

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



682

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Mantua Center School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 11741 Mantua Center Rd

N/A not for publication
 N/A vicinity

city or town Mantua

state OH code OH county Portage code 133 zip code 44255

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

Barbara Power DSHPO for Inventory & Registration July 15, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society
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) _____

Joe Edson W. Beall 9.4.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Education / School

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Social / meeting hall
 Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & early 20th century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick, concrete
 walls: Brick, Concrete
 roof: Slate, steel
 other: Wood, brick
 Sandstone trim

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Section 7: Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Mantua Township School building faces south on a small rise one block north of the village common at the end of School Lane, northwest of the main intersection of Mantua Center Road (north-south), State Route 82 (east-west), and Diagonal Road, in Portage County. To its south, the 2.85 acre property faces four houses from the early nineteenth century situated on School Lane. The western side of the property is a wooded lot that gives way to cultivated fields. The eastern boundary is Mantua Center Road. Right against the rear (north) boundary is a private residence from the early nineteenth century. Primarily a rural agricultural community, Mantua Township was and is lightly populated (about 3,500 people without the village of Mantua), with housing concentrated on the main north-south roads. The elevation is good considering that the property is situated at the very southern tip of a sizable swamp. Figures #38, 39 & 40 show the boundaries of the school lot and the building placement.

Mantua Township, in the north-central portion of Portage County, is surrounded by Aurora Township to the east, Hiram Township to the West, Shalersville Township to the south, and Geauga County's Auburn Township to the north. The development of Mantua Center, a pioneer community in Mantua Township settled just after the turn of the nineteenth century, was eclipsed by Mantua Station when the Cleveland & Mahoning Valley railroad was completed in the southern part of the township in 1856. The railroad line connected Cleveland, about 40 miles to the northwest, and Warren, about 25 miles to the southeast of Mantua Center.

Though many historic structures exist in Mantua Township, only two houses and two districts are listed on the National Register. One of the districts is located in Mantua Center; the Mantua Center District which includes what was originally the Township Hall (1840), (Figure 8) the Disciples of Christ Church (1840), a school outhouse (1907), and the Methodist Episcopal Church (1839) spaced around the village green (NR 74001607) (Figures 5,7,8,9,10). The dozen or so frame houses that surround the school on three sides (south, east, and north) are from the first half of the nineteenth century, similar to the buildings in the town center one block to the south. The minimal changes to the area near the school include minor alterations to the churches, the removal of the original one-room school a short distance to turn it into a residence and a 1964 addition to the 1914 school; otherwise Mantua Center looks much as it did when the Mantua Center School was built.

Only one other school from Portage County is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places—the Ohio State Normal College at Kent from 1913-1917 (NRHP 75001526). Of the 21 schools illustrated in the 1920 Portage County Public Schools report (*The Speedometer*), only 5 of them are still standing--Aurora, Deerfield, Mantua Township, Palmyra, Paris. Of those five, only Aurora is still used by the school district as administrative offices.

The Mantua Center School, built in 1914, is a rectangular, hipped-roof building crowned by a cupola. The school dominates the site with a sweeping stair up to a Greek temple inspired façade, flanked by symmetrical wings. The architect (Paul T. Cahill) chose a style for his design that echoes the nearby Greek Revival community center buildings from nearly a century earlier. Unlike the earlier white frame buildings, the school building is primarily dark red brick with wooden trim painted white. The terraced grassy lawn has plantings on either side of the central sidewalk leading up to the building stairs. Parking spaces line the front of the lot, and asphalt paving continues around to the east and north sides of the building. The remainder of the property is mowed grass with areas designated for a playground and ball fields. (Photos #6, 18) There are two areas of playground equipment in the surrounding yard (southwest and northwest boundaries). Along the western boundary is an area about 15 feet square that is fenced by chain link and a wooden privacy fence; this fencing is masking a pump for the buildings' septic system. A rectangular area of sand in the southwest quadrant to the left of the 1964 addition is the former site of a mobile class room pod, which has been removed since the photographs were taken in fall 2012.

The school was originally built to house all levels of students, containing three high school rooms and four grade rooms. After a series of consolidations with neighboring communities, Mantua Center School became an elementary building and was discontinued as a local school in 2004 when it was sold by the Mantua Township Board of Education to the Mantua Township Board of Trustees. The original 1914 building currently houses some of the township offices, while the 1964 addition has had continuous use as a community hall for concerts, meetings and other events.

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1914 Building Exterior

Mantua Township School is a brick two-story structure built in 1914, designed by Cleveland architect Paul T. Cahill and built by Loomis, Seymour and Company. A striking 100' façade (south elevation) of 7 bays features a two-story projecting pavilion measuring 35' wide with four Doric pilasters topped by a wide frieze and a full brick pediment. (Photos #1, 2, 9) The roof of the building is built of reinforced concrete slabs, covered originally in slate shingles and now covered with asbestos shingles. The fluted pilasters and modillions on the pediment have been sheathed in aluminum, but remain intact. An oculus window centered in the gable was designed to admit light into the attic story, though the glass is now replaced by plywood. (Photo #9) The original window muntins divided the glass into a center circle with six wedges radiating from it, reflecting the Georgian style. The corners of the central pavilion, set slightly back from the pilasters, feature brick quoining. The front door is centered in the middle bay at the culmination of the stairs that serve to divert visual attention from the raised basement level. The door is capped by a flat cornice held up on either side by a large scrolled bracket (Photo #11); below the cornice are painted the words "Mantua School, A.D. 1914." (Photo #9) Above the modern replacement metal door with window is a wide replacement transom window and on either side of the door is a narrow (modern) window that hints of the side lights of a Neoclassical doorway. The original front double doors opened out, with wood panels below 4 paned windows, all under a 6 pane transom. (see Figure #37) The door is flanked by sash windows in the two adjacent bays. The second floor fenestration is also symmetrical, with a sash window in each of the three bays. Above each window is a barely visible metal lintel (Photo #16) that supports a soldier course of brick work with a keystone. (Photo #9) Below each window is a thin sandstone sill. (Photo #16) The raised basement windows have been bricked (in 2007) in running bond with a lighter orange shiny brick (Photo #10) while the majority of the windows are modern aluminum frame replacements with a top fixed fiberglass panel and two panes that slide from side to side. (Photo #10) Originally these windows were twelve over eight paned sliding sashes.

The symmetrical wings that rise to the full two story height are topped with hip roofs covered in asphalt shingles. (Photo #8) As on the projecting pavilion, brick quoining embellishes the outer corners of the wings, and also on the wall about ten feet on either side of the façade. (Photo #10) The quoining does not continue below the brick string course that divides the modified Flemish bond of the brick walls from the brick foundation of the same bond—four rows of stretchers and one row of stretcher-header. The window placement in the two bays on either side of the central section is asymmetrical, with smaller narrow bays and windows near the pavilion and wider bays with on the outer sides. The windows in the wider bays are a bit smaller in size than the central pavilion windows, having replaced 6 over 6 paned sashes rather than the 12 over 8.

A white wooden hexagonal cupola with a cap sits at the intersection of the main gable and the wings. Featured in its design are six round-arch shutter openings whose trim includes a classical keystone. The top of the bell-shaped cap, which is made of sheet metal, has a round knob that gives the cupola roof the look of a pendant bellflower popular in federal furniture inlays. (Photos #2, 13) The original school bell is still in working order in the cupola.

The wooden trim on this brick building was originally painted white, and is now covered by aluminum siding. (Photo #11) The replacement windows are a common deviation from original school design, as school boards attempt to lower costly heating bills.

The deck of the front entrance is a 10'x13' cement slab with tubular metal railings. The knee wall that forms the foundation of the deck is built of two layers of brick, the outer veneer layer the more recent orange shiny brick used in filling in the basement windows, again laid up in running bond. These side wings that flank the stairs to the front door are deteriorated. (Photo #12)

Going toward the street, there is a flat run of sidewalk surrounded by shrubbery before the terrace gives way to the next level via a second set of stairs. Both sets of stairs leading up to the main entrance are concrete with metal railings. (Photos #9, 17)

The east elevation is 45' wide with four bays of windows (replacement) on basement, first and second floors. The only decoration is the quoining at both corners, ending at the bottom of the first floor level where the foundation wall begins. Because of the terracing of the front of the building, the decorative stringcourse that divides the first floor brick wall and the brick foundation is more prominent. The increased height of the foundation enables the windows to be nearly as large in the basement level as in the upper floors. A downspout bisects the elevation. (Photo #2)

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The rear elevation (north) of the building features the same size projecting pavilion as the front with a pedimented gable but without the elaborate doorway and pilasters or quoining of the front. (Photo #3) On this side, two smaller entrances are found on either side of the projecting pavilion in small arched recessions at ground level. The western door is now visible only from the interior, the exterior having been covered by the one-story connector hall to the 1964 addition. (Photos #4, 7) The recessed door openings are covered by Georgian compass windows with decorative brickwork surrounds on the round arch; the visible door is a metal replacement with a thin window. Decorative quoining is present at the wing corners.

The projecting pavilion has three windows on each of the three levels. There is no decorative brickwork above the windows but the same sandstone sills are found below. Two smaller compass windows are placed above the doors; the rest of the wing walls above the foundation courses of brick are solid brick. The basement windows on this side have been boarded up or replaced by windows similar to the upper level replacements. (Photo #14) An oculus window, also boarded shut, is in the brick pediment. Two downspouts descend from the wings; and a simple chimney is visible in the northwestern quadrant of the building.

To the rear of the building is asphalt to the fence line. (Photo #7)

The western elevation of the original building is four bays wide (45') and features first and second floor windows (replacement) with stone sills, but the basement windows have been bricked in with vented glass block inserts. (Photos #5, 15) The decoration is limited to quoining at the corners and the stringcourse above the brick foundation. A downspout bisects the elevation.

1914 Building Interior

The interior of the Mantua Center School is symmetrical as one enters the front (south) door. An oval foyer (Photo #20) leads down a short hallway that connects to a perpendicular hallway. Office and teacher lounge space is on either side of the entrance hall. Two doorways, one on either side of the entrance hall, lead into the central first floor room (35'x 25') facing the rear. At either end of the hallway are identical classrooms (40'x 21') and closed twin stairways to the upper and lower levels. (Photos #21, 25) The width and layout of the central hallway and stairwells at opposite ends of the building length provided increased access and egress. The second level contains the same two side classrooms and rear classroom, but instead of the east-west hallway, entrance, and offices, there is another large classroom. In 1920, the Portage County school board stated in its publication *The Speedometer* that this building had, "3 High School rooms, 4 grade rooms, office, rest rooms and a gymnasium." (figures #1-4).

The interior walls of the building are made of steel-reinforced concrete. The hallway wall that faces the entrance hall has two concrete Doric pilasters running from floor to ceiling and across the ceiling, indicating structural reinforcement. Centered between the pilasters is a modern bulletin board and a water fountain; above this focal area are two framed prints, one depicting George Washington and the other of Abraham Lincoln. (Photo #29)

The stairwells are constructed of cement floors, cement stairs, metal bannisters with wooden rails. (Photos #21, 40) The walls and doors that divide the stairwells from the hallway are made of metal and glass. The metal panels and muntins in the side lights, door lights, and transom lights are grain painted to match the wooden doors in the rest of the interior. (Photo #22) The glass in these stair areas is heavy textured glass that is reinforced with chicken wire, a common early twentieth century type of fire resistant glass. (Photo #23)

An indication of the interior decoration is the presence of fragments of stencil paint in the landing of the stairwells. The pattern is a Neoclassical motif in colors typical of the 1890-1915 era. (Photo #35)

The floors are concrete overlaid with thin regular width tongue and groove wooden flooring with golden varnish. One flooring update is eight inch linoleum tiles in gray and cream checkerboard pattern that cover many of the wooden floors. Other floors have more recent indoor/outdoor carpet. The baseboards and door and window trim is wooden. (Photos #26, 31)

Original doors are oak panel with four pane windows of the same frosted reinforced glass as the stairwell doors, and feature brass round knobs and back plates. (Photo #24) The wood frames and doors of the interior are all original. Other interior woodwork includes several built-in bookcases with glazed doors that appear to be consistent with original construction. (Photos #33, 34) Other built-in cabinets, some with sinks, are more modern. (Photos #31, 36, 38) In many

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of the rooms, the original black slate chalkboards are still visible. (Photo #32) In other rooms, the original boards have been covered over by more modern boards, but not removed. (Photos #36, 37)

The heating system was originally coal-fed gravity heat that rose through ducts and grates in the first level floor and in the walls of some of the rooms. The original cast iron grates appear in many locations throughout school. (Photos #27, 28, 30, 34)

Where modern electrical lines were run for lighting, outlets and sound system, the wire was run on the surface of the concrete in conduit lines, indicating that the electricity was not planned at the time of building. (Photo #38) In fact, most rooms have large hooks in the center of the ceiling for hanging lanterns. (Photos #36, 37) The lighting has been updated on more than one occasion with fluorescent lights. As in most schools constructed pre-electricity, the windows were adequately large to allow light and ventilation. The largest number of windows is on the façade facing south, where the architect took advantage of the southern winter sun that helped to light and warm the rooms on dreary Northeast Ohio days.

