

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pioneer School
Other names/site number: Pioneer Elementary School, PSZ Clay Center
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 952 E. Main Street
City or town: Zanesville State: Ohio County: Muskingum
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets
the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
___ A ___ B X C ___ D

<i>Barbara Tower</i>		DSHPO/Dept. Head Inventory & Registration	February 7, 2023
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
<u>State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u>			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			
In my opinion, the property ___meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria.			
Signature of commenting official:		Date	
_____		_____	
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
_____		_____	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Collegiate Gothic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, concrete

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Pioneer School is a two-story brick school building in Collegiate-Gothic architecture style that sits atop Pioneer Hill near the end of Main Street in Zanesville, Ohio. The school was built in 1915 as an elementary school with grades 1-8 in 12 classrooms and served that purpose until 2005. It was built with “modern” features including a fireproof building design, an innovative “Moline” system of heating and ventilation, and a central vacuum system throughout the school. Besides external wear, the school today is largely unaltered from its original composition, with architectural elements, arches, and ornaments still in place, and no significant additions or reductions to its design.

Narrative Description

Setting

Located approximately 60 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, along Interstate Highway-70, Zanesville’s historic courthouse is clearly visible from the freeway. Muskingum County Courthouse actually sits directly on Main Street in Zanesville. Long before Interstate-70 was built, U.S. Route 40 was the nation’s primary East-West thoroughfare, connecting main streets in towns across the nation. Proceeding East from Columbus, Route 40 winds its way across the famous Y-Bridge in Zanesville, and down Main Street in front of the courthouse. As Main Street

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progresses eastward, Route 40 jogs to the North to avoid Pioneer Hill, the only raised ground adjacent to the level river flat of the Zanesville historic downtown. On top of Pioneer Hill, overlooking the downtown, is the 1915 Pioneer School (Photo 1). Although the school has a Main Street address, an access road leads to the high-plateaued ground where the school rests high above street level. The school overlooks the downtown and the county courthouse below, higher than the steeples of the several downtown churches, and stretching into the hills surrounding the city.

Exterior

The crenelated parapets that conceal the flat roofline, and the Gothic arched entrances typical of the Collegiate Gothic architecture style are immediately evident when viewing the school building. Ironspot brick was used to clothe the entire structure (Photos 1-10), and it was trimmed with broad segmental arches and stone hoodmolds (Photos 4-5). Stylized smooth-dressed stone trim and poured concrete ornaments adorn the brick building (Photos 4-7). Around the front, a matching brick ornamental wall separates the courtyard from the hillside in front of the building with a matching brick walkway in between the wall and school (Photo 3). The school consists of dark red brick laid in a common bond.

The main elevation of the school is located on the west side of the building (Photos 1-2). It consists of five large main bays, and two smaller bays that flank the central bay. The central bay contains a stone nameplate with the name "Pioneer School" carved into its face (Photo 2). The two smaller bays and two end bays all protrude from the front elevation of the building – with the end bays protruding significantly to contain the building's main entrances. Each of these protruding bays contain decorative stone geometric ornaments on the parapet wall above the roofline (Photo 5). Also present on these protruding bays are stepped parapets and corbeling located at the top of engaged pilasters on the end bays. Smooth stone string courses and coping run along the elevations of the school. Recessed doors are housed within large arched doorways in the protruding bays and consist of large smooth stone blocks (Photo 4). This architectural element provided shelter from rains, but also added to the depth and character of the structure. Decorative stone square medallions are located symmetrically on the parapet wall around the entire building (Photo 11). Ninety-five windows form an integral part of the architecture, as most of them are recessed with spandrels, and set in symmetrical groups of two or three, sometimes separated by brick pilasters (Photos 5, 8-10). Even the basement windows, which on the front side sit far enough above ground to provide a view of the downtown, have beveled stone headers. Stone sills are present on each of these windows which vary in size.

The north (side) elevation of the school contains similar stylistic features as the main elevation including common bond brick, smooth stone string courses and coping, and stone sills (Photos 6-7). Additionally, a raised protruding entrance is located centrally on the elevation with a series of stairs leading up to the doorways on both sides of the entrance. The east (rear) elevation of the school is less stylistic than the main elevation, however still containing features such as stone sills and stringcourses (Photos 8-9). This elevation consists mainly of windows, varying from 1/1/1 and 2/2/2 lites. Located at the south end of this elevation is another protruding brick entrance at the first floor (Photo 10). The north (side) elevation of the building mirrors that of the south elevation, however does not contain an entry point into the school.

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Interior

Two sets of entrance doors under each arch provide two segmented paths up the stairs to the central hallway that runs the length of the school (Photos 18, 22). Those separated stairs were said to provide segregation between children of different genders at certain times in the school's history.

Although the school was without a gymnasium, the main hallways served much of this purpose. They have 14-foot ceilings and exceptionally wide and long hallways (Photos 12, 19-20). Hard rock maple flooring runs throughout the above-ground floors in the building (Photo 20, 23). Also visible from the main corridor is the substantial rope that passes through openings on each floor, which is still connected to the school bell on the roof (Photos 27-28). In addition to the stairs that lead up to the main hallway from the front entrances, there are also entrances on either end of the school from the Northeast and South ends of the building, respectively.

Classrooms line both sides of the hallway behind windowed doors on either side, with a little variety of unique space - like the principal's office and reading rooms (Photos 13-14, 21, 23, 26). Each classroom has largely the same characteristics - a walk-through cloakroom on one side, twelve-foot-tall windows lining the outside wall, and chalkboards on three walls of each classroom (Photos 23-26). Each of these rooms is open and airy, providing what was certainly an ideal learning environment for the day.

Within the 12 classrooms, it is readily apparent that the design of the building addressed light as a concern. The windows are tall and run the length of the outside wall, leaving each room brightly lit without any artificial light being needed. Within each room of the building, there are large vents that brought air to the room from airshafts that ran from basement to roof. Those airshafts will provide the capability to run new plumbing and electrical without significant impact to the structure. Additionally, there was a central vacuum port built into each room as a technology advancement (Photo 17); these ports can be renewed to provide that central vacuum functionality within the building again.

Other than the floor and wood trim, there is little evidence of wood structure within the building. Floors and walls were built with concrete, brick, and stone supporting the fireproof intention with which the building was designed. The roof itself has the same structure of every other interior floor level, lending itself structurally to expansion of eventual living space at that level.

In its heyday, Zanesville was a center for pottery and tile production. Zanesville tile that famously lines subway stations and tunnels in New York City also lines the walls of the Pioneer School basement (Photos 12-14). It is interesting to see not only tiled hallways, but also the cafeteria, manual instruction room, sewing instruction room, game room, and boy's and girls' bathrooms - all with historic subway tile.

Also in the basement is the boiler room with two large coal boilers, which were later converted to natural gas, and a sophisticated system of vents, piping, and radiators used to deliver heated water to radiators throughout the building (Photos 15-16). The boiler room and one of the

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bathrooms in the basement have ground level exits to the back of the building, and the cafeteria has an exit to the front of the building. A knee-high drinking fountain and hand-written signs labeling the bathrooms and coat-racks of the various classes provide reminders of the children who used the school's basement areas.

