

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

SENT TO D.C.
3-27-03

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Butler School**

other names/site number **Oak Brook Village Hall, Oak Brook Library**

2. Location

street & number **1200 31st Street (Oak Brook Road)** Not for publication

city or town **Oak Brook** vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **DuPage** code **043** zip code **60523**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. ... / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

3-26-03
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Butler School
Name of Property

DuPage County, Illinois
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 Total

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

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

N/A

Butler School
Name of Property

DuPage County, Illinois
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Government/Village Hall
Recreation and Culture/Museum**

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Colonial Revival
Other: Georgian Revival**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Concrete**

Roof **Asphalt Shingles**

Walls **Brick**

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Butler School
Name of Property

DuPage County, Illinois
County and State

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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance circa 1921-1953

Significant Dates circa 1921

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

Butler School
Name of Property

DuPage County, Illinois
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository **Village of Oak Brook**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	421438	4	631648	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

Butler School
Name of Property

DuPage County, Illinois
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Audrey L. Muschler**

organization **Oak Brook Historical Society**

date **December 2002**

street & number **55 Yorkshire Woods**

telephone **630-833-8154**

city or town **Oak Brook**

state **Illinois**

zip code **60523**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name **Village of Oak Brook**

street & number **1200 31st Street (Oak Brook Road)**

telephone **630-990-3000**

city or town **Oak Brook**

state **Illinois**

zip code **60523**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Butler School

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Butler School, at 1200 31st Street (also known as Oak Brook Road), is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of 31st Street and Spring Road in Oak Brook, Illinois. The Butler School is adjacent to the east side of the Oak Brook Municipal Complex. The McDonald's Corporate properties are located to the east and north of the school with the Hunter Trail's residential subdivision located across the street to the south. The Village of Oak Brook is located north of the Village of Hinsdale and South of the City of Elmhurst, west of Westchester and east of Downers Grove. The Village of Oak Brook is located at the junction of the Tri-State Tollway and the East-West Tollway about 20 miles west of Chicago, Illinois.

The one and a half story Butler School was built in circa 1921 and is an example of Georgian Revival Style with Federal Style details. Built of brick with painted wood trim and wood windows, it contains many features of this late 19th and early 20th architectural revival style. Although the side gable roof with parapet walls is not typically found on colonial-inspired buildings, the matching end chimneys are frequently featured. The front (south) facade of the center block of the Butler School is bilaterally symmetrical with a wing on each side. It is ten bays wide. The school's enclosed projecting center entrance wing has a classical arrangement that includes a pediment supported by pilasters. The elliptical arched doorway is topped by a fanlight with spider web muntins. Many of the windows in the Butler School are multi-light double hung windows, which are topped by a splayed flat brick lintel with a raised keystone.

The circa 1921 masonry building is built of red brick and has light gray mortar joints. There are three stringcourses, made up of soldiers, in the lower third section of the building. The stringcourses run the perimeter of the building, sometimes interrupted by window or door openings. The concrete sill of the building is visible.

The Butler School has a rectangular plan, with its long side facing north and south. The south facade is the front and faces 31st Street. The building consists of a large central block that has seven bays and has two shorter and smaller side wings. The east wing is two bays wide, the west is one. The main block measures 62' across and 34' deep. The east wing measures 28' by 18', the west wing 18' by 18'. Both are centrally located within the end walls of the center block and are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Butler School

set back eight feet from the front and rear walls. The main block is two stories, although the first floor, or lower level is actually partially below grade. The building has approximately 6000 square feet of usable space.

The main block and both side wings have side-gable roofs sheathed in asphalt shingles. The overhanging eaves are enclosed and have evenly-spaced modillions that run along their undersides. Directly below the eaves is an unadorned wood cornice that runs the full width of the front and rear facades of all three sections of the building. The gable ends of the main block have a brick parapet with stone trim. The gable end of each wing has a raking cornice with returns and evenly spaced wood modillions.

A broad chimney at each end of the main block interrupts and extends through and above the center of the gable parapet walls of the center block. The top half of each chimney is visible from the exterior; the lower half is enclosed within the building. Each chimney flares slightly at the top and has a concrete cap. On each side of the east chimney, in the gable peak, is a quarter-round window with spider web muntins. The outer radius is edged with a rowlock course and the sills are also bricks laid in rowlock course. Rectangular louvered vents flank the west chimney.

