

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
**SOUTH WARD SCHOOL**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Bishop Street** NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
**Bellefonte Borough** **23rd**

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
**Pennsylvania 42 Centre 027**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <b>vacant</b>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
**Bellefonte Borough**

STREET & NUMBER  
**236 West Lamb Street**

CITY, TOWN STATE  
**Bellefonte Pennsylvania 16823**

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
**Centre County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Allegheny & High Streets**

CITY, TOWN STATE  
**Bellefonte Pennsylvania**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
**Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places**

DATE  
**9/20/77** FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
**Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission**

CITY, TOWN STATE  
**Harrisburg Pennsylvania**

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The South Ward School is a large two story, Victorian eclectic brick building with hipped roof, protruding front tower and exposed basement. It was built in 1887 by Bellefonte's popular "Architect" - Contractor Robert Cole.

The outward appearance of the structure has been changed very little over the years. The dimensions of the foundation are approximately 50 x 100 feet. A tower protrudes from the facade and two chimneys protrude from the side elevations. The rear elevation has a one story vestibule protruding from the wall. The limestone foundation has window openings on all sides. Cellar windows are capped with segmental arches in brick that merge into the wall above.

Each elevation conforms to a strict symmetry on side elevations, for example, fourteen windows for each floor are divided at the center by the chimneys. Walls that would otherwise be quite dull are enlivened by three decorative string courses that continue around the building. A simple straight band divides the upper and lower elevations and continues uninterrupted around the building and all protrusions. In a similar fashion all the windows and door frames on the first and second stories are tied together, lintel to lintel, with this decorative banding. Further interest is added by the fact that the first floor window lintels are treated with a low stilted segmental arch whilst the upper floor has a straight sided roman arch. The walls are common bond between the corbeled cornice and slightly flared foot.

The chimneys (the one on the west wall has now been truncated at the roof eave) are identical with decorated brickwork above the roof eaves.

Originally the chimneys were only built to the first band of chimney corbels and dressed there with a brick hood. Additional height was added at a later date ( at least on the east wall chimney ) in the same style brickwork with a second corbeling and finished with a hood.

The hip roof is unchanged except for the dormers that have been removed and replaced by a large modern ventilator in the center of the ridge pole and two smaller ventilators on the hip ridges. The roof dormers on the East and West elevations were hipped and had three windows. Two small dormers were located on either side of the tower. All dormers were ornamented with finials.

The tower is the building's most imposing feature and houses a school bell. Its lower portion contains the vestibule. The tower has a hipped roof more steeply pitched than the main roof from which rises the bell tower proper. The bell tower itself is square in plan. The four sides of the tower are louvered in a palladian pattern. The tower roof is a steep hip which once possessed four small hooded dormer vents and a railing with finials at the peak.

The treatment of the window heads and the overall symmetry identify the building's basic style as High Victorian Italianate. However, the dormers, tower, and chimney detailing appear to have a distinct Queen Anne influence.

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SOUTH WARD SCHOOL  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior arrangement had four classrooms on each floor with a central hallway between. The newspaper articles at the time the school was built indicate that an effort was made to provide the latest engineering in the heating and ventilation systems (Democratic Watchman, 1887).

Modernizations and alterations after World War II have not seriously affected the exterior appearance. On the interior, we find the second floor essentially unaltered, some cloakrooms were added in the 1950's, while the first floor has seen changes to accomodate recent uses. The building served for a time as the Borough Hall and now operates as a Youth/Community Center.

Although the building is structurally sound as it stands today, immediate preservation attention is required to halt accelerated deterioration. Roof repair and window installation are serious needs.

# 18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Robert Cole**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Ward School (1887) obtains significance in terms of architecture, education and as a scenic landmark of great importance to the Bellefonte streetscape. Architecturally, the building represents a class of High Victorian public school buildings which has been diminished over the years by consolidation, abandonment, and destruction. Robert Cole (1850-1916), the building's designer, was a popular self-trained local architect whose work contributed immensely to the lasting picturesque atmosphere of the town.

Amongst standing examples of his work in Bellefonte are the Crider Exchange Block, the old Logan Fire Hall, Temple Court, Petrikin Hall, the Bellefonte Academy and numerous residences.

The South Ward School displays an accommodation of late Victorian Italianate and Queen Anne design to the functional requirements of a large institutional building. The bold profile of the building, and its elevated site combine to express the increasing importance of education in the community.

The South Ward School is significant in the expanding school system of Bellefonte and is also the oldest standing public school building in the borough. The history of public education in Bellefonte begins in 1834 when the Act requiring public schools was passed by the State Legislature. Although a large nine room school was constructed on Linn and Allegheny Streets in 1865, by 1886 the school age population had exceeded the capacity of this building. The decision was made to build a new school and to place it on a lot on Bishop Street.

The school was designed to house both the lower grades and the High School which had in many years as few as five students. Many high school students, those preparing for college especially, went to private schools like the Bellefonte Academy at the west end of Bishop Street. The South Ward School served as both a high and lower school until a High School was built in 1911. By all accounts the building served its purpose well and remained in use until the 1960's.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bellefonte Republican, Bellefonte, September 9, 1886, Pg. 6

Centre Democrat, Bellefonte, Sept. 15, 1887.

Democratic Watchman, Bellefonte, July 22, 1887; Oct. 7, 1887.

Keystone Gazette, Bellefonte, Industrial Edition, 1894.

Linn. John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Philadelphia, Louis H. Everts, 1883.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	2 6 6 4 4 0	4 5 3 2 4 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William L. McLaughlin, Gregory Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

Historic Registration Project, Centre County Library

DATE

5/20/77

STREET & NUMBER

203 North Allegheny

TELEPHONE

(814-355-3249)

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania 16823

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 1-26-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

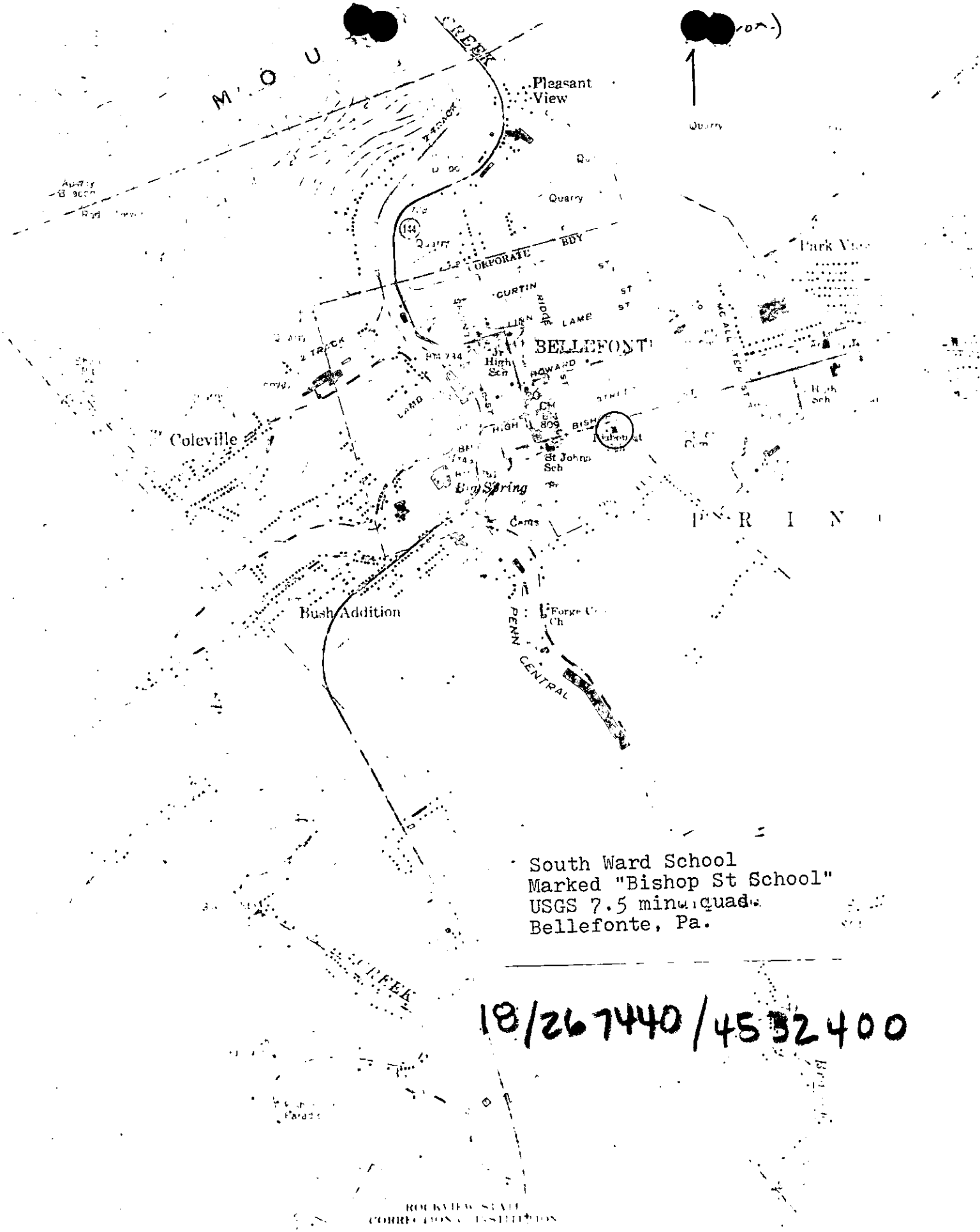
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



South Ward School  
 Marked "Bishop St School"  
 USGS 7.5 min quad  
 Bellefonte, Pa.

18/267440 / 4532400