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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.

RECEIVED 2280
JUL - 9 2014
NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Glen Carbon Grade School

Other names/site number: Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 124 School Street

City or town: Glen Carbon State: Illinois County: Madison

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X**A** ___**B** ___**C** ___**D**

DSHPO	07/03/14
Signature of certifying official/Title:	**Date**
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency	
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:) _____

for Edson N. Beall 8.25.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	1	structures
0	1	objects
1	2	Total

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.)

Recreation & Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Victorian/Late 19th and 20th Century Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Glen Carbon Grade School is located in a residential neighborhood in Glen Carbon, a village of about 13,000 in Madison County, Illinois. The two-story red brick building with limestone trim was designed by John William Kennedy in 1914, and while it does not reflect one particular style, the round arched windows and arched entryway are characteristic of Romanesque Revival architecture. The building has a rectangular footprint and limestone foundation.

Narrative Description

Setting

The property is located on approximately 1 acre of ground in the Village of Glen Carbon in what is now called "Old Town". During the time when the building was used as a school, it was in the heart of the village, sitting high atop a hill with residential dwellings surrounding it. The building faces north, and has a small parking area off of the street before the sidewalk. The school is set back about thirty feet from the street. A green wrought-iron fence is located by the sidewalk; the gate is in front of the walkway to the building's entrance. Just to the north of the building is a native plant flower garden and a lone apple tree that is estimated to be over 50 years in age. The rear of the building has an additional parking lot with handicapped access, with an outdoor exhibit from the

mining days of the village and a new picnic pavilion with electric available and a large green space used for outdoor activities throughout the year. The exhibit and pavilion are noncontributing feautures.

General Characteristics

The school has a flat roof with a brick parapet and stone coping. An entablature is created by two rows of belt courses, with header brick panels with stone corners in the frieze. The front elevation is divided into three units: the central unit is a projecting tower, flanked by an identical three bay unit on either side. The tower, the most prominent feature, is topped by a triangular pediment with a stone coping roof. Decorative brick work laid in the shape of a diamond with stone corners is centrally located beneath the peak. Beneath the belt courses is a stone plaque outlined with header brick, with the inscription "Glen Carbon School." Paired, round-arched one-over-one wood sash windows are inset in the tower beneath the plaque; they have wide brick arches and stone keystones, imposts, and one continuous sill. The entrance is also adorned by a wide brick arch with stone imposts and a stone keystone. The double-doors are glazed with two panels and are topped by a fanlight with radiating spokes.

The units on either side of tower have eight-over one windows on the first and second floors and basement levels. The windows are grouped in threes and are directly above one another. All of them have continuous rusticated stone lintels; the first and second floor windows have continuous smooth stone sills.

The east and west elevations are identical; both are divided into four bays with evenly spaced windows on each floor. All of the windows have rusticated stone lintels; the first and second floor windows have smooth stone sills.

The south elevation of the original school is brick and has a rusticated concrete block addition on the east side that measures approximately 35 feet long by eight feet wide. The addition has a mansard roof and a shed roof over the small tower on the west corner. The entrance has double glazed doors and is located in the addition; the wall surface around the entrance, measuring approximately twenty feet long by eight feet high, is faced in brick. Directly above the entrance on both the first and second floors are paired windows.

Interior

The interior configuration contains two on each floor, measuring 25' x 35', connected by a central hallway. The three levels are serviced by an expansive native oak series of switchback staircases and landings. The classroom and hallway interiors have plaster walls and wood moldings. The four classrooms on the first and second floors have the original hardwood floors and pressed tin ceilings. The two rooms in the basement level of the building were originally used for a cafeteria and gymnasium. They are now the administration office, storage room and a public meeting room. The storage room has the original stone and brick foundation walls, concrete floor and although doors have been added, the remnants of the brick arch doorway are still visible. The public meeting room has been dry-walled, and painted and the floor tiled. Both rooms have pressed tin ceilings. The interior lower level hallway and administration office has a drop-tile ceiling added to hide the heating and cooling ductwork.

In 1997 an addition was built to contain the two-story elevator and emergency stairwell at the rear of the building. Openings were made at the end of the first and second floor hallways to provide access to the emergency exits. The elevator shaft is located on the west side of the alcove and the stairway is on the east side.

Integrity

Glen Carbon Grade School has excellent integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The school has maintained its original windows, hardwood floors, pressed tin ceilings, staircases, interior and exterior

finishes and room divisions. Minor noticeable changes to the building and surrounding grounds from its days as an educational center was the removal of the third floor fire escape tubes, the brick front yard and playground equipment, the outhouses, the secondary building, and picket fence. The picket fence was replaced in front of the building with historic wrought-iron fencing salvaged form a church and the grounds from the secondary building were turned into gardens. The brick play yard was returned to a green space. Although the fire escape tubes were removed, one set of the interior escape doors were saved to serve as a permanent exhibit within the museum.

Heating and air-conditioning was added and upgraded in 1994 in order to make it climate controlled for the artifacts of the museum. Since the building has been in constant use since its inception, the addition with the staircase and elevator was added in order to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for public buildings. Great effort was taken to disturb as little of the original façade of the building as possible, as the village felt it important to keep the historical values of the building intact. The alcove created between the elevator and stairway is used for additional exhibit space.

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. [x] 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 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

B. [ ] Removed from its original location

C. [ ] Birthplace or grave

D. [ ] Cemetery

E. [ ] 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
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education

Period of Significance
1914 – 1954

Significant Dates
1914

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder

John William Kennedy, Architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Glen Carbon Grade School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the educational history of the community. The locally significant school was erected at a time in the region considered to be an educational renaissance for the immigrant populations of the local area. The building is similar in style and construction to many regional school buildings built during the early 1900s. The period of significance is from 1914, the year the school was built, until 1954, when a new school was erected and this building was sold to the Village of Glen Carbon.

