wall. The remainder of the façade includes a recessed storefront entry on the left with two large plate glass windows. Above the fabric awning, three window groupings fill the façade, each with a single narrow sill. On the right, two groups of three windows fill the space between two of the recessed panels in the parapet wall, and on the left is the previously-mentioned single double-hung window. Above these, a simple cornice of brick includes the four recessed panels and is topped with coping tiles.
- 9. 410 South State Street, ca 1900 1 contributing building**
This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a recessed entry on the right. Large plate glass windows with transoms fill the rest of the storefront. The beam with rosettes has been maintained, and the cast iron supports on either side present a foliate pattern. At the second floor, three double-hung windows with individual stone sills are evenly spaced across the façade. A string course of rusticated stone stretches across the building above the windows, serving as lintels. This pattern of masonry and fenestration is repeated on the third floor, above which six courses of corbelled brick support a bracketed metal cornice of pressed metal.
- 10. 411 South State Street, ca 1895 1 contributing building**
Commerce Building
Architect: Lewis H. Sturges
A storefront of glass stretches across the first floor of this building, with a single entrance set slightly to the left of center. A series of opaque panels stretch across the entire façade, above which is the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall above. The second floor façade presents three bays. The central bay holds a single double-hung

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window with a bracketed sill and flat arch. The bays on either side each present an ornate oriel window, with fixed glass panes in the center flanked by narrow double-hung windows. A pressed metal cornice and conical roof tops each window grouping. Above this, the parapet wall ends abruptly with plain dressed coping stones.

11. 417 South State Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

Kuppler Building, Ancient Order of United Workmen

A storefront of glass stretches across the first floor of this building, with three plate glass windows on each side of a single central entrance. Above a fabric awning, the second floor is marked by a projecting stone course that serves as a sill for the windows, which are arranged in three groups. The central bay holds a single double-hung window with a Roman arch. The bays on either side each present a group of three windows: one of plate glass flanked by narrow double-hung windows. Above these are transoms that conform to the shape of the rusticated stone segmental arches above each window group. These are connected visually to the rusticated stone arch above the central window, above which the letters AOUW announce the use of the second floor hall as a meeting place for the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Above this, a pressed metal cornice with the building's name decorates the top of the parapet.

12. 419 South State Street 1890, ca 1940

1 contributing building

Edelstein Block

The first floor façade presents a door to the upper floor at the far left. The remainder of the façade is given over to a single storefront with a double door of contemporary metal and glass set left of center. This recessed entrance is flanked by plate glass windows that rest on a low brick wall. The area originally provided for transom windows has been covered in architectural glass in green and black, with gray letters announcing "The Journal, est. 1996." Above this, a string course of dressed stone serves as sills for seven double-hung windows with segmental arches. These have been replaced by contemporary windows with Roman arches. A recessed panel above these windows is scarred where brick once formed a recessed panel above each window. The parapet wall above appears to have been rebuilt of contemporary brick to its original height, with dressed stone coping.

13. 424 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1920

1 contributing building

The storefront of this building is divided into three sections. The middle of the façade presents three doorways: the center door providing access to the second floor and the flanking doorways providing access to what had once been two shops on the ground floor, which are now combined into a single store. Plate glass windows fill the remainder of the storefront, which includes a fixed awning of painted wooden shingles that wraps around the south side of the building. On the second floor, a group of three windows are positioned above the three doorways below. On either side of this group, two windows are evenly spaced on each side. A plain expanse of brick forms the parapet wall, which is capped by what appears to be poured-in-place concrete coping.

14. 427 South State Street, ca 1960

1 non-contributing building

This mid-century single-story commercial structure presents a central doorway flanked by two narrow windows. On either side, a plate glass window rests on a waist-high brick wall. A fabric awning stretches across the façade, above which an unadorned brick parapet wall is capped by stone coping.

15. 501 South State Street, ca 1960

1 non-contributing building

This mid-century single-story commercial structure presents a recessed storefront with a doorway that is right of center. Tall plate glass windows reach almost to the floor. The façade is sheathed by vertical wooden siding, though the coping stones visible at the top of the parapet wall suggest a masonry wall beneath. A fixed wooden awning sheathed in asphalt shingles shelters the storefront.

16. 505 South State Street, ca 1895

1 contributing building

C. F. Harding Building, Four Seasons / Grady & Sullivan

A door to the second floor is positioned at the left corner of the primary façade, with the remainder given over to a

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single storefront of contemporary brick and glass. The recessed entrance is centered in the storefront, and a fabric awning obscures the area above the windows, which originally would have been the location of transoms. At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of a pair of oriel windows each of which consist of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Behind the flat roofs of these windows rise a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. Above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths. The center of the cornice includes the building's name.

17. 506 South State Street 1862-1887 1 contributing building

Brannen Block Building
HAARGIS No. 125116

This storefront retains some of its original cast iron features, including two columns flanking the central recessed entrance. Plate glass windows with transoms flank the entry. A projecting cornice of pressed metal separates the storefront from the second floor façade. Above the storefront, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across the façade. These have narrow stone sills and a complex stone lintel carved with a foliate pattern. Above these windows, a bracketed cornice of pressed metal presents the name of the building and an ornate pediment with the dates 1862 and 1887.

18. 508-510 South State Street, ca 1880, 1906 1 contributing building

Foote Block

Elements of the cast iron storefront are visible in the first floor façade of this two-story brick commercial structure. A central entry to the second floor is flanked by cast iron posts which support the beam supporting the masonry above. On either side of this entry are identical storefronts, each with a recessed central entry and plate glass windows resting on low walls of contemporary brick. With the exception of the cast iron features, the storefronts and entries are of contemporary design in metal and glass. The second floor façade includes a projecting string course of stone which serves as sills for the second-floor windows. A single narrow window is positioned in the center of the façade, flanked by two pilasters of brick. These appear to support a Roman arch above the window. The filled arch is of stone, and is carved with the building's name and date. A second projecting string course of stone serves as lintels for the windows, which have all been replaced. Fabric awnings cover the filled window penetrations above the short contemporary windows. Between the windows and the bracketed cornice of pressed metal at the top of the parapet wall a series of recessed diamond-shaped panels of brick decorate the parapet.

19. 509 South State Street, 1898 1 contributing building

This building presents as the right half of a larger structure. A door to the second floor is positioned at the center of the primary façade, the transom above filled with glass block. On either side is a storefront. To the right number 509 presents a contemporary arrangement of brick, with a central entrance and large plate glass windows. At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of an oriel window above the 509 storefront, consisting of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Between these is a single double-hung window with transom. Behind the flat roofs of the oriel window rises a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. A similar arrangement of stone, though in the shape of a Roman arch, surmounts the single central window. Instead of a lattice, this arch contains the building's construction date, 1898. Above these arches is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths.

20. 511 South State Street, ca 1900 1 contributing building

This building presents as the left half of a larger structure. A door to the second floor is positioned at the center of the primary façade, the transom above filled with glass block. On either side is a storefront. To the left number 511 presents a low wall of brick supporting a series of windows that fill the storefront entirely, with no apparent entrance. At the second floor level, a string course of stone marks the bottoms of an oriel window above the 511 storefront, consisting of three double-hung windows with fixed transoms. Between these is a single double-hung window with transom. Behind the flat roofs of the oriel window rises a lattice that fills a segmental arch of rusticated stone that frames each window. A similar arrangement of stone, though in the shape of a Roman arch, surmounts the single

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central window. Instead of a lattice, this arch contains the building's construction date, 1898. Above these arches is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal that incorporates classical motifs, including dentils and wreaths.

512 South State Street, ca 1857

1 contributing building

G. W. Murch Building
HAARGIS No. 125117

The three posts and beam of the building's original cast iron storefront have been retained. To the left is a pair of recessed entries; a wooden door on the left appears to lead to the second floor, while a contemporary door of metal and glass leads into the shop. A fabric awning obscures the portion of the storefront usually given over to transom windows. An ornate oriel window is centered in the second floor façade. Three double-hung windows are surrounded by what appears to be contemporary decorative elements: corner blocks, which are generally features used for interior millwork rather than external embellishments, are used at the corners of the window frames, but also as free-standing rosettes above and below each window. The windows are contemporary replacements, and though they and the decorative elements around them have been recently added, the window surround itself and the decorative projecting bracket are present in historic photos dating to the early 1900s.

22. 514 South State Street, ca 1920

1 contributing building

William H. Piel Building

The contemporary brick and glass storefront of this Commercial Style building presents a double entry recessed in the center of the façade. To the left, plate glass windows rest on a low stucco wall and extend to a narrow panel of brick at the corner of the building. To the right, a similar arrangement of windows extends about half-way to the end of the building, with the remaining space filled in brick. A metal and glass door provides access to the second floor at the right corner of the façade. A fabric awning stretches across the façade. The second floor presents four window bays, each framed by recessed brick panels that mimic pilasters. The effect is that of windows recessed in a colonnade. A single stone sill stretches beneath all four windows, which are contemporary replacements. Above the fenestration a projecting cornice of brick dentils supports a simple pressed metal cornice, above which rises the parapet wall. This is divided into three sections, each presenting a recessed rectangular panel in brick, with a green tile square accenting each corner. The central panel, which is about half the width of the building as a whole, includes a plaque bearing the owner's name. The parapet wall is higher above this panel, with coping stones following the curve of the wall on either side of the central raised section.

23. 515 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1890, 1950

1 contributing building

J. Rider

Although treated as a single building on the county's tax rolls, this structure presents three separate facades. The first is a plain brick one-story storefront that incorporates two entries. One is a steel residential-style door and the other is a glass and metal door flanked by two plate glass windows. Above the storefront, a band of painted brick provides contrast for a lighted sign, above which a plain parapet wall rises a few feet, ending with plain coping stones.

The second separate façade presented by this structure is a two-story segment of red brick. The first floor presents a plain expanse of red brick, above which is a band of painted brick. The second floor façade presents a pair of contemporary double-hung windows with transoms. A single narrow stone sill runs beneath both windows, and their flat arches of brick include inverted stone keys supporting the end of each arch. Above the windows is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

The final façade on this structure presents an expanse of buff-colored brick covering the storefront. At the right side of this section of the building stands a metal and glass entry set in the angled wall of a small recess. The only other elements on this storefront are at the left end of the façade: a plate glass window and the edge of an awning that extends from the neighboring building. Above the storefront is a band of metal sheathing that covers the area traditionally reserved for transom windows on historic storefronts. Above this is a course of dressed stone that

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serves as sills for the second floor windows. At this level, three pair of short double-hung windows are evenly spaced across the façade. Every seventh course of the buff-colored brick projects slightly from the plane of the wall, resulting in ten horizontal lines crossing the second story of the building. These are the only decoration, except for two plaques mounted in the center of the parapet wall. The larger of these reads “J. Rider, 1890 – 1908” and the smaller simply reads “1950.”

24. 518 South State Street, ca 1890 1 contributing building
Y.M.C.A. (Second Floor)

With the exception of the contemporary doors, the original cast iron storefront, including the transom windows, has been retained. On the right a steel and glass residential-style door provides access to the second floor. The remainder of the storefront presents a central recessed entry with a contemporary metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning is positioned between the plate glass windows and the transoms, which are partially obscured by a sign. Above the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall are four narrow double-hung windows with segmental arches. Each has a narrow stone sill. Above each window is a recessed panel in the brick wall, and above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

25. 520 South State Street, ca 1890 1 contributing building
Y.M.C.A. (Second Floor)

A contemporary storefront of wood siding and glass presents a central recessed entry with a contemporary metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning obscures the area that would have originally held transom windows. Above the awning are four narrow double-hung windows with segmental arches. Each has a narrow stone sill and is set in a recessed panel bordered at the top by a series of brick dentils. Above these is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

26. 521 South State Street, ca 1940 1 non-contributing building
Woolworth Company

This storefront is of buff-colored brick and repeats some design feature of the neighboring number 515. The right end of the façade presents a wide recessed entry, accommodating four contemporary metal and glass doors with narrow windows of plate glass on either side. This arrangement is flanked by plate glass windows along the angled walls and one facing the street on either side (the window on the right being part of the façade of neighboring 515). A fabric awning shades the entry. To the left, an expanse of buff-colored brick covers the storefront, with a recessed metal and glass entry at the left-hand corner of the building. Above the storefront is a band of some opaque material that covers the area traditionally reserved for transom windows on historic storefronts. This band reaches to the sills of the second-story windows. These are arranged in five bays: The central bay incorporating a group of three windows in separate penetrations; this is flanked by bays presenting a single window; and the two bays at the edges of the façade each present a pair of windows in a single penetration. There is minimal decoration based on simple geometric forms. The central bay is defined in part, by the slight projection of the masonry wall, resulting in vertical divisions from the rest of the building. Each of the three windows in the bay has a heavy stone lintel, above which the brick is set in courses of headers recessed slightly from the surrounding walls. This bay rises higher than the others, and the parapet is capped by heavy coping stones and four plain stone brackets. About the same size as the stone brackets, a rectangular stone slab is set in the wall above each of the single windows, providing the only other decoration on the façade.

27. 522 South State Street, 1889, ca 1909 1 contributing building
HAARGIS No. 125118

The storefront is of black architectural glass. A recessed entry in the center for the storefront provides access to two shops. The entryway is flanked by plate glass windows. Another recessed entry at the left corner of the storefront provides access to the second floor. Each of the four penetrations in the storefront (second floor entry, shop entries and two plate glass windows) is slightly wider at the bottom than at the top, and the top edge of each opening

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consists of a very shallow angle, resulting in a pointed top. These trapezoidal shapes, along with an art-nouveau-inspired foliate design in the building's pediment, suggest that this is an early application of black structural glass. A fixed transom window the width of each opening is situated above each, and each penetration is trimmed with light-colored metal. The building's second floor façade presents Chicago windows, a hallmark of the Commercial Style, flanking a central narrow double-hung window with a Roman arch. The Chicago windows present a central double-hung window with a double-hung window on either side. The side windows are slightly angled, causing the unit to project slightly from the façade. Each window has a fixed transom and is topped by a flat rectangular roof with projecting metal cornice. Above the windows, a projecting string course marks the start of the parapet wall, which presents a projecting stone cornice supported by modillions. Above the cornice, the parapet wall rises in the center of the building, presenting a pediment formed by a complex curve. The dates 1889 and 1909 are centered in the pediment on either side of a foliate design.

28. 527 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 527 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. The storefront has been trimmed in aluminum or a similar metal, and a sign made of what appears to be painted architectural glass stretches across the façade. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow double-hung windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

29. 529 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 529 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. The storefront has been trimmed in aluminum or a similar metal, and a shallow painted fabric awning serves as a sign above the storefront. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow casement windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

30. 530 South State Street, ca 1895, ca 1920, 1928

1 contributing building

***Farmers' State Bank, Bond Hubbard Company, Belvidere National Bank and Trust
HAARGIS No. 125097***

This building wraps around the oblique northeast corner of State Street and Logan Avenue, and presents five Roman arches along the State Street façade and seven arches along Logan Avenue. All but two of the arched penetrations end just above the granite foundation. One of these serves as the main entrance to the bank at the corner. The other is a secondary entrance to the building near the right end of the Logan Avenue façade. The seven arches along Logan Avenue each have a shallow hood of stone supported by a square bracket with a carved rosette. Multi-paned contemporary windows fill each window penetration. The four windows along State Street are treated identically. The main bank entrance, however, is framed by alternating panels of plain and carved stone with a turned decorative edge. The carved panels present a classically-inspired motif which incorporates an urn and foliate designs. Above the arches, a narrow projecting cornice serves as sills for contemporary rectangular double-hung windows on the second floor. Above these, a plain entablature runs the length of the building. Above the bank entrance, the entablature is carved, presenting a cartouche and garlands. Above the entablature, a plain stone parapet is capped with dark metal flashing.

