

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Quiet Dell School  
other name/site number: West Virginia Mountain Products, Inc. Cooperative

2. Location

street & number: Off State Road 20 on County Route 20/79 not for publication: N/A  
city/town: Mount Clare vicinity: X  
state: WV county: Harrison code: 033 zip code: 26408

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Susan M. Perce February 5, 2001  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

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

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 Date

**Quiet Dell School**  
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County and State

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

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**5. Classification**

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**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>3</u>        | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>3</u>        | TOTAL      |

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**      0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**  
EDUCATION: School

**Current Functions**  
CULTURAL: Heritage Arts Center  
COMMERCIAL: Retail

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

OTHER: Carpenter/Builder

**Materials**

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Foundation | <u>Concrete Block</u> |
| Walls      | <u>Wood siding</u>    |
| Roof       | <u>Asphalt</u>        |
| Other      | _____                 |

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation on sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.

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**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**

Education

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1922-1953

**Significant Dates**

1922

1953

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**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: County Board of Education Office and Courthouse

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property:** Approximately 3/4 of an acre

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

Quad Map Name: Mount Clare Quad

Zone Easting Northing  
17 560430 4341660

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(See continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(See continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan, WV SHPO  
With Robert Anderson, WV Mountain Products, Inc.

Organization: WV SHPO Date: October 17, 2000

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305-0300

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**Property Owner**

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

Name: Harrison County Board of Education

Street & Number: 408 Water Street, PO Box 1370 Telephone:

City or Town: Clarksburg State: WV Zip: 26302

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**Setting:**

Quiet Dell School stands just off State Route 20 a short distance from an exit interchange with I-79. Graveled County Route 20/79 leads off the main road and the original entrance fronts on this drive on a low hillside. A lot in front of the school has a separate commercial building fronting on State Route 20.

The entrance today faces east, with a grass lawn in front and to the south. A pipe fence runs along the gravel drive. The modern wooden sheds and barn are to the SW and S sides. A gravel parking lot is behind the school to the west. Outside of the immediate defined boundaries are open fields to the west.

**Architectural Description:**

**School** 1922/1953

**Contributing Building**

The one-story wooden drop-sided building was constructed in two stages with the older section dating to 1922 having an entrance on the north side that opened into a vestibule with offices, and two classrooms. The second building phase in 1953 included a new entrance on the east side, two more classrooms and a kitchen. The roof is a low hip with a higher center ridge with small gable ends.

The east, or front facade, has a centered entrance with wide low steps leading to recessed double wooden doors having three horizontal lights and a large four row by six lights multi light transom overhead. Flanking the side of the doors are narrow double-hung sash windows with 4/4 lights. The right (north) side of the building is the older section with a rockfaced concrete block foundation. The set of windows for the front classroom is a ribbon of five openings with 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The left (south) side is the 1950s addition with concrete block foundation, and a ribbon of seven windows with 6/6 double-hung sash openings. On the exterior, concrete steps lead on both sides of the doorway to the lower level and bathrooms, with metal doors and 2/2 patterned glass window. The steps under the older section have been cut into the foundation with concrete block in-fill and a small brick header course.

The north side of the building has the older entrance with concrete steps leading to a portico with drop-siding for the closed rails, tapered wooden posts and a low gable roof. The portico rests on concrete piers and at the moment is supported with extra wooden supports pending renovation. The entrance has double wooden doors with three horizontal lights and a multi-light transom. To each side of the portico are two pairs of low four light windows. The doorway opens into a small vestibule with a cloak room and principals office being located on this facade of the building. A small addition dating to the 1940s or 1950s is on the southwest corner with a low gable roof, wooden drop-siding and a concrete block foundation. The addition has a metal door facing the porch, and on the rear are two sets of windows with a horizontal 3 light opening and two 4 light openings. On the rear, or south elevation, there is evidence that the addition has been extended with a change at the foundation and roof levels.

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On the rear, or west side, are three single door openings having horizontal wooden panels and a single horizontal light, with a wooden handicapped ramp providing access. To the left on the older section is a ribbon of four windows with 6/6 double-hung openings and two single metal doorways (one to a classroom and one to the center kitchen). Immediately to the right of the kitchen doorway is a triple window and a space before a single window, all with 6/6 double-hung openings. A third doorway leads into a classroom. The rear windows on this room have been covered, and there is an opening into an attached greenhouse.

The south side of the building has two metal fire doors leading from the rear of the classrooms. These open onto a wooden handicapped ramp. There are no windows on this facade of the school.

