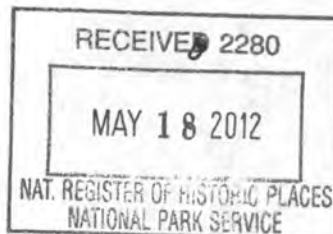


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



387

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Arvon School

other names/site number KHRI 139-0000-00001

## 2. Location

street & number 0000 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. (per county appraiser)

city or town Lebo

state Kansas code KS county Osage code 139 zip code 66523

	not for publication
X	vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Patrick Zeller  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5-16-12  
Date

DSHPO  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:)

Jon Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

7-3-12  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Public Schools of Kansas

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Vernacular Gabled School Building

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: Asphalt

other:

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Arvonía School is located in the unincorporated village of Arvonía, Kansas, which is located approximately four miles north of Lebo, immediately southwest of Melvern Lake (completed 1975) in the southwest corner of Osage County. The east-facing building sits on a hill at the northwest corner of South Arvonía and West 325<sup>th</sup> Street and is surrounded by prairie. Other nearby buildings include the Calvinistic Methodist Church and Arvonía Township Hall to the north. Arvonía School is a 1 ½ story symmetrical stone building with rectangular massing. Although a second floor was removed early in its history, the building retains its original roofline with cupola/bell tower, overhanging eaves with eave brackets, and historic scalloped shingle gable ornament. The window openings are extant, with stone sills and lintels. However, the openings are boarded over with large shutters because the historic sashes are missing.

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### Narrative Description

#### A Note on Changes

Arvonía School was designed and originally constructed as a two-story building (see Figure 3). In ca. 1900, the second floor was removed due to structural concerns. A 1903 newspaper article provides the following note about ca. 1900 changes: "That old stone school house has been remodeled of late and now with its new roof, replastered, new chimney and many other improvements in a state of preservation and will stand for another 30 years."<sup>1</sup>

A review of the original plans by architect John Haskell and photos from various periods in the building's history indicates that the original roof pitch, entablature, and cupola were either salvaged and reinstalled at the lowered height or reconstructed to match the original features. At the same time the roof was lowered, scalloped shingles were added to the front gable to conceal the remnants of the original second-floor windows. Other changes that likely date to the ca. 1900 remodel include the following:

- Removal of original four-panel doors flanking stair tower entry and replacement with doors with horizontal panels.
- Removal of stairs to second floor and related obsolescence of double-door entry. Original double doors remain; although the opening is enclosed with masonry units on the exterior. The basement stair remains; although it is in deteriorated condition.
- Expansion of dressing rooms into space formerly occupied by stair tower.
- Installation of iron structural rods and anchor plates.
- Modifications to front step: removal of steps and installation of concrete entrance platform framed by pipe railing.

The school closed in 1949. By 1969, the following additional modifications had been made:

- Enclosure of first-floor window openings with shutters.
- Enclosure of double entry door with masonry units.

Since 1969, the roof has been repaired and cupola has been reconstructed.

#### Exterior

East (Front) Elevation – A berm in front of the building rises to the grade of an entry platform with metal pipe railing. There are three original masonry openings with dressed limestone lintels with keystones on the lower façade. In the center is a wide opening that houses a pair of paneled wood doors with an arched transom on the interior and is infilled with masonry units on the exterior. The centered opening is flanked on each side by a paneled wood single entry door with multi-paned arched lintel. Two iron anchor plates with star medallions, one between the first and second masonry openings and the second above the third masonry opening, betray the presence of structural rods that stretch between the front and rear elevations between the main level and former upper level. On the upper façade, the limestone sills of the former upper-

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<sup>1</sup> "Arvonía Pioneers," 17 April 1903. This is a transcription of a statement ready by Mrs. D. Harris at the St. David's Day celebration on March 2, 1903. The quote about the recent remodel was inserted by the newspaper editor. From the clippings file of David (Buddy) Evans.

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story windows are visible. Above the sills is scalloped-shingle gable ornament. The shallow gabled roofline is topped by a wide overing eave with eight eave brackets.

South and North (Side) Elevations – The south and north elevations, which mirror one another, are each divided into three bays. On each elevation, the basement level historically had four masonry openings, three arched window openings (all but two enclosed) and a small infilled rectangular opening that appears to have been designed as an intake vent. The masonry at the basement level appears to have been repointed with portland-based mortar. There are three evenly spaced tall narrow window openings with dressed stone lintels on the main level. As on the front elevation, the limestone sills for the former upper-story windows peak out from behind the frieze. There are eight iron anchor plates on each elevation, four on the lower facades and four on the upper facades.

West (Rear) Elevation – The rear elevation has no masonry openings. An original storm shelter-type door provides exterior access to the building's basement from the south end of the west elevation. Two iron anchor plates indicate the iron rods that connect the front and rear elevations. An interior chimney pierces the roof near the rear gable.

#### Interior

First Floor – The interior of the Arvonja School is very simple. First-floor finishes include plaster walls, wood floors, painted tongue-and-groove wainscoting, beaver board ceilings (installed in the early twentieth century), painted wood picture rails, chalkboard frames and painted wood trim. There are two principal interior spaces, a small full-width foyer on the east end and the classroom that spans the remainder of the first floor. An original double entrance opened to a stair corridor with U-shaped stair leading to the second floor and basement. Although the masonry opening for the main entrance is infilled on the exterior, the original pair of 4-paneled wood doors remains on the interior. The stair corridor was flanked on each side by a dressing room, which provided a transition from the north and south single-door entrances to the classroom. The dressing rooms were apparently expanded when the stair was removed, and a historic partition wall now runs perpendicular to the main entrance to the back wall of the classroom. The classroom is accessible via two 4-paneled doors on the west wall of the dressing rooms. The classroom was originally designed to face a platform on the east wall, away from two windows planned for the west wall. The two windows were never built, thus allowing alternate orientations. The six windows that were built on the north and south walls retain the original window trim, but the sashes are missing.

Basement – The basement is accessible from the interior via a stair in the foyer, and from the exterior from a utility entrance on the south end of the west elevation. It is divided into two principal spaces, which coincide with the interior spaces on the first floor (foyer and school room). The basement, with a ceiling height of 7' 6", originally housed only utilitarian functions. The building was designed with a furnace in the center and air ducts around the perimeter walls. The basement apparently remained unfinished until the early twentieth century when it was finished to house an expanding student population after the second floor was removed. Today, the basement has an unfinished appearance, with no evidence of early twentieth century finishes. Walls are exposed stone, with brick arches at openings between the two parts of the basement. Ceilings are exposed joists. The floor is dirt.



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**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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance for Arvonja School stretches from the time of its construction in 1872 until the school closed in 1949.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**EDUCATION**

ETHNIC HERITAGE / European

**Period of Significance**

1872-1949

**Significant Dates**

1872, ca. 1900

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Haskell, John G. (architect)

Rice, James (builder)

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**Statement of Significance** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Arvonja School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local significance in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage. The building served as the only school for the Welsh community of Arvonja from the time of its construction in 1872 until the Arvonja district was consolidated with the nearby Lebo school district in 1949. Designed by pioneer Kansas architect John G. Haskell, Arvonja School is also one of the earliest-known architect-designed schools in Kansas. However, because the building was modified in ca. 1900 (the second floor was removed) it is not being nominated for architectural significance. The building meets the registration requirements for the Country School Property Type set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Public Schools of Kansas."