The front of the main block of the building contains a center two-story wing that projects from the wall. It measures 12' by 13' and contains the original main entrance and staircase. It has a pedimented roof that intersects with the main roof of the building. The pediment has a raking cornice with evenly spaced modillions around the inside edge. The enclosed eaves, which overhang slightly, have evenly spaced modillions. Just below is a plain entablature supported at each end by a pair of engaged wood pilasters. There are four oval modillions in the entablature, one above each of the four pilasters. The pilasters run to the base where they meet the concrete sill of the building. Several brick courses below the entablature, and centered between the pilasters, is a stone panel engraved with the words "Butler School." The panel is a shallow u-shape and is trimmed at each end with four small dovetail-shaped pieces of stone. Just below the bottom of the panel, also centered between the two pairs of pilasters, is the front entrance. Each pair of pilasters rests on a concrete base. Located at grade, the entrance retains its original pair of three paneled wood doors. The doors are topped by an elliptical fanlight with muntins arranged in a spider web fashion. The top of the elliptically arched entrance opening is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Butler School

edged by a single rowlock course with a raised stone keystone. On each side of the doorway, at each end of the arch is a small rectangular stone that is laid horizontally. The side walls of the entrance wing each have a pair of $2/4$ double-hung windows topped by a splayed brick lintel with a raised keystone. The windows rest directly above the top stringcourse and are located equidistant from the outer edges of the wall.

In the main wall of the center block, to each side of the staircase wing, are three windows at the upper level. The outer windows are large $3/6$ windows topped by splayed brick lintels with a raised keystone; there is a smaller $2/2$ window centered between them. Directly below each of the outer windows, located at grade and lighting the lower level, is a $3/3$ window. These windows rest on the concrete sill of the building. The upper level windows on the side wings have a $3/6$ configuration and are topped with splayed brick lintels with a raised keystone. The sill of each rests just above the top stringcourse. The lower level windows are rectangular with three lights and are located just below the third stringcourse, at grade.

The front facade of the west wing has one upper level and one lower level window that are each centrally located in the wall. The east and south facades of the west wing also have an upper and lower level centrally located window. The east wing, which is approximately $1/3$ longer than the west wing, contains two upper level windows and two lower level windows in its front wall. One of the windows is slightly off center to the east; the other is centrally located in the west half of the wall. There is a lower level entrance that is reached from a concrete stepwell in the west wall. The entrance door is wood and has two rectangular panels on the lower $2/3$ and three rectangular lights in the top third. There is a painted metal emergency exit door at the north end of the west wall of the main block. The upper level exit is reached by a flight of wrought iron steps.

The east wall of the east wing contains a historic semi circular arched entrance that is above grade. Within the curve of the arch is a blind arch of wood. Directly below the blind arch is a semi circular arched window with spiderweb muntins. The window is topped by a molded wood surround with a raised keystone. Along the bottom edge of the arch, and separating it from the front entrance door, is a plain wood entablature. The entrance contains a six-paneled wood door with emergency exit hardware. The door is flanked by four rectangular lights over a bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Butler School

panel. The entrance is accessed from a short flight of concrete steps with brick sidewalls. A painted wrought iron balustrade with pickets is located on each side of the steps.

The east wing, which is two bays wide, has two upper level windows that are slightly off-center and to one side of the wall. The windows are rectangular hopper windows with three lights each. Both windows have splayed brick lintels with a raised keystone and a header sill. Directly below the east window, located just below the third stringcourse is a three-light rectangular window. There is a concrete stairwell located under the west window. It has a painted pipe railing along its upper edge. The stairwell accesses an emergency exit to the lower level. The entrance door is a single panel painted steel door.

The windows on the upper and lower level of the main block, which is four bays wide, are both full-height because the grade has been excavated. The upper level contains four groupings of three very large 6/6 windows that are spaced evenly within the wall. The top of each window begins at the lower edge of the corniceboard that runs directly under the roof eaves. To compensate for the grade change at the lower level, two large concrete planters have been built on either side of the lower entrance. The outer walls of the planters serve as retaining walls. A concrete ramp, which begins at the east side of the building and slopes downward to the west, is located along the front of the planter to the east of the entrance. The ramp terminates at the historic lower level entrance that is slightly off-center to the east. The top of the entrance is just below the second stringcourse. The lower half of the wood entrance door contains two panels; the upper contains a single light with snap-in muntins. The door is flanked on each side by an original five-light sidelight and is topped by an original four-light rectangular transom window. The concrete foundation, to either side of the door, is visible.

Most of the remaining lower level wall area contains windows that, like the entrance, begin just below the second stringcourse. To the east of the entrance is a band of ten original casement windows and to the west are two groupings of seven casement windows. Each casement window contains four lights. The east grouping has stretcher brickmold; the west groupings have header brickmold. All three groupings have rowlock sills.

The interior of the building has been remodeled at least three times but overall, retains its original floor plan. Revisions of the plan use non load-bearing walls and metal-framed glass

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Butler School

panels. Both levels have drop ceilings with fluorescent lighting, drywall-covered walls and carpeted floors. Most of the rooms are currently used as offices and for storage.