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

Public Education in Illinois

The following was quoted from the Butler School National Register Nomination form

> The Illinois legislature passed a free public school law in 1825. The law provided for the taxation of property for educational purposes and would have almost assured free public education far in advance of other Midwestern states, but protests against the law were so overwhelming that the next legislature repealed the law ending free public school education in Illinois for many years.
>
> In 1830 Illinois legislature began chartering private subscription schools to individuals, joint stock companies, and religious organizations. By 1848, the legislature had issued over 125 charters. The promoting of free public schools began also in the Midwest's towns and cities among college educators, businessmen, and journalists such as John Wright, founder of the PRAIRIE FARMER. These reformers believed the free public schools would "Preserve liberty and through education, eliminate crime and poverty, and lift men to their own standards of conduct." Because of their support, Illinois passed the Educational Law of 1841 which created township trustees to oversee all property in the township including Section 16; allowed associations of inhabitants to acquire land, build schools, and appoint three of their own trustees to run the schools; and appoint County School Commissioners to sell school lands and apply their sale and township funds for the support of schools.
>
> Continued financial support of schools was established by the Educational Law of 1845 that allowed the people of Illinois to tax themselves if two-thirds of the legal voters of the school districts supported it. The tax could not exceed fifteen cents of one hundred dollars assessed valuation. The law also made the Secretary of State ex-officio County School Superintendents requiring them to visit and supervise schools, examine teachers, and issue teaching certificates. In 1847 the two-thirds vote was lowered to a simple majority of all property qualified voters.

Illinois passed the law to provide a system for free public schools in 1855 and in 1870, the state constitution cited it was the General Assembly's responsibility to provide such a system where all

Illinois children would get a decent education. The same constitution created local school boards. Laws requiring children to attend school did not pass until 1883, but these were not strictly adhered to until after World War II.

The following was quoted from the Historic Structure Report: East Waterford School, Waterford Township, Fulton County, Illinois

> Rural schoolhouse design did not change appreciably until the first decades of the twentieth century. During this period, educators and social scientists began to call the public's attention to the poor conditions school children often were exposed to, or labored under, while at school. Problems commonly cited included poor interior lighting and ventilation, inadequate heating, unhealthy water supply, and an unsanitary environment in the classroom and outside of it. Additional concerns revolved around school furnishings and equipment, which often were either antiquated or insufficient. Many schools, for instance, were equipped with old desks that were not adjustable and could be very uncomfortable for the student. Likewise, the content and size of the school libraries varied widely and were wholly inadequate in some instances (Pruitt 1908:1, 1910:9; Van Dorn 1904:1).
>
> Characterizing the school buildings she visited, Grote noted that, "The average age of the school buildings was thirty-six years. This very fact goes to show that the school architecture belongs to a former generation, some of it to the generation of our grandfathers." Twenty of the schools she visited were over fifty years old, with five of these being more than sixty years old. Only six of the schools surveyed had been built within the past decade, and only three of these were "modern in construction." In respect to building materials, sixty-six of the schools were of frame construction, ten were of brick, one was stone, and one was concrete. Natural light was the principal light source for the schools, although forty-five of the schools also had "from one to nine oil lamps, poorly cared for and giving evidence of very little use." The heat source used in the schools varied considerably and tended to be antiquated. Twenty schools had unjacketed "old fashioned" stoves sitting in the middle of the classroom, ten had jacketed stoves, forty-two had jacketed heaters, and six schools had hot-air furnaces without fans. Grote was amazed to find nine schools without any on-site water source of any kind. The majority (n=66) had wells, while another four had cisterns. She noted that some of the wells were dangerously positioned within close proximity to privy or a stable (Illinois State Teachers Association 1917:295-310).
>
> The most vigorous proponent of improved, standardized rural schools was Francis G. Blair, who was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1906 and served successive terms into the 1930s (Dunne 1933:13). Blair found it inexcusable that rural schools in Illinois could be in such a deplorable state during a period of unparalleled agricultural prosperity. Property values were rising, and farms were being rapidly improved with new homes and outbuildings. Yet, virtually nothing was being done to improve existing schools or build modem ones. Blair pointed out this disparity in a 1908 letter to district school directors. In this letter, he took the directors to task, asking them whether they ought to be proud or ashamed of the condition of their school buildings:
>
> > Your homes are furnished with modem conveniences, your farms supplied with

> modem machines and appliances. Are you still asking the teacher to cultivate the ground of your children's minds with a pedagogical diamond plow and harvests their intellectual crops with a reaping hook? Or, is you school supplied with modem apparatus, with the best books and with the suitable seats and desk? Is it property heated, lighted and ventilated? Are its walls decorated and hung with good pictures? Has it a library? In short, is it a decent, wholesome, comfortable place for your children to live and work in for five days of each week for more than six months of each year? If it is, may the blessings of all the gods of childhood and education rest upon you. But, if the building, fence and out-houses are old, disreputable and unsightly; if they are a menace to the health, the decency and the morals of your children; if the shades are tom or missing, the desks antiquated, broken, carved, and unfit; if the heating is bad and the ventilation , worse; if the whole thing is a cheerless, repulsive, old shell, upon you and you alone must rest the blame. And there is nothing side of high heaven that can deliver you in that day of judgment when you must stand and give account of your stewardship and show why, knowingly or ignorantly, you deprived the children of their legal and just rights (Pruitt 1908: 1).

