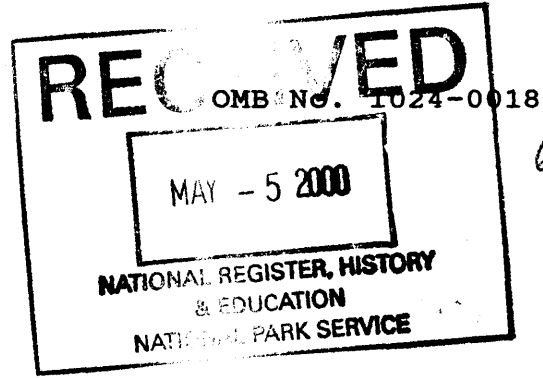


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Barnard Elementary School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 315 E. Locust not for publication N/A  
city or town Tecumseh vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Pottawatomie code 125  
zip code 74873

=====  
3. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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   nationally   statewide  X  locally. (  N/A  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Barkley   5-1-00   
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO   
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
- National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_
- National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>6</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

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

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:  
Romanesque Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
roof ASPHALT  
walls BRICK  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1909-1950

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Dates 1909  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Dubble, Strain, and Tarple  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property 2.07

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>688006</u>	<u>3903002</u>	3	_____	_____
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>		4	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Don Holland

organization Tecumseh Historical Society date 2/14/00

street & number 1502 N. Beard St telephone 405-273-7755

city or town Shawnee state OK zip code 74804-4402

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name Tecumseh Public Schools (I-92)

street & number 302 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 405-598-3739

city or town Tecumseh state OK zip code 74873



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Barnard Elementary School  
name of property  
Pottawatomie, Oklahoma  
county and State

**Summary**

Barnard Elementary School was completed in 1909 as the first separate brick elementary school in Tecumseh, Pottawatomie County. The fall semester started October 13<sup>th</sup> 1909. Built on the site of an early Ward school, Barnard sits in the center of block 82, which was set aside in the original city of Tecumseh plat as a school reserve. It stands in the middle of the block, surrounded by residential development just southeast of the main commercial district of Tecumseh. It is a two-story, red brick building with a raised basement, designed in the Romanesque Revival style that was popular for institutional public buildings at that time. Featuring round arched entries and segmental arched windows, the building is symmetrical and axially reflective. The north and south facades are identical; the east and west facades are identical. A later, separate classroom building with numerous additions is located just south of the original building while new playground equipment is located on the north lawn.

**Description**

Barnard School is slightly rectangular in shape with a combination hipped and cross-gabled roof. The roof is one of the building's most distinguishing characteristics; it features a steeply pitched, hip body with four centered, lower, cross-gables. The ridge is small and is oriented east/west. A single chimney is offset to the west; there were once two chimneys. An ornate gutter runs the perimeter of the roof, with two downspouts on the east and west. Each facade has a centered gable which extends out from the exterior wall, creating a pavilion. The roof covering is asphalt shingle.

The walls of the Barnard Elementary School are red brick, laid up in a running bond. Each floor is delineated by a corbeled belt course consisting of four courses of buff brick. The foundation is poured concrete.

Both the north and south elevations have round arched louvered vents centered in the gables; the east and west gables are bare. Between the louvered vent and the second level windows, on the north and south elevation, is the most unique detail to the exterior of the building. Against the red brick field, buff colored bricks spell out:

19. BARNARD .09

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Barnard Elementary School  
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Both the south and north elevations have nine windows on the second level. There are three per bay; all feature segmental arches with buff brick lintels and smooth stone sills. The lintels consist of three course of headers and are flush with the wall. The original, wooden 1/1 hung windows have been obscured by temporary plywood inserts. On the first level of both the north and south elevations, a recessed entry is centered in the pavilion. A round arched entry is highlighted by four courses of buff brick headers. The aluminum and glass replacement doors are recessed approximately six feet in this entry alcove. The balance of the fenestration on this level is symmetrically placed, flanking the entry. These windows were replaced in 1983. Symmetrically placed flanking the entry steps, the basement level on the north side has eight windows, however the south elevation has only seven. One of the windows on the east, west, and south sides were made into entrances for the basement rooms in the early 1930s. These basement entries feature gabled roofs and brick walls.

The east and west sides have eight windows on the first and second level with two being centered in the pavilion. Again, the second floor windows are original but obscured by plywood while the first floor and basement feature newer, aluminum, hung windows. The east elevation has a basement entry into the pavilion; the west elevation's entry is offset.