The front entrance, which is boarded over on the interior, opened into a small vestibule that still opens directly onto the landing of the main staircase. The north wall of the vestibule, which originally contained a pair of doors, is topped by an elliptical fanlight like that over the front entrance doors. The original metal staircase, which is now carpeted, retains its historic wood balustrade. The balustrade has a stained and varnished top rail and painted wood pickets. The newel posts have a simple design and are stained and varnished to match the top rail. There is also a stained and varnished wall-mounted handrail that runs from the lower level to the upper level.

The main staircase goes south to each level. An upper level landing has been partially enclosed by a newer framed wall. The landing opens into a larger room that originally was divided down the center to create two classrooms. The west end of the room is currently subdivided into offices and has an emergency exit in the northwest corner. Along the south wall of the room, on the front of the building, are four smaller rooms. Doorways have been relocated but the rooms are roughly the same size as they were originally. These rooms served as teacher's areas and separate boys' and girls' cloakrooms. An emergency exit is located in the northeast corner of this room. The side wings are each reached by short flights of steps at each end of the center room. Each wing contains a single room, as it did originally, the east room was the library, the west was for book storage. The library space originally had a fireplace that has been removed.

At the lower level, the staircase opens into a large room. Opposite the staircase, in the north wall is the rear entrance door, which currently opens into a small vestibule made of glass and aluminum panels. The vestibule has a ceramic floor. The room was historically a single space that served as a recreation and meeting room. The west end of the room is currently subdivided into offices with glass and metal panels. Along the south side of the room, as on the upper level, there are four smaller rooms. Two were originally, and still are, restrooms. The remaining two side rooms were used for a kitchen and a cloakroom for teachers. These are currently offices and a lunchroom. The room in the east wing was originally for storage and is currently an office.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Butler School

The boiler room, located in the west wing remains although it has been subdivided to create a small hall to the south. The former underground coal storage space, located to the north of the boiler room, continues to be used for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Butler School

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Butler School is a locally significant building that qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the educational history of the community. The building is a well-preserved example of a two-room schoolhouse in DuPage County, Illinois. The period of significance is from circa 1921, when the building was constructed to 1953, the fifty-year cutoff for significance to the National Register. The building remained open as a school until 1961. The original Butler School served a portion of York Township in what is now the Village of Oak Brook in northeastern DuPage County, Illinois.

Although a survey of early schoolhouses has not been conducted in DuPage County, at least two other schoolhouses have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places--The Churchville School in Bensenville and the McAuley School in West Chicago.

The foundation of free public school legislation in Illinois began with the Northwest Territory Land Ordinance of 1785 passed by the federal government. This land ordinance created the layout and surveying of townships in the territories of the Northwest and for setting aside of Section 16 in each state for purposes of education. When territories became states, the sale or lease of these lands would be set aside to create a permanent school fund. According to Wayne Edison Fuller in his book "The Old Country School: The story of Rural Education in the Middle West", the sale of these lands did not provide enough support to open many schools and keep them running. The settlers often did not want to tax themselves to keep the school open.¹

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.²

The 1830 Illinois legislature began chartering private subscription schools to individuals, joint stock companies, and religious organizations. By 1848, the legislature had issued over 125

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Butler School

Charters.³

The promoting for 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."⁴ 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.⁵

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 Superintendent of Common Schools and the county commissioners were made 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 properly qualified voters.⁶

Settlers began arriving in what is now the Oak Brook area in 1834 following the end of the Black Hawk War and the Treaty of Chicago dated September 16, 1833⁷, which gave the government five million acres of land along the western shore of Lake Michigan extending to Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin. Between 1789 and 1837 the Potawatomie Indians made no less than 38 treaties, either singly or with other tribes, for the sale of lands extending from Cleveland, Ohio westward to the Mississippi River, opening the area for settlement.

The first school was conducted in a farmhouse located on what is now the Mayslake Forest Preserve, 1717 West 31st Street (Oak Brook Road).⁸ The one-room Rabbit Hill School was established in 1848 at the corner of 31st Street and Midwest Road. The one-room Torode School was established on York Road south of Roosevelt Road. Both schools were part of the Consolidated School District #17. The schools have been demolished.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Butler School

Frank Osgood Butler, son of Julius W. Butler who founded the J. W. Butler Paper Company in 1844, in St. Charles, Illinois, moved to Hinsdale in 1890 and built a home on First Street. In 1898, Frank O. Butler bought a farm located on 31st Street at Salt Creek and called it Oak Brook Farm. The farm was developed as a summer home and a horse farm.⁹ Adjacent to the Butler property was Natoma Dairy owned by George B. Robbins. Natoma Dairy gained fame by being one of the first to supply "certified milk". In 1908 Natoma was sold to Frank O. Butler who continued to operate the dairy and improve production and the level of sanitation. Gradually, he added more and more of the surrounding lands to his holdings. The land was used for feeding the cattle brought from the Butler Company ranch in South Dakota.