The interior of the building has a center vestibule which is concrete just inside the doorways with steps leading to restrooms and storage on the lower levels. Wooden steps lead up to the main floor with four rectangular classrooms with original blackboards, baseboards and windows in place. Some of the original drop lights are still in place with glass globes. Linoleum has been placed over the soft pine floors in the two south classrooms. Centered off the hallway and vestibule is the kitchen with two windows opening into hallway with 6/6 double-hung sash windows. These opened to allow food service to the children. A faculty room was added off the kitchen in 1960. The old entrance opened into a small vestibule with four doors. The cloak room and principals office was located on the old entrance facade, and the two classrooms were behind these rooms.

**Outbuildings**

1991

**Three non-contributing buildings**

Three wooden buildings were built on site for outdoor activities. These modern buildings have vertical and angled siding and rolled asphalt roofs.

The play equipment from the 1960s has not been included in the count of buildings.

**Summary:**

Although of a simple design, the school maintains its original materials and historic characteristics. The old portion of the school is easily identifiable. The 1953 addition was sympathetic to the original design and did not sacrifice the earlier classroom space.

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Quiet Dell School is significant under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins with construction in 1922 and includes the extension to the building in 1953. Because of the closeness of the 50 year period, Criterion Consideration G is not being used.

### Harrison County's Educational System

Some of the earliest schools in western Virginia were subscription schools that sprang up on the frontier. Patronized by the upper middle class, the schools were often controlled by the trustees of the school with little attention by the state. Randolph Academy was chartered in 1788 and located in Clarksburg. It was to receive 1/6 of the survey fees from Ohio, Monongalia, Harrison and Randolph counties for its support. The dream was to establish an institution west of the mountains and north of the Little Kanawha River that would be as important as William and Mary College was to the Tidewater area. The contract on a building was not let until 1793 but by the 1840s the school had suffered financial problems and the land was transferred to the Northwestern Virginia Academy in 1843 which erected a new building.

The *History of Harrison County* states that Martin's *Gazetteer of Virginia* published in 1833 lists forty-two common schools as existing in the counties of western Virginia; of these there were four in Harrison; two were located in Clarksburg, and one in both Bridgeport and Shinnston. The Census of 1850 lists Harrison County as having 71 schools enrolling 330 students. In 1865 the free schools began in Harrison County. There were about 65 schools taught that winter for a three month term. Each year a teachers institute was held for the continuing education of the teachers. By 1906 there were 260 schools with lengths of terms from six to nine months. Graded schools had been established and Clay District voted to have a high school in Shinnston. This made four high schools in the county.

### Community History

The community of Quiet Dell was settled after 1848 when a turnpike, present day State Route 20, connected Nutter Fort and Buckhannon. Known originally as Needle's Eye, the community had a mill along Elk Creek which drew business and a post office. A map of the area from 1886 identifies the residential and commercial buildings in the town, including the church and schoolhouse which were on the north side of the turnpike.

Land for a new school was deeded by J.D. Pickens in September 1922 for \$550. The school was to serve the Elk Magisterial District, with students attending from as far away as Craigmoor and Johnstown. The current schoolhouse was constructed by local builders in 1922 on a low hillside off State Route 20. The building had two classrooms with grades 1 to 4 in the "Little Room" and grades 5 to 8 in the "Big Room." Photographs in the book *Harrison County Heritage* show that many of the smaller school buildings in the county were frame, while the larger schools in the towns were of brick construction. There is some similarity of style between a few of the buildings, with the older section of Quiet Dell most resembling the Romines Mills

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School with Grades 1-4.

Principal Harriett Cookman is the first known administrator of the school in 1924. Teachers boarded with local families. There was no interior plumbing in the old school. Water was available from a well at the Hansford house directly below the school fronting on the old turnpike. A blacksmith shop owned by Charlie Longstreth was also located below the school where a commercial lot is still occupied today.

One of the early extracurricular activities at the school was the local 4-H Club which started soon after the building was built. Dr. Keith Pickens was the first director of the club between his years of 1922-1926. Agricultural education was emphasized, with students participating in national and state activities as well as local county level competitions.

During the year of 1935-37, the grounds near the school were used by Camp Harrison (Camp SCS-7) a Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) active in the county. The camp may also have availed itself of the use of the school at times. Camp Harrison was occupied between July 10, 1935, by CCC Company 2592, which included roughly 200 men, until December 15, 1937. The camp site was in the vicinity of I-79 today and the last remaining building was removed by the construction of the highway. The men of the camp performed soil erosion control work on private farms in the area. In September 1937 technical staff were transferred to other camps and Camp Harrison was vacated. Although it was recommended to use the camp as a receiving hospital for tubercular patients, funds were not available. Five of the buildings were transferred to the Soil Conservation Service, and the remaining portable buildings were shipped to the Eighth Corps Area, Bloomfield, NM for army use. Today no extant resources remain of the CCC Camp.

By the 1950s, enrollment at the school had grown so that the building was expanded. The rear of the building was extended to include a kitchen, two classrooms and a new entrance facing east. The lower level provided restrooms and maintenance facilities. The school had grades one through six until it was closed in 1970.

For the next five years the building was used for administrative purposes by the Board of Education. An area Kindergarten was organized and housed in the building from 1975 until 1989. Classes for special education - special living skills training, speech therapy offices and training were also held there from 1978-1990.

Today the building is still owned by the County Board of Education, but is occupied by West Virginia Mountain Products, Inc. This heritage arts education center also has a juried craft co-op. Outdoor activities are carried on in the outbuildings constructed in 1991.

**Summary:**

Quiet Dell School is a good example in Harrison County of a small four room frame school building from the early to mid - 20<sup>th</sup> century. The original section was completed in 1922 to serve the community. Extended in 1953, as enrollment increased, the school was used for multi-education purposes until 1990.

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**Bibliography**

**Books:**

Anderson, Robert Edgar. *God's Light Shines on Me!* Bridgeport, WV: WVSEE Publications, 2000.

Davis, Dorothy. *History of Harrison County, WV.* Clarksburg, WV: American Association of University Women, 1970.

Harr, Milton. *The C.C.C. Camps in West Virginia, 1933-1942.* Harr, 1992.

Harrison County Genealogical Society, and The Harrison County Historical Society. *Harrison County Heritage*, 1995.

Deed Books, Harrison County Courthouse, Clarksburg, WV.

**Interviews:**

The interviews were conducted by Robert Anderson.

Virginia Lear, Quiet Dell, WV November 1999.

Roberta Bastin, Quiet Dell, WV November 1999.

June Foreman, Nutter Fort, WV November 1999.

Alice Woofter, Wallace, WV November 1999, April 2000.

James Turner, Nutter Fort, WV November 1999.

Larry Price, Nutter Fort, WV November 1999.

Hulda Seese, Clarksburg, March 2000

Cleo Rollins, Quiet Dell, November 1999, March 2000

Sandy DeMark, Nutter Fort, November 1999, March 2000.

James Simms, Clarksburg, April 2000.

Alice Woofter, Wallace, WV August 2000

Michael Talkington, Clarksburg, September 2000

William Ashcraft, Clarksburg, September 2000

Jeanine Lafferty, Clarksburg, September 2000

Suzanne Swanson, Clarksburg, September 2000

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Parcel One: All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the County of Harrison, lying near the Buckhannon Pike, and described and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a corner to a lot of Mrs. Emma Hansford at an iron bar driven in the center of drain, running thence S. 79° 25" E. 112 feet to a line of lot owned by Mary Schutte, thence with a line of said lot N. 7 ½ ° E. 130 feet to a corner to lot owned by Emma Hansford, thence with line of said lot N. 13° 35" W. 123 feet to the place of beginning, and containing 124 square rods, more or less, and being the same lot or parcel of land which was conveyed by James Pickens, a widower, and others, to The Board of Education of Elk District, County of Harrison. As Recorded by Deed Book, Harrison County Courthouse, 1922. The parcel contains roughly 3/4 of an acre.

Parcel Two: Beginning at a post, being the NW corner of the school lot presently owned by the Board of Education of the County of Harrison, and running thence S. 78° 40" W. 100 feet to an iron pin; thence S. 11° 04" E. 243.36 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 82° 40" E. 100.29 feet to a post, being the SW corner of aforesaid school lot; thence running with the east line of said school lot N. 11° 04" W. 251.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.567 acres, more or less, and being the same lot or parcel of land which was conveyed by J. Keith Pickens, and others, to The Board of Education by deed on August 14, 1964, in Deed Book 897, page 64.

**Boundary Justification**

Parcel One is the lot containing the school building and is historically associated with the property. Parcel Two contains the parking lot for the school building and the land once associated with Camp Harrison.

