NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Snokomo School

other names/site number 197-0000-0091

2. Location

street & number SW4, SW4, SW4, NW4, S.20-T.12-R.12 ☐ not for publication

city or town Paxico ☒ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Wabaunsee code 197 zip code 66526

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ramon Powers SHPO November 29, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
1.20.95

National Register of Historic Places

Snokomo School
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
2	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Clubhouse

Recreation & Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Native Limestone

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone
walls Stone: Limestone
roof Wood: Shingle
other

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1883-1941

Significant Dates

1883, 1941

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Presenell, F.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Snokomo School Museum

Snokomo School
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 Acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	750030	4319380
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Risdal, National Register Intern

organization Kansas State Historical Society date November 18, 1994

street & number 120 West 10th Street telephone 913-296-7080

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Jerry Willard, Snokomo Silent Workers Community Club

street & number Route 1, Box 268 telephone 913-256-6217

city or town Paxico state KS zip code 66526

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

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

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Snokomo School (c. 1883) is located in the Snokomo community eight miles south of Paxico, Wabaunsee County, Kansas (pop. 174) on SW4, SW4, SW4, NW4-S.20-T.12-R.12. The one story, limestone block building stands on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a gable roof. The building has a western facade orientation and measures approximately 38' east to west and 27' north to south. The building was completely restored in 1975, but on April 26, 1991 a tornado destroyed the roof, the bell tower, the upper part of the rear stone gable wall, the chimney, window panes, and some of its furnishings.

In response to the damage rendered by the tornado, the Snokomo Silent Workers Club replaced the shingle roof and repaired the upper third of the rear gable wall. The steeple shaped bell tower that sits toward the front of the building was also replaced at this time. The original bell, though, still hangs in the tower. A narrow brick chimney, also replaced after the tornado, rises from the center of the roof.

The Snokomo School maintains a high degree of architectural integrity as an example of a one room, limestone block, school house. The building stands on one acre of land surrounded by pasture. A c. 1900 photograph of the site shows a one-story wood frame building standing a few yards north of the school house. The photograph identifies the building as Woodman Hall. A hollow clay-tile, coal/wood shed dating from 1909 projects from the building's rear elevation. Two hollow clay-tile privies dating from 1919 stood to the east of the school. The boys privy is extant but the girls privy was destroyed in the tornado. A wooden replacement privy, date of construction unknown, was brought to the site.

The one-story gable facade is composed of rusticated limestone blocks. Large quoins with finished edges and rusticated centers mark the corners of the gable wall. Two transomed doors pierce the building's facade, providing entry into the classroom. Bush hammered limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each entry door respectively. The doors and screen doors date from 1909. The doors are composed of two lights above two panels. A two-light transom surmounts each door. Large limestone rocks mark the steps and thresholds. An oval limestone date stone rests in the upper part of the gable. The date carved into the stone reads "D-T. N.24 A D. 1883". A plain wooden fascia board defines the building's roof line on all elevations.

The building's north and south elevations are identical and made of large, rectangular, limestone blocks. The corners terminate in quoins, comprised of large, rectangular blocks with finished edges and rusticated centers. Three, 4/4 double hung wooden sash windows pierce the walls at equal distances. Bush hammered limestone lintels and sills surmount and underscore each window respectively.

A c. 1900 well and pump stand to the south of the building. The pump is operable and used by the sightseers and the community. A cast aluminum marker, describing the history of the school, also stands to the south of the building.

The west elevation is comprised of smaller rectangular limestone blocks of varying sizes. The wall terminates with quoins, comprised of large rectangular, limestone blocks with finished edges and rusticated centers. A two-door, hollow clay-tile coal/wood shed projects from the limestone wall. The shed is composed of a gable roof centered below the school roof. The roof line, though, is asymmetrical and continues to the southern corner in a downward slope. Two doors pierce the structure. These doors offer the only entrance into the shed, there is no entry from the school.

