

FINAL

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Polk Township District No. 2 School

other names/site number Barber School

## 2. Location

street & number 18998 West 2A Road

	not for publication
x	vicinity

city or town Walkerton

state Indiana code IN county Marshall code 099 zip code 46574

## 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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

IN DNR-Division of Historic Preservation &

Archaeology

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

## 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

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
 Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

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

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

EDUCATION: school

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Granite  
 walls: BRICK  
 roof: METAL: Tin  
 other: STONE: Limestone

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Narrative Description**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Polk Township District No. 2 School

Name of Property

Marshall County, IN

County and State

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Polk Township District No. 2 School is located a quarter mile south of U.S. 6 at the intersection of Tamarack and 2 A Roads in Polk Township, Marshall County, Indiana. The schoolhouse is on the northeast corner of the intersection and faces south to 2 A Road which is a gravel road. The area is rural and mostly surrounded by agricultural land. The schoolhouse was constructed in 1901 and was known locally as the "Barber School" due to its connection to the Barber family who lived in the area. It is constructed out of brick in a T-plan with a cloak room in the front gable section and a single large classroom forming the space between its side-gables. It retains a great deal of its architectural integrity including masonry walls, wood windows and stone sills, and interior trim. It has some simple detailing in the Queen Anne style that makes it more unique than many of the more vernacular school buildings in rural areas. These details include high pitched roofs, patterned brick details, rafter tails cut with a scroll design, and interior casings. The schoolhouse is the only resource on the site. The area around it is mowed lawn with some scrub trees growing along the east property boundary. A group of yucca plants is growing near the southwest corner of the cloak room.

---

### Narrative Description

The Polk Township District No. 2 School has a short split granite fieldstone foundation and orange brick walls. The bottom course of brick steps out from the walls at their base and is laid as sleepers; the top of this course has a small bed of mortar formed to shed water from the top of the bricks. The school has rusticated limestone window sills and brick segmental arches over the window and door openings. The arches are composed of two courses of rusticated brick rowlocks. The windows are 4/4 wood windows with a piece of wood trim in the space above the window and below the arch. All of the wood windows are intact; however in some locations the glass panes are missing and are covered with small pieces of plywood.

The roof has rafter tails that are scribed with a scroll design. The rafters forming the outside edge of the eave and fascia of the gabled walls are notched to rest on a wood purlin extended from the top of the masonry walls near the base of the gabled wall. A piece of wood creates a frieze board at the top of the masonry walls. Wood boards that form decking for the roof are exposed under the eaves. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. A brick chimney is located at the peak of each side gable; there are several bricks missing from each chimney, but the design of the chimney is still clearly identifiable. The chimneys are broad (north/south) and narrow (east/west) and rise about 15 brick courses above the roof ridge. The fourth course of brick from the top of the chimney is a belt course; the top two courses of the chimney step out, the top further than the second, from the main chimney wall. The west chimney is one brick wider (east/west) than the east chimney and also appears to be slightly darker in color. This may indicate this chimney was reconstructed at an early date.

The façade faces south and is symmetrically arranged (see photo 0001). The front gabled section contains the cloakroom and has a recessed entry porch with a wood floor and walls and ceiling covered in beaded board siding. The floor of the recessed entry is partially deteriorated. The entry casings have plinth blocks at their tops and bottoms; the top blocks have a rosette carved into their face. The entry has a pair of five panel wood doors. Each door has a horizontal middle panel with two vertical panels above and below the middle panel. A wood transom window divided into two panes of glass is above the pair of doors. A stone threshold block is at the base of the entry opening. Thick wood boards form a jamb at the outside corners of the opening; these join with a wood board scribed to fit beneath a wide brick arch that forms the top of the entry opening. A window is centered between the entry opening and outside corner of the cloakroom on each side of the entry opening. Immediately above the brick arches of the windows and entry are three courses of rusticated brick that extend nearly across the full width of the front gable wall. The middle course is slightly longer at each end than the course above and below it. Centered near the top of the front gabled wall is a stone building name block. It is engraved with DIS No 2 on its top line and POLK TP. 1901 on its second line. It is approximately four brick courses tall and four bricks long. Rusticated brick form a triangular pattern above and below the name block and also on each side of the block. A course of rusticated brick rowlocks is across the top of the name block. The remaining front façade to each side of the front gable is the south wall of the classroom. A window is centered in this wall on each side of the front gable/cloakroom.