31. 601 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The three buildings at 527, 529 and 601 South State Street present similar façades in the Commercial Style. The storefront of 601 presents a typical arrangement, with a central recessed wood and glass door flanked by plate glass windows that fill the rest of the storefront. At the right is a door providing access to the second story. This storefront appears to have retained its original materials, being framed in wood and having transom windows

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across the storefront and above the entrance to the second floor. At the second floor level, a pair of window penetrations each presents a plate glass window flanked by two narrow casement windows. The only decoration is provided by a recessed brick panel on the parapet wall, the top of which curves upward at the ends and presents a globe-shaped finial at either end of the façade.

32. 603 South State Street, ca 1880, ca 1930

1 contributing building

The recessed entry at the left end of this building, along with the rest of the storefront, is of recent construction. A stucco-like material covers the storefront, which presents three pair of contemporary windows centered on the storefront wall. A tile roof is suggested by a narrow overhang of red textured shingles that stretches across the façade. Brick frames the storefront; that on the right has been painted and appears to be older than the brick used elsewhere on the façade.

At the second floor, three steel-frame windows with narrow stone sills are evenly arranged across the façade. The parapet wall rises slightly at either end, and is finished with plain stone coping.

33. 607 South State Street, 1927

1 contributing building

A storefront of bead board is framed by brick and presents a recessed entrance to the second floor on the right, with a residential-style steel door. The remainder of the storefront presents a central entrance flanked by a pair of plate glass windows on either side. A narrow fixed awning sheathed with textured shingles stretches across the façade. Above this awning are four window penetrations: one for a single window above the second floor stair and three that would accommodate pairs of windows. These are currently filled with wood, with the larger penetrations each having a small pair of contemporary double-hung windows installed as well. Above the windows is a recessed brick panel having at its center a small plaque inscribed "1927." The parapet has stone coping which has been sheathed in metal, and rises slightly in the center and at the ends.

34. 611 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

The two buildings at 611 and 613 South State Street have different storefront treatments, but on the second floor are treated as a single building. The storefront for 611 is of contemporary brick, with a wood and glass entry door on the right. A plate glass window is roughly centered on this storefront, with a sign advertising the tenant's business on the left. A fixed awning sheathed in wood shingles divides the storefront from the second floor. At that level, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across this portion of the façade, making a total of seven across the combined façade of 611 and 613, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

35. 613 South State Street, ca 1890

1 contributing building

The two buildings at 611 and 613 South State Street have different storefront treatments, but on the second floor are treated as a single building. The storefront for 613 is faced with stone veneer, and includes an entry to the second floor centered between the two storefronts. The remainder of the storefront for number 613 presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows. The stone veneer extends upward to the second floor façade. At that level, four double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across this portion of the façade, making a total of seven across the combined façade of 611 and 613, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

36. 615 South State Street, ca 1885

1 contributing building

This storefront retains some of its original cast iron features, including two columns with fanciful composite capitals flanking the central recessed entrance. Plate glass windows with transoms flank the entry. Above the storefront, three double-hung windows with segmental arches are evenly spaced across the façade, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

37. 621 South State Street, ca 1932

1 contributing building

The primary façade of this 1930s auto showroom presents seven bays of equal size, each separated by a pilaster of brick which projects slightly from the building and rises above the parapet. These are capped with the same

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stone used for coping on the parapet. Two of these pilasters, the third and fifth, are slightly shorter than the others. The central bay includes the main entrance, a metal and glass door flanked by plate glass windows. A fabric awning covers the transom windows above the entrance. To the right, the remaining bays are filled with plate glass windows, providing a view into the showroom and waiting areas. To the left of the main entrance, two bays are filled with plate glass windows and the bay between them presents an overhead vehicular door. The secondary façade along First Street and portions of the south façade nearest the street are treated with the same materials and features as the primary façade.

Pearl Street

38. 520 Pearl Street, ca 1893, ca 1939 1 contributing building

Belvidere High School
Architects: Grant C. Miller, Raymond A. Orput
HAARGIS No. 201087

This complex has been documented in the 1997 National Register Nomination that resulted in its listing in the National Register. That description reads in part:

“The complex consists of four historic buildings that have been connected by three post-1950 additions, thus creating a complex of attached buildings. The four historic buildings include: the 1893 Garfield School; a circa 1900 powerhouse with its original smokestack; the centerpiece of the complex, the 1916 Belvidere High School; and the 1939 Belvidere High School Auditorium and Gymnasium. Although all the historic structures have additions that fall outside the Period of Significance for the complex (1893 - 1939), the additions do not detract or impair the historic or architectural integrity of the buildings. . . .”

Full description of the buildings and a statement of significance are included in the nomination.

Whitney Boulevard

39. 401 Whitney Boulevard, ca 1960 1 contributing building

This building, originally constructed as a newspaper office and production facility, presents a good example of the international style. The tall rectangular mass of brick on the left contrasts with the strong horizontal orientation of the remainder of the building. A projecting rectangular pavilion of glass and metal provides the main entrance to the building, with most of the rest of the main façade consisting of paired panels of glass with slate-gray opaque panels filling the upper quarter of each window opening. The secondary façade along Pleasant Street intersperses pairs of windows with brick panels.

Pleasant Street

40. 112-116 West Pleasant Street, 1882 1 non-contributing building

Originally constructed as two buildings with three storefronts, this structure has undergone significant change. The angled glass and concrete features of the right two storefronts, which served as the offices for the Daily Republican through the 1940s, appear to have been altered in the mid-20th century. To the right, the third storefront presents a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows. Wooden sheathing around this storefront on the first floor has been painted, with a fixed awning sheathed with wooden shingles stretching across the storefront. The second floor of the entire building is sheathed with corrugated metal.

Buchanan Street

41. 103 1/2 Buchanan Street 1887 1 contributing building

Brannon Block Building

This seven-bay building appears to have retained its original cast iron storefronts. The center bay is framed in brick, presenting a wooden door providing access to the second floor. On either side is a cast iron storefront, each with a

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central recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows. Columns with capitals of stylized acanthus leaves frame each entrance. A projecting metal cornice obscures the beam supporting the masonry wall above. Above the cornice a narrow string course of stone serves as sills for seven double-hung windows with flat arches of brick on the second floor. These windows are evenly spaced across the building, resulting in each being centered over a door or window on the first floor. Above these windows is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal.

42. 109 A Buchanan Street, ca 1910

1 contributing building

Some elements of the building's cast iron storefront have been retained, including the beam supporting the masonry wall above and a column decorated with foliate designs. To the right of this column is the entry; to the left a narrow plate glass window with wooden spandrel panels above and below it. The remainder of the storefront is divided between two other plate glass windows, treated identically. The windows are framed in wood with corner blocks typical of interior millwork of the period. Above the storefront, a plain brick pediment with a recessed panel provides a place for signage, above which a bracketed cornice of pressed metal finishes the parapet.

43. 109 B Buchanan Street, ca 1950

1 contributing building

This mid-century commercial structure has a recessed storefront on the right. The angled wall is largely plate glass, while the wall of the storefront facing the street has been mostly filled with vertical wood siding, a plate glass window centered in the space. The area above the storefront has been covered by a mural depicting a number of subjects related to the southwestern United States. The plain coping stones of the parapet are visible above the mural.

44. 111 1/2 Buchanan Street, ca 1925

1 contributing building

The storefront of this two story commercial structure has recently been sheathed with vertical wooden siding. Both the doors to the stair hall and the first floor storefront are located in a recess on the left side of the storefront. Immediately to the right of the recess are two narrow windows, which have panels above them that look like they may have been transom windows. The remainder of the storefront is an expanse of wood siding, which extends upward to the sills of the four second floor windows. These double-hung windows are arranged in two groups of two, each with a single narrow sill of wood and metal lintels supporting a row of brick soldiers. Above the windows is a recessed panel in the parapet wall, which is capped with dressed coping stones.

45. 116 Buchanan Street, ca 1895, ca 1950

1 contributing building

John List Agricultural Implements

This three-story brick building presents irregular features on the first floor. An entryway appearing to originally accommodate a double door has been fitted with a steel and glass residential-type door, the remainder of the opening filled with an opaque material. In addition to this entry's being flanked by plate glass windows, a semi-circular fabric awning makes this the most prominent feature on the ground floor. To the right, the building presents a double hung window, two doorways and a penetration that once held a double-hung window but has been filled with painted wood. Each penetration has a soldier course of light-colored brick serving as a lintel, the windows having sills formed of slightly projecting rowlocks. The second floor presents eight double-hung windows evenly spaced across the façade, and the third floor, four windows positioned directly above the second, fourth, sixth and eighth second floor windows. All the windows are treated identically to those on the first floor, with lintels and sills of brick. At the top of the parapet wall, bricks in two contrasting colors are used to suggest a cornice: the lighter colored brick laid in rowlock courses above and below a course of darker brick soldiers. In lieu of coping, metal flashing covers the top of the parapet wall.

46. 118 Buchanan Street, ca 1880, ca 1950

1 contributing building

A simple brick façade presents a central entry flanked by two windows. Soldier courses serve as lintels for the three openings, and slightly projecting rowlock courses serve as sills for the windows. Original windows and doorway appear to have been replaced, the doorway having been partially filled with wood to accommodate a smaller door and sidelights. Flat coping tiles finish the parapet. The building's original service as one half of a frame structure is evident from the wooden beams connecting this building to its neighbor, across a driveway.

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- 47. 120 Buchanan Street, ca 1880, ca 1950 1 contributing building**
 A simple brick façade presents a central recessed entry flanked by two windows, and this group itself is flanked by two windows on the main façade. Soldier courses of lighter brick serve as lintels for the three openings, and sills for the two windows on the main façade a of dressed stone. Coping tiles finish the parapet. The building's original frame construction is evident from the wooden beams connecting this building to its neighbor, across a driveway. That wooden party wall is sheathed in sheets of asphalt and corrugated metal, with a narrow portion of the wall on the main façade sheathed in vertical wood siding.
- 48. 122 Buchanan Street, ca 1908 1 non-contributing building**
 This brick building has been sheathed in vertical wood siding. Although the overhead vehicular door is a recent addition, it is likely that this building would have had a large opening on the first floor, as it was used for welding, carpentry and large storage over the years. The placement of the second-floor doorway with transom seems original, though the door and window are contemporary replacements. The second floor double-hung and oriel windows also seem contemporary, though the pressed metal cornice probably dates to the early 1900s.
- 49. 124 Buchanan Street, ca 1908 1 contributing building**
 This building retains its historic cast iron storefront which presents a corner storefront entry. A contemporary metal and glass door has been installed, and except for two medium-size plate glass windows, all other openings in the storefront have been filled with painted wood. Above the cast iron beam supporting the masonry wall is a projecting course of dressed stone which served as sills for a single window and group of three windows. The single window opening has been completely filled with painted brick. The size of the remaining opening has likewise been reduced to accommodate three small casement windows. Window penetrations on the secondary façade have also been filled, though the sills and heavy stone lintels have been retained. A pressed metal cornice finished the parapet wall on the primary façade and wraps around to the secondary façade. However, most of the secondary façade sports a brick cornice presenting a pattern of projecting sawtooth courses and corbelled chevrons.

First Street

- 50. 107 West First Street, ca 1895 1 contributing building**
 The ground floor of this building presents two storefronts, each having a narrow entry near the corners of the building. Between the entries are two plate glass windows set in a wall coated in stucco. The same treatment has been applied to the transoms and extends to the second floor level, where three small contemporary double-hung windows are evenly spaced across the façade. This portion of the building is faced with aluminum siding, above which is a bracketed cornice of pressed metal. The loss of siding on the west wall of the building reveals the wall's construction of coursed rusticated stone.

Inventory

No.	Address	Date Built / Modified	Architectural Classification Category: Sub-category	Contributing?
1.	401 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
2.	402-404 South State Street	1885	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
3.	403 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
4.	405 South State Street	ca 1900	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
5.	406 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
6.	407 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
7.	408 South State Street	ca 1852	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
8.	409 South State Street	ca 1880	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes

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9.	410 South State Street	ca 1900	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
10.	411 South State Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
11.	417 South State Street	ca 1895	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
12.	419 South State Street,	1890, ca 1940	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
13.	424 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1920	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
14.	427 South State Street	ca 1960	Other	No
15.	501 South State Street	ca 1960	Other	No
16.	505 South State Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
17.	506 South State Street	1862, 1887	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
18.	508-510 South State Street	ca 1880, 1906	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
19.	509 South State Street	1898	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
20.	511 South State Street	ca 1900	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
21.	512 South State Street	ca 1857	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
22.	514 South State Street	ca 1920	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
23.	515 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1890, 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	No
24.	518 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
25.	520 South State Street	ca 1890	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
26.	521 South State Street	ca 1940	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	No
27.	522 South State Street	1889, ca 1909	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
28.	527 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
29.	529 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
30.	530 South State Street	ca 1895, ca 1920, 1928	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
31.	601 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
32.	603 South State Street	ca 1880, ca 1930	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
33.	607 South State Street	1927	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
34.	611 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
35.	613 South State Street	ca 1890	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
36.	615 South State Street	ca 1885	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
37.	621 South State Street	ca 1932	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
38.	520 Pearl Street	ca 1893, ca 1939	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Prairie School	Yes
39.	401 Whitney Boulevard	ca 1960	Modern Movement: International Style	Yes
40.	114 West Pleasant Street	1882	Other	No

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41.	103 1/2 Buchanan Street	1887	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
42.	109 A Buchanan Street	ca 1910	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
43.	109 B Buchanan Street	ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
44.	111 1/2 Buchanan Street	ca 1925	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
45.	116 Buchanan Street	ca 1895, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
46.	118 Buchanan Street	ca 1880, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
47.	120 Buchanan Street	ca 1880, ca 1950	American, Late 19th / Early 20th C: Commercial Style	Yes
48.	122 Buchanan Street	ca 1908	Late Victorian: Italianate	No
49.	124 Buchanan Street	ca 1908	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes
50.	107 West First Street	ca 1895	Late Victorian: Italianate	Yes

Summary

The commercial district along South State Street presents a cohesive group of buildings that are representative of local architectural trends from 1852 through 1960. Most of the buildings within the district have retained their original appearance and use and continue to portray the history of the area as a business district for the City of Belvidere and the surrounding region between the mid-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century. The majority of the non-contributing resources meet the age criterion for listing, but have lost character-defining features which would allow them to contribute to the district.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1852 - 1962

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lewis H. Sturges, Grant C. Miller,

Raymond A. Orput

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1852, the construction date for the oldest building in the district, and continues through 1962, the current end date for eligibility for listing in the National Register.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The South State Street Historic District located in the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Commerce and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The majority of buildings in this district retain most of their original design features and comprise a visually cohesive grouping of commercial buildings constructed between 1850 and 1960. Since the city's founding, the predominate building type has been two-story masonry buildings with first floor commercial storefronts and various uses on the upper floors—residences, shops and office space. The majority of the district's commercial structures are of this type, with about half in the late-Victorian Italianate style and half in the Commercial Style. This commercial district was developed after 1851, when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad constructed a depot at Main and Pleasant Streets to accommodate the new railway. Warehouses, lumber yards, liveries and similar uses developed immediately south of the station, with commercial properties being constructed two blocks west on State Street, which was already established as part of the Illinois State Road and led to the previously-established commercial center about a half-mile north at Mechanics Street (now Lincoln Avenue) and State Street. The buildings in this area formed a bustling commercial district in Belvidere and have maintained the integrity of design, materials and workmanship necessary for them to represent the history and development of commerce in that city.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Commerce

The Belvidere South State Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The mid-1830s saw a number of events result in the establishment and early growth of Belvidere: initial claims along a particularly scenic section of the Kishwaukee River, the charter of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad (later renamed Chicago & Northwestern), the selection of Belvidere as the crossing point of the new "State Road" over the Kishwaukee along with the construction of the first bridge at that point, and the establishment of a post office in Belvidere all occurred between 1835 and 1836. These events, followed by the partition of Boone County from Winnebago County and the naming of Belvidere as its county seat in 1843, make it is easy to understand why settlers heading west from Chicago made Belvidere a stop on their journey and frequently chose to make Belvidere their home.