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Address                      State Route 20  
Town                        Quiet Dell, WV  
County                        Harrison County

Photographer:              Katherine Jourdan

Date:                         July 2000

Negatives:                 WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

- Photo 1 of 11              Front Facade or East Elevation, Camera facing SW
- Photo 2 of 11              Front Facade or East Elevation, Camera facing SW
- Photo 3 of 11              Front Door on East Elevation, Camera facing W
- Photo 4 of 11              North Elevation, Camera facing S
- Photo 5 of 11              West or Rear Elevation, Camera facing E
- Photo 6 of 11              South Elevation, Camera facing N
- Photo 7 of 11              Noncontributing Outbuildings, West facades, Camera facing E
- Photo 8 of 11              Noncontributing Outbuilding, North Facade, Camera facing SW
- Photo 9 of 11              View from SR 20 of commercial lot and school, Camera looking SW
- Photo 10 of 11             Xerox copy of historic photo of men of the CCC Camp Harrison lined up by flag pole, west side of school, c. 1936. Camera looking NE
- Photo 11 of 11             Xerox copy of historic photo of Tent City, c. 1936, view from SW looking NE

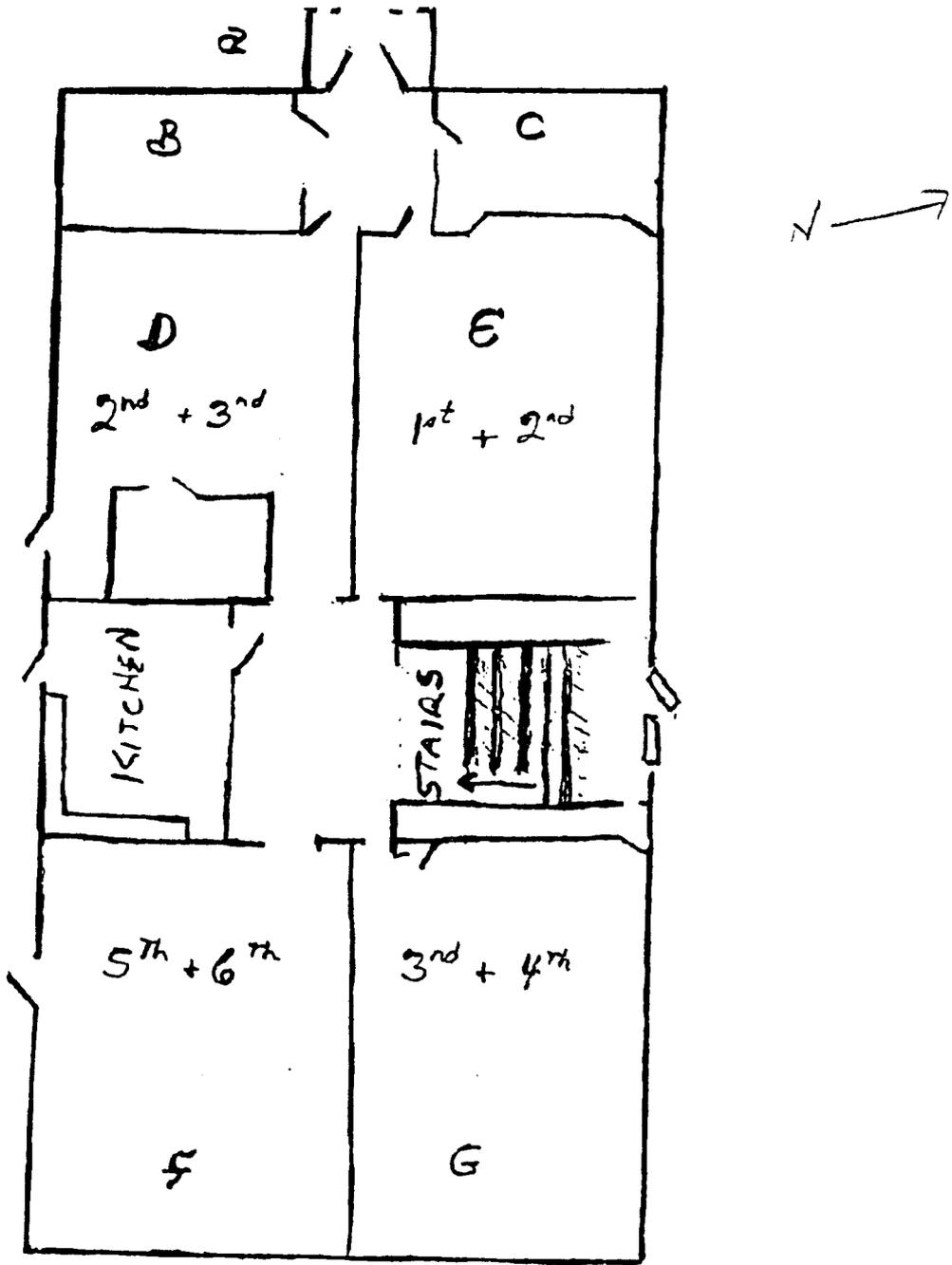
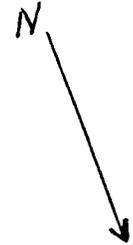
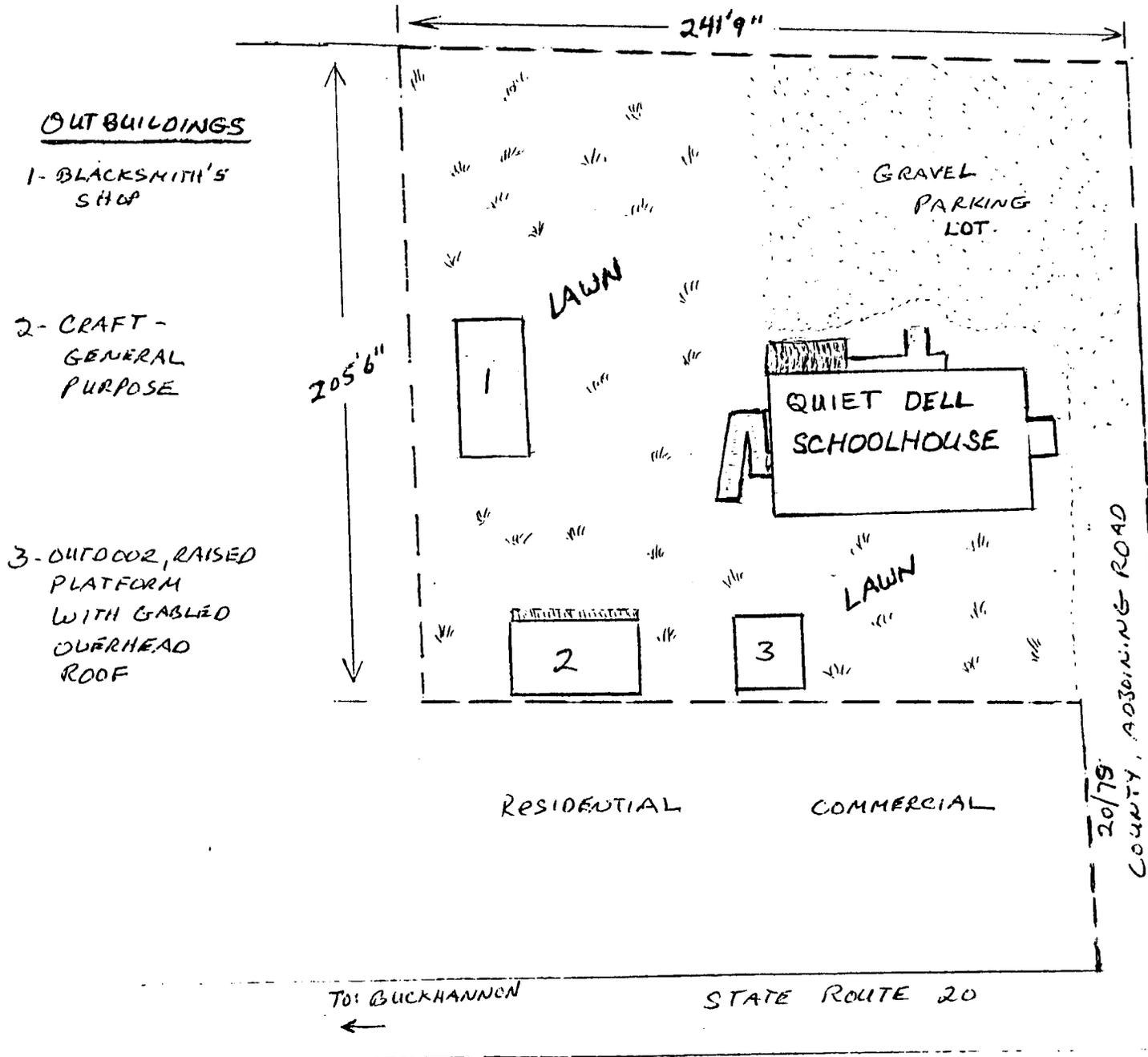


Figure 11: Arrangement of classes in the 4 classrooms in 1959.

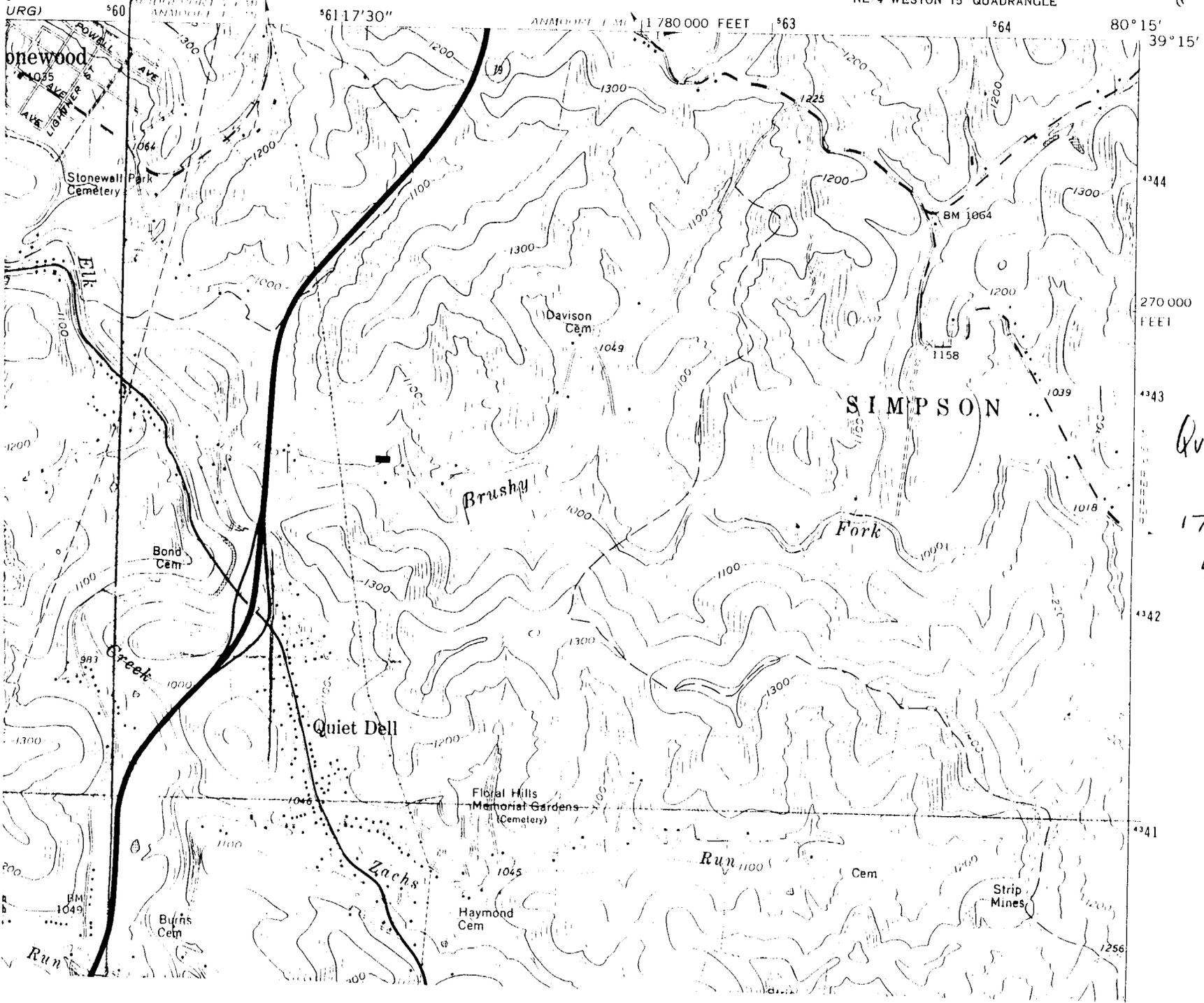
DRAWING OF SITE WITH APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF BUILDINGS

1 INCH EQUALS APPROX. 49 FEET.



REV 2-27-66

QUIET DELL METH. CHURCH



QUIET DELL  
SCHOOL  
17 560430  
4341660