Polk Township District No. 2 School

Marshall County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

The east and west elevations are mirrored (see photos 0002 and 0003). The gabled walls of the classroom have two windows. There are no windows in the side walls of the cloakroom. The north wall, or back wall of the school, also has no windows (see photo 0003).

A photograph dating to between 1908 and 1910 shows a few exterior features on the building that are no longer present. The building originally had wood shingles on its roof and a bell cupola centered on the ridge of the cloak room. The bell cupola had wood siding on its lower walls and was open where the bell was located. The roof was a pyramidal shaped roof with flared eaves. The early photograph also shows a building, likely a wood shed, located northwest of the school building. It had wood siding. A hand pump was also located on the south side of the wood shed.<sup>1</sup>

The interior of the building has some condition issues, primarily with the loss of plaster in the main classroom space. The wood floor is composed of pine boards and is intact in the cloak room and classroom, though partially deteriorated near the front doors. The plaster is mostly intact on the cloakroom's walls and ceiling but has been removed due to deterioration from the classroom walls and ceiling. This has left the brick walls and ceiling joists exposed in the classroom (see photos 0006 and 0007 of classroom). Beaded board wood wainscoting is largely intact in the cloak room, but is missing in the classroom. It is assumed the wainscoting once existed in the classroom due to a nailer board's incorporation into the brick walls at a height consistent with the wainscoting in the cloakroom. The wainscoting in the cloakroom is about 30" tall and has a top piece of wood molding trim for a cap (see photos 0004 and 0005 for cloakroom).

The wood casings around the entry doors, opening between the cloakroom and classroom, and windows are all intact. The casings are more ornate than what would be found in typical rural schoolhouses. The side and top casings are composed of layers of carved trim boards that create a wide, ornate profile. The side casings have plinth blocks at their tops and bottoms that also have ornate carvings. The top plinth block has a rosette carved onto its face. The windows also have their wood interior sills intact. The interior wood trim has been left unpainted. See photo 0005 for trim detail.

The cloakroom has a coat cabinet constructed out of wood and divided into three stalls (photo 0004); it does not appear to be original to the building, but likely was constructed during the building's use as a school. It is located against the east wall of the cloakroom. Behind it is a narrow board with coat hooks that is located across the full width of the east wall. This likely is original to the building. Turned wood spindle corner guards are located on the plaster corners above the wood wainscoting to each outside corner of the recessed entry (right side of photo 0005). A 5' wide opening is centered in the north wall of the cloakroom into the classroom (right side of photo 0007). It is constructed with a large hewn wood lintel that is exposed on the south wall of the classroom due to the loss of plaster. The opening has wood planks that form a wall between the rooms with a hinged door also constructed of planks. This does not appear to be original to the building, but likely was added while it was still in use as a school, possibly to reduce heat loss from the classroom. A small attic scuttle hole is located in the cloakroom ceiling, centered in front of the entry doors.

The classroom's west wall (photo 0006) has a brick chimney constructed one and a half brick withes into the room in the center of the wall. The east wall's chimney is flush with the wall (left side of photo 0007). Both chimneys have round openings for flues and rectangular openings at their bottoms for ventilation. One ornate metal grille is still located in the building, but is no longer in the chimney wall. A nailer board also extends across nearly the whole width of the north wall of the classroom, approximately six feet above the floor (seen in right side of photo 0006). This would seem to have served the purpose of securing the top of a blackboard on the wall. Despite the loss of the interior plaster the classroom space retains its historic proportions since it has not been divided into smaller spaces or has had its floor or ceiling structures removed, or windows covered.

The school's carpentry work was completed by Frank Bennett. Plastering and stonework were completed by Joe Burnside, and the brick masonry work was completed by H. P. Mead. Only a few references were found in relationship to work completed by these men in other areas of the township. Joe Burnside did basement and cement work including one project for Edwin Monroe, the trustee who awarded contracts for the school. Frank Bennett and his brother Jesse were referenced as house carpenters. No references to H. P. Mead were found.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Polk Township Schools file, Marshall County Museum

<sup>2</sup> *Walkerton Independent*, August 24, 1901

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1901-1925

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Bennett, Frank

Mead, H. P.