**Narrative Statement of Significance**A Brief History of Arvonja

Arvonja, Kansas is an unincorporated village in the Marais des Cynes River Valley, on the traditional lands of the Kansa and Osage Indians. In the 1840s, 453,000 acres in parts of what became Osage and surrounding counties was designated as a Sac and Fox Indian Reservation. Euro-Americans began encroaching on the Sac and Fox's diminished reserve after Kansas Territory was opened for settlement in 1854. Although the tribe ceded the majority of its Kansas land and moved to Oklahoma in the late 1860s, promotional materials for Arvonja, noted that a few "friendly and civilized" Indians remained during the town's early development.

Arvonja was platted in 1868 or 1869 (sources vary) on land purchased for speculation by John Mather Jones, owner of a Welsh-language newspaper in Utica, New York and his associate James A. Whitaker of Chicago. To entice Welsh colonists to buy land in Kansas, Jones published a pamphlet entitled *Arvonja: That Is, The Welsh Settlement in Osage County* in which he claimed that Arvonja would "soon be one of the most flourishing Welsh settlements in the United States."<sup>2</sup>

By 1870, Arvonja Township was home to 588 residents, 199 of which were natives of Wales.<sup>3</sup> The majority of homes were built on farms surrounding the fledgling village; but one contemporary account boasted that twelve to fifteen homes were under construction in town in 1870. While their homes were constructed, many of the town founders stayed in a large temporary hotel, later converted to a meeting house known as Walnut Hall. This burst of construction activity, which coincided with efforts to attract the Santa Fe Railroad, apparently represented the town's peak. Both Jones and Whitaker were likely discouraged by the Santa Fe Railroad's bypassing the town in favor of nearby Reading and Lang in 1870.<sup>4</sup> Whitaker, who had moved to Arvonja in 1869 and started a furniture/general store, sold his business to Lewis Humphrey and left town. J. Mather Jones pulled out in 1871 after he was criticized in the *Osage Chronicle*, *Emporia News*, and *Topeka Commonwealth* for misrepresenting Arvonja to prospective colonists.<sup>5</sup>

Although Arvonja did not meet the expectations of early speculators, many families remained in the unique Welsh community for generations. Some became successful ranchers and farmers. Others mined coal. Even after the Santa Fe bypassed the community, the town continued on a path of permanency, building a native stone school from plans by well-known Kansas architect John Haskell in 1872. The same year, J. M. Barrows, a Yale-educated minister, came to Arvonja with plans to establish a college. The scheme's progress halted after a cornerstone was laid and trees were planted.<sup>6</sup>

Lewis Humphrey, who bought out James Whitaker, had a meeting hall built above his business where the townspeople held religious services until churches could be built. His store also served as a post office, first established in 1873. In 1880, there were 756 people in Arvonja Township, including 173 Welsh natives and their children. In his 1883 history of Kansas, William Cutler referred to Arvonja as a "thriving little town with a population of about 150." The town of "intelligent

<sup>2</sup> John Mather Jones, *Arvonja: Sef y Sefydliad Cymraeg yn Swydd Osage (Arvonja: That Is, the Welsh Settlement in Osage County)*, (Utica, NY: Y Drych (The Mirror), 1869).

<sup>3</sup> Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

<sup>4</sup> Marybelle Jones, "Arvonja: The Little Welsh Village in the Valley," 1962 unpublished, 4.

<sup>5</sup> Phillips G. Davies, ed., "Welsh Settlements in Kansas" from *Kansas Historical Quarterly* vol. XLIII (Winter, 1977): 448-469. Translated from Rev. R. D. Thomas, *Hanes Cymry America (A History of the Welsh in America)* (Utica, NY: 1872).

<sup>6</sup> Thomas, 386.

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and enterprising" citizens boasted "three stores, one hotel [Dooley Hotel], one blacksmith and wagon shop [W. D. Lewis], a post office, two churches and a schoolhouse."<sup>7</sup> The two churches housed the services of the Welsh Congregationalists and Calvinistic Methodists. Like many other early buildings, both churches were built by carpenter Ellis (Al) Evans, who came to Arvonía from Utica, New York.

By the time the two churches were built, however, the town's population was already in decline. Various efforts to secure rail service had failed; hopes were dashed in the 1870s when both the St. Louis Osage and Orient and Texas Railroads went defunct and again in 1883 when the Santa Fe built a line through Lebo, just four miles away.<sup>8</sup> By 1910, the township's population had plunged to 527, with only 28 Welsh natives remaining.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the declining population, the town continued to celebrate its Welsh heritage. Early on, church services were held in the Welsh language, which was also taught at Arvonía School. For many decades, the community celebrated St. David's Day each March 1st in honor of the patron saint of Wales. The annual celebration held in the Arvonía School and alternating churches, included a tea with Bara Brith (Welsh bread), performances by a Welsh chorus, debates and prizes. The event attracted visitors from throughout the region.<sup>10</sup>

By 1930, Arvonía Township was home to only 507 residents.<sup>11</sup> Many of Arvonía's young people left during World War I, despite continued efforts toward permanency, including the 1916 construction of a new township hall. St. David's Day celebrations ended in 1938. Following a nationwide trend, many more left for urban areas during World War II and the postwar years. Soon, Arvonía's shrinking population was unable to support its school. In 1949, Arvonía School consolidated with the Lebo school district. Although the *Wichita Eagle* declared Arvonía dead in 1958, the Calvinistic Methodist Church continued to hold services for another ten years. By then, however, many of the town's landmarks were long gone. The Dooley Hotel was destroyed by fire in the mid-1880s. Walnut Hall burned to the ground in about 1898. The principal remaining landmarks are the Arvonía School, Calvinistic Methodist Church, and Township Hall.<sup>12</sup>

Today, the town's setting is dominated by Melvern Lake, a flood-control project authorized by Congress in 1954 and dedicated in 1975. In 1976, Arvonía was one of six American communities featured in a BBC film series on Welsh colonies.<sup>13</sup> The event sparked a new interest in the community's Welsh heritage. Arvonía Township is now home to only 95 residents.<sup>14</sup>

#### The Arvonía School

The Arvonía community offered classes for schoolchildren beginning in 1870, in a home and on the second floor of Lewis Humphreys' store. Among the early teachers were Robert Thomas, Mrs. Lavina Cotteral, and Reverend Morris.<sup>15</sup> In 1871, the community commissioned John Haskell to design an ambitious school building, identified in Haskell's plans as "Central School."<sup>16</sup> The building was constructed by Welsh cabinet maker James Rice, who completed the school building in time

<sup>7</sup> William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883). Accessed online at [www.kancoll.org](http://www.kancoll.org).

<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Henry D. Jones, "History of the Arvonía, Kansas, Welsh Settlement," Osage County Historical Society Research Files.