The entries are centered in the north and south elevations. Concrete steps with brick wing walls lead up to the recessed alcoves. Each entry is made up of double glass doors with a large glass transom above the doors. The building originally had two large five panel wooden doors.

The entrances to the basement classrooms are not original to the building; they were added in the 1930s and are built with the same style and materials as the rest of the building. They were installed in one window on the east, south and west sides of the building. The entries and the windows are the only exterior changes made to the building.

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Barnard Elementary School  
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**Interior:**

Each level of the building has a similar floor plan. Each level has four large classrooms and a large central hallway. There are two staircases constructed of yellow pine and having a dark finish, between each level. The first and second level has wood floors, and the basement floor is concrete. The interior walls are brick with plaster covering them. The ceilings are very high and are plastered as well. The chalkboards wrap around the entire perimeter of each classroom. They are actually black paint that was painted onto the plaster. A top wood trim piece and a bottom wood chalk rail run along the entire perimeter as well. The door for each classroom is a solid wood, five-panel door with a large glass transom above each. The transom is wood trim with a single glass panel. The windows on the second floor are wood, single hung windows. All of the wood doors and trim have a dark finish. The basement and first floor have newer, aluminum, hung windows.

The classrooms are in each corner of the building with the hall being in the center. Each classroom has seven windows in it. There is also a five-panel solid wood door that connects the classrooms that are adjacent to each other. One window in each of the north classrooms on the second level is the entrance to the tubular fire escapes added to the building in 1925 on the east, and 1933 on the west. A small brass placard above the entry reads *Potter Tubular Fire Escape Company, Patented 1919. Other U.S. Patents pending, Chicago IL.* The fire escapes were later removed for safety concerns.

**Alterations/Additions:**

The exterior retains its historic appearance today. In 1948 the roof was replaced. The wooden shakes were covered with asphalt shingles. The basement entrances were added to the building sometime in the 1930s. In 1925 a tubular fire escape was added to the East Side of the building for the second floor. Later in 1933 another fire escape was added to the West Side from the second floor. These fire escapes were removed in 1983.

The interior of the building has seen the most change over its 90-year history. Indoor bathrooms were added in 1930. This took away one room in the southwest corner of the basement. At the same time, a kitchen was installed in the

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Barnard Elementary School  
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basement's northeast room, and the northwest room was converted to a dining room. The southeast room in the basement was used for storage of kitchen supplies. The kitchen and dining room remained in the basement of the building until 1968, when a new cafeteria was built in another building. At that time the three basement rooms were converted back into classrooms. The restrooms are still in the basement, and they were brought up to code for electrical and plumbing at that time. The first and second level were untouched in 1968. The second level was shut off and no longer used for classroom instruction in 1971; no modification, with the exception of the fire escape removal and the placement of plywood over the windows, has been made to the second level since then. Because of this, the second level retains its historic interior appearance.

In 1983 a major renovation was done on the first level. The ceilings were lowered with a suspended acoustical ceiling. The staircases on the West Side of the hall were removed and two small storage rooms were put in their place. The walls were framed over and dry-walled. The staircases on the East Side were left; however, they were closed in, and a door was installed at the foot of the stairs leading to the second level. This was done to satisfy current fire safety codes. The staircase to the basement from the first floor had rubber tread caps were put on over the wooden treads. The treads on the stairs to the second level were left alone. Each tread is worn on the ends where generation after generation of students and teachers trudged up and down.

The windows in the basement and first level were replaced during this 1983 renovation as well. They are still single-hung windows; however, they have an aluminum frame instead of the original wood. They are the same style and color as the original windows. The windows on the second level were left in place and boarded over. The interior, especially the second level, retains a great deal of integrity and adequately reflects the historic interior of the building.

**Grounds/Noncontributing Elements:**

The 1909 building sits in the center of Block 82 city of Tecumseh original plat. Newer classroom buildings surround the original building on the south, east and part of the west of the block. To the north and the remaining part of the west of the block is a large playground area. A chain-link fence was constructed in 1975 with funds raised by the PTA.

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The playground has new equipment including 1 swing, 2 jungle gyms, and 2 slides. These, along with the fence, are noncontributing objects. The playground has several trees that line the inside of the fence. It is covered on the northwest corner where the playground equipment is with smooth pea stone gravel. The rest of the grounds are grass. The southwest corner of the playground is now a new classroom/multipurpose addition. This took the place of the basketball courts.

In 1964, a separate building containing four additional classrooms was built to the south of the original building. It is a brick building with a metal roof and is typical of most school buildings in its era. The first of six additions to this building was built in 1967. The succeeding additions house various classroom and related functions and took on a variety of forms. The original 1964 building and the 1967 and 1968 additions have flat roofs. The 1970, 1971, and 1999 additions have low pitched gable roofs and metal siding. With the 1999 addition, the entire complex was given a facelift. A parget coating and new entryway give the whole complex a uniformity of appearance. The new facilities are not attached in any manner to the 1909 building and do not detract from the integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, materials, or association.

(8-86)

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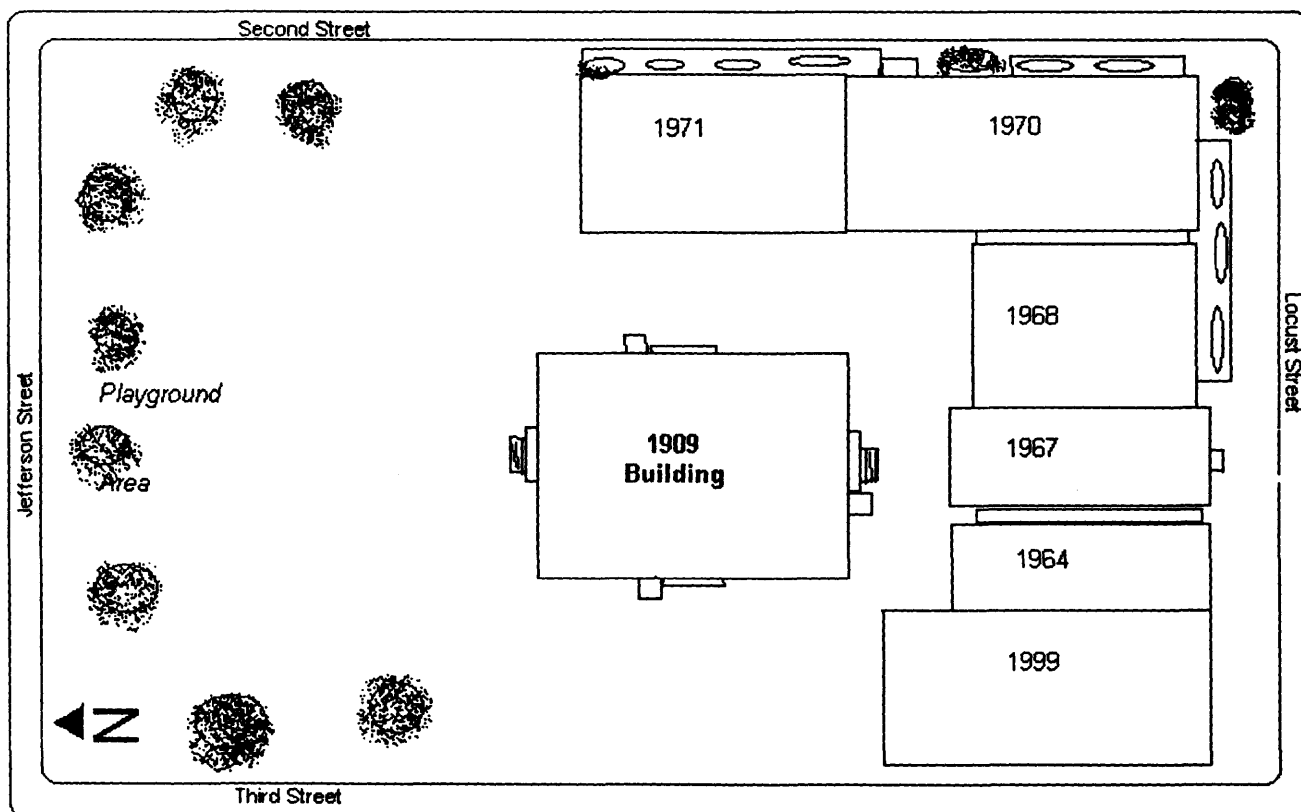
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**Barnard Elementary School**



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Barnard Elementary School  
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=====  
**Summary:**

"Long felt want will be supplied; building will be an eight room, two story brick, modern and up-to-date in every way."(1) Barnard Elementary School was built in 1909, the first brick school building in Tecumseh. It has remained in continual use as an elementary school since its opening on October 13 of that year. The school building has played an important role in the educational and social development of Tecumseh. For this reason, Barnard Elementary School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as the best and only remaining example of the Romanesque Revival style in Tecumseh.

**Background**

Located on lands formerly reserved for Shawnee and Pottawatomie tribes, the post office named for the famed Shawnee chief Tecumseh was established in 1891, soon after the area was opened for settlement. The town thrived as a trade center for the area and was named county seat for Pottawatomie County with the advent of statehood. Tecumseh held this position until 1909 when nearby Shawnee made a bid for the county seat. The election came in favor of Shawnee, but remained in litigation until 1930, when the courthouse and records were moved to Shawnee.

Tecumseh was served by a branch of the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad, later a part of the Rock Island system. This branch was built to connect with the main line, which ran through rival Shawnee. Later, interurban tracks were laid down between the two towns, further tying the adversaries.

Cotton was a primary product for the lands south of the North Canadian River and Tecumseh was a central shipping point for it. Another business that did well in Tecumseh in its early days was the liquor trade. Numerous saloons served travelers and cattlemen passing from the "wet" Oklahoma Territory into "dry" Indian Territory. Nefarious trade notwithstanding, Tecumseh supported a large number of social institutions, including men's lodges and ladies clubs. Another social institution that citizens of Tecumseh gave precedence to was education.

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1 The Tecumseh Standard, 3 July 1908, page 1.

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**Educational Significance**

The first educational opportunity in Tecumseh was afforded by a subscription school taught at the Friend's Church.(2) By the turn of the century, Tecumseh had an accredited high school. The growing population of the town necessitated the construction of a new, larger building to house the elementary grade levels. The old, frame Ward school was inadequate. A bond issue for the construction of a new school building was passed by the citizens of Tecumseh in 1906.

The new building, to be named Barnard Elementary School, was built on the site of one of the first public schools in Tecumseh. It is situated in the center of block 82 which was set aside as a school reserve on the original city of Tecumseh plat in 1891. Construction started in November of 1908 and was finished in June of 1909 for a total cost of \$15,000.00.

The Barnard building was the first separate brick elementary education building in Tecumseh. Until it was completed, all classes were held at the high school building. The new building was dedicated on October 24, 1909. The building was named Barnard for Ms. Kate Barnard, a champion for children and prisoner's rights in the early 1900s. Kate was born in 1875 in Nebraska and was left motherless at the age of two;; she made the run of 1891 with her father. She went on to become the first woman elected to statewide office. She was elected commissioner of the charities and corrections commission in 1907. She was instrumental in passing some of the most advanced child labor laws in the nation at the time. She was also very concerned with prison conditions of the time and fought for the funding to build the state prison in McAlester.(3)

On dedication day, Ms. Barnard and other state dignitaries were in attendance. The fall semester had started a week earlier on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The building was hailed by local newspapers, as modern and up-to-date in every way. Grades 1-8 were housed in the new building. The upper classes were held on the second floor and the primary grades were on the first floor.

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2 "Tecumseh at the Turn of the Century," The Chronicles of Oklahoma Florence Drake, Vol. 38, page 404.

3 The Shawnee News Star, 4 November, 1990.



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In 1916 the High school burned to the ground and Barnard was there to make room for the high school students until a new building could be built. Barnard was there again in 1949 when the Willard Elementary burned, and again Barnard made room for those students as well.

The building has also been a meeting place for the community. School board meetings, Christmas pageants, PTA meetings and many other functions have taken place at Barnard, serving both social and educational needs.

During WWII, Barnard students participated in stamp and bond drives to help our troops overseas by buying war stamps and bonds. The Barnard staff and students received a letter from the U.S. Treasury department commemorating their participation in the Schools-at-War program. A flag and insignia for it were sent as a token of participation. The letter stated that Barnard was one of the distinguished groups of school units in Oklahoma that helped to keep our state near the top of the roll call of states, in all aspects of the civilian war effort. It is also noted that 90 percent of the pupils were purchasers of the stamps and bonds. (4)

The community of Tecumseh has always supported its schools. A school bond issue has never failed in Tecumseh. One of the first bond issues voted on by residents of Tecumseh was in 1906. This is the bond issue that was used to build the Barnard School building. The bond was for \$10,000.00 and the building when completed cost \$15,000. The last bond issue approved by Tecumseh voters was in 1995 for \$540,000 for four new classrooms and multipurpose room for the Barnard campus. Other forms of community support is evidenced by the number of parents and teachers that have helped to raise money over the years to make improvements, including purchasing books and playground equipment for the school. Many of Tecumseh residents have had a number of generations that are alumni of the old Barnard building. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren attend class in the very same building as their ancestors.