The intersection of State Street and Lincoln Avenue (originally Mechanics Street) was the location of the first commercial development in Belvidere. With the county courthouse constructed on a rise a few blocks north and east of this intersection, State Street at the river seemed poised to become the city's commercial core. But when the Chicago and Northwestern Railway chose to site the railroad south of the river in 1851, the depot's location drew commercial development to the immediate area. The result was a the development of a extended commercial strip along State Street, bounded by Logan Avenue on the south and Hurlbut Street on the north. With concentrations of commercial uses north of the Kishwaukee and around the railroad tracks, the area between became a location for additional commercial and civic uses, with manufacturing uses along the river. The resulting concentration of commercial buildings south of the tracks date from the 1850s to the 1950s, and most of the buildings in this area have retained significant integrity of design, materials and workmanship. Buildings in the Italianate style predominate, like those on the east side of the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street (Photos 01 and 04). Interspersed with these Italianate buildings are later structures built in the Commercial Style (Photos 07 and 08), all of which provide both storefront space on the first floor and office or residential space on the upper floors. These buildings' integrity of design, materials and workmanship allow them to illustrate the history of commerce in Belvidere.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Belvidere South State Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. About two-thirds of the buildings in the district were constructed prior to 1900, with most of those being constructed in the Italianate Style. The majority of the remaining buildings can be classified as examples of the Commercial Style popular in the early 20th century. In a few cases, older Italianate building have had their façade replaced with Commercial Style or contemporary façades. A number of buildings in the district provide single

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examples of other styles popular in the 20th century, including the Classical Revival Style, the Prairie School, Art Deco and International Styles.

Italianate Brick Construction, 1856 to 1891

The Italianate style was first developed in Britain in the early 1800s. John Nash is credited with developing the style by applying a number of classical and Italian architectural features in his design of large country estates in England. The style became popular throughout England, and by 1840, Alexander Jackson Davis was using the style in buildings on the eastern seaboard of the United States. At the same time, examples of the style became common in architectural pattern books, encouraging its popularity throughout the Midwest. In the United States, the Italianate Style is frequently expressed in residential architecture, though common elements continued to be used in commercial architecture well into the twentieth century. These include low-pitched hipped roofs, projecting eaves, prominent cornices, window or door openings incorporating Roman or segmental arches, tall windows, plate glass and paneled double doors.ⁱ As expressed in commercial structures in the Midwest from the 1850s onward, the Italianate Style made practical use of local materials. Bricks were often locally produced and used not only for walls, but also for decoration. The earliest brick Italianate commercial structures usually present window hoods and cornices of brick, sometimes in contrasting colors but frequently made of the same brick as the rest of the building. As the availability of commercially-produced materials increased, storefronts and window hoods of cast iron (George Mesker's Evansville, Indiana shop became a favorite source in the Midwest) and cornices and window hoods of pressed metal or wood became more common. Design features of Italianate commercial structures also solved practical problems: the tall ceilings allowed for large expanses of glass to make the most of daylight, and the tall double-hung windows, when opened at top and bottom, promoted ventilation during the hot Midwestern summers. All-brick construction, and later masonry structures incorporating iron and steel supports, addressed fire hazards at a time when people relied on oil, gas and other petroleum products to fuel their lamps.

The earliest structures in this style date from the 1850s, and the best examples of the style are located along State Street. A group of four buildings dating from 1885 to 1900 stand at State Street near Pleasant (Photo 01). All four buildings present the basic elements of the style, including tall narrow windows on the second floor and complex bracketed cornices of pressed metal. Across the street, other examples of the style are apparent. Variations in the shape of the second story windows, such as the arched and oriel windows in this block (Photo 03), show the flexibility of the Italianate style. Further down the block on the east side of the street, a number of buildings just south of Buchanan Street also provide excellent examples of the style (Photos 04 and 06).

The Commercial Style, 1895 to 1950s

After the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, interest in fireproof construction, the development of iron and steel framing, and technological advances that allowed for buildings over six stories resulted in the development of tall, utilitarian commercial buildings. The strength of the metal framing (first cast iron, then steel) allowed masonry to be used as cladding, rather than as structural support which would require broad masonry walls to support a tall building. In addition, steel frame construction allowed for larger window penetrations and open floor plans. In Chicago, the first to employ steel frame construction was William Le Baron Jenney in his design for the Home Insurance building completed in 1885. The firms of Adler and Sullivan, Burnham and Root, and Holabird and Roche also pioneered the Commercial Style in Chicago.

The Commercial Style is distinguished by frame construction of iron or steel with cladding of masonry, and sometimes metal or glass. Window area on the upper floors is typically greater than in masonry buildings. Windows are sometimes set in a projecting bay that extends across multiple floors. Ground floor storefronts are typically metal and plate glass. Ornamentation is generally limited to a projecting cornice and applied ornamentation which could reflect any of the popular styles of the era. Although the term was coined to describe early skyscrapers, it is also used to describe commercial structures of one to four stories which have plate glass windows in the first floor storefronts and flat roofs, with decoration generally limited to applied ornamentation and a decorative cornice or parapet.

The William H. Piel Building at 514 South State Street and its near neighbor at 522 South State Street are both fine examples of the Commercial Style as applied to two-story buildings. These two structures (pictured with two Italianate

ⁱ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994), 143-145.

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buildings between them in Photo 07) present the clean lines and typical massing executed in brick and limestone respectively. Both of these also present decorative embellishments that recall popular high style architectural motifs, such as the suggestion of second floor windows being recessed in a colonnade on the Piel Building, or the Art Nouveau foliate motif on the parapet of 521 South State Street. The ca 1932 Manley Motor Sales building (Photo 09) provides an example of a freestanding one-story structure that presents the clean lines and minimal decoration of the Commercial Style, while the row of buildings from 527 to 607 South State Street (Photo 08) shows a series of five buildings presenting very simple applications of the style.

The Prairie School, 1916

A late 19th and early 20th century architectural style that was popular in the Midwest, the designs of Prairie School architects tended to emphasize horizontal lines and disciplined use of applied ornament, often with decorative motifs drawn from nature. The horizontal orientation of the buildings was intended to mimic the vastness of the prairies, and was accentuated by the use of broad hipped roofs and overhanging eaves. The emphasis on nature and the relationship of the building to its environment are elements that the Prairie School shares with the Arts and Crafts or Craftsman Style, and the elements of the Prairie School are sometimes considered to be best expressed in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Architects designing in this style borrowed decorative motifs from other popular styles.

The simplicity of the Prairie School is expressed in the 1916 Belvidere High School, which is one part of the Belvidere High School Complex previously listed in the National Register (Photo 13). The simplicity of the building's design, the horizontal emphasis drawn primarily by the repeated string courses of brick between the floors of the building and the very shallow profile of the roof combine with the minimal applied decoration to evoke the Prairie School. Some Classical Revival details are apparent, however: the projecting entrance pavilion, the suggestion of projecting pavilions topped pediments at either end of the building, and the use of oversized modillions beneath the projecting cornice all are Classical design elements.ⁱⁱ

20th Century Revival Styles

In the mid-nineteenth century, American architects turned to the past for inspiration in architectural design, which resulted in a revival of classical design elements. Classical forms borrowed from the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome were considered appropriate for large public buildings and were also applied in domestic architecture, but as the century closed, architects sought inspiration for residential design from other eras of the past. Led by the eastern firm McKim, Mead and White, the "Academic Reaction" recommended a return to historical styles. Popular revival styles for single-family homes from the late 19th century onward included the Spanish Colonial, American Colonial and Tudor Revival Styles. Elements of those revival styles were used for commercial buildings as well, along with design motifs from the Renaissance or from classical Greek and Roman architecture.

Classical Revival Style, 1920

Although this style shares some characteristics with the Italian Renaissance Revival Style, the emphasis is on classical Greek and Roman architectural elements: columns, round arches and heavy entablatures, often with elaborate detail. Building plans and exteriors are usually symmetrical, often with wings or pavilions projecting from the main structure.

A commercial building with elements of the Classical Revival Style is the Belvidere National Bank and Trust at 530 South State Street. The Roman arches, projecting cornices and entablature are all characteristics of the style, even though the building is lacking some of the other common features of the style, like a columned temple-front entry pavilion or the use of triangular pediments to define the roofline.

Early 20th Century: Art Deco and Art Moderne, 1939

The name Art Deco comes from the *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs Industriels et Modernes*, held in Paris in 1925. Art Deco as a style of decoration applied to buildings consists most frequently of repeated and overlapping angular

ⁱⁱ For a full description of the Belvidere High School Complex, see the National Register Nomination included in the appendix.

Belvidere South State Street Historic District

Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois

County and State

geometrical designs and may include stylized natural features, such as flora or fauna. The chevron is probably the most widely recognized Art Deco motif. These designs were typically applied ornamentation on buildings with simple massing, often involving setbacks on the upper floors. Because the designs were angular and usually in low-relief, they were well-suited for reproduction in terra cotta, a building material that became popular at the same time Art Deco design came into vogue. A later expression of the simplicity and repetition of Art Deco motifs is referred to as Art Moderne or Streamline Moderne. The simple angles of Art Deco were replaced by the curve, representing the concepts of motion and speed. Applied ornament was reduced to straight lines and curves, not only in the design of buildings, but in almost all commercial products.

The 1939 section of the Belvidere High School Complex, built as a gymnasium and auditorium presents a number of features of the Art Deco Style. The building's strong vertical massing is accentuated by the seemingly tapered walls of the projecting corner towers and the projections that are reminiscent of buttresses on their secondary facades of those towers. The building's surface ornamentation relies on simple geometrical designs, including rectangles, triangles and chevrons executed in low-relief, all common elements of the style.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Modern Movement and International Style: 1930 to 1958

The Modern Movement in architecture typically refers to buildings designed using modern materials and construction techniques that rely on the building's structure and form rather than applied ornament to provide visual interest. Early buildings of this style were typically of steel, glass and concrete with exposed structural framing. Later designs, particularly on smaller buildings, emphasized the horizontal and often simply suggested the building's structure rather than exposing it.

The design of tall buildings relying on this design aesthetic produced the modern sky scraper: buildings with articulated steel framing and glass curtain walls that used concrete for floors and internal supports. Buildings of this type are typically referred to as being in the "International Style," which has its roots in the Bauhaus Movement in Germany. Especially on smaller buildings, the International Style placed design emphasis on balance and simplicity, rather than on applied ornament and symmetry, and often included a heavy horizontal emphasis underscored by the use of ribbon-like window penetrations. In the United States, this design aesthetic became more popular after World War II, and continues to influence architectural design into the 21st century.

Belvidere City Hall at 401 Whitney Boulevard presents a good example of the international style (Photo 14). The strong horizontal emphasis results from a row of window panels stretching across most of the primary façade. Each window is divided in three horizontal sections, with the top panel filled with an opaque material. The horizontal emphasis is accentuated by the projecting rectangular entrance pavilion of glass and metal, the roof of which extends beyond the entrance to provide shelter at the doorways on either side. These features combine in a design which clearly relies on the primary elements of the International Style.

Belvidere City Hall, the most recently-constructed building in the South State Street Historic District, was designed to serve as a newspaper office and production facility. Its single-story horizontal profile contrasts sharply with the majority of buildings in the district, many of which are more than a century older. What the buildings in the district definitely do have in common, is their integrity of design, materials and workmanship, which allow them to represent the history and development of Belvidere from its founding through the middle of the 20th century.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

ⁱⁱⁱ For a full description of the Belvidere High School Complex, see the National Register Nomination included in the appendix.

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bateman, Newton, LL.D. and Paul Selby, A.M., eds. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Boone County, Volume 2*. Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1909.

Belvidere Illustrated: Historical, Descriptive and Biographical. Belvidere, Ill.: The Daily Republican, 1896.

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Blumenson, John J. G. *Identifying American Architecture*. New York: Norton, 1981.

Boone County Journal, 10 May, 2002.

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994.

Franck, Fred. *Landmarks: The Story of Boone County*. Belvidere, Ill.: Boone County Heritage Days Committee, 1985.

Daily Republican.

Grand Rapids Furniture Record Co., 1916. <<http://books.google.com>> accessed 11-08-2011.

[McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.](#)

Moorhead, Virginia B., ed. *Boone County Then and Now 1835 1976: A History in Words and Pictures by Her Sons and Daughters to Celebrate the Bicentennial of the Signing of The Declaration of Independence*. Boone County, Illinois: Boone County Bicentennial Commission, 1976

The Past and Present of Boone County, Illinois. Chicago: H.F. Kett & Company, 1877.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Belvidere Historical Museum Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
County and State

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>348014</u>	<u>4679760</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>348296</u>	<u>4679574</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>348273</u>	<u>4679953</u>	5	<u>16</u>	<u>348213</u>	<u>4679576</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>16</u>	<u>348421</u>	<u>4679736</u>				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Belvidere South State Street Commercial Historic District is shown on the accompanying site plan. Beginning at the center of the intersection of Whitney Boulevard and Pleasant Street, the boundary extends southwest 250 yards to the center of the intersection of Pleasant and Pearl Streets, continuing south on Pearl Street, 167 yards to the center of First Street. The boundary continues east along First Street 117 yards, then turns 90 degrees to the right, continuing south 83 yards, then turns 90 degrees to the right, continuing east, 125 yards to the center of State Street. At the center of State Street, the boundary turns north, continuing 84 yards to the center of Logan Avenue, then turns east, continuing 117 yards to the center of Whitney Boulevard, then turns to the left onto Whitney Boulevard, continuing to its point of origin 292 yards northwest to the center of the intersection of Pleasant and Pearl Streets.

All measurements are approximate.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Belvidere South State Street Commercial Historic District includes those properties that are associated with the commercial district during its period of significance (1852-1962) and retain adequate integrity to portray their relationship to the historic business district. The boundary encloses all of the significant resources of the district, as well as a number of non-contributing resources, buildings which have alterations that obscure their connection to the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicholas Dorochoff, Principal
organization Dorochoff Consulting LLC date 01/17/2012
street & number 2044 West Farwell Avenue 3-E telephone 847-942-4807
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60645
e-mail nick@dorochoff.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
 Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
 County and State

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Belvidere Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Belvidere

County: Boone State: Illinois

Photographer: Adam Hooczko, Naperville, Illinois

Date Photographed: 17 December 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

No.	Subject	File Name
01.	Commercial block, east side of State at Pleasant, facing southeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_01.NEF
02.	Commercial block, west side of State at Pleasant, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_02.NEF
03.	West side of State Street at Buchanan Street, facing northwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_03.NEF
04.	East side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_04.NEF
05.	East side of State at Buchanan, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_05.NEF
06.	West side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_06.NEF
07.	East side of State at Logan, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_07.NEF
08.	West side of State south of Buchanan, facing southwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_08.NEF
09.	West side of State south of First Street.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_09.NEF
10.	Buchanan Street at Whitney Boulevard, facing northwest.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_10.NEF
11.	First Street near Pearl, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_11.NEF
12.	First Street at Pearl Street, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_12.NEF
13.	Pearl Street north of First Street, facing northeast.	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_13.NEF
14.	Whitney Boulevard at Pleasant Street, facing southwest	IL_Boone_County_Belvidere_South_State_Street_Commercial_14.NEF

Property Owner:

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

name Multiple
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
County and State

Sketch Maps:

Belvidere Commercial Historic District Boundaries and UTM References

Numbers correspond to those provided on the building inventory. UTM references in bold.

