

CFN 259-1357
8/25/89

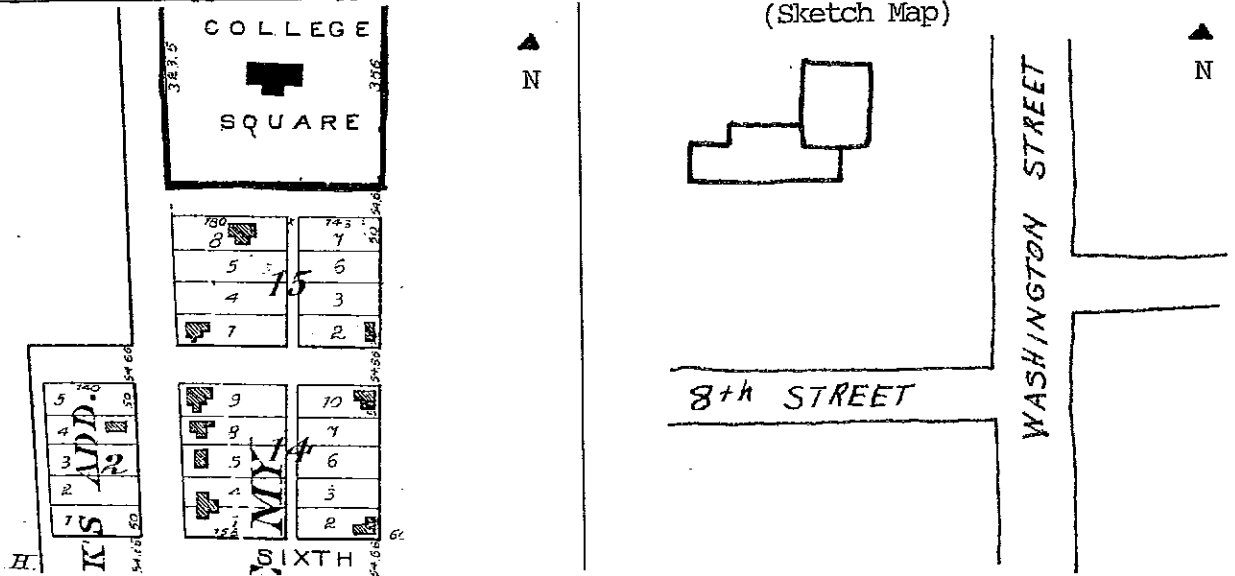
IOWA SITE INVENTORY

Survey ID Number 89-006-001
Database ID Number _____
R & C Number _____

Location and Functional Information

- 1. Historic Name(s) Howes Academy
 - 2. Common Name(s) Harmony Elementary Schools
 - 3. Street Address 8th and Washington Streets
 - 4. City Bonaparte Vicinity [] 5. County Van Buren
 - 6. Subdivision Academy Addition 7. Block(s) College Square 8. Lot(s) _____
 - 9. Legal Description: (If Rural) Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Quarter _____ of _____ Quarter _____ of _____
10. Historic Function(s) Education--School Description _____ Code 05A
11. Current Function(s) Education--School Description _____ Code 05A
12. Owner Harmony Community Schools Phone # (319) 592-3235
Address 8th and Washington St. City/State Bonaparte, Iowa ZIP 52620