<sup>9</sup> Ancestry.com. 1910 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

<sup>10</sup> "St. David's Day in Arvonía Was Time of Song," *Emporia Gazette*; "St. David's Day in Arvonía;" "A paper presented 1 March 1929 by Fred P. Jones at a St. David's Day celebration at Arvonía, Kansas;" "Paper on St. David Written in and about 1914 by F. P. Jones." All in Kansas Files, "Arvonía Festivals," Kansas Historical Society, K394.2 MSS no. 2 and Osage County Historical Society Research Files.

<sup>11</sup> Ancestry.com. 1930 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

<sup>12</sup> Phillip G. Davies, "The Welsh in Kansas: Settlement, Contributions and Assimilation." In *The Welsh History Review* vol. XIV, no. 3 (1989), 387.

<sup>13</sup> "Arvonía Expecting Company Sunday," *The Lebo Enterprise*, 20 May 1976; "British Film to Feature Arvonía and its People," *The Lebo Enterprise*, 6 May 1976.

<sup>14</sup> 2010 U. S. Census.

<sup>15</sup> "Arvonía - founded with high hopes," *Journal-Free Press* (Osage City), 19 May 1976.

<sup>16</sup> The original plans are in the collection of the Kansas Historical Society. Copies can be found at the Osage County Historical Society. There is no historical evidence that the name "Central School" was ever used beyond the original drawings. The specific name was not necessary since this building was the community's only school.



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for the 1872 school year.<sup>17</sup> As noted above, the school was designed for three levels – a basement, first floor and second floor.

The basement was originally designed for utilitarian purposes. However, the basement was finished in the early twentieth century, after the second floor had been removed and a student body of fifty could not be accommodated on the first floor alone. Lewis P. Humphreys recalled classes in the basement, which had a "wooden floor ... and also a fireplace making it possible to accommodate community dinners."<sup>18</sup> By the 1930s, the basement was no longer in regular use. One student recalled that "On rainy days, we sometimes were allowed to descend the steep stairs to play in the dusty basement with a dirt floor where there was an old organ and lots of junk."<sup>19</sup>

There were three entrances on the front elevation – a centered double-door entrance that opened to an enclosed U-stair providing exterior access to the building's second floor flanked by two side entrances that opened to foyers/dressing rooms that provided access to the first-floor classroom. The floor plan of the second floor was identical to that of the first. From 1872 to 1893, the building housed the classrooms of two teachers who taught school for three to six months each year. After 1893, however, the school generally employed only one teacher who presumably taught only in the first-floor classroom.<sup>20</sup> This may have provided further justification for the removal of the structurally compromised second floor. Historical evidence suggests that the second story was removed in ca. 1903. The following appeared in a newspaper article dated April 17, 1903: "That old stone school house has been remodeled of late and now with its new roof, replastered, new chimney and many other improvements in a state of preservation and will stand for another 30 years."<sup>21</sup> There is only one known photograph showing the building at its full height. A ca. 1920 photograph shows the second floor removed.

The Arvonias School closed in 1949 and a declining number of students were bused to nearby Lebo. After the school closed, the building was purchased by Lewis P. Humphreys, son of town founder Lewis Humphreys. He made repairs to the stone and replaced the roof. The building is now owned by Susan Evans McEwen, a descendent of Arvonias pioneers.

#### Country Schools

Arvonias School is an example of a "Two- (or more) Teacher Schoolhouse" subtype of the "Country Schools" Property Type in the MPDF "Historic Public Schools of Kansas." In accordance with the registration requirements of the MPDF, a property must generally retain its massing/basic exterior form; roof form; original primary materials; pattern of window and door openings; ornamentation and detailing; and basic interior corridor configuration. The building's second floor was removed early in the building's history; however, the building has changed little in the past century. Among the school's historic features are its hilltop setting, footprint; rectangular massing; original roof form with eave brackets, paneled frieze, and cupola; exterior masonry; pattern of window and door openings, despite masonry infill of the historic main entrance; ornamentation to include shingled gable ornament; and historic floor plan.<sup>22</sup>

#### John G. Haskell

Arvonias School is one of a few remaining buildings designed by pioneer Kansas architect John G. Haskell. Haskell was born in Milton, Vermont in 1832 and spent most of his formative years in Massachusetts. In 1849, Haskell became a carpenter's apprentice, working his way through the "scientific course" at Wesleyan Academy in Worcester. Following five years of basic study, Haskell enrolled in mathematics and engineering courses at Brown University. Haskell moved to Boston in 1855 to work in an architecture firm where, according to legend, he was named a partner within nine months. In 1857, Haskell came to Kansas to join his family, which had moved to Lawrence as part of the free-state New England Emigrant Aid Company. As one of only a few known professionally trained architects in Kansas Territory, Haskell found plenty of opportunities in both the construction business and local politics. Among his early commissions were designs for a girls' school in Tecumseh, Lawrence Congregational and Methodist Churches, and the Leavenworth County Courthouse.

<sup>17</sup> Marybelle Jones, 54-56; Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> David Evans, "Arvonias School," Unpublished Manuscript, Osage County Historical Society.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> "Arvonias Pioneers," *Lebo Enterprise* [?], 17 April 1903. From the clippings file of David (Buddy) Evans.

<sup>22</sup> Brenda Spencer, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas" National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 2005). Accessed online at [http://www.kshts.org/resource/national\\_register/mps.htm](http://www.kshts.org/resource/national_register/mps.htm)



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During the Civil War, Haskell worked as a quartermaster for the Army of the Frontier, a position that provided him construction management experience and helped him forge future business connections. The new state's development ramped up after the war's end; and Haskell was poised to design its first permanent buildings. Among his major post-war institutional commissions were the Kansas Statehouse (East Wing, 1866-1874), Main Building (later renamed Fraser Hall) at the University of Kansas (1870-72), Kansas State Insane Asylum at Osawatomie (commissioned 1868), Chase County Courthouse (1871-73), Greenwood County Courthouse (1871-73), Barton County Courthouse (1873-74). He also designed a number of school buildings in the post-war years, including Quincy and Pinckney Schools in Lawrence (1867, 1872), Quincy School in Topeka (1871-72), Central School in Salina (1873-74), and Arvonias School (1871-72). Haskell partnered with his assistant Louis Wood in 1875. Haskell and Wood's plans for school buildings were adopted as examples by the Kansas Department of Education, which printed them in its early biennial reports. Only three known examples of the firm's school designs remain: Sunnyside School in Jefferson County (1879 – NRHP 2010), White Chapel School in Pottawatomie County (relocated to Wamego City Park), and Arvonias School. Arvonias School is the only known extant masonry school designed by Haskell.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> John M. Peterson, *John G. Haskell: Pioneer Kansas Architect* (Lawrence, KS: Douglas County Historical Society, 1984); Spencer; State of Kansas. Department of Public Instruction. *Second Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction, State of Kansas, 1879-1880*. Kansas Historical Society.

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Thomas, R. D. *Hanes Cymry America (A History of the Welsh in America)*. Utica, NY: 1872. Translated by Martha and Phillips Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1983.

Williams, Brynmore, translator. "A Visit to the Past." *Y Drych*. 23 May 1889. Osage County Historical Society.

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☒ Other

Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society; Osage County Historical Society

Arvonias School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre.  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Lat/Long: 38.47829 -95.87075 (see figure 8)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 249577 4262789  
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property includes the property occupied by the school building, as well as a fifty-foot perimeter around the building. The nominated property is a segment of a 5.2-acre parcel, # 070-245-16-0-30-05-001.00-0 whose legal description is ARVONIA, ACRES 5.2 , LTS A THRU 21 BLK 47, ALL BLK 66, VAC LINCOLN ST & VAC ALLEYS ADJ TO SD LTS & BLKS.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above is the legal description for the parcel occupied by the Arvonias School. The fifty-foot perimeter was chosen to include the building and the hill on which it sits.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Davis

organization Davis Preservation

date January 16, 2011

street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7

telephone 785-234-5053

city or town Topeka

state KS

zip code 66612

e-mail cdavis@davispreservation.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Arvonía School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

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**Photographs:**

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Name of Property: Arvonía School  
City or Vicinity: Arvonía (unincorporated); near Lebo, KS  
County / State: Osage / Kansas  
Photographer: Christy Davis  
Date Photographed: December 2, 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of 11	Exterior, Overall view of east and south elevations, looking northwest.
2 of 11	Exterior, Overall view of south and west elevations, looking northeast.
3 of 11	Exterior, Overall view of north and west elevations, looking southeast.
4 of 11	Exterior, Overall view of east and north elevations, looking southwest.
5 of 11	Exterior, Close-up of cupola and gable.
6 of 11	Interior, First-floor classroom, looking west.
7 of 11	Interior, First-floor classroom, looking east.
8 of 11	Interior, First-floor classroom, looking northeast toward north wall.
9 of 11	Interior, First floor, vestibule, looking south.
10 of 11	Interior, Basement, looking west.
11 of 11	Interior, Basement, looking southwest.

---

**Property Owner:**

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

name Susan Evans McEwen

street & number 8090 W. 323<sup>rd</sup> St.

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Osage City

state KS zip code 66523

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Arvonias School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

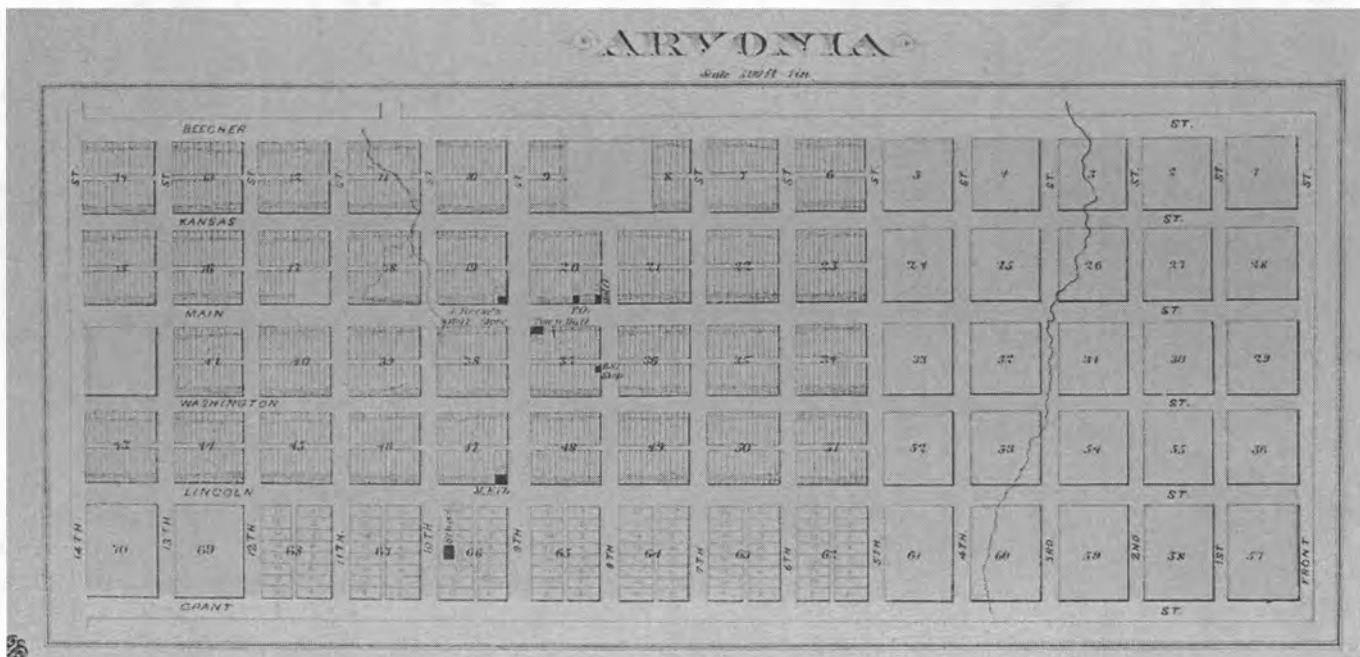


Figure 1: An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Osage County, Kansas. Page 56. Created by Edwards Brothers of Missouri. Date: 1879. Photo Credit: Kansas Historical Society. Accessed online at [www.kansasmemory.org](http://www.kansasmemory.org).



Figure 2: Standard Atlas of Osage County, Kansas. George A. Ogle & Co., 1918. Photo Credit: Kansas Historical Society. Accessed online at [www.kansasmemory.org](http://www.kansasmemory.org).

Arvon School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State



Figure 3: This is the only known photograph of the building before the second floor was removed in ca. 1900. Photo from Osage County Historical Society. The building's setting, surrounded by prairie, has changed little since its original construction.



Arvon School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

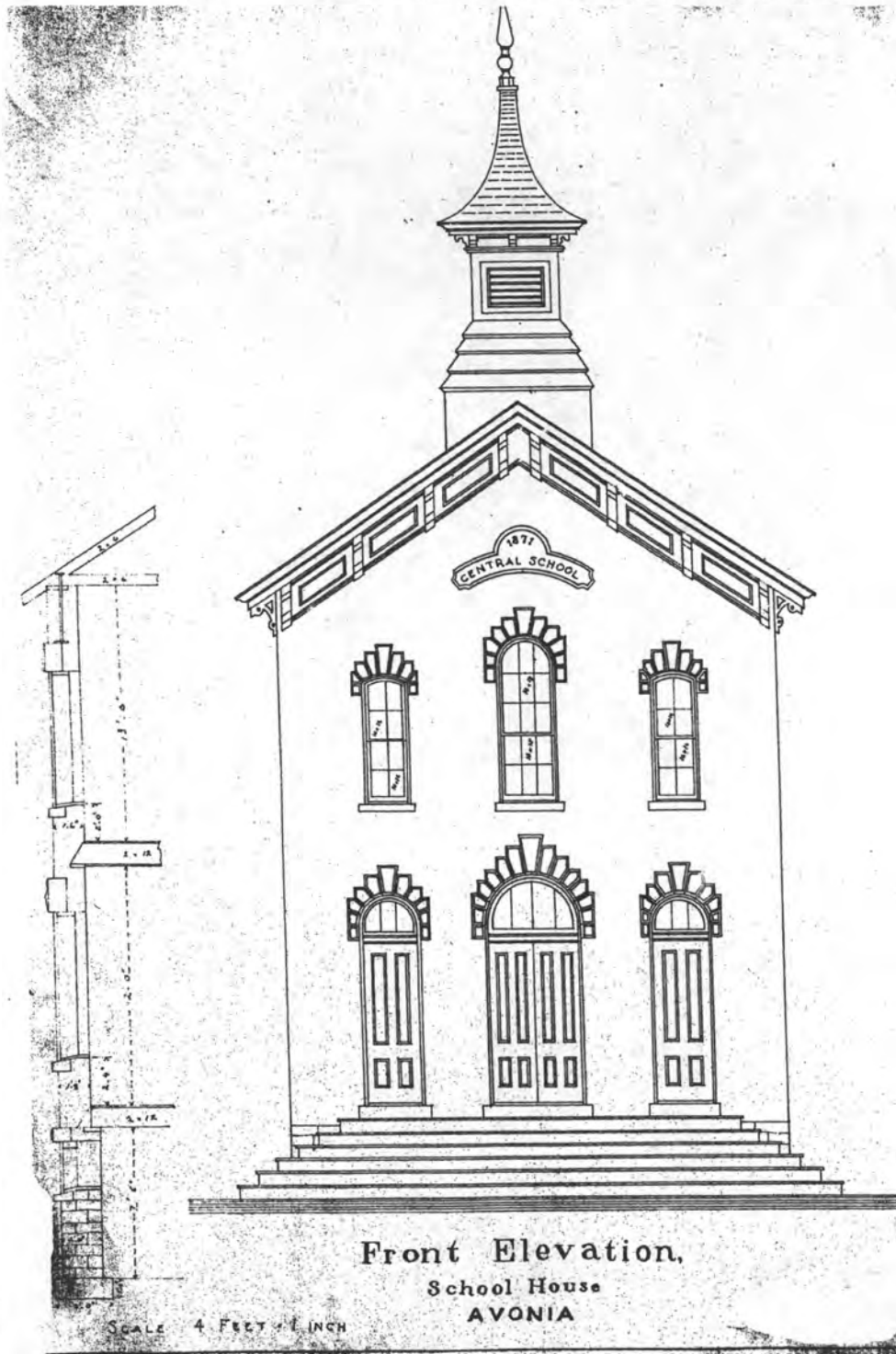


Figure 4: Original Front Elevation, John Haskell, 1871.

Arvonia School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

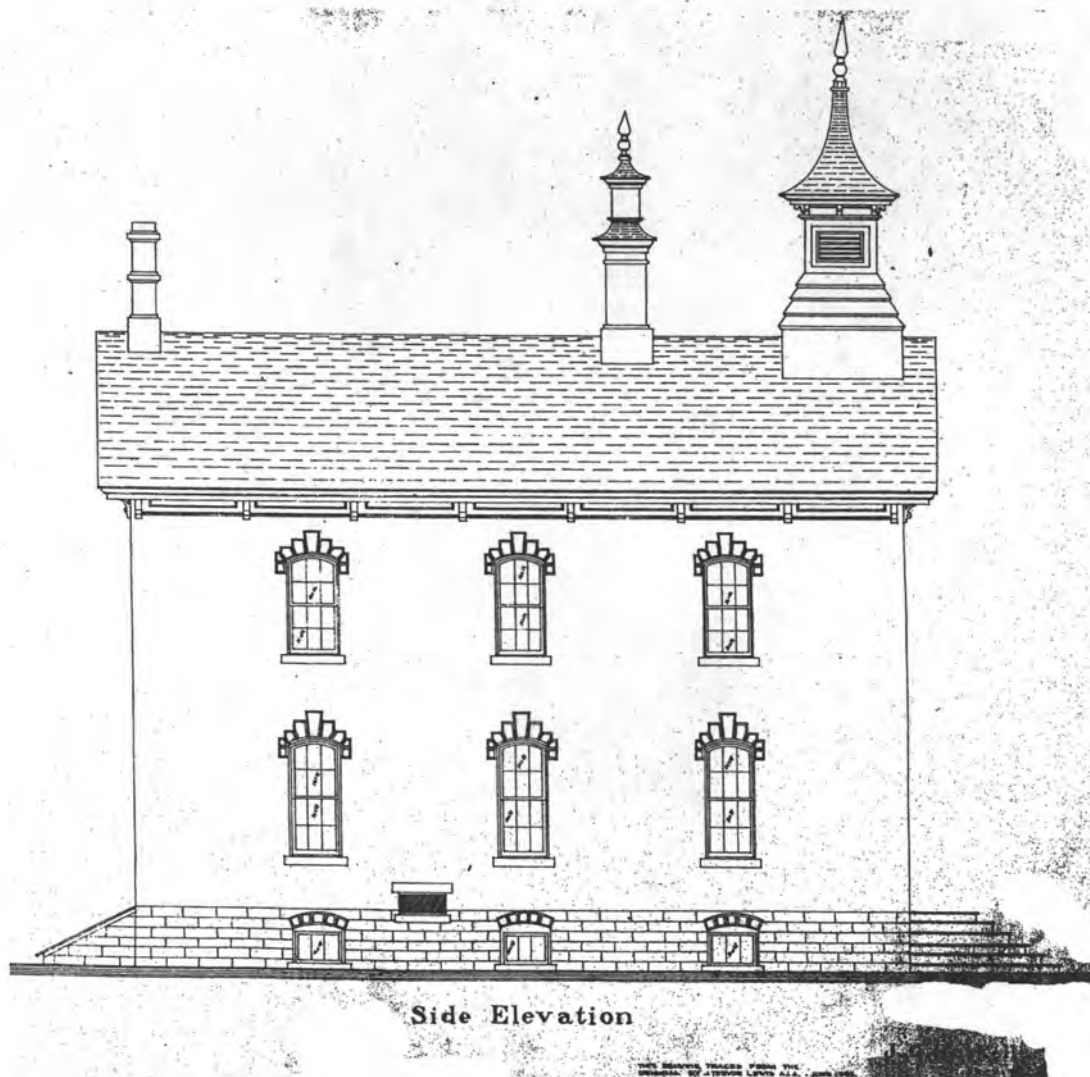


Figure 5: Original Side Elevation, John Haskell, 1871.