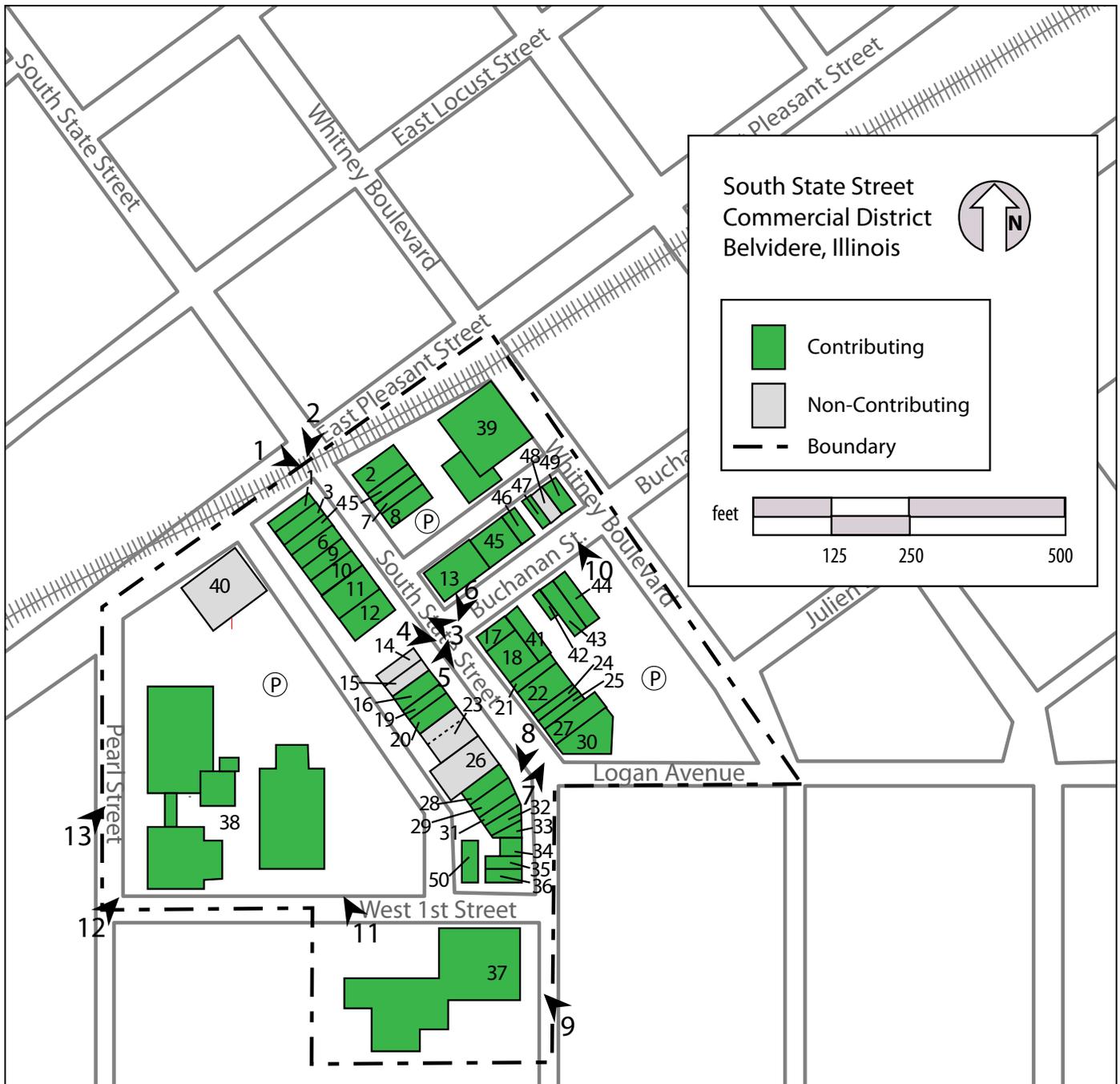


Belvidere South State Street Historic District
Name of Property

Boone County, Illinois
County and State

Belvidere Commercial Historic District Photo Locations

Numbers correspond to those provided on the photo index.



Photos

The following are prints of the photos to be provided with the final nomination form. The electronic images will meet all NPS standards for electronic images.

The file names are included in the Photo Log on the continuation sheets.



Photo 01: Commercial block, east side of State at Pleasant, facing southeast.



Photo 02: Commercial block, west side of State at Pleasant, facing southwest.



Photo 03: West side of State Street at Buchanan Street, facing northwest.



Photo 04: East side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southeast.



Photo 05: East side of State at Buchanan, facing northeast.



Photo 06: West side of State at Buchanan Street, facing southwest.



Photo 07: East side of State at Logan, facing northeast.



Photo 08: West side of State south of Buchanan, facing southwest.



Photo 09: West side of State south of First Street.



Photo 10: Buchanan Street at Whitney Boulevard, facing northwest.



Photo 11: First Street near Pearl, facing northeast.



Photo 12: First Street at Pearl Street, facing northeast.



Photo 13: Pearl Street north of First Street, facing northeast.



Photo 14: Whitney Boulevard at Pleasant Street, facing southwest.

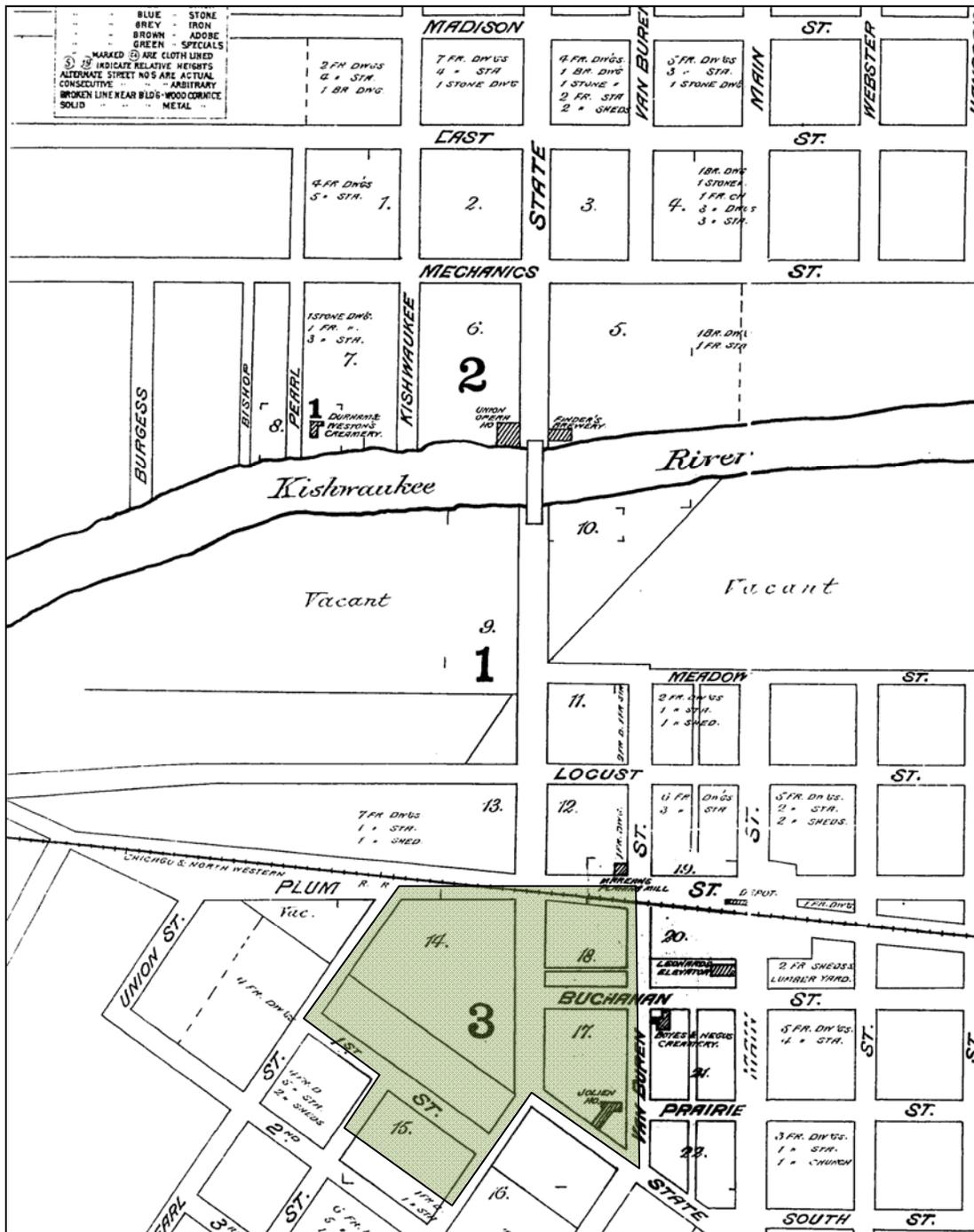
APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

Page 1 of 5 pages

Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois

Section One: Historic Map

Sources are noted in the image log, below



A1.—Map of Downtown Belvidere, 1855
 Location of the Belvidere South State Street Historic District highlighted in green.

Section Two: Historic Photos



A2.—Commerce Block



A3.—Edelstein Block

APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

Page 3 of 5 pages

Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



A4.—South State Street, facing north



A5.—South State Street south of Pleasant, facing south

APPENDIX: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

Page 4 of 5 pages

Belvidere South State Street Historic District, Boone County, Illinois



A6.— South State Street at Logan Avenue, facing northwest



A7.— South State Street, near Buchanan, facing northeast



A8.—South State Street at Logan, facing north

Section Three: Image Sources

No.	Subject	File Name	Source
A1	Map of Belvidere, 1855	N/A	Sanborn Map Company, p. 1
A2	Commerce Block	Belvidere_02	Belvidere Illustrated
A3	Edelstein Block	Belvidere_04	Belvidere Illustrated
A4	South State Street, facing north	Belvidere_05	Boone County Historical Museum
A5	South State Street south of Pleasant, facing south	Belvidere_06	Boone County Historical Museum
A6	South State Street at Logan Avenue, facing northwest	Belvidere_07	Boone County Historical Museum
A7	South State Street, near Buchanan, facing northeast	Belvidere_08	Boone County Historical Museum
A8	South State Street at Logan, facing north	Belvidere_11	Boone County Historical Museum

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

SENT TO D.C.

6-24-97

**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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: **Belvidere High School**

other names/site number: **Belvidere Junior High School**

2. Location

street & number: **Northeast Corner of Pearl and First Streets** not for publication:

city or town: **Belvidere**

vicinity:

state: **Illinois** code: **IL** county: **Boone** code: **007** zip code: **61008**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. White

6-23-97

Signature of certifying official

Date

ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

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.)

Name of Property: Belvidere High School

County and State: Boone County, Illinois

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ 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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
X public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Name of Property: Belvidere High School

County and State: Boone County, Illinois

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education

Sub: School

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

Sub:

Vacant

Not in use

Recreation and Culture

auditorium

_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School

Name of Property: Belvidere High School **County and State:** Boone County, Illinois

=====
Classical Revival
Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete
walls: brick
 stucco
roof: ceramic tile
other: stone
 terra cotta

Narrative Description

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

Name of Property: Belvidere High School **County and State:** Boone County, Illinois

=====

- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1893 -1939

Significant Dates: 1893

1900

1915-1916

1939

Significant Person: (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Miller, Grant C., architect
Orput, Raymond A., architect

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

=====

Name of Property: Belvidere High School **County and State:** Boone County, Illinois

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(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: MetroPlains Development, Inc., Minneapolis, MN
Boone County Historical Society , Belvidere, IL
Ida Public Library, Belvidere, IL

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreege of Property: approximately 2 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 16 348150 4679500

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
see continuation sheet

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

Name of Property: Belvidere High School **County and State:** Boone County, Illinois

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

name/title: Martha H. Frey, Historic Preservation Consultant with assistance from Jim Wilson

organization: for MetroPlains Development date: March 1997

street & number: 2445 34th Avenue South telephone: 612-729-3407

city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55406

=====
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
=====

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

name: City of Belvidere

street & number: 119 S. State Street telephone: 815-544-3726

city or town: Belvidere state: IL zip code: 61008

name: The Community Building Complex Committe of Boone County (1939
auditorium/gymnasium only)

Name of Property: Belvidere High School **County and State:** Boone County, Illinois

=====
street & number: 111 W. First Street (P.O. Box 783) telephone:

city or town: Belvidere state: IL zip code: 61008

=====
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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Belvidere High School

7. Description

The Belvidere High School is located on the western half of the block at the northeast corner of Pearl and First Streets in Belvidere, Illinois. The complex consists of four historic buildings that have been connected by three post-1950 additions, thus creating a complex of attached buildings. The four historic buildings include: the 1893 Garfield School; a circa 1900 powerhouse with its original smokestack; the centerpiece of the complex, the 1916 Belvidere High School; and the 1939 Belvidere High School Auditorium and Gymnasium (see Figure 1 and 11). Although all the historic structures have additions that fall outside the Period of Significance for the complex (1893 - 1939), the additions do not detract or impair the historic or architectural integrity of the buildings.

An alley separates the complex from commercial buildings to the northeast which face North State Street, Belvidere's main commercial street. The buildings facing the complex across both Pearl and First Streets are primarily residential.

The 1893 section is the oldest portion of the complex (see Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 11; Figures 2 and 3). This section, which was first known as the Garfield School, was later called the Washington High School and/or Washington High School annex. It was originally associated with an earlier Italianate style building, known as the Washington High School or Pearl Street School. The Washington High School, which was constructed in the early 1850s and significantly remodeled in 1878, stood where the Belvidere High School was started in 1915 and completed in 1916 (Figure 3). Bricks from the old Washington High School were used in the inner walls of the 1916 school.¹ Constructed to supplement the earlier building, the Garfield School was designed in an unadorned classical style so that it did not detract from the more elaborate Italianate building.² There is no record of architect or builder in local historical records, or newspapers for the 1893 school.

The 1893 section is a two-and-one-half story building with a painted brick exterior. This section has a coursed, rock face stone foundation. It originally had a hipped roof clad in slate shingles. The structure sits on a full raised basement which has been used as educational space. The building has had three major building campaigns. The original 1893 building consisted of the southern half of the main hip roof section. This building originally terminated just north of the current entrance on the west facade. The main entrance for the building was originally located on the south facade facing First Street (see Figures 1 and 2).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Belvidere High School

Between 1912 and 1915 an addition was made to what was the rear (north) facade of the building (see Figure 2). The exact date of construction is not known for this addition, however historic views of the building show that it was in place when the Belvidere High School was completed in 1916. This addition, which was architecturally similar to the building, nearly double the size of the original building. A truncated, slate clad hip roof was built to unite the addition with the original building. It appears that when this addition was complete the main entrance of the building was moved from the south facade to the west facade. This may have been done so that the 1893 and 1916 buildings both fronted Pearl Street (Photograph 3). Additional modifications were made to the building in 1919 when a fire-proof stairways were constructed, new floors were installed in some rooms and the basement rooms were removed. In 1936 a two-story, flat roof concrete block addition was added to the eastern, now rear facade of the building. This addition was faced with brick to make it compatible with the building.³

The 1893 Garfield School is a classically influenced building with a low pitched hip roof with wide overhanging eaves, and arched entries. The front (west) facade of the building has three bays and a nearly symmetrical appearance. The center bay has the building's main entrance. This arched entrance was originally recessed and had a brick surround. Historic photos show a companion arched entry adjacent to the original in the portion of the building constructed in the 1912-1915 period. There is no evidence of that entryway remaining. The current entrance has wide concrete steps and an applied surround with pilasters that have stylized capitals. Directly above the entrance are two original window openings. Although boarded, these windows still retain their original rock face stone sills and double-hung windows, with leaded diamond panes. The bays flanking the entrance have large ribbon window openings at the first and second floors. These bays originally had one-over-one, double-hung windows with rock faced stone sills. The current window openings, with their continuous brick sills, give the building a more streamline, horizontal emphasis. These large window openings were introduced in 1936 at the time the eastern addition was built. These windows contain five large industrial style, multi-pane metal sashes with an operable center transom sash.

The south facade of this section has had similar modifications. The southern entrance is also arched with an arched transom and is much simpler than the western entrance. Two round terra cotta plaques above the southern entrance reads '18' and '93'. Original historic photos show dormer windows projecting on the south and west elevations. These dormer windows were

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removed around the time of the second addition in 1912-15. Like the west facade, the south facade originally had single, double-hung wood windows. Original window openings, although bricked-in, are still present on this facade. Some windows were replaced with ribbon windows with industrial metal sashes like those present on the west facade. A single double-hung window opening remains above the entrance. All windows are presently boarded over or bricked-in.

