NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY AND EDUCATION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rapp School District #50

other names/site number 139-4210-0027

2. Location

street & number S2, E2, SE4, SE4,SE4, S13,T16, R13E Grant Township ☐ not for publication

city or town Osage City ☒ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Osage code 139 zip code 66525

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz, D- SHPO June 2, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action 7.28.95

Rapp School
Name of Property

Osage County, Kansas
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education; school; schoolhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social; meeting hall

Recreation and Culture; museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rectangle, hipped roof schoolhouse

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt Shingles
other

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

Rapp School
Name of Property

Osage County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 2 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	246482	4282980
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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 Michele Risdal, National Register Program Assistant

organization Kansas State Historical Society date June 2, 1995

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone (913) 296-5264

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612-1291

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Grant Township Trustees, Osage City, Kansas
C/O Fred L. Pearson
street & number Route 1, Box 211 telephone

city or town Reading state Kansas zip code 66868

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Rapp School
Name of Property

Osage County, Kansas
County and State

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.)

- [X] **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.
- [X] **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.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or 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)

Architecture

Edcuation

Period of Significance

1929-1945

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leighty Brothers; Charles J. and Robert E.; builders

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Rapp School (c. 1929) is located in Grant Township five miles northwest of Osage City, Osage County, Kansas (pop. 2,689) on S2, E2, SE4, SE4, SE4, S.13, T.16, R.13E. The one story, brick building sits on a concrete foundation and is surmounted by a hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower is centered on the front facade. A finished basement stands underneath the building. The school has a southern facade orientation and measures approximately forty feet east to west and thirty-six feet north to south.

The Rapp School maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a one room, brick, school house. The building stands on a three hundred by two-hundred and sixty-six foot lot, facing south onto Highway 56. The Rapp Cemetery adjoins the grounds to the north and is separated by a two-pipe fence and a row of cedar trees. A gravel road runs along the east boundary of the school grounds. The western boundary is defined with cedar trees and a pipe fence. A two-door outhouse is located near the fence on the north lawn. Non-extant resources include another outhouse and a small horse barn.

The present Rapp School and the earlier 1871 wooden school house were both an integral part of Rapp village. Although the village was never incorporated, it nevertheless had all the amenities of a small community. Rapp village was located along the Missouri-Pacific railroad, a couple of miles east and south of the school house. The community consisted of several houses, a railroad crossing/ produce station, cattle pens, general store and lumber yard. The only community or commercial building left of the Rapp community is the school house. Four extant houses stand as residences near the railroad crossing.

The overall rectangular form of the school is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the center of the south facade. The school is constructed of brick. A finished basement stands underneath the building.

A wooden door with a nine light window set in the upper portion of the door pierces the south facade and is surmounted by an eight light transom. A limestone lintel over the door transom is carved with "1872 RAPP SCHOOL 1929 DIST. NO. 50." Two 6/1 double hung sash windows pierce the elevation on either side of the door. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the centered of the front facade. Every elevation on the bell tower is pierced by an arched vent. Ten concrete steps with brick abutments capped with concrete lead up to the door. Two basement windows pierce the facade on either side of the steps.

The west elevation is pierced by four three foot windows placed high on the wall. Two windows pierce the basement. A brick chimney is located in the northern bay of the west elevation. A secondary entrance and two basement windows are located on the east elevation. Nine 6/1 double hung sash windows and three basement windows pierce the north elevation.

The Rapp School interior is comprised of a center entry foyer flanked by two cloak rooms (girls to the east and boys to the west), a six by eight foot windowed library, and the main classroom. The school is entered through a wooden door with a nine light window set in the upper portion of the door that is surmounted by an eight light transom into the foyer. The bell rope hangs from the ceiling in the foyer. A panelled door on the east wall of the entry foyer leads the girls cloak room while a paneled door on the west leads to the boys cloak room. The original cloak hooks and lunch cupboards are still extant.

A wooden door with a twelve-paned glass upper half leads from the foyer into the classroom. Ten inch varnished wood baseboards define the floor line. Three milk glass globes hang from the ceiling. A six inch raised stage is located at the east end of the classroom. The original teacher's desk and piano are located on the raised stage. Original slate chalkboards cover the east and south walls. Four three foot windows are placed high in west wall. Nine windows pierce the north wall. Five doors pierce the south wall. They lead (going east to west) to the basement stairs, girls cloak room, foyer, boys cloak room, and library.

The finished basement is reached by a straight staircase behind a door on the east corner of the south wall or from an exterior entrance on the east elevation. The room consists of a series of three foot windows on all sides of the basement. In the southeast corner under the stairway stands a water hand pump on a sink stand with a cupboard beneath. The water pump brought the water in from a cistern outside near the southeast corner of the school. In the northwest corner stands a metal-covered oil-burning furnace next to a boxed in area once used as a coal bin.

The school closed July 1, 1962. Until 1980, the building was used as a meeting hall by the Rapp Extension Homemakers Unit and vacation Bible School. Since then it has been used as a voting place for the township, meeting place for community groups and picnics. The school house now functions as a museum. The Rapp School reflects all the design characteristics found in a rural, one-room, brick school house. The school maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity.

The Rapp School (c. 1929) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Osage County, Kansas and for its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse. The present Rapp School served the Osage County School District Number 50 from its completion in 1929 until July 1962, when consolidation forced its closure. In 1962, the building was deeded to the Grant Township Board of Trustees for community use. The building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently used as a community building and museum.

The school stands on a three hundred by two-hundred and sixty-six foot lot, facing south onto Highway 56. Before the 1930s the state highway did not go by the school and was located about one mile south near the Missouri Pacific railroad. Highway 56, previously called Highway 50N, relocated to go by the school and follows The Santa Fe Trail. The Rapp Cemetery adjoins the grounds on the north, and is separated from the school grounds by a two-pipe fence and a row of cedar trees. A gravel road runs along the east boundary of the school grounds. The west boundary consists of cedar trees, pipe fence, and beyond those a brome pasture. A two door outhouse is located near the fence of the north lawn. Non-extant resources include another outhouse and a small horse barn.

The present Rapp School and the earlier 1871 wooden school house, located five miles west of Osage City, were both an integral part of Rapp village. Although the village was never incorporated, it nevertheless had all the amenities of a small community. Rapp village was located along the Missouri-Pacific railroad, a couple of miles east and south of the school house.

The rural community consisted of an unincorporated village of about a dozen houses, a railroad crossing/ produce station, a general store, a lumberyard, blacksmith shop and stockyard. The community and the schoolhouse was named after C. J. Rapp, who owned a large amount of land in the area. The only community or commercial building left of the Rapp community is the school house. Four extant houses stand as residences near the railroad crossing.

School District 50 was organized in 1870. "Pursuance to notice given by County Supt. of schools in Osage County, Sate of Kansas, was held in Dist 50, the 10th day of June 1870, A. D. for the purpose of organizing said School District and also to vote support a common school in said District. The meeting was duly organized by a chairman John A. Moberg was elected director, C. J. Rapp treasurer, and James Cain, Clerk." ("Rapp EHU Centennial")

In February 1871, a special meeting was called to decide on the type of school house building. The original Rapp school house was constructed of clapboard and located west of the current school house. The building was one story high and twenty-six feet long and eighteen feet wide with a 1/2 pitch roof. The job was awarded to August and Swan Bloom for $175, to be finished by April 1, 1971. James Cain was to furnish the wood at $1.25 per cord, for eight cords, and to be stove length.

The first term was held in 1871 without a teacher. At the first annual meeting it was voted to have 3 months of school in the summer and four months of school in the winter. It was also voted to have a male teacher for winter months and a female teacher for summer months, at a salary of $30 per month. Male teachers were preferred for winter terms because it was thought that they alone could control the older farm boys who attended school only during the winter when their time was not completely taken up by farm work. In the early years, many young Swedish, German, and Italian immigrants attended school in the winter months on average about four months but had to go to work on the farms come spring. Until the late 1930s, most teachers were single and customarily lived nearby, some boarding with local families.

The backbone of the independent school district was its annual school meeting, for it was here that taxable farmers met to elect the members of their school board and make provisions for the next year's operation of the school. The date of the annual meeting was fixed by law. These meetings were started with a call to order. The minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read and accepted, and the election of at least one school board member was held. Then matters of money were considered. (Fuller p.46)

A notice of a school meeting appeared in the April 18, 1929 edition of the Journal Free Press. "A special meeting of the voters of School District No. 50, County of Osage and State of Kansas will be held at Rapp School House on the 25th day of April, 1929 at 8 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of voting for or against building a new school house."

By May 23, 1929, bids were being asked for. "Bids will be received for the building of a new school house at Rapp, Kansas, district No. 50, according to plans and specification on file at A. V. Johnson Insurance office." (Journal Free Press, May 23, 1929)

June 20, 1929 Journal Free Press "Carpenters have started tearing and moving the old Rapp school house and soon will be breaking ground for the new brick building that will be the pride of the community. It is 57 years since the old school house was built."

The building of a new brick school house represented the financial and population growth of the community. Located along Highway 56, it visually symbolized the vitality of Rapp village. The new school house offered a larger teaching space, better lighting, a library, water pump and an oil burning furnace. The finished basement made available additional space for community gatherings and school activities, which could be used in all seasons.

The school was built by the Leighty brothers, local carpenters and builders. The Leighty Brother firm dates from 1900-1942. They were prime contractors, subcontracting work with several firms and individuals in other crafts. The First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Lieber Public Library, District 88 School House, and several house in Osage City were all built by the Leighty brothers in brick.

The length of the school year was customarily September through April, grades one through eight. Absences because of farm work caused many to attend Rapp School until their 20s. County wide standardized achievement examinations given at the end of the eighth grade were used to access overall student learning. Examinations were given by the Osage County Superintendent of Schools.

The building retains all of its original furnishings: bell rope and bell, piano, 42 desks, recitation desk, teacher's desk, cloak hooks, lunch cupboards, and wall maps. Some curricular material is also extant: counting sticks, books, dual purpose sand table. The library contains the teacher's manuals and student textbooks as they were left when the school ceased to operate July 1962. Nearly all of the textbooks used at Rapp were published by the Kansas State Printer. Representative examples of curricular material include Four Centuries in Kansas by Bliss Isey and W. M. Richards (1937); Champion Arithmetics by Joseph C. Brown, Helen Cook Mirick, J. Freeman, guy and Albert C. Eldredge (1937); Bobbs-Merrill Readers by Clara B. and Edna D. Baker (1926); Fundamentals of Citizenship by G. L. Blough and C. H. McClure (1945).

Rapp School exemplifies the prototypical, one room, country school house in form and design. The one story, brick, hipped roof school is surmounted by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof. A wooden, gable roof bell tower rises from the center of the south facade. The school is constructed of brick. A finished basement stands underneath the building. This brick school house with a bell tower is typical of the rural schoolhouses constructed in Osage County and Kansas between 1920 and 1930.

School was discontinued 1 July 1962. The building was used as a meeting hall by the Rapp Extension Homemakers Unit and vacation Bible School until 1980. Until a few years ago it had been used as a voting place for the township, meeting place for community groups and picnics. The school house now functions as a museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fuller, Wayne E. The Old Country School-The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1982.

Fredrickson, Patricia. "Rapp School." National Register Nomination draft, November 17, 1994.

Heck, Dorothy Leighty. Letter dated October 9, 1994.

Liby, Mary. "Preservation Group is Saving More Than Just a Schoolhouse." Osage County Chronicle, October 6, 1994.

Journal Free Press, April 18, 1929; April 25, 1929; May 23, 1929; June 20, 1929.

"Rapp EHU Centennial." Undated article in file.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the S2, E2, SE4, SE4, SE4, S.13, T.16, R.13E in Grant Township, Osage County, Kansas on a three hundred by two hundred and sixty tract of land. The property is bounded to the north by Rapp Cemetery, to the south by Highway 56, to the east by a gravel road, and to the west by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the property that is historically associated with the school.