Arvonía School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

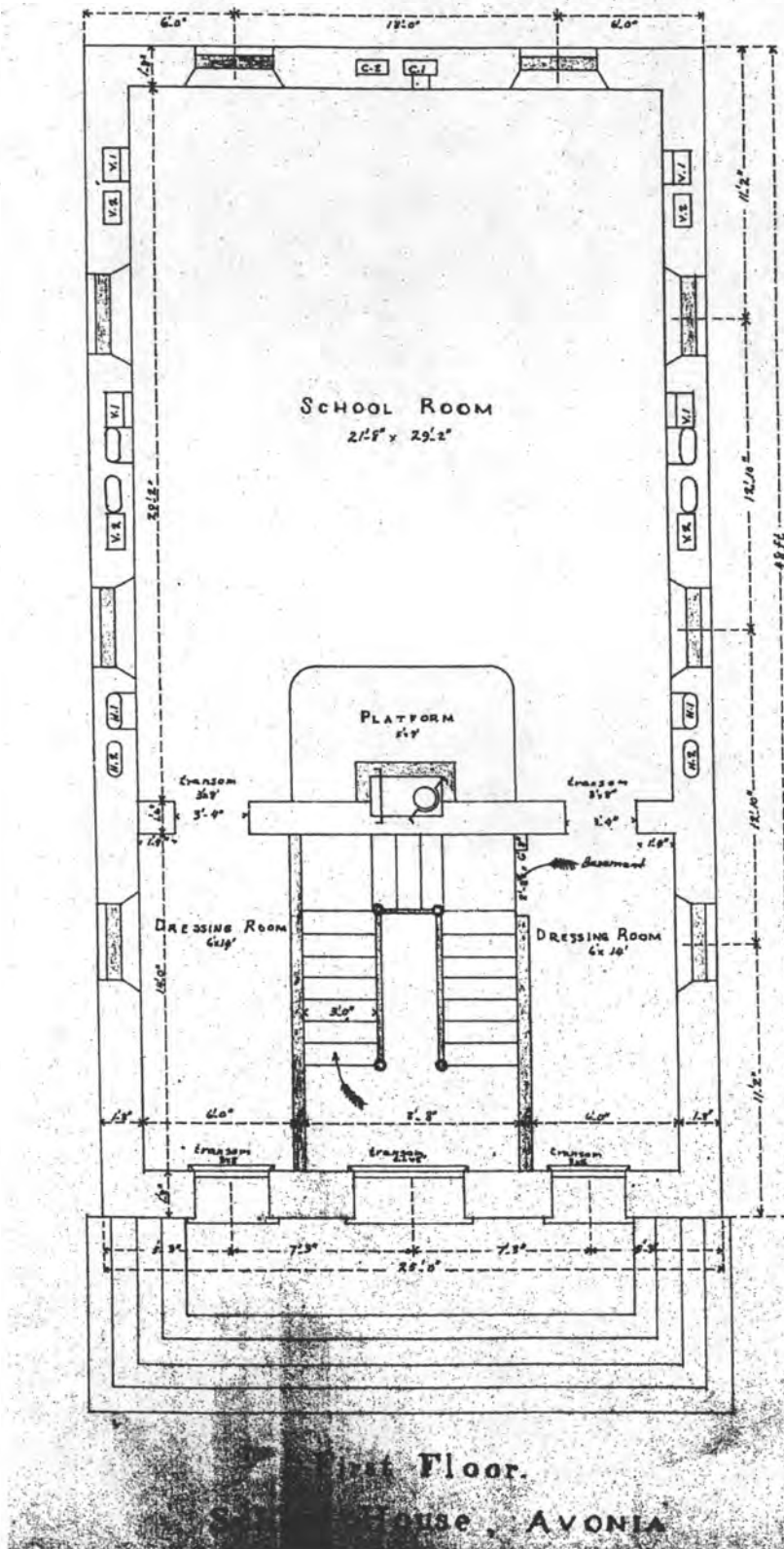


Figure 6: Original First Floor Plan, John Haskell, 1871.



Arvon School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

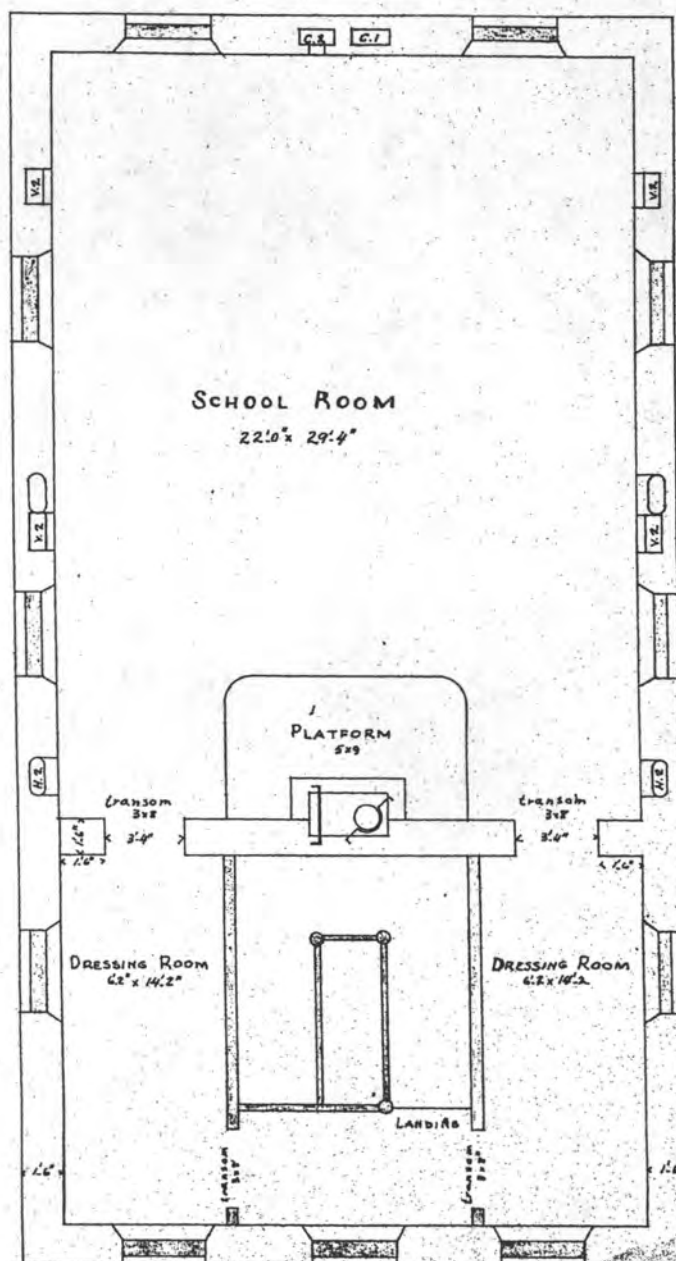


Figure 7: Original Second Floor Plan, John Haskell, 1871.