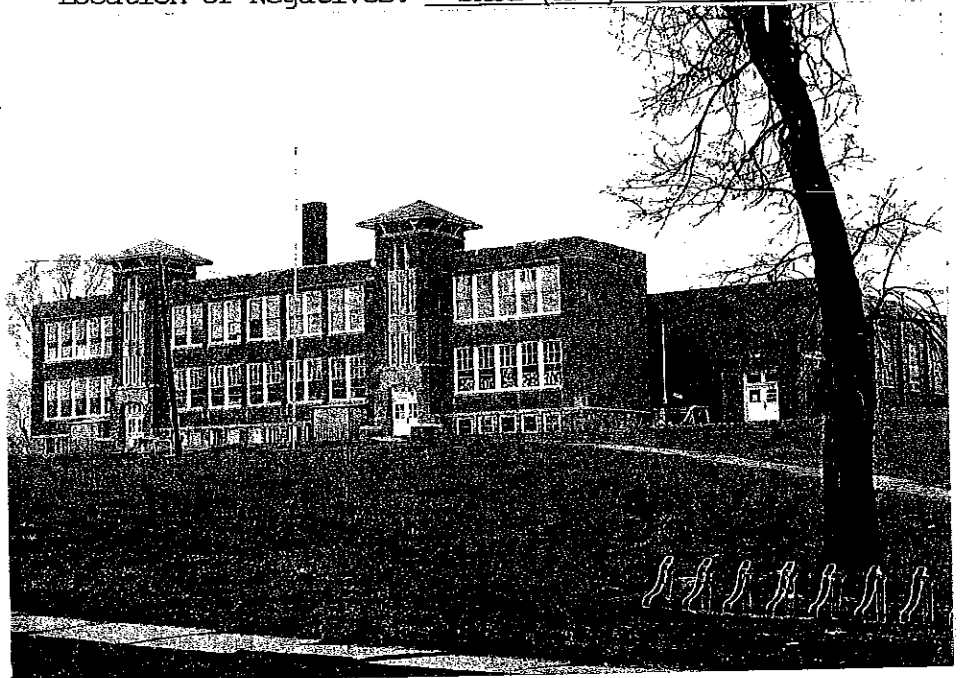
BHP Sources: Cty Resource [] HABS [] Photo [] NR [] Tax Act [] Grants [] DOE [] R&C []
(Plat Map)



(Integrity Notes)

New energy efficient windows installed 1991 (since photo was taken).

Roll/Frame 1 / 19 Photographer Steve Shriver
View Front, facing NW
Location of Negatives: SHSI (HPB)



IOWA SITE INVENTORY FORM
EVALUATION SHEET

Architectural Significance and Associated Context(s): Architecture 1837-1942

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D Other _____

National Register Eligibility: Individual: Yes No

District: Contributing Non-Contributing

Reviewed by/Date: Molly Myers Naumann February 1992

This two and one-half story brick school building was constructed in 1915 following a fire which destroyed the previous school on this site. There was apparently no problem passing a bond issue to finance the new building which was designed by a Kansas City architectural firm, Underhill & Dean. The structure is basically rectangular with an east/west axis. The original gymnasium wing extended to the rear (north). The facade is symmetrical featuring two four-story hip roofed Tuscan towers as entrances. The building rests on a high limestone foundation and the double-hung windows are banded or paired throughout the building. Although the interior was not recorded as part of this survey, it appears that the building followed all of the most modern ideas in educational design. The building survived in basically unaltered condition until 1936-37 when the present gymnasium wing was built as part of a P.W.A. project. Because it is set back from the facade, and is located to the east and north of the original block, this wing is not considered intrusive. Since the building was photographed in late 1991, energy efficient windows have been installed throughout. The panels at the top are a reasonably sympathetic color. The building should be carefully reviewed. Prior to the new windows it was considered to be National Register eligible.

Continuation Sheet []

Historical Significance and Associated Context(s): Role of Des Moines River 1837-1947

Commerce and Industry 1837-1942

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D Other _____

National Register Eligibility: Individual: Yes No

District: Contributing Non-Contributing

Reviewed by/Date: Molly Myers Naumann February 1992

College Square is shown on maps of Bonaparte as early as 1875, and must have existed prior to that time because the building known as Howe's Academy was built on the site in 1865-67. The square is located on the north edge of town, at the top of the hill overlooking the Des Moines River valley. While the academy started as a private school, it soon became public, and was used until it was destroyed by fire on 23 January 1915. Immediately plans were made for holding classes elsewhere, and the largest available building was the former Meek Pants Factory. It served as the school building for almost a year. Plans for the construction of a new building were discussed in the local newspaper in detail, keeping the community well informed. (See continuation sheet for news items.) The cornerstone was laid 2 August 1915, and the present building was dedicated on 17 December 1915. It continued in use as a K-12 building until the district consolidated with Farmington and Hillsboro to form the Harmony School District in 1959. Today it is a K-5 attendance center. School offices remain in the front of the upper towers.