The larger window openings (ribbon window) as well as the modifications made to the entrances and painting of the annex building appear to have been done in 1936 to modernize the building and make it more contemporaneous with the Art Deco auditorium.⁴ A WPA grant was obtained for these improvements (O.P. 465-54-2-65)⁵ as well as the new auditorium. The architect for the changes to the 1893 school section was Raymond Orput who also designed the 1939 auditorium/gymnasium. It would have been logical that some alterations would have been done to the 1893 building to make its appearance more compatible with the auditorium. These changes fall within the period of significance for the school complex and reflect historical changes to the 1893 school.¹

On the interior, the building retains its central hall. Rather than a typical corridor, the interior uses an enlarged area, or hall, from which all perimeter classrooms open onto. The two metal stairs to the south and west, maintain their relationship of level integration and exterior access. Classrooms off the corridor retain some original features such as baseboard and door trim, blackboards and coat closets. At the eastern end of the hallway there is a fountain with an Art Deco surround and pilasters that match those on the south entrance (Photograph 16). A red brick, one story passageway was added at the north elevation of the building connecting it to the 1916 Belvidere High School sometime during the 1950-60's (see Photograph 4). Photographs 16-19 show interior views of this section of the complex.

The 1900 power plant building is sited to the northeast of the 1893 building (see Photograph 5). The power plant is connected to the 1916 Belvidere High School building via an addition constructed off the school's east facade. This addition was constructed in the 1950-60s. The power plant is a one story brick structure with a raised basement. This building has a pyramidal hipped roof topped by a square cupola. To the south of the building sits the smoke stack. The stack or chimney is constructed of a dark brown brick with a one-story octagonal brick base. The chimney is not connected to any historic building. The power plant is attached to a similar

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red brick passageway at its northeast corner which connects it to two non-historic additions located to the north of the building.

The 1900 power plant should also be noted as being an essential functional part of the building complex. In addition to the smoke stack being an outstanding visual element of the complex, the existence of the power plant was a major factor to the construction of 1916 high school at this location because it was a source of adequate heat already present for the building.

In 1915, discussions were prompted by the school board to consolidate the two existing high schools in Belvidere. As in many towns, there was vigorous community discussion about the need for a new high school. In 1915, Belvidere had two high schools, one on the north and south side of town. With population growth during this period, both schools became too small to handle the number of students. The old Washington High School was viewed as overcrowded, its assembly room which normally could house 133 students was accommodating 300 students. Many were concerned that the school lacked proper sanitary and safety features. The people of Belvidere felt that a school located near the mass population of the city, the downtown area, would be the most logical option. The site at Pearl and First Street was chosen because of its proximity to downtown, it was already owned by the city, and the existence of an adequate heating plant, the 1900 power house. This required the demolition of the Italianate style Washington High School. While construction of the new Belvidere High School began in mid-October 1915, it was not completed until 1916.⁶

The 1916 Belvidere High School is the largest and central building in the school complex (see Photographs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14; Figures 4-7). This building, combines elements of the Prairie School and Classical Revival styles. Its massing, use of pavillions and symmetry reference Classical Revival style architecture. However, its integrated horizontal simplicity and geometric ornamentation clearly reflect the Prairie School style. It is a two-story building with a raised basement constructed of a rough brown brick on a cast concrete foundation that sits partially above grade. The original red tile roof, which is decorated by a brown terra cotta cornice, features coved trim and a brick dentil strip (see Photograph 8). The tile roof is a distinguishing feature of the building and follows the same design as the Carnegie - Ida Public Library in Belvidere.

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The building's front facade has a symmetrical arrangement with projecting, gabled roof pavillions at the north and south ends of the building. Large pilasters, with stylized capitals that serve visually as gable returns, articulate the pavillions. The pilasters are accented with decorative terra cotta capitals and bases and contain decorative brickwork. Between the two pilasters are engaged columns which flank the window configurations and are also accented by terra cotta capitals and bases. Throughout the west exterior elevation of the building are numerous square terra cotta plaques placed to accent the decorative brick work panels.

The main entry is centered in the west elevation. This entrance is flanked with brick pilasters that are topped with a stylized pattern made of brick and terra cotta blocks. This pattern serves to ornament and terminate the pilasters like capitals. A brown terra cotta cornice with dentils, similar to the roof cornice, sits over this entrance. Above the entrance, between the second and third story windows, is an inset terra cotta sign "AD - HIGH SCHOOL-1915". Between 'AD' and 'High School', and 'High School' and '1915', are decorative terra cotta blocks distinguishing the importance of the entry (see Photograph 9). The entrance steps originally had Prairie School style globe light fixtures on squared concrete pedestals (see Figure 7). These light fixtures have been removed, however, the entrance is still flanked by rectangular, stepped piers. The original wood doors were replaced in the 1950-60s with aluminum doors, as were most of the original double-hung, wood sash three-over-two windows. These windows were replaced with smaller one-over-one windows surmounted by a fixed panel. Some original windows still remain in the north end of the building. All windows are currently boarded.

A brick cafeteria addition in the 1960s was added east of the original gym. This one and two-story structure also abuts the power plant and connects to the 1939 auditorium (see Photograph 10). The 1950-60s addition is non-contributing and could be removed to expose the historical features of the 1916 building and the 1900 power plant.

The interior of the building, in comparison to the exterior, is relatively unornamented and has been able to retain its historic integrity. The gymnasium/auditorium/assembly space, is a two-story space located in the basement at the east end of the building. Interior photos taken immediately after construction show utilitarian space with few distinctive details. Some rooms, such as the library (see Figure 6), appear to have had Prairie style light fixtures. The only decorative features remaining in the interior are the stairway railing posts which have raised, geometric Prairie School

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style detailing (Photographs 21 and 22). Generally, the decorative efforts of the building were devoted to the exterior.

The interior of the 1916 building has a modified 'C' plan with a double loaded corridors. Classrooms rimmed the perimeter of the 'C' with the gym and auditorium filling in the center. The corridors are 8' to 10' wide, depending on location with +/- 10' ceiling heights. The main entrance, symmetrical on the facade, remains symmetrical on entry to the building. One enters at a landing and moves either down or up to a floor level. The main entry stair is simple in detail but grand in prominence. Once on the second level, the stair parts in both directions running parallel with corridors accessing the upper level. Originally this entire area was open balusters and posts, but have since been walled off. This appears to have been done to provide fire rated enclosures. The gymnasium has continued to be used as an exercise area, but the auditorium located above has been converted into two large classrooms. Photographs 20-24 show contemporary views of the interior.

In 1939 a two story, Art Deco style auditorium was constructed east of the 1893 school building (see Photographs 11 and 12). Measuring 104 feet wide and 144 feet long, this poured concrete auditorium faced with stucco was partially funded through the federal relief Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was designed by Rockford, Illinois, architect Raymond Orput. The auditorium is a monolithic flat roof building features a symmetrical, three bay front (south) facade. The center bay is set back and has a prominent recessed elliptical arch opening surmounting three smaller elliptical framed entrances. Above the entrances are sections of glass block. The center section of glass originally had an art glass panel which has been replaced with a contemporary one. This bay terminates with a stepped parapet with incised squares. Flanking the center bay are massive stair towers. The stair towers have vertically oriented recessed niches and squares with incised geometric figures. The tops of the piers have a stylized cornice. This building is connected to the rest of the complex via a one-story brick addition located at the building's northwest corner. This addition was constructed in the 1950s and is a non-contributing structure.

Portions of the interior of the auditorium/gymnasium have been recently renovated. The foyer (Photograph 25), which retains much of its historic fabric, was noted in the *Belvidere Daily Republican* at the time of its construction as follows:

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Upon entering the building one is impressed with the foyer. Great skill has here been used in the handling of materials. A beautiful mosais (sic) terrazzo floor, monolithic walls, indirect lighting, disc-shaped trophy cases, balanced by disc-shaped check room openings, artistic winding stairs with mural decorated walls, offer a picture unexcelled in school building construction.⁷

The only significant change to the foyer were the recent additions of ladies and mens rest rooms. North of the foyer is the auditorium/gymnasium. This space was designed to be flexible enough to accommodate theater performances, sporting events and other community activites. A stage is located to the north of the gym and seating area. Beneath the auditorium/gymnasium space, in the basement, is a large recreation and dining room capable of seating 500 people and locker rooms. Photograph 25 shows a current interior view of the 1939 auditorium/gymnasium's foyer.

In the late 1950s the school board again decided a reorganization of the district was needed. Rural community school districts were consolidated into the central Belvidere School District which prompted the expansion of the Belvidere High School. This resulted in the construction of the three separate additions. These non-descript brick additions are: a passageway between the 1916 school and the 1893 building, a small one-story classroom building connected by a narrow passage off the north facade of the 1916 school, and a large one story cafeteria to the rear of the building. These non-contributing additions detract from the historic character of the complex and could be removed without damaging the historic buildings.

The 1950s additions to the high school connected the existing buildings to form an integrated high school complex. The 1893 Garfield School, which had been serving as a junior high school, became a working part of the high school system housing additional classrooms. The 1900 power plant was converted into a music room.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Belvidere High School, located at the northeast corner of Pearl and First Streets in Belvidere, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as locally significant examples of Classical Revival/Prairie School and Art Deco style buildings. The complex consists of four historic buildings connected by three non-historic 1950s additions: a 1893 school; a 1900 power house and its attendant smoke stack; the 1916 Belvidere High School, a 1939 auditorium/gym. The four school buildings, now united as one complex, represent the development of public schools in a growing Illinois community. The buildings back-up to the main street of the central business district at a central location that was favored for school building in Belvidere. Changes to the complex reflect the changing attitudes toward school architecture and its need to be safe, hygienic and comfortable environments for students.

History of Belvidere Public Schools

Public education began in Belvidere, Illinois, in 1842. The earliest classes were held in private homes or churches. In 1852, D.B. Pettit established a school in the First Baptist church with 86 students. The first public school constructed in Belvidere was a stone building located on the site of the current Lincoln School. This building, which was enlarged in 1857 with a brick addition, was torn down in 1895. A brick structure was built on the same site at a cost of \$20,000. This school was known as the Main Street School and North Belvidere High School. Later, in 1912, it was renamed the Lincoln School and became an elementary school; it still serves in this capacity today. The Lincoln School has been modified over the years. In 1931 the building received new windows, floors, entrances and a play room addition. Additional changes were made in 1954 when four class rooms and multi-purpose rooms were added.⁸

As the population of Belvidere increased, the need for adequate public schools did too. Before the turn-of-the-century it was decided to establish two school districts in Belvidere, one north and another south of the Kishwaukee River. These school districts were governed by their own board of education and superintendents. To help alleviate overcrowded conditions the 1893 Garfield School was constructed just south of the Washington High School to house grade and high school students. This two-story brick building was constructed for \$40,000 and originally contained thirteen rooms. After the consolidation of Belvidere's two school districts in 1912, it was known as the Washington School. There years after the Garfield School was built, the Logan School was constructed. This school was named after John Alexander Logan, a Union Army combat general

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during the Civil War. Community growth continued to place a strain on the schools. In 1900 the Perry School was built.⁹

After 1900, greater care was given to the design, siting, function and safety of school buildings across the nation. Several factors appears to have contributed to changes in school architecture. Concern over schoolhouse conditions gave way to legislation that regulated design and construction of school buildings. The first state legislation that dictated school building construction was established in New York state in 1902. Other state's patterned similar legislation after New York's. Safety became a primary concern due to the number of school fires that destroyed buildings and claimed many lives. One of the most serious fires appears to have been in Collinwood, Ohio. This fire, in 1908, killed 178 children. Fire prevention lead to fire-proof construction with many schools constructed of fire resistant materials such as brick, concrete and tile.¹⁰

In 1912 the two separate school districts were joined and became District 57. By 1914, Belvidere's population had grown and the Washington High School was suffering from overcrowding, creating an unhealthy atmosphere.¹¹ It was decided to construct a new high school on the site of the old Washington High School.¹² In 1916 the new Belvidere High School was completed. This two-story, fire-proof constructed school was designed by Grant C. Miller, a Chicago architect with the firm Miller, Fullenwider and Dowling.

By 1938, there were approximately 500 students attending the Belvidere High School. Crowded conditions prompted the construction of a new school-community building, known as the Belvidere High School Auditorium and Gymnasium. This building, which was completed in 1939, was constructed to the east of the 1893 school. It was designed by Architect Raymond A. Orput and constructed by Hokanson & Bloom, both of Rockford, Illinois. Designed in the Art Deco style, this monolithic concrete building was built for approximately \$145,000. Funding for the building was achieved through a \$65,000 bond issue and two Public Works Administration (PWA) grants totaling \$62,554. A somewhat unique feature of the building was the use of florescent lighting throughout. This type of lighting, which was featured at the New York World's Fair of 1939, was thought to provide a softer light yet still provide greater illumination than an incandescent bulb.¹³ At the building's grand opening on October 12, 1939, United States Senator Noah Mason was the keynote speaker.¹⁴

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In 1949 the Community Unit School District 100 was established. This district, which encompassed 160 square miles, included the City of Belvidere, Garden Prairie and Caledonia.¹⁵

A new Washington School was built in 1956 to house junior-high students. This school was designed by Bradley and Bradley, Architects and constructed for a cost of \$992,082.95. The construction of the new Washington School signaled the end of a six year improvement program where the Lincoln, Logan and Perry schools were remodeled. During this period many rural schools were closed and students were being bused to various schools in Belvidere.¹⁶ Community growth continued, and in 1966 a new Belvidere High School was constructed on East Avenue in Belvidere. This prompted the old Belvidere High School on the northeast corner of Pearl and First Streets to be used as a junior high school.¹⁷

By the mid-1980s, District 100 maintained a special education facility, one senior high school, one junior high school and six grade schools.¹⁸ In 1989 a new Belvidere Junior High School was constructed in 1989. This one story building, which is located on Sixth Street at East Avenue, was designed by Legat Architects of Waukegan, Illinois. It was constructed for a total cost of \$7,460,000.¹⁹

The four historic buildings located within the present Belvidere High School complex represent architectural trends in America, and particularly the Midwest. The Prairie School style, an indigenous American architectural form that developed from the Prairie School architectural movement, began around 1900 and was a popular style until the First World War. This style, which reached its apex in 1914, developed in the suburban Chicago and became popular throughout the Midwest. Rejecting historical styles, the Prairie style exemplified the "spirit of the prairies of the great Middle West." As noted by Harold Brooks, Prairie style buildings typically had a "horizontal unity". Low hipped and sometimes gable roofs, horizontal ribbon windows or banding created a "continuity of line, edge and surface. . . (this) lent horizontal unity to the design, and against these horizontals a spirited interplay was established with short vertical accents, such as piers, mullions, and subsidiary masses." This style was propagated by various Chicago and Midwest-based architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, Dwight H. Perkins, George Grant Elmslie and William Gray Purcell. One of the great strengths of the style was its adaptability to various building types and was widely used in residential, commercial and civic structures.²⁰

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The 1916 Belvidere High School is an excellent local example of a Prairie School style building with Classical Revival features. Designed by Grant C. Miller, of Miller, Fullenwider and Dowling, the school is the most prominent Prairie School/Classical Revival style public building in Belvidere. The building references the Classical Revival style in its use of pavillions and symmetrical facade accented with pilasters. The ornamentation of the building clearly reflects the Prairie School style with its geometric, stylized capitals, ornamental terra cotta blocks and brickwork. Its low pitched, tile roof and rough-faced brick exterior are also common to the Prairie School style.