Blair established a number of general, common-sense criteria for what he considered to be "standard one-room school." These included improved natural lighting to the *left* of the student, improved ventilation on the interior of the building, a reliable heat source with a protective jacket, adjustable desks, a safe water supply whose delivery was not dependent upon the common drinking cup, and well-maintained buildings and grounds. Blair's standard school criteria were given legal authority through a school law approved by the state legislature on July 1, 1915. This law directed the State Superintendent to "prepare with the advice of the State Board of Health, the State Architect and the State Fire Marshall, for school directors and boards of education specifications for the minimum requirements for the heating, ventilation, lighting, seating, water supply, toilets, and safety against fire which will conserve the health and safety of the children attending the public schools." All new schools erected after the law's passage were to have the minimum requirements, while existing schools were given until March 1, 1917 to make any necessary improvements to bring them up to code. School districts failing to comply with the law were to have their state disbursement funds withheld until such time that they did comply (Illinois General Assembly 1915:637-639; Pruitt 1915:7-8).

In many instances school districts were able to comply with the 1915 school law by making a number of modifications to their older school buildings. One of the most common modifications was the enlargement of existing windows openings or the addition of new windows to increase the volume of natural light on the interior of the building (Figure 3 and 4). Another improvement that was required for older schools was the installation of a ventilation system to better circulate heat and reduce the level of carbon monoxide in the schoolroom. This typically involved the addition of a second flue (usually positioned close to the chimney, or smoke flue) that drew the warm, fouled air out of the building and allowed fresh air to be brought in (Figure 5). The Smith ventilation system was particularly popular with school districts, though it did have competition from the "Waterbury," "Hero," and "Quaker" systems (Illinois State Teachers Association 1917:301; Pruitt 1912: 10).

Schools that were particularly outmoded or deteriorated were replaced with new buildings. The directors of school districts could tum to a number of sources to find representative examples of modem rural schools. One of these was *One Room and Consolidated Country Schools of Illinois,* a circular that was published by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Office. One of the floor plans in the 1916 circular provided for a classroom that measured 32'x23'-6", had a heating/ventilation system at the rear of the room, and windows located to the left and to the rear of the students. The school also provided a vestibule, separate boys' and girls' coat rooms, a library/study, and a fuel room (Blair 1916) (Figure 6). This same floor plan was reprinted in a subsequent circular published by the State Superintendent that was entitled *Standard Elementary Schools, Illinois 1920* (Blair 1920:72). A more substantial school building was promoted in the 1912 publication *Radford's Brick Houses* under the title "Modern Rural School." The Radford school was a single-story, Tudor-Revival style building with a raised basement that featured two classrooms on its main floor and separate boys and girls play rooms and bathrooms on the basement level. A central heating plant also was located on the basement level. The classrooms on the main floor were ringed with windows on two of their three exterior walls (Radford 1909:203).

The History of Glen Carbon

From ***A Tale of Two Cities: The Best of Times, the Worst of Times. Inequality in St. Louis' Metro-East.*** *Wendy Shaw, Department of Geography, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville*

…Glen Carbon, then known as the Goshen settlement, was a productive farming community that had first been settled by Colonel Samuel Judy in the first decade of the nineteenth century (Village of Glen Carbon and Goshen Preservation Alliance 1985). Part of the Goshen settlement was later organized as a 'village' in 1892 with the establishment of coal mines (Raffaelle 1973; Village of Glen Carbon 1984)….Seven veins of coal that ran beneath Glen Carbon transformed a relatively scattered agricultural community into a thriving coal mining town (Smith and Miles 1989; Norrish 1991; Cedeck et al 1992)…..Glen Carbon had no administrative function but was the hub of a rich agricultural region. The village was also involved in brewing, brick manufacturing, and mining based on a rich vein of bituminous coal. Coal mine number one was sunk in 1889, and an additional two mines were opened in subsequent years (Village of Glen Carbon 1984; Village of Glen Carbon and Goshen Preservation Society 1985; Cedeck et al 1992). … In 1892 the population of Glen Carbon was 400.

The industry that came to Glen Carbon-Edwardsville was involved in the development of housing in the cities. Madison County Coal Corporation platted much of the land in Glen Carbon and another major land-holder was St. Louis Press Brick Co. These companies held the enlightened philosophy that workers should have the quality of housing and amenities necessary to enjoy a good life. The concept was that content workers would be loyal and productive, and the company houses that were built provided comfortable homes (Raffaelle 1973; Village of Glen Carbon and Goshen Preservation Alliance 1985; Norrish 1988; Cedeck et al 1992)....Glen Carbon likewise

established a village board of trustees in 1892 (Raffaelle 1973; Village of Glen Carbon and Goshen Preservation Alliance 1985; Norrish 1991). Glen Carbon in particular established strict control by instituting a corporation tax in the form of a dram shop license in 1910. The fees collected from saloons gave a measure of fiscal stability to Glen Carbon contributing well over eighty percent of village income around the turn of the century (Raffaelle 1973; Cedeck et al 1992).

The depression era did bring changes to Glen Carbon-Edwardsville but they came slowly and even during the lean years population continued to grow (Smith and Miles 1989; Nore and Norrish 1996). Many businesses survived the Depression but the last of the Madison County coal mines that had thrived in the first two decades of the century closed in 1934.

[After the Depression, Edwardsville and Glen Carbon…] began to emerge as residential suburban communities catering to the more affluent of the area. A private lake and surrounding subdivision was developed beginning in 1939 by O.T. Dunlap and several other subdivisions were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Residents of Glen-Carbon-Edwardsville began to commute to work in close-by communities such as Granite City, Alton, Wood River, and even St. Louis… As Glen Carbon- Edwardsville entered the 1960s they were already a community on track to become a residential and service center as construction of subdivisions and the first shopping center went on apace (Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission 1970; Village of Glen Carbon 1984; Smith and Miles 1989; Cedeck et al 1992; Nore and Norrish 1996).

Glen Carbon Public Schools

At the time Glen Carbon was incorporated there was a brick one-room schoolhouse, built in 1891, which serviced the community. Within a few short years the schoolhouse, which and measured 80 by 40 feet, proved inadequate and a four-room frame building was also erected next door.

