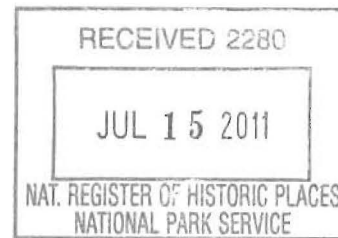


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



580

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 Murray Hill School

other names/site number KHRI #133-320

## 2. Location

street & number 400 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

N/A

not for publication

city or town Chanute

N/A

vicinity

state Kansas

code KS

county Neosho

code 133

zip code 66720

## 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 Zolter  
Signature of certifying official/Title

DSHPO

7/12/11  
Date

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:)

Sandra McCalland  
Signature of the Keeper

8/29/11  
Date of Action

Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

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County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

☒ private  
☐ public - Local  
☐ public - State  
☐ public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	3	<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.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE

roof: METAL

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

The Murray Hill School at 400 West Third Street, Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas, is in a predominantly residential neighborhood on the west side of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks, just southwest of the downtown commercial center. The school property occupies the east half of the block along South Garfield Avenue between West Second and West Third Streets. The building stands at the corner of West Third Street and South Garfield Avenue. The two-story building built in 1951-1952 is U-shaped. The long east-west axis faces south toward West Third Street; two perpendicular wings extend to the north. The long block contains elementary classrooms; the east wing contains the kindergarten rooms; and the west wing contains the cafeteria and the gymnasium/auditorium. The school has a concrete structure, a flat roof, and concrete cladding with sparse geometric ornament. The low, asymmetrical form, bands of metal and glass block windows, and simple decorative elements emphasize the horizontal form of the building and communicate the Modern Movement styling of the Murray Hill School. Constructed in an era when plan form, rather than architectural style, was used to distinguish schools as a property type, the Murray Hill School illustrates the low and sprawling form typical of school buildings from this period. Each functional space had its own distinct form that was legible from the exterior.<sup>1</sup> The massing, form, materials, and functional features of the Murray Hill School clearly illustrate the modern elementary school version of the City Graded School property subtype described in Section F of the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Public Schools of Kansas." The Murray Hill School has experienced minimal alterations. The most notable has been the selective replacement of windows and doors, mostly on secondary elevations. These changes do not diminish one's understanding the building as a public school from the era of its construction. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### Narrative Description

#### SETTING

The Murray Hill School property occupies the east half of the block bounded by West Third Street on the south; West Fourth Street on the north; South Garfield Avenue on the east; and South Lafayette Avenue on the west. The property is three blocks southwest of Chanute's downtown commercial center, which is lined with late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings. The property also sits three blocks west of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks that cut diagonally through the city. Blocks filled exclusively with one- and two-story single-family dwellings surround the school. These modest late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century residences formed the neighborhood for an earlier Murray Hill School, which was constructed on the same site in 1902. A few simple Ranch houses from the post-World War II period are mixed into the neighborhood.

The U-shaped school building faces south, with the long main block fronting West Third Street. The kindergarten and gymnasium wings extend northward from the main block. Concrete walkways connect entrances on all elevations to the public sidewalks that line the block. Narrow grassy strips dotted with mature deciduous trees abut the south and east elevations. A small playground and a quarter-mile oval track occupy the remainder of the property to the north of the building. A grassy hill separates the playground from the track below. A gravel parking lot abuts the west end of the building. A chain-link fence encircles the north end of the property.

#### EXTERIOR

The Murray Hill School is a U-shaped building with asymmetrical massing. Functional and decorative elements emphasize the horizontality of the structure and communicate its Modern Movement architectural style. The building has concrete walls and a non-historic metal roof. Light beige concrete clads the concrete block structural walls on all elevations. The finished concrete is scored to look like large rectangular blocks of stone. Paint, scoring, and applied concrete forms are the only decorative elements on this simple Modern Movement building.

<sup>1</sup> Brenda Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," Wamego, KS, 2005, E 25.

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The irregular massing reflects the multiple educational functions housed in the building. Each functional component has its own building mass and a distinct form, differentiating administrative offices, classrooms, the kindergarten, and the gymnasium. The long east-west spine of the U-shaped building forms the main block and is divided into two sections: a one-story administrative block and a two-story classroom block. Two one-story blocks project northward from the ends of the main block. At the east end is a wing with classrooms and the kindergarten room; and the west end, a taller wing houses the gymnasium and cafeteria.

The one-story entry and administrative area occupies the western one-third of the main block. It has a very shallow non-historic side gable roof with a narrow eave. The front (south) elevation of this section is five bays wide. The two easternmost bays are recessed under a deep, flat canopy. The main entry is at the east end of the building under the canopy. Transoms and sidelights enframe a pair of non-historic metal doors. The doors are set in steel frames and each has a glazed upper panel. The adjacent bay has a band of tall rectangular non-historic windows. The three bays of the administrative block west of the canopy, the northernmost bay on the west elevation and the three bays on the north elevation are fenestrated with four-pane metal windows with hopper sashes, horizontal muntins, and concrete sills. The windows on the south and west elevation are paired. Those on the north elevation are single. The center bay on the west elevation has a single door with flanking sidelights.

The classroom area occupies the eastern two-thirds of the main block. It is distinguished from the administrative area by its two-story height. A band of green painted concrete encircles the classroom block at the roofline. The classroom block has a flat roof. The front (south) elevation has nine bays while the north elevation has eight bays. The east elevation of the classroom block, above the one-story east wing, is a blank concrete wall. The concrete cladding the two westernmost bays of the south elevation are painted green and scored to form thin vertical strips. While the scoring is historic, the paint color is not. The exterior was historically a uniform color. The westernmost bay has an entry with paired doors under a flat concrete canopy. A beige concrete band frames the two-story rectangular window above the door. The large non-historic window has multiple fixed panes in an aluminum frame. The second bay from the west contains horizontal bands of light beige concrete that step outward from the façade at each story. The narrow bands have small two-pane windows at each end. A similar paired door with a canopy and two-story, multi-pane fixed window occupies the easternmost bay of the classroom block. Slender concrete pilasters divide the remainder of the south façade into six bays. Each bay contains a large window opening filled. Four narrow hopper windows with steel frames sit beneath a large expanse of glass block in each opening. Concrete pilasters divide the north (rear) elevation of the classroom block into eight bays. Aluminum replacement windows configured with four two-pane hopper windows fill these bays.

The one-story wing containing classrooms and the kindergarten room extends north from the east end of the main block. The east wing has a blank concrete wall on the south elevation and a very shallow non-historic gable roof. The east elevation has four bays with glass block and hopper windows and one bay with paired doors. The four bays of the north elevation each contains three two-pane windows installed atop concrete block infill.

The irregular west wing, containing the gymnasium and cafeteria, parallels the east wing at the opposite end of the main block. The gymnasium matches the height of the two-story classroom block and has a gabled roof. A flat parapet obscured the low historic gable roof. A non-historic standing seam metal gable roof was added atop the historic roof. Glass block fills six clerestory openings on the west elevation and three clerestory openings on the east elevation. The west elevation also has a single solid metal door. The one-story cafeteria has a very shallow gabled roof. It has three bays with four replacement windows in the east elevation. The north elevation has one opening with three replacement windows. A non-historic concrete vestibule attaches to the north elevation. Concrete steps lead to the single metal door in the east elevation of the vestibule.

A corrugated metal canopy with slender metal posts covers a concrete walk between the east and west wings on the north side of the building. Two temporary classroom buildings with metal siding and side gable roofs stand between the two wings, accessible from the covered walk. Another temporary building with wood siding and a side gable roof stands at the northwest corner of the west wing.

#### INTERIOR

The interior of the Murray Hill School retains its original configuration of corridors and functional spaces, as well as many of its simple Modern Movement historic finishes. A double-loaded corridor runs the full length of the main block. Corridors in the east and west wings extend north from the main corridor. The single-loaded east corridor accesses several elementary classrooms and the kindergarten room. The west corridor runs along the east wall of the gymnasium and connects the cafeteria to the main corridor.



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Throughout the building the concrete block walls are painted and beveled at the window openings. The corridor walls have a painted parge coating over the concrete block below a thin wood chair rail. The floors throughout the school are composite tile with different colors used in different spaces. The white tiles in the first-floor corridor have a gray border. Carpet has been removed from the composite tiles in some of the classrooms, leaving behind a layer of mastic.

Interior doorways have plain metal jambs and wood doors. Some doors are solid while others have a single light. Window frames are metal or wood. The windows have no trim but they do have terra cotta tile sills. Metal blinds attach to a recessed area above the windows. The baseboards are vinyl. Dropped grid ceilings hang below the unfinished concrete structure. A combination of lay-in acoustical tiles and fluorescent tube lights fill the ceiling grids. Most of the ceiling tiles were removed on the first floor, leaving only the metal grid and the light fixtures. While the current ceiling system is not historic, original plans indicate that the building was designed with dropped ceilings.

The main entry on the south elevation opens into a wide vestibule. Red brick veneer clads the vestibule walls. A low brick planter lines the wall between the main entry and the office on the west side of the vestibule. The vestibule leads to the long double-loaded corridor that connects the administrative and classroom blocks. The administrative block has several rectangular rooms of varying sizes, each with at least one window.

Rectangular classrooms line the double-loaded corridor on both stories of the classroom block. The spacious classrooms have high ceilings and two window bays that fill the entire length of the exterior wall. Bookshelves line the wall below the windows. Low counters with sinks and cabinets line the east and/or west wall of each classroom. The classrooms have built-in closets and storage space on the corridor wall. Non-historic white boards and cork boards fill the remaining wall space. The wall between two classrooms was removed to create a large open space for the school's library. This is one of the few interior alterations.

A short corridor at the east end of the main corridor connects to the east wing. The four classrooms in the east wing each have their own small bathroom. These rooms have configurations and finishes similar to the other classrooms in the building. The classrooms on the north end of the wing have non-historic replacement windows and concrete block infill set within the historic masonry openings. The floor of the northwest classroom has decorative composite tile designed with shapes and the letters of the alphabet.

Two sets of paired doors on the north side of the corridor in the administrative block open to the gymnasium. A series of arched concrete ribs span the gymnasium. The gentle ogee shape of the ribs forms the peak of the gable roof. Acoustical tiles line the ceiling between the ribs. Halogen lamps illuminate the space. The gymnasium has a non-historic rubber floor. At the north end of the gymnasium there is a small stage with a simple proscenium that mimics the peaked shape of the concrete ribs. The stage area has wood floors and an exposed concrete ceiling. The area under the stage floor is used for storage.

A short corridor along the east wall of the gymnasium leads to the paired metal and glass doors of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is an open rectangular space with a large opening at the north end that connects to the kitchen. The rectangular kitchen retains specialized equipment for food preparation.

The stairwells in the southeast and southwest corners of the classroom block connect to the corridor as well as to the outside. The stairs and landings are concrete with wood handrails. The two-story multi-pane windows illuminate the stairwells.

The boys' and girls' lavatories are adjacent to the southwest stairwell in the classroom block. Each lavatory has a small square window. The bathrooms do not retain any historic fixtures or partitions, except for several small toilets.

The boiler room is at the center of the building at the northwest corner of the classroom block, accessible from the west wing corridor that leads to the cafeteria. Concrete steps lead down to the sunken concrete floor. The non-historic furnace sits on a concrete slab at the center of the room. Updated electrical panels line the walls.

#### **INTEGRITY**

The Murray Hill School retains integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association. The replacement of some windows and doors on secondary elevations and the alteration of some interior spaces have partially compromised the integrity materials and workmanship. Non-historic shallow gable roofs with tight eaves were added above the original

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gable roof of the gymnasium and flat roofs of the rest of the building. The low brick planters that stood below the office windows in the recessed entry and continued into the entry vestibule were removed on the exterior. However, according to the registration requirements set forth in Section F of the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," these alterations do not automatically render the property ineligible for register listing. More importantly, the Murray Hill School retains its historic masonry openings and historic interior configuration. Many of the simple finishes that express the building's Modern Movement style remain extant. The building clearly communicates its historic function as a public elementary school and reflects the attributes of the City Graded School property subtype described in Section F of the MPDF. The Murray Hill School was constructed to educate children in an established residential neighborhood of the city of Chanute. The current school building replaced an earlier grade school on the same property, continuing a tradition of primary education on the premises. Multiple rectangular components assemble to create the sprawling form of the Murray Hill School. Each distinct form reflects a different function within the school, specifically administrative offices, gymnasium, kindergarten rooms, and classrooms. These character-defining functional features along with the restrained Modern Movement styling exemplify the City Graded School property subtype, specifically the modern elementary school.

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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

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

### Period of Significance

1951-1961

### Significant Dates

1951-1952

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Williamson, Thomas W. & Loeb sack, Victor H.

(Architect)

Mitchell Construction Company (Builder)

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1951-1961. This period begins with the date of construction and ends with the fifty-year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance but no more-specific date can be defined.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Murray Hill School at 400 West Third Street, Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for the area of EDUCATION and under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. As defined by the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," the Murray Hill School possesses the distinct characteristics of a City School, specifically the City Graded School sub-type. A City School is a public school constructed for a city with a population over 2,000.<sup>ii</sup> The City Graded School provides separate classroom facilities for each grade within the same building. In the nineteenth century, graded schools in Kansas incorporated all grades into one building. As the concept of building separate high schools and junior high schools developed, the City Graded School evolved into the modern elementary school, housing only students in kindergarten through fifth or sixth grade. The Murray Hill School and its associated property illustrate this evolution of educational facilities. Constructed in 1951-1952, the nominated school exemplifies a modern elementary school. Each of the functional spaces, such as administration, classrooms, kindergarten, and gymnasium, has its own distinct form, and all are connected to create a single asymmetrical, sprawling mass. The location of the Murray Hill School at the heart of a residential area, near the center of the city, also expresses an essential characteristic of a City School.

The Murray Hill School meets all of the registration requirements presented in the MPDF for its property type. It was constructed as a public school prior to 1955. It remains in its original location, within the primarily residential neighborhood in which it was constructed. The building also retains its massing, exterior form, original primary building materials, pattern of window and door openings, original ornamentation and detailing, and interior corridor configuration. While the front (south) elevation retains most of its historic windows, secondary elevations have experienced selective replacement of windows and doors within the historic masonry openings. Sloped metal roofs were added over the historic flat roofs to improve drainage. Alterations within the building were strictly cosmetic. Temporary modular facilities were erected at the rear of the building. The building functioned as an elementary school through the 2008-2009 academic year when the school district vacated the building.

While architectural styling is not necessarily a defining feature of Kansas School buildings, the simple form of the Modern Movement, with minimal architectural ornament and a strong horizontal emphasis, was often employed in the design of post-WWII elementary schools. Williamson & Loeb sack and Associates of Topeka, prominent architects of schools in Kansas, designed the Murray Hill School in the Modern Movement style in 1951.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Murray Hill School is an excellent example of a City Graded School, a modern elementary school property sub-type, constructed in 1951-1952. According to the MPDF, early City Graded Schools in Kansas housed all grades from first through high school in one building with multiple classrooms. After high school instruction was removed to its own building, City Grade Schools included only first through eighth grades. The Progressive Era initiated changes to the curriculum and organization of primary education. There was an increased demand for specialized spaces, not just at the high school level, but for the lower grades as well, including designated spaces for art, music, kindergarten, and physical activity. Further separation of grades into junior high and middle schools increased during the Progressive Era, resulting in the development of the modern elementary school. An elementary school educated kindergarteners through fifth or sixth graders, with each grade in a separate classroom, incorporating many of the specialized spaces encouraged during the Progressive Era.<sup>iii</sup>

The Murray Hill School occupies a site that has a long association with education in Chanute. The first school building on the site was the Third Ward School, a two-story City School constructed in 1887. The Third Ward School had two classrooms on each floor and was designated a primary school. When this building burned in December 1901, the city built a larger school on the same site. The first Murray Hill School was completed in November 1902.<sup>iv</sup> The simple but

<sup>ii</sup> The population of Chanute, Kansas was 10,109 in 1950. "Population of Cities in Kansas, 1900-2000," US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1900-1990, *Kansas Statistical Abstract - Enhanced Online Edition*, Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/population> (accessed 7 February 2011).

<sup>iii</sup> Spencer, F 31.

<sup>iv</sup> H. G. Curl, *A History of Chanute City Schools* (Chanute, KS: Chanute Trade School Press, 1941) 30.



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grand Italianate building had a battered stone foundation, brick walls, and a decorative brick beltcourse that encircled the building at each story, curving over segmental arched window openings. The two-story mass was augmented by a four-story bell tower on the front (south) elevation.<sup>v</sup> The form and massing suggest that the building contained only eight classrooms.

Prospectors discovered oil in Chanute at the turn of the twentieth century, sparking a boom that more than doubled the city's population, from 4,208 in 1900 to 9,272 in 1910.<sup>vi</sup> By 1909, the Murray Hill School had enough seats for only 60 percent of the 93 students enrolled in its primary class. The school board rented a room in a nearby building and hired an additional teacher to accommodate the number of pupils.<sup>vii</sup> The local population peaked in 1920 with 10,286 persons, and then began a gradual decline over the next thirty years. In the 1950s, however, the population briefly spiked again, rising to 10,849 by 1960.<sup>viii</sup>

The Topeka architecture firm Williamson & Loeb sack was well known for their civic and educational designs beginning in the 1920s. After World War II, they again pursued school projects throughout Kansas. Their commissions included Rozel Consolidated School (1949) in Rozel, McKinley Elementary School (1950) in Iola, and Central Grade School (1950) in Goodland. Victor H. Loeb sack wrote a well-timed letter of introduction to Chanute school superintendent James B. Hutton early in 1950, initiating a strong relationship between the two men.<sup>ix</sup> Subsequent communication between Loeb sack and Hutton revealed that the School Board planned to replace two of their older grade schools: the Cross School and the Murray Hill School.<sup>x</sup> Loeb sack initially offered to assist the school district in determining if new educational facilities were needed and in developing an estimated budget for this work. While the school board did not pursue this offer, they did invite Loeb sack to interview for the job of designing the two new elementary schools. Loeb sack attended a school board meeting on March 22, 1950, and within a week the school board awarded the project to Williamson & Loeb sack.<sup>xi</sup>

Williamson & Loeb sack completed drawings for the new Cross School<sup>xii</sup> in October 1950 and the new Murray Hill School in February 1951. The two schools are very similar to each other in design and materials and reflect national trends for school design. As described in the MPDF, modern schools had larger footprints but lower profiles than their predecessors. Schools employed wing plans or campus plans with multiple connected buildings. While they still employed many of the Progressive Movement ideas, such as curriculum-specific classrooms, schools were no longer designed as public monuments and decorative ornament was considered a waste of money.<sup>xiii</sup> The Murray Hill School has multiple one- and two-story masses grouped together to form the complete educational facility. Each functional component is differentiated by simple but distinct architectural features such as height, window configuration or cladding.

While construction of the Cross School progressed smoothly, delays plagued the Murray Hill School. By July of 1951, construction of the administrative and classroom blocks was well under way but work on the gymnasium and kindergarten wings had not yet begun. A portion of the kindergarten wing overlapped with the site of the old Murray Hill School, so the old school building had to be demolished before the new school could be completed. After weather and plumbing-related delays, the new Murray Hill School opened for the start of the 1952-53 school year.<sup>xiv</sup> Enrollment in Chanute Schools jumped up by 184 students that academic year, with the largest increase occurring at the Murray Hill School. The new

\* Historic photograph, 1907. Local history room, Chanute Public Library.

<sup>vi</sup> William W. Graves, *History of Neosho County*, Vol. 2 (St. Paul, Kansas: Journal Press, 1949-51) 974. Robert E. Hosack, *Legacy: The Historic Architecture and Development of Chanute, Kansas* (Chanute, KS: Historic Preservation Project, 1986) 34.

<sup>vii</sup> "Three School Rooms" *The Chanute Tribune* 24 September 1909. Chanute Schools vertical file, Chanute Public Library.

<sup>viii</sup> "Population of Cities in Kansas, 1900-2000."

<sup>ix</sup> Victor Loeb sack, letter to James B. Hutton, Superintendent of City Schools, Chanute, Kansas, 1 February 1950. Thomas W. Williamson Collection, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

<sup>x</sup> This decision parallels statewide trends documented in *Kansas Study of School Building Facilities, An Inventory of Existing Public Schools, Needs, and Resources as Reported by 3,568 School Districts* conducted by the Kansas Department of Public Instruction and published in 1952. The study notes that 191 new school facilities were constructed between 1945 and 1951 (Spencer, E 25).

<sup>xi</sup> Correspondence related to the James B. Hutton school, Chanute, Kansas. Thomas W. Williamson Collection, Papers, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

<sup>xii</sup> The Cross School was renamed the James B. Hutton School after the sudden death of superintendent Hutton on February 11, 1951, while the school was still under construction.

<sup>xiii</sup> Spencer, E 24.

<sup>xiv</sup> Correspondence between Williamson & Loeb sack and general contractor Mitchell Construction Company, 1951-1952. Thomas W. Williamson Collection, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

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school enrolled 339 students, compared to 250 students the previous year.<sup>xv</sup> Loeb sack and Williamson had designed the building to accommodate a growing student population, and its capacity to do so was tested immediately.

After several years of debate, state legislation passed in 1963 provided the framework for creating unified school districts in Kansas. The Chanute City School District became Unified School District #413, serving the urban and rural population in the northwest corner of the Neosho County. Within the city of Chanute the district included three elementary schools (Murray Hill, James B. Hutton, and Alcott), one middle school, and one high school. The population of Chanute declined slowly but steadily after 1960, dipping below 10,000 by 2000.<sup>xvi</sup> In 2008, the Unified School District built a new consolidated Chanute Elementary School on the outskirts of the city and closed the three elementary schools in town at the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

#### CONCLUSION

The Murray Hill School retains the character-defining features of a City School, specifically the modern elementary school version of the City Graded School Property Subtype, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), "Historic Public Schools of Kansas City." Distinct functional forms combined in a low, expansive profile and simply ornamented reflect the influence of the Modern Movement architectural style. Prominent Topeka architects Thomas W. Williamson and Victor H. Loeb sack & Associates designed the building in 1951. The Murray Hill School was built within the period of significance and geographical area of the MPDF. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and clearly communicates its historic function. The building retains many of its simple, Modern Movement architectural features and its historic interior configuration. The history of the building and associated property reflect the typical evolution of educational facilities in Kansas from ward school to grade school to elementary school.

<sup>xv</sup> "Children Flock Back to Schools Here With Enrollment Increase of 184 Persons," *Chanute Tribune*, September 8, 1952, page 1. Microfilm, Chanute Public Library Local History Room, Chanute, Kansas.

<sup>xvi</sup> According to the U.S. Census Bureau Fact Sheet for Chanute, Kansas the population was 9,411 in 2000. U.S. Census Bureau, [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFacts?\\_event=&geo\\_id=16000US2012500&\\_geoContext=01000US%7C04000US20%7C16000US2012500&\\_street=&\\_county=chanute&\\_cityTown=chanute&\\_state=04000US20&\\_zip=&\\_lang=en&\\_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&\\_useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=160&\\_submenuld=factsheet\\_1&ds\\_name=ACS\\_2009\\_5YR\\_SAFF&\\_ci\\_nbr=null&qz\\_name=null&reg=&\\_keyword=&\\_industry=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFacts?_event=&geo_id=16000US2012500&_geoContext=01000US%7C04000US20%7C16000US2012500&_street=&_county=chanute&_cityTown=chanute&_state=04000US20&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&_useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=160&_submenuld=factsheet_1&ds_name=ACS_2009_5YR_SAFF&_ci_nbr=null&qz_name=null&reg=&_keyword=&_industry=) (accessed 4 February 2011)

Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Children Flock Back to Schools Here With Enrollment Increase of 184 Persons." *Chanute Tribune*, September 8, 1952, p. 1. Microfilm. Local History Room, Chanute Public Library.

Duncan, L. Wallace. *History of Neosho and Wilson Counties, Kansas*. Fort Scott, KS: Monitor Printing Co., 1902.

Graves, William W. *History of Neosho County*. 2 Vols. St. Paul, KS: Journal Press, 1949-51.

Hosack, Robert E. *Legacy: The Historic Architecture and Development of Chanute, Kansas*. Chanute, KS: Historic Preservation Project, 1986.

"Old Murray Hill Used to the End." *Chanute Tribune*, July 11, 1951. Chanute Schools Vertical File. Local History Room, Chanute Public Library.

"Population of Cities in Kansas, 1900-2000." US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 1900-1990. *Kansas Statistical Abstract - Enhanced Online Edition*. Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/population>. (Accessed 7 February 2011).

Spencer, Brenda. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," Wamego, KS, 2005.

Thomas W. Williamson Collection. Papers. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Williamson, Thomas W. & Victor H. Loebsock. *Murray Hill School*. Architectural Drawings. 1951. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

### 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: **Local History Room, Chanute Public Library**  
**Spencer Research Library, University of KS**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 4 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 283107 4173046  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

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

Lots 1, 2, 3, and Lots 13, 14, 15, Block 18, and all of vacated alley, South of said Lots 2 and 3, in Jones Fifth Addition to the City of Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas

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

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal, Rachel Nugent, Associate  
organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date February 15, 2011  
street & number 215 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 150 telephone 816-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108  
e-mail elizabeth@rosinpreservation.com and rachel@rosinpreservation.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.)



Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Murray Hill School

**City or Vicinity:** Chanute

**County:** Neosho **State:** Kansas

**Photographer:** Brad Finch

**Date Photographed:** January 2011

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

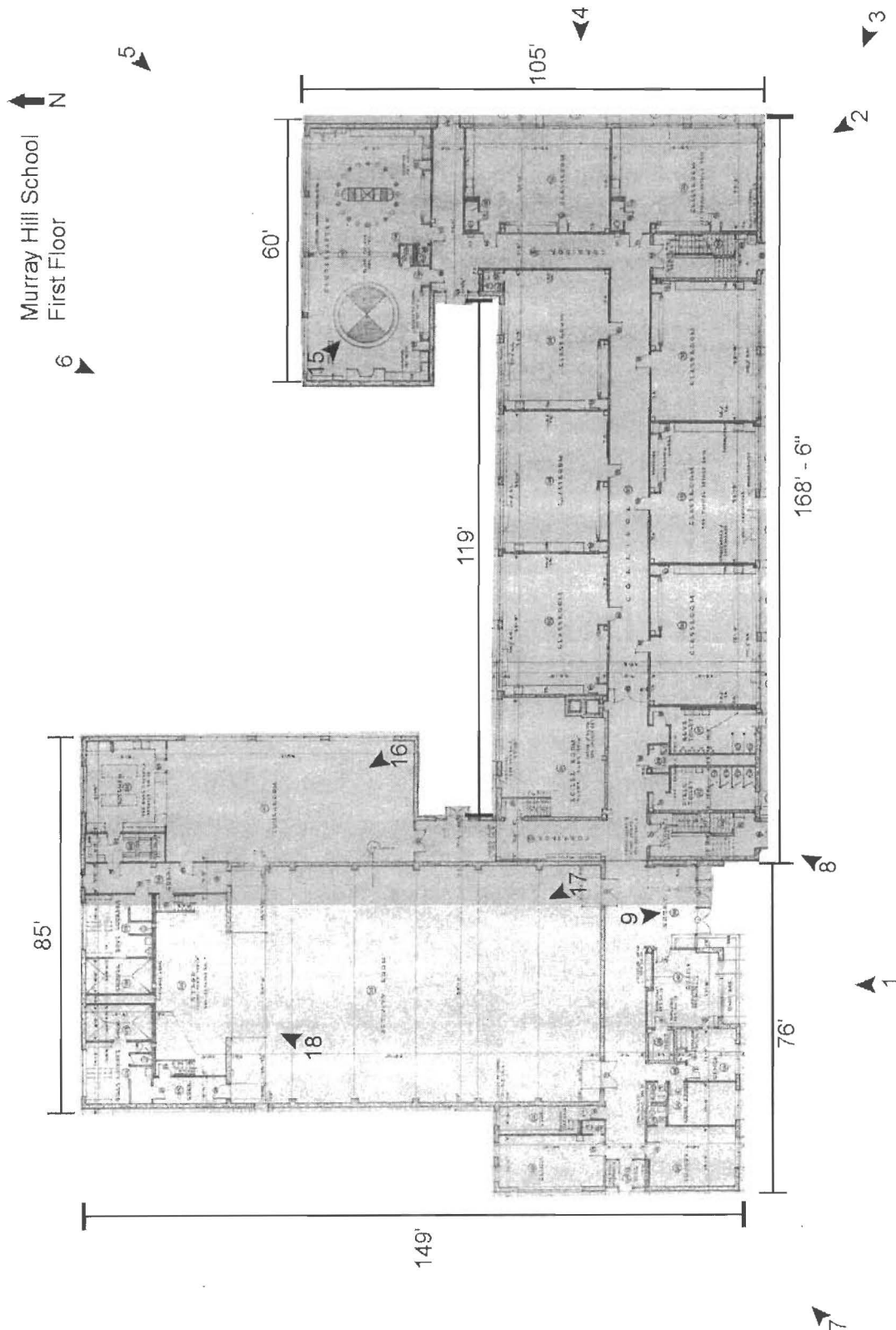
*All digital images labeled as follows:* KS\_NeoshoCounty\_MurrayHillSchool\_#.tif

- 1 of 18. Front (south) elevation, main entry, administrative and classroom blocks, view north.
- 2 of 18. Front (south) and east elevations, classroom block and east wing, view northwest.
- 3 of 18. Murray Hill School on the north side of West Third Street and residences on the south side, view west.
- 4 of 18. East elevation, view west.
- 5 of 18. North and east elevations, view southwest.
- 6 of 18. North elevation with playground and track, view south.
- 7 of 18. South and west elevations, view northeast.
- 8 of 18. Entry to west stairwell on south elevation, view northeast.
- 9 of 18. Main entry vestibule, view south.
- 10 of 18. East stairwell from second story, view south.
- 11 of 18. Second-story corridor in classroom block, view west.
- 12 of 18. Second-story corridor in classroom block, view east.
- 13 of 18. Second-story classroom, typical, view northeast.
- 14 of 18. Second-story classroom, typical, view southwest.
- 15 of 18. Former kindergarten classroom, view southeast.
- 16 of 18. Cafeteria in west wing, view northwest.
- 17 of 18. Gymnasium/activity room, view northwest.
- 18 of 18. Stage in gymnasium/activity room, view northeast.

Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

Additional Documents:



Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

Murray Hill School  
Name of Property

Neosho County, Kansas  
County and State

**Property Owner:**

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

name Murray Hill Senior Apartments, LP (c/o Steve Foutch)  
street & number 8109 NW Hillside Drive telephone 816-746-9100 x 1  
city or town Weatherby Lake state MO zip code 64152

**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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Murray Hill School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of Kansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Neosho

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/08/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/23/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/30/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000580

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 \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: .

*Prototypical 1950s grade school  
with relatively little change. Some  
windows have been altered but  
the character-defining bands of  
darker woodwork and glass block  
panels remain  
in excellent*

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.

*Considered in  
the new roof is  
unfortunate -  
fortunate -  
it is  
shallow and  
poor  
wise high.*



























## HALLWAY RULES

1. WALK AT ALL TIMES  
IN THE BUILDING.
  2. KEEP HANDS, FEET AND  
OBJECTS TO YOURSELF.
  3. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS OF ANY  
TEACHER OR STAFF MEMBER.
- WHEN IN HALLWAY  
BE COURTEOUS OF  
CLASSES IN SESSION.

GIRLS











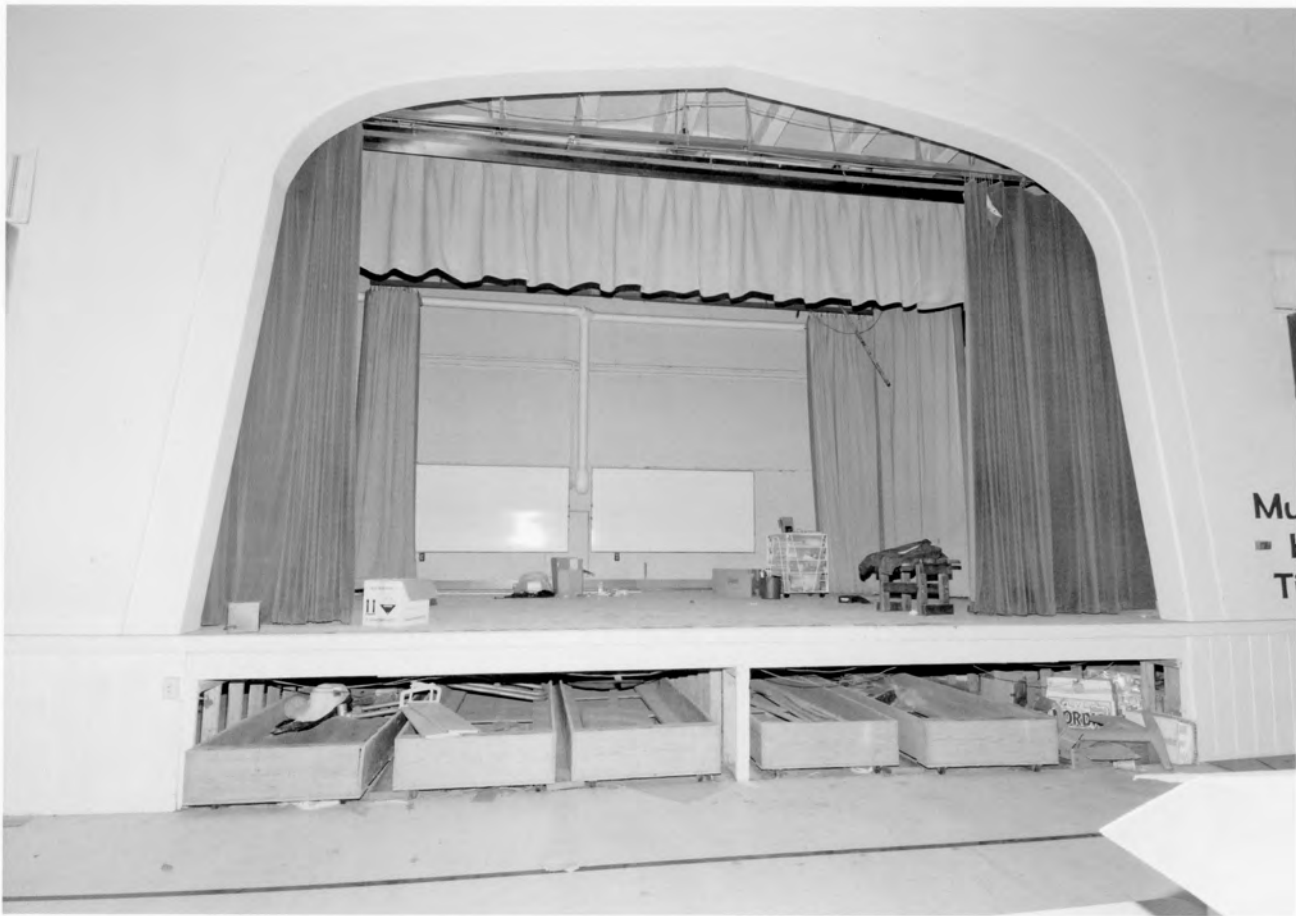


A M F S

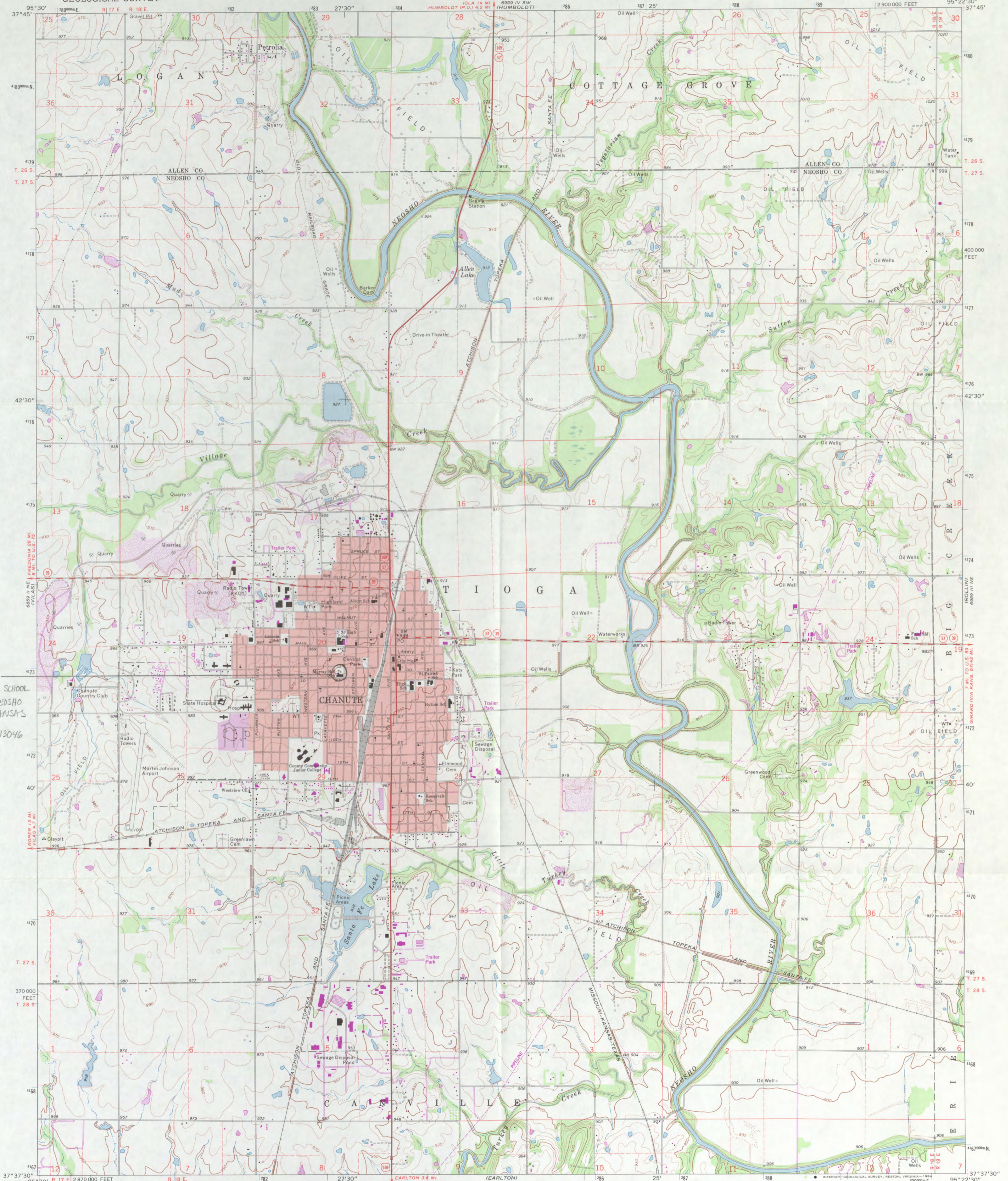
Respect  
yourself  
and others

I O K O C T E Y

Murray  
Hill  
Tigers

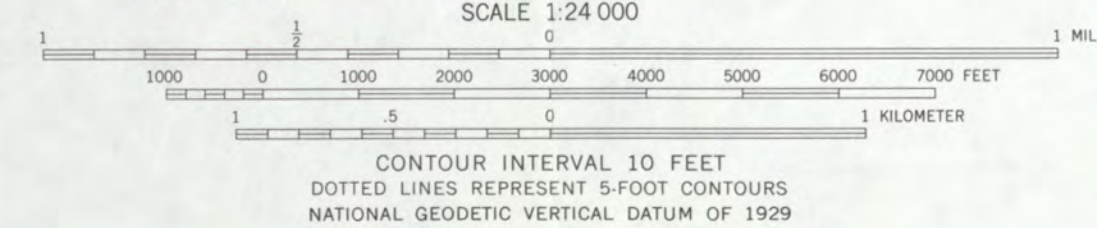
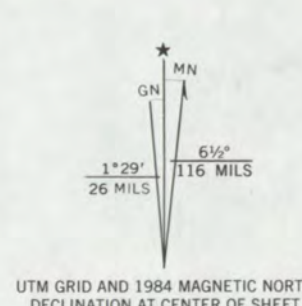




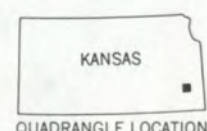


MURRAY HILL SCHOOL  
CHANUTE, NEOSHO  
COUNTY, KANSAS  
15/283107/413046

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1972-73. Field checked 1973  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Kansas coordinate  
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 1 meter south and  
22 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1981 and  
other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1984  
Purple tint indicates extension or urban area



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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface. Light-duty road, hard or improved surface.  
Secondary highway, hard surface. Unimproved road.  
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

CHANUTE, KANS.  
NW 1/4 CHANUTE 15' QUADRANGLE  
37095-F4-TF-024

1973  
PHOTOGRAPHED 1984  
DMA 6959 III NW-SERIES V878



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



Kansas Historical Society

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

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

July 12, 2011

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:

- Murray Hill School – Chanute, Neosho County (new submission)
- Austin Bridge – Neosho County (additional documentation)

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah J. Martin".

Sarah J. Martin  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures