

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**  
9-23-94

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Marissa Academy

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 610 South Main Street  not for publication

city or town Marissa  vicinity

state Illinois code IL county St. Clair code 163 zip code 62257-0047

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

William L. Wheeler, SHPO 9-20-94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Marissa Academy  
Name of Property

St. Clair, Illinois  
County and State

**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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other Shingle

**Narrative Description**

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

Marissa Academy

Name of Property

St. Clair, IL

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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1891-1900

Significant Dates

1891

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

Marissa Academy

St. Clair, IL

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for reference 1: Zone 16, Easting 25189410, Northing 423159110

UTM grid for reference 3: Zone, Easting, Northing

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald L. Jones, President

organization Marissa Historical & Genealogical Society date 16 July 1994

street & number PO Box 47 telephone 618/235-0417

city or town Marissa state IL zip code 62257-0047

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Village of Marissa

street & number City Hall / 212 N. Main Street telephone 618/295-2351

city or town Marissa state IL zip code 62257

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places...

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions...

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Marissa Academy

The Marissa Academy is located on the west side of South Main Street in Marissa, St. Clair County, Illinois. Marissa is located in the extreme southeastern part of St. Clair County. The building is in the Marissa City Park at 610 S. Main Street. The village of Marissa is the current owner of the building. According to an article written by Rev. Wesley Walters, researched from church records and printed in Volume 2, Number 1 (1974) in the Marissa Historical and Genealogical Society's "Branching Out", he states that the construction of the building began in 1891 and was completed late in that same year. The surrounding land in the park is basically level and houses various buildings used for the annual Coal Festival (the town's annual homecoming festival in early August). The front facade faces east onto South Main Street with the main entrance at the northeast corner of the building.

The building sits on a stone wall foundation and has weatherboard siding with a fairly steep wood shingled cross gabled roof. The Academy Building was reconditioned in 1975 in preparation for Marissa's celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. The restoration work was done in an authentic manner to preserve its historic integrity.

### Exterior

The exterior of the Marissa Academy is Queen Anne in design. All of the windows are very tall, narrow, and are double-hung one-over-one. The attic has windows located in three areas. There is a set of two side by side windows on the north side, east side and the south side of the attic. The attic houses the many supports required to support the roof.

On the west wall there are four individual windows evenly spaced over the entire wall. On the north and south sides there are four windows located side by side. The stage area has two side by side windows on the east wall and two side by side windows on the south wall. The front porch / cloak room wall also has a window.

The front porch has different styles of contrasting wooden design work. The builders took two square boards and

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with the use of a lathe beautifully shaped them to form the posts for the porch. One was placed at the northeast corner and the other was cut in two and each half placed next to the weatherboard sided building (one where the porch and bannister join and the other next to the steps).

At the top of the porch the builder made great use of filigree wood designs. On the north and east side of the top they placed what looks like a scroll flowing into a floral design at each end with many short wooden pieces that have been turned out on a lathe to compliment the above mentioned porch corner posts. Across the east side of the porch there is a bannister with many filler posts with wood balusters.

The first story of the exterior is finished with weatherboard siding. Areas of angled tongue and grooved wood were used to add decorative sections to the building. On the north and south sides of the building these wood sections are placed above and under the windows. On the east side of the building they are under each window. There are two other sections on the east side that are below a horizontal wooden band that is even with the window sill. Each section is about 3 feet from the window area. The windows on the south side of the stage do not have these wood sections under them.

Above the east side and south side windows of the stage area are pedimented wood caps.

The upper gable ends of the north, south, and east side of the building have decorative segmental wood shingles. Above the attic windows are three ornamental brackets that support a very small hip roof overhang.

The lower section of the bell tower also uses segmental wood shingles. This shingled area gradually gets a few inches wider until it reaches the base of the tower.

The west side of the building has two classroom doors. There is a set of wooden steps without a canopy located outside these two classroom doors.

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Marissa Academy

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### Interior

The Marissa Academy was built as a three-room school. Each room had a brick chimney with a potbelly stove for heat. The building was designed so that the facility could be used as one large room with a stage on the eastern side or as individual classrooms. Sliding partition-type wooden doors were used to subdivide the facility into individual classrooms.