The class rooms in the wings of both the first and second floors are large, running the full depth of the school. In each of these classrooms, a door enters from the stair hallway and a second door enters through a small foyer into a cloak room that is partitioned from the main space of the classroom. These cloak rooms are situated at the front of the building where the narrow windows are on either side of the projecting pavilion; these small windows light the cloak rooms. Heating grates are found in each coat room to help dry out wet items. Two rows of hooks are installed around the walls of the cloak room, some original and others modern replacements. (Photos #30, 31) Only one cloak room, in the southwest corner of the second floor, still has access from both the classroom and the hallway as they were originally built; the rest have been closed off and reused from the hallway side as storage closets. The classrooms in the upper rear central section has a cloak room partitioned at one end (Photo #39); students in the upper front room and first floor rear central room presumably shared the cloak rooms via access from the hallway.

The lower basement level features the original masonry construction, paver block walls with round arch openings. Two sets of stairs lead down to a large room (32'x 29') in the central section at the rear with two doors, one from either side. This is very likely the gymnasium mentioned by the school board, as *The Speedometer* states that many of the gymnasias were built in the basements of the buildings. Another larger open room in the east wing (33'x 20') features windows on both the north and east sides and might have been used as a cafeteria or an auditorium. (Photo #41) This area has been updated with exterior steel doors and sinks and restrooms in preparation for future use. In the central section front is a hallway that accesses two smaller rooms, one 12'x12' and one 12' x 15'. The partition walls and cabinets use newer building materials, therefore the original plan of this area is difficult to determine. (figure #1). The west wing basement area is divided into several smaller rooms used to house the furnace, well room, and other maintenance areas.

A key feature of the basement is one that has been remarkable about the school since its opening, that of indoor restroom facilities to replace the outhouses that were much more common among public buildings and residences in this rural area in 1914. Architects of the early twentieth century knew how to construct cesspools that would contain waste, potentially carrying germs, away from the drinking water. Flush toilets with tanks close by the bowl were commonly available by 1910. In Mantua, there are long narrow rooms to house the boys' and girls' restrooms on either side of the central pavilion in the basement. The toilets have all been replaced over time, but there remains a bank of the original urinals in the boys' room. (Photo #42)

Addition

The only major change to the school is the red brick one-story addition completed in 1964. The flat roofed addition with a recessed entry shows minimalistic style, typical of mid-twentieth century school architecture. It blends in quietly with the stronger characteristics of the original building. (Photo #1) An attempt was made to incorporate a percentage of gold hued brick to blend with the original building; however, the addition brick was laid up in running bond, so that the stretchers of gold brick are more noticeable than the headers where the gold was mostly used on the original. The addition, which houses a large 45'x 60' multi-purpose room and modern restrooms, is attached to the rear (northwest) corner of the 1914 building via a 30' hallway and new rear exit at the site of an original rear exit. (Photos #5,6,7)

The front (south) elevation of the addition is set behind the main original building, so that the corners connect. Near the corner of the 1914 building, double metal doors with thin vertical windows give access to the addition. Glass block windows (replacements) are symmetrically placed on either side of the doors. A shallow, flat roofed metal portico covers

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the entrance. The roof of the one-story building is flat, and a white cornice trims the two-level roofline. (Photo #5) The section of the addition housing bathroom facilities forms an ell to the left of the addition entrance.

Behind the bathroom and hallway, the walls of the multi-purpose room rise above the roofline of the bathroom and hallway at the front, and the kitchen section at the rear (north). (Photos #5, 6, 8) Glass block clerestory windows light the interior of the taller section. The west elevation of the addition is solid brick wall in two levels, with a central section about 8 feet higher than the two sides. The north side has another lower level roofline, a metal access door, two small glass block windows and one large window that is probably an original. A chimney rises from the lower level near the utility area. (Photo #8) The connector hallway from the 1914 building to the 1964 building on the north side has two entrances, one into the hallway with a windowed metal door, and the other into a basement stairwell with a solid metal door. A small, flat roofed overhang covers the stoop which leads to the entrance into the school, which is extended ten feet from the original round-arch opening. (Photo #7). The east elevation of the addition, adjacent to this rear entrance, is a solid wall, with brick framing a large rectangular coursed cement inset.

Addition Interior

The 1964 addition to the 1914 building is connected by a long hallway that runs from the rear northwest corner entrance door along the front of the addition. (figure #4). No alterations have been made to the 1964 floor plan of the addition. Three steps in this hallway were necessary to accommodate a different grade of the slight hillside, and the fact that there was no raised basement level in the addition. (Photo #48) A set of double metal entrance doors with panic bars also lead into this hallway on the south side (Photo #44), and a single exit door is on the west end. The floors are linoleum tile over concrete. The walls are cement block veneered with brick on the outside and faced with pink glazed tiles on the inside. The doors are all steel painted gray. (Photos #43, 45) The ceilings in the hallway, bathrooms, and kitchen utility areas are drop fiberglass tiles.

To the south side (front) of this hallway is a 15'x 25' bump-out in the floor plan to accommodate modern boys and girls restrooms. The only changes to the addition interior are updates to these restrooms, which feature additional lighting by skylight (Photo #51), and have been recently remodeled for ADA compliance, moving partitions and lowering sinks and urinals for better handicap access. (Photos #49, 50, 52)

The main room in the addition is the 45'x60' multi-purpose room. The ceiling of the multi-purpose room is corrugated metal with metal trusses. (Photo #46) The walls of the multi-purpose room and kitchen area are painted cinder block. The room features high ceilings with good natural and electric light, basketball nets, and a tile floor laid over cement, to function as a gymnasium. (Photo #46) The adjacent room features a fully equipped modern kitchen for serving school lunches, and the multi-purpose room is equipped with folding tables for use as a cafeteria. (Photo #47) No attempt has been made by the designer to coordinate a design aesthetic between the new and old buildings.

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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.

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.

Areas of Significance

Community Planning & Development

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914-1963

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect—Paul T. Cahill

Builder—Loomis, Seymour & Co.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the centralized school in 1914, and continues to 1963, when plans were being made for a 1964 addition due to increased enrollment.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Section 8: Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Mantua Center School is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A as representative of the continuing evolution of the educational process in the small community of Mantua Center. Within Portage County twenty-one township schools were constructed between 1913 and 1920 as a result of the centralization of township one-room schools into spacious, centrally located facilities. Mantua Center School was an early example in the county and one of only five that remain. At the time of its design and construction, the community ensured that its new building included the latest technology in fire safety and sanitation facilities. The school continued to be a central social as well as educational facility in the community, seeing continuous use as a school building through various consolidations encouraged by the state and pushed by the Portage County superintendent of schools. Finally, post-World War II population increase and educational trends of the 1950's and 60's prompted the planning of an addition to the school, which was completed in 1964.

The school is also eligible under Criteria C as a good example of an early twentieth century Neo-Classical Revival educational facility. The restrained and dignified features of the Mantua Center School reflected its status in a small rural community and served as inspiration to the community members as well as to the students within its walls. It retains sufficient integrity to visually represent its significant past.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Mantua Center, in the northwest corner of Portage County, was organized in 1810 with 234 people. It had been the first part of Portage County to be settled in 1798. In the 1820's and 30's, Mantua township was fairly self-sufficient. The residents were farmers and there was a distillery, glass factory, tannery and a mill; all businesses built along the banks of the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries. By the 1840's, Merrifield Corners (now Mantua Corners), five miles to the east of the township center, was becoming a larger village because of its location on the north-south road from Painesville to Ravenna, the county seat. When the Ohio & Erie railroad went through the southern part of the township in 1856, Mantua Station built up in that area. By the 1880's, Mantua Station was the largest town in the township, and it developed its own school system separate from the rest of the township (Figure # 33). The population of Mantua Township remained fairly consistent through the years of the nineteenth century: 1169 in 1850, 1207 in 1860, 1126 in 1870, 1150 in 1880; its population in 2000 was 4661. One of Mantua Center's greatest historical claims is the oldest Campbellite congregation (Disciples of Christ), a denomination begun in Portage County; the church building dates from the 1830s. (Figures #25+26)

Early educational endeavors in Mantua Center paralleled other small northeast Ohio communities. The home of one of the founding fathers, Amzi Atwater, was where John Harmon taught in the winter of 1806-07 and opened his school (by subscription) in 1808. During the summer of 1807 Patty Cochran from Aurora, who had married Mantua local Ebenezer Sheldon, held school in their house. Elizabeth Kent taught school in Mantua Center in the winter of 1815-16. Orrin Harmon taught school in a house at the Mantua Corners in 1826-27.

Because of Northwest Ordinance school legislation in 1787, a portion of each township had to be set aside for the funding of a school facility. In 1825, the state required townships to establish school districts supported by property tax. A public school was at one time taught in Mantua Center's Town Hall. The legislature in 1853 that made a common education free to all youth probably caused an increase in the numbers of Mantua Township children who were able to attend school. (McCormick, 241) In 1861, the one-room school house was built at the west end of the village green. (Figures #5, 6). This building was still being used as a one-room school house when, in centralization occurred in 1903. After the Mantua Center School was opened, the old 1861 school building was sold to a local family, who moved it across nearby Diagonal Road and converted it to a residence.

As did many rural counties, Portage County recognized the need for improvement in attendance and consistency in education. Following the advice of the state of Ohio for rural districts, Portage County began systematically transitioning from small rural school buildings to larger, more central facilities. Mantua Township first centralized in 1903, when arrangements were made to house the students in three older buildings in the village green (figure #7): the old district building (Civic Center, Figure #6), the Town Hall (Figure #8), and the Methodist Church (Figures #9, 10) which the board purchased and repaired. Since the central location was more than the normal two miles walk of the smaller, one-room schools, transportation was arranged for students throughout the township. The wagons were reliable and followed a regularized time schedule, thus reducing the truancy rate. By 1920, the state would begin to shoulder some of the financial responsibility of transportation. Larger student population benefitted the school and the community by allowing recitations

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to be more interesting, specialized groups such as sports teams and music groups to be possible and the sense of local pride and socialization to develop.

A more important need for centralization focused on the curriculum of the school. With improved buildings, local school districts could offer a high school curriculum, which had mostly been offered only in urban areas and mostly as subscription schools. Before centralized schools and subsidized transportation, poor farm children rarely had an opportunity to go to school beyond eighth grade. In 1892, Ohio legislation required city schools to teach "physical culture" if the school offered intermediate or secondary curricula. (McCormick, 245) This resulted in the construction of new buildings in the early twentieth century to anticipate the necessity of a gymnasium, such as the one in the new Mantua school. Another major improvement of a centralized school was the quantity and quality of the library resources.

A logical progression from centralizing the school district was to build larger, more modern facilities that would allow enhanced curricula and student safety. Paris Township School was built in 1913; Aurora, Mantua, Nelson, and Ravenna all built new schools in 1914, and several other schools remodeled or rebuilt in the years following (1915-1920). The schools of Portage County were all illustrated in a 1920 report called *The Speedometer*, which reports improvements and activities of the township schools. (Figures #11-19) As was true in probably most of these townships, two additional factors caused Mantua Township to plan a new modern facility—the concern for fire safety, and the desire for sanitary fixtures (Figure #31). The State of Ohio had recently allowed the sale of bonds by the Townships to help them raise the funds necessary for school improvement. Mantua Township School District sold 5% School Building bonds beginning in February 1914 at \$100 each to build a new building, some of which were found in storage in the school (figures #20-21).

