

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Michigan	
COUNTY: St. Joseph	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nottawa Stone School

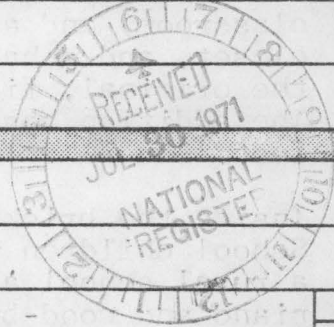
AND/OR HISTORIC:
District No. 3 Nottawa Township School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sturgis Road (M-86) at Filmore Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Nottawa Township *Nottawa vic.*

STATE: Michigan *east of Nottawa* CODE: 26 COUNTY: St. Joseph CODE: 149



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Nottawa School District

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nottawa STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Joseph County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Centerville STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Michigan

COUNTY: St. Joseph

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nottawa Stone School is a one-story building consisting of two sections in an L-shape (each built to house a single classroom) and a small rear section containing restrooms, a closet, and a hallway. The best feature of the building is the original, fieldstone section measuring 48 feet by 34 feet. The addition has a brick exterior and measures 35 feet by 22 feet.

Inside the brick wing a country store display has been set up. School children use the original building to reenact a day in a rural school a hundred years ago. The room contains an 1850s piano and wood-burning stove, "fore and aft" desks on ornamental iron pedestals, and a 37-star flag. Other features are the slate blackboards, a raised platform for the teacher, wainscoting, and oiled wood floors. When the building was restored in 1967, a false ceiling was removed.

The stone section has a gable roof and also features rounded arched windows and door with similarly arched cut stone lintels. Cobblestone laid in courses in the gable ends, squared stone on the front, rubblestone on the sides, and the use of quoins present an interesting variety. Indeed, the variegated coloring of the stones adds to the visual interest. Above the main entrance is the date 1870.

Set back on a tree-lined country road, the Nottawa Stone School is an intriguing structure built of native materials.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nottawa Stone School was built in 1870 replacing a "dilapidated" frame structure. The new building was a one-room primary school for the pupils of district number three, Nottawa Township, a rural area in St. Joseph County. The building was by far the most expensive and the only stone building in the township. The county superintendent of public instruction noted that the district was "considerably below the average wealth of rural districts, yet is just completing a school-house at a cost of about \$3,000, which, in architectural appearance is seldom equaled in the most wealthy rural districts, and in solid convenience and finish it is a model."

John W. Schermerhorn, a prosperous local farmer, was director of the district for the first few years after the school was built and is believed to have designed the building according to his recollections of a school in his boyhood home in Schenectady, New York.

When the school was built, it was expected to seat 150 pupils, although only 50 attended regularly. Later estimates were scaled downward probably because larger desks had been added. Finally, in the late 1880's a second room was added bringing the capacity from 70 to 130. In the first two decades of the building's history there were usually two paid teachers a year, and the school was ungraded.

The building was used as a primary school until the late 1950s. In 1967 the Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School System organized a program to allow school children to use the main school room for a day. Accompanied by their own teacher the children reenact a day in a rural school a century ago. They read from McGuffey readers. Often period clothes are worn by teacher and class. The building is in use about a hundred days a year for this curriculum enrichment program. In 1969 the project was awarded a certificate of commendation from the American Association of State and Local History.

The Nottawa Stone School is one of the best designed and maintained stone schools in the state. Once the pride of the township, the school now plays an unusual part in the enrichment program for elementary school children of the entire region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report of the School Inspector of the Township of Nottawa, County of St. Joseph, 1870.

Nottawa Stone School House Restoration, Collection of materials prepared by the Regional Enrichment Center, Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School System for consideration by the AASLH, 1969. Michigan State Archives, Michigan Historical Commission.

Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lansing: W. S. George & Co., 1870.