Upon going up the front steps onto the porch and entering through the main entrance the first area one enters is the cloak room. To the extreme left corner of this room is a stage entrance door and to the right is the entrance into classroom number 1. The cloak room now houses the furnace (as the old potbelly stoves are not used) and storage facilities for the historic artifacts owned by the Marissa Historical and Genealogical Society.

The main floor housed two classrooms and a stage. Each classroom had its own exit door on the west side of the building. The stage area to the east was used for a science room and as a stage when school functions required such a need.

On the walls of the interior of the building are many electric reproductions of the old style oil lamps that were common to the time period when the Marissa Academy was a school.

The building has wooden floors, a wooden wainscot around the room, angled tongue and grooved wooden ceilings with a round wood medallion located in the center where a ceiling light is located, wood trim around all entry ways (doors and stage area) with wood corner block medallions on each side at the top, and a raised stage. The wooden room divider partitions are not hung. Medal plates to anchor the partitions in place are still buried in the main floor and in the wood trim under the classroom wall dividers.

In classroom number 1 a medal rod still remains in the ceiling. Originally a chain was attached to this rod with a

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world globe hanging from the chain. The teacher could pull the globe out of the way when it was not needed through the use of a pulley system which is no longer present in the room.

Since 1900

The Marissa Academy closed in 1900. The building has since been used by a number of different groups including the local school for additional classroom space. As these various groups used the Academy building, they modified the structure to meet their needs. Exact dates are not available as to when modifications were made but they most likely would have occurred between 1930 and 1950. The groups converted the stage area into a kitchen and added an outside rest room which was built next to the southeast corner of the building. Sometime during this same time period the front porch was enclosed with weatherboard walls. On the north porch wall a door was installed and on the east porch wall some windows were installed. A newspaper article in 1973 indicated that a drop ceiling was recently added to the "main hall."

Restoration

During the 1975-76 restoration work, the committee talked with many of the senior citizens who remembered how the old building looked and checked old pictures when available. Following many hours of research, the committee undertook the task of transforming a building that was in great need of repair back into the Marissa Academy of old.

The drop ceiling and the kitchen were removed and then the stage was restored. Some sections of the classroom floors needed new boards and these were inserted. To bring the building up to safety standards a new furnace was installed and fire extinguishers were mounted according to the direction of the fire department.

The Marissa Mayor at the time of the restoration was Art Macke and he was able to get the needed equipment from the Peabody Coal Company temporarily to remove the old bell tower. The removal of the tower was necessary so workers could safely make needed repairs to it on the ground. After a few days,



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the bell tower was hoisted to the roof and reinstalled.

The committee faced major work in restoring the front porch. They discovered that the wood trim had been removed when the porch was enclosed. Old pictures were studied very carefully and it was noted that the old Nevin House in Marissa had been constructed with similar filigree woodwork. After much talking an agreement was reached, the necessary woodwork received, and today the front porch of the Academy building looks almost like it did when originally built.

The roof of the Marissa Academy building was in very bad condition. New wood shingles of the period were extensively used to restore the roof.

The outside color scheme of the building was carefully researched also. In some places the paint was scraped down to the bare wood in order to determine the color of the paint used when the building was built. A paint chip was then taken to a paint store in order to purchase the paint. The Academy building is now painted in the same color scheme as originally painted.

A few years after the restoration work was completed, the old rest rooms were also removed.

Every effort was made by the restoration committee to research the time period. Where major work had to be done either on the inside or outside, it was done as authentically as possible.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marissa Academy Building is locally historically significant for Criterion A for its association with education in Marissa, Illinois. Its period of significance for education was between 1891 when the building was built to 1900, when the Academy closed. However, to realize the significance of this building totally, one must study the history of education.

An academy is defined as "a private secondary or high school ... a school for teaching a particular art or particular science ... a building in which the students or members of an academy meet ... an institution for cultivating and promotion of fine arts, partaking of the character both of an association of artists for mental improvement and of a school of instruction." (1)

Education was well established in Europe long before immigrants started to come to America to establish new lives. The students chose their vocation and after some basic schooling, if admitted, would go to the academies that specialized in that discipline. There were art institutes, music conservatories, and science academies, to name a few.

Pioneers were faced with many obstacles when they landed in America. "In the frontier regions a man was valued not for his ancestry, breeding, or education, but for his ability and willingness to work with his hands." (2) In short, survival, not education, was utmost on their minds. The clearing of the land to plant food was hard work and fathers needed their sons to help with this task.

