

**CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Jefferson County Recreation Center  
Block 136 (all lots)

Constructed: 1921 & 1944  
Recreation Center: Architect Fred B. Stephens  
Gym: Built by Volunteers

1867: The site is the location of an earlier three-room school house.

1884: The school house was moved across the street and the large school was built by George Starrett. The new school building had two floors, a bell tower and circular staircases. After twenty years the unusual staircase was rebuilt with square platforms and straight steps. In 1890 the Lincoln School was built for the lower grades, leaving the Central School as the high school.

1921: The school was remodeled with community help to add a gymnasium. The school's tennis court had to be sacrificed for the gym.

1943: The building was largely unused after the new high school was built. In September 1943 a fire broke out and destroyed most of the building, leaving only the gym. The building had just come under the management of the Jefferson County Office of Civil Defense at the time of the fire. It had been used by the Red Cross, the local Ration Board and for storage of salvage in previous years.

The School District built a child care center on the site. William Corsegner was the lead contractor and Fred B. Stephens oversaw the design process. The new construction re-used the foundation and undamaged parts of the old Central School building (mostly the gym).

1945: The new Recreation Center was dedicated to War Veterans on March 29, 1945.

1990: The Recreation Center evolved to include other community needs and was remodeled in 1990 to its current state.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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