Approximately ten different architects were interviewed for the design of the new Belvidere High School, also known as the 1916 Belvidere High School. Two architects noted by the *Belvidere Daily Republican* on June 10, 1915, were Perkins & Hamilton of Chicago and the firm of Miller, Fullenwider and Dowling, also of Chicago. Grant C. Miller of Miller, Fullenwider and Dowling, was ultimately awarded for the contract. The December 27, 1917, *Belvidere Daily Republican* noted that the cost for the high school building was \$135,508, of which \$6,617 was the architect's fee.²¹

The design of the 1916 high school was similar in several ways to Belvidere's Ida Public Library (Figure 9), a Prairie School style Carnegie library that was designed by Mr. Miller when he was with the firm Patton and Miller (ca. 1903-1912). Common to Carnegie libraries, a red tile roof was used on the Ida Public library and this design element was carried onto the Belvidere High School. Other similarities include the Prairie style's simplicity of horizontal line and projection, decorative brick work and terra cotta medallions on the facades. The Board of Directors for the Ida Public Library was extremely pleased with the services of Grant Miller and expressed their appreciation in a resolution of thanks on November 3, 1913, "...hereby express its appreciation of the services of Grant Miller as architect. Mr. Miller's unfailing courtesy and special knowledge of library buildings made it a pleasure to deal with him." One can be lead to believe that the impression that Mr. Miller left on the town for the design of the library, assisted the school board in awarding Miller's firm with the contract.

Another Prairie School style building in Belvidere is the W.H. Pettit Mortuary Chapel (Figure 8). The chapel, constructed in 1906, is one-story concrete building with a T-plan. This building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Although a modest building, it exemplifies the Prairie School style through its low pitched hip roof, horizontal emphasis, massive concrete piers flanking the stairway, and its broad, flat brick chimney.²²

Given the time of the school's construction, it was not uncommon to see a combination of Classical and Prairie features. Many architects associated with the Prairie School never fully employed its stylistic elements in a pure form. As noted by Harold Brooks in his book *The Prairie School*:

An affinity in form (but not in plan or ornament) existed between the prairie architecture and the current revival styles. Though different, they were related, and this relation was one reason for the existence, and for the acceptance, of the Prairie School. And in like manner the prairie house, bank, courthouse could undergo certain mutations and return to the guise of a historical style. This did happen, especially among the less central or peripheral members of the group, men like Spencer, Garden, Perkins, Tallmudge and Watson, Maher, Dean, Tomlinson, and White. These men began their careers in the prevailing modes, but evolved toward a freer and more independent expression. Later, however, they ebbed back into the tradition from which they had grown.²³

The use of the Classical Revival style, and particularly for prominent public buildings, was commonplace from the late 19th century into the early 20th century.²⁴ The popularity of this style was spurred by the Columbian Exposition of 1893 which, with its "White City" of Roman style buildings, signaled a return to classically-influenced architecture. The Columbian Exposition, as well as other fairs across the United States, prompted the City Beautiful Movement that promoted Classical Revival architecture and focused on well-ordered, planned cities. Prominent architects and city planners that designed classically inspired buildings or created City Beautiful inspired plans during this period included Charles McKim (of the firm McKim, Mead and White), Richard Hunt, George B. Post, Peabody and Stearns, and Daniel Burnham.²⁵

The Belvidere High School Auditorium and Gym is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture and is the best example of this architectural style in Belvidere. The Art Deco style, like the Prairie style, abandoned the historic-based revival styles of the early twentieth century. This style, whose name originated from the 1925 Parisian Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et

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Industriels Modernes, typically exploited "stylized classical forms." The style utilized applied, geometric surface ornamentation and at times combined Art Moderne elements. While it was commonly employed in skyscrapers and commercial buildings, the style had mass appeal, and influenced civic and residential architecture (mainly apartment buildings), furniture, jewelry and clothing design in the 1920s and '30s. It reached its height of popularity during the Depression and was frequently used for Public Works Administration (PWA) or Works Progress Administration (WPA) federal relief projects. Conceived as a truly modern architectural style of the machine age, its forms were often streamline evoking the design of ships, airplanes and automobiles. Typical Art Deco features include smooth building surfaces such as stucco, concrete or stone, stepped or setback facades, towers or projecting vertical elements, incised or low relief geometric designs and figures and ornamental elements in terra cotta, glass or colored mirrors.²⁶

The 1939 auditorium and gymnasium conveys the Art Deco style through its monolithic, vertical massing and stylized surface ornamentation, particularly around the entrance doors and stair towers are common to the style. Also the use of poured concrete and a smooth stucco finish are typical of Art Deco buildings, as are the interior features in the foyer.

The Garfield School also reflects the Art Deco style. When it was remodeled in 1936, new industrial sash ribbon windows were installed, giving the building a more streamline, modern appearance. The west entrance was modified with pilasters with stylized, geometric capitals. The building was painted white which gave it a smooth appearance, similar to the 1939 auditorium/gym.

The Belvidere High School complex is a significant part of the City of Belvidere's history. The Belvidere High School is significant as a temple of learning that represents the aspirations of the community and a solid conservative architectural tradition blending the best of the old with the new.

Grant C. Miller

Grant C. Miller is credited with designing over thirty-nine school buildings, forty-seven colleges and eighty-eight libraries including the Ida Public Library (1913), a Carnegie Library, in Belvidere.

Miller was associated with several Chicago-based architectural firms during his career. The firm Patton & Miller designed many schools, libraries and campuses. Many of the designs from this

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firm appear to have been classically inspired. For example the Carnegie Public Library in Goshen, Indiana, and the Danville Public Library in Danville, Illinois that were designed ca. 1904 were both designed in the Beaux Arts style.²⁷ While with Patton & Miller, Miller is known to have designed the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church (1914) in Chicago. In addition to various classical-based style buildings, this firm was recognized for its Craftsman style churches.²⁸ One of their school commissions, the Rochester High School, in Rochester, Minnesota (ca. 1915) is very similar to the Belvidere 1915 school (see Figure 10). The Rochester school was designed in the Prairie School style and reflected contemporary views on heating, lighting and ventilation for a more healthful learning environment.²⁹ Later Miller was a partner in the firm Miller, Holmes and Flinn, the firm which succeeded his firm with Norman S. Patton. Miller, Holmes and Flinn designed the Oak Park Club which combined elements of the Renaissance Revival and Prairie Styles and had Palladian detailing.³⁰

Raymond Orput

Raymond Orput was a partner in the firm Orput and Orput of Rockford, Illinois. This firm was known for designing many municipal buildings, and particularly schools. Raymond Orput is credited with designing the Belvidere Park Bathhouse.³¹ This WPA building, which is still standing, was designed in the Art Deco style. However, it has been altered and its historic integrity has been compromised.

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Endnotes

¹ "Public School System began Here in 1842," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 12 October 1939, p. 10.

² Virginia B. Moorhead, *Then and Now: Bicentennial Commission, Boone County 1835-1975*. Boone County: 1976.

³ "\$40,000 Spent in 1893 to Construct Washington Bldg.," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 12 October 1939, p. 12.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Personal Communication with William Creech, Librarian, National Archives, Washington, D.C., February 1997.

⁶ "Need of a New High School Places Duty on Voters - Conditions Bad; Pupils Jammed Like Sardines," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 3 June 1915.

⁷ "PWA Approval of Building is Believed Sure," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 26 September 1939.

⁸ *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 12 October 1939 and Local History File #356, Ida Public Library.

⁹ Early Schools in Boone County, Local History File #365, Ida Public Library, Belvidere, Illinois.

¹⁰ N. L. Engelhardt and Fred Engelhardt, *Planning School Building Programs*, (New York City: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1930), pp. 296-297.

¹¹ "Four Town High School Seems the Practical Plan." *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 21 May 1914, pp. 2 and 8.

¹² see Local History File #365, Ida Public Library, Belvidere, Illinois.

¹³ "New Building is Accepted by PWA Today," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 10 October 1939 (no page noted).

¹⁴ "Tonight's Program Marks Realization of Big Goal," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 12 October 1939, p. 13.

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¹⁵ Local History File #365, Ida Public Library, Belvidere, Illinois.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "Students like new 'home': Early opinions offered," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, Belvidere, Illinois, 4 January 1990, clipping - no page noted.

¹⁸ Local History File #365, Ida Public Library, Belvidere, Illinois

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Brooks, Harold Allen. *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972, pp. 5-8.

²¹ Local History File #365, Ida Public Library, Belvidere, Illinois

²² William Allin Storrer, *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1978), p. 116.

²³ Brooks, p. 342.

²⁴ Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture*, (New York: Harper-Collins Publishers, 1992) p. 244.

²⁵ see Leland M. Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture*, (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1980), pp. 213-227, and James Marston Fitch, *American Building: The Historical Forces that Shaped It*, (Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1966) pp. 207-213.

²⁶ Gowans, pp. 250-252.

²⁷ see *The American Architect and Building News*, Vol. 83, January-March 1904. Several of Patton and Miller's designs for public libraries, campuses, and schools are published in this volume.

²⁸ Alice Sinkevitch, *AIA Guide to Chicago* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1993), pp. 232-233.

²⁹ Wilbur T. Mills, *American School Building Standard*, (Columbus, Ohio: Franklin Educational Publishing Company, 1915), pp. 446-447.

³⁰ Sinkevitch., p. 325.

³¹ Personal Communication with David Rogers, 4 March 1997.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 17

Belvidere High School

10. Geographical Data - Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Belvidere High School complex. The complex includes: the 1893 and 1916 schools; 1900 power plant; the 1939 auditorium/gym; and three non-contributing ca. 1950-60s addition that connect the four historic buildings. Figure 1 shows the boundary which is also noted in the attached legal description.

FIGURE 1: BELVIDERE HIGH SCHOOL

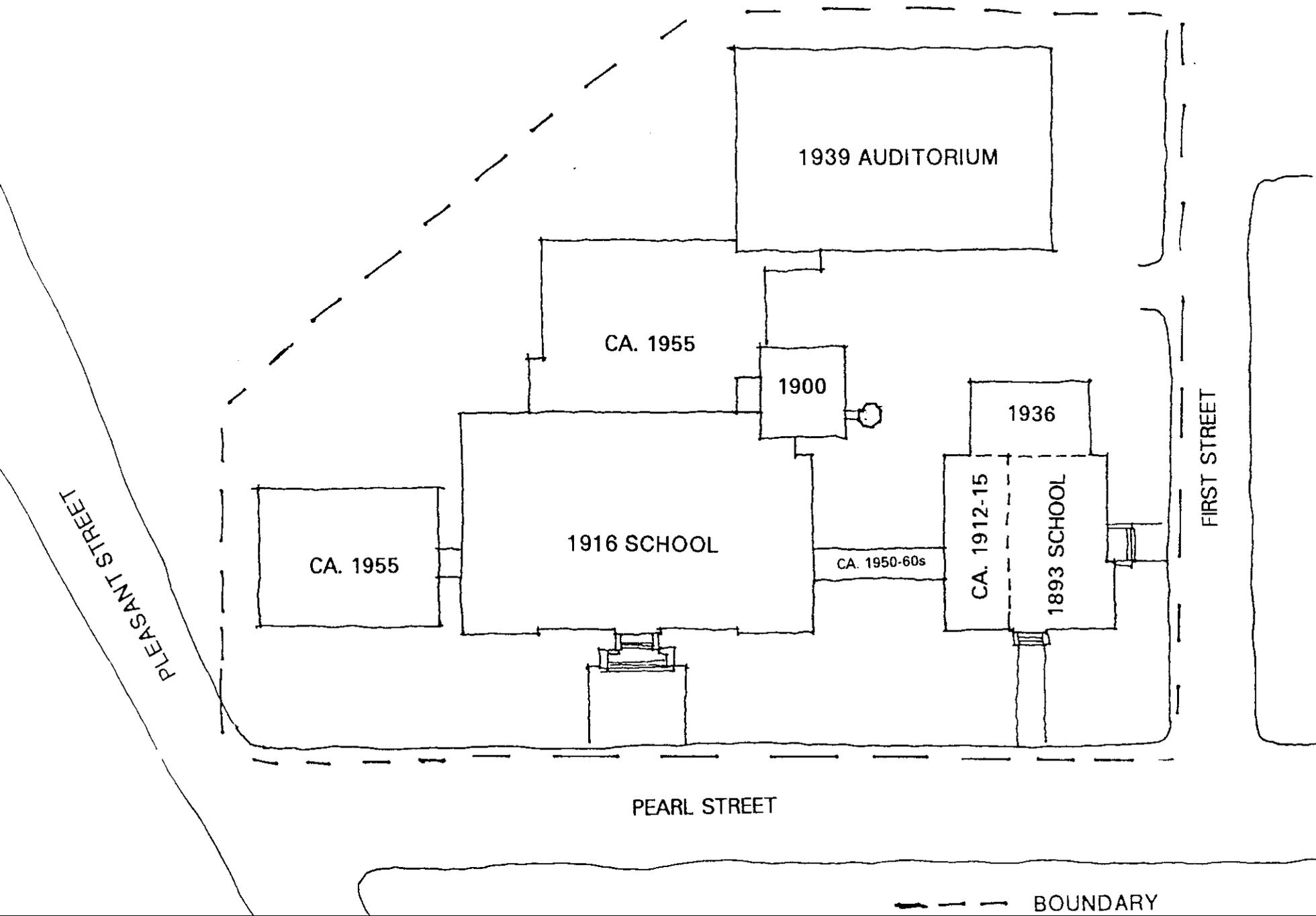
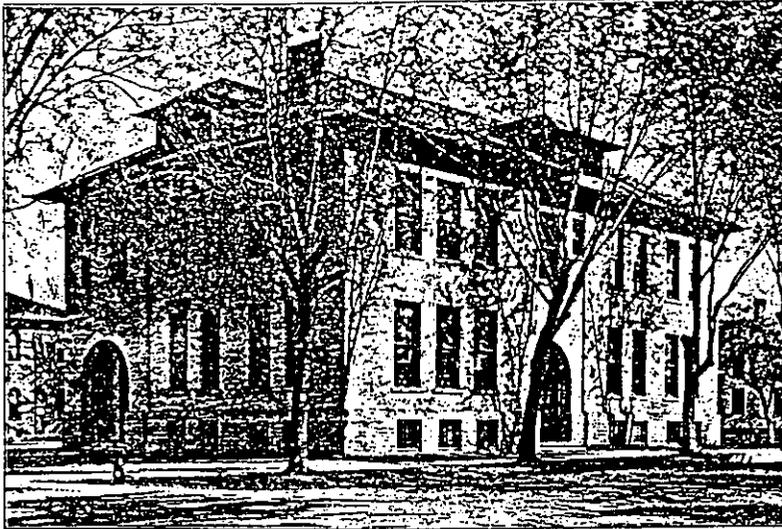
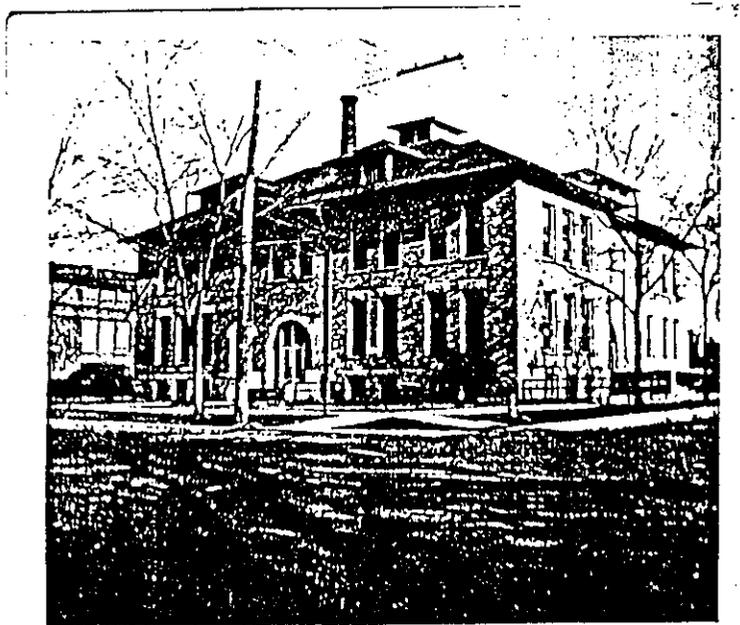


FIGURE 2



HIGH SCHOOL, Belvidere.