In colonial America, women were not allowed the opportunities to gain high educational levels. "A women's first duty was to be a good housekeeper, a submissive wife, and the mother of as many children as it might please God to send her, whom, up to the age of adolescence, she would teach above everything else to fear God and to work hard. The daughters would be her little apprentices." (3)

Some women were given the chance to be educated. In 1742

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a female seminary was started at Germantown, Pennsylvania by Countess Zinzendorf. (4) An academy was opened in 1785 by John Poor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which gave "instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, composition, rhetoric, and geography." (5)

The strongest effort to "provide solid education for girls beyond the elementary grades was made in New England (when) George B. Emerson ... opened an academy for girls (in 1818) ...; Emma Willard ... founded the famous academy in Troy, New York, in 1821." (6)

After a period of time when frontier communities were established, education came to the forefront again. Most of the children were given just the basic three "R's" (reading, writing, and arithmetic) which was probably accomplished in a short period of time. There was a feeling by the common man that an "acquaintance with the basic 'three Rs' sufficed to carry on what simple business transactions confronted him, and there was little necessity to rise above this level. ... there was a tendency to take them (meaning the children) from the classroom and put them to some of the many tasks required by a growing economy." (7)

Education was expensive and this was the reason for this feeling. "Sometimes higher education received attention only because church organizations were willing to appropriate money for the construction and maintenance of buildings." (8)

For the families who were of the wealthy class, many of the children were sent to the old country to gain a higher level of education at the well established various academies and universities. Some pioneer families who immigrated to America in the late 1700's left their older children in Europe to receive their education before allowing them also to come to America. John Orr states in his family history that "MY FATHER, being left in Ireland to complete his studies became master of the languages." (9)

The early public schools could be summarized as having poorly trained teachers, practically no equipment, and the school houses at times were primitive. Rev. Jacob C. Leonard

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also states that during this time "Interest in education was at a low ebb." (10) Many of these schools lasted only as long as the money to operate them was present or until the teacher was attracted to a better teaching situation.

Another opinion about the early teachers was printed in a book about the History of St. Clair County, Illinois. It states that "The teachers generally were poorly educated, if the stories told of them are to be believed, and in many instances sadly needing to be taught themselves. Most of them were proficient in wielding the rod, and it is related of one by the name of Daily, that he would occasionally get drunk during school hours ..." (11)

Parents in Gallatin County, Illinois, hired Jacob Poe in 1826 to teach English literature, Latin, and French. For his efforts he "was paid \$8.25 a month and was given farm produce (also) as partial compensation." (12) In other parts of the state an educated person would move in and open a school and charge tuition. "Such schools were usually called subscription schools, seminaries, or academies." (13)

Between 1818 and 1848, there were many academies established in the State of Illinois. "The legislature of Illinois granted charters to 125 of them by special act rather than by general law during this period. Most of the charters provided that girls, as well as boys, should be educated when sufficient money was at hand." (14)

In some areas the church members decided enough was enough and "made it known that they wanted a preacher who could teach school." (15) "Most of the (early) academies were founded by religious bodies." (16) The Illinois Annual Conference minutes between 1836 and 1856 indicate that the Methodist Church established 22 "seminaries or academies." Other denominations also started their own academies in many Illinois cities. (17)

These early academies were established for the purpose of fostering higher standards of education for their children. Today, we would call these old academies secondary schools or prep schools to prepare students to continue their education

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in various colleges and universities.

The first public school law was enacted in the State of Illinois on January 15, 1825. (18) Although taxing powers were given, many felt "that no one should pay taxes for the education of the children of other men. ... (Others) felt that subscription schools were better." (19)

Most of the early schools were one room school houses and they literally existed all over each county. Transportation was a major problem to the early settlers and this was the reason for so many of these one room school houses.

The first school in the Marissa area was located about 4 miles southwest of Marissa and built about 1830. In 1831 Mr. Isaac Hill, the teacher, had 30 pupils. This school later was known as the Risdon School. (20) Within a few years a number of other schools were opened in the Marissa area. (21) In 1850, the first public school was opened in the Marissa School District. ... The building of hewn timbers from the nearby forests was erected by the local citizens. The crude school furniture was also made from the same timber. On two sides of the building were openings for window glass. ... (for) light and ventilation. (22)

Different school bills passed in Illinois but it was not until 1855 that a strong education bill was passed. Local communities were now able to pass local tax laws to help them establish and build school systems. (23) "No one could be taxed more than \$10.00 for schools. Teachers received their salary in cash or 'merchantable produce' from citizens who had agreed to support the schools." (24)

#### Brief History Of Marissa

In 1841, James Wilson, Jr., built his home about two miles southwest of Marissa. As he was on the stage line that carried the mail into his area, James collected the mail for nearby families. On March 31, 1846 President James K. Polk officially named James Wilson the first postmaster of Marissa. One of his duties was to give his post office a name and he chose the name Marissa. (25)

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James Wilson read classical literature and it was while he read "Antiquities of the Jews" by Flavius Josephus that he found the name of a Hebrew town of Mareshah. The translation of Mareshah is Marissa. (26)

The Marissa Station Post Office was moved in 1857 to the farm home of Matthew Hamilton which now is part of what is called New Marissa. (27)

The old village of Marissa (Old Marissa) was laid out as such by James Steward on Dec. 12, 1867. "Four years later the village at first known as Marissa Station (New Marissa) was laid out along the old Cairo Short Line railroad which is the Illinois Central of today. Its exact date of creation was Jan. 5, 1871. (Matthew Elder) Hamilton and (John Carmichael) Hamilton fixed the site." (28)

Old Marissa and Marissa Station (New Marissa) were about one mile apart. Old Marissa had a number of taverns. The citizens of Marissa Station believed that their village should be dry so in 1882 they incorporated themselves and claimed the name of "Marissa." In 1893 the original settlement incorporated under the name of "Old Marissa." (29)

Marissa and Old Marissa operated as individual but friendly villages for almost 100 years. On September 18, 1971, a public election was held on merging the two villages. The results of said voting to merge passed. Shortly thereafter the two villages merged under the name of "Marissa". (30)

## Early Education

About the time that "Marissa Station" was laid out in 1871, "there was a need for a higher degree of education than could be gotten in the public school, and as a result, some members of the (Marissa United Presbyterian) church, a high school was organized in the fall of 1874, in the hall in Rutherford's building. ... But after the spring term the building was converted into residences and offices, leaving no place to continue the school. Though forced to close, the idea of a high school was not forgotten, ..." (31)

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Rev. Wesley P. Walters in the late 1960's researched the church's records in preparation for 1970 Centennial of the Marissa Presbyterian Church. The following article about the development of the Marissa Academy was written about 1970 by Rev. Walters and was printed in Volume 2, Number 1 (1974) of the Marissa Historical and Genealogical Society's "Branching Out":

"Among the last remaining Academy buildings in the State of Illinois is the old Academy building in the village park in Marissa. The idea of founding an Academy was conceived by Rev. Edward E. McKee in the summer of 1886. Rev. Mr. McKee was pastor of the Marissa United Presbyterian Church and he, along with others, saw the need of an institution that would be a step beyond the local grade school education - to prepare young men and women to enter college."

"An arrangement was worked out with the College in Monmouth, Illinois, by which graduates of the Academy could enter Monmouth College without the qualifying examination required of other students. Plans rapidly took shape, a corporation was formed of which Mr. McKee was elected president and classes opened in the fall of 1886. Connections with Monmouth College were strengthened when Prof. J. C. McMichael, son of the President of Monmouth College, was installed as the first Principal of the Academy. The Public Grade School kindly donated the use of two vacant rooms in that building and with about a half dozen students the Academy was on its way."

"Not only did Mr. McKee serve as President of the Board of Trustees, but he taught science as part of the varied curriculum, which included Latin and Greek among its subjects. His demonstrations in electricity and magnetism were vividly remembered by his students for years after he had left Marissa to become president of Stuttgart College in Stuttgart, Arkansas. His breadth of learning was illustrated when two Marissa carpenters were seeking to learn how to cut a special type of joint, and conferring with Rev. McKee, he was able to supply the needed information. ...

"The Academy offered a three year-course of study, at

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\$7.00 tuition each for the first two terms and \$5.00 for the third term. Many of its graduates entered the ministry, or - like its first graduating class of 1889, became lawyers. ...