Frame buildings in the nineteenth century, with woodstoves or fireplaces for heat, were especially susceptible to fire. The Collinwood elementary school fire in March of 1908, which claimed the lives of 172 children and three adults (Bellamy, 49-66) forced educators and town planners everywhere to reconsider the fire safety of their own buildings. In Collinwood, a suburb of Cleveland, the building was brick with a pine interior, proving that even brick buildings were not impervious to total ruin by the right kind of fire. In Mantua Center, one of the requirements made of the architect that designed the centralized Mantua Center School was that the new building be made of fireproof materials where possible. The metal-clad doors and heavy glass at each stairwell in Mantua serve to stop or at least slow the effects of fire and also act as a sound barrier for children moving from one area to another, so as not to disturb classes in session. The dual staircases offer an alternative escape route in the case of fire. Rather than utilizing a wooden timber supporting structure, the cement and steel materials used here act as fire deterrents. Even the roof, using slabs of concrete, could more effectively stop a fire from spreading than earlier wooden roof systems. The state had already recognized the serious threat of fire and had passed legislation in 1889 and 1896 to specify fire safety in schools, especially in the area of accessibility of exits and availability of water. (McCormick, 245-246) When built, attention was so focused on fireproofing, that inspectors from the state found some years later the fire retardant construction so complete that it enabled the Board of Education to secure a low rate of insurance. The inspector pronounced it one of the best constructed rural schools in Portage County.

In considering the design of the new school, township officials chose to raise the cost of the school by \$5000 in order to incorporate sanitary fixtures and a drinking fountain. (Record Courier, 2004) By 1900, most people understood the importance of not spreading germs through waste water leaching into the drinking water. Cholera epidemics were a common horrible memory that resulted in modern theories about antiseptics and cleanliness at the turn of the twentieth century. Providing a drinking fountain rather than having children use a community dipper in a large pot of well water cut down on the germs transmitted. Indoor toilet facilities, both in the first floor hall and the basement, also helped ensure that the waste water would be contained in a cistern away from the local wells. For many of the rural township students, the Mantua Center School provided a first experience with indoor toilets.

Mantua Township hired Cleveland architect, Paul T. Cahill to design the Mantua Center School which was projected to cost \$32,500 for the 12,000 square foot building. The contractor for the project was Loomis, Seymour and Co. (Speedometer, 1920, 7). The facility was not electrified when built, nor was natural gas piped in for wall sconces; in 1935 electricity was added in conduit on the surface of the cement walls. Until then, the school was lit by gas lanterns that hung from the ceiling. Paving bricks were transported to Mantua by horse and wagon from Smith's Crossing, about 16 miles straight north of the school on Auburn Road (Geauga County). Sandstone was likely procured from a nearby quarry – perhaps Twinsburg or Nelson—and probably not Hiram's quarry, which produced more reddish sandstone. The building housed three high school rooms and four grade rooms. Four years of high school were offered, and some students came from Mantua Station and Aurora because their local schools only offered three years of instruction. (Record Courier, 2004)

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When the new school opened in Mantua Center in October 1914, the students were in session at their previous school buildings in the village green a block to the south. With little fanfare, the students were instructed to pick up their belongings and walk across the street to the new building. (*Record Courier*, 1995)

One of the results of this movement toward centralization in Ohio was the establishment of the County School Office, becoming effective in 1914; this was just a few years after Portage County first turned its attention to centralization. Regularized curriculums (though Portage County fought against a state-standardized curriculum), teacher qualifications and salaries were subjects of oversight by the County office. In 1920, the Portage County Public Schools office reported the need to raise salaries of teachers to an acceptable level, suggesting \$1000 per year (*Speedometer*, 1920, 17) to enable the district to keep qualified teachers, rather than have to find temporary replacements partway through the school year who were not licensed.

As was the case with other rural townships, the centralized Mantua Center School became the social hub of the community. The most pleasant memories of those who attended the school attach themselves to memories of social events. Sarah Hurd wrote in the 1916 yearbook, "The school should be so located as to be a favorable 'social center,' a place where parents and children can meet to enjoy literary work, contests and school exhibitions. We should not forget that the social side of life is not to be neglected." (*Sextette*, 1916) Mantua Center School was so important socially to this community that at the dedication of the school in 1914, an original song, *Old Mantua*, was written by Principal Howard Framm, and sung by the school choir. A document with enrollment information found in the school attic showed 235 students ages 5 to 17 attended the school in 1927. (*Record Courier*, 2004)

In the 1910's, township school systems brought refined literary societies and poetry and art exhibits to a culture-starved countryside. They also formalized the study of agricultural practices, augmenting their studies with contests and prizes at the local agricultural fairs. The state of Ohio surveyed its school buildings to help balance inequities in health and sanitation practices, as well as library and personnel resources. These services benefited the community as a whole, as well as the student population. (Survey Commission)

Post World War II prosperity enjoyed nationwide affected Mantua Township as well. Large farms of the previous century were sub-divided into residential lots in new suburban development. Responding to a burgeoning population in the Post War era, state and local policy-makers strongly encouraged the consolidation of small township schools into larger, more efficient facilities. In 1948, when Mantua Township (including Mantua Center) consolidated with the rival Mantua Village schools, the Mantua Center School went from housing grades 1 through 12 to only grades 1 through 7. This was an emotionally charged consolidation because of long-standing basketball and football rivalries as well as a cultural difference between the families of the rural area and the more urban families of Mantua Station. The merger was encouraged by the Portage County superintendent for the economic health of the county school system; the Mantua Center School was more financially stable than the struggling Village school. (Hurd, 1) This consolidation caused a reorganization of grade levels; both the village and the center schools had housed grades 1-12, and after the consolidation the high school students (8-12) were educated in the Village school, while grades 1-7 were in the Mantua Center School. Population growth was sufficient to warrant the remodeling of an outbuilding at Mantua Center School into two classrooms for elementary students in 1949. (Hurd, 1)

In 1952, Shalersville Township schools joined the district, which then became known as the Mantua-Shalersville School District. By the mid-1950s, the construction of several residential developments on former farmland swelled the student population. These developments began with Aurora Meadows on Winchell Road, followed by Red Fox on State Route 303 in Shalersville, filling up with Cleveland commuters escaping to a more rural setting. Two mobile home parks, one in Mantua Township and one in Shalersville, also filled the school buildings to capacity. When a new high school was built in Mantua Village in 1956, the district was renamed Crestwood Local School District, after the local telephone exchange. Soon after the new high school was opened, a continued increase in student population resulted in the construction of a middle school to be built behind the high school. The Mantua Center School then became an elementary school, housing grades K through 4, as it remained until it was closed in 2004. Like schools throughout Ohio, Portage County townships restructured their division of grade levels to create separate units for varying teaching styles based on the age range, academic abilities, and emotional needs of the students.

In Mantua Center, the old Methodist Church building in Mantua Center on the green, now used as a Civic Center, was used for gym classes in the 1940's and 1950's (Hurd, 1-2). The danger of crossing a busy highway (St. Rt. 82), especially for elementary-aged students, caused the school district to reconsider its gym facilities. Also taking into consideration the

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ever-increasing numbers of students, an addition to the Mantua Center School was planned that would include a modern kitchen, gymnasium, and extra restrooms. Thus, the planning in 1963 for the last great population increase of the county resulted in the completion of an addition to Mantua Center School in 1964, the same year the Hiram School District added its students to the Crestwood District.

In 2004, the Mantua Center School building was closed and sold to the Mantua Township Trustees for \$147,500. The building continues in service to the community. Since 2004, community performances, local events and meetings have been held in the 1964 addition. Recently, the Township Trustees have utilized some of the office space of the 1914 building; an adaptive and compatible re-use of the building.

The Mantua Center School also qualifies for the National Register under Criteria C because of its architectural significance as a well-preserved, restrained example of the Neo-Classical Revival architectural style in an early twentieth century school. The most striking visual feature of the Mantua Center School, its prominent gable with pediment and pilasters, is a characteristic element of the Neo-Classical Revival style and reflects its status within this rural community. (McAlester, 343) The symmetry, classical elements and balance of the Neo-Classical style struck a chord with designers and the public as a fitting look and feel for public buildings, especially after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There, designers created a cohesive construction theme that featured white classical facades with arches, columns and pedimented gables. The sophistication of the design lent itself to educational, religious and governmental construction and was a popular design choice for decades to follow.

Other features found on the Mantua Center School reflect back to the Georgian style—fluted Doric pilasters, compass windows, oculus windows, transom windows, quoining, and a brick stringcourse. The flared brickwork over the windows on the façade is also a Georgian trait. While the polygonal cupola can be found on any of the classical types of architecture, the bell-shaped cap is most associated with the Georgian. The horizontal emphasis on the rectangular building with a hipped roof and the sweeping staircase up to a prominent entrance are also Georgian traits. The red brick contrasted with the white paint, especially in the pediment, is very effective in emphasizing the impressive gabled entrance.

Paris Township School, one of the five schools in Portage County from the 1905-1920 era still standing, also features a prominent classically inspired gable with a round arched doorway. This 1913 building built of yellow fire-brick would have been just as impressive to its rural township as the Mantua Center School; at present the Paris school is abandoned and deteriorating. (Figure #22, 32) Other schools in Portage County that were constructed in the same seven-year time period as Mantua Center School were mostly of a vernacular version of the international style; the plain box-like design stood in simple contrast to the fussiness of the Victorian era of architecture, perhaps signifying a simpler approach to education. The few embellishments on most of these plain buildings were undoubtedly also more economical to build. Most of the Portage County schools from the pre-1920 era, perhaps because of their unimpressive designs, have been demolished.

The architect that designed Mantua Center School, Paul Trester Cahill (March 3, 1888 to October 28, 1954) was no stranger to Portage County. He was born in Tennessee, but graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from nearby Hiram College in 1911. (See figure #41) He also completed an art degree from the Dayton School of Art. First taking a job as a teacher of mechanical drawing in the Dayton Stivers Manual Training High School, Cahill later trained as an architect in the Dayton firms of Schenk & Williams and with noted Dayton architect, Albert Pretzinger. He did further studies at Cornell College. (*Landmarks Commission*)

In January 1913, Cahill joined the Cleveland firm formerly known as Fountain & Moratz, replacing Mr. Fountain as a partner in A. F. Moratz & Co. (*Ohio Architect*, Feb. 1913, 53) By May 1913, Cahill had bought out his partner, and the firm became Paul T. Cahill. His offices were on the third floor of 1900 Euclid Avenue, at the tail end of the building boom on that street—world-famous Millionaire's Row. (*Ohio Architect*, May 1913, 60) From 1921-1923, he was a member of the firm Fulton, Taylor and Cahill, whose work before and after Cahill's tenure focused on school buildings. (*Landmarks Commission*) One school addition, the Rock Creek School in Ashtabula County, Ohio that was designed by the firm was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. (NR 05000023) The addition to the Rock Creek School (1924) resembles the Neo-Classical style exhibited by the Mantua School. By 1948, Cahill had removed to Fort Worth, Texas, where he continued to build schools until his death. (White Settlement High School)

The choice of Cahill as an architect may have been through an acquaintance in the area, since he had spent four years in nearby Hiram and designed the school in Hiram just the year before (Figure #23). Another selling point may have been his publication of an article in the March 1913 edition of *The Ohio Architect, Engineer and Builder* entitled "Lessons from the

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Flood." When discussing the architectural damage caused by the great flooding of Ohio that month, Cahill deplored the use of frame buildings for their vulnerability in times of flood or fire, and tried to persuade the state legislature to enact codes that forbade building projects in wood. Instead he praised the use of masonry and "good hard mortar in the walls." (*Ohio Architect*, March 1913, 16-17) Cahill's theories about effective construction techniques are exemplified in the Mantua Center School.

Cahill's choice of building style was perhaps influenced by his alma mater, Hiram College; though 'Old Main' had been remodeled in the 1880s with a Victorian roofline and façade, Hiram students were surely familiar with images of the Greek Revival building that symbolized academic life there for over thirty years. (Figure #24) The classical features of the Mantua Central School also echo the style of the older timber-framed buildings in Mantua Center, including the striking Town Hall and local churches and the residences that surround the school yard. (Figures # 8, 9, 25, 34-36) The overall balance, proportion and symmetry of the Neo-Classical school designed by Cahill reflected and complimented the nineteenth century Greek Revival architecture of the surrounding community.

Other buildings by Cahill include many schools, hospitals, and churches. Several residences are known to have been designed by Cahill, but for purposes of comparison his public buildings bear more resemblance. In 1913, Cahill designed the public school in Hiram, Ohio, in a style very unlike the Mantua one. Hiram's school has been torn down. His work took him all over the state, from Canton to New Philadelphia to Portage County to Shaker Heights and Lakewood to Middletown and Dayton. Interesting comparisons are his Brownhelm School and Avon School, both in Lorain County, built in 1922 and 1924. While the main blocks of the buildings are fairly plain, each of his doorways features a compass window in a round arch above a double door similar to those at Mantua. (Figures #27, 28) Cahill's 1921 school at Columbia Station also features a classical portico over the front door, and a Greek Revival gable with a keystone in a round arch. (Figure #29) These are obviously motifs he favored.

The Central Christian Church in nearby Warren (Trumbull County) from 1913 also features Neo-Classical details, including a 2-story porch with a full pediment and 4 columns across the front and a decidedly classically inspired doorway. (Figure #30) His other extant buildings reveal Tudor, Gothic Revival, and Georgian influences. Many of his subsequent buildings were a pastiche of decorative sections on plain rectangles, in contrast to the early design he created at Mantua Center, which seems to be more decisive, with an aesthetic sensibility that dominates the entire building. Mantua Center School, then, is a fitting building to note in the repertoire of a poorly remembered architect of the early twentieth century. (Figure #37)

The Mantua Center School is representative of widespread changes in education in Ohio, from centralization in the early twentieth century to consolidation in mid-century and expansion with increasing rural populations, therefore qualifying under Criteria A. It also qualifies for listing under Criteria C as a locally significant example of the Neo-Classical architectural style articulated in a small-town public school building.

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.85

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 479470 4573144 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination boundary includes parcel number P 14795, Lot 21 in Mantua Township. Refer to Survey Map-Figure #38

Boundary Justification

The boundary represents property historically associated with the Mantua Center School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine E. Borkan, Art Historian /Terri P. Vechery, and Linda K. Ehlert, Members
organization Hiram College / Mantua Historical Society date April 3, 2013
street & number 11118 Mantua Center Road telephone 330-274-0803
city or town Mantua state OH zip code 44255
e-mail borkance@hiram.edu / nicknlinda@att.net

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. (sent Sept 2012)
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Name of Property: Mantua Center School
City or Vicinity: Mantua
County: Portage
State: OH
Photographer: Christine E. Borkan
Date Photographed: September 2012, January 2013
Location of Original Digital Files: 1796 Wilton Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo #1: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0001)
South façade, camera facing north.

Photo #2: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0002)
South elevation (left), east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #3: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0003)
North elevation, camera facing southeast.

Photo #4: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0004)
North elevation central pavilion, camera facing south-southwest.

Photo #5: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0005)
West elevation (left), southwest corner, camera facing northeast.

Photo #6: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0006)
South elevation of addition (left), southwest corner (right), camera facing north-northeast.

Photo #7: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0007)
North entrance at connector to 1914 and 1964 buildings, camera facing southwest.

Photo #8: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0008)
Northwest corner, showing north elevation of addition (left) and west elevation of addition (right), camera facing southeast.

Photo #9: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0009)
Pavilion of façade, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo #10: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0010)
South elevation detail, pavilion pilaster and east wing, camera facing north.

Photo #11: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0011)
South elevation detail, portico over main doorway, camera facing north.

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Photo #12: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0012)
South elevation detail, knee wall east of front door, camera facing north east.

Photo #13: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0013)
South elevation detail, cupola, camera facing northwest.

Photo #14: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0014)
North elevation, detail of rear door east of central pavilion, camera facing south.

Photo #15: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0015)
West elevation, detail of foundation and quoining of southwest corner, camera facing south.

Photo #16: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0016)
West elevation, detail of first floor window, camera facing east.

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Interior, front foyer, camera facing southeast.

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Interior, east stairwell, camera facing north.

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Interior, east stairwell door, detail of window, camera facing south.

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Interior, west stairwell looking toward connector to addition, camera facing north.

Photo #26: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0026)
Interior, detail of wooden floor in office and tile floor in hall, camera facing northwest.

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Interior, detail of floor grate, east side of central first floor hall, camera facing west.

Photo #28: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0028)
Interior, detail of heating grate in first floor coat room, camera facing north.

Photo #29: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0029)
Interior, central first floor hall, detail of pilaster, camera facing north.

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Interior, west classroom first floor coat room, detail of hooks and heating grate, camera facing north.

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Interior, second floor west classroom coat room, camera facing west.

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Interior, second floor front classroom chalkboard, camera facing northwest.

Photo #33: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0033)
Interior, second floor west classroom, detail of glazed cabinet, camera facing south.

Photo #34: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0034)
Interior, second floor central classroom, glazed cabinet, camera facing southwest.

Photo #35: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0035)
Interior, west stairwell at first floor landing, detail of stenciling, camera facing north.

Photo #36: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0036)
Interior, first floor east classroom, camera facing northeast.

Photo #37: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0037)
Interior, first floor west classroom, camera facing northeast.

Photo #38: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0038)
Interior, second floor west classroom, camera facing southeast.

Photo #39: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0039)
Interior, second floor rear classroom, detail of coat area, camera facing north.

Photo #40: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0040)
Interior, west stairwell from basement, camera facing north.

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Photo #41: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0041)
Interior, basement east room, camera facing south.

Photo #42: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0042)
Interior, basement east wing, detail of boys restroom, camera facing northwest.

Photo #43: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0043)
Addition interior, hallway, camera facing east.

Photo #44: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0044)
Addition interior, front doors, camera facing south.

Photo #45: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0045)
Addition interior, hallway, camera facing west.

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Addition interior, hallway, camera facing east.

Photo #47: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0047)
Addition interior, kitchen, camera facing north.

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Addition interior, hallway, detail of steps joining two levels, camera facing east.

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Addition interior, girls' restroom, detail of widened entrance, camera facing north.

Photo #50: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0050)
Addition interior, boys' restroom, detail of urinals showing ADA compliance, camera facing east.

Photo #51: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0051)
Addition interior, boys' restroom, detail of ceiling with skylight, camera facing southeast.

Photo #52: (OH_Portage County_Mantua Center School_0052)
Addition interior, girls' restroom, detail of handicap stall, camera facing northwest.

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- Figure #25 Mantua Center Disciples of Christ Church, historic photograph
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- Figure #27 Brownhelm School doorway, Lorain County, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1922
(http://www.oldohioschools.com/portage_county.htm)
- Figure #28 Avon School, Lorain County, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1921
(http://www.oldohioschools.com/portage_county.htm)
- Figure #29 Columbia Township School, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1921
- Figure #30 Central Christian Church, Warren, Trumbull County, by Cahill in 1913
(Ireed's 76 photostream <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leonandloisphotos/1493550121/>)
- Figure #31 Mantua Township School description, 1920 *The Speedometer*
- Figure #32 Paris Township School, Portage County, 1920 *The Speedometer*
- Figure #33 Mantua Station (Village) School, Portage County, 1920 *The Speedometer*
- Figure #34 House on School Lane, Mantua Center, southwest of Mantua Center School
- Figure #35 House on Mantua Center Road, north of Mantua Center School
- Figure #36 House on School Lane, Mantua Center, southeast of Mantua Center School
- Figure #37 Mantua Center School, Historic Photograph, 1920 *The Speedometer*
- Figure #38 Boundary Map of Mantua Center School property
- Figure #39 Photo View Map with directional arrows
- Figure #40 Aerial View of Mantua Center School property, showing boundary lines
- Figure #41 Paul T. Cahill, 1911 senior photograph in Hiram College Yearbook

Property Owner: _____ (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mantua Township Board of Trustees
street & number 3989 Winchell Road telephone 330-995-2640
city or town Mantua state OH zip code 44255

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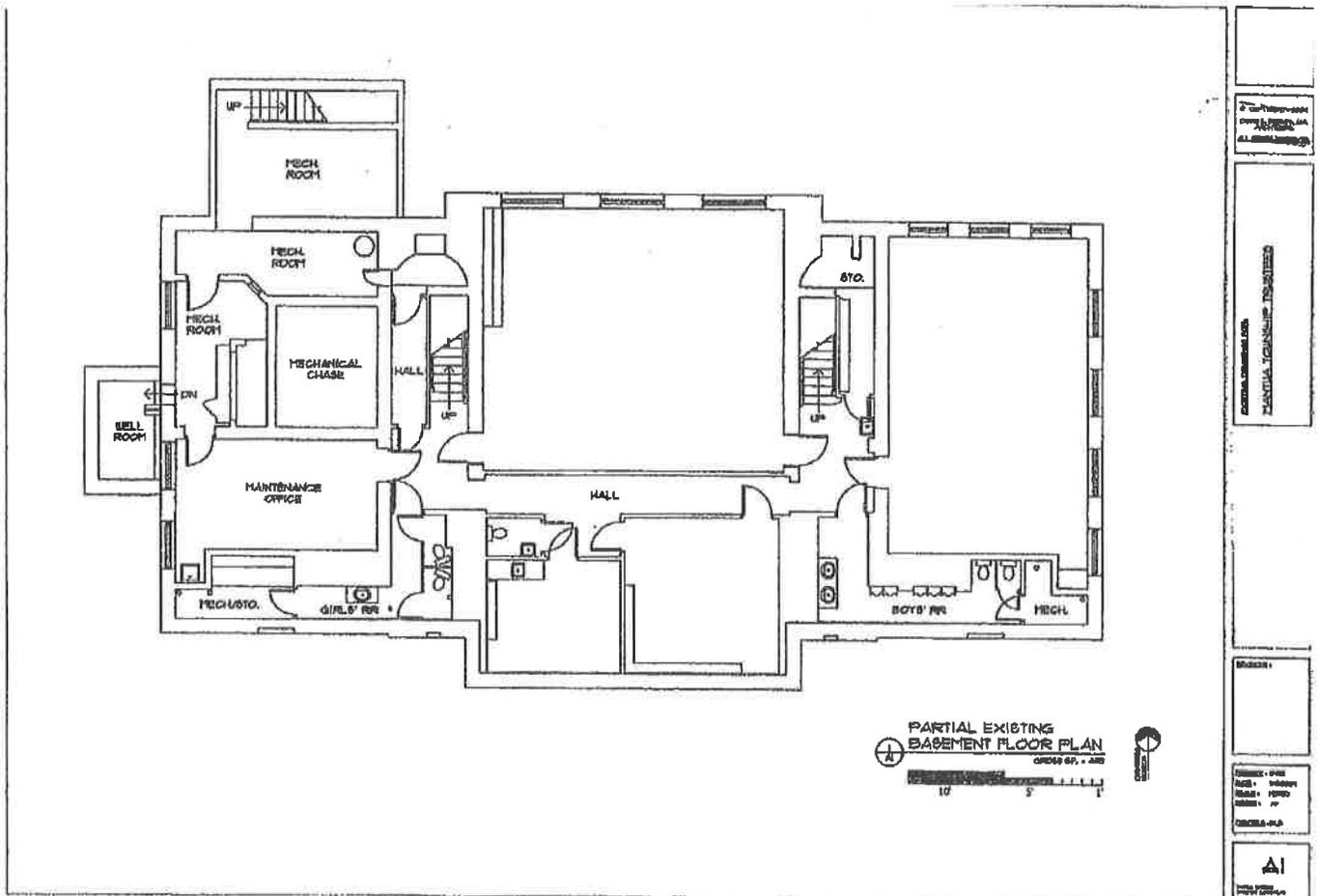


Figure #1 Floor Plan of 1914 Building, Basement

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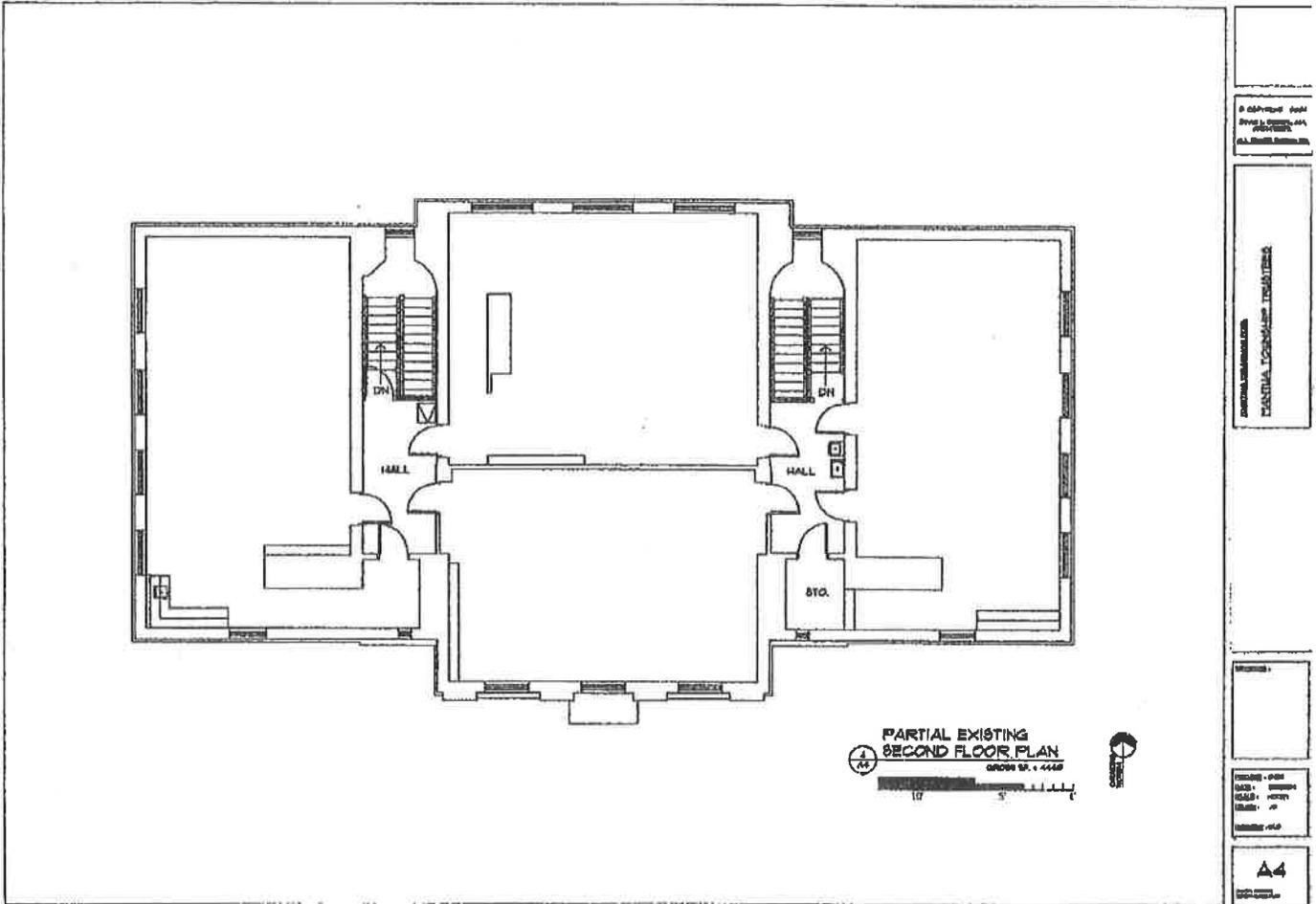


Figure #3 Floor Plan of 1914 Building, Second Floor

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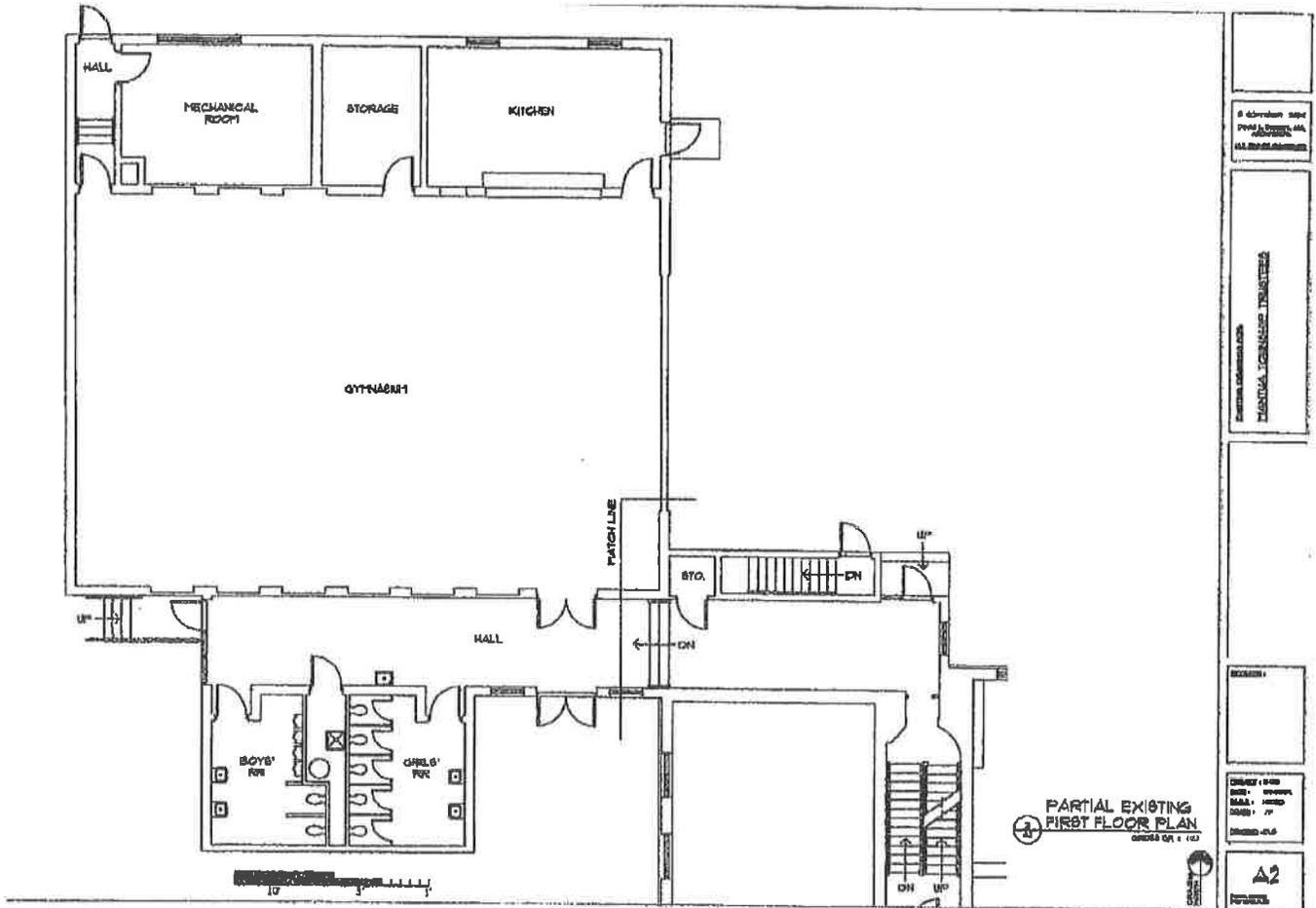


Figure #4 Floor Plan of 1964 Building, First Floor

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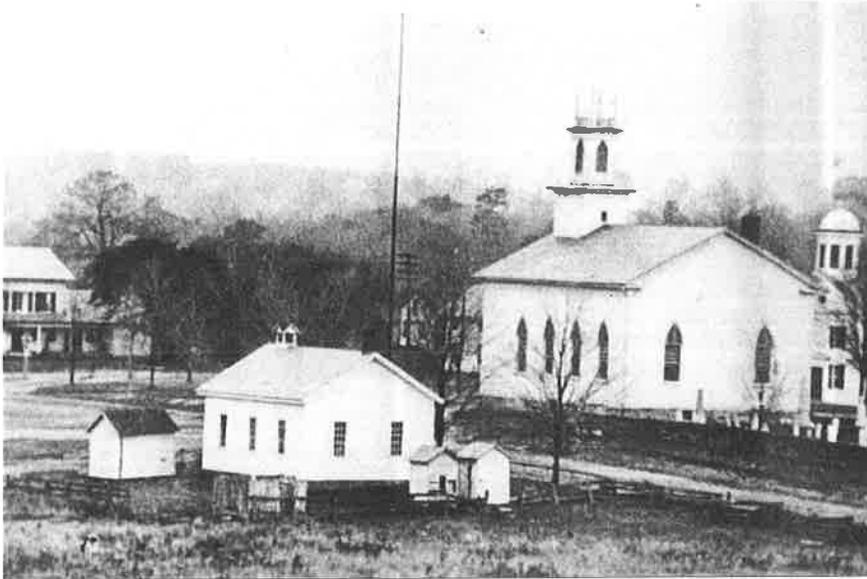


Figure #5 Historic Photograph of Mantua Center village green, Methodist Church and 1861 One-room schoolhouse, looking northeast

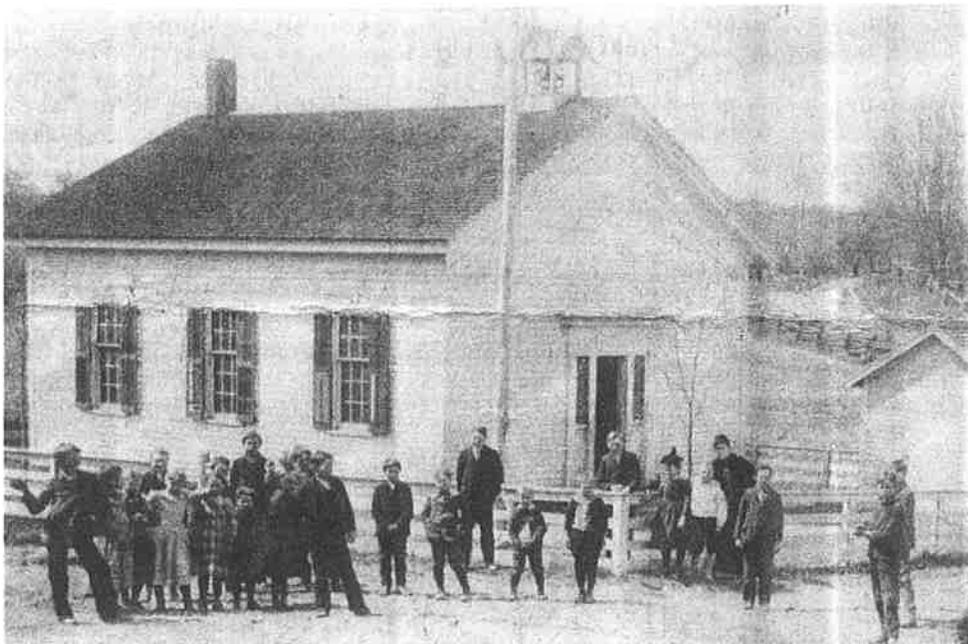


Figure #6 Historic photograph c.1870, Mantua Center One-room schoolhouse, looking southwest

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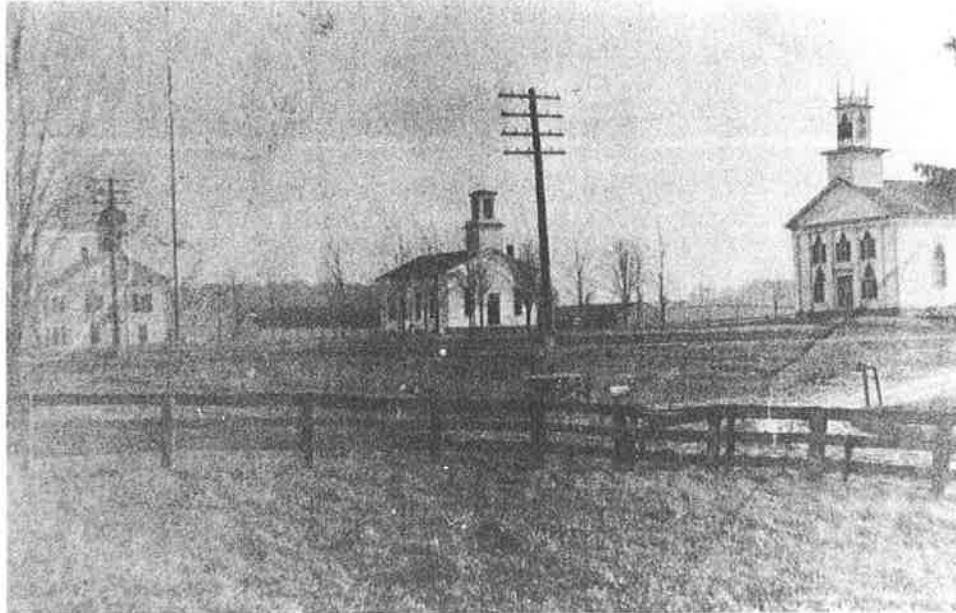


Figure #7 Historic photograph c. 1900, Mantua Center village green, looking southeast



Figure #8 Mantua Center Town Hall, looking northeast

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Figure #9 Historic photograph of Mantua Center Methodist Church, looking southwest

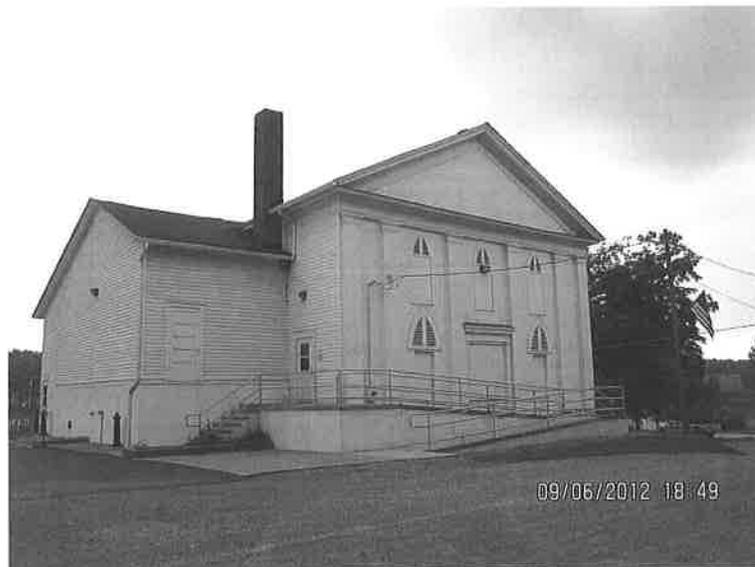


Figure #10 Mantua Center Community Center (former Methodist Church), looking southwest

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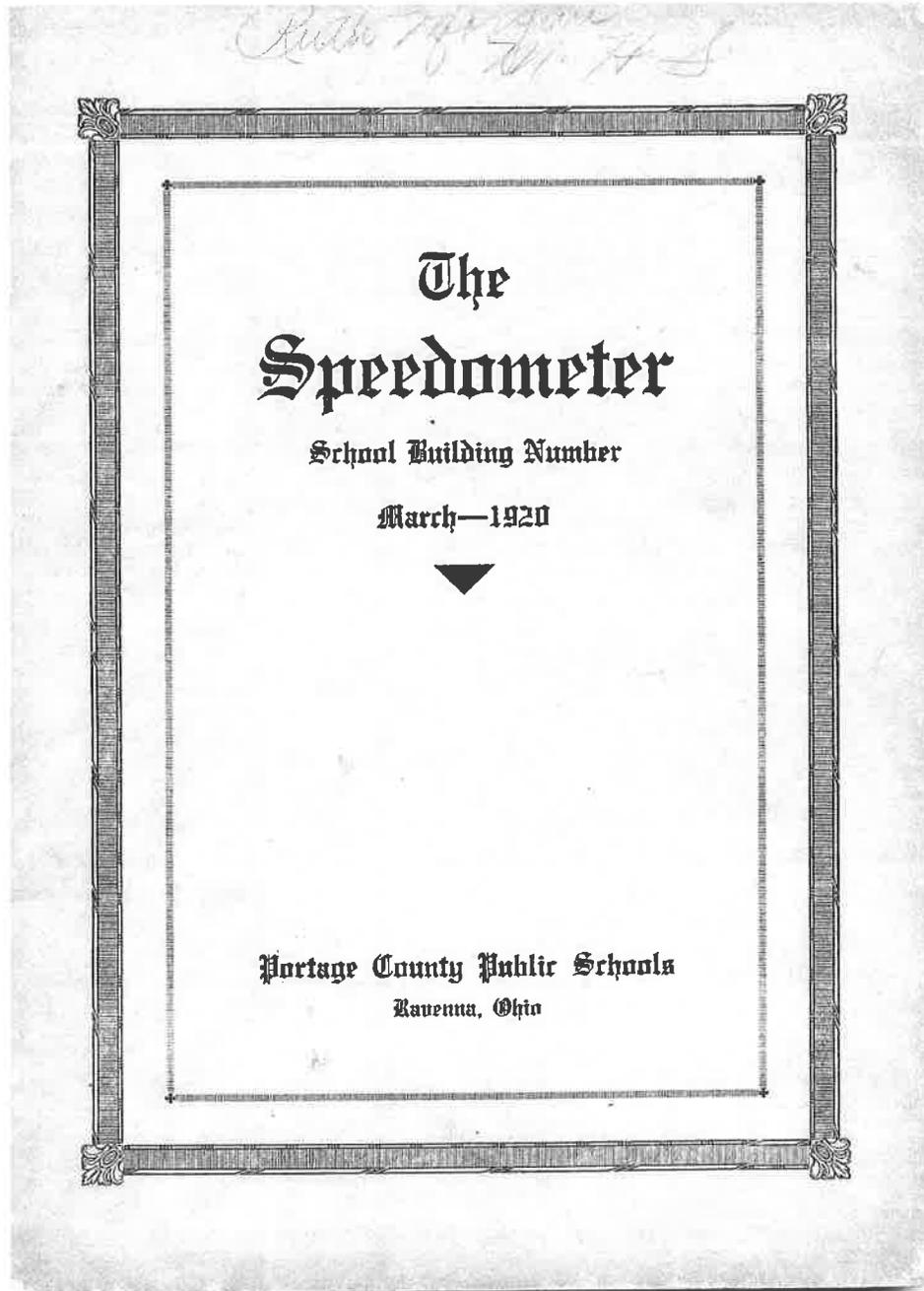


Figure #11 Cover of *The Speedometer*, 1920, Portage County Public Schools

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The Speedometer

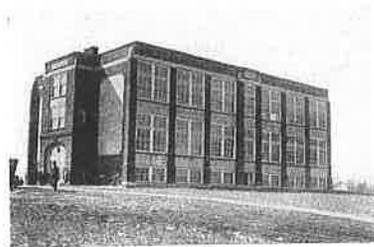
Types of School Buildings in Portage County



Atwater

Atwater. Built 1917—cost \$56,000—9 school rooms—office and library, rest-room, combined auditorium and play room, inside toilet and water system, electric lights and steam heat; enrollment, grade, 229; High School, 58.

Aurora. Built 1914—cost \$30,000—contractor, Roe and Siles—3 High School rooms, 4 grade rooms, 1 assembly room, Manual Training room, Domestic Science Room.



Aurora



Brimfield, No. 1

Brimfield. A typical one-room school in Brimfield township—Electors have just authorized a \$75,000 bond issue for new, up-to-date school plant.

Figure #12 The Speedometer, 1920, p. 4

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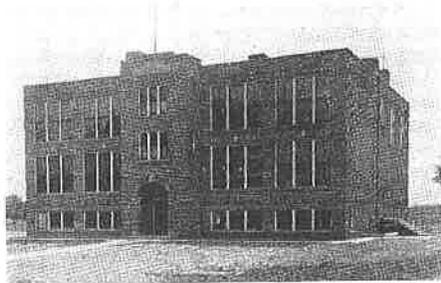
The Speedometer

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Charlestown. Built 1916—Cost \$25,000—Architects, Henry and Murphy, Akron—contractors, Porter Bros., Akron—electric lights, sanitary drinking fountains, indoor toilets, 4 grade rooms, 2 High School rooms, auditorium, office, library, play rooms.



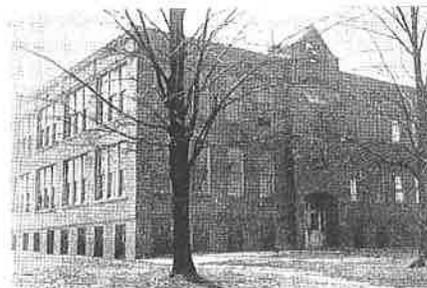
Charlestown



Deerfield

Deerfield. Bond issue of \$50,000 voted in 1919—a modern building to be erected in time for school next year—excavation completed and structure built to first floor.

Edinburg. Built 1916—cost \$30,000—Architects, Kling and Zeuk—Contractors, P. L. Frank Const. Co. library, 6 grade rooms, 2 High School rooms, Domestic Science room, auditorium and play rooms.



Edinburg

Figure #13 *The Speedometer*, 1920, p. 5

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The Speedometer



Franklin, (Earlville)

Franklin. Representative type of buildings in this township—a \$70,000 bond issue was voted in 1916—building not yet erected, but undoubtedly will be within the next year.



Freedom

Freedom. Built 1915—cost \$18,000—Architect, Chas. S. Prusley, Youngstown—Contractor, Fred Holblock—enrollment 142.



Garrettsville

Garrettsville. Primary building erected 1880—cost \$6,500—Grammar and High School building erected 1870—cost \$15,000—addition to latter building in 1890 cost \$10,000—4 grade rooms, 3 High School rooms, library, Domestic Science and Manual Training Rooms.

Figure #14 *The Speedometer*, 1920, p. 6

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The Speedometer

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Hiram. Built 1915—cost \$30,000—Contractors, Frank & Loomis—4 grade rooms, 2 High School rooms, Domestic Science room, office, rest room.



Hiram



Mantua Township

Mantua Township. Built 1914—cost \$32,500—Architect, Paul V. Cahill—Contractor, Loowis, Seymour and Co.—3 High School rooms, 4 grade rooms, office, rest room, gymnasium.

Mantua Village. 4 grade rooms, 3 High School rooms, office, and new 8th grade building erected 1918.



Mantua Village

Figure #15 *The Speedometer*, 1920, p. 7

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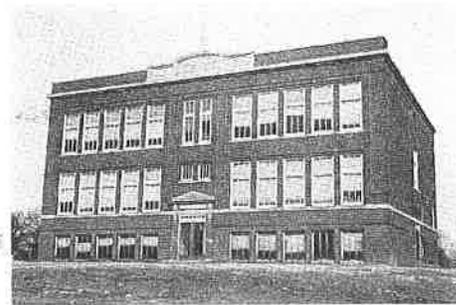
The Speedometer



Nelson

Nelson. Built 1914—cost \$80,000—Architect, Miller & Son, Youngstown, O.—Contractor, Adam De Bassio—3 High School rooms, 4 grade rooms, assembly, Manual Training, Domestic Science—enrollment 192.

Palmyra. Built 1917 cost \$32,000—Architect, W. A. Owen & Co.—6 class rooms, auditorium, library, play rooms, inside toilet and water system— enrollment 135 grades, 125 High School.



Palmyra



Paris

Paris. Erected 1913—cost \$13,000—one-story, four-room building—two rooms separated by folding doors and can be thrown together for auditorium—two rooms furnished in basement.

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Randolph. Type of school building used generally in Randolph Township—an \$80,000 bond issue to be submitted to voters on April 5.



Randolph



Randolph Center

Randolph Center. This building houses the township High School—enrollment, 31 High School pupils, 115 grade pupils.

Ravenna Township. Built 1914—cost \$36,000—6 grade rooms, 3 High School rooms, library, office, rest rooms, gymnasium and auditorium combined, Manual Training room, Domestic Science room, and Agriculture building erected in 1919.



Ravenna Township

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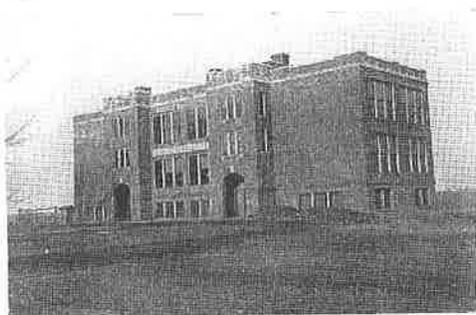
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The Speedometer



Rootstown

Rootstown. Built 1916—cost. \$36,000—5 grade rooms, 3 High School rooms, office, library, rest room, combined auditorium and gymnasium, Manual Training, and Domestic Science rooms.



Shalersville

Shalersville. 4 High School rooms, 4 grade rooms, Manual Training room, Domestic Science room—renovated and repaired 1916.



Streetsboro

Streetsboro. 4 grade rooms, 3 High School rooms, Manual Training, Domestic Science, office—repaired 1915.

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The Speedometer

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Suffield. A representative of one-room building still used in this township—no centralization campaign has as yet been undertaken in this township, but it is hoped an effort will soon be made to improve the school opportunities of the children who reside in this district.



Suffield, Log-Town School



Suffield Center

Suffield Center. The High School pupils of the entire township attend school in this building. They have to furnish their own means of transportation, consequently the enrollment is only 16. There are also two grade teachers in this building.

Windham. 4 grade rooms, 2 High School rooms, office, primary grade housed in one-room building on same campus.



Windham

Figure #19 *The Speedometer*, 1920, p. 11

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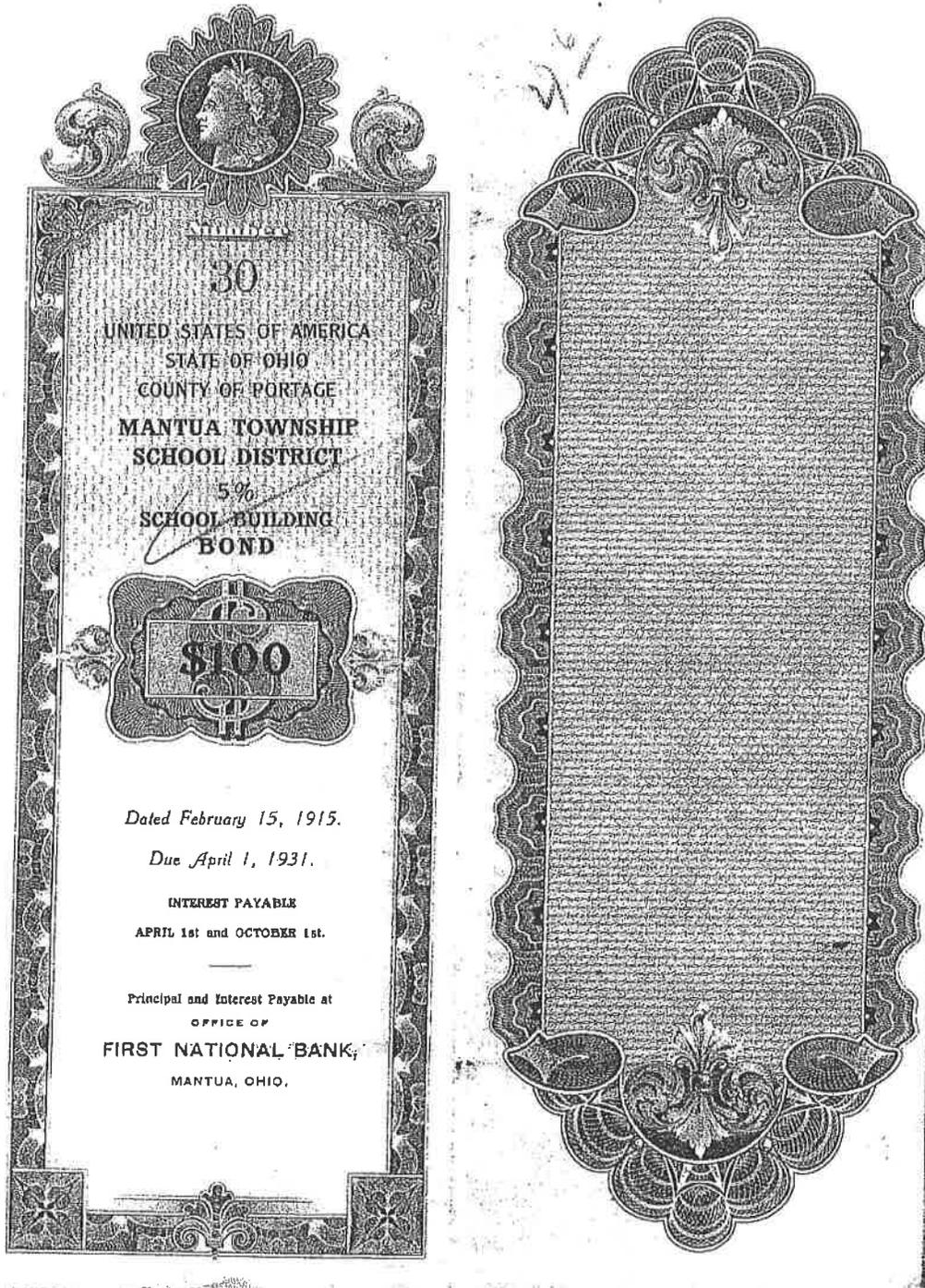


Figure #20 Mantua Township School District School Building Bond, \$100, 1915

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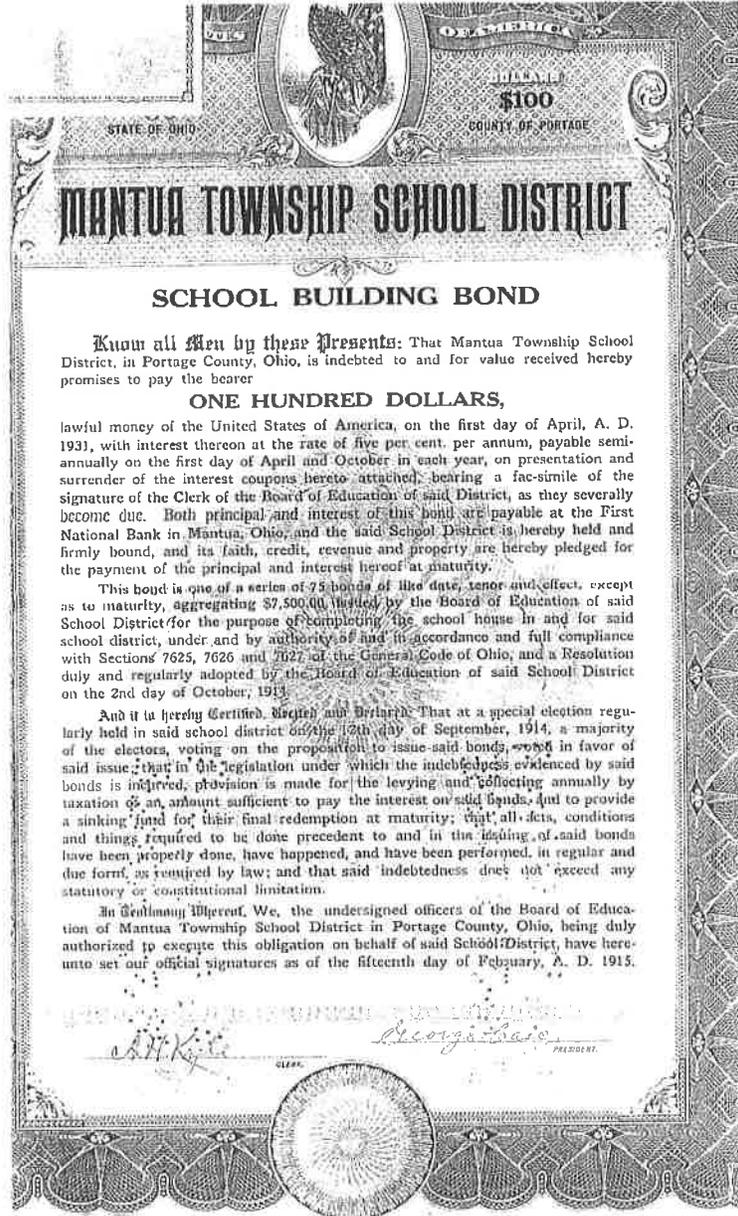


Figure #21 Mantua Township School District School Building Bond, reverse side

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Figure #22 Paris Township school, modern view (http://www.oldohioschools.com/portage_county.htm)

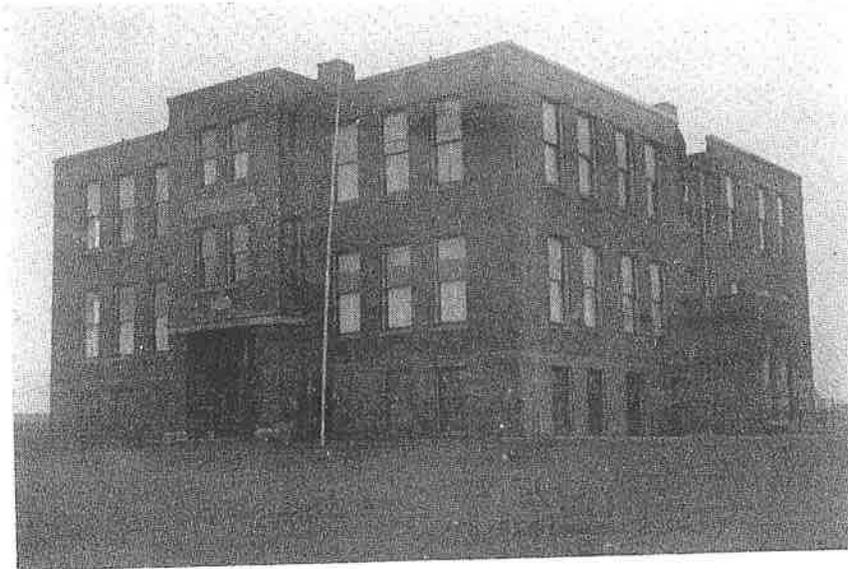


Figure # 23 Hiram Township school by Cahill, 1920 photograph

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Figure #24 Hiram Eclectic Institute, 1850's photograph, built 1850



Figure #25 Mantua Center Disciples of Christ Church, historic photograph

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Figure #26 Mantua Center Disciples of Christ Church, modern view



Figure #27 Brownhelm School doorway, Lorain County, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1922
(http://www.oldohioschools.com/portage_county.htm)

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Figure #28 Avon School, Lorain County, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1921
(http://www.oldohioschools.com/portage_county.htm)



Figure #29 Columbia Township School, by Fulton, Taylor and Cahill in 1921

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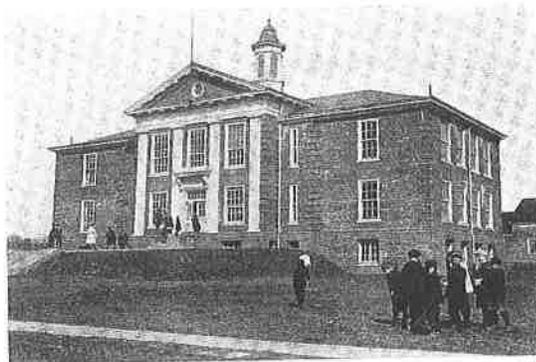
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Figure #30 Central Christian Church, Warren, Trumbull County, by Cahill in 1913
(Ireed's 76 photostream <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leonandloisphotos/1493550121/>)



Mantua Township

Mantua Township. Built 1914—cost \$32,500—
Architect, Paul V. Cahill—Contractor, Loowis, Sey-
mour and Co.—3 High School rooms, 4 grade
rooms, office, rest room, gymnasium.

Figure #31 Mantua Township School description, 1920 *The Speedometer*

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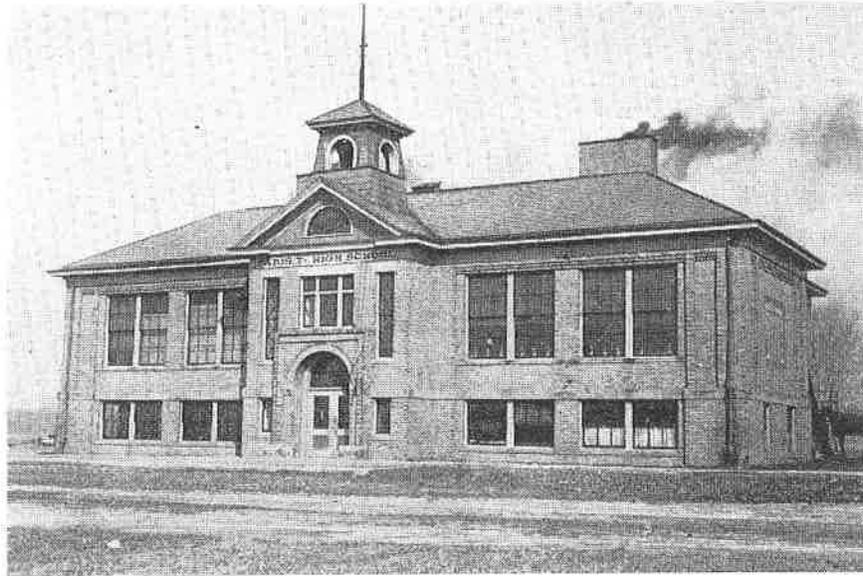


Figure #32 Paris Township School, Portage County, 1920 *The Speedometer*



Figure #33 Mantua Station (Village) School, Portage County, 1920 *The Speedometer*

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Figure #34 House on School Lane, Mantua Center, southwest of Mantua Center School



Figure #35 House on Mantua Center Road, north of Mantua Center School

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Figure #36 House on School Lane, Mantua Center, southeast of Mantua Center School

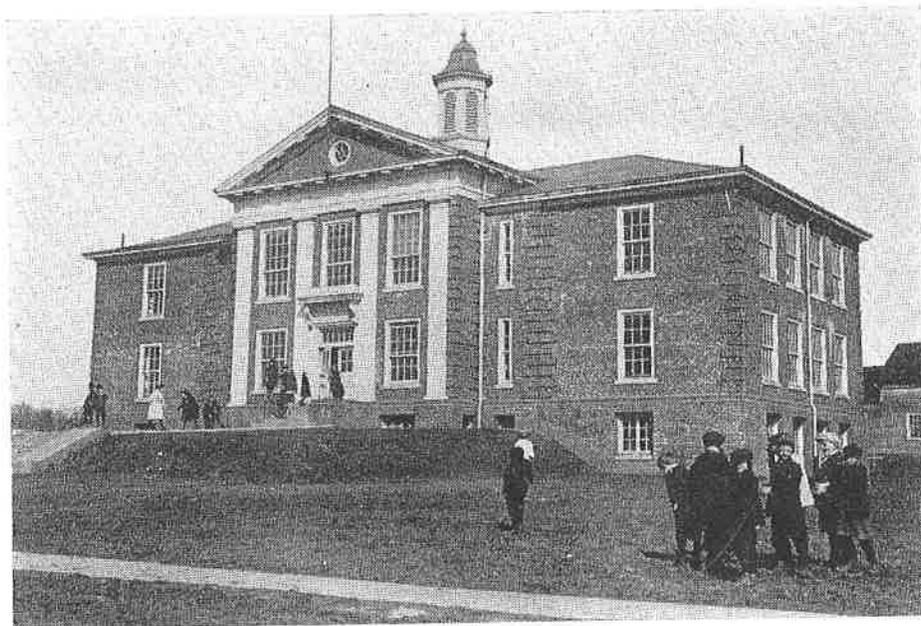


Figure #37 Mantua Center School, Historic Photograph, 1920 *The Speedometer*

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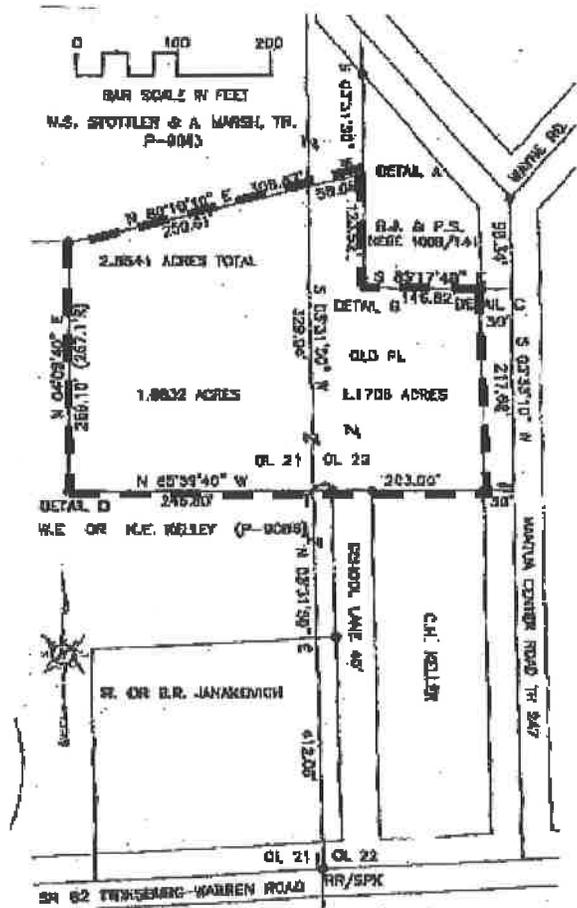
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Mantua Center School National Register nomination boundary



Portage County, Ohio

Figure #38 Survey Map showing Boundary Mantua Center School

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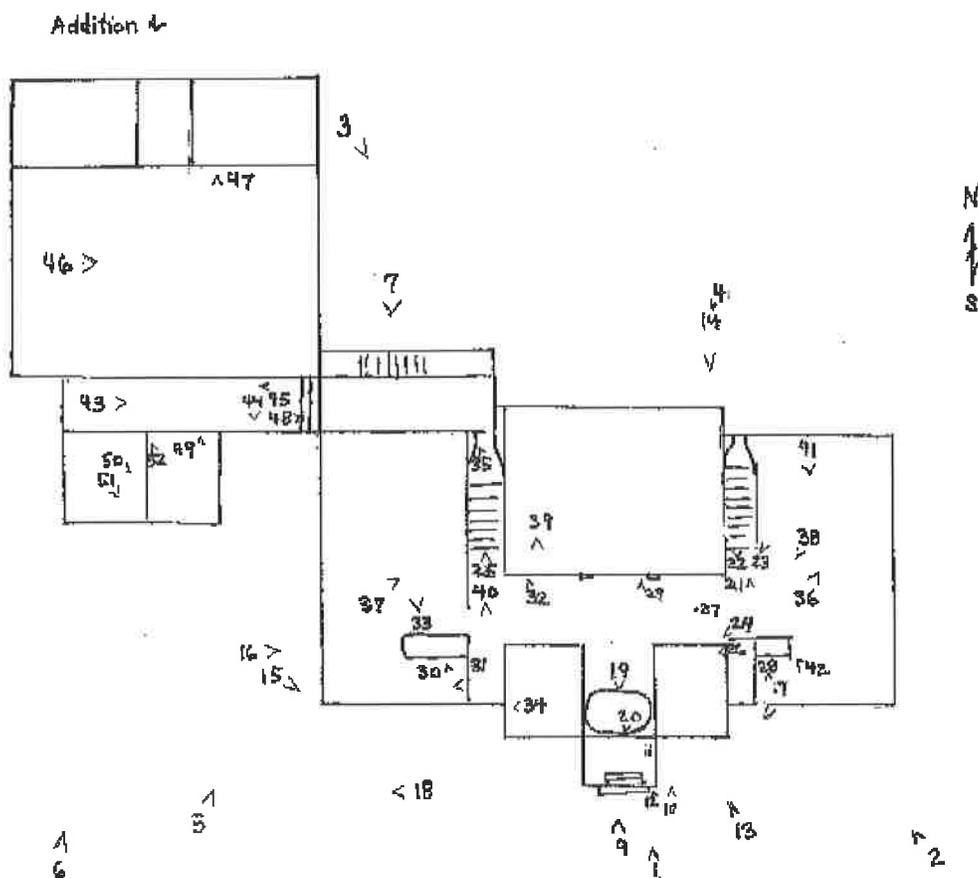


Figure #39 Photo View Map with directional arrows

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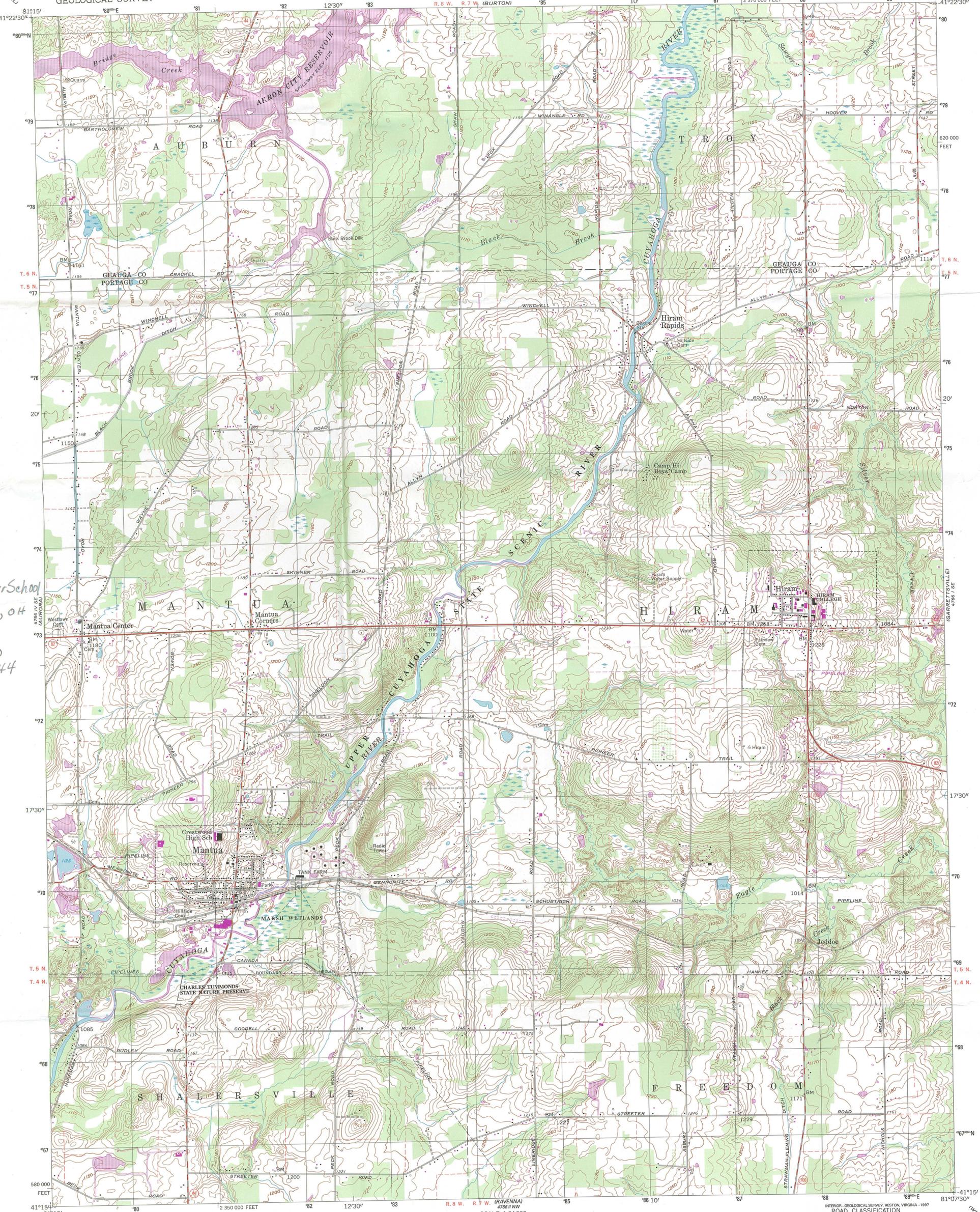
Figure #40 Aerial View of Mantua Center School property, showing boundary lines



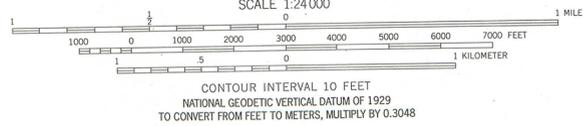
Figure #41 Paul T. Cahill, 1911 senior photograph in Hiram College Yearbook

Mantua Center School
Mantua
Portage Co., OH

UTM
17 479470
4573144



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1970. Photospected using imagery dated 1994; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1959. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1997.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Ohio coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic).
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17. North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MANTUA, OHIO

1994

NIMA 4766 1 SW—SERIES V852





MANTUA SCHOOL
A.D. 1914





NO TRESPASSING

12



09/04/2012 17:50



NO PARKING
FIRE
LANE
VIOLATION
FINE \$100

NO PARKING
FIRE
LANE
VIOLATION
FINE \$100







09/04/2012 19:54



09/06/2012 18:44



09/06/2012 18:45



MANTUA SCHOOL
A.D. 1914



NO TRESPASSING





S
C
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19
100
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NO
TRESPASSING
VIOLATORS PROSECUTED

NO
PARKING
FIRE
LANE
BY ORDER OF
FIRE CHIEF



09/04/2012 19:16



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09/04/2012 18:32



EXIT

09/04/2012 19:11



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09/04/2012 18:29



09/04/2012 18:26



09/04/2012 19:07



09/04/2012 18:37



09/04/2012 18:46

In memory of Mrs. Vochus,
the greatest teacher that
we lived! Thank you
for the confidence.

Ben
Bryant!!

Amen!
RA

LSVP

Sam was
here

mm
U
K
W
H

Scott was
here

Og

W

09/04/2012 18:54



09/04/2012 18:48



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09/04/2012 18:43



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Chris James & Paige Alessio

There
was
here

09/04/2012 18:38



09/04/2012 18:59



09/04/2012 18:58



09/04/2012 18:08



Aluma 3
Poly



09/04/2012 18:14



09/04/2012 17:45

EXIT

PULL DOWN FOR
FIRE
ALARM

09/04/2012 17:46



EXIT

09/04/2012 17:41



09/04/2012 17:51



09/04/2012 17:50



09/04/2012 17:53



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