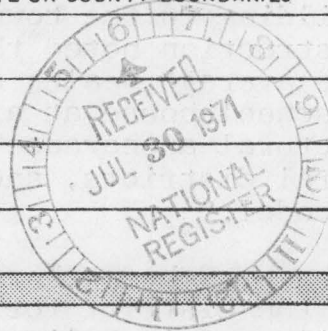
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	0		41°	55'	10"
NE	0	0		85°	26'	30"
SE	0	0				
SW	0	0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



16/629830/H41810
4-4-71
OTM Ref: um

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Catherine B. Ellis, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: Michigan Historical Commission DATE: June 30, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
3405 North Logan

CITY OR TOWN: Lansing STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Samuel A. Milstein
Title: Deputy Director and SLO Dept. of Natural Resources
Date: 7/26/71
by Norman F. Smith Acting

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JAN 13 1972

ATTEST:
William S. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: JAN 7 1971

St Joseph

72001309

RECEIPT

PROPERTY Notlawa Stone School STATE Mich.

REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF RECEIPT	YES	NO	NUMBER
<u>7/30/71</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
DATA PAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PHOTO (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>
PHOTO DESCRIP (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MAP (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>
LOGGED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ACKNOWLEDGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RESUBMIT

JAN 13 1972



REVIEW

OK Means
9/9/71

HISTORIAN

OK Sales
11/1/71

~~ARCHEOLOGIST~~

OK 5 Maxson
10/4/71

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers
10-4-71

ASST. KEEPER

OK Muller
12-7-71

KEEPER

OK Wm
12/7/71

ENTRY

CHIEF, OAHF

OK
1-13-72

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

OK
ED 10/18

Date

Federal Register Entry 2/72

Annual Edition Entry _____

Logged 1/13/72

Card 1/13/72

WORKING NUMBER

7.30.71.11

COMMENTS:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: _____



MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC SITE SURVEY

Nottawa Stone School

(Historic Name)

1969

(Photo Date)

MHC

(Loc. of Photo)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

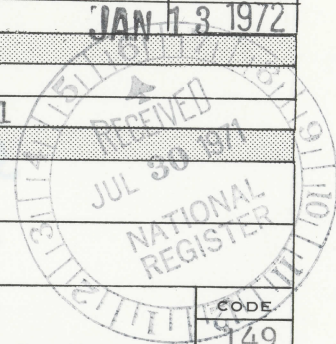
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Michigan	
COUNTY St. Joseph	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 13 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