The student population in Glen Carbon continued to grow. In March 1913, the citizens of Glen Carbon passed a referendum to issue $7,500 in bonds to build a new two-story brick school. The old brick school building was razed and replaced with a new larger four-classroom brick building with a basement. The school was designed by John William Kennedy of Collinsville, Illinois. Kennedy, whose office relocated to East St. Louis, had also designed other schools in southern Illinois. While the new school was built before the 1915 school law, it was apparent that the design took into account the concerns of the day regarding adequate ventilation, light, heat, and play areas in public schools.

Glen Carbon School was in District 83, part of the Edwardsville School District. There were two other small schools in the vicinity – Smola and Acme. Smola School served the Peter's Station area west of town, and Acme School served the Glen Crossing/Goshen area which was south east of town, but Glen Carbon School was the main school in the village. The school offered education through the eighth grade. Many of the students were children of the town's coal miners, and came from diverse ethnic backgrounds:

> In 1899, the nationalities of the miners in the coal mines of the area reads like the United Nations; 485 Americans, 32 Welsh, 79 Austrian/Bohemian, 63 Russians, 87 English, 226 German, 8 Hungarian, 20 Scots, 21 French, 66 Poles, 72 Irish, 124 Italian, 12 Belgian.

> The Village of Glen Carbon was home to people of each of these origins. Ethnic groups in Glen Carbon often formed their own social organizations, and in some instances clustered together in their own neighborhoods. Villagers called the area of Park, Summit, and Austin Streets "Little Italy." Residents there prized their vineyards where they grew grapes for their homemade wine. Bohemians tended to settle in the Glen Crossing area. (Glen Carbon Centennial History Book, Glen Carbon, IL, 1992.)

The miners in turn were invested in the school and contributed to school functions.

Students from the village who wished to further their education went to Edwardsville, the county seat, to take the final examination. They would need to attend high school in neighboring Edwardsville and until 1934 there was no school transportation, so they had to find their own means to get there.

The school still used the four-room frame building; between it and the new brick schoolhouse, there were eight classrooms, one for each grade. Grades one through four were taught in the brick schoolhouse and the older students were in the frame schoolhouse. Each grade had one teacher. In the Madison County School Directory for the years 1943 – 1944 and 1944 – 1945 all of the teachers for the schools were listed as well as the grades in which they were certified to teach. Almost all of Glen Carbon teachers were certified for elementary; the one exception was for K.-P., possibly kindergarten and primary. The directory also listed the textbooks to be used in Madison County schools for first through eighth grade.

In 2002, the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* printed part of a transcript of an oral history given by Helen Kenner Kacer, a former student and teacher of Glen Carbon School. Kacer whose grandfather, father and husband were all coal miners, taught at the school from 1928 until 1939.

> [Kacer] began school in a frame building that was later replaced by the brick school building that still stands at 124 School Street. It now houses the Glen Carbon Centennial Library and the Historical Museum. She recalls that the brick school building was under construction when she was in the first grade and ready for occupancy by the time she started second grade. As often happens, by the time it was open there were already problems with crowded classrooms, but the school had a unique way to solve the problem. "There was such a big crowd of us when we started second grade that there wasn't room for all of us," Helen remembers. "So they took the 10 smartest and put us into the third grade classroom. The same thing happened when I got to third grade; they took the 10 smartest and put us into the fourth grade class." Kacer now laughs and claims she was "pushed" into it, but there were early signs that she would become a teacher. When she was in the eighth grade, her principal, Mr. Malloy, asked her to take over the instruction of the sixth grade class one day when a teacher went home ill. Helen and the rest of her class from Glen Carbon went on to Edwardsville High School, but as she remembers, "When we went to Edwardsville, we had a rough time. Other students wouldn't have anything to do with us — we were coal miners." Still, her excellence as a teacher was evident to her teachers at EHS. As a high school senior, she was again asked by school administrators to assist in the instruction of classes in the lower grades.

After graduating from EHS in 1925, Helen and a group of friends with whom she went through elementary and high school, went to teachers' college. The group of six would remain close all of their lives. They all attended Eastern Illinois Teachers College together, obtained teaching degrees and returned to teach in the Glen Carbon School. Helen, Jennie Miller, Mamie Casna, and sisters Irma and Marguerite Henry all entered college together in 1925. Another friend, Jennie Raffaelle, entered the program later. [Jennie Raffaelle became the principal of Glen Carbon School in 1944.] Helen doesn't remember whose idea it was that they all pursue teacher training, but she explained how they chose Eastern. There were four state teachers' colleges in Illinois at the time and the closest one was in Carbondale. But, there was no direct transportation from Glen Carbon to Carbondale. However, they could board the Nickel Plate Railroad train at the Glen Carbon station and go straight to Charleston, near the Indiana border. The round trip fare was $8. The six friends stayed close during college and after the first year when they had completed enough training to earn temporary teaching certificates, they began to earn a living. They completed the rest of their training in three subsequent summer courses and obtained their permanent teaching credentials upon completion.

Helen got her first job in a rural school near Worden where she taught for a year. She boarded with a farm family that lived across the road from the school and returned to Glen Carbon on the weekends. The next year, she taught in St. Jacob. By her third teaching year, she was able to get a job in the Glen Carbon School and eventually all six friends were back together teaching in the school they had attended in Glen Carbon….It was Helen's earnings as a teacher that enabled her to travel, purchase a car and a house, and contribute to her family's income. She helped care for her grandparents and an ill uncle during her teaching years and after her marriage….

When Helen married, she had to give up the job that had brought self-development, shared adventure, and an esteemed place in her community, due to the school board policy…. Helen said the restrictive custom had an economic function. "During the Depression years, if a girl was single, she could work and help her family," she said. "But, when she got married, she had to step aside and let another single woman have her job, so that woman could have the income." It was a time when the division of labor was often decided by gender.