In circa 1921, Frank O. Butler donated 10 acres of land, adjacent to the Natoma Dairy lands, and funded the construction of the two-classroom Butler School built to replace the one-room Rabbit Hill School and the one-room Torode School. His one stipulation was that ownership would revert to him should the school cease to meet state standards as a "superior" school.¹⁰ For 40 years it provided a supportive climate for the growth and development of academic excellence at the elementary level.

The Butler School was constructed in the Georgian Revival Style; currently the architect is unknown. The Georgian Revival style is a sub-category of the Colonial Revival. The Georgian Revival style is more stately and refined version of the Colonial Revival. Georgian Revival architecture first became popular after the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. The prominent American architectural firm, McKim, Mead and White introduced the style in the mid-1880's with its design of the Taylor House in Newport, Rhode Island and the Cochrane House in Boston.¹¹ Seven years later, the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition reinforced the popularity of the style. Part of a large patriotic movement, the Georgian Revival reached its peak in the decades following World War I. The popularity of Colonial architecture lasted well into the 1950's when patriotism surged after World War II.

As a derivative of the Colonial Revival style, Georgian Revival buildings typically contain many classical design features including bilaterally symmetrical front facade. Other classical elements include a narrow cornice with modillions and a brick stringcourse between the first and second stories. Georgian Revival buildings often had one story side wings. The red brick was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Butler School

synonymous with Georgian architecture. The tall hip roof was inspired by those found on the Georgian buildings in the early American colonies. Typical Georgian homes are formal, stand two or 2 ½ stories, have center entrances with paneled doors and classical features, cornices with decorative moldings including dentils, symmetrical chimneys and double hung sash with small panes.¹²

Much of the detailed history of the school is not known. The York Township records of the Butler School were destroyed. Flooding in the basement of the new Butler School destroyed the early education records, also. According to the students who attended the original Butler School, grades 1 through 4 were held in one classroom and grades 5 through 8 were held in the second classroom. The subjects included: English, history, geography, math, science, art and gym. Music was taught by a traveling music teacher who would visit the school once a week. The piano was in the basement room, which also served as an auditorium, gym and meeting room. Other activities were plays, square dancing, dodgeball, basketball, and ice skating in the winter during recess.

The Butler School was originally in Consolidate School District #17. In 1926, a petition was filed and a vote was taken to detach from this district and to organize the area into a new Consolidated School District #53.¹³ However, the enrollment in the Butler School did not increase, as much of the land, acquired by Frank O. Butler and later by his son, Paul Butler, was not being planned for development. The average student attendance for 40 years was about 52.

The Butler School became the "hub" of virtually every activity in the area from 1921-1961. The adults and children attending the school formed a Community Club that met in the basement of the schoolhouse. During the 1920's-1930's, social activities included square dancing, potluck suppers, plays, music recitals, card games, Bunko-a dice game, and pig roasts. Softball ball games, soccer games and ice-skating were held outside.

From 1941-1945, a Civil Defense organization was created to cover the area served by the school. Members of the Community Club volunteered themselves for this effort. The organization took the name of the Oak Brook Civic Association, the first use of the words "Oak Brook" to define the specific geographical area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Butler School

The Civic Association utilized the Butler School as its headquarters with offices for Air Raid Wardens, a Ration Board, the Draft Board, a 4-H Chapter and Red Cross Chapter. Volunteers made thousands of bandages for wounded soldiers in the basement area. Social activities continued, but the meetings became more formal and far more serious.

In 1945, after World War II ended, the Oak Brook Civic Association decided to continue under the name and became the "quasi-government" organization, as the population of the unincorporated area between Hinsdale and Elmhurst began to change from a farming community to an equestrian community.

Planning began in the mid-1950's for the creation of a tollway system that would change the area forever. The completion of the Tri-State and East-West Tollway in 1958 forced the incorporation of the Village of Oak Brook. Marshall Field's purchased land for a shopping center and a corporate corridor and residential development were being planned.

It was evident that the Butler School was not adequate to handle the proposed increased enrollment. In 1960-61, a new seven-room Butler School was built on ten acres of land that Paul Butler, son of Frank O. Butler, traded for the original Butler School. Paul Butler then leased the original building for \$1.00 a year to the Village from 1961-1965. The building and surrounding land were purchased in 1965 for \$130,000 by the Village of Oak Brook.¹⁴

The Village of Oak Brook used the property as a Village Hall, Police Station, and the initial location of a Library. The two classrooms were remodeled into a Boardroom with offices for the Village Manager, Clerk and Building Department on the upper level. The basement was remodeled into a Police Department for the new Police Chief and three patrolmen. One room was allocated for a Library on the Upper floor. Volunteers built shelves, cataloged donated books (approximately 300 in the beginning) and operated an "on your honor" free public Library.

In the 1970's the rapid growth of the Village of Oak Brook necessitated the building of a new Village Hall and Police Department. When the new Village Hall was completed in 1975, the historic building was converted entirely to Library use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Butler School

A new modern Library was constructed in 2000-2001. The Village of Oak Brook continues to use the Butler School for offices during construction of the expansion of the current Village Hall. The Oak Brook Historical Society is negotiating with the Village of Oak Brook for the use of the first floor for the historic archives, artifacts and display area, and the partial use of the second floor for storage.

The Butler School possesses historic significance for its role in educating local children and retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building has served as an educational facility for 40 years, a Village Hall for 15 years and a Library for 26 years.

Endnotes

1. Fuller, Wayne Edison. *The Old Country School: The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1982, pg. 28.
2. Pulliam, John Donald. "A History of the Struggle for a Free Common School System in Illinois from 1818 to the Civil War." Ph.D. diss., University of Illinois, Urbana, 1965, pg.32.
3. Ibid pg.32.
4. Fuller, Wayne Edison. *The Old Country School: The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982, pg 40.
5. Cook, John W. *The Educational History of Illinois*. Chicago: Henry O. Shepard Company, 1912, pg 40.
- 6 Pulliam, John Donald. "A History of the Struggle for a Free Common School System in Illinois from 1818 to the Civil War." Ph.D. diss., University of Illinois, Urbana, 1965, pg. 172.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Butler School

7. Muschler, Audrey and Pat Walker. Oak Brook, A Moment in Time. Marceline, Missouri Walsworth Publishing , 1990.
8. DOINGS Newspaper, "Dedicated Butler School", Hinsdale, Illinois, February 18, 1922.
9. Karolevitz, Robert F., "Paper Mountain, The Story of Frank Osgood Butler." The F. O. Butler Foundation., 1980.
10. Documents in the Archives of the Oak Brook Village Hall, 1965.
11. Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic, New York. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922. This book was published by Dover Press in 1966. Information on the history of interest in the Colonial Revival movement may be found in the Introduction, on pages xvii-xx.
12. Aymar Embury II, A.I.A. "Modern American Country Houses." The Architectural Forum. Vol. XXXVIII. March, 1923. pg.79.
13. Documents in the Archives of the DuPage County Superintendent of Schools.
14. Documents in the Archives of the Oak Brook Village Hall, 1965.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 14

Butler School

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Documents in the Archives of the DuPage County Superintendent of Schools.

Documents in the Archives of the Oak Brook Village Hall, 1965.

DOINGS Newspaper, "Dedicated Butler School", Hinsdale, Illinois, February 18, 1922.

Embury II, Aymar, A.I.A. "Modern American Country Houses." *The Architectural Forum*. Vol. XXXVIII. March, 1923.

Fuller, Wayne Edison. *The Old Country School: The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1982.

Karolevitz, Robert F., "Paper Mountain, The Story of Frank Osgood Butler." *The F. O. Butler Foundation*., 1980.

Kimball, Fiske. *Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic*, New York. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922.

Muschler, Audrey and Pat Walker. *Oak Brook, A Moment in Time*. Marceline, Missouri Walsworth Publishing , 1990

Pulliam, John Donald. "A History of the Struggle for a Free Common School System in Illinois from 1818 to the Civil War." Ph.D. diss., University of Illinois, Urbana, 1965.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 15