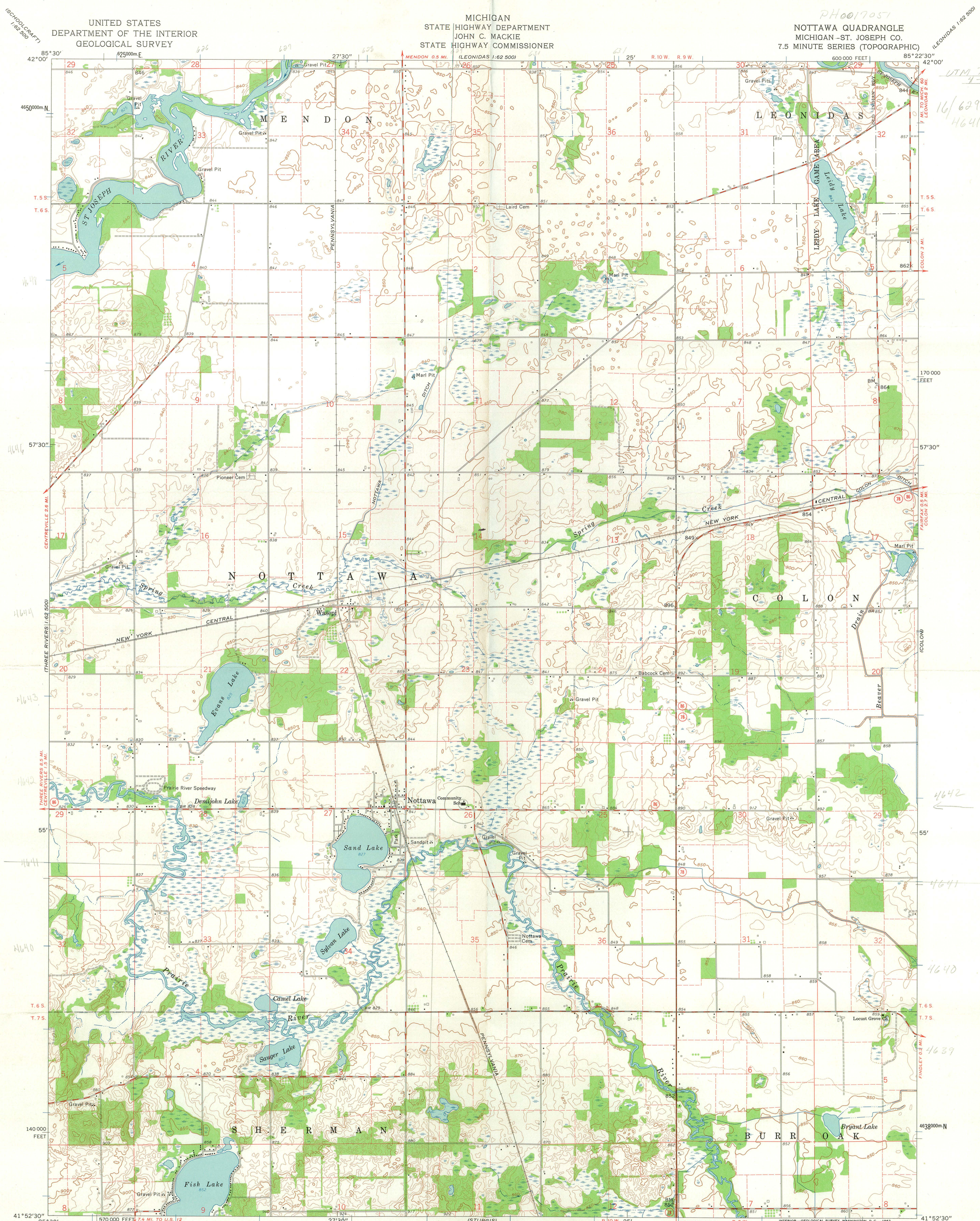
1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC:		District No. 3 Nottawa Township School	
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Sturgis Road (M-86) at Filmore Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Nottawa Township			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Michigan		26	St. Joseph
			CODE
			149
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Regional Enrichment Center, Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969		School District	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Michigan Historical Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
The south and west sides are shown; the building faces south.			



Nottawa Area to Lake
PH0017051
NOTTAWA QUADRANGLE
MICHIGAN - ST. JOSEPH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

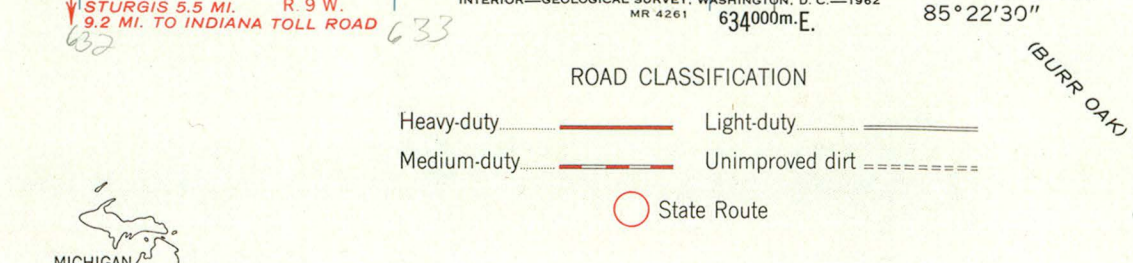
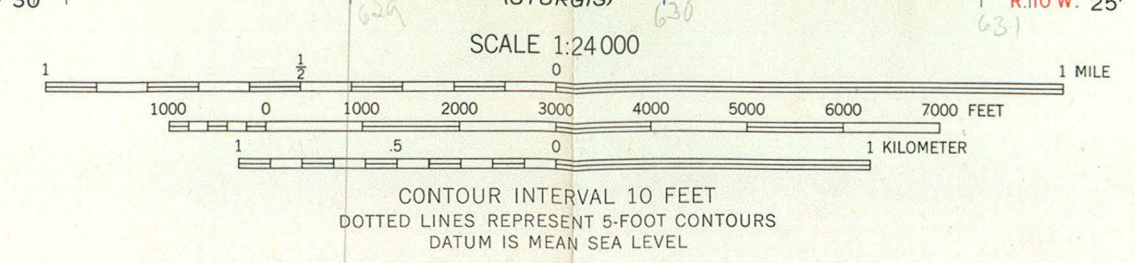
MICHIGAN
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
JOHN C. MACKIE
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