The Snokomo School interior is comprised of one room with no divisions. Two transomed doors pierce the building's east wall. Three, 4/4 double hung wooden sash windows pierce the north and south walls. Each window has a sixteen inch deep sill. The original wooden interior trim surrounding the windows and doors has no design. It is defined by thin plain wooden pilasters rising from the sill to meet a slightly overhanging head casing. The tongue and groove ceiling was installed after the 1991 tornado. On the ceiling between the entrance doors is an attic door which leads to the bell tower. In 1908, a new hardwood floor was put in the building. Also in 1909, the black slate that covers the west wall and continues around both corners to the side walls to ends at the first window was replaced. The two west corners of the room by the entrances are furnished with coat hooks, shelves for children's lunch pails, the community water bucket and the wash pan with towels near by. The interior was restored with its original brass kerosene lamps, old school clock and pot bellied stove. The stove exhausts in a pipe to the chimney upheld by a wood chamfered post. The only modification to the building has been the introduction of electricity. The building is not plumbed, allowing the outhouses to retain their function.

The Snokomo School (c. 1883) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Wabaunsee County, Kansas and for its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse. The present Snokomo School served the Wabaunsee County School District Number 24 from its completion in 1883 until 1941, when consolidation forced its closure. In 1947, the building and site were sold to the Silent Workers Community Club for a token price of $1.00. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently used as a one room schoolhouse museum maintained by the Snokomo Silent Workers Community Club.

School District Number 24 was organized in 1869. The original Snokomo School was the last district school in Wabaunsee County to be built of logs. The building was 18 feet square with a value, as shown on the clerk's annual report, of $350. The log school was a half mile south and across the road from the present building and served the community until 1883. The district board met on January 31, 1883 at the house of Mr. Carpenter to locate the site of the new school house. On August 25, 1883 bids were opened for the new schoolhouse. "Motion carried that we accept the bid for Mr. F. Presenell to build the new schoolhouse" (School District Records, 1876-1890). The contract price was $800 and the building was completed as per contract on November 1, 1883. On the September 20, 1883 district board meeting, 18 desks and 2 rear seats were selected from Laughlin and Scott of Sidney, Ohio. The board met for the first time in the new schoolhouse on December 1, 1883 and a contract was made with Mr. F. Presenell to build unspecified out buildings for $100 (School District Records, 1876-1890).

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

Decisions concerning whether the teacher hired would be male or female were also made at the annual board meeting. The school marm, the single women teacher, is the stereotype, but in fact male teachers were much preferred, especially for winter terms, partly because of tradition and partly because it was thought that they alone could control the older farm boys who attended school only during the winter when their time was not completely taken up by farm work (Gulliford, 63). Male teachers consistently earned higher wages than female teachers. In 1877, A.F. Wade was paid 33 dollars per month to teach the winter semester while Katie Cotton was paid 25 dollars per month for the summer semester. A special meeting on March 14, 1884 was held to "resend the vote of a male teacher the fall six month motion caused" (School District Clerk's Record, 1876-1890). It was not until July 18, 1907 that any specific teachers qualifications were written in the board minutes. These minutes stated that "school be taught by an experienced teacher" (School District Clerk's Record, 1891-1911).

Students of all ages attended Snokomo School until the early 1900s, when compulsory education laws restricted attendance to grades 1 through 8. But even as late as 1890 students over the age of 21 were trying to enroll in the school. On December 8, 1890, the "board met to decide if it should admit people over the age of 21 to district school" (School District Clerk's Record, 1876-1890). They were admitted for this term only. The length of the Snokomo School year fluctuated in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, averaging about seven months a year. These fluctuations were dependent on factors such as the weather, epidemics, and school district ability to pay the teachers salary. An example of this is given in the student register on November 3 and 4, 1890. "School was closed on account of sickness" (Teacher's Daily Register, 1888-1894). Usually though, term lengths were dependent on money. In 1893, the board "voted 6th months of school. If board found more money would continue term length" (School District Clerk's Register, 1891-1911). Regardless of the lack of compulsory education laws during the nineteenth century, the fluctuating length of the school year, and the uncertain attendance levels, Kansas shared an illiteracy rate with Iowa and Nebraska that was below three percent between 1870 and 1900.

Snokomo school exemplifies the prototypical, one room, country school house in its form and design. The one story, gable facade schoolhouse with three large windows piercing each of its two side elevations, no windows on either the rear or facade elevations and bell tower is typical of the rural schoolhouses constructed in Wabaunsee County and Kansas between 1870 and 1900. Additionally, the native limestone used in the construction of Snokomo School was a common material used for schools and other buildings in Wabaunsee County and Kansas.

Due to the survival of the minutes of the school board meetings dating from 1883 to 1941, the school additions and upkeep can specifically dated. It was agreed on November 5, 1897 that the "board get a new stove the district. It was agreed that J.A. Connell bring stove from Eskridge and put it up" (School District Clerk's Record, 1891-1911). On the July 20, 1900 meeting, the board voted to put up hail screens on the windows and have a well dug. The well was dug for $12 and was completed August 23, 1900. The well was dug by George Wood for 50 cents per foot. It was agreed that he would lay three feet up in lime and sand lime which would be furnished by the district. A meetings that followed on July 31, 1902 dealt with prohibiting the hitching of horses to the well and specifying the boundaries and materials for a new fence. The front fence was to have boards with cedar posts but the rest of the fence would be of woven wire with oak posts 12 feet apart. Other highlights are a new floor in 1908 with an auction selling the boards from the previous floor to S. McCauly at 75 cents per hundred feet and in 1909 the shed was built and the front doors were replaced (School District Clerk's Record, 1891-1911).

As the school year increased in length, so too did the curriculum, a reflection in part of the compulsory education laws of the Twentieth Century which standardized educational curriculums. The 1890 Snokomo School curriculum consisted of reading, grammar, arithmetic, geography, history, and physiology. The subjects in 1925 Snokomo School curriculum were reading, physiology, civics, arithmetic, classics, language, grammar, writing, Kansas history, geography, and spelling. With the

breadth of curriculums, varying abilities of students, poor salaries, teachers rarely remained at a school for more than two years. In the March 30, 1920 Teacher's Daily Records, L.B. Morris left these remarks too his successor: "Working on the theory, as advanced by the superintendent of schools at Eskridge in his recent talk at a county teacher's meeting, whereby a child should not be failed except on the account of irregular attendance. I have promoted all except no. 17, whose attendance was irregular because of poor health. After giving them a trial, use your own judgement as to whether they can handle the work or not" (Teacher's Daily Register, 1912-1926).

When the Snokomo Silent Worker Club purchased the building and site in 1947, it was converted into a club house. In 1974 a complete restoration was started that was finished in 1975 with the efforts of club members, former teachers, pupils, and members of the community. The building was returned to its original function and is kept up as a schoolhouse museum. On April 26, 1991 a tornado destroyed the roof, the bell tower, the upper part of the stone gable wall, the chimney, window panes, and some of it furnishings. In response to the damage rendered by the tornado, the Snokomo Silent Workers Club replaced the shingle roof and repaired the upper third of the rear gable wall. The steeple shaped bell tower that sits toward the front of the building and the chimney were also replaced at this time. The original bell, though, still hangs in the tower.

Snokomo School served the families of School District Number 24 for fifty eight years as a center for education, public meetings, and social events. After consolidation it continued to served the community as a club house and now functions as a museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Washington: Preservation Press, 1984.

Rowe, Edna. "Information on Snokomo School Sought." Flint Hills Independent. April 30, 1992, p.10.

Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Complete Term Register, 1904-1909. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

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Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Teacher's Classification Register, 1889-1894. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Teacher's Daily Register, 1888-1894. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

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Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Teacher's Daily Register, 1904-1909. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Teacher's Daily Register, 1912-1926. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Teacher's Daily Register, 1939-1940. Snokomo School Museum, Wabaunsee County, Kansas.

Wabaunsee County Historical Society. "Souvenir Record of Snokomo School District No. 24." May 18, 1975.

Willard, Jerry. "Snokomo School." National Register nomination drafts, November 1992.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on the SW4, SW4, SW4, NW4, S. 20- T. 12, R. 12E in Wabaunsee County, Kansas on a one acre tract beginning at a point 20' east of the W4, then north 208', east 189', south 208", and west 189' to the point-of-beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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