Butler School

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

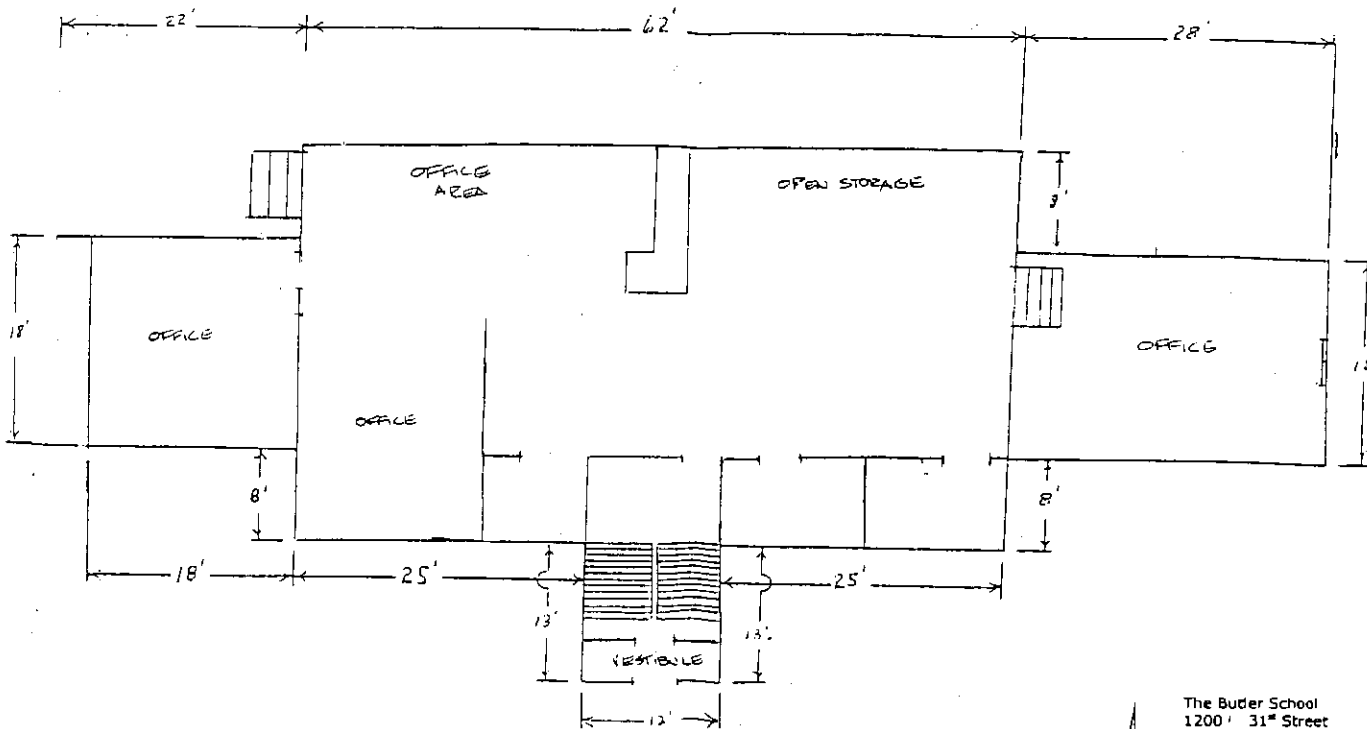
The original Butler Schoolhouse is located at the intersection of 31st Street (Oak Brook Road) and Spring Road in the Village of Oak Brook, DuPage County, Illinois :

That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 39 North, Range 11, East of the third principal Meridian, DuPage County, Illinois.

Boundary Justification

The property includes the school building and the land immediately surrounding the school that was historically associated with the property and retains historic integrity.