Integrity

The location of the school on Pioneer Hill has remain unchanged in the history of the city. This particular building has survived longer than the previous historic buildings on this key site because of the unique and lasting architectural provisions of the structure. And the building setting remains adjacent to the first cemetery of the town and continues to be the only parcel that is both adjacent to and overlooking the City of Zanesville.

The building's architecture itself has also remained remarkably constant over the years. There are very few modifications within the building and no external or design changes. All the architectural design elements implemented over 100 years ago remain. Internal modifications have been limited to minor alterations such as windows, which were replaced in the 1980s, one classroom was subdivided in two, and a handful of rooms have been converted into living space (Photos 29-30). On the exterior, electric service infrastructure was added to the South side of the building and a metal chimney was run on the North side of the building. With these exceptions, other than age and weather, the building appears much as it would have when it was completed in 1915.

Because the materials were selected to be fireproof, they all have characteristics of sturdy longevity, which have scarcely deteriorated over time. Although exterior tuck-pointing, lintel replacements, loose brickwork/stonework and roof patching need attention, none of the core original materials have been removed from the structure. The defining characteristics of workmanship common for this type of structure such as the external brick and stonework, whole-building vacuum piping system, and the legacy tilework in the basement have all been retained.

This historic postcard of the Pioneer School demonstrates that the building represented a memorable landmark for the city, certainly because of its monumental, castle-like prominence overlooking the city (Figure 7). Virtually unchanged from the time the postcard was produced, the building evinces the same feeling today. It is representative of the Main Street in one of the most historic towns in Ohio which features a large number of brick buildings with interesting architectural elements.

The purpose of the school when it opened was to bring together students from all downtown quadrants of the city. It was intended to carry on the previous iterations of building(s) that stood on the site in previous generations of the city beginning in 1840. The current building served its purpose well to educate boys and girls who became the leaders of this fine town and built Zanesville into what it is today. The historic association of this site and the contributions it has made to the City as a school have remained undisturbed over time.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1915

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Handshy, C.E.

Meyer, H.C.

Dunzweiler Bros.-Contractor/Builder

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

The Pioneer School in Zanesville, Ohio, is locally significant under Criterion C – Architecture, for its advancements in construction and plan reflecting early 20th educational trends in curriculum, health and safety, as well as its design as an example of Collegiate Gothic style architecture designed by architects Clarence E. Handsby and H.C. Meyer. The period of significance for the school is the year that construction of the school was completed in 1915. Collegiate Gothic architecture is most notable for its rectangular plans, flat rooflines concealed by crenelated parapets, and Gothic arched entrances.¹ Retaining its original Collegiate Gothic style, the Pioneer School displays all of these characteristics plus corner turrets, entryways recessed in projecting bays trimmed with segmental arches, window-recessed spandrels, a stone trimmed roof-line, and castle-like crenellations. While the building remained in use as a school for 90 years, the building’s significance is derived from its original interior and exterior architecture.

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

A Brief History of Zanesville

Platted in 1799 by Ebenezer Zane and his son-in-law John McIntire, the small Appalachian town of Zanesville quickly grew to one of the largest pioneer towns in Ohio. Located at the junction of the Licking and Muskingum Rivers, Zane built a ferry service for those traveling along the frontier from Virginia to Kentucky. Because of the essential service that Zane provided to travelers along this route from Virginia to Kentucky, the trail came to be known as “Zane’s Trace.” Once a small frontier stop, the bustling town grew rapidly over the next 10 years, expanding to approximately 1,400 people. On January 7, 1804, the Ohio government authorized the creation of Muskingum County, and Zanesville became the county seat, where it remains today. In 1810, Zanesville became the capital city of Ohio, replacing Chillicothe. However, Zanesville remained the capital for only two years, handing the title back to Chillicothe in 1812. Shortly thereafter, Columbus became the final capital of Ohio.²

Early in its history, Zanesville emerged as a principal commercial center. With its strategic placement and abundance of natural resources, like clay, skilled craftsmen created industries of

¹ “Collegiate Gothic 1910-1950,” *Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation*. Accessed January 03, 2023. <https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-preservation/historic-buildings/architectural-style-guide/collegiate-gothic>, accessed January 03, 2023

² “Muskingum County History,” November 05, 2020. Accessed June 21, 2022. <https://www.visitzanesville.com/About-Muskingum-County/History/>.

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soap, candles, and pottery. By 1846, seven iron foundries, one cotton mill, five flour mills, four saw-mills, two oil processors, and one paper mill operated in the industrial town.³

As the community grew and prospered, education became an important cornerstone of Zanesville. In 1803, a small log cabin was constructed as the first schoolhouse. Finally in 1840, an elementary school was erected atop a hill at the corner of 9th and Main Streets--the same location that the Pioneer School currently sits. This school was reconditioned into the first high school in Zanesville in 1855, where hundreds of students, including prominent figures such as Chief Justice Carrington T. Marshall and Zane Grey, walked the halls.⁴ In 1879, the high school students transferred to a newer building in town, and the old high school was organized into the "Colored High School" (Figure 5).⁵ Beginning in 1883, Zanesville's local schools began desegregated schools, slightly ahead of the Ohio legislation repealing the state's "black laws" including the establishment of separate schools for nonwhite students.⁶ The last class from the "Colored High School" graduated in 1889, the final step in accomplishing desegregation in the city.⁷ The school was then converted into a grade school temporarily, and finally abandoned in 1904,⁸ when it was soon thereafter demolished. However, given the beauty and history of the site, the town began making plans for another school building on top of Pioneer Hill.

The History, Architecture, and Architects of Pioneer School

The site of the Pioneer School has a history as old as Zanesville. The hill, where the Pioneer School currently sits, previously held one of the oldest cemeteries in Zanesville, interring numerous pioneers such as John McIntire, the founder of Zanesville.⁹ Announcing the new school, the local newspaper noted that it would have the "most artistic surroundings... in the midst of one of Zanesville's largest and most beautiful hillside parks."¹⁰

Clarence E. Handshy, the primary architect for educational buildings in the area, was the natural choice to design the new school on Pioneer Hill. As one of the most well-known and successful architects in the region, the city relied on Mr. Handshy's skills with many of the local educational buildings, including McIntire, Munson, Westview, McKinley and Wilson grade schools. To date, most of Handshy's school buildings were utilitarian and functional, deferring

³ Ibid.

⁴ Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court and a judge at the Nuremburg Trials.

⁵ "Colored School on Pioneer Hill," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, November 9, 1969:15.

⁶ Virginia McCormick, *Educational Architecture in Ohio*, Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2001, p. 244.

⁷ "TR-action," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, February 18, 1973:29.

⁸ "Pioneer School Built 50 Years Ago for Pupils Living In Downtown Area," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, November 07, 1965:16.