Burnside, Joe

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1901, the date of construction of the schoolhouse, and ends in 1925 which was the year of final consolidation of district schools into Tyner and Teegarden Schools a few miles from the District No. 2 School. The period represents the time during which the building was used as a school. It was not used for any other significant purpose after this date.

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Not applicable

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)**

The Polk Township District No. 2 School is significant due to its representation of an archetypal group of buildings devoted to the education of a township's early residents. Prior to large scale consolidation of the public educational system, rural children typically attended one-room schoolhouses that dotted the countryside of farming communities. The District No. 2 School is a largely intact example of the archetype which is disappearing from the rural landscape. The schoolhouse was also constructed with details of a period style which is uncommon in rural one-room schoolhouses, so its architecture and level of craftsmanship is also a significant feature of the building.

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

**ARCHITECTURE**

The significance of the building architecturally is not so much from the lack of occurrence of the Queen Anne style in Polk Township, or in a highly stylized representation of the Queen Anne style in the school. The significance of the building architecturally is the occurrence of the style on a simple rural district schoolhouse, however simple the detailing. Typically one room district schoolhouses were constructed in a vernacular form either in wood or brick construction in a gable-front design and, later, in a T-plan design. Rarely were styles of the period reflected in the architecture of the schools. Minor nods to the Greek Revival style may occur in cornice returns, as is found on the Tippecanoe Township District No. 3 School, or in minor Craftsman details found in the North Township District No. 13 School, both in Marshall County.

Polk Township District No. 2 School has clear connections to the Queen Anne style in a number of architectural features. The schoolhouse has steeply pitched gabled roofs unlike most district schoolhouses. It also has the use of rusticated brick that forms patterns on the building's exterior walls and forms flattened arches over its windows and entry. The courses of rusticated brick, wide flattened entry arch, and pattern surrounding the building name block are all indicators of the Queen Anne style as applied to buildings constructed out of brick. The building also features rafter tails cut into a scroll design, a more delicate feature not commonly found on district school buildings. These exterior details are all shown on the front façade in photo 0001. The interior casings, particularly the carved plinth blocks, are also more highly stylized than what would typically be found in district schoolhouses (see photo 0005).

The Queen Anne style was popular between 1880 and 1910; it was named and popularized by a group of 19<sup>th</sup> century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw. The historical precedents used had little to do with the Renaissance style popular during Queen Anne's reign; rather they borrowed from late medieval examples of the preceding Elizabethan and Jacobean era. Half-timbering and patterned brickwork found in the Queen Anne style in the United States most closely follow the work of Shaw and his colleagues in England. The spindlework and free classic subtypes mostly in frame construction are American interpretations and became the most dominant form of the style in the United States. The pre-cut designs and architectural details were made readily available by the increasing use of railroads which transported the products to growing towns. As free classic adaptations were made to the Queen Anne style, they increased in popularity and the transition to Colonial Revival and other competing styles occurred with ease.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> McAlester, pg. 268

Polk Township District No. 2 School

Name of Property

Marshall County, IN

County and State

The Polk District No. 2 School is the most stylized of the district schools remaining in Marshall County. The North Township District No. 13 School has some brick detailing and uses two colors of brick in its walls that lean toward the Craftsman style, but the building is in deteriorating condition and lacks a fair amount of integrity. The Queen Anne style is found in very limited occurrence in Polk Township on three simple farmhouses of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>4</sup> Most of the architecture in Polk Township is vernacular in nature and lacks any significant styling other than a few Free Classic and Bungalow forms.

While the number of rural district schools in Marshall County may have reached as many as one hundred at one time, less than a dozen remain today and only a very few of those retain their architectural integrity. A few have been converted to homes, such as a brick schoolhouse in Union Township and two frame schoolhouses in North Township. Many of the extant examples have been converted into agricultural storage buildings and are in various states of disrepair. The only other district schoolhouse with a high level of integrity is the District No. 3 School in Tippecanoe Township. It is a frame building constructed c. 1865 that was restored and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tippecanoe Township is located in the southeast corner of Marshall County while Polk Township is located in the northwest corner of the county.