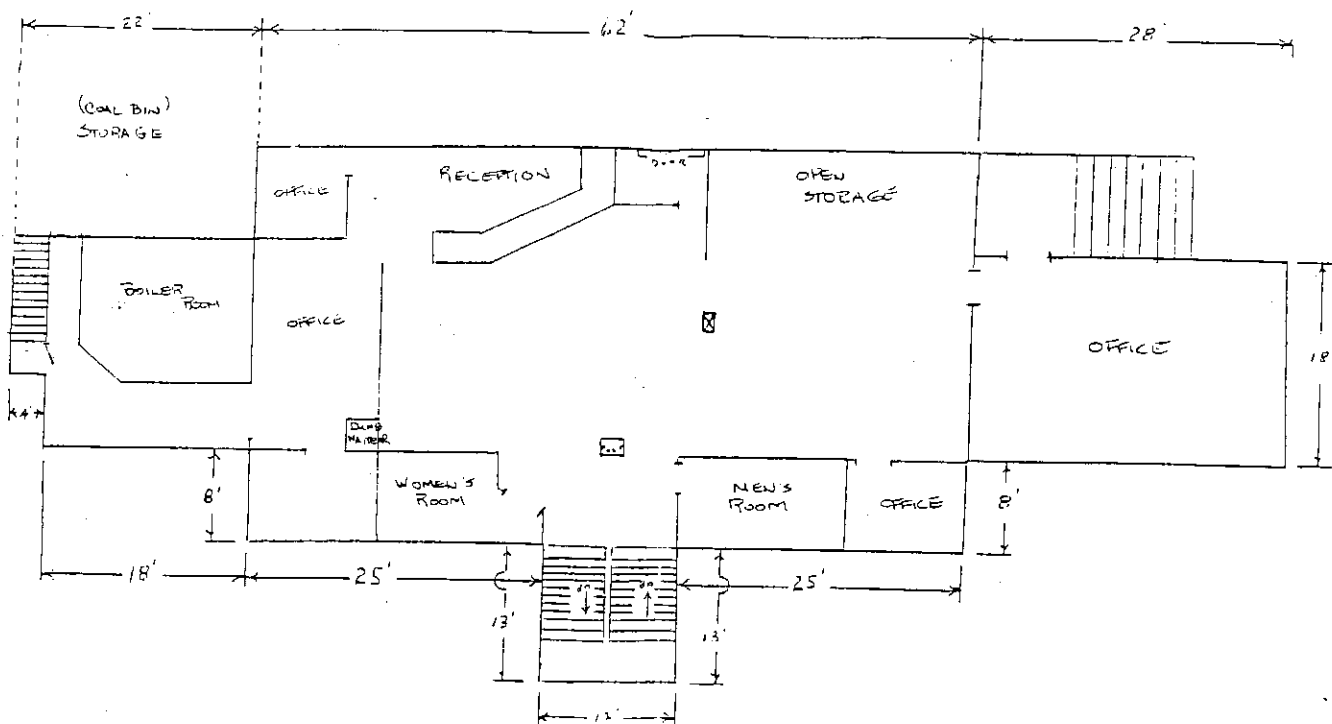
UPPER LEVEL
2002



The Butler School
1200 31st Street
Oakbrook, Illinois
Upper Level Plan, 2002

NOT TO SCALE

LOWER LEVEL
2002

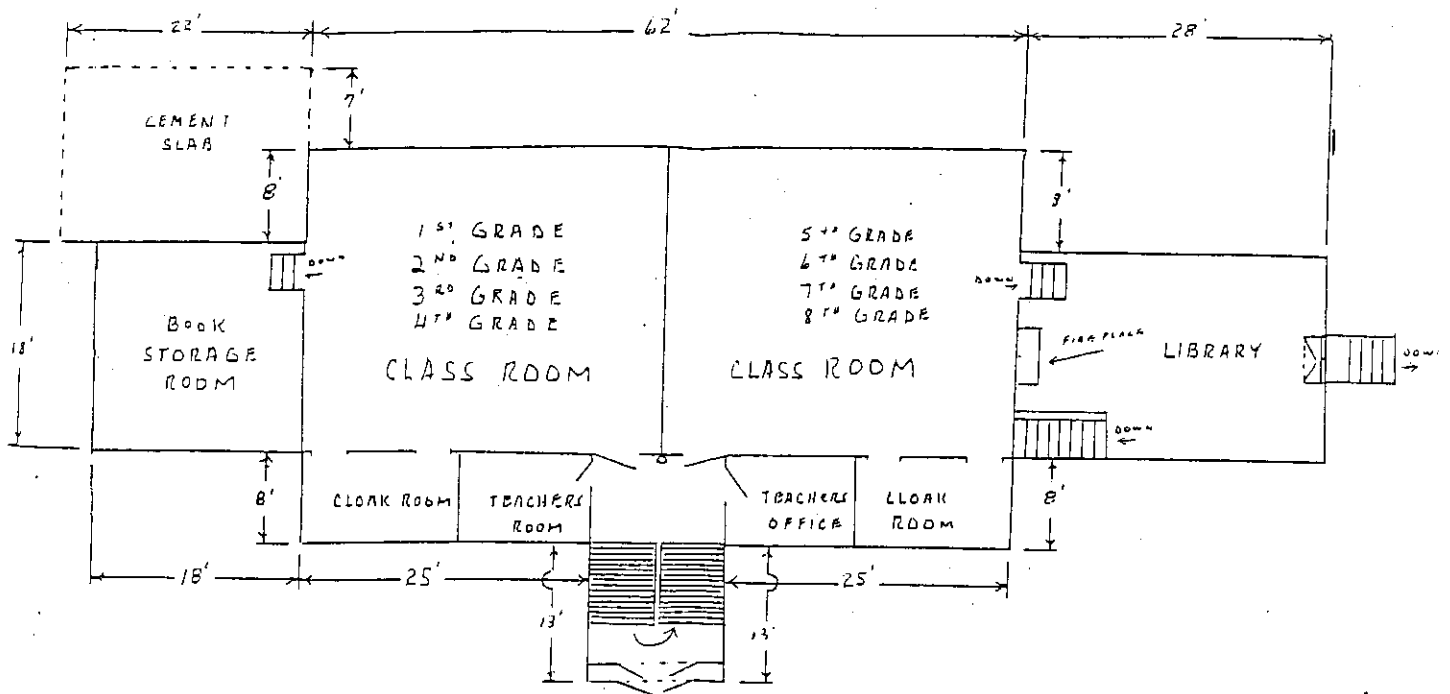


The Butler School
1200 31st Street
Oakbrook, Illinois
Lower Level Plan, 2002

NOT TO SCALE

UPPER LEVEL

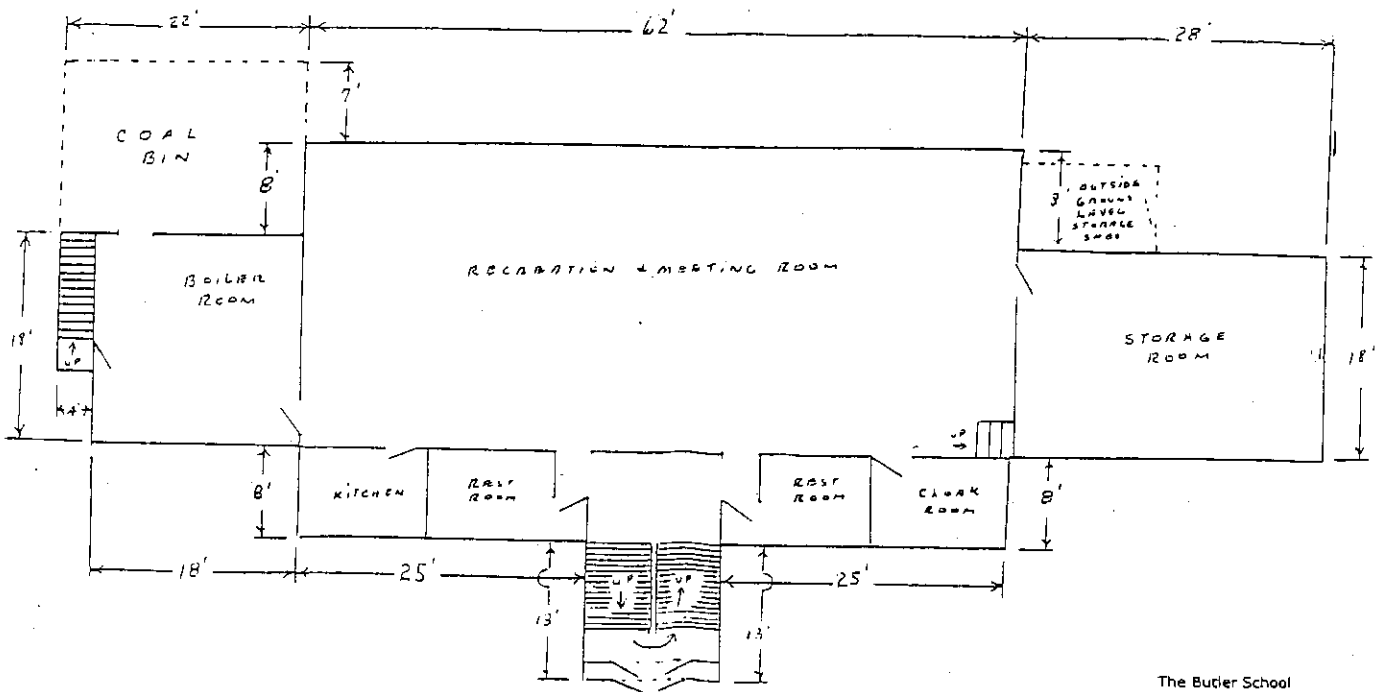
1921



The Butler School
 1200 31st Street
 OakBrook, Illinois
 Upper Level Plan, c.1921
 NOT TO SCALE

LOWER LEVEL

1921



The Butler School
 1200 31st Street
 OakBrook, Illinois
 Lower Level Plan, c.1921



Historic Photograph - 1930



Historic Photograph - 1922

Our physical location address is:

National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

Please have any Fed Ex, UPS packages sent to the above address. Please continue to use alternate carriers, as all mail delivered to us via United States Postal Service is irradiated and subsequently damaged.

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 5/05/03 THROUGH 5/09/03

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

CALIFORNIA, KERN COUNTY,
Burro Schmidt's Tunnel,
Address Restricted,
Ridgecrest vicinity, 03000113,
LISTED, 3/20/03

ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY,
Butler School,
1200 31st. St. (Oak Brook Rd.),
Oak Brook, 03000355,
LISTED, 5/09/03

ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY,
Oregon Public Library,
300 Jefferson St.,
Oregon, 03000352,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS)

ILLINOIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY,
AF and AM Lodge 687, Orangeville,
203 W. High St.,
Orangeville, 03000354,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, SAC COUNTY,
Chicago and North Western Passenger Depot,
3727 Perkins Ave.,
Wall Lake, 03000358,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, STORY COUNTY,
Nevada Downtown Historic District,
Approx. 6th St. from I Ave. to M Ave.,
Nevada, 03000356,
LISTED, 5/09/03
(Nevada Central Business District MPS)

IOWA, WEBSTER COUNTY,
Oleson Park Music Pavilion,
1400 Oleson Park Ave.,
Fort Dodge, 03000357,
LISTED, 5/09/03

IOWA, WOODBURY COUNTY,
Sanford, Arthur and Stella, House,
1925 Summit,