⁹ While John McIntire and many of the original Zanesville pioneers were buried in the Pioneer Hill Cemetery, the cemetery eventually fell into disrepair and those buried were relocated to other cemeteries in the city. John McIntire and his daughter were moved with the monuments and fence from the old Pioneer Hill Cemetery to the McIntire Children's Home grounds in 1880. "Founder of Zanesville McIntire's Birthday Celebrated Today," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, October 15, 1978:25.

¹⁰ "New Pioneer School Which Will Accommodate 400 Pupils and will be Opened Next Monday," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, December 31, 1914:5.

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to the traditional rectangular, non-ornamental designs common in grade schools of the early 20th century. The Catholic Church further sought his skills in the overseeing of many of its buildings, including St. Nicholas high school, St. Thomas grade and high schools, and the remodeling of the St. Thomas church.¹¹

Born in 1869, Clarence E. Handshy grew up on a farm, receiving only a basic education in a one-room schoolhouse about a mile from his home. At the age of 16, he moved to Zanesville to live with his brother, William, who was one of the leading contractors in Zanesville. Presumably inspired by his brother, Clarence learned carpentry and soon became a foreman. Some years later, a friend gave Handshy a set of draftsman's instruments, and his course was changed forever. He eventually passed the correspondence school examination in architecture and took a position as a building superintendent with the Robert H. Evans Co. He spent 20 years with the Evans Company, and in that time, worked on numerous public buildings and schools both in Zanesville and the surrounding counties. Handshy finally struck out on his own, opening his own architecture firm. He went on to design and superintend construction of the Kearns-Gorsuch Glass Bottle Company, the Montgomery Ward Building, and numerous residential homes in Zanesville.¹²

Teaming with H.C. Meyer, another local architect, Handshy and Meyer were commissioned with designing the new Pioneer School building. Unlike his previous educational buildings, Handshy was expected to build a school that would stand as an architectural monument to the city it commanded. Like Handshy, H.C. Meyer was also a renowned architect in the state, overseeing dozens of projects in Ohio. Locally, Meyer oversaw the Alameda Apartments on 7th Street, in Zanesville. Combining both Gothic Revival and Queen Anne architecture, the Alameda Apartments were later placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1982 (NR #82003623).¹³

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries Zanesville population steadily increased, growing from 18,113 in 1880 to 28,026 by 1910 and resulting in the need for expansion of the city's public educational facilities. Pioneer School was designed for first through eighth grades with its first year's enrollment totally 374 students comprised of 154 primary students and 220 grammar students. Of the two new schools built during this period to educate both primary and grammar grades Pioneer was the largest with the other school Hancock enrolling a total of 340 students.¹⁴

Pioneer School reflects early 20th century Progressive educational influences and ideals through its architectural style and design. Its monumental setting and Collegiate Gothic style demonstrated the importance placed on public education locally and Zanesville wanting to have the latest architectural design to reflect the local civic pride. Additionally, Pioneer School reflects broad changes in the educational curriculum and advancements in health and safety

¹¹ "A Useful Life: Clarence Handshy Obituary," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, September 18, 1943:4.

¹² Martin, Chuck. "Architect Clarence Handshy Designed Many Zanesville Schools," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, March 30, 1996:11

¹³ "Ohio SP Alameda Apartments," *National Archives Catalog*, Accessed June 21, 2022. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/71990668>.

¹⁴ "Plans Perfected for New Schools," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, December 24, 1914:6.

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measures. Early 20th century new school plans were influenced by Progressive-era emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the children. The plans incorporated operable windows, gymnasiums, on-site medical care, lunchrooms, and classrooms designed to teach an expanded curriculum often including vocational training.

Excerpts from a 1914 newspaper clipping relays that Architects Handshy and Meyer designed the school to have “12 class rooms, two hospital rooms, a teachers’ room, principal’s room, supply room, manual training and sewing rooms.”¹⁵ They chose local enamel tile for the basement. While modern on the inside, Handshy and Meyer chose a more classic, Collegiate-Gothic-style architecture, following the stylistic influences associated with historic academic architecture. Instead of a simple rectangular building, Handshy and Meyer decided on an H-shaped plan with small turrets on each front corner of the building, beautiful arched set-back entryways, window-recessed spandrels, and crenellations—a further nod to the gothic traditions of the English castles. The H-shaped plan allowed for greater air circulation and sunlight within all rooms.

Another highly significant event impacting particularly Ohio school designs in the early 20th century was the tragic school fire in 1908 at the Lakewood School in the Collingwood neighborhood of Cleveland. The fire took the lives of 172 students and two teachers and resulted in local school districts placing increased attention to designing schools using more fire proof construction materials, better circulation and more easily operable exits.

Built to educate nearly 400 students, Handshy and Meyer created a “fire proof” structure with the latest in plumbing, ventilation, and heating, together with a central vacuuming unit and electric lights throughout the building. While the natural fire resistance of brick was observable, the architects further provided for fire resistant material throughout the building, including concrete and plaster on the walls and the use of a combination of steel, concrete and block between the floors to further protect the structure. While this provided exceptional protection from the natural elements, even more impressive was the sound-proofing it provided between the walls and floors. In line with the latest in modern amenities, the school boasted a central vacuuming unit throughout the building, collecting debris in a basement unit. Also unique to the building was the installation of a Moline Heating System. An excerpt from an early brochure claims that this patented model provided a “system of noiseless heating by vapor, designed to operate naturally without pumps, traps, or automatic radiator valves.”¹⁶

Further protecting the building, the new elementary school was placed on one of the highest points in the county. Two short years earlier, the city experienced a devastating flood. Nearly eight inches of rain fell in four short days, and the water, with the ground already saturated from a hard winter and wet spring, drained into the swelling Muskingum River. The result was the most devastating flood in Zanesville’s history, with a resulting 3,441 buildings inundated and

¹⁵ “Ready to Let Contracts for this Handsome School and are to Sell Bonds for Another New One Today,” *Zanesville Times Recorder*, January 24, 1914: 5.

¹⁶ “Heating by the Moline System,” <https://heatinghelp.com/assets/documents/27.pdf>. PDF download.

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5,000 residents left without a home.¹⁷ Expertly situated overlooking the city, this building would never succumb to the devastation of the flood of 1913.

Through the years, many influential individuals walked the halls of Pioneer School. One such individual, Walter F. Anderson, a musical prodigy and pioneer, was one of nine children, born the same year as the opening of the school. Entering the school as a young child, and noting his natural ability on the piano, a local pianist and organist, Mrs. Simpsons, helped Walter realize his amazing gifts. Walter, being a natural at such a young age, put on several programs while at the school. Later, he composed numerous works, traveling throughout the United States and Europe as a concert pianist. Dr. Anderson was the first African American to chair a college department outside of the nation's black colleges. The American Symphony Orchestra League named Dr. Anderson "as one of 50 people whose talents and efforts had touched the lives of many orchestras in a significant way."¹⁸

In 2005, after almost a century of service to local children, the city closed the Pioneer School's doors and put the building and surrounding land up for auction in 2006. David Mitzel, a local of Zanesville, purchased the building and lived there with his family. Since Zanesville was once a national hub for clay and pottery, David was determined to bring it back to the city. He and his wife established the PSZ Clay Center at the school and hosted classes, artists, and concerts, bringing this art he loved back to the city. David successfully ran the center for 16 years until recently selling the building with the hopes that it would continue to be preserved and protected.