Continuation Sheet []

Prepared by Molly Myers Naumann Date 6/92

Address City Hall, Bonaparte, IA 52620 Telephone (319) 592-3400

Affiliation Bonaparte Historic Preservation Commission

CFN 259-1401
8/25/89

Property Characteristic Form - COMMERCIAL

Survey ID Number 89-006-001
Database ID Number _____

Street Address 8th and Washington City Bonaparte County Van Buren
Legal Description: (If Rural) _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Quarter of _____ Quarter of _____

Location Integrity: Original Site (OS) Moved (MV) Moved to Original Site (MO) OS

Endangered?: No If yes, why? _____

Ground Plan: a. Building Shape(s) rectangle b. Width 132 by Depth 62 in feet

Architectural Style/Stylistic Influences	Key Stylistic Attributes	Code
<u>Mission/Spanish/Mediterranean Revival</u>	<u>Twin Tuscan Towers</u>	<u>55</u>

Materials: Foundation	<u>Cut Stone</u>	<u>40</u>
Walls	<u>Native Stone, Brick</u>	<u>40, 30</u>
Roof	<u>unknown</u>	<u>1</u>

Number of Stories 2

Roof Shape flat 4

Builder(s) (see below) Architect(s) Underhill & Dean, Kansas City

Original Construction Date c.1915 Modification/Addition Dates:

George Kerr, contract for cleaning up old building ruins. Iowa City firm received contract for construction of building. W. S. and A. V. Blackford, plumbing and heating contract. J. Stafford, wiring, 1924. Edward White Construction, Burlington, gymnasium 1937. Balcony for gymnasium added 1940.

Continuation Sheet []

Significant Interior Components:

None noted.

Continuation Sheet []

Non-Storage Basement Use:

Continuation Sheet []

Treatment of Store Front:

New energy efficient windows, 1992.

Continuation Sheet []

Surveyor Comments:

Continuation Sheet []

Sources: Bonaparte Record 23 Jan. 1915, March 19 1915, April 1915, 14 May 1915, 17 Dec. 1915.
Van Buren Record 17 Sept. 1936, 22 Oct. 1936
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1909, 1927

Needs Further Study/Anomaly []

Continuation Sheet []

Surveyor Dorothy Watson Date December 1991

CFN 259-1337
8/25/89

IOWA SITE INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION FORM

Survey ID Number _____
Database ID Number _____
Street Address 8th and Washington Streets City Bonaparte County Van Buren
Legal Description: (If Rural) Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter
of _____

Continuation of Historical Significance Page _____

The following items are from the Bonaparte Record.

23 January 1915

Picture with two column article ... full page with heading:

Bonaparte School Burns

Public School building at Bonaparte was destroyed by fire Saturday forenoon 23 January 1915. Was built in 1865-67 and known as Howe's Academy. Insurance \$8,000. School will be held in Meek factory. (Insurance of \$4,000 was carried in North British Mercantile, and \$4,000 in the Farmers of Cedar Rapids. The piano was insured for \$250. Board of Education members were D.W. Cheney, Dr. R.N. Cresap, Dr. C.S. Percival, E.C. Smith, and J.S. Harper.) Article also contains a historical sketch of the school.

March 1915

Architect Employed. Bonaparte School Board held several meetings. Six architects attended and others sent sketches. The sketches of Underhill and Dean best suited and were employed to complete plans and supervise construction of new building. The sketch was displayed in the front window of Bogle Drug Store. George Kerr given contract to clean up ruins of old building at \$210.

April 1915

New School Building. Directors of Independent District of Bonaparte have taken steps to replace school building. An election called for 29 April 1915 to vote bonds for \$18,000 which with insurance will erect a \$25,000 structure.

Proposed two story and basement structure 135' length, 62' depth, by Underhill and Dean, Architects of Kansas City, Mo. First floor to grade school work and second high school. Two general toilets on each floor. Basement extends 5' above grade level with gymnasium on ground level. Shower, etc. at basement level. Heated by low radiators in each room under windows. Exterior to be native stone and deep red face brick, with cut stone trimming.

14 May 1915

27 bids and most represented in person at meeting. None within \$25,000 limit. Lowest bidder contractor of Columbia, MO., next Iowa City firm (difference \$225). After plans changed Iowa City bid beat Columbia by \$200. Indication Iowa City firm will get job. W.S. and A.V. Blackford low bidders on heating and plumbing and will receive contract.

17 December 1915

School House dedication to be held 17 December 1915. Building open for inspection. Ushers present 2:00-5:00 PM to show through building.

Van Buren Record, 17 September 1936

The Board of Education of Bonaparte has received a favorable report on P.W.A. project Iowa Docket 1292 for gymnasium auditorium project. Bonaparte community has waited more than a year and a half for allotment of funds for this project to be built adjoining or adjacent to the present school building. The estimated cost is \$10,000, the government aid to be 45% or \$4,500 while the cost to the school district would be \$5,500. There are sufficient funds in the treasury to meet the district's share of cost of this project.

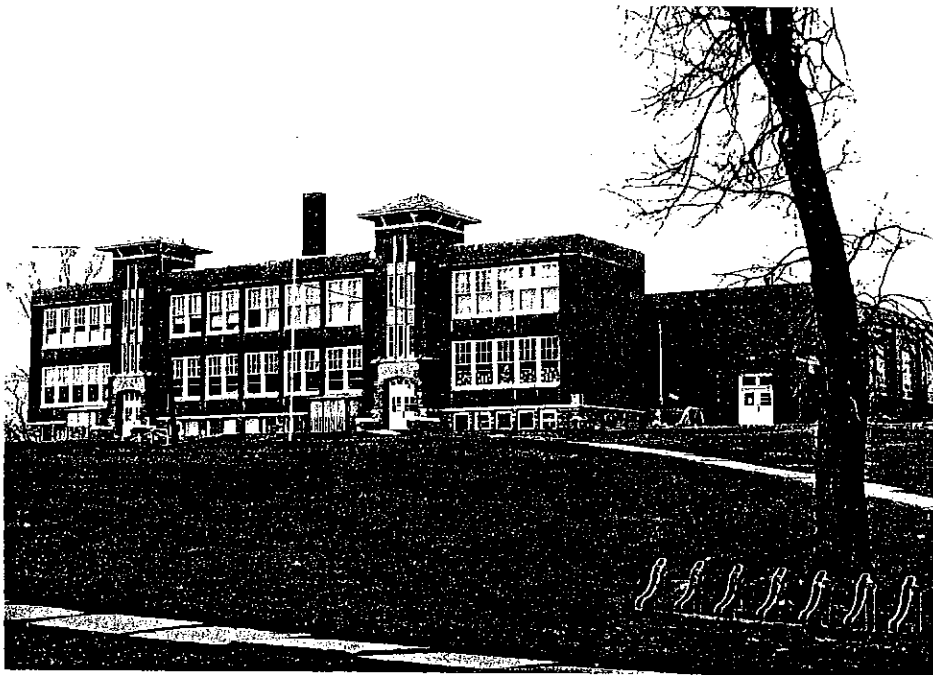
Van Buren Record, 22 October 1936

Bonaparte School gymnasium vote was yes in the special election of Monday transferring \$7,000 from the general fund to the building fund by a three to one majority.

In April 1915 the paper carried the following account of "The New School Building,"

Directors of Independent District of Bonaparte have taken steps to replace the school building. An election has been called for 29 April 1915 to vote on bonds for \$18,000 which with insurance will erect a \$25,000 structure. Proposed is a two story and basement structure, 135' by 62' by Underhill and Dean, Architects, of Kansas City, Missouri. The first floor will be used for grade school work and the second for high school. There will be two general toilets on each floor. Basement extends 5' above grade level with gymnasium on ground level. Shower, etc. located at basement level. Heated by low radiators in each room under windows. Exterior is to be of native stone and deep red face brick with cut stone trimming.⁷³

The new school was dedicated on 17 December 1915, less than one year after the fire. The only major alterations to this building occurred during the Depression when a gymnasium/auditorium wing was added by the P.W.A.⁷⁴ The hip roof twin towers remain the focal point of the facade. The integrity of the structure had been maintained at a high level until the past year when the windows were replaced by the modern, energy efficient panels used for so many buildings.



Bonaparte School