"In 1891, the Academy erected its own building which was dedicated in December of that year. With the commencement of a public school in the village of Marissa after the turn of the century, however, there was no longer a need for an institution to prepare students for college and the old Academy finally has to close its doors, having serviced the community for two decades. Today the building stands ..., the last vestige of an important era in the onward movement of education in the State of Illinois." (32)

When Marissa Township established their 4 year public high school, without tuition, Marissa Academy graduated their last class in 1900.

The Marissa Academy served well the purpose for which it was established. Though it was in existence for a short period of time, many local students benefited from the great educational experiences offered at the Academy.

The names of all of the students who attended the Marissa Academy are now nonexistent. In 1922, the Marissa Public High School yearbook mentioned the days of the academy and gave known names and addresses of the graduates. (33)

Class of:	Number of Graduates:
1889	5
1890	4
1891	5
1892	5
1893	2
1894	7
1895	9
1896	5
1897	4
1898	5
1899	4
1900	4



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There were 59 known living graduates in 1922. The actual number of graduates most likely was higher. A copy of the Metro East Journal newspaper printed on Friday, May 18, 1973 states that "The late Mrs. Cora McClintock told Miss (Alberta) Hamilton there were 10 students in her graduating class when she graduated in 1894." (34) The above 1922 total indicates only 7 students were in the class of 1894.

Unfortunately records were probably lost and yearbooks were not printed to allow us to know school life as experienced by the students that attended the Marissa Academy. Miss Alberta Hamilton relates that Cora (White) McClintock, an 1892 graduate, and Myrtle A. (Hamilton) Hissong, an 1895 graduate, told her that the Marissa Academy had literary groups that gave readings and recitations, debates, farces, musicals, speakers, and plays. Most of these events were presented on the stage in the Academy building. In the above mentioned news article printed in the Metro East Journal on May 18, Miss Hamilton stated that "It (meaning the Academy building) was a community place." (35) She also stated that some programs were presented by "villagers."

Since the Marissa Academy closed its doors in 1900, the building has been used by other groups. For a few years beginning in 1924, the Academy building was used by the Marissa Elementary School because of an increase in their enrollment. This required one of the first of many remodelings that were made to the building. (36) The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, women's clubs, Lions and Rotary Clubs met in the academy building in later years. Local citizens also remember that various church meetings were presented in the facility. A newspaper article reveals that for a few years beginning about 1973 the Marissa Academy building was a Teen Center. (37)

Around 1950 some rest rooms were built next to the southeast corner of the building. Over a period of time, the building began to get further and further into disrepair. A group of community citizens, in preparation for the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration, formed a group to restore the historic Marissa Academy building to its original beauty.

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Many hours of work were given by a few for the benefit of the community. The old bell tower was removed to accomplish the needed restoration work. The committee deemed it unsafe to accomplish the work while the tower sat on the roof. Later the bell tower was hoisted again to its perch. The committee also supervised the removal of the drop ceiling in the main hall and opening and restoring the front porch. In the late 1970's the added rest rooms were removed.

Through the use of old records and photographs, the Marissa Academy building stands today virtually as it originally did. Since the restoration work, the building is once again serving the community as it houses the Marissa Historical and Genealogical Society. In 1976, the St. Clair County Historical Society placed a plaque near the front door proclaiming it a Historic Landmark.

Annually many hundreds of people from all over the country visit this facility where many priceless genealogical records can be found and historical artifacts are on display in the museum. During the annual local fair, called the Marissa Coal Festival, the Academy building is called the Coal Museum as the historical artifacts on display relate to the coal industry.

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28. Marissa Only Town In World With That Name In All Recorded Time. Belleville, IL, Belleville Daily Advocate, October 25, 1939, p. 97.

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Marissa, IL, The Marissa Messenger, September 5, 1969, p.  
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31. 1870-1970 Centennial, United Presbyterian Church.  
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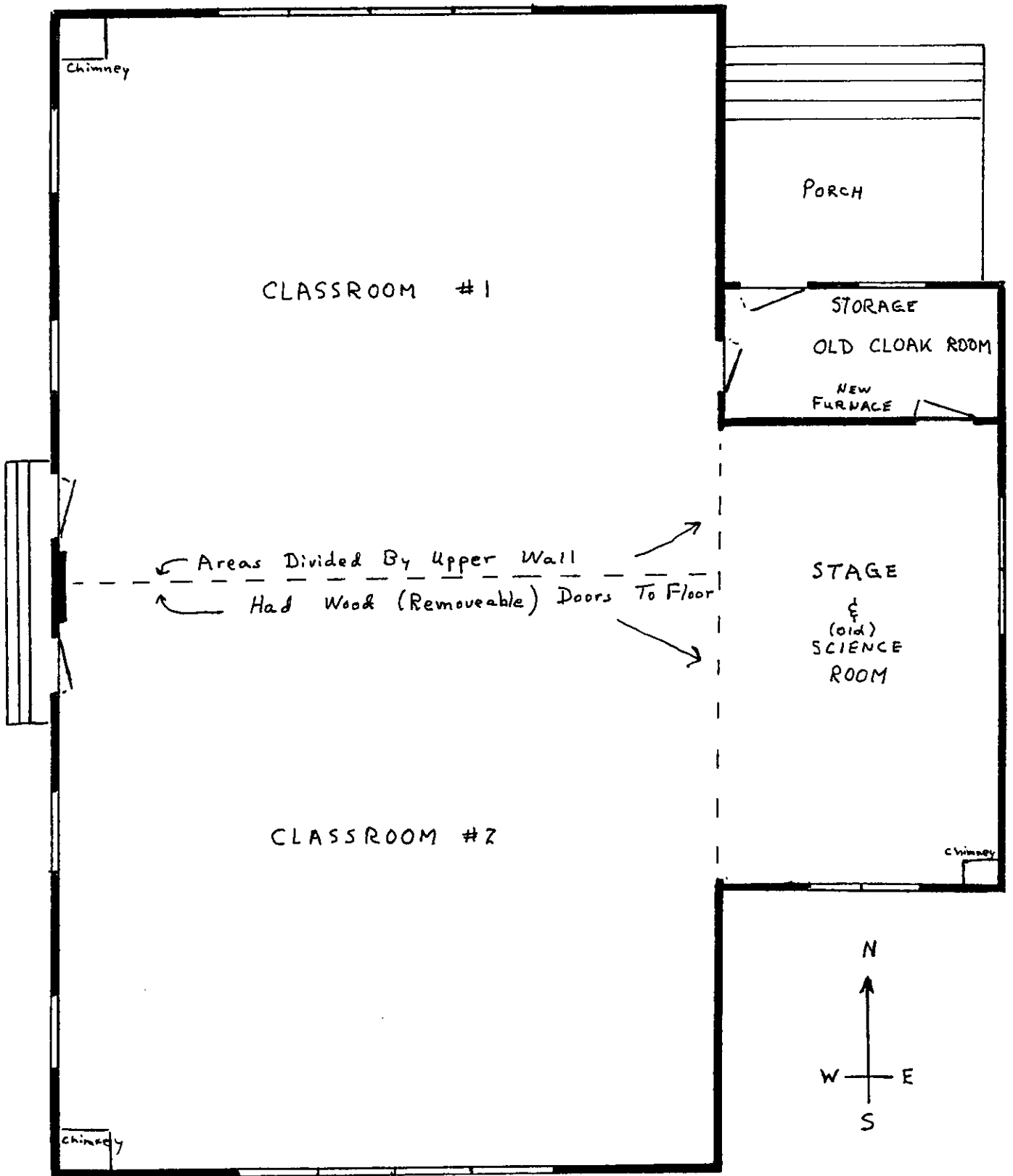
### Verbal Boundary Description

The Marissa Academy is located in Marissa, Illinois at 610 South Main Street. Commencing at a point where a line drawn along the south side of East Harding Street would meet the west side of South Main Street then west about 130 feet, then north about 60 feet, then east about 130 feet, then south about 60 feet to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building itself, and property on the north side of the building, to include the well; on the east side of the building to the public walk on Main Street; on the south side to the public access driveway and on the west side up to 20 feet. This is the area historically associated with the Marissa Academy Building. Areas to the north and west sides have had newer buildings and structures added for the annual Coal Festival. To the south there is an open field on the other side of which newer private homes have been built.





Marissa Academy Building (not to scale)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

TAKE  
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AMERICA

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NOV 09 1994

Preservation Services

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

NOV 4 1994

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 10/24/94 THROUGH 10/28/94

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

COLORADO, ADAMS COUNTY, Riverside Cemetery, 5201 Brighton Blvd., Denver, 94001253, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
COLORADO, LARIMER COUNTY, Hewes--Kirkwood Inn, 465 Long Peak Rd., Estes Park vicinity, 94001254, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
FLORIDA, GADSDEN COUNTY, Nicholson, Dr. Malcolm, Farmhouse, FL 12, N side, W of Havana, Havana vicinity, 94001272, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Maher Building, 1423 20th St., Vero Beach, 94001274, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
FLORIDA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Smith, Archie, Wholesale Fish Company, 1740 Indian River Dr., Sebastian, 94001275, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
FLORIDA, SARASOTA COUNTY, Out of Door School, 444 Reid St., Sarasota, 94001276, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House, 1110 W. Nevada, Urbana, 94001270, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Fraternity and Sorority Houses at the Urbana-Champaign Campus of the University of Illinois MPS)  
ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY, Bloomington School--Village Hall, 108 E. Lake St., Bloomington, 94001263, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY, Randecker's Hardware Store, 112 S. Bloomington Rd., Bloomington, 94001265, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, FULTON COUNTY, South Fulton Churchhouse, 2.2 mi. S of jct. of Astoria-Bader Rd. and US 24, Astoria vicinity, 94001264, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Grafton Bank, 225 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000016, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Grafton Historic District, 105--225 and 24--214 W. Main St., and stone wharf at Maple St., Grafton, 94000020, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Mason, Paris, Building, 100 N. Springfield St., Grafton, 94000017, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, McClintock, John and Amelia, House, 321 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000019, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Ruebel Hotel, 207--215 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000015, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, JERSEY COUNTY, Slaten--LaMarsh House, 25 E. Main St., Grafton, 94000018, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION, 6/03/94 (Grafton MPS)  
ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY, Hotel Waukegan, 102 Washington St., Waukegan, 94001269, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Montgomery County Courthouse, Courthouse Sq., Hillsboro, 94001266, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
ILLINOIS, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Marissa Academy, 610 S. Main St., Marissa, 94001267, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
IOWA, JASPER COUNTY, Byal Orchard Historic District, W. 108th St. about 1.5 mi. S of jct. with IA 223, Mingo vicinity, 94001255, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
LOUISIANA, NATCHITOCHE PARISH, Church of St. Anne, Jct. of LA 485 and Bloss Moore Rd., SW corner, Allen vicinity, 94001271, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
LOUISIANA, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, Graugnard House, 2292 LA 44, Reserve vicinity, 94001249, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MAINE, AROOSTOOK COUNTY, Corriveau Mill, US 1, S side, 0.3 mi. SW of jct. with Paridis Rd., Upper Frenchville vicinity, 94001246, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MAINE, SAGadahoc COUNTY, Heal Family House, ME 127, W side, 1.2 mi. S of jct. with Robinhood Rd., Georgetown vicinity, 94001243, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MAINE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Calais Residential Historic District, Roughly, area along Main St. and Calais Ave., from Calais Ave. to Swan St., Calais, 94001248, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MAINE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Hinckley Hill Historic District, Roughly, 305--326 Main St., Calais, 94001244, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPDEN COUNTY, Longmeadow Street--North Historic District, Bounded by Longmeadow St., Springfield Town Line, Westmoreland Ave. and Colley Dr., Longmeadow, 94001262, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
MISSISSIPPI, JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY, Holloway, John Fielding, House, US 84, about 450 ft. E of jct. with MS 541, Mount Carmel community, Prentiss vicinity, 94001252, NOMINATION, 10/28/94  
NEBRASKA, CHEYENNE COUNTY, Sioux Ordnance Depot Fire & Guard Headquarters, Jct. of 1st Ave. and Military Rd., Western Nebraska Community College, Sidney vicinity, 94001234, NOMINATION, 10/24/94  
NEW JERSEY, ESSEX COUNTY, Indian and the Puritan, Opposite 5 Washington St., Newark, 94001256, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Public Sculpture in Newark MPS)  
NEW JERSEY, ESSEX COUNTY, Wars of America, Military Park, 614--706 Broad St., Newark, 94001257, NOMINATION, 10/28/94 (Public Sculpture in Newark MPS)  
TENNESSEE, GILES COUNTY, Reveille, 408 W. Madison, Pulaski, 94001273, NOMINATION, 10/28/94