Conclusion

Opened in 1915, Pioneer School was built at a time when the local educational buildings in Zanesville represented functionality over architectural beauty. However, when architects C.E. Handshy and H.C. Meyer were chosen as the primary architects of the newest Zanesville school, they chose to build a timeless structure. Built on one of the most historic and prominent locations in the county, the city envisioned the school to be built on "the most beautiful spot in town."¹⁹ As contemplated, the architects created a modern and functional building for the local students that was visibly stunning for the community.

Approximately 15 years ago, the Zanesville school district decided to build new educational buildings for the local students, and in so doing, abandoned the older school buildings. Unfortunately, with no plans for the auctioned and abandoned buildings, most have either fallen into disrepair or were demolished. Aside from the McKinley School, the Pioneer School is one of the last physical representations of Clarence Handshy's work as a district school architect in Zanesville.²⁰ While both the McKinley school and the Pioneer School were designed by

¹⁷ "City's Worst Disaster Occurred in 1913," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, March 27, 1983: 23.

¹⁸ Levy, Claudia. "Walter Anderson Dies," *The Washington Post*, November 29, 2003. Accessed June 20, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2003/11/29/walter-anderson-dies/2b4eee82-85ba-44a5-ab00-d4e3326cf979/>.

¹⁹ "New School at Head of Main to Cost \$125000," *Zanesville Times Recorder*, June 1, 1912: 1.

²⁰ McIntire, Westview and Wilson grade schools were all demolished, and Munson is currently slated for demolition.

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Clarence Handshy, they feature different stylistic elements. The McKinley School, built in 1930, consists of blond brick, decorative corbeling, and silted arches. While some features such as stone medallions and stringcourses are represented on both schools, the Pioneer School is the only remaining work of Handshy that has Collegiate-Gothic style architecture and high style features.

Pioneer School and the hill in which it stands has played a vital role in Zanesville history. The location of this school is impressive enough, but the foresight of the early 20th century city architects to create an architecturally stunning building that would stand for generations was uniquely insightful. With the location secured, the support of the board of education, city council, and the local residents, the vision of “the most beautiful spot in town” was realized. More than a hundred years later, Pioneer School still stands as a beacon for this wonderful community, representing the elevated architecture of Zanesville’s educational institutions.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

“A Useful Life: Clarence Handshy Obituary,” *Zanesville Times Recorder*, September 18, 1943:4.

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results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=Zanesville%20city,%20Ohio](https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=Zanesville%20city,%20Ohio).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MUS-00424-27

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 2.40 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Pioneer School
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Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.939373 Longitude: -82.001229

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

The nominated property consists of parcel #81-58-03-05-000, as recorded by the Muskingum County Auditor, State of Ohio, and being bounded by East Main Street to the north, Ninth Street to the west, approximately 43 feet beyond the east side of the existing building, and approximately 194 feet south of the existing building. See Figure 2 Boundary Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary includes the entirety of the building and all land currently associated with the parcel (ID #81-58-03-05-000.) The nominated boundary encompasses the building and land historically associated with the significance of the property. The boundary lines are based on a survey completed on April 15, 2022, which was compiled from a map dated 07/06/2010.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Heather Vaile/Manager
organization: Pioneer School Flats LLC
street & number: 470 W Broad Street, Suite 333
city or town: Columbus state: OH zip code: 43215
e-mail: psflats@infosec.privacyport.com
telephone: 740-480-1333
date: June 27, 2022 (revised September 22, 2022)

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

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

Photo Log.

Name of Property: Pioneer School

City or Vicinity: Zanesville

County: Muskingum

State: Ohio

Photographer: Heather Vaile

Date Photographed: June 21, 2022; September 15, 2022

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

- 1 of 30: West façade (main), camera facing east from bottom of hill on 9th Street
- 2 of 30: West façade (main), camera facing northeast
- 3 of 30: West side open-brick fence capped w/smooth concrete trim, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 30: Southwest arched segmental bay w/recessed entry, camera facing east
- 5 of 30: Southwest turret, camera facing east
- 6 of 30: South side of building, camera facing northeast
- 7 of 30: South side of building, camera facing northwest
- 8 of 30: East side of building, camera facing northwest
- 9 of 30: Rear northeast entry, camera facing southwest
- 10 of 30: North side of building, camera facing southeast
- 11 of 30: Roof floor and view, camera facing southwest
- 12 of 30: Basement tile-lined hallway, camera facing south
- 13 of 30: Basement workroom, camera facing northwest
- 14 of 30: Basement room, camera facing northwest
- 15 of 30: Boiler room, camera facing south
- 16 of 30: Boilers (pre asbestos removal), camera facing northwest
- 17 of 30: Central vacuuming unit outlay, camera facing west
- 18 of 30: Southwest entry stairwell, camera facing east
- 19 of 30: First floor hallway, camera facing north

Pioneer School

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- 20 of 30: First floor hallway, camera facing north
- 21 of 30: First floor classroom, camera facing southeast
- 22 of 30: Northwest entry stairwell, camera facing east
- 23 of 30: Second floor classroom (likely former library), camera facing northeast
- 24 of 30: Built-in benches, camera facing west
- 25 of 30: Built-in bookshelves, camera facing northwest
- 26 of 30: Second floor classroom w/built in closet, camera facing southwest
- 27 of 30: First floor bell rope, camera facing northwest
- 28 of 30: Bell on roof, camera facing north
- 29 of 30: Updated first floor classroom, camera facing northeast
- 30 of 30: Updated first floor cloakroom (now a bathroom), camera facing west

