

Collection #
P 0125

**HALL SCHOOL, MONROVIA, PHOTOGRAPHS,
1955-1959**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1955–1959

PROVENANCE: Gift from Betty Jo Bartley of Danville, Indiana, n.d.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NUMBER: 2003.0580X

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Hall School in Monrovia, Morgan County, Indiana, served as an elementary school from 1911 until 2005. In June 2004, when it became known that the Monroe-Gregg School District would be decommissioning the school building, Hall Civic Association, Inc. was formed for the purpose of restoring and maintaining the Hall School building located at 5955 Hurt Road for use as a community center and for engaging in charitable, educational, and public service activities.

A brick schoolhouse was commissioned in 1902 to replace a wooden school building. Before the brick school opened, there was a fire. It is believed that only the top part of the building burned, but more funds needed to be obtained to finish rebuilding the school. The new Hall School welcomed its first students in 1911.

In its early days, there was no electricity in the school. A coal furnace in the basement provided heat. Grades 1-8 were taught in the classrooms on the main level of the building. The photographs in this collection from the mid- to late-1950s, show only grades 1–6. By the time the school was decommissioned in 2005, only grades 4–6 were being taught at Hall School.

The entire building now consists of the original 1911 structure and additions from the 1950s, 1970s, and 1980s. The 1911 and 1950s sections of the building were awarded National Register of Historic Places status in 2004. In August 2010, the Monroe-Gregg School District transferred ownership of the building to the Hall Civic Association.

Some parts of the building are now used by other organizations, but the 1911 section of the schoolhouse is used for Hall Civic Association fundraising activities. Every October, the school building is transformed into Hall's Haunted Halls, a haunted house fundraiser that helps to preserve the Hall School building and benefits other charitable and community causes as well.

Source:

Hall Civic Association <https://hallcivic.org/> Accessed 23 May 2025.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of twenty-four black-and-white photographs of classes of students in grades 1 through 6 and their teachers at Hall School in Monrovia, Morgan County, Indiana, from four consecutive school years: 1955–56, 1956–57, 1957–58, and 1958–59. Each photograph is a composite, showing individual portraits. None of the people are identified.

The photographs were removed from four spiral-bound small albums, one for each school year. The earliest three had “Compliments of Inter-State Studio, Sedalia, Missouri” embossed on the front covers. The 1958–59 album had a cover made of different material without any printing on it.

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CONTENTS

Six photographs: Grades 1–6, 1955–1956 school year

Six photographs: Grades 1–6, 1956–1957 school year

Six photographs: Grades 1–6, 1957–1958 school year

Six photographs: Grades 1–6, 1958–1959 school year

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