Barnard has witnessed its pupils go off to fight in every war of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from WWI to the Gulf war. It has seen its pupils through the droughts and the great depression of the 1930s. It has witnessed the industrial revolution as well as the technological revolution. Throughout all of these

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4 A History on Barnard Elementary School, Tecumseh, OK. PaulaBeene, 1995.

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changes, it has stood as a source of pride and stability for the community. It is the only brick building built by Tecumseh Schools prior to 1952 that has not been destroyed by fire, or been otherwise condemned. The building has always passed fire inspectors' and architects' scrutiny, with few, if any deficiencies.

It is a local landmark for new citizens of Tecumseh as well. They use it to find their way around the community, as it can be seen from several parts of town, especially in the fall when the leaves drop.

#### Architectural Significance

Barnard Elementary school is the only remaining intact example of the Romanesque style of architecture applied to early statehood school buildings in Pottawatomie county. It is the only remaining brick school building from the early days, prior to 1952, of Tecumseh. Designed by the firm of Dubble, Strain, and Tarple, it remains as a landmark in Tecumseh, distinguished in its use of one of the last of the Victorian stylistic movements.

The Romanesque Revival style was popular in the decades surrounding the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The use of masonry, usually of dark color, and heavy, Roman arches characterize the style. It connotes strength and stability and was most popular in institutional buildings such as schools, courthouses, and banks. The Barnard Elementary School is a restrained example of the style; the heavy roof, dark red walls, and large arched entries being the defining characteristics. It is unique to Tecumseh and Pottawatomie County.

The Tecumseh school system consists of five campuses located across town. The Barnard campus is the only one with the original building. The original High school was located on the West Side of town, with the Barnard campus being on the East Side. The 1894 high school was poorly built and was torn down in 1913. The replacement High school was an elegant three-story brick building of the Gothic style. This building burned to the ground in 1916. The city of Tecumseh leased the school board the southeast corner of the city park to build a "temporary High School" This was a simple, one-story, wooden frame building. Constructed in 1916, it was demolished in 1984. This is now the site of the Middle school, which took over the High school campus when the new high school

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was built in 1981 on the north side of town. The buildings here were built in 1967, 1972, and 1987. The gymnasium from the 1916 building still stands and is used daily.

On the original High school site, a new elementary building was built. This was a one-story brick building constructed in 1931. Although it resembles the style of most WPA buildings of the era, it was built prior to the creation of the WPA. That school burned in 1949. At that time a new building was built on that site, and was completed in 1952. This is now used as an early childhood center. This building is a brick, split-level, one story building.

In 1985, a brand new elementary campus was created in the southwest corner of town and three phases of construction were used. It is a modern style building with concrete panel walls and metal roof.

The 1909 Barnard building is the oldest school building, in use or otherwise, that remains intact in Pottawatomie County. Other districts in Pottawatomie County have buildings that date back to the 1930s, most of which were W.P.A. projects. Within the Tecumseh district, all others are less than 50 years old, the oldest being the Krouch early childhood building built in 1952.

The only other Romanesque Revival style building built in Pottawatomie County was the Washington School in Shawnee. This was an almost identical twin to the Barnard building, but was razed just after World War II. No other extant public buildings in the county have the Romanesque Revival style applied to them.

Due to its importance in the educational development of the city of Tecumseh in the period 1909-1950, and because it is the best remaining example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture applied to a public building in Pottawatomie County, Barnard Elementary School is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Barnard Elementary School  
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Drake, Florence. "Tecumseh at the Turn of the Century." The Chronicles of Oklahoma. Vol.38, No. 4, pp. 397-408

Gravley, Ernestine. "Fifty Years Ago in Shawnee and Pottawatomie County." The Chronicles of Oklahoma. Vol.31, No. 4, pp. 381-391.

Metlot, Alva, interview with Don Holland , Tecumseh, Oklahoma, January 11, 2000; Former Superintendent, 1967-1984, Former Student Barnard Elementary 1925-1931.

The Shawnee News Star. 4 November 1990; 10 January 1993.

The THS Legacy. 20 May 1998.

The Tecumseh Standard, 3 July 1908; 21 August 1908; 20 November 1908; 28 May 1909; 11 June 1909.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Barnard Elementary School  
name of property  
Pottawatomie, Oklahoma  
county and State

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at the northwest corner of Block 82, City of Tecumseh Original Plat, proceed east 300 feet along Jefferson Street; turn south and go 300 feet along Second Street; then turn west and proceed 300 feet along Locust Street; then turn north and proceed 300 feet to the point of beginning along Third Street. Encompasses the whole of Block 82.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries encompass all of the property historically associated with the school.