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

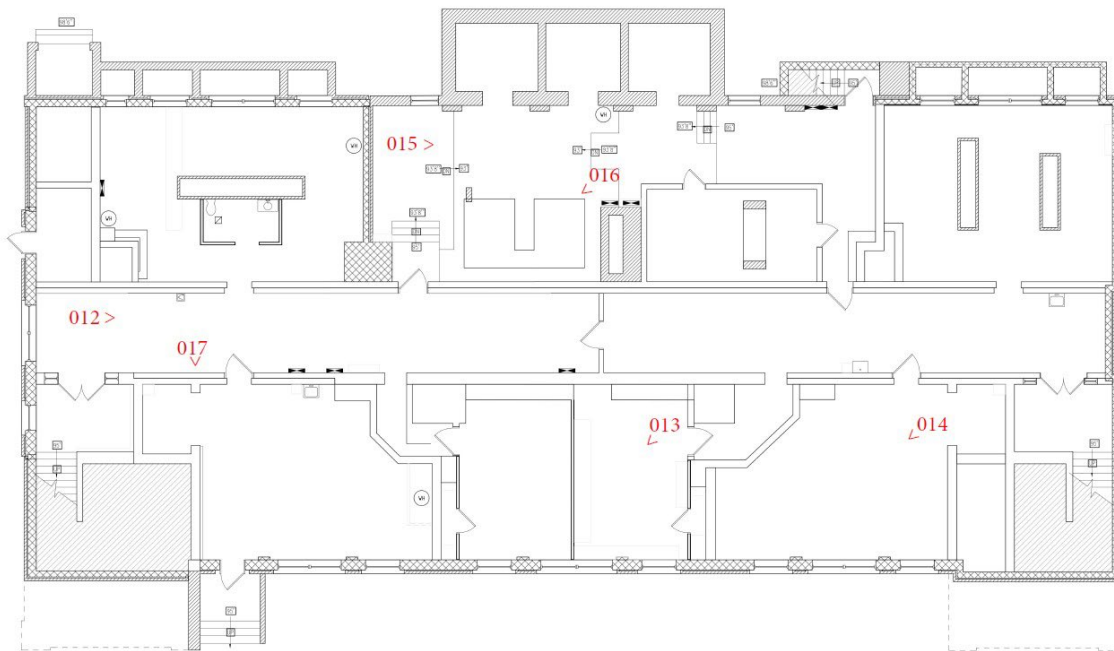
**National Register of Historic Places
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Pioneer School
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Continuation Sheets

Page _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTOGRAPH KEY-BASEMENT
PIONEER SCHOOL
ZANESVILLE, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO**



EXISTING BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

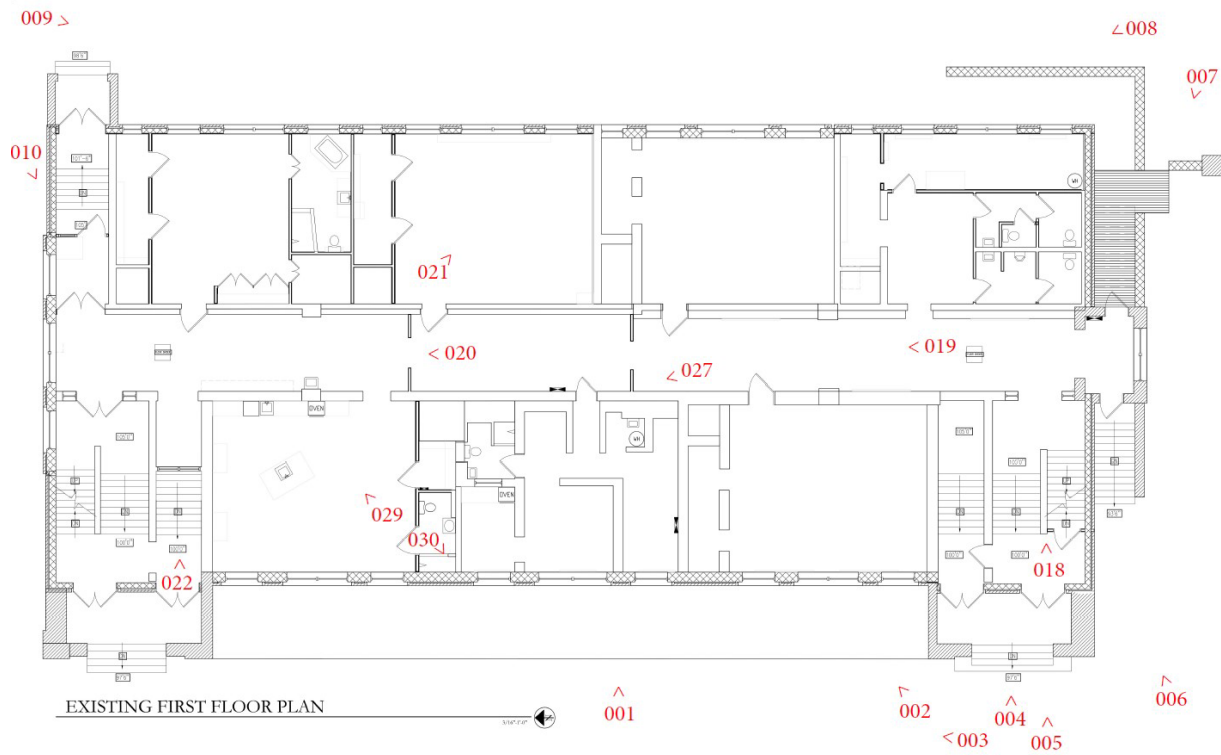


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NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTOGRAPH KEY-FIRST FLOOR/OUTSIDE
PIONEER SCHOOL
ZANESVILLE, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO



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**NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTOGRAPH KEY-SECOND FLOOR
PIONEER SCHOOL
ZANESVILLE, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO**



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

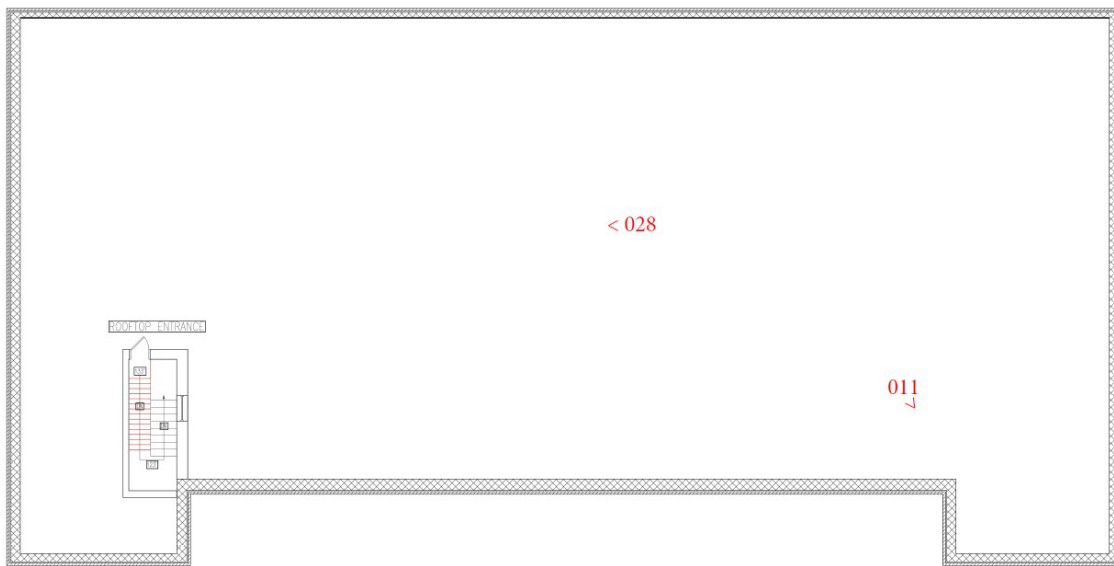


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NATIONAL REGISTER PHOTOGRAPH KEY-ROOF
PIONEER SCHOOL
ZANESVILLE, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO



EXISTING ROOF PLAN



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pioneer School

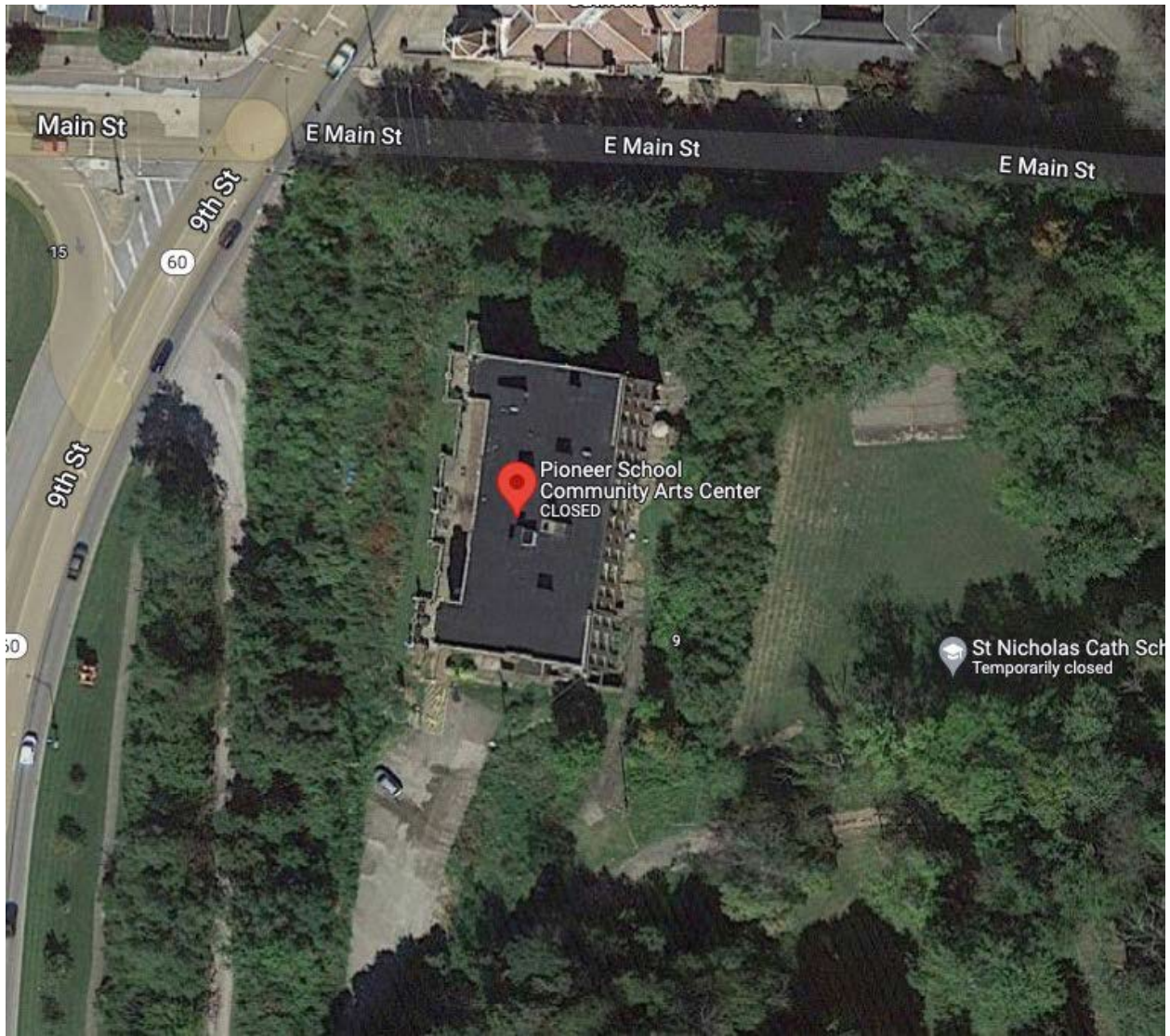
Name of Property
Muskingum County, Ohio

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Continuation Sheets Page _____

Figure 1: Site

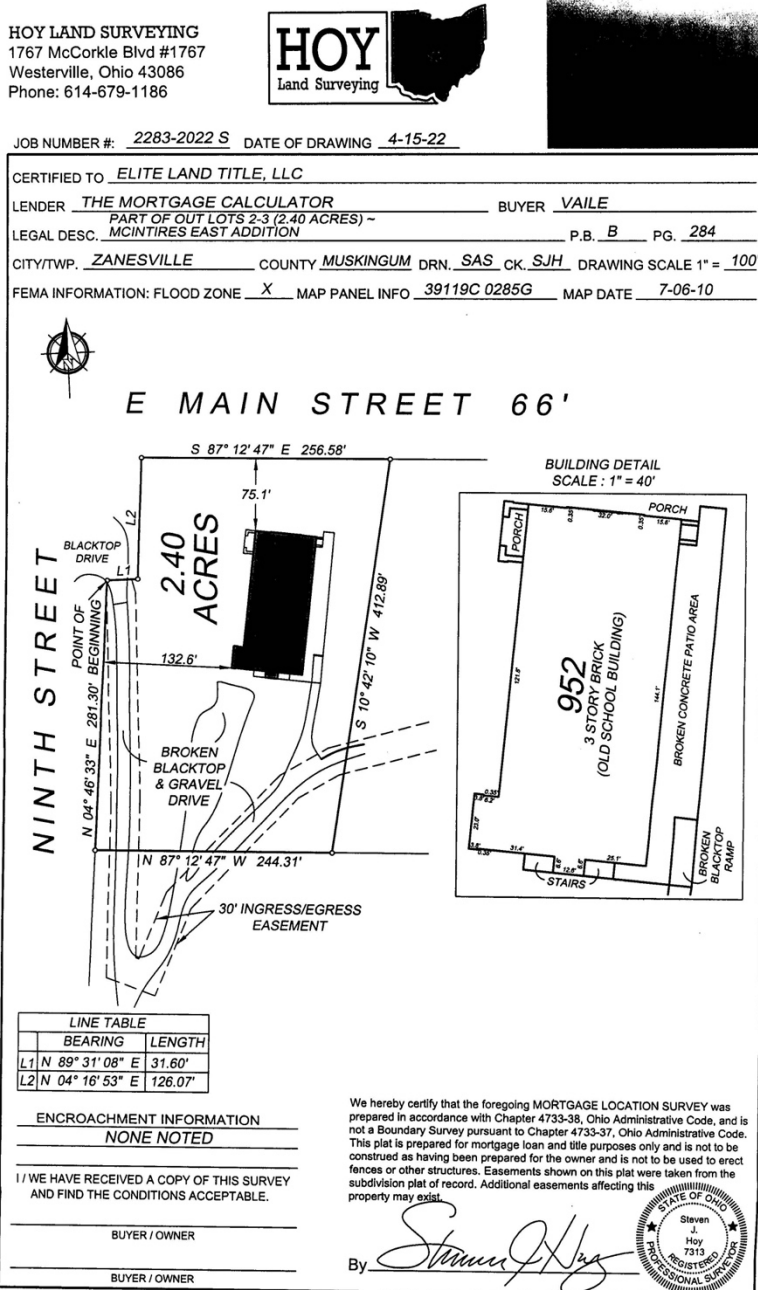


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Figure 2: Boundary Map



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Figure 3: Historic Photo 1914 Photo of Pioneer School, *Times Recorder*, Zanesville Ohio



