

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 National Register Bulletin #39 or to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, check "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 Washington School

Other names/site number khri# 125-286

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Public Schools of Kansas and New Deal-era Resources in Kansas

2. Location

Street & number 300 E. Myrtle Street not for publication

City or town Independence vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Montgomery Code 125 Zip code 67301

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Patrick Zollner
Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date 2-16-15

Kansas State Historical Society
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:) _____

Alyssa Abernathy
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4/14/15

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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 - WORK IN PROGRESS
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Concrete

roof: Asphalt
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

Washington School was dedicated January 3, 1940, constructed with the assistance of the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) of the U.S. Government (Project No. Kans 1460-F). The two-story building is constructed of architectural concrete. The building is rectangular in massing with horizontal bands of window openings and curved corners at primary entrances. Key functional components including the building entrances, stairways, auditorium, and kindergarten room, are articulated through contrasting forms and detailing. The two front entrances incorporate unique detailing including a clock on the building face over the south entry and a built-in flagpole and dedication profiles of George Washington and Henry Longfellow at the north entry. Windows include steel casement units, glass block, and punched openings set to emphasize and then contrast the building's horizontal form. The school reflects the early Modern Movement in architecture, defined by its stepped rectangular massing and clean lines with contrasting forms. The stepped massing and concrete banding provide subtle ornament on the building facade. Entrances feature curved concrete walls and railings characteristic of the Art Moderne style.

The school was designed by Thomas W. Williamson and Co., a well-known Topeka architect with hundreds of public school commissions to his name. Although perhaps best-known for his design of the capital city's Collegiate Gothic High School, Williamson's designs of the 1930s-40s were notable, breaking from the Progressive Era tenets that had defined educational architecture for the first quarter of the twentieth century. The school's design clearly portrays an emphasis on modern accoutrements, an attention to functional aspects, consideration of building maintenance, and performance of materials. In addition to its concrete construction, the school incorporated some unique features, best-known of which was the bicycle ramp allowing students to ride their bikes right into the basement of the building to a bike storage room.

Washington School continued to serve the community of Independence as a public grade school until 2011. Throughout its seventy-plus year history as a public school, it experienced only minor alternations. The building clearly conveys its original design and character on the exterior and interior.

Elaboration

Site

The Washington School site occupies the entire block between 4th and 5th Streets bordered by E. Myrtle Street on the south and E. Laurel Street on the north. The site is located immediately northeast of the old Montgomery County Courthouse and west of St. Andrews Catholic Church. A contemporary county office building spans the entire block immediately south of the school site while the neighborhood west and north of the site were historically and remain residential, primarily with one- and two-story single-family homes.

The site is the original location of the Ward One Public School, constructed in 1883 at the northeast corner of 5th and Myrtle (southwest corner of existing school site). At that time, the school property occupied only the west half of the block, separated from the east half by a mid-block N/S alley. Single-family dwellings were located along the east half of the block until the 1910s. The first Washington School, a two-story brick structure designed by George Washburn, was constructed north of the original First Ward Public School in 1902; the First Ward School was razed. That school was centrally located in the west half of the block, fronting 5th Street. By 1923, dwellings on the east side of the block had been removed and a Domestic Science Building was built southeast of the school. The construction of the existing Washington School in 1939 included demolition of the former Washington School prior to commencement of construction. The new (existing) school was centrally located in the east half of the block but still faced west with the school playground and parking area located in front of the school.

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The school sits on a raised site with a sloping lawn bordered by concrete sidewalks and an eight foot chain-link fence. The front "lawn" is generally paved with a center tree-lined walkway leading from the perimeter sidewalk to the front of the school. Entrances are located at the north and south ends of the west/front facade with secondary entrances at the east end of the south facade and north end of the east facade. All entrances are accessed by concrete steps framed by curved concrete walls or kneewall railings. Two-tier concrete steps from the perimeter sidewalk provide access to the kindergarten entrance at the northeast corner of the building. A paved ramp located at the east end of the north facade provided access for students on bicycles to ride directly into the basement of the school and store their bikes. The U-shaped building footprint encloses a rear courtyard that was used as a playground for the kindergarten. The courtyard is grass, now overgrown with shrubs and trees. Paved parking is located on the south and west sides of the school and paved basketball courts remain northwest of the school.

Exterior

Washington School is a two-story concrete building with a U-shaped footprint creating a central courtyard at the rear. The school is Art Moderne in style with Art Deco detailing. These stylistic references are characterized by the school's concrete construction, stepped horizontal massing, horizontal bands of steel windows, and vertical and curvilinear detailing. Vertical sections of small punched openings provide natural lighting to the staircases at three corners of the building and large two-story windows provide natural lighting in the auditorium. Both vertical features contract the building's horizontal form. Each building entrance is framed by curved concrete walls, original curved railings, and metal roof railings feature geometric shapes. Interior and exterior signage was done in Art Deco-style block lettering, much of which remains today. Constructed in 1939, the school was a product of its time and the first Independence school to embrace the modern-style aesthetic, a sharp contrast to the city's former grade schools and Collegiate Gothic secondary school.

Lincoln School in Independence's Ward 2 neighborhood also was designed by architect Thomas Williamson and built at the same time as the Washington School. Although not identical, the two schools were similar in design. Prominent features that distinguish the schools are large clocks on the face of the buildings at the main entry and built-in flagpoles. In homage to the past, each school featured profile panels of the schools' namesake and for the schools they replaced.¹ The Lincoln School featured panels of Lincoln and educator, Frances Willard. Washington School featured Washington and poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, honoring the Longfellow and Willard schools that were closed and replaced by these new schools.

Washington School has a flat roof with rolled asphalt roofing. A large square brick chimney rises above the roofline at the southeast corner of the north wing. The concrete walls have a simple cap with metal flashing at the parapet. The structure of the new school is a concrete skeleton with steel girders over the auditorium, topped by a concrete slab. Interior walls are structural clay tile with a plaster finish. The concrete structure reflects a modern-era construction technique called architectural monolithic concrete. According to C.M. Carman, Superintendent of the Universal Atlas Cement Company, the local source for the concrete used in the school, "architectural concrete" is the term used to describe reinforced concrete structures that have been specially treated so as to make the exposed surfaces beautiful as well as useful. Through its use, the skilled architect combines structural and decorative effects resulting in important savings in material costs and in space.²

Treated with a plaster bond, the concrete walls provide a durable, attractive appearance and accommodate detailing as designed by the building's architect. A feature article on Independence's Washington and Lincoln Schools in *The Nation's Schools* magazine discussed the benefits of architectural concrete. "The material lends itself to lines, shapes and shadows that have been sought often by architects but have been difficult to

¹ The construction of Washington and Lincoln Schools in 1939 was the result of a city-wide consolidation of elementary schools resulting in the closure of three schools-Willard, Longfellow, and ultimately McKinley. Riley school was expanded as a part of the same construction project to accommodate McKinley students and continued to function as an elementary school until it was closed in 1991.

² *Independence Daily Reporter* Special School Supplement, 30 December 1939, 8.

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obtain in prefabricated masonry materials. The continuity of the surface and minimum requirement for jointing give free play in the creation of suitable forms.”³

The exterior concrete walls are now painted white with black metal railings presenting a stark, modern appearance.⁴ The massing of the front/west facade is symmetrical although the fenestration is not. A large center section projects slightly and is defined by three bands of aluminum windows with banded concrete between the windows. Entrances are located at each end of the front facade. The entrances are uniquely configured with the large clock on the south end, the Washington and Longfellow panels framing the flagpole at the north entry. The end bays step down to one-story bays past the entrances.

The east facade is also asymmetrical with a one-story entry bay on the north end of the east facade that provides access to the Kindergarten room at the southeast corner of the north wing. The south end bay is the back-stage area of the auditorium with the only openings being two ventilator panels. The center bay is the main body comprised of classrooms and offices along the first and second floors. It is similar to the front/west facade with a horizontal band comprised of four sets of windows on each floor. Large glass block openings at each end of the center bay correspond to restrooms on the interior.