Only one other district school remains in Polk Township. It is the District No. 8 School that was constructed in 1895 on West 1<sup>st</sup> Road, approximately one mile northeast of the District No. 2 School. It is a brick building that is nearly identical to the District No. 2 School in terms of its T-plan configuration, window and entry, and chimney placements. It has a slate tile roof that is largely compromised, windows are missing, and the interior has also been largely compromised. It is plausible both schools were constructed by the same contractor given their similarities, proximity, and frequent occurrence of this practice in townships.

The two larger schools in Polk Township into which the District Schools were consolidated were the Tyner and Teegarden Schools. Tyner is a small community approximately one and a half miles southeast of the District No. 2 School. Teegarden is a small community approximately three miles northeast of the school. The Tyner School was constructed in about 1900 and was enlarged in 1912 and in 1928 to accommodate consolidation. The Teegarden School was constructed in 1925 also to accommodate consolidation. Both schools have been razed.

<sup>4</sup> Marshall County Interim Report, pg. 18, 24

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

## EDUCATION

### *District Schools in Polk Township*

In 1840 Marshall County had forty school-age children, twenty-five of whom attended subscription schools. There were only three schoolhouses in the county at that time. In 1848 the State of Indiana allowed voters to decide if education should be made available free to the public. Marshall County residents voted 619 in favor and 86 against. The state constitution was amended to include Article VIII providing for tax dollars to be used for the free education of the public's children. After its adoption rural schools began to develop rapidly in Marshall County, keeping pace with the settlement of the area. By 1858 the number of schoolhouses had grown from 3 in 1840 to 69. In 1862 there were 84 schools, in 1868 there were 116 schools, and by 1879 there were 132. The total enumeration had grown from 3,880 students in 1856 to 8,386 in 1879.<sup>5</sup> Districts schools were typically positioned to allow students to not need to walk any further than about one mile, and they were frequently on land donated by a farming family under the condition the land would revert back to the family if there was no longer school conducted on the land.

An 1850 map of the school district lines in Polk Township shows a total of nine districts. In 1852 Stephen Butler conveyed a piece of land in the northwest corner of section 33 for use as a school site in District No. 2, Polk Township. Butler included a provision that the building could be used by Methodists, United Brethren, Baptists, Carmelites, Presbyterians, Universalists, and religious uses, and should it ever stop being used for school purposes it would revert back to him.<sup>6</sup> Other records state that the first schoolhouse, made of logs, was constructed on the Joshua Barber farm in the 1850s. It was located near the center of Section 33 at its northern boundary (on the southeast corner of present U.S 6 and Sage Road). This may be the same building. In 1864 the trustee ordered the construction of a new frame building which remained in the same general location on the Barber farm. The "Barber School" remained at this location until the new school was constructed southwest of it in 1901. The prior schoolhouses are no longer extant. The frame building was listed as District No. 2 Schoolhouse on an 1880 plat of the township and located on the Albert Barber farm. The building also appears at this location in the 1872 and 1876 plats; it was also used as a church and community hall for debates, literary purposes, and spelling bees.<sup>7</sup> By 1880 Polk Township had developed ten district schools with a total value of \$3,300. The number of school districts increased to twelve by 1887, then back to ten just prior to school consolidation. Statistics from 1880 show there were 490 students enrolled in the district schools of Polk Township.<sup>8</sup> The Barber School hosted the first grade school commencement in 1887. It was coordinated by township trustee Myron Chase and cost \$2.00 to conduct.<sup>9</sup> Joshua Barber became a school teacher in the township system of schools.

The *Walkerton Independent* stated in 1901 that (Polk Township) Trustee (Edwin R.) Monroe was contemplating building a new school house in the Barber settlement on Wesley Ruple's farm near his residence, with the patron's consent.<sup>10</sup> Plans for the new building moved forward and Monroe revealed the bids taken to the *Walkerton Independent*. Frank Bennett received the contract for carpentry work for \$114.50. Laying of brick was awarded to H. P. Mead at \$6.50 per cord and stone masonry and plastering were awarded to Joe Burnside for \$3 per cord (stone) and 7 cents per square yard (plaster). Two bids for building the school completely were rejected; they were for the sums of \$1,390 and \$1,196.<sup>11</sup> The new building was completed about five weeks into the new school year with classes commencing on November 11, 1901.<sup>12</sup> The new District No. 2 school retained the Barber name but was located at the northeast corner of Tamarack and 2A Roads, southwest of the former location; the old school was sold at public auction to Sanford Sheaks for \$41.00.<sup>13</sup> The new school appears on the 1908 and 1922 plats of Polk Township. A photograph from about 1908-1910 shows 27 students gathered outside the school with their teacher, Home Burke. A photo from 1920 shows 17 students gathered in front of the building with their teacher, Carl Ketchum.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>5</sup> McDonald, Daniel. Pg. 71

<sup>6</sup> Butler, Stephen, Land Records Folder B, Marshall County Museum

<sup>7</sup> History of Marshall County Indiana, Sesquicentennial. Pg. 73

<sup>8</sup> McDonald, Daniel. Pg. 73

<sup>9</sup> Polk Township Schools file, Marshall County Museum

<sup>10</sup> *Walkerton Independent*, July 20, 1901

<sup>11</sup> *Walkerton Independent*, August 24, 1901

<sup>12</sup> *Walkerton Independent*, November 16, 1901

<sup>13</sup> *Walkerton Independent*, October 6, 1901

<sup>14</sup> Polk Township Schools file, Marshall County Museum

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

The desire to have modern utilities for school facilities, such as gas and electric, led to the establishment of consolidated schools in population centers. There was also an increased desire to provide higher grades than what was offered in the rural district schools. This was true in Polk Township where the first high school was located in Tyner in 1899, with the first graduating class, with 10 graduates, occurring in 1902. The Tyner School had expansions in 1912 and 1928 to accommodate consolidation.<sup>15</sup> A school was also constructed in Teegarden in 1915 to accommodate the closure of District Schools #1 through #4, which included the Barber School, though evidence suggests the Barber School continued to be used into the early 1920s. The new Teegarden School burned in 1924 and it was replaced with a grade school only in 1925. Upper grades were offered at the Tyner and Walkerton Schools.<sup>16</sup> After the use of the Barber School ceased for education, evidence suggests that the building was used for storage of grain or other agricultural purposes by the farmer who reclaimed ownership. At the time of this writing the building is vacant.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

*Township History*

Polk Township is located in the northeast corner of Marshall County and was part of an original northern tier township established when Marshall County was organized by the state in 1836. Polk formed from North Township and was officially organized on the day James K. Polk was inaugurated President on March 4, 1845, from which the name was derived. Tyner, which was platted ten years later, became the "seat of justice" for the township. A few other small plats were created, but the only other community that became a viable town was Teegarden which was platted in 1873 in anticipation of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad across the northern part of the township.<sup>17</sup> The terrain of Polk Township included vast areas of marsh and an important waterway named Pine Creek, a tributary to the Kankakee River. On the creek was established the first sawmill in Marshall County, by A. C. Knott in 1848; John Baugher constructed a second sawmill nearby in 1888. The Knott dam site served as the only bridge across the creek for many years.<sup>18</sup> Pine Creek has fingers across much of the township and was dredged in 1909, draining much of the wetlands allowing for more settlement and crop production shortly after the time the District No. 2 Schoolhouse was constructed.

Polk Township has remained rural and the communities of Tyner and Teegarden, without the advantage of highways, never grew beyond their original railroad-era boundaries. The nearest large community is Walkerton in St. Joseph County, followed by Plymouth, the county seat of Marshall County.

*Barber Family*

The Barber Family, the name associated with the school, came to Polk Township in 1847, just two years after its incorporation. Joshua T. Barber was born March 26, 1810 in Washington County, New York where later he married Mary O'Dell. They moved with their first four children to Marshall County via the Erie Canal, then overland through Ohio. He filed his land claim in Section 33 of Polk Township in 1848. The name is also spelled Barbour and Barbur in some records. The four children who accompanied them on the move were Charles (Leonora Strom), John (Emily Myers), Ann Eliza (Izaak Sheeks), and Albert (Sarah Reynolds). Three additional children were born to Joshua and Mary in Marshall County; they were Julia Catherine (Davis), and twins Delia (Carder), and Daniel (Mary Martin). The Barber homestead was located on Sage Road, south of present U.S. 6.

The area they settled became known as the "Barber Neighborhood" and a family cemetery and a Brethren church were established on 2A Road, just south of the original Barber School location and just east of the current District No. 2 Schoolhouse. The condition of the Barber Neighborhood in 1858 was described as almost a wilderness, with no drainage, and no established roads or railroads, and the settlers had to raise their crops among stumps.<sup>19</sup> The Barber Cemetery was established in 1870 for the use of farming families; the first interment was Macelia Ramsbey, a child who died in 1867. The church was known as the Barber Evangelical United Brethren Church; it was constructed in 1878 and was closed in 1923. The church is no longer extant, but the Barber Cemetery remains an active burial ground. Joshua Barber died in

---

<sup>15</sup> *Pilot News*, August 24, 1936

<sup>16</sup> *History of Marshall County Indiana, Sesquicentennial*. Pg. 42

<sup>17</sup> McDonald, Daniel. Pg. 141-142

<sup>18</sup> Walkerton Area Historical Society publication, February, 2010. Pg. 8

<sup>19</sup> *History of Marshall County, IN Sesquicentennial*, pg. 73

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

1874 and Mary died in 1878; both are buried at the family cemetery. Over a dozen members of the Barber family are buried in the cemetery spanning several generations including several of Joshua's children.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Church, school, land, & cemetery records, Marshall County Historical Society archives

History of Marshall County Indiana, Sesquicentennial, 1986. Marshall County Historical Society, publishers

Marshall County Interim Report, Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 1992. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, publisher

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. 2006. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, publisher

McDonald, Daniel. 1881 History of Marshall County, Indiana Illustrated, 1881. Kingman Brothers, publishers. Chicago

*Pilot News*, Plymouth, August 24, 1936

Schmeltz, LA, *History of the Barber Community*, c. 1930. Reprinted by the Walkerton Area Historical Society, February, 2010

Standard Atlas of Marshall County, 1908. Geo. A. Ogle & Co., publisher. Chicago

Standard Atlas of Marshall County, 1922. Geo. A. Ogle & Co., publisher. Chicago

*Walkerton Independent*, various articles

**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): #099-658-10014

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .62 acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 547860 4588040  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

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

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Tamarack Road and West 2A Road, follow a line north 140' to the northwest property corner. Turn east and follow a line 160' east to the northeast property corner. Turn south and follow a line to the southeast property corner on the north side of West 2A Road. Turn west and follow a line to the northeast corner of the intersection of Tamarack Road and West 2A Road, or the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described incorporates the only existing resource associated with the Polk Township District No. 2 Schoolhouse and is the actual property boundary of the site.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kurt West Garner  
organization Partners in Preservation, Inc. date April 4, 2011  
street & number 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road telephone 574-936-0613  
city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563  
e-mail kwgarner@kwgarner.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School  
City or Vicinity: Walkerton  
County: Marshall State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Polk Township District No. 2 School

Marshall County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0001 Looking north at school from West 2A Road

1 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0002 Looking northeast at school from road intersection

2 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0003 Looking southwest at school from northeast corner of site

3 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0004 Looking east at cloakroom coat cabinet

4 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Polk Township District No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Marshall County, IN  
County and State

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0005 Looking southeast in cloakroom  
5 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0006 Looking west in classroom  
6 of 7.

Name of Property: Polk Township District No. 2 School

City or Vicinity: Walkerton

County: Marshall State: Indiana

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: March 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 0007 Looking southeast in classroom  
7 of 7.

---

**Property Owner:**

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

name Allyn Flaherty

street & number 106 South Michigan Road

telephone 574-784-3011

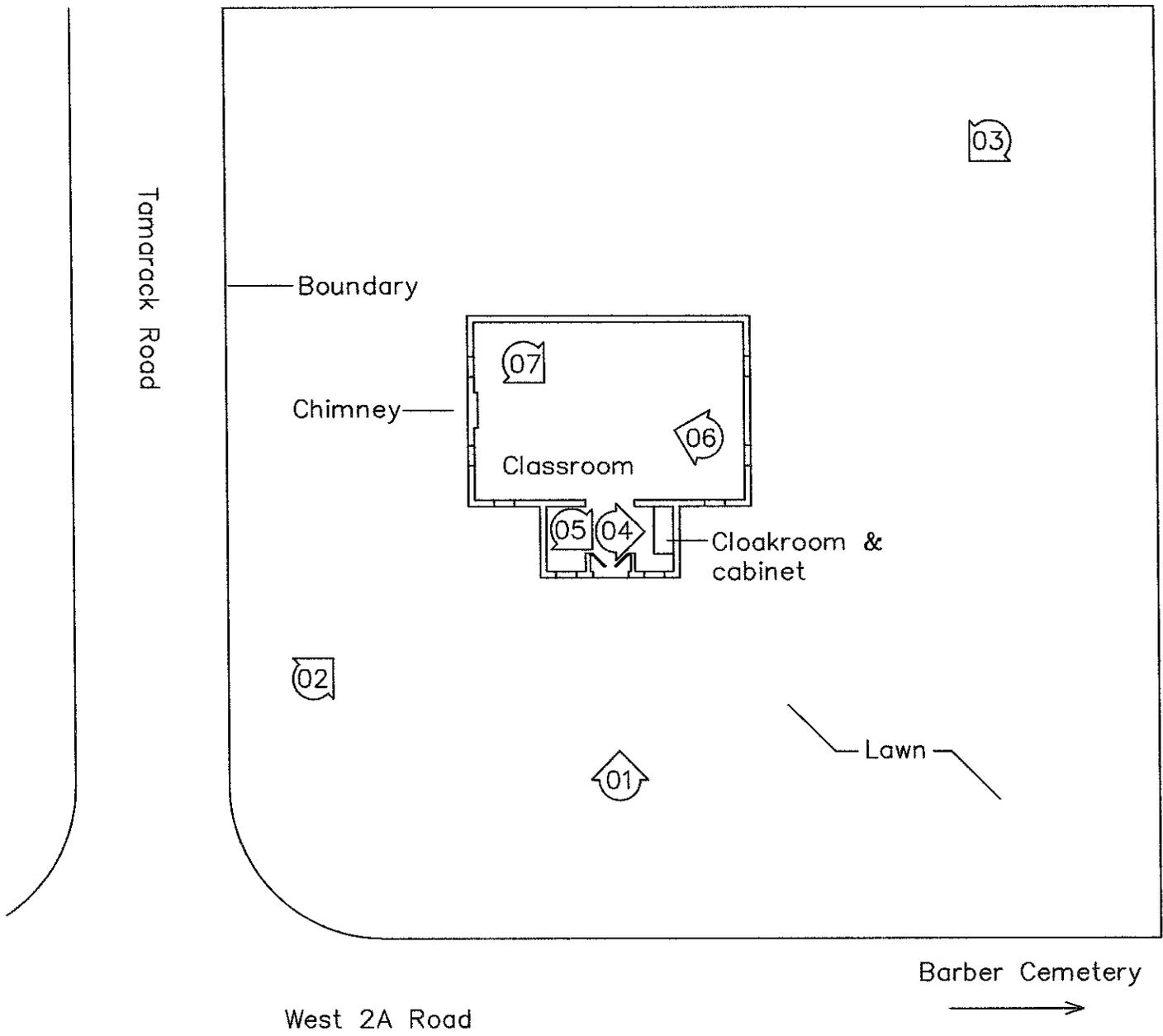
city or town Lakeville

state IN

zip code 46536

**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 18 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.



**Polk Township District No. 2 School**  
 National Register of Historic Places  
 Site Sketch Map  
 Polk Township, Marshall County, IN



② = Photographs



Polk Township District No. 2 School, Marshall Co., IN #2



Polk Township District No. 2 School, Marshall Co., IN #3



Polk Township District No. 2 School, Marshall Co., IN #5



Polk Township District No. 2 School, Marshall Co., IN #7