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Figure 4: Historic Photo Original Zanesville High School located on Pioneer Hill (circa 1855), *Muskingum County History Collection/FB, Zanesville Ohio*

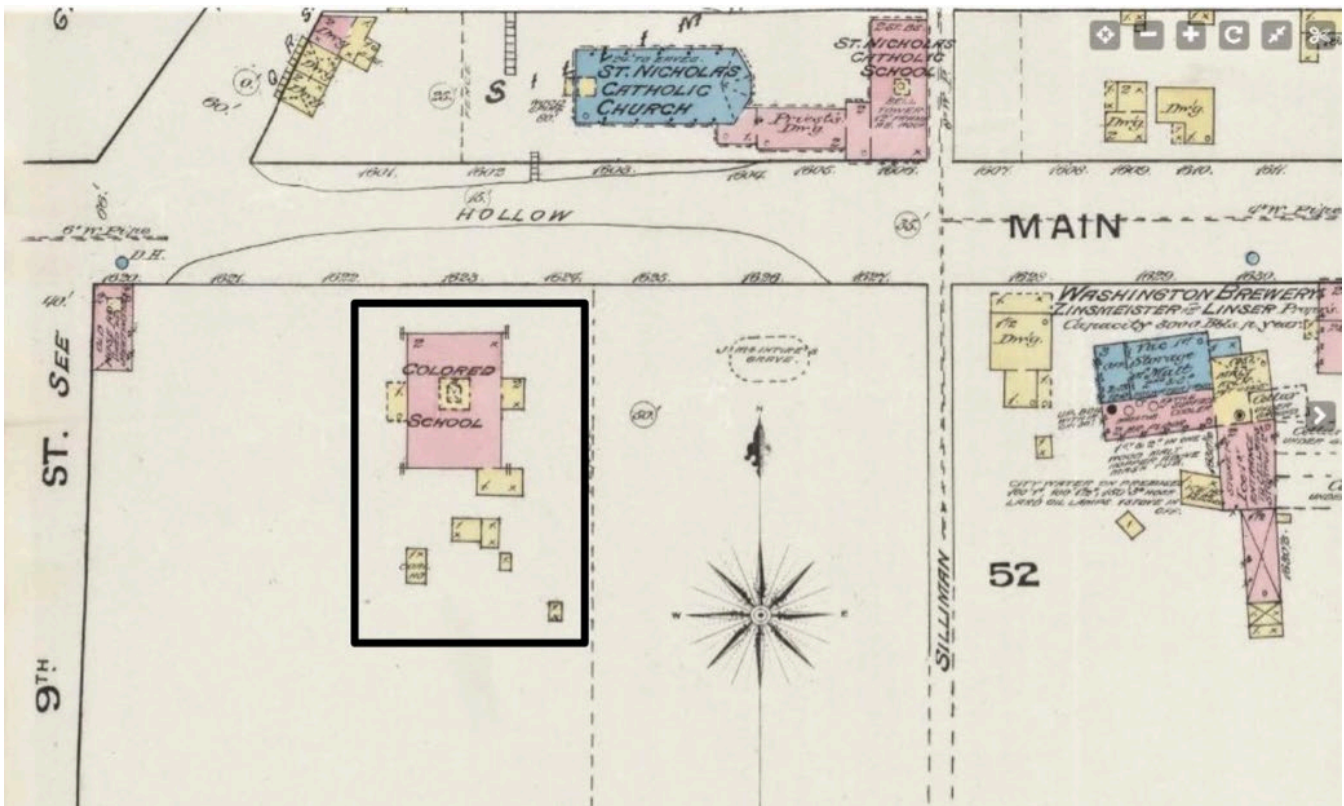


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County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 5: Historic Map 1886 Map of Pioneer Hill showing location of “colored school,”
Muskingum County History Collection/FB, Zanesville Ohio

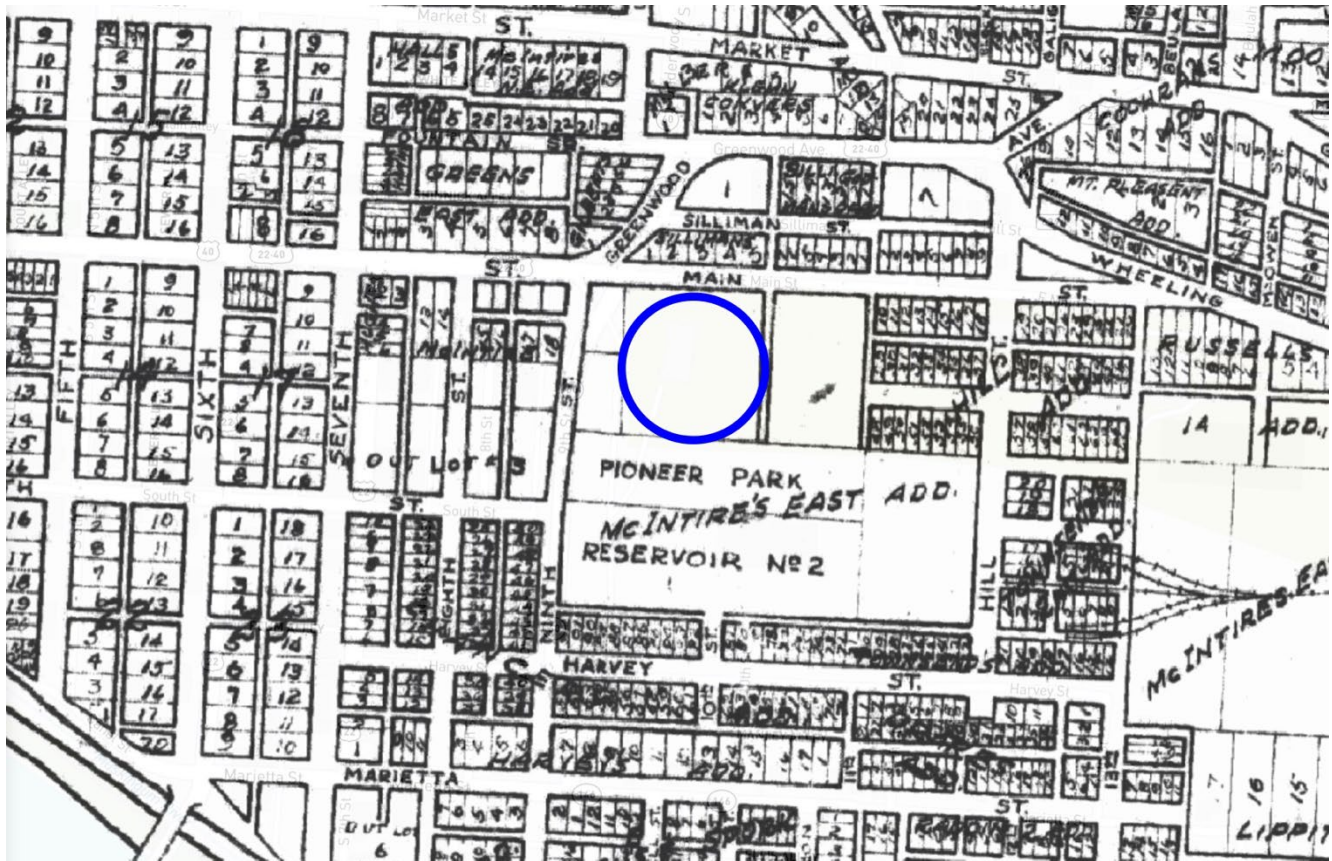


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Figure 6: Pioneer Park, 1956 Zanesville Map. *City of Zanesville GIS Map*



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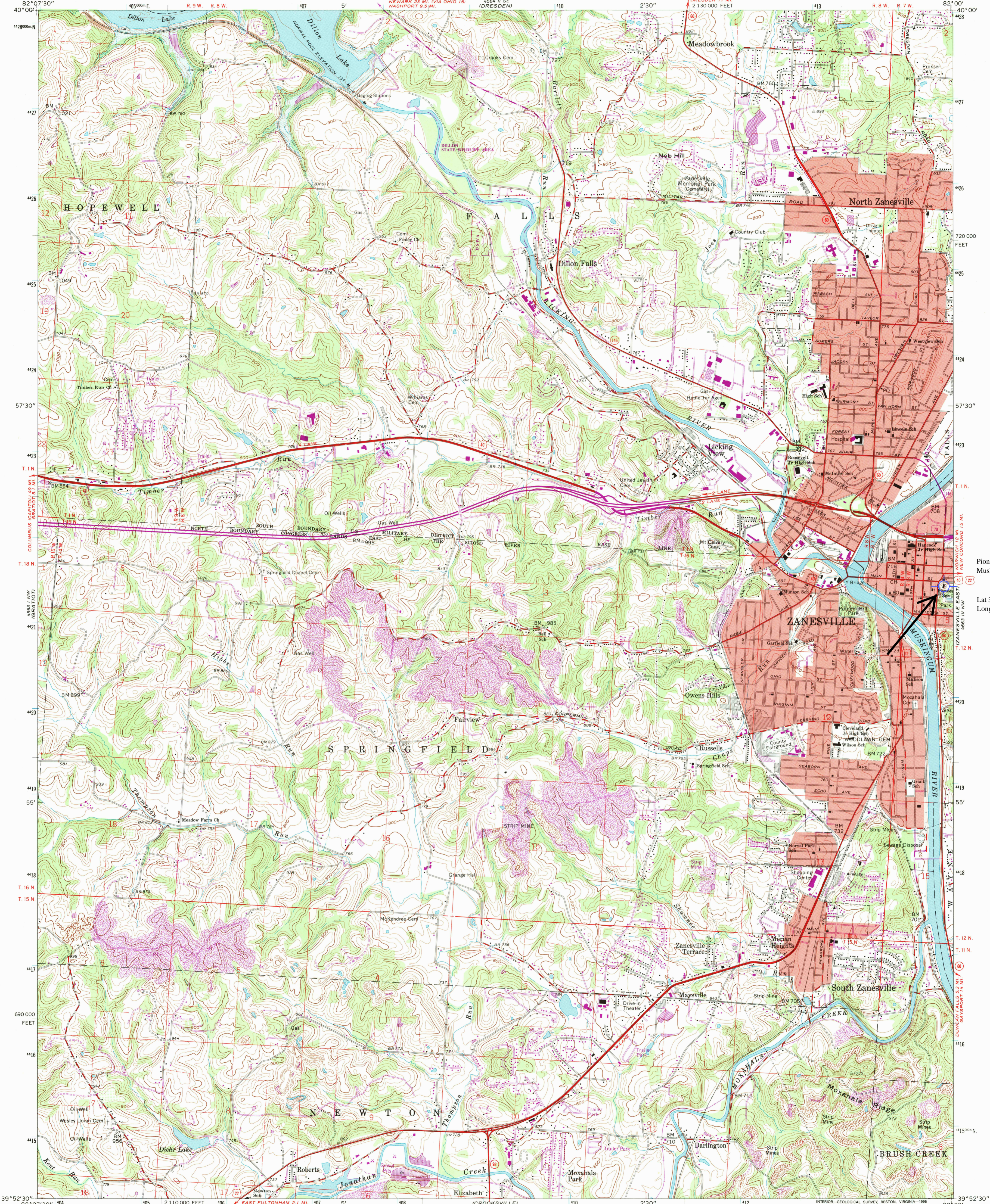
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 7: Postcard of Pioneer School, circa 1915

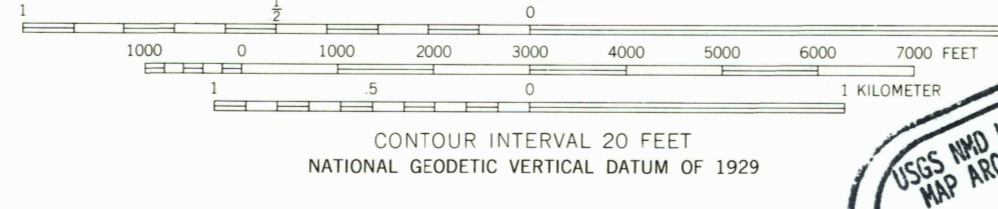
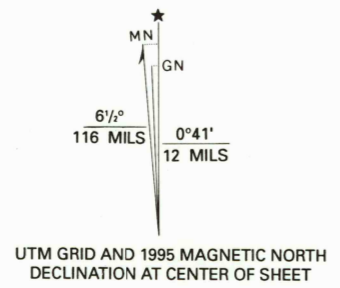




Pioneer School, Zanesville,
Muskingum County, Ohio

Lat 39.939373
Long -82.001229

Produced by the U. S. Geological Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1960
Field checked 1961
Photomapped using imagery dated 1992; no major culture or drainage
changes observed. Boundaries and names revised 1995
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10 000-foot ticks. Ohio coordinate system, south zone
(Lambert conformal conic)
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation
Area north of Base Line lies within the United States Military district
Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States Military District
Area south of Base Line lies within Congress Lands
east of the Scioto River. Land lines based on th Ohio River Base



USGS MAP HISTORICAL
MAP ARCHIVES
AUG 3 1 1995
REC'D FILE COPY



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route
Interstate	Interstate

ZANESVILLE WEST, OH
39082-H1-TF-024

1992

DMA 4563 1-NI-SERIES V852