The south wing of the building is primarily comprised of the auditorium distinguished by four large two-story vertical windows. Back-stage exits are located on the north and south sides of the south wing at the east end. The north wing is generally comprised of classrooms with central corridor terminating at the entrance on the north end of the east facade. A stairway is located in the northeast corner of the building, inside the rear entrance. The stairway is distinguished on the north facade by a vertical section of punched horizontal windows. A bicycle ramp provides access to the basement storage room below the stair tower at the east end of the north facade.

The building's fenestration is a distinguishing characteristic and the original windows are in place throughout. Windows include large multi-light steel units with operable horizontal sashes and large glass block panels in select locations such as restrooms. The steel windows are paired in sets of two, three, and four units, set in horizontal bands. Between each set, the concrete features horizontal banding that further emphasizes the building's overall horizontal form.

Most of the exterior doors have been replaced with anodized-aluminum-framed glass doors within the original openings. The original doors were 1/1 paneled doors with the upper panel being glass with a Prairie-style muntin configuration. Transom panels above the doors also featured Prairie-style perimeter muntins.

Interior

The construction of the new Washington and Lincoln Schools in 1939 was brought about by declining student population in the elementary grades that resulted in a consolidation of six grade schools. Washington was designed to accommodate 450 students in Kindergarten through 6th grades, generally those who had attended the old Washington and Longfellow Grade Schools. The new school had 14 classrooms, two rooms for each grade, a Kindergarten room, an art and music room, a kitchen and lunch room, an assembly room with stage and seating capacity for 450, a library, clinic with showers and teachers' restroom. At the time of its opening, J.H. Clement, the Superintendent of Schools offered his description of the building:

The building has concrete floors in the classrooms overlaid with linoleum, terrazzo corridors, and insulation board ceilings. There is a basement for storing bicycles. The building is equipped with unit ventilating machines and there are six drop bowl lights in each classroom. There is a primary clock in the principal's office which regulates secondary clocks in all the classrooms. A sound system will enable the principal to communicate with the teachers in each classroom from his office. This will

³ Willard J. Graff, "Concrete: for lines, shapes, shadows," *The Nation's Schools*, November 1945, 35-36.

⁴ According to Graff, at the time of its opening, the color scheme was different from the existing white, "delicately colored green walls with a darker green entrance details and aluminum finish for window frames, clocks, flag poles and inscriptions strikingly sets off the modern lines of the building."

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include radio broadcasts. A sound picture machine has been installed. The classrooms will be seated with movable chair desks except the kindergarten and first grade rooms which will have tables and chairs. The windows will be equipped with Venetian aluminum blinds. On the school grounds appropriate landscaping has been provided and the playgrounds are to be all-weather grounds.⁵

The floor plan is configured around an L-shaped corridor that extends along the N/S spine of the main building block then east into the north wing. The corridor is double-loaded generally with classrooms on each side, on both the first and second floors. There have been no significant modifications to the basic plan configuration. As noted above, building entrances are located at the north and south ends of the west facade, and at the north end of the east/rear facade adjacent to the kindergarten room in the north wing. The building was designed with enclosed vestibules at each of the primary entrances. The vestibule enclosures are wood with multiple door openings. The inner doors have formerly been removed but the original wood frames with multi-light transoms, are extant. The entrance bays at each end of the main corridor have stepped plaster panels at the ceiling distinguishing the space. Terrazzo flooring and salt-glazed tile wainscoting is in place throughout the corridors, entry foyers, and stairways. The wainscoting is nicely detailed with stepped surrounds around columns, doorways and original built-in features such as drinking fountains and bulletin boards. Open stairways are located adjacent to each of the primary building entrance. The terrazzo stairways with tile wainscoting and metal railings also retain their original configuration and materials. The only alteration to the school's basic plan configuration has been construction of partition walls at each end of the main N/S corridor on the ground floor, likely added as a fire separation in the 1970s. The walls were added with minimal impact on historic fabric and do not affect the entry bays at each end of the corridor or the open stairways.

The south wing is comprised of the two-story auditorium. A wood stage with simple squared plaster proscenium is located at the east end of the auditorium. Fire exits are provided on the north and south sides of the auditorium, at the east end. Tall two-story windows along the north and south walls provide abundant natural light into the space. The auditorium retains original finishes with maple wood flooring, acoustical plaster ceilings, and plaster walls. A small kitchen is located off the southeast corner of the auditorium and a small lunchroom is located at the south end of the main school block, adjacent to the kitchen and auditorium.

On the first floor, school administrative offices were located on the east side of the hall in the center of the main block uniquely identified by a glass block window in the corridor wall. The office contained a reception area, secretary's office and principal's office with a clinic/nurse's room and teachers' lounge adjacent. The principal's office, clinic, and teachers' room each have private bathrooms. This administrative area retains its original configuration and built-in features including a metal safe, wood cabinetry, and the school clock and bell. Children's restrooms flank the administrative area at each end of the first-floor hall. The restrooms have terrazzo floors and white glazed ceramic tile wainscoting. Original fixtures including round fountain-style gang sinks and metal toilet partitions are in place. The restrooms have large glass block openings providing abundant natural light.

Six classrooms are located around the west and north sides of the first floor, all similarly configured with built-in chalkboards, closets and wardrobes. The exception to these standardized classrooms was the kindergarten room located in the southeast corner of the north wing inside the rear building entrance. The kindergarten room is larger and several original design features remain in place. A private restroom was located inside the Kindergarten classroom and the classroom had direct access into the rear courtyard (extant). Built-in features included a fireplace, wardrobe, book cases and chalkboards that extend to the floor, easily reached by young children. Another extant feature, the linoleum floor, has numbers and the alphabet inlaid into the flooring. The regular classrooms also had linoleum floors, some patterned like basketball courts. Current floor coverings include the original tile, replacement tile and carpet. Suspended acoustical tile ceilings have been installed in most classrooms. Original applied acoustical tile ceilings are extant in most classrooms, above the suspended ceilings. Plaster walls remain and many of the original built-in features are extant. An interesting note about the chalkboards – the slate was salvaged from the old Washington School and incorporated into the new

⁵ *Independence Daily Reporter* Special School Supplement, 30 December 1939, 2.

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school at its construction in 1939. Although the black slate has been covered by white board in most classrooms and replaced by green chalkboards in some rooms, the original slate is in place in most rooms.

The second floor is configured nearly identical to the first. General classrooms are located where the Kindergarten room and administrative offices are on the first floor. Boys and girls restrooms are positioned at each end of the N/S corridor as on the first floor. The only distinctions on the second floor are a combined music and art room at the south end of the second floor. This classroom is distinguished by built-in full-height cabinets on the west wall and access to a roof-top balcony above the first-floor lunchroom. A second distinction is the presence of a small library immediately south of the stairway at the northwest corner of the building. This room featured original bookcases on two walls, one of the few original features that have been modified or removed.

One of the most unique design features of the school and a favorite of the children attending Washington School over the years was the bicycle garage, an idea gleaned by the school board from a trip to Jackson, Mississippi. Ramps led directly from the street into the school basement where the stalls for bicycle storage were housed. The doorways from the basement were designed so that students could enter the school in bad weather without having to go outside. The garage was located in the east end of the north wing with direct access to the main school floors via the northeast stair. The building had a partial basement, located in the southeast portion of the north wing and comprised only of the bicycle storage room and the two-story boiler room accessed from the first floor above. The basement was unfinished with exposed concrete structure at the floors, walls, and ceiling. The building was designed with utility tunnels along the east and west sides of the N/S spine of the main building block.

The school touted a variety of modern features including its lighting. Classrooms were designed with large panels of steel-framed windows with operable panels for ventilation. Classrooms doors were birch slab doors with glass lights to allow light into the corridors (extant). Glass block windows were used to provide opaque natural light in select locations on outside walls and at corridor walls in select locations. The classrooms were designed with three levels of lighting controls providing flexibility in the levels of illumination including 1) minimal light for teacher or janitor; 2) additional light for the side of the room opposite the window, and 3) complete light for the entire room.⁶

The heating system used a unit system that provided automatically controlled tempered air into the classrooms. Radiators in each classroom provided supplemental heat. A two-story boiler room is located at the southwest corner of the north wing. The original ventilators and cast-iron radiators remain in most classrooms.

Integrity

The Washington School retains integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association. Former modifications are minor including the replacement of doors at primary building entrances, construction of walls at the ends of the corridor on the first floor, and installation of suspended acoustical tile ceilings in corridors and most classrooms. These past alterations are minimal compared to most buildings that continued to function as public schools for more than seventy years. The former modifications do not significantly impact the historic integrity of the building. Washington School is in good condition and retains a remarkably high degree of historic and architectural integrity. The building retains its original massing, fenestration, basic plan configuration, and interior finishes and features. It is a rare example of a school with original windows intact. The school clearly reflects the period in which it was constructed and is an excellent example of a late PWA Art Moderne school. The building clearly communicates its historic function as a public grade school and reflects the attributes of the City Graded School property type as identified in the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* Multiple Property Submission.

⁶ Willard J. Graff, "Concrete: for lines, shapes, shadows," *The Nation's Schools*, November 1945, 34.

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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.

Areas of Significance

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1939-1965

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thomas W. Williamson & Co., Architect

Every & Vance, Contractor

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Washington School is 1939 to 1965. This period begins with the school's date of construction and ends with the fifty-year cutoff for periods of significance where historic functions and characteristics continue to have importance and no specific date exists for ending the building's historic or architectural significance. The school continued to function as a public school until 2011 with few physical alterations.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

N/A

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Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

Washington School in Independence, Kansas is nominated to the National Register under the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* and the *New Deal-Era Resources in Kansas* Multiple Property Nominations. The building is locally significant under Criterion A as the third public school on this site, built in 1939 (along with the similar Lincoln School) through a consolidation program designed to address declining grade school enrollment in the district. The school is an excellent representative of New Deal-Era architecture, constructed with the assistance of the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1939. Built as an elementary school, Washington School served the local school district for over seventy years, most recently housing 5th grade students. The school closed in 2011 following construction of a new elementary school.

The school is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a representative of an early Modern Movement school with Art Moderne influences, a representative of public architecture funded through the PWA, and as the work of prominent school architect, Thomas W. Williamson of Topeka. Washington and Lincoln schools represented a new style of architecture to the Independence school district. The schools were constructed of monolithic architectural concrete manufactured by the Independence-based plant of the Universal Atlas Cement Company. This material was favored in the industry for its properties that allowed the combination of structural and decorative effects. The design of Washington School portrays the Modern Movement in architecture with its rectangular form characterized by horizontal lines, stepped bays, and subtle concrete detailing. The school embodies Art Moderne stylistic references with the curved bays at each of the primary entrances. It retains a high degree of historic integrity, clearly reflecting its original design and character.

Washington School is an excellent representative of the *City Graded Schools* property type (Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPS) and the *Educational Facilities* property type (New Deal-era Resources in Kansas MPS). The building is an Art Moderne school designed by prominent Topeka architect, Thomas W. Williamson funded in part through the federal Public Works Administration. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the two Multiple Property Submissions.

Elaboration

Independence Schools

“Every community claims itself to be a city of fine schools as Americans have always considered the education of their children to be a first priority item in the measurement of the worth of a town or area. In Independence, the early settlers had this very much in mind and established schools even before the city itself was officially incorporated.”⁷ As the Independence schools celebrated their centennial in 1970, a feature article in the local newspaper provided an excellent review of the town’s education progress. A 1981 newspaper article provided additional history on the city’s early schools.

The origins of schools in Independence coincided with the organization of Montgomery County which was established June of 1869. The city was incorporated in July 1870 and Independence’s School District No. 5 was organized the following month. The first school building was erected in 1870 and the first school term taught in the city that same year. By March 1872, Independence had become a city of the second class and built a new two-room brick school building. By 1883 the city’s population reached 3,200 and a new two-story seven room building was erected in the First Ward at a cost of \$10,000. Twenty years later this building was torn down and the first Washington School opened for classes in

⁷ Phil Atkisson, “Public Schools Date Back 100 Years,” *The Independence Daily Reporter* 28 June 1970.

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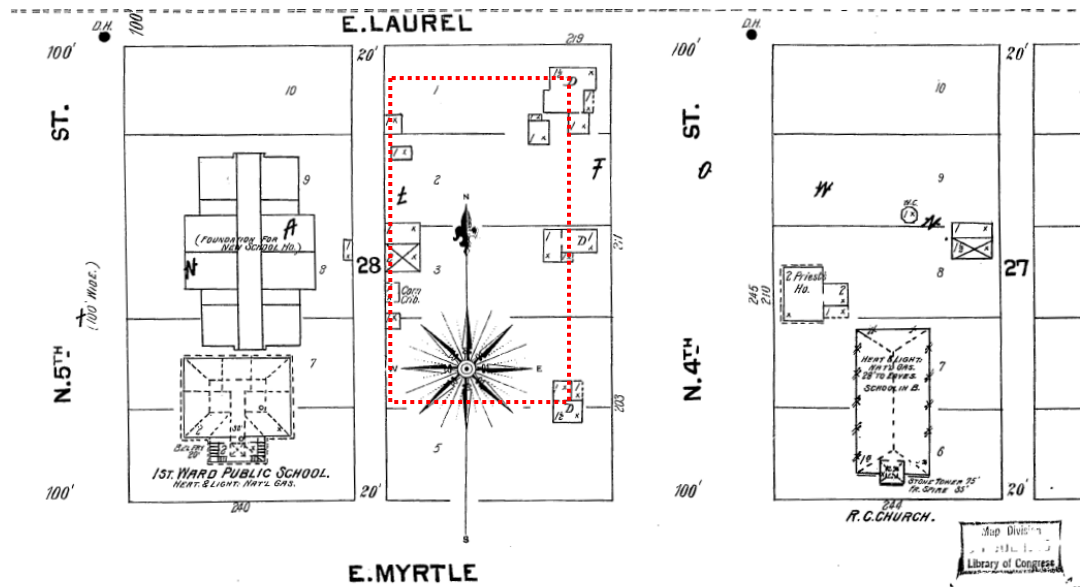
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October 1902 on the same site. A County High School was established in Independence (Ness Hall) opening in September 1899; enrollment in Independence Schools totaled 901 pupils.⁸

In February 1901, a local committee studied a recommendation that three school buildings, one at the site of Lincoln School, one at the site of Washington School, and one at Poplar and 5th Street, be razed and that two new 12-room schools be built on the Lincoln and Washington school sites. George P. Washburn was hired to design the new schools.⁹

Population of the community surpassed 10,000 in 1903-04 and enrollment in the school district reached 1,000. This growth was primarily the result of new industries locating in the city due to the abundance of natural gas, brick, shale, and cement materials. The Prairie Oil and Gas Company, who later merged with Sinclair Oil, moved to Independence in 1904.¹⁰

Although the Lincoln and Washington schools were not two-years old, it became apparent to the board of education that the buildings were not sufficient to handle the city's increasing population. In 1904 school enrollment rose to 1,200 and the buildings were filled beyond capacity. Basements of the schools were equipped as classrooms to help alleviate the overcrowded conditions. Local Independence architect H.G. Ellis was hired to design two eight-room schools. Willard and Longfellow Grade Schools opened in 1906. A petition was presented by Fifth Ward residents soon after for their own new school so that each Ward in the city would have a grade school. McKinley Grade School, also designed by Ellis, was built at 13th and Sycamore in 1907. The town's population reached 15,000 that year and the elementary grades were served by five schools. In 1911, the grade schools were staffed by 38 teachers (with three high school teachers). By 1912, there were 1,600 students enrolled in the local school system, the largest attendance was at Washington School with 385 pupils followed closely by Lincoln School with 360 pupils. A piece of land known as the Hinley property was purchased as additional playgrounds for Washington School in 1914. Ten years later in 1924, a house on the Washington School grounds and some shops on the Lincoln school grounds were sold for a total of \$3,000.¹¹



1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map for Independence, KS, Excerpt from Sheet 1 showing First Ward school at 5th and Myrtle (demolished shortly thereafter) and construction of the first Washington School, designed by G.P. Washburn. Note homes are still present on east half of block where the existing Washington School is located (approximate location of existing school built in 1939, shown by dashed red outline).

The facilities of the
County High School

⁸ "Public Schools Date Back 100 Years."

⁹ "School History Records Many Changes," *The Independence Daily Reporter*, 13 September 1981, E62-63.

¹⁰ "Public Schools Date Back 100 Years."

¹¹ "School History Records Many Changes."

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were taken over by Independence's School District No. 5 in 1922 and it became Independence High School. The District then operated all grades 1-12. Following a successful bond election that same year, the district constructed the Junior High School and a new elementary school, James Whitcomb Riley School. In 1925 Independence's educational offerings were extended in both directions – the junior college was opened offering first local post-secondary courses and kindergarten was added for five-year olds.¹²

In 1930 school enrollment topped 4,000 with 1,574 students in the elementary grades. However, the economic challenges of the Great Depression brought with it a decline in school enrollment. By 1934, enrollment in the grade schools had fallen by nearly 300 students.¹³ A 1981 feature on the history of Independence Public Schools summarized the situation facing Independence during the Great Depression:

“In the late 1930s residents of Independence looked to the future and revamped their entire elementary school system by consolidating five school districts into two and by building schools that at the time were considered to look like a page out of the future.”

By consolidating into just two schools, the board of education tackled the problem of declining elementary school enrollments. The vacant desks and part-empty rooms testified to an overbuilt system. Operating costs were high. After several years of teacher salary cuts during the Depression, the school board was spurred to action. City enrollment in the lower six grades was about 1,450. One elementary school, Riley, had been built in the 1920s and was in good condition. The five other schools, built from 1901 to 1907, were in equal states of dilapidation. Those five schools, capable of handling 1,800 pupils were occupied by only 1,200 – operating about two-thirds their capacity (with an additional 250 elementary pupils at Riley).¹⁴

Despite the declining elementary enrollment figures, the consolidation program actually started in the high school. A desire for a new and larger gymnasium is what prompted the school board to seriously consider constructing new grade schools. Given the condition of the older grade schools, most felt they could not spend money on a new gym for the upper grades without addressing the situation at the elementary schools. The school board got in on the tail end of the Public Works Administration, a depression-era federal works program designed to put people to work. PWA supplied 45% of the funds; the total cost of the school program was estimated at \$580,000. It included four components: construction of a new gymnasium, expansion of Riley Elementary School, and construction of new Washington and Lincoln schools. A \$316,000 bond issue was put before voters in August 1938 and passed on a 6 to 1 vote.¹⁵

Elementary enrollment in 1940, following the consolidation and construction of the new Washington and Lincoln schools, was just under 1,200 and the number of grade school teachers had been reduced by 25% (compared to 1930). Ten years later elementary enrollment had dropped further to 1,000 confirming the school board's 1938 decision to consolidate schools.¹⁶

In 1954, the old Montgomery County High School building was razed and its heating plant converted to offices for the Board of Education and Superintendent. A new combination high school and junior college was built at the north edge of the city. Riley Grade School was expanded in 1960 and continued to serve the district until 1991. As a part of state-mandated consolidation, in 1965 numerous surrounding small districts joined Independence District 5 to form a new Unified School District No. 446. At the same time Independence Junior College, which had been joined with the high school since its inception, was separated from the school district and became a Community Junior College. The last remaining nearby rural school districts (Sycamore and Elk

¹²“Public Schools Date Back 100 Years.”

¹³ Montgomery County Public Schools Year Book, 1930 & 1934, available at Independence Public Library.

¹⁴“Grade Schools Consolidated in late 1930s,” *The Independence Daily Reporter*, 13 September 1981, E58.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Montgomery County Public Schools Year Book, 1940, and 1949 available at Independence Public Library.

Washington School

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas

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City), joined USD 449 in 1969 and 1970 respectively. In 1970, enrollment in the district totaled 2,740 students including 619 at Lincoln School and 408 at Washington School.¹⁷

Washington School

After approval of the bond issue in August of 1938, the Board of Education had to act quickly. They hired Thomas W. Williamson of Topeka to be the architect for all of the school projects. In order to comply with PWA requirements, the construction contracts had to be let and ground broken by the end of the year (1938). The schools then had to be completed within one year.

The architect's drawings were swiftly completed and the construction project was let for bids in December 1938. The general contractors, Every and Vance of Parsons, were the successful bidders with a bid of \$111,700 for construction of Washington School. The cost, including plumbing and electrical, totaled just over \$137,000, slightly less than the architect's estimate.¹⁸ The construction contracts included demolition of the old school buildings by Sherwood Construction Company of Wichita. Ground was broken for the new schools the last week of December 1938.

Washington and Lincoln schools were completed one year later in December 1939. A multi-day grand opening was held consecutively at each of the four buildings during the first week of January 1940.

Just after Christmas break in January 1940, students from the old Washington and Longfellow elementary schools in Independence went into their classrooms for the last time, gathered their books and supplies, and moved them to the new Washington School. The new Washington School was dedicated January 3, 1940, and classes resumed at the new school following the Christmas break, on January 8, 1940.¹⁹

The two new grade schools, Washington and Lincoln, at that time contained the most modern equipment and included a few surprises for the students, namely a bicycle garage. The schools were two-story structures of monolithic architectural concrete with aluminum clocks and flagpoles. Modern features of the time included aluminum Venetian blinds, semi-indirect lighting, adjustable seats, linoleum floors, and a radio and interclass communication set in each room and controlled by the principal. The schools included an auditorium with moveable chairs and a sound motion picture machine.²⁰

Warren Culp became the new Washington School principal, formerly having been the administrator at McKinley School from 1925-1939. He came to Washington in the winter of 1939 and served as principal there until his retirement in 1960.²¹

Washington School celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1990 with a city-wide event that invited all alumni - teachers and students - back to the school. In 1991, the district constructed Eisenhower School, and Riley School (which had been built in 1922) was closed. The new Eisenhower School housed kindergarten through 2nd grades. Lincoln School became home to the 3rd and 4th Grades and Washington School housed the 5th grade. Washington School continued to serve the district for another 20 years. In 2009, a \$43 million bond issue was passed including \$12 million for construction of Jefferson Elementary School, a new school to serve the 3rd - 5th grades. Washington and Lincoln schools closed their doors at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.²² Lincoln School (located west of the downtown business district) was sold to the hospital and demolished for construction of a helipad. Washington School was recently purchased (2014) by Cohen Esrey, a private developer with plans to convert the school into affordable apartments.

¹⁷ "Public Schools Date Back 100 Years."

¹⁸ "Parsons Bidder on Washington School is low," *The Independence Daily Reporter*, 22 December 1938.

¹⁹ M. Meredith Relph, "A Half-Century of Education - Washington School," *The Independence Daily Reporter*, n.d [1990] (Independence Historical Museum School Clipping Files).

²⁰ "Grade Schools Consolidated in late 1930s."

²¹ M. Meredith Relph, "A Half-Century of Education - Washington School," *The Independence Daily Reporter*, n.d [1990] (Independence Historical Museum School Clipping Files).

²² Greg Lower, "Elementary School Close for Final Time," *The Independence Daily Reporter*, 29 May 2011.

Washington School

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas

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Historic Public Schools of Kansas²³ and New Deal-Era Resources in Kansas²⁴

As defined in the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* multiple property submission, *City Schools* are generally schools in cities of the first and second class (over 2,000 population); however, population is not the sole criterion for the property type. The distinguishing factor for this property type is the type of school. City schools almost always include a separate high school (or multiple high schools) to serve the residents of the city. The graded school is a distinguishing factor between the city schools and town schools. In cities, the graded school evolved into grade schools and later, the modern elementary school. Washington School is categorized as a *City Graded School*, as defined in the Historic Schools MPS and reflects national trends in school design. Although not to the extent typically seen in high schools and even, junior high school, the design of Washington School incorporated spaces designed for specific uses, namely the kindergarten room and art and music classroom. At the time of its opening, the school was recognized not only for its modern exterior design but also modern accoutrements on the interior including the bell and intercom system, adjustable and indirect lighting, moveable desks and seating, aluminum Venetian blinds, and a sound motion picture machine in the auditorium.

In addition to its reflection of the characteristics of the *City Graded School* property type, the school is also significant as a representative of New Deal-era resources reflecting the government program's far-reaching impact on educational facilities in Kansas and across the nation.

Nationwide, the Depression brought local school construction to a halt. Roosevelt's *New Deal* established the Public Works Administration (PWA) and Work Progress Administration (WPA) to increase employment which resulted in one of the greatest periods of school construction, exceeding even the period following WWI. The National Register Multiple Property Nomination *New Deal-era Resources in Kansas*, developed by Elizabeth Rosin in 2002, provides a thorough summary of the various New Deal programs and their impact in Kansas. Washington School in Independence is an excellent representative of the Educational Facilities Property Type as identified in the New Deal MPS. Also consistent with the registration requirements, Washington School is eligible for listing under the New Deal MPS having been constructed using federal relief funds.

PWA and WPA programs resulted in construction of all types of schools in cities and towns across the nation. Schools constructed between the Depression and WWII reflected a change in architectural styles. Just as the Progressive Era introduced the 'modern' high school in terms of school facilities, the New Deal Era introduced modern architectural styles. The Art Moderne and Art Deco styles emerged as the dominant influences during this period. These schools are considered the first "modern" school buildings, more simplistic in form with flat roofs and limited ornamentation. Independence's Washington School is an excellent representative of a New Deal-Era school, reflecting the Modern Movement in architecture and Art Moderne stylistic influences.

Architect and Builders²⁵

Thomas W. Williamson opened his architectural firm in Topeka, Kansas, in 1912 and over a fifty-plus-year career established a reputation across Kansas as one of the best-known school architects. A 1952 article in *The Topeka Capital* called Williamson "the granddaddy of Kansas architects."²⁶ Retiring in 1970, Williamson and his firm were responsible for the design of more than 200 schools across the state. At least 13 buildings designed by Thomas W. Williamson are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations such as Topeka High School and Curtis Junior High School in Topeka, Kansas and the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* MPS provide extensive documentation of Williamson's career and his school commissions.

²³ Brenda Spencer, *Historic Schools of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, September, 2004.

²⁴ Elizabeth Rosin, *New Deal-era Resources in Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2002.

²⁵ Biographical Information on Williamson was summarized from the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* MPS and National Register Nominations for other Williamson-designed schools written by author.

²⁶ *The Topeka Capital*, 21 September 1952.

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While many architects came to design Kansas schools through the 1930s New Deal programs as a necessity, Williamson already had an established reputation as a school designer and continued to receive commissions for public schools through the federal assistance programs in the 1930s. It is unclear how the Independence school district came to hire Williamson. He was hired by the Board of Education in 1938 after voters approved the bond issue for the construction project that included Washington and Lincoln Grade Schools, the gymnasium addition at the Junior High, and expansion of Riley Grade School. Williamson's representatives on the Independence projects were Oscar S. Ekdahl, Earl Todd and Norman Cooley. Finney and Hazard of Topeka were the structural engineers.

Typical of New-Deal work programs, the school project provided needed work for a number of local and regional businesses. The firms involved in construction of Washington School included:²⁷

Every and Vance, Parsons – General Contractor
Sherwood Construction, Wichita – demolition of former school buildings
Workman Plumbing Co., Parsons – Plumbing and Heating
Sanders Electric Co., Independence – Electrical
A.G. Sherwood Construction Co., Independence – Grading and Sidewalks
Scaletty Bros., Parsons – Sheetmetal ductwork
Jonson Service Co., Kansas City, KS – Temperature Control
E.E. Hedges, Ponca City, OK – Painting and Decorating
Morgan Roofing Co., Joplin, MO – Roofing and Sheetmetal
Standard Terrazzo & Mosaic Co., Tulsa, OK – Tile and Terrazzo
Cook Paint and Varnish Co., Kansas City, MO – Window Glazing
McCormick Rug Co., Topeka – Linoleum and Venetian Blinks
Uhrich Millwork, Ltd., Independence – Millwork
Union Appliance Co., Independence – Moving Picture Machine
Thacher Supply & Equipment Co., Topeka – Furniture and Equipment
Schell Nursery Co., Wichita – Landscaping
National Lumber Co., Independence – Building Materials
Great Western Stage Equipment Co., Kansas City, MO – Stage Scenery

A prominent local business – the Universal Atlas Cement Company had a two-page ad in the local paper for grand opening of the schools, announcing use of their product - architectural concrete in the construction of these new modern school buildings.

“We share with the people of Independence and the local school district the satisfied pride in the fine new school buildings just completed, and the definite knowledge of what these buildings will come to mean to Independence as an education center in the years to come.

And, we naturally take special pride in the modern beauty, safety, and the permanence of the grade school buildings, and joy at the thought that we contributed the basic construction material for these buildings in our own home town.

...Furthermore, these grade school buildings, being outstanding examples of Architectural Concrete construction will be examined by school boards of cities hundreds of miles from Independence, and because they are modern and beautiful, safe from fire and tornado, permanent and useful, they will inspire others to build similar buildings of our cement and thus directly help our plant in Independence.”²⁸

Integrity

The Washington School in Independence, Kansas is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. The school is significant on a local level as a representative

²⁷ *The Independence Daily Reporter* Special School Supplement, 30 December 1939, 2.

²⁸ *Ibid*, 6-7.

Washington School

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of the city's public grade schools constructed with the assistance of the Public Works Administration in 1939. The building served needs of the local school district for more than seventy years.

The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The school has experienced only three primary alterations – the replacement of exterior doors at building entrances, the addition of walls at each end of the first-floor corridor, and installation of suspended acoustical tile ceilings in the corridors and most classrooms. The original multi-light steel and glass block windows are in place – a rarity on public school buildings in Kansas. The original corridor configuration has been maintained and significant interior features and finishes are in place.

The building retains a high degree of integrity on the interior and exterior clearly portraying its origins as a public grade school. Constructed of architectural concrete, the school is an excellent example of the modern movement in school design - an Art Moderne design characterized by its stepped massing, horizontal banding, and curved corners. It is significant as a representative of the work of Topeka architect Thomas W. Williamson who was well-known for his design of Kansas schools.

Independence's Washington School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property documentation forms, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, as a representative of the *City Graded School* property type and under *New Deal-era Resources in Kansas* as a representative of New Deal-era architecture, constructed with the assistance of the Work Projects Administration.

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Atkisson, Phil. "Public Schools Date Back 100 Years," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 28 June 1970.

Culp Sr., Warren A. "Independence District #5, 1870 – 1965," *Montgomery County Kansas Grade Schools. Book 1, Vol 1* [Independence, Kansas]: n.p. 1969. Independence Public Library.

"Grade Schools consolidated in late 1930s," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 13 September 1981.

Independence Daily Reporter-Special School Supplement, 30 December 1939.

Independence Historical Museum, School clippings/files.

Independence Public Library, vertical file – School History.

Lower, Greg. "Elementary Schools Close for Final Time," *Independence Reporter*, 29 May 2011.

Montgomery County Schools Yearbook, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1939, 1940, and 1950.

Montgomery County Genealogical Society. *History & Families Montgomery County, Kansas 1869-1994*. Paduchah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 1995.

"Parsons Bidder on Washington School is Low," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 22 December 1938

Relph, Meridith M. "A Half-century of education," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 1990. Independence Historical Museum School Clippings file.

Rosin, Elizabeth. *New Deal-era Resources in Kansas Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register*, 2002.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Independence, Montgomery County, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1905, 1910, 1916, 1923, and 1931.

"School History Records Many Changes," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 13 September 1981.

Sherwood Sr., Leon A. *Official Centennial History Independence, Kansas*. Independence, Kansas: Independence Centennial, Inc, 1970.

Spencer, Brenda . *El Dorado (KS) High School and Junior College Nomination to the National Register* (pending), 2013.

Spencer, Brenda . *Historic Public Schools of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register*, 2004.

Spencer, Brenda . *Topeka (KS) High School Nomination to the National Register*, 2005.

Spencer, Brenda . "Washington School," *Kansas Historic Resource Inventory*. 2004.

Thomas W. Williamson & Company. *Washington Grade School Original Blueprints*, 1939.

"Throng School at Dedication and Inspection," *Independence Daily Reporter*, 4 January 1940.

"Two Elementary Schools in Independence, Kan." *The Nation's Schools*. November 1945. 33-36.

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: Independence Kansas Public Library and Historical Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.22488</u> Latitude:	<u>-95.70290</u> Longitude:	3	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:
2	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:	4	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
All of Block 28, Original Plat City of Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The parcel described above reflects the full block on which the school is located and with which is historically associated.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda R. Spencer

organization Spencer Preservation date 20 November 2014

street & number 10150 Onaga Road telephone 785-456-9857

city or town Wamego state KS zip code 66547

e-mail Brenda@spencerpreservation.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Washington Historic Residences, LLC c/o Tim Quigley

street & number 6800 W. 64th Street telephone 913-671-3304

city or town Overland Park state KS zip 66202

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 100 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.

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Washington School
 City or Vicinity: Independence
 County: Montgomery State: Kansas
 Photographer: Brenda Spencer
 Date Photographed: 12 November, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 of 27	S	Looking south at 5 th and Laurel Streets with school on east (left)
2 of 27	NE	View of school site from 5 th and Myrtle Streets
3 of 27	NW	South and east/rear facades, looking NW from 4 th and Myrtle Streets
4 of 27	SW	North and east/rear facades from 4 th and Laurel Streets
5 of 27	S	Bicycle ramp to basement at east end of north facade
6 of 27	W	Kindergarten entry at north end of east/rear facade
7 of 27	NW	Central courtyard at rear of school with direct access from kindergarten room
8 of 27	N	South facade
9 of 27	S	Two-story aluminum-framed auditorium window, north facade of auditorium
10 of 27	E	North end of front/west facade
11 of 27	SE	Detail of northwest entry with built-in flagpole and "Washington" and "Longfellow" panels
12 of 27	E	South end of front/west facade with primary school entrance
13 of 27	SE	Detail of primary building entrance at south end of west/front facade with clock over entry
14 of 27	NW	Vestibule and stairway at main entry on south end of west facade
15 of 15	S	Looking S at south end of 1 st floor corridor with entry on right and auditorium on left
16 of 27	E	Auditorium at south end of 1 st floor, looking E toward stage
17 of 17	W	Looking west from rear of original music/art room at south end of 2 nd floor
18 of 27	SE	Detail of principal's office, from 1 st floor corridor
19 of 27	NW	Built-in cabinetry in school office, 1 st floor
20 of 27	S	Looking south from north end of 1 st floor corridor
21 of 27	NE	Entrance to classroom at north end of 1 st floor corridor
22 of 27	SE	Typical classroom in NW corner of 1 st floor with original chalkboards and built-in wood wardrobes and closets
23 of 27	S	Typical classroom on west side of 1 st floor with original aluminum windows
24 of 27	NW	Built-in cabinetry and chalkboard in kindergarten room with alphabet inlaid in flooring
25 of 27	N	Looking up rear stairway from 1 st floor at northeast corner of building
26 of 27	S	Looking south from north end of 2 nd floor corridor
27 of 27	W	Looking down main stairway at south end of 2 nd floor corridor

Washington School

Name of Property

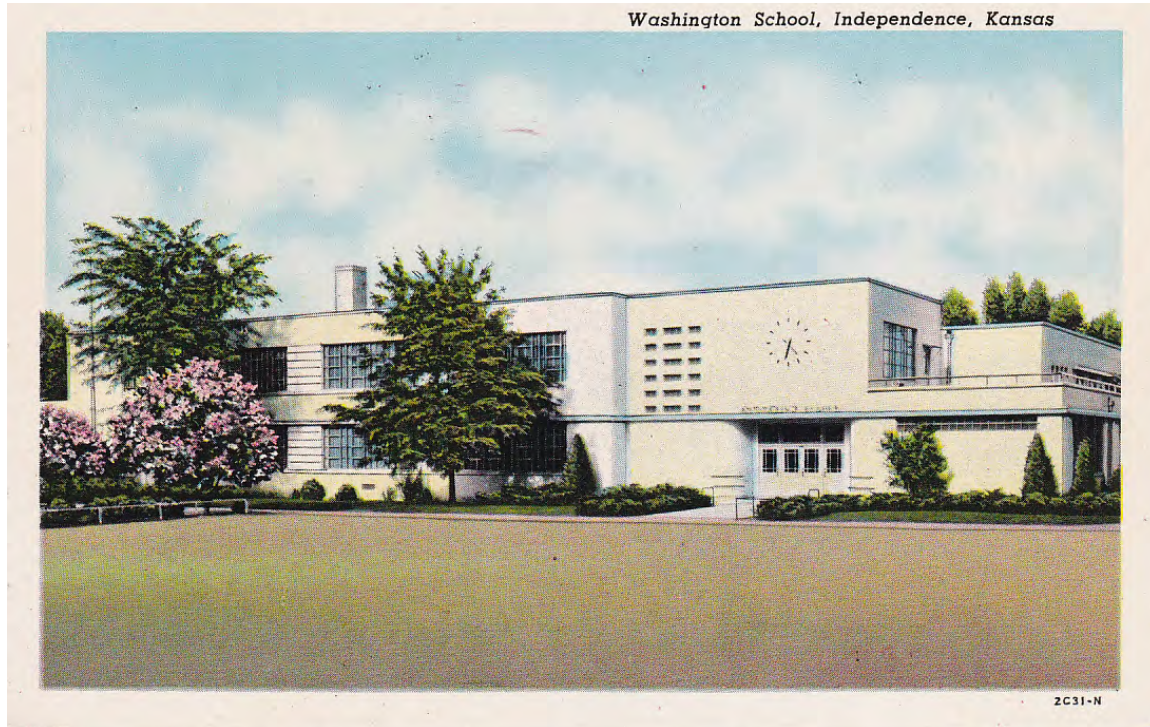
Montgomery County, Kansas

County and State

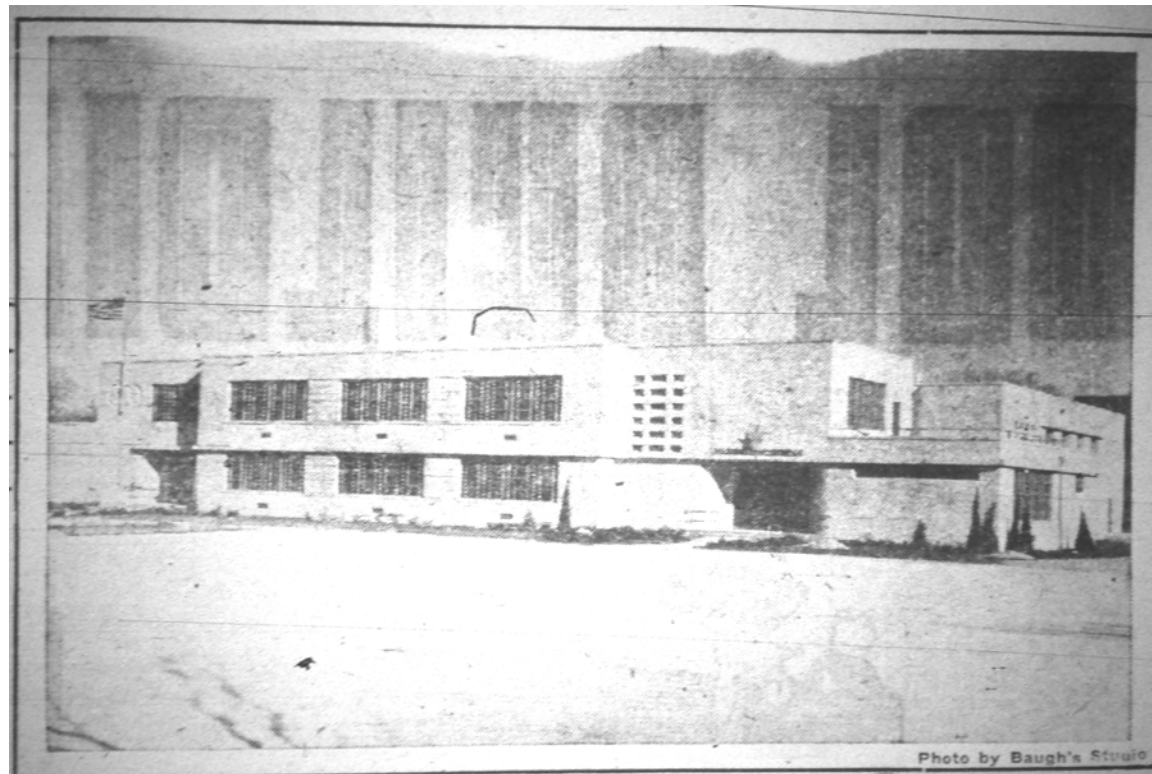
Figures

Select Sheets of original drawings/blueprints by architect Thomas W. Williamson provided as separate attachment
Feature article in November 1945 periodical The Nation's Schools provided as separate attachment

Historic Views



Undated postcard of Washington School, author's personal collection



Photocopy of architect's rendering of Washington School (by Baugh's Studio), printed in Special School Supplement in the Independence Reporter, 30 December 1939 (available on microfilm at KSHS)

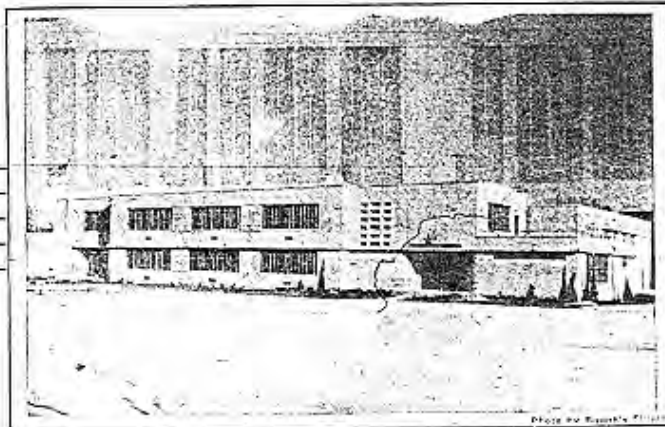
Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

INDEPENDENCE DAILY REPORTER—INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS

WASHINGTON

A Rich Gift to the Youth of Independence



NEW-WASHINGTON SCHOOL BUILDING

Total enrollment approx. ninety 450 pupils. The building will accommodate the pupils who were formerly housed in the old Washington and Langhorne buildings.

The building has fourteen classrooms—two rooms for each grade, one to six inclusive; an art room; a music room; a kindergarten; a kitchen and lunch room; an assembly room with seating capacity for 400 and well-ventilated stage; a "teacher's" rest room; a library; a clinic room with shower.

The building has concrete floors in the classrooms overlaid with linoleum; terrazzo corridors; insulation lined ceilings. There is a basement for storing bicycles. The building is equipped with unit ventilating machines. There are six direct heat lights in each class room.

There is a primary clock in principal's office which regulates secondary clocks in all classrooms. A sound system will enable the principal to communicate with the teachers in each classroom from his office. It will include radio broadcast. A sound studio machine has been installed. The classrooms will be fitted with movable chair desks except kindergarten and first primary rooms which will have tables and chairs. The windows will be equipped with Venetian aluminum blinds. On the school grounds appropriate landscaping has been provided. The playgrounds are to be all-weather grounds.

J. H. CLEMENT
Superintendent of Schools

EVERY AND VANCE
GENERAL CONTRACTOR PARSONS, KAN.

WORKMAN PLUMBING CO.
PLUMBING and HEATING PARSONS, KAN.

SANDERS ELECTRIC CO.
ELECTRIC WIRING INDEPENDENCE, KAN.

A. C. SHERWOOD CONSTRUCTION CO.
GRADING and SIDEWALKS INDEPENDENCE, KAN.

SCALLETY BROS.
SHEETMETAL DUCT WORK PARSONS, KAN.

JOHNSON SERVICE CO.
TEMPERATURE CONTROL KANSAS CITY, MO.

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MILLWORK INDEPENDENCE, KAN.

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TRACHER SUPPLY & EQUIPMENT CO.
FURNITURE and EQUIPMENT TOPEKA, KAN.

SHELL NURSERY CO.
LANDSCAPING WICHITA, KAN.

NATIONAL LUMBER CO.
BUILDING MATERIALS INDEPENDENCE, KAN.

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
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Aerial View of Context from Google.com 2014
Washington School, Independence
Montgomery County, Kansas
Latitude/Longitude: 37.22488 / -95.70290
Datum WGS84

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
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Aerial View of Site Boundary with enlarged site above (Google.com 2014)
Washington School, 300 E. Myrtle, Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas
Latitude/Longitude: 37.22488 / -95.70290, Datum WGS84

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State



PHOTO KEY

WASHINGTON SCHOOL
300 E. Myrtle, Independence, KS
Aerial View from Google.com 2014

▲
NOT TO SCALE

Washington School
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Kansas
County and State

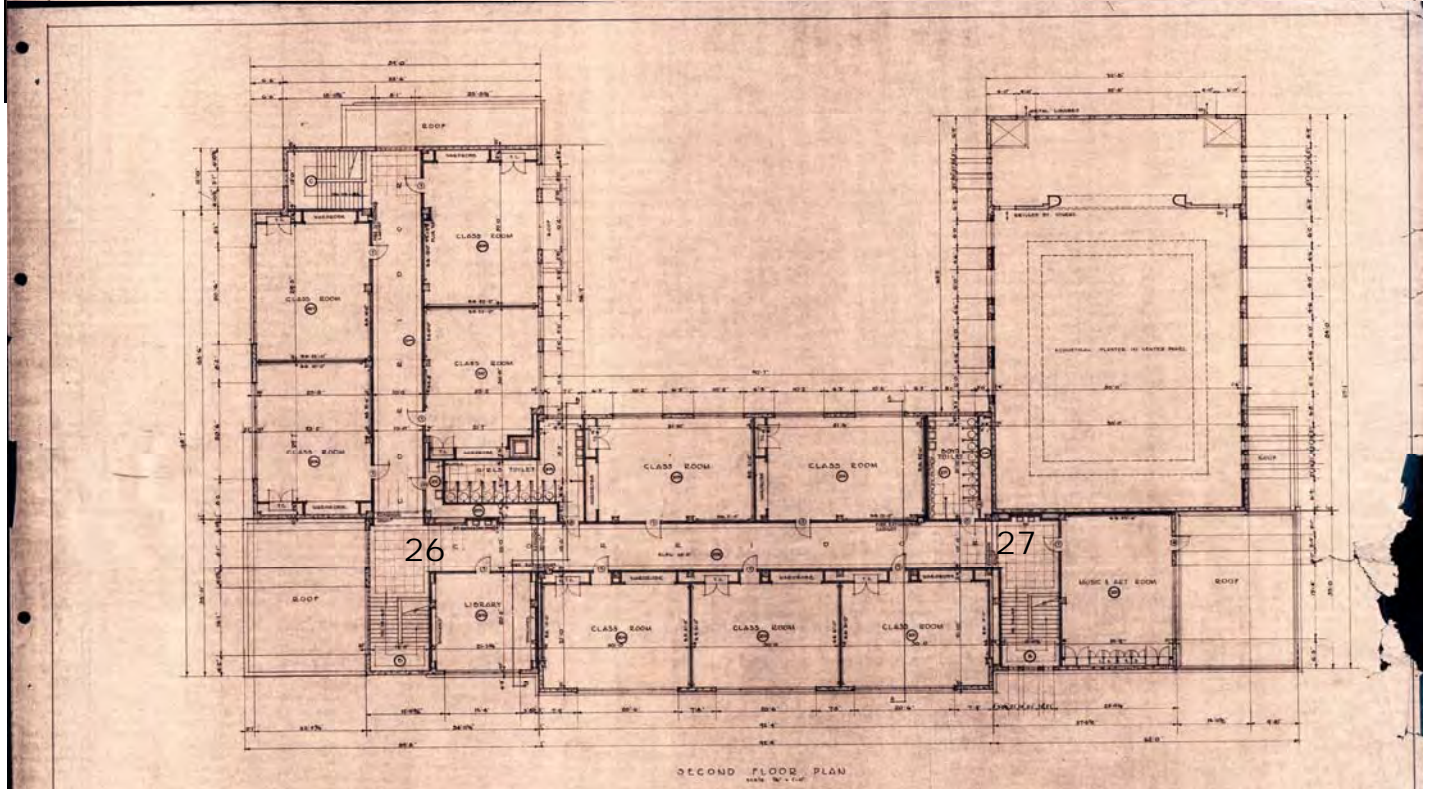
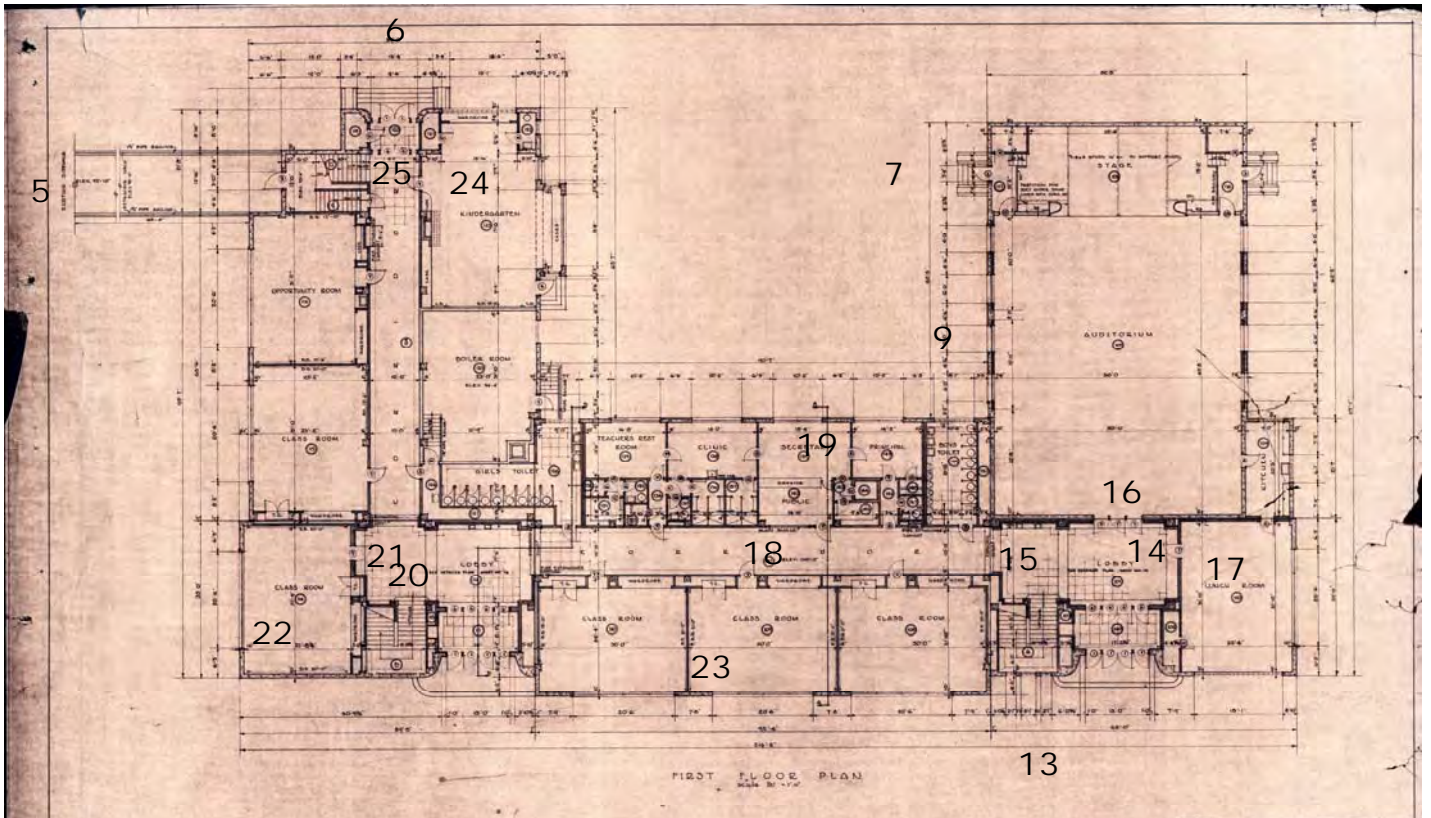


PHOTO KEY
WASHINGTON SCHOOL
300 E. Myrtle, Independence, KS
1939 Original Plans used as base

NOT TO SCALE













WASHINGTON SCHOOL











WASHINGTON



LONGFELLOW



WASHINGTON
SCHOOL



WASHINGTON SCHOOL



AUDITORIUM

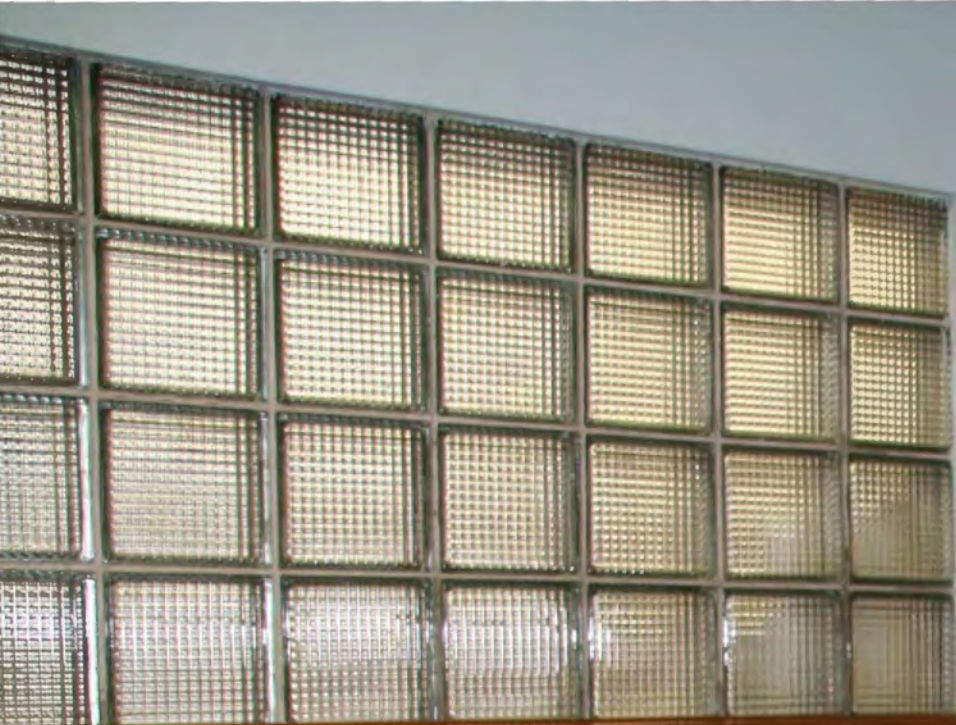
BULLETIN

EXIT









OFFICE

OFFICE







104













203



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Washington School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of Kansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 2/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/30/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/14/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/14/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000147

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/14/15 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

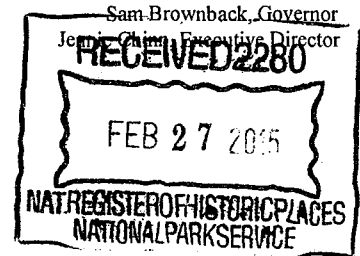
REVIEWER Alvarez DISCIPLINE _____

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.

Kansas Historical Society



February 23, 2015

Paul Loether, National Register Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, N. W.
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Re: National Register documents – New Nomination

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the following National Register documents:

- **Kansas Route 66 Historic District – Cherokee County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Girl Scout Little House – Ashland, Clark County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Strother Field Tetrahedron Wind Indicator – Cowley County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Bown-Corby School – Marion, Marion County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Washington School – Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas (new nomination)**
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Hermit's Cave on Belfry Hill – Morris County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **Fix Farmstead – Wabaunsee County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

- **The Parsonian Hotel – Parsons, Labette County, Kansas** (new nomination)
 - Enclosed: Signed copy of the document and 2 disks with a PDF of the nomination, mapping file, and photographs
 - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the 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