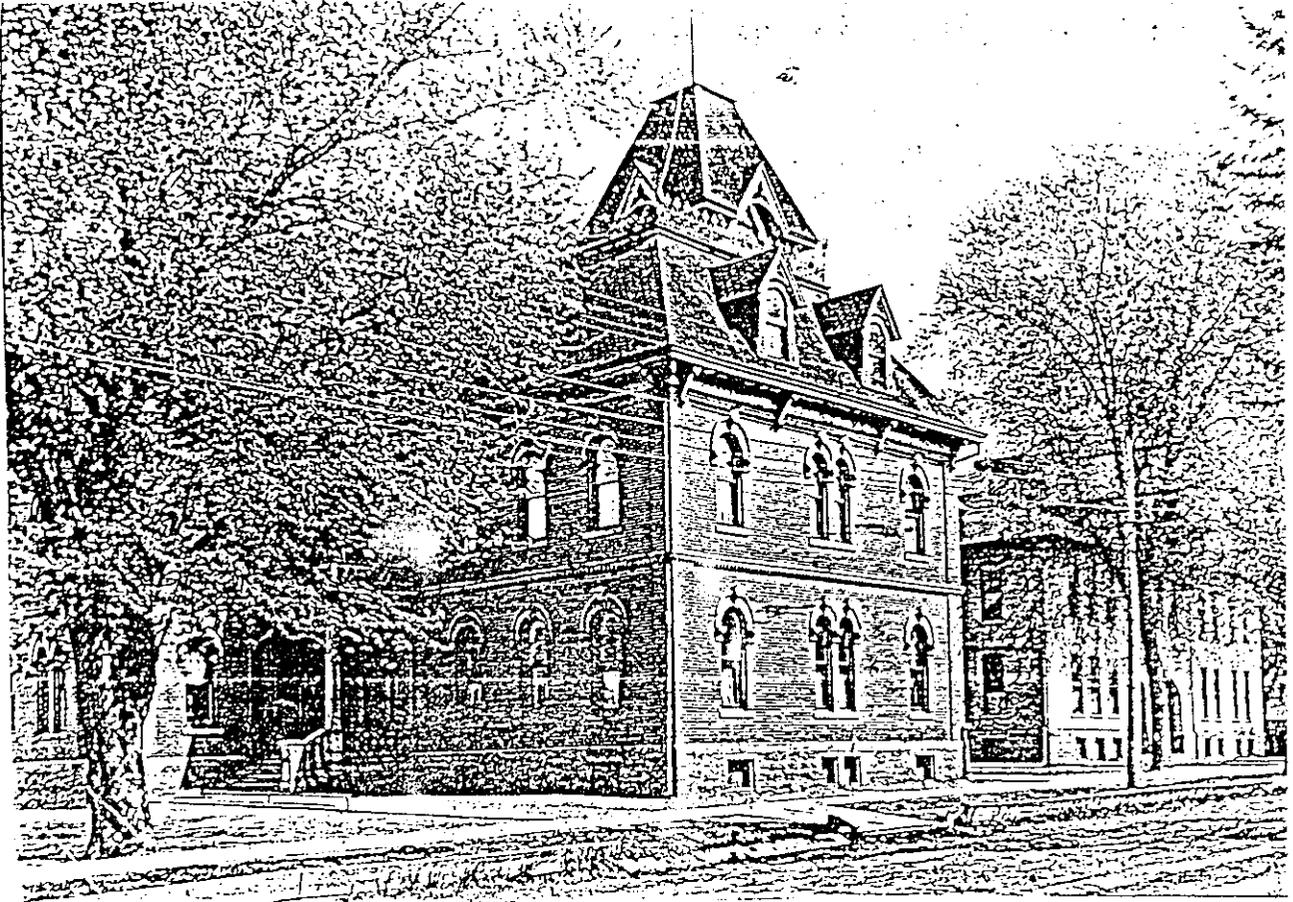
VIEW OF 1893 SCHOOL LOOKING NORTHEAST, CA. 1893



VIEW OF 1893 SCHOOL LOOKING NORTHEAST, CA. 1915

Source: Local History File #365, Ida Public Library

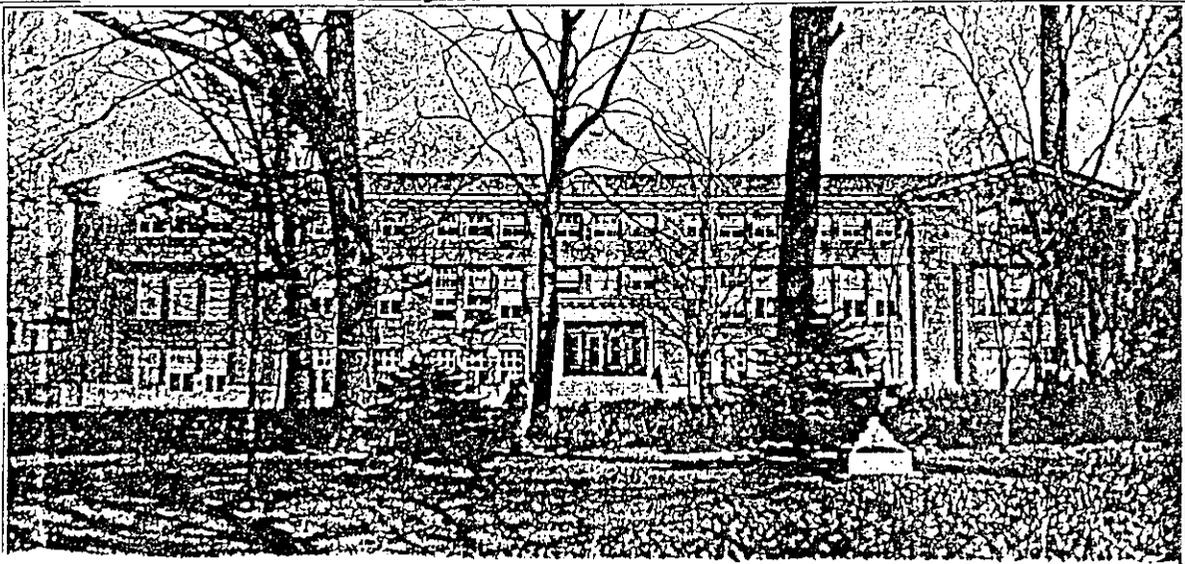
FIGURE 3



VIEW SHOWING OLD WASHINGTON SCHOOL (LEFT) AND
1893 GARFIELD SCHOOL (RIGHT)

Source: Local History File #365, Ida Public Library

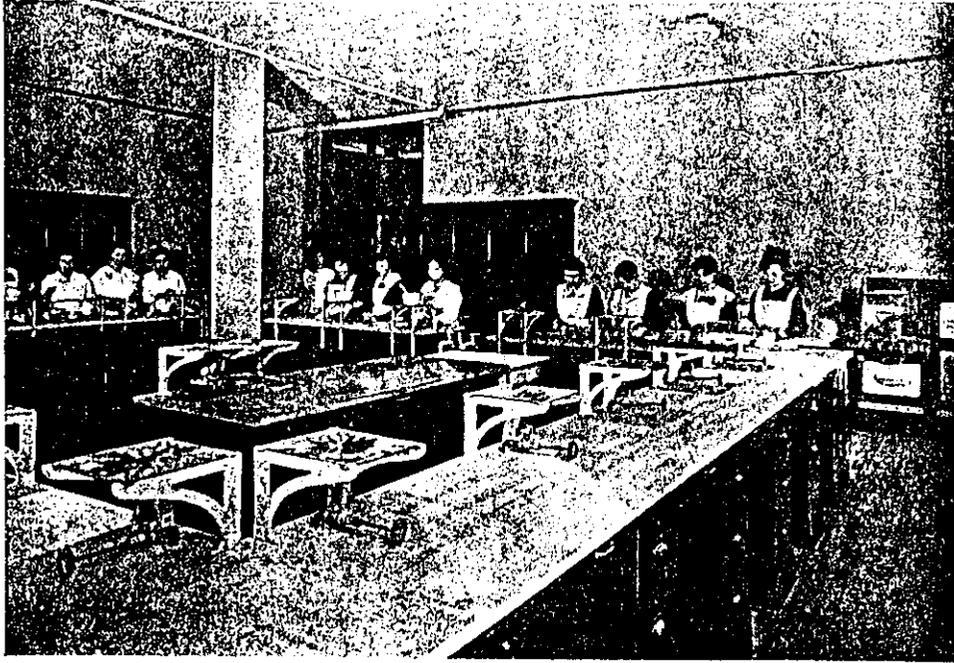
FIGURE 4



1916 BELVIDERE HIGH SCHOOL, CA. 1920

Source: Local History File #365, Ida Public Library

Figure 5



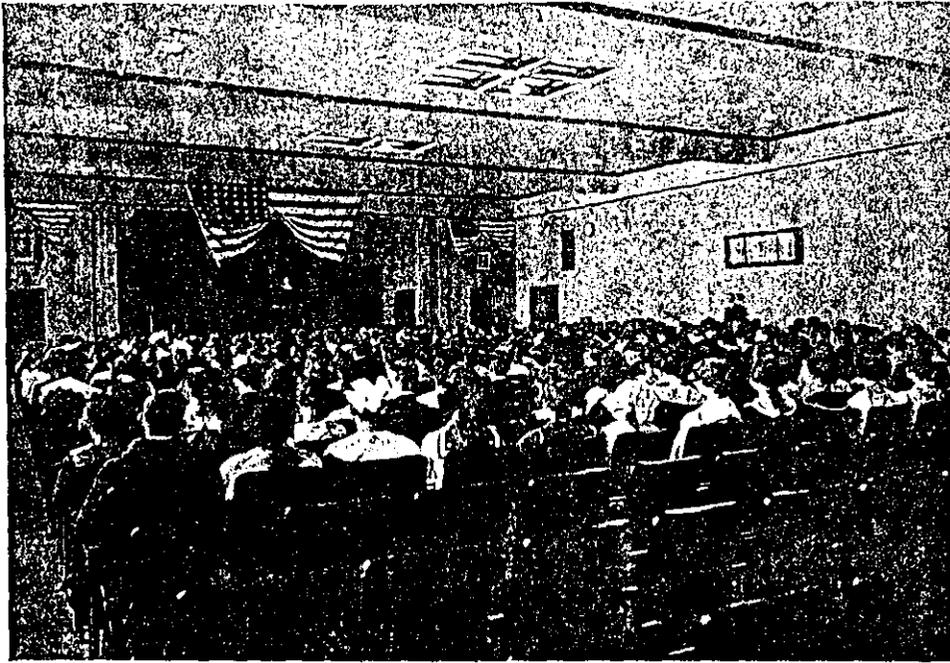
DOMESTIC SCIENCE



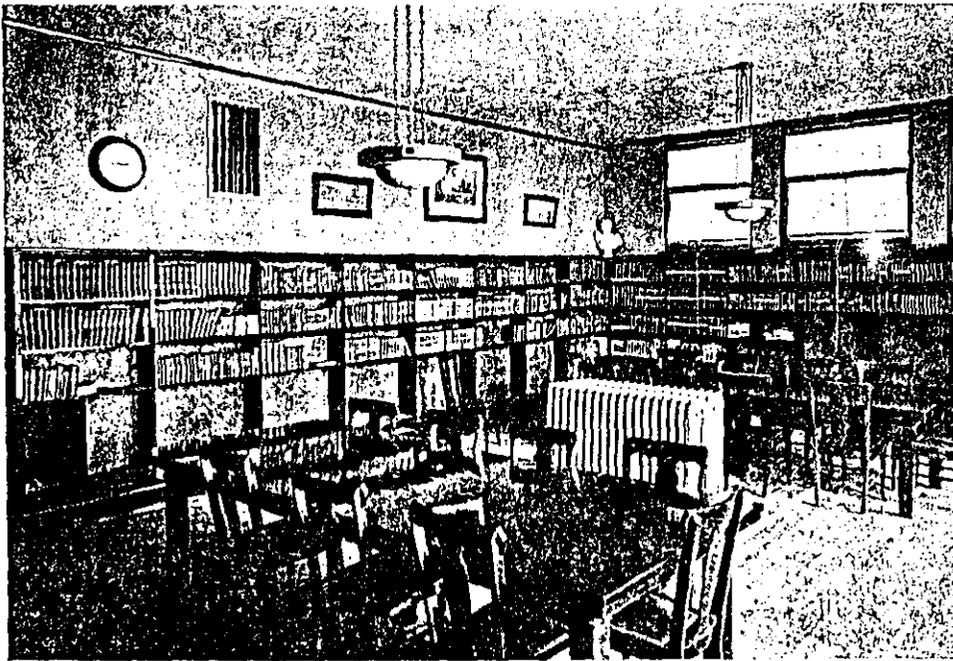
MANUAL TRAINING

1917 Historic Photographs of Belvidere High School
Source: Belvidere High School Yearbook

Figure 6



ASSEMBLY ROOM



LIBRARY

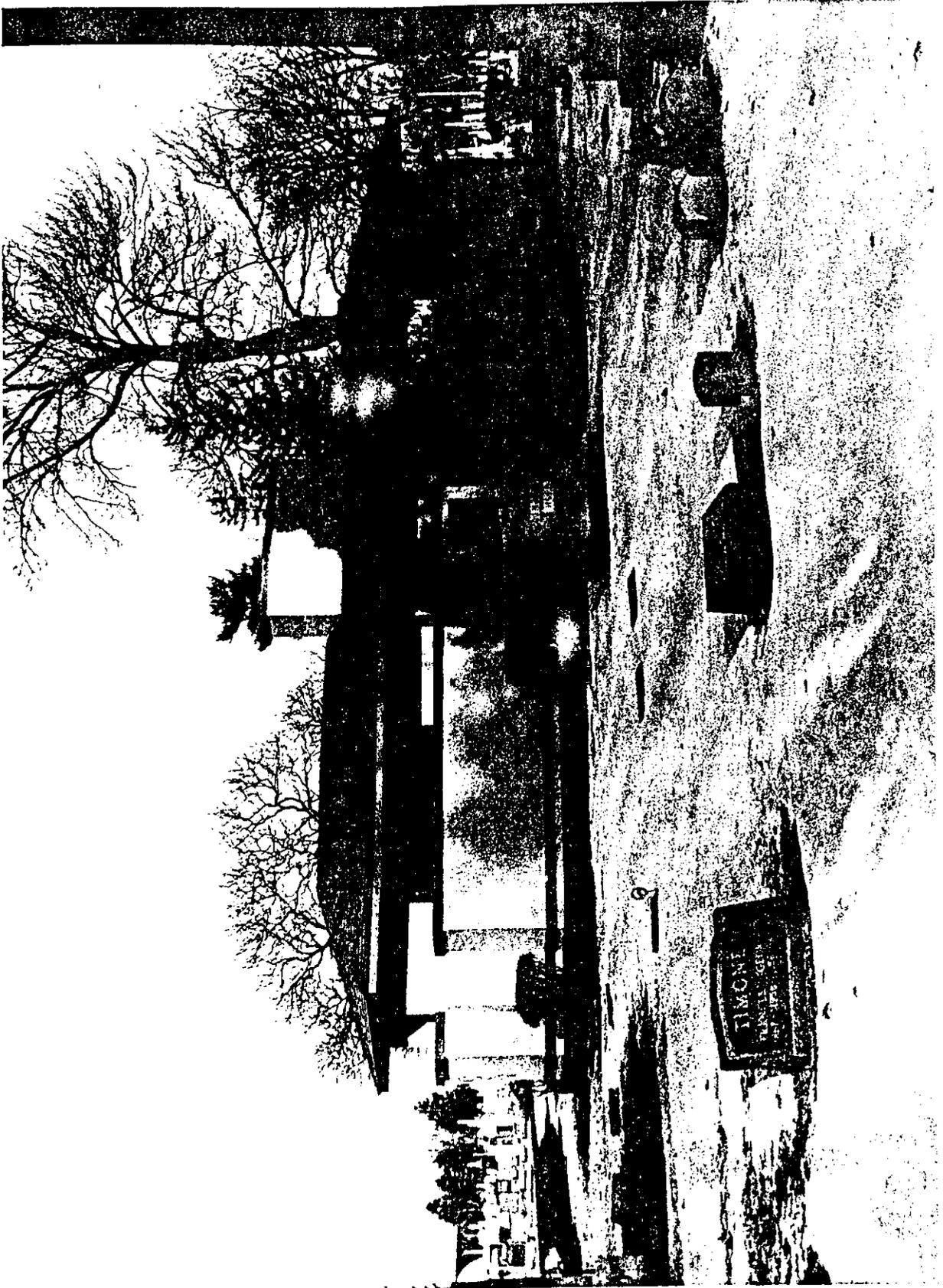
1917 Historic Photographs of Belvidere High School
Source: Belvidere High School Yearbook

Figure 7



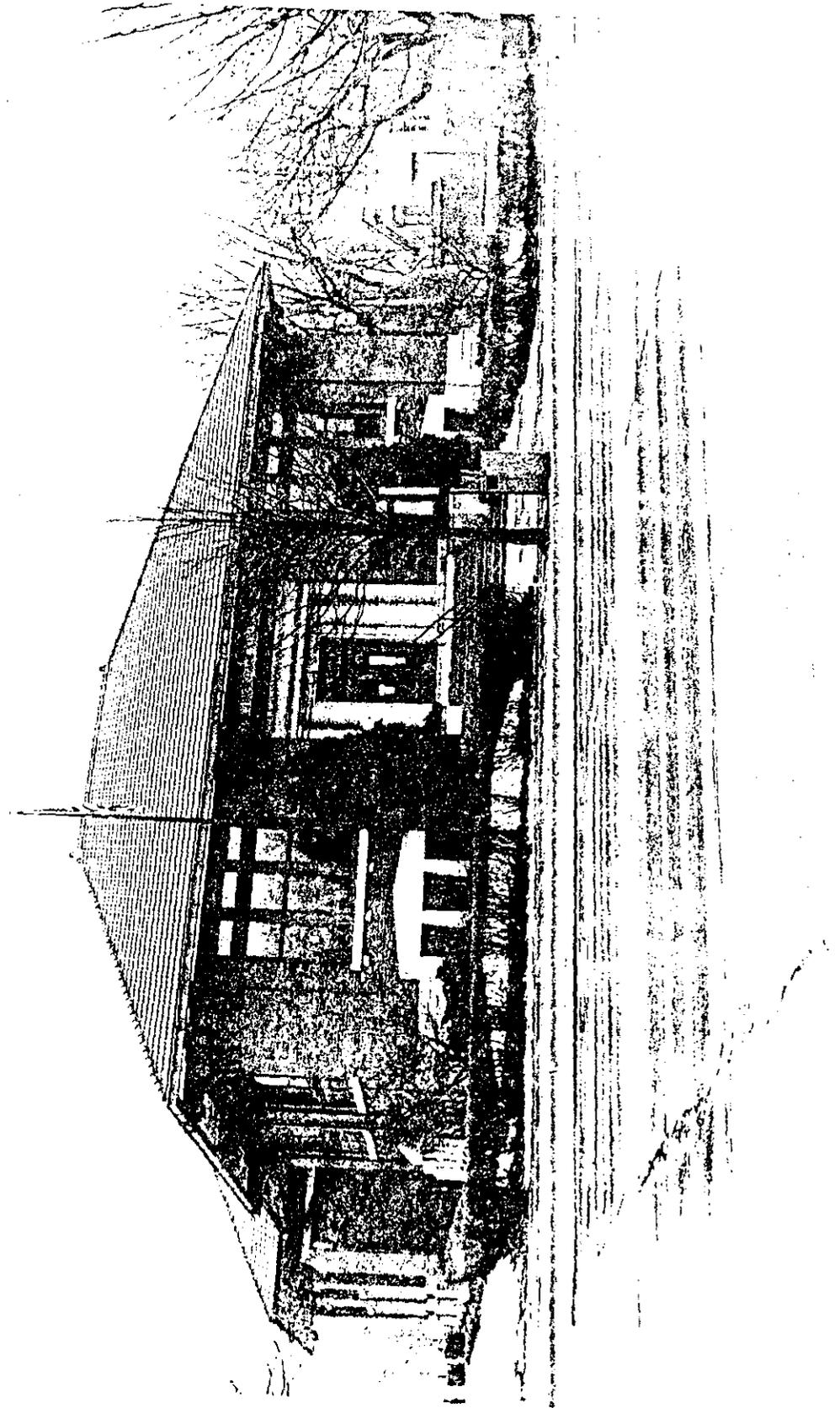
1932 Photograph of Belvidere High School
Source: Belvidere High School Yearbook

Figure 8



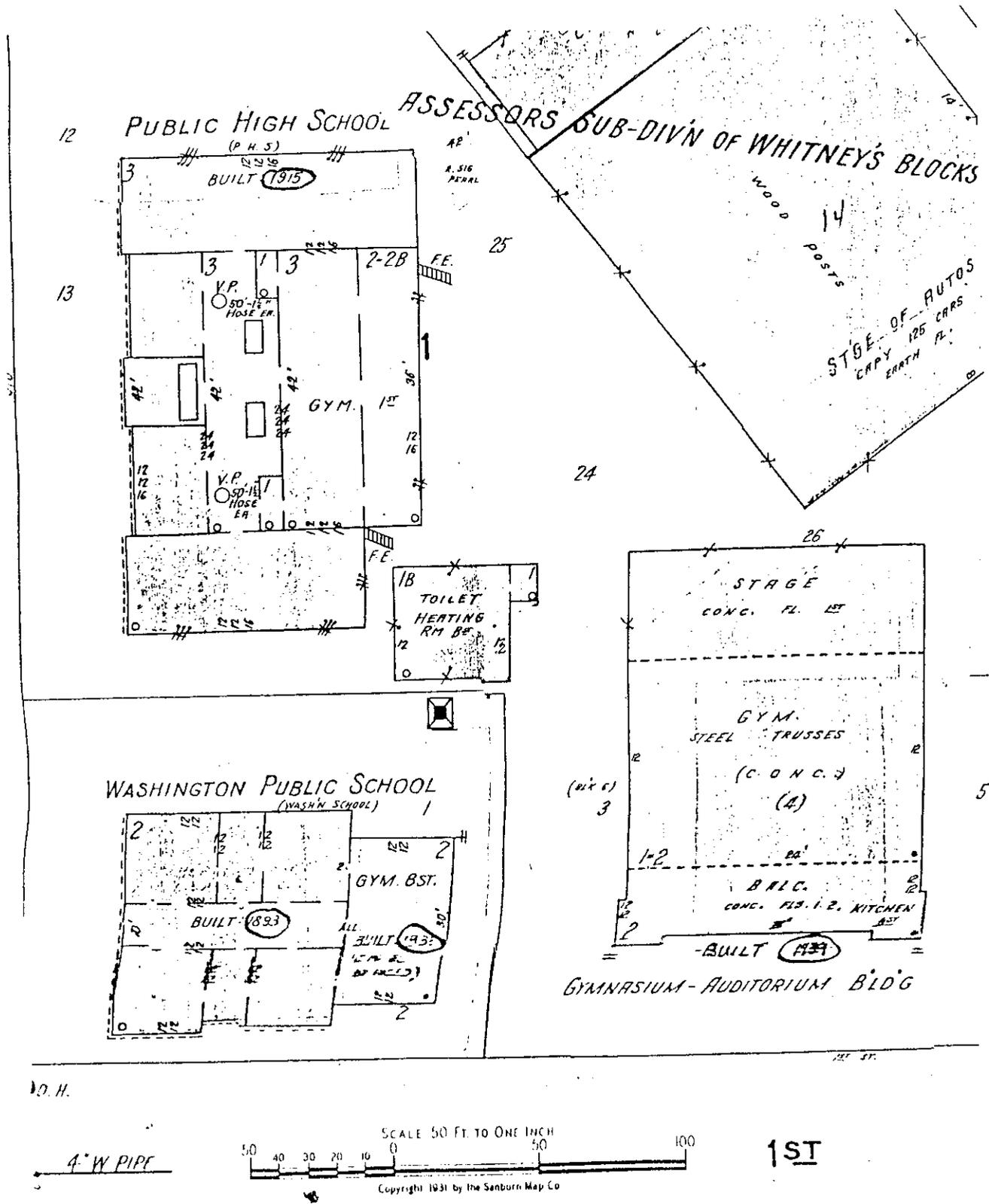
W. H. Pettit Mortuary Chapel (1906)
Belvidere, Illinois
Photographer: M. Frey, 26 February 1997

Figure 9



Ida Public Library
Belvidere, Illinois
Photographer: M. Frey, 26 February 1997

Figure 11



Belvidere High School, ca. 1939
 Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, Belvidere, Illinois, ca. 1939



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

AUG 1 1997

IN REPLY REFER TO

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places.

For further information contact Edson Beall via voice
(202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836 or E-mail: edson_beall@nps.gov

Visit our web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html>

AUG 1 1997

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 7/21/97 THROUGH 7/25/97

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO COUNTY, Judah, Theodore, School, 3919 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 97000810, LISTED, 7/25/97

CONNECTICUT, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, Lewis, Isaac C., Cottage, 255 Thimble Islands Rd., Branford, 97000811, LISTED, 7/25/97

FLORIDA, ESCAMBIA COUNTY, US Customs House and Post Office, 223 Palafox Pl., Pensacola, 97000659, LISTED, 7/22/97

ILLINOIS, MCLEAN COUNTY, Normal Theater, 209 North St., Normal, 97000818, LISTED, 7/25/97

ILLINOIS, MERCER COUNTY, Mercer County Jail, 309 S. College Ave., Aledo, 97000816, LISTED, 7/25/97

ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY, Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Depot, 400 Collins St., Oregon, 97000817, LISTED, 7/25/97

KANSAS, JOHNSON COUNTY, Horn--Vincent--Russell Estate, 6624 Wenonga Rd., Mission Hills, 97000819, LISTED, 7/25/97

KENTUCKY, CALDWELL COUNTY, Confederate Soldier Monument in Caldwell, Jct. of KY 91 and N. Jefferson St., Princeton, 97000712, LISTED, 7/17/97 (Civil War Monuments of Kentucky MPS)

MISSOURI, CALLAWAY COUNTY, Bell, M. Fred, Rental Cottage, 302 E. Fifth St., Fulton, 97000627, LISTED, 7/10/97

NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Barelas--South Fourth Street Historic District, 4th St. from Stover Ave. to Bridge St., Albuquerque, 97000774, LISTED, 7/24/97 (Auto-oriented Commercial Development in Albuquerque MPS)

NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Rio Puerco Bridge, I-40 over the Rio Puerco, Albuquerque vicinity, 97000735, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, CHAVES COUNTY, Rio Felix Bridge At Hagerman, US 285 over Rio Felix, Hagerman, 97000737, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, DONA ANA COUNTY, Rio Grande Bridge at Radium Springs, NM 185 over Rio Grande, Radium Springs, 97000734, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo, NM 74 over Rio Grande, Alcalde vicinity, 97000738, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SAN JUAN COUNTY, San Juan River Bridge at Shiprock, US 666 over San Juan R., Shiprock, 97000740, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, Pecos River Bridge at Terrero, NM 63 over Pecos R., Terrero, 97000739, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, Variadero Bridge, NM 104 over Rio Conchas, Variadero, 97000736, LISTED, 7/22/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, SANTA FE COUNTY, Otowi Suspension Bridge, NM 4 over Rio Grande, San Ildefonso vicinity, 97000730, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

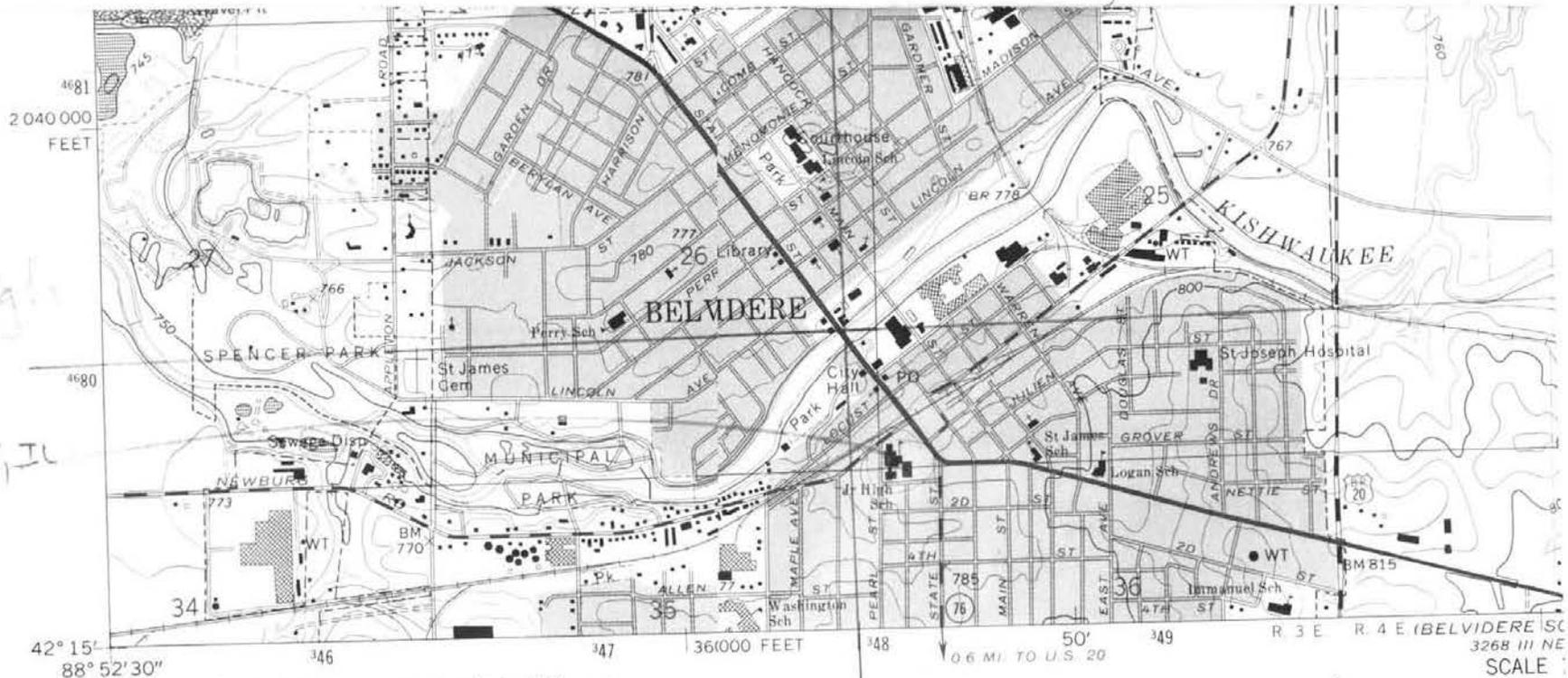
NEW MEXICO, SIERRA COUNTY, Percha Creek Bridge, NM 90 over Percha Cr., Hillsboro, 97000731, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

NEW MEXICO, TAOS COUNTY, Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, NM 111 over Rio Grande Gorge, Taos vicinity, 97000733, LISTED, 7/15/97 (Historic Highway Bridges of New Mexico MPS)

OKLAHOMA, SEQUOYAH COUNTY, Sallisaw High School, 200 W. Creek St., Sallisaw, 97000614, LISTED, 7/03/97

VERMONT, WINDSOR COUNTY, Windsor Village Historic District (Boundary Increase), Along Phelps Ct. and State St., Windsor, 97000828, LISTED, 7/25/97

Belvidere High School
 zone 16
 BOONE COUNTY, IL
 E 348150
 N 4679500



(CHERRY VALLEY)
 3268 III NW

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1970

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Illinois coordinate system, east zone (transverse Mercator)
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner tick
 The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
 AND ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

