

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 27 1986

date entered DEC 1 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Keya Paha County High School (NeHBS # KP09-1)

and/or common NA

**2. Location**

street & number NA NA not for publication

city, town Springview NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Keya Paha code 103

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Keya Paha County Historical Society

street & number NA

city, town Springview NA vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Keya Paha County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number NA

city, town Springview state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date On-going  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Keya Paha County High School is located in Springview, Nebraska, the county seat of Keya Paha County. The one story vernacular building is of frame construction with stucco covering, and has a hipped roof with a gabled entry wing. Originally constructed in 1915 by U. S. Weddell, a local builder, the school building was enlarged in 1929. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved. This nomination includes one contributing building.

The Keya Paha County High School is located in Springview (1985 population: 326), Nebraska, the county seat of Keya Paha County, a county situated in the extreme north central portion of the state, bordering the South Dakota state line. The one-story vernacular building is of frame construction (later covered with stucco) and has a hipped roof and gabled entry wing. The original structure was built in 1915 with approximate dimensions measuring 40' x 50' and with the main entry on the west. In 1929, an addition measuring approximately 20' by 40' was constructed on the west, with the new entry now on the south facade. A small gabled extension (post 1930) is situated on the main (south) facade. Fenestration, for the most part, consists of paired "strip-like" rectangular-shaped window openings of double-hung sash. The front (south) facade shows a pedimented gablet pierced by an oculus and the original double door entry with fanlight above (see photo # 5) is still intact under the newer entry wing.

The interior floor plan of the original building consisted of a large assembly hall which could be divided into smaller rooms by sliding doors, two classrooms and a full basement. In the 1929 expansion, two classrooms and the front entry wing, which housed office space and the stairwell, were added. The interior remains in good repair with original woodwork, including the main stairway, doorways, transoms, and floors intact (see photo # 4).

U. S. Weddell, local builder/decorator, was let the contract for the school's construction on July 13, 1915 for \$5,250.00. Construction began in September 1915 with classes starting in January 1916. Local contractors J. E. Lee and J. H. Mock were given the contract in July 1929 for the new addition. The school building was closed in 1965 and has since been occupied by the local historical society as a museum facility.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1929	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1915, 1929 **Builder/Architect** N. W. Weddell, (1915)/J. E. Lee & J. H. Mock (1929)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Keya Paha County High School is significant in the area of education, on a state level, as a well preserved example of a county high school in Nebraska, providing a twelfth grade high school education accredited to the state university. County high schools were established in sparsely populated regions of western Nebraska to provide high school advantages for the youth of the state. The Keya Paha County High School was constructed in 1915 as a result of a bill passed in 1913 by the state legislature requiring a county high school facility in Springview, the county seat. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date of the building (1915) through significant remodellings (1929).

The first county high school law of Nebraska was passed in 1905 by the legislature. The law provided, on an optional basis, for counties which did not have twelfth grade accredited schools, to determine whether or not county high schools should be established. The honorable C. H. Epperson of Fairfield, Nebraska, a senator from the twenty-fifth senatorial district, introduced the optional county high school law, which passed the legislature of 1905 with the emergency clause and became a law on April 5th of that same year. The sole purpose of the county high school law was to provide high school education to those youth in sparsely populated regions of western Nebraska, where twelfth grade accredited schools were not already established (Delzell, 1914, p. 153). The following provides a synopsis of the 1905 law:

This measure enables counties to establish and locate county high schools; to call a special election for the establishment of a county high school upon the petition of 100 freeholders of the county; provides that the county board shall constitute the board of trustees for each county high school and to take and have control of the affairs of such school; that the county superintendent shall be the superintendent of such school; to authorize the board to employ teachers and other employees; to include in the course of study manual training, domestic science and the elements of agriculture; to levy a tax for the support and maintenance of such county high school, exempting school

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Springview, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	4	4	3	8	9	7	1	0	4	7	4	1	5	1	0	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing								

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

C 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

D 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

E 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is described as the North 1/2 of Block 1, Village of Springview, including all historically associated real estate.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date April 1985

street & number P.O. Box 82554 telephone (402) 471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James A. Hanson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date 10/20/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allene Beyer Entered in the National Register date 12/1/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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districts maintaining a course of study beyond the eighth grade; authorizes the board to issue certificates and diplomas; provides for the issuance of bonds and the levying of taxes not to exceed five mills for the payment of the same; makes tuition free to all pupils in the county. Emergency.

Kimball County High School in Kimball, Nebraska was the first county high school to be established under this law. The legislature of 1911 amended the county high school law, but still, very few counties took advantage of the law and established county high schools (Delzell, 1914, p. 155). The amended law in 1911, read as follows:

Any county in this state may establish a county high school on the conditions and in the manner hereinafter prescribed, for the purpose of affording better educational facilities for pupils who have advanced beyond the eighth grade. For the purpose of this act all grades above the eighth grade in any public school district in this state will be deemed high school grades. The course of study of the high school grades shall be Nebraska High School Manual issued jointly by the University of Nebraska and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or a course of study approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and in addition thereto there shall be taught and practiced in the ninth and tenth grades, manual training, domestic science, and the elements of agriculture, and in the eleventh and twelfth grades normal training and the theory and practice of agriculture, and for the purpose of such teaching and practice the Board of Regents is hereby authorized to purchase the necessary apparatus and materials for those purposes. The board of County Commissions or County Supervisors shall purchase a tract of land not less than five acres, conveniently situated to said county high school, for actual practice by all the students or a part of the students, under the direction of a competent instructor, for experimentation in all forms of agriculture. (Wait, 1911, p. 413-414).

Then in 1913 the legislature passed a mandatory county high school law, requiring those counties which had not yet established twelfth grade accredited schools, to establish county high schools. The bill was introduced by the honorable Fred

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Hoffmeister, representative from Chase County, and passed, taking effect in 1914. The 1913 mandatory county high school law read as follows:

The County Board of any county in this state that does not have organized within the borders of such county a twelfth grade high school accredited to the State University, shall be deemed authorized and it shall become their duty on the first Monday of June to call a meeting of all the directors of the several school districts in the county to meet at the county seat to elect a board of regents in accordance with the provisions of law governing boards of regents for county high schools and which provisions shall apply to a school organized by the county commissioner[s] or supervisors the same as if organized as now provided for by law. The county high school herein provided for by law shall be located at the county seat of such county. Approved, April 23, 1913.

The county high school law affected 16 counties in 1914, counties which did not have a county high school or 12th grade accredited school (Delzell, 1914, p. 155). Those counties which organized schools in 1914 to comply with the 1913 county high school law included: Arthur, Chase, Grant, Hayes, Keya Paha, Kimball, Perkins and Thomas. Those counties which came under the provision of the law but which had not established schools in 1914 included: Banner, Blaine, Deuel, Garden, Hooker, Logan, Loup and McPherson (Delzell, 1914, p. 198).

As a result of the 1913 mandatory county high school law, Keya Paha County took steps to establish a county high school. In July 1915 the Board of Regents of the county high school held meetings to organize a new board and open bids for the construction of the new school. The contract was awarded to U. S. Weddell, local builder, for \$5,250.00 (Springview Herald, 1915, p. 1). Construction on the school building began in September of that year with the school opening on January 26, 1916. In the 1921-25 Report of the Nebraska Superintendent of Public Instruction the report lists the following counties as having county high schools in the designated county seats: Arthur, Wheeler, Rock, Perkins, Banner, Sioux, Hayes, Chase, Kimball, Hooker, Keya Paha, Thomas, Deuel, Garden and McPherson.

In March of 1929, the Keya Paha County High School regents voted to let a contract for a new addition to the school

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building. J. E. Lee and J. H. Mock, local contractors, were awarded the bid in July 1929, with work completed in November of that year. The addition, which expanded the building on the west and provided the new south entrance, gave the building its present appearance. Total cost of the expansion was approximately \$13,000.

In Nebraska only three other county high schools have been identified as part of the on-going Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey. They include the Arthur County High School (AT01-2), the Banner County High School (BN01-9) and the Chase County High School (CH04-5). The Banner County High School (c. 1917) and the Arthur County High School (c. 1917), are extant but both buildings have been remodelled in past years, severely compromising their integrity. The present Chase County High School, a two-story brick structure built in 1922, replaced the earlier school building dating from the teens.

The Keya Paha County High School was evaluated on a state basis, with respect to other county high schools constructed during the same time period, specifically from 1914 when the mandatory county high school law went into effect until 1921 when the "Report" listed 15 county high schools established in Nebraska, all located in the western portion of the state. The high school buildings constructed during this period seem to exhibit similar design characteristics; that being one story in height, rectangular-shaped in plan, of frame construction, and little or no surface ornamentation.

The Keya Paha County High School stands as a well-preserved example of a county high school in Nebraska retaining both its structural and historical integrity. The building gains significance in Nebraska's educational history as an excellent representation of the state's county high school system, a system which was initially created in 1905 calling for high school facilities in sparsely populated areas of the state. More specifically, the Keya Paha County High School stands as an excellent representation of those county high schools which were constructed during the mid-to-late teens as a result of the mandatory high school law passed in 1913. On a local level, the high school building stands as a landmark in town. Along with the Keya Paha County courthouse, these two structures remain as significant "historic" buildings identified thus far in this small community due to their substantial size, architectural design and age.

The Keya Paha County High School was identified and entered

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into the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey as a result of a National Register listing request made by the present owners. This is the first request the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office has received concerning nomination of a Nebraska county high school.

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Banner County Historical Society, **Banner County and Its People**, Volume I, pp. 118-119, copyright 1982, Harrisburg, Nebraska.

Delzell, James E., State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Twenty-Third Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction**, 1913-1915, The Woodruff Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, pp. 153-158.

Matzen, John M., State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Twenty-Sixth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Governor of the State of Nebraska**, 1919-1921, p. 38.

Ridley, Linna, "History of Springview" and Doris M. Weddel "T. G. Weddel," **Pioneer Stories of Brown, Keya Paha, and Rock Counties**, in Nebraska.

Wait, Addison, Secretary of State, **Laws, Joint Resolutions, and Memorials**, Passed by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska. At the thirty-second session, Lincoln, Nebraska, January 3-april 6, 1911, York Blank Book Company, York, Nebraska pp. 413-414.

Wait, Addison, Secretary of State, **Laws, Joint Resolutions, and Memorials**, Passed by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska. At the thirty-third session, Lincoln, Nebraska, January 7-April 16, 1913, Woodruff Bank Note Company, Lincoln, Nebraska, pp. 104-107, 616-621, 785.

Weddel, Doris (Mrs. T. G.), unpublished manuscript regarding Ulysses Standley Weddel, October 1984, on file, Nebraska State Historical Society (NeHBS # KP09-1), Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Will Build High School Addition," **Springview Herald**, March 14, 1929, p. 1, c. 2, Springview, Nebraska.

"Work on High School Building," **Springview Herald**, July 28, 1929, p. 1, c. 2, Springview, Nebraska.