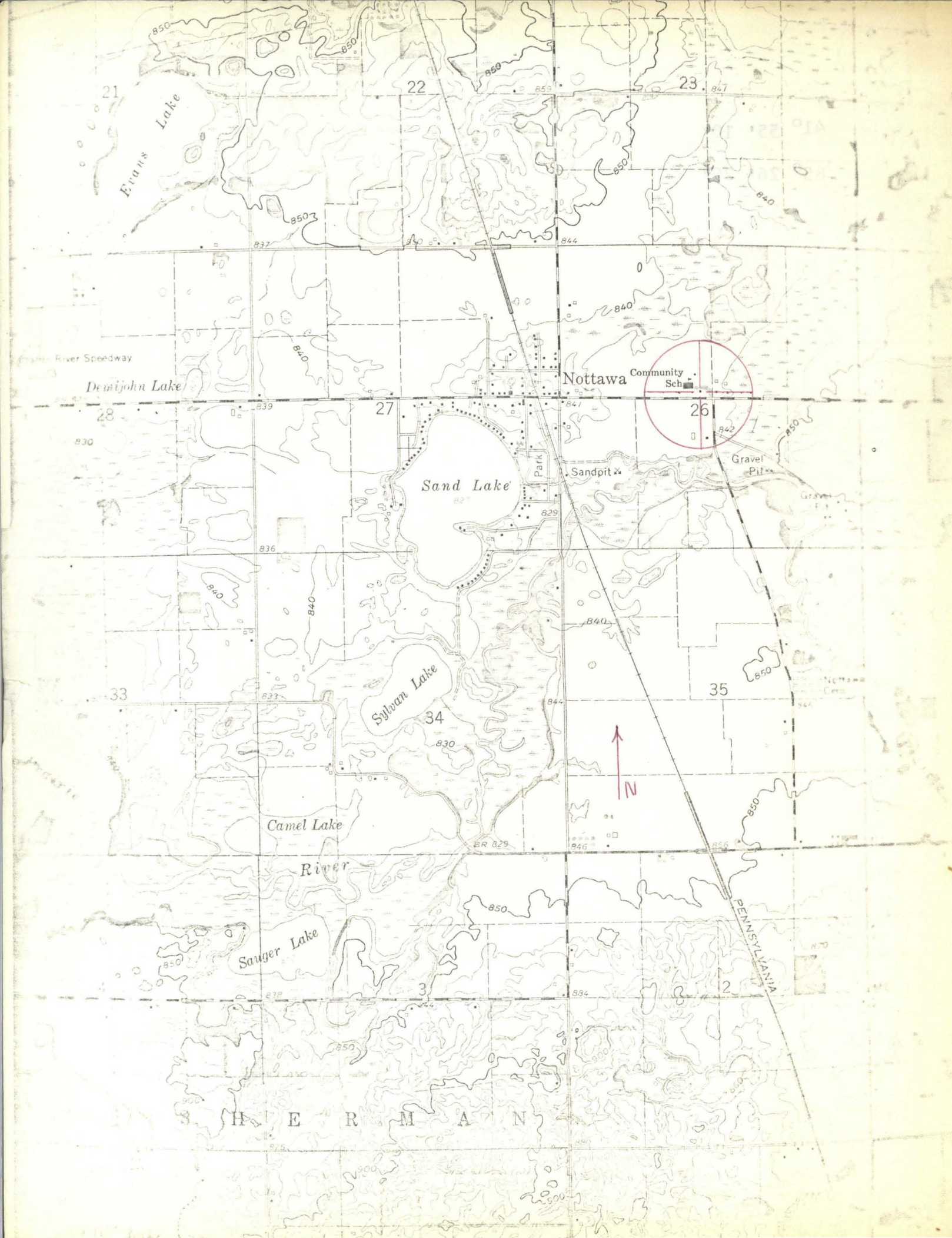
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1961



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NOTTAWA, MICH.
N4152.5-W8522.5/7.5

1961



Evans Lake

Demijohn Lake

Nottawa

Community Sch

Sand Lake

Sylvan Lake

Camel Lake

Sauger Lake

River

HERMANN

PENNSYLVANIA

N

23

22

21

27

26

28

33

34

35

830

836

833

830

829

846

884

850

850

860

850

850

840

837

840

840

844

841

840

842

850

850

800

850

850

850

BR 829

846

855

840

890

890

River Speedway

Park

Sandpit

Gravel Pit

Gravel Pit

Nottawa Cem

41° 55' 10"

85° 26' 30"

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

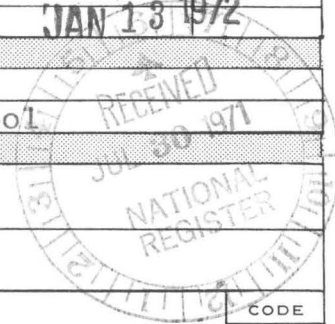
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Michigan	
COUNTY	
St. Joseph	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 13 1972

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Sturgis Road (M-86) at Filmore Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Nottawa Township			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Michigan	26	St. Joseph	149
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
USGS, Nottawa, Michigan			
SCALE:			
1:24000			
DATE:			
1961			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

PH00 17051



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered JAN 13 1972

1/13/72 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

MCMeans:mm

HR

Name

Location

Nottawa Stone School

Nottawa Township
St. Joseph County

Ann Arbor Central Fire Station

Ann Arbor
Washtenaw County

Hume House

Muskegon
Muskegon County

Main Street Building United Church
of Ovid

Ovid
Clinton County

Smith (Sidney T.) House

Grass Lake
Jackson County

Castle Station/Federal Building

Saginaw
Saginaw County

Lowell Library

Lowell
Kent County

Daniel Striker House

Hastings
Barry County

Old Main

Hancock
Houghton County

Also Notified

Hon. Philip A. Hart
Hon. Robert P. Griffin
Hon. Edward Hutchinson
Hon. Marvin L. Esch
Hon. Guy Vander Jagt
Hon. Garry Brown
Hon. Charles E. Chamberlain
Hon. James Harvey
Hon. Gerald R. Ford

State Liaison Officer
Mr. Samuel Milstein
Acting Deputy Director-Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
Mason Building
Lansing, Michigan 48926

Hon. Philip E. Ruppe

Director, Northeast Region

NAME

NOTTAWA STONE SCHOOL

NAME

STATE

MICHIGAN

COUNTY

ST. JOSEPH

ADDRESS

East of Nottawa, Sturgis Rd. at Fillmore Rd.
Nottawa vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

REGISTER NUMBER

Jan. 13, 1972



SN



FN



NHL



NPS



HABS



HAER

REMARKS:

PH001 2051

MICHIGAN

WORKING NUMBER 7.30.71.11

DATE RETURNED TO SLO.

DATE RETURNED TO NR.

DATE SENT TO CONGRESS