A number of Helen Kenner Kacer's students have distinguished themselves professionally. Among her former students are university professors, a multilingual interpreter, an award winning artist, a hospital nursing administrator, and a scientist, Dr. Nick Holonyak, who was honored by former President George Bush for his research in the technology of compound semiconductors.

The Glen Carbon School continued to serve as the primary school for the community for over forty years. In 1946 the Glen Carbon School Board proposed that a $75,000 bond issue be presented to the citizens for improving physical facilities for the student. The improvements included additional classroom space, a gymnasium with a capacity to seat 500 spectators, and a stage (complete with dressing rooms) for performances. The addition was to be attached to the existing brick school building, with allowances for a second story to be added later. The bond issued passed by an overwhelming

majority. However, before work could begin, in 1950 the governor signed a bill abolishing non-high school districts, and Edwardsville and the surrounding rural areas proposed to form a new district.

Even with the re-districting of the schools, there was still a need for improvements to the Glen Carbon School. By this time however, the existing school building --even with the proposed improvements -- was deemed insufficient. The newly formed District #7 proposed to build a new facility in Glen Carbon that would hold a maximum student population of 250. A study made by District #7 officials revealed that an adequate site for the new Glen Carbon School could not be found within the village. Fearing that the community would find itself without a school of any kind, a special meeting was called in the village. Prominent merchant, Bernard B. Birger, offered to donate a five-acre tract of land within a block-and-one-half of the existing school.

By 1954 Glen Carbon had a new state-of-the-art school building. The new school was a consolidation of Glen Carbon, Smola and Acme schools. The Smola Schoolhouse was later converted into a residence and the Acme Schoolhouse was torn down. The frame school house next to the brick school was moved some time after the school vacated the premises, but it was later demolished. The Glen Carbon School building was purchased by the Village of Glen Carbon to be used as its village administration offices, where they remained until 1990. The building now houses the Glen Carbon Heritage Museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Madison County School Directory,

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Butler School, Oak Brook, Illinois. May 9, 2003.

Noble, Allen G. *Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Vol. 1 Houses* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984).

The One Room and Consolidated Country Schools of Illinois. Circular No. 100, Fifth Edition, 1916.

Pulliam, John Donald. "A History of the Struggle for a Free Common School System in Illinois from 1818 to the Civil War." Ed. Diss., Univeristy of Illinois, 1965.

Shaw, Wendy. *A Tale of Two Cities: The Best of Times, the Worst of Times. Inequality in St. Louis' Metro-East.* Department of Geography, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Stratton, Christopher. *Historic Structure Report: East Waterford School, Waterford Township, Fulton County, Illinois.* Springfield, IL: Department of Natural Resources, Match 2001.

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
_X__ Other
Name of repository: _Glen Carbon Heritage Museum_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Glen Carbon Grade School
Name of Property

Madison County, Illinois
County and State

Acreage of Property ___One Acre_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.748843° Longitude: -89.978722°
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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

Beginning at a point one hundred fifty (150) feet east of the intersection of the east line of Summit Avenue, in what is known as Glen Carbon, with the south line of a tract of land conveyed by William E. Guy to F. C. Bousack and being part of land formerly owned by Joseph Sedlacek; thence south two hundred ninety (290) feet; thence east one hundred fifty (150) feet; thence north two hundred ninety (290) feet; thence west one hundred fifty (150) feet to the place of beginning, containing one (1) acre; more commonly known as the Old Glen Carbon School. Situated in the County of Madison and State of Illinois.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary includes the school building, the non-contributing properties and the lot that is historically associated with it.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ____Sheila Martin, Museum Coordinator_____
organization: _____Glen Carbon Heritage Museum_____
street & number: Location 124 School Street - - - Mailing 151 N. Main Street__
city or town: Glen Carbon _____ state: _Illinois____ zip code:__62034_____
e-mail _smartin@glen-carbon.il.us___
telephone:__618-288-7271_____
date:_____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0001.tif; Front Exterior of building, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing South.

1 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0002.tif; South Side of Exterior of Building, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northwest.

2 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0003.tif; North Exterior of Building, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Southwest.

3 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0004.tif; Rear Exterior of Building, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Shows addition of Elevator and Emergency Stairwell addition; Camera Direction facing North.

4 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0005.tif; Rear Exterior, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, showing outdoor exhibit, picnic pavilion, parking and grounds; Camera Direction facing South.

5 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0006.tif; Entry way of Building, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Showing front door and carved minor exhibit; Camera Direction facing North.

6 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0007.tif; Exhibit Room 1, which was the 1st Grade Classroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northwest.

7 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0008.tif; Exhibit Room 2, which was the 2nd Grade Classroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Southeast.

8 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0009.tif; Exhibit Room 3, which was the 3rd Grade room in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northwest.

9 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0010.tif; Exhibit Room 3, which was the 3rd Grade Classroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing North.

10 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0011.tif; Exhibit Room 4, which was the 4th Grade Classroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northwest.

11 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0012.tif; Exhibit Room 4, which was the 4th Grade Classroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing East.

12 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0013.tif; First Floor Hallway Exhibit Area, which was the elevator/emergency stairwell addition, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing South.

13 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0014.tif; Second Floor Hallway Exhibit Area, which was the elevator/emergency stairwell addition, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing South.

14 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0015.tif; Second/Third Floor Landing Exhibit Area, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing North.

15 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0016.tif; Collections and Supply Room which was the Gym in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northwest.

16 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0017.tif; Public Meeting Room which was the Lunchroom in its day, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing Northeast.

17 of 18.

Name of Property: Glen Carbon School/Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

City or Vicinity: Glen Carbon

County: Madison State: Illinois

Photographer: Kristine Wallace

Date Photographed: August 28, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo # IL_Madison County_Glen Carbon School_0018.tif; Administration Office, room added during renovation under 2nd floor stairwell, located at 124 School St., Glen Carbon, IL 62034, Camera Direction facing North.

18 of 18.

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 100 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.

The brick school (1891) that was razed for the 1914 Glen Carbon School is on the left. The one-room schoolhouse was moved to Main Street. (Courtesy Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

Shortly after the 1891 brick school was built, a four room frame school was erected to accommodate more children. The one-room schoolhouse is seen behind the two buildings. (Courtesy Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

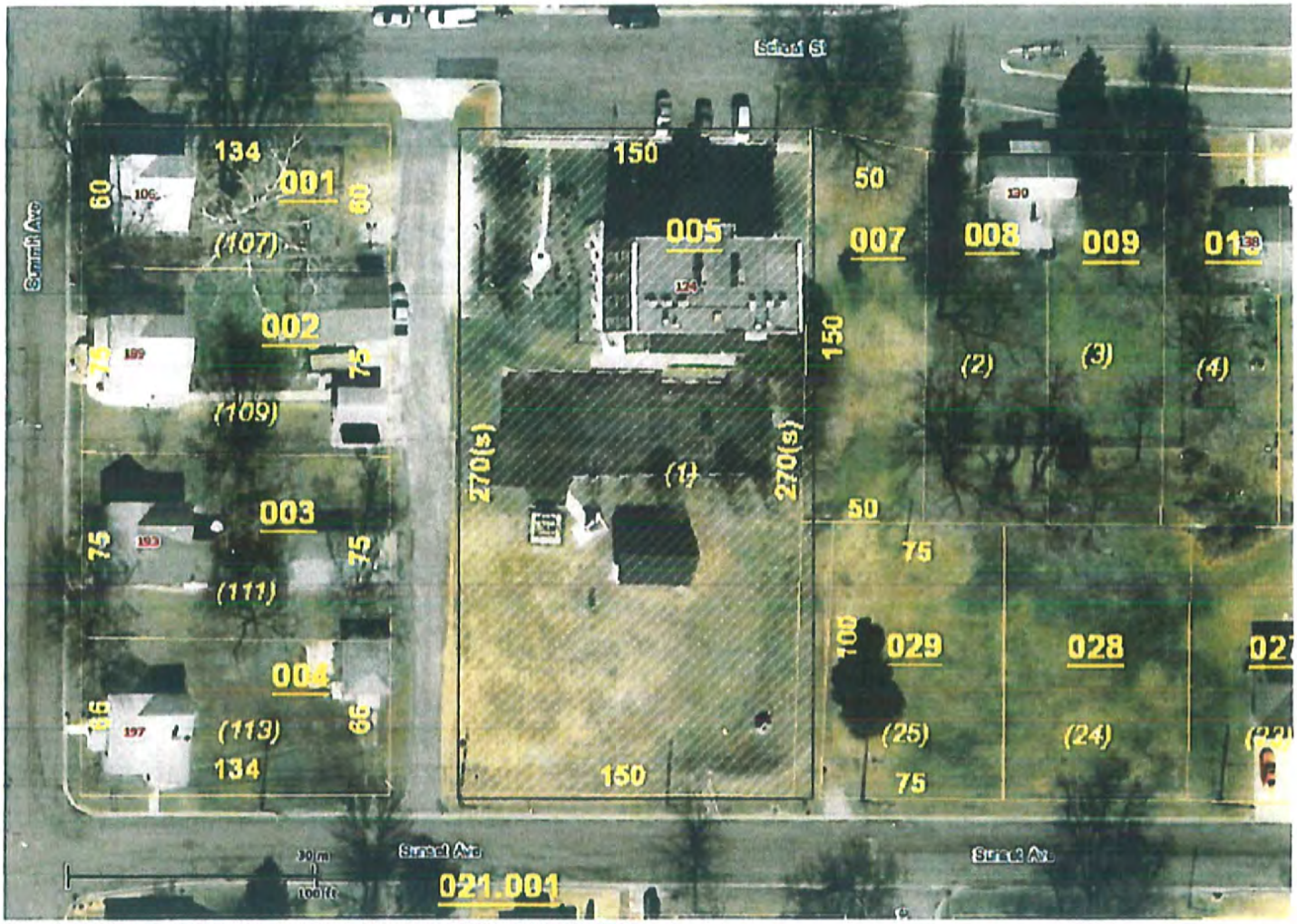
The school shortly after its completion, ca. 1914. (Courtesy Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

Glen Carbon School students, 1918. (Courtesy Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

Eighth Grade Graduating Class of 1932-1933. William Helfer is the principal and Jennie Raffaelle is the teacher.
(Glen Carbon Centennial History Book, Glen Carbon IL, 1992.)

Former Glen Garbon School students who came back to teach at the school after college.
(Courtesy Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

Glen Carbon Historic Museum



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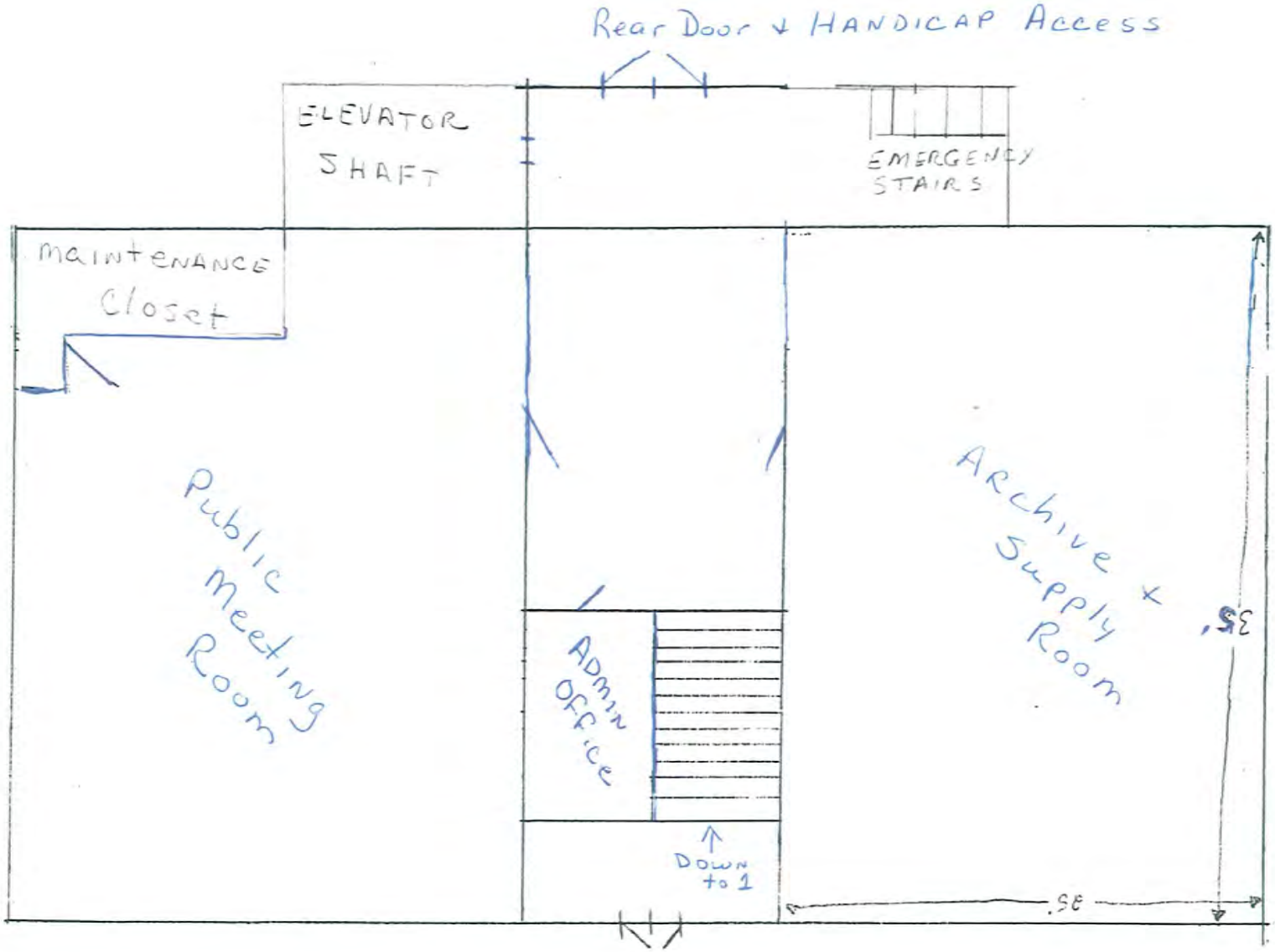
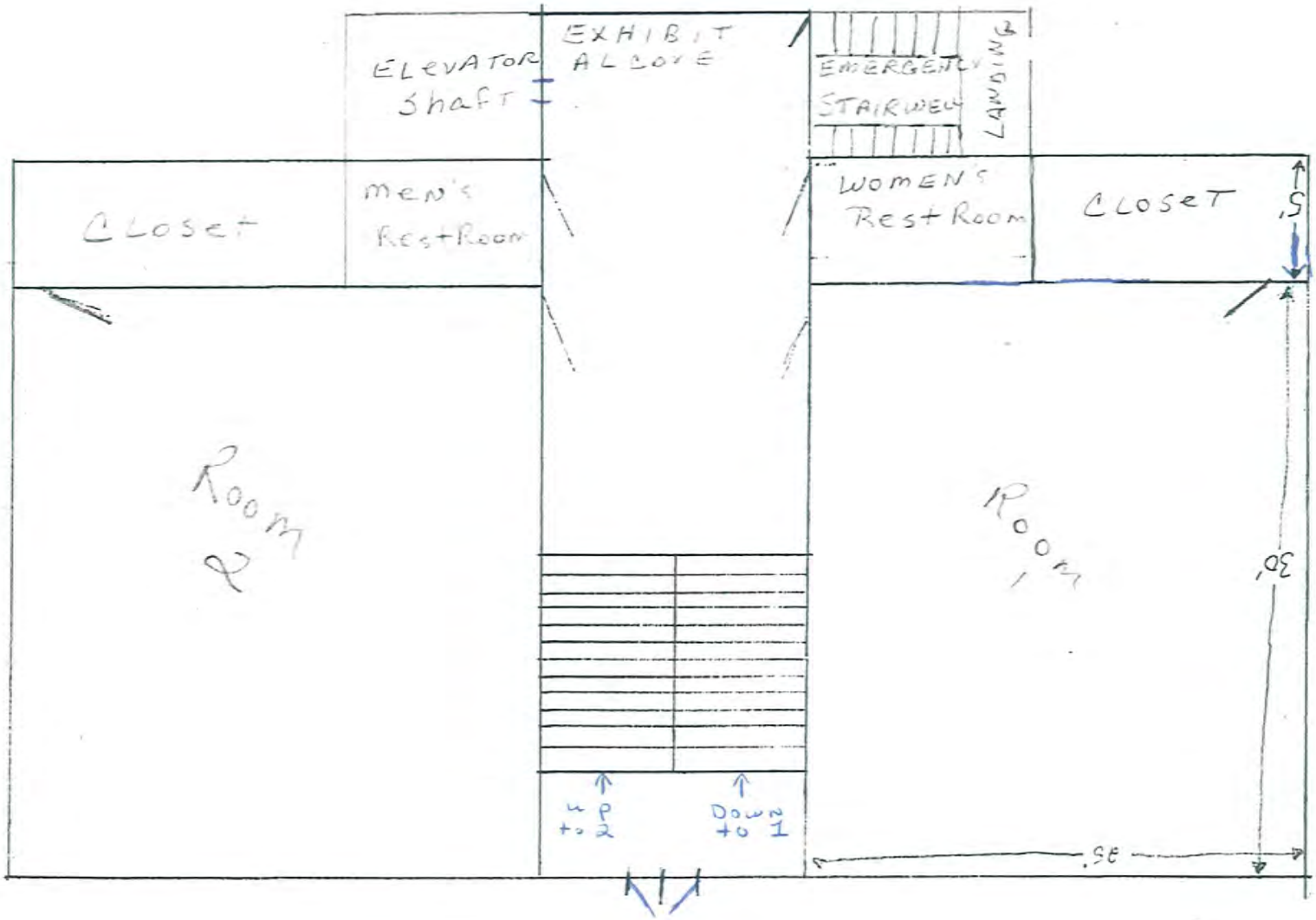
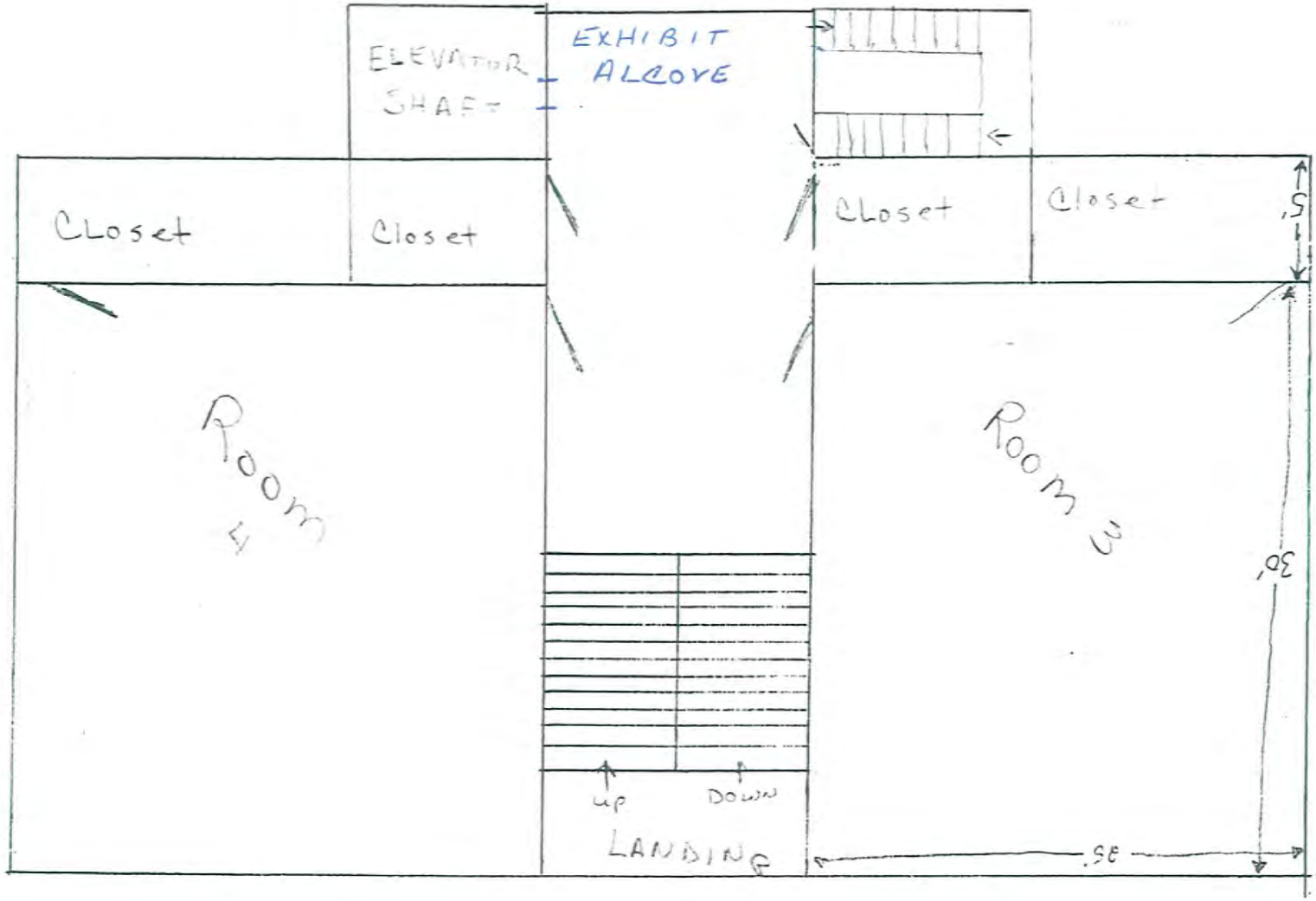


Glen Carbon Heritage Museum Floor 1
After Rennovation



Glen Carbon Heritage Museum Floor 2
After Rennovation



Glen Carbon Heritage Museum Floor 3

After Rennovation

Google earth

feet 600
meters 200

Glen Carbon School
Glen Carbon School Glen Carbon Madison County, IL Coordinates 38.748843° -89.978722°

HANDICAP
PARKING
IN
REAR

GLEN CARBON
HERITAGE MUSEUM

OPEN
RESERVED
PARKING

CLOSED
ACCESS
AT REAR
FAMILY

DISCOVERY
ZONE

Barbie
Barbie

EXIT

EXIT

PLEASE DO
NOT
TOUCH
THE
EXHIBITS

DOLL COLLECTION FILES

FLAMBEAU
FLAMBEAU
FLAMBEAU