Arvon School  
Name of Property

Osage County, KS  
County and State

Figure 8: Google.com aerial image. Arrow points to Arvon School. Lat/Long: 38.47829 -95.87075



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Arvonnia School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of Kansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Osage

DATE RECEIVED: 5/18/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/13/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/28/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/04/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000387

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7-3-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





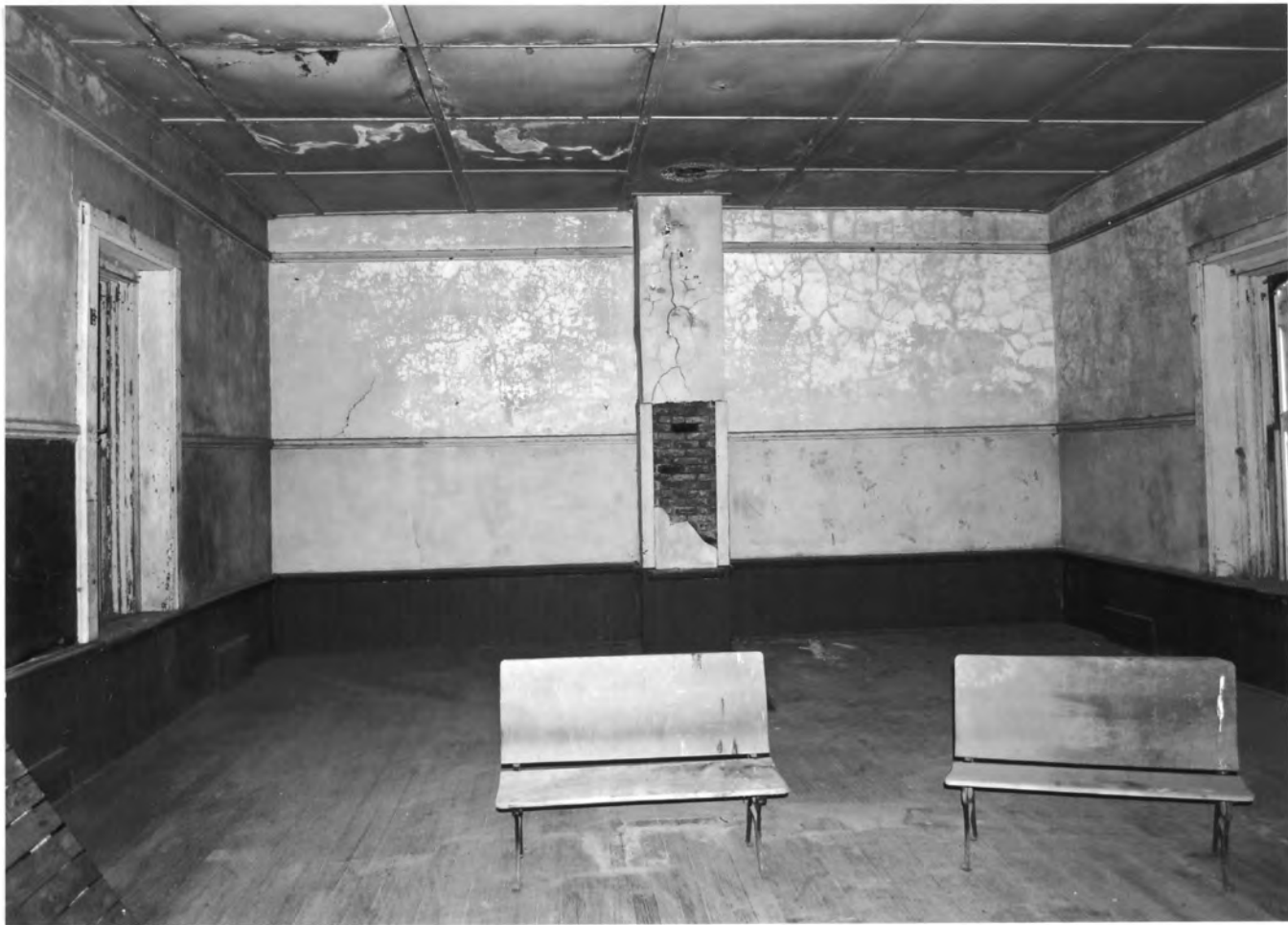




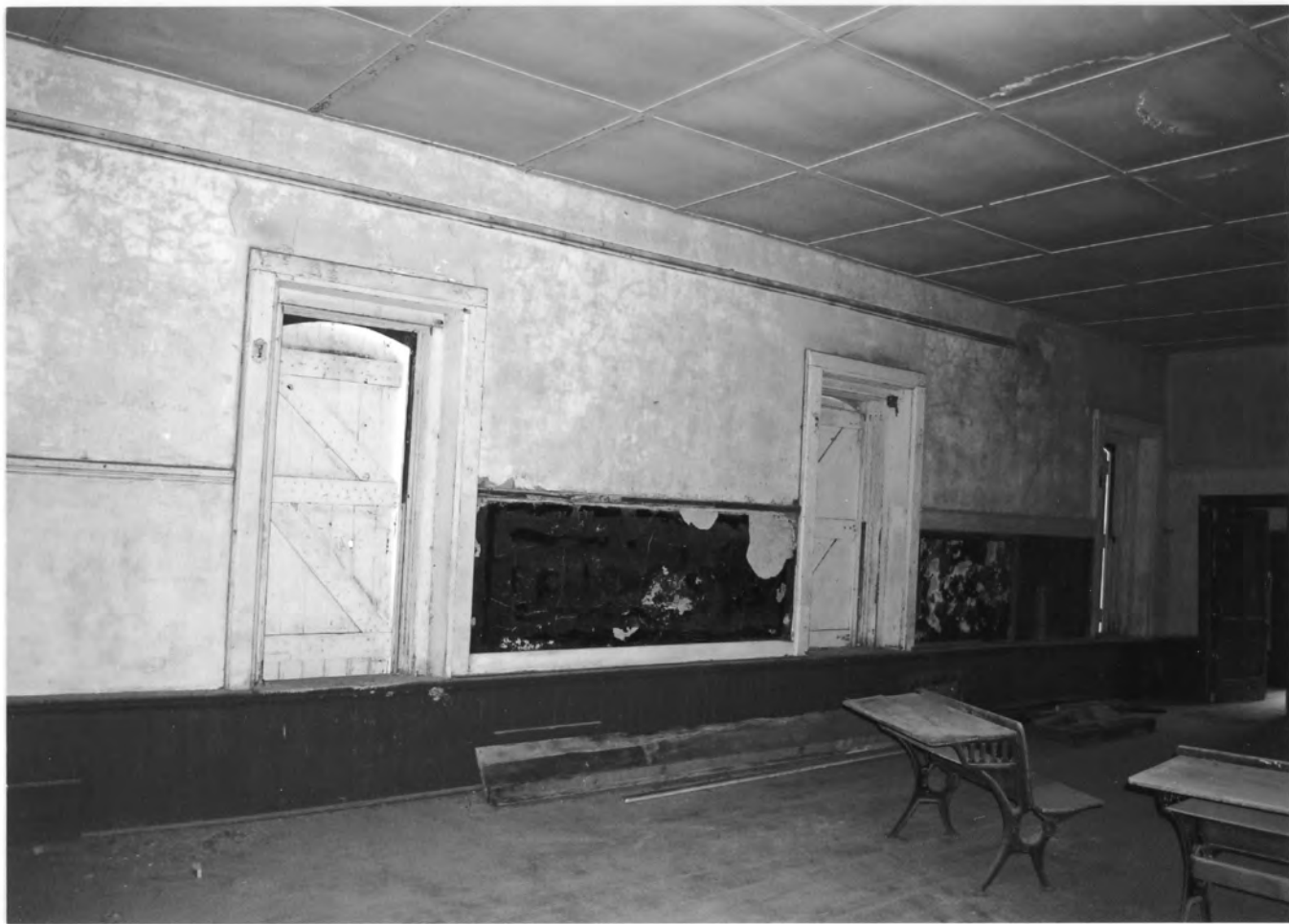












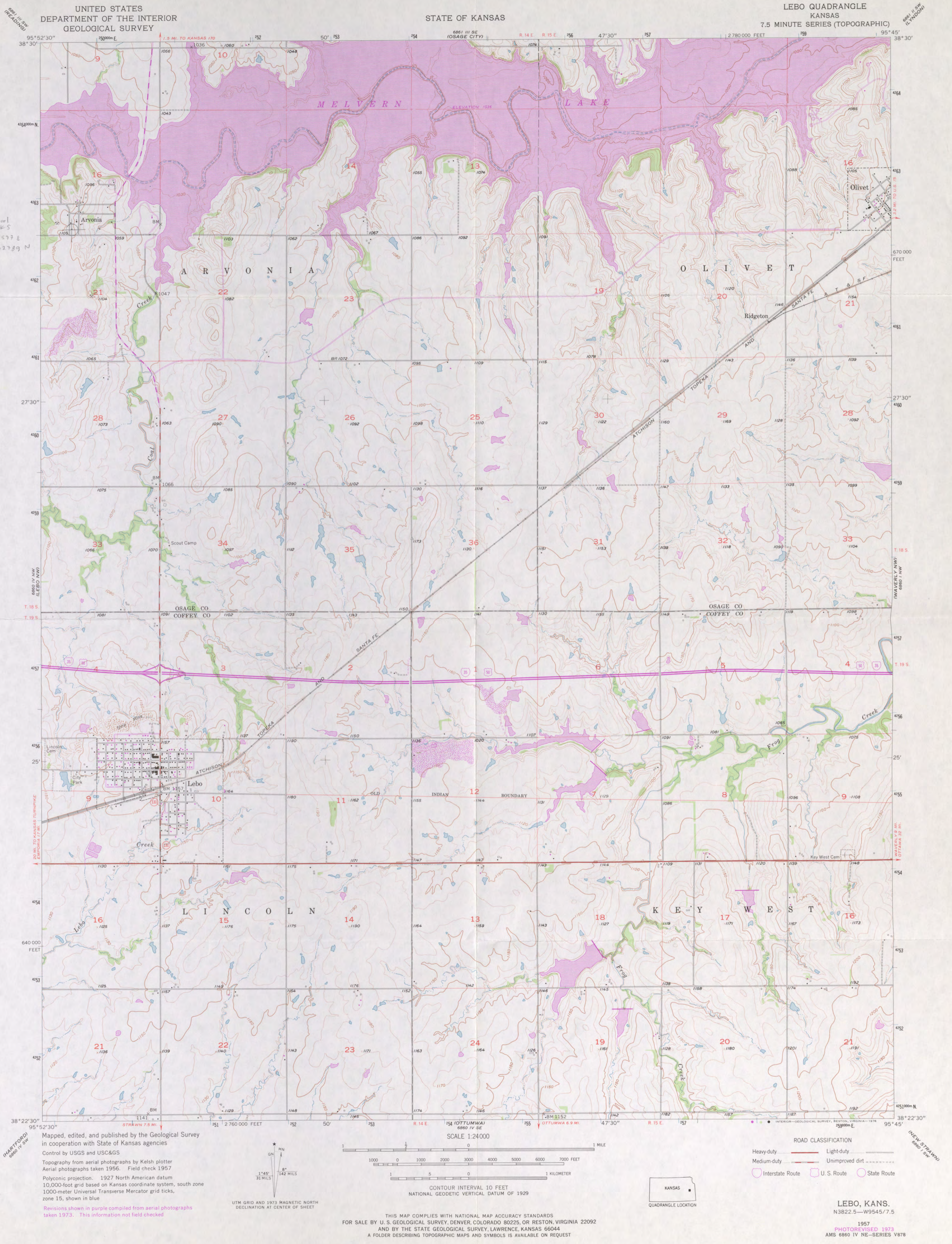












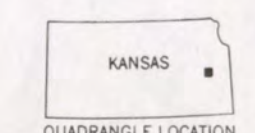
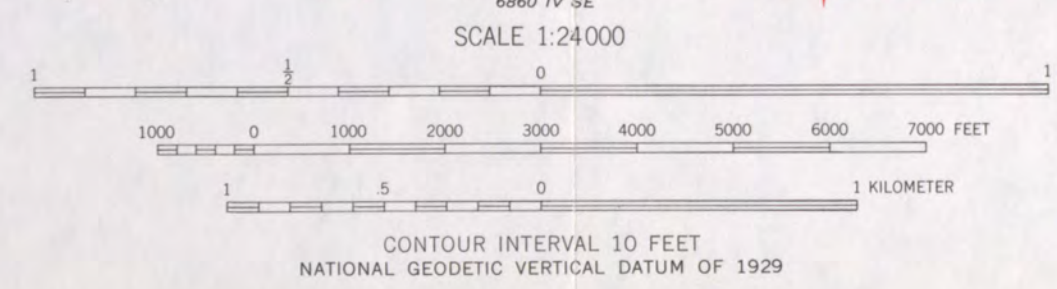
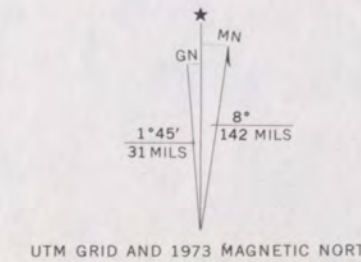
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF KANSAS

LEBO QUADRANGLE  
KANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Arvon School  
Orange Co, KS  
Zone 15 2495778  
4262789 N

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by Kersh plotter  
Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1957  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1973. This information not field checked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LEBO, KANS.  
N3822.5—W9545/7.5  
1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 6860 IV NE—SERIES V878



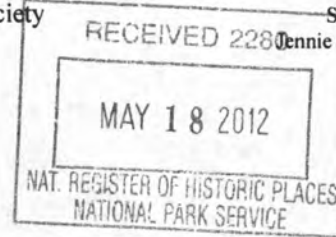
6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66615



phone: 785-272-8681  
fax: 785-272-8682  
cultural\_resources@kshs.org

Kansas Historical Society

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Dennis Chinn, Executive Director



May 17, 2012

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, N. W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

- Battin Apartments Historic District - Wichita, KS (new nomination)
  - Preliminary DOE – FTC project #26964
- Cudahy Packing Plant – Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS (new nomination)
  - Preliminary DOE – FTC project #25446
- Arvon School – Arvon, Osage County, KS (new nomination)
- Calvinistic Methodist Church – Arvon, Osage County, KS (new nomination)
- Soldiers' Memorial – Osawatomie, Miami County, KS (new nomination)
- Congregational Church – Osawatomie, Miami County, KS (new nomination)
- Gish, Amos H., Building – El Dorado, Butler County, KS (new nomination)
- Gorden, David R., House – Abilene, Dickinson County, KS (new nomination)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I may be reached at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah J. Martin  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures