

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

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 15 1983
date entered DEC 15 1983

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

1. Name

historic Monmouth Park School (D009:11-1) ✓

and/or common Monmouth Park Place

2. Location

street & number 4508 North 33rd Street NA not for publication

city, town Omaha NA vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Douglas code 55

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <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"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> future other: housing

4. Owner of Property

name N-J-D Partnership

street & number 3120 Lake Street

city, town Omaha NA vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Omaha-Douglas County Civic Center

street & number 1819 Farnam

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Omaha Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Omaha City Planning Department

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Monmouth Park School is a two-story over raised basement structure built of brick in a simplified Second Renaissance Revival style. Constructed in 1903 with symmetrical additions built in 1908, distinctive features include the strong tripartite composition, the rusticated basement, serial round-arched windows along the second story, and an intricately articulated brick wall cornice.

Monmouth Park School; 4508 North 33rd Street, constructed in 1904 (wings added in 1908); Thomas Kimball, architect; brick bearing wall construction with wood floors; rectangular (60' x 175') plan; two stories over raised basement; recessed brick courses created rusticated effect of building base; window openings in base are spanned with brick jack arches with brick keystones; tall, wooden double-hung windows with 9 over 9 lights are grouped in fours under a single lintel at the first floor, separated by pilaster-like brick mullions; second floor windows are double-hung with 9 over 9 lights and are grouped in fours to correspond with first floor windows; windows at second level are round-arched and are connected by continuous brick arches above; a brick wall cornice and simple brick parapet top the wall at the north, east and south elevations; south and north elevations detailed like front facade; doors, central entrances on the three elevations are trimmed with stone surrounds and topped with stone cornice supported by stone consoles; the name "Monmouth Park" is inscribed above all three doors; stone used for first floor lintels, second floor window sills, bases and capitals of pilasters, water table between base and first floor and at the point where building meets the ground; rear elevation is devoid of corbel table, parapet and elaborate doorway.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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-	<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 1903; 1908 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Rogers Kimball

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Monmouth Park School derives primary significance from associations with architect Thomas Rogers Kimball, one of Nebraska's premier architectural talents, and as a modest yet well-executed example of the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture.

The northern portion of the present Monmouth Park School site was originally the location of an earlier Monmouth Park School, a two room frame structure built in 1887. It was named after the Monmouth Park addition platted in 1887 when the City boundary was expanded north and west to 48th and Reed streets. Although the area had been platted on paper, actual development was minimal and the early school was surrounded by pastures and cornfields. The staff consisted of one teacher and a principal.

The neighborhood started to develop in the early 1890's with the first construction activity at the nearby Immanuel Hospital and Deaconess' Institute and because of improved access to the area due to expanding streetcar lines and street improvements. By 1893, Ames had been graded to 42nd Street, 34th Avenue had been graded past the Immanuel property from Ames to Fowler, and 30th Street was brick as far north as Ames. In 1897 the streetcar line extended northwest to 36th and Ames.

By the turn of the century the original two room school was not adequate to serve the educational needs of the growing neighborhood. The School Board appropriated funds for a new school during the 1903-04 school year and a new Monmouth Park School opened on November 17, 1904 with 183 pupils and 5 teachers. At that time the school building consisted of the 8 classrooms that comprise the central portion of the present school. In 1908 the structure was expanded to 17 rooms and an auditorium through the addition of north and south wings. The building, as it exists today, is essentially as it was at the completion of the 1908 additions. Monmouth Park School closed in the summer of 1981 and is presently scheduled for conversion to apartments.

Architecturally, Monmouth Park School is significant as an example of the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture and, more importantly, as a work of Thomas Kimball, considered by many to be Nebraska's finest architect. Notable Omaha buildings designed by Kimball include St. Cecilia's Cathedral, the Burlington Headquarters Building, the former Omaha Public Library and the Fontenelle Hotel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Omaha North, Nebraska-Iowa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	5	2	0	5	0	4	5	7	6	0	8	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 Lots 1-3, 24-26 and the vacated alley between them in Block 8, Monmouth Park Addition to the City of Omaha, describing a plot measuring 267 feet north-south by 148 feet east-west; including only the immediate setting for the school and excluding the adjacent graveled playgrounds which will be developed for parking and garages.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
state	NA	code	county	code

state	NA	code	county	code
state	NA	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Meyer, Preservation Planner/D. Murphy, Architect (Technical Editor)
Omaha City Planning/Nebraska State

organization Historical Society date September 1983

street & number 1819 Farnam/ 1500 R Street telephone 444-5208/471-3270

city or town Omaha/ 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 *Morwen D Kneth* date 11/4/83

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

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

Melona Byers Entered in the National Register date 12/15/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Like the popularity of the style across the rest of the United States, Second Renaissance Revival architecture in Nebraska derives from many different sources and is executed with considerable variety in overall effect. Kimball's design for Monmouth Park School provides the bare essence of the style but, in typical Kimball fashion, does so in a manner which provides a dignity which belies its simplicity.

The effect of the composition is greatly enhanced by the simple recess at the point where the wings meet the original central portion of the school. The resultant tripartite composition strengthens associations with the Renaissance Revival which are otherwise only modestly revealed through stylistic treatment.

Kimball's competent treatment of style and form mark the building as an important example of the style--a style which may more appropriately, if not more loosely, described as American Renaissance. In this sense the building gains significance as a product of a period in American architecture which was characterized by a pervasive eclecticism. Architect Kimball referred to the attitude variously as "free classic" or "free Renaissance" (Haynes, 113 ff), and was personally involved with its premier in Nebraska, not only through individual projects such as the Omaha Public Library (1891-94; see NRHP, Omaha, Douglas County) but through large planned developments such as the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition as well (Omaha, 1898).

The following brief account of Kimball's distinguished career is found in the National Register nomination for the Omaha Public Library.

Thomas Rogers Kimball was perhaps Nebraska's premier architectural talent. Born in 1892, near Cincinnati, Ohio, he received advanced education at the University of Nebraska, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Cowles Art School in Boston. He then studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris (1887-88) under various tutors before returning to Boston where the architectural firm of Walker, Kimball and Best was formed. Kimball lived and worked in Boston until 1891 when he opened the branch office in Omaha. He continued in partnership with C. Howard Walker until 1899 when he went into private practice in Omaha. He practiced alone until 1928 when the firm of Kimball, Steele and Sandham was formed. Kimball died in Omaha in 1934.

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Kimball's distinguished career led to his selection as a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects in 1901 and his election as National President from 1918-1920. He was Architect-in-Chief with C. Howard Walker for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha (1898) and acted as professional advisor to the Nebraska State Capitol commission from 1919-1932. In this capacity, he wrote the competition which led to the selection of Bertram Goodhue as architect for the new capitol building (Murphy, 8-2).

Kimball's design for Monmouth Park School is relatively simple and restrained when compared to many of his other buildings. Early newspaper accounts of school board meetings held before and after its construction help to explain the structure's appearance and also provide an interesting glimpse of Kimball's character and reputation. In June of 1904, five months before the school was to open, the school board expressed concern about the cost of Monmouth Park as compared to other schools being built at the time. A meeting between the building committee, the contractor and the architect resulted in a \$5000 savings by scaling down materials and making minor adjustments in construction methods. Two details that were specifically cited were the substitution of common sand brick for the entire building six feet above the ground and the elimination of a proposed copper roof.

At a meeting of the school board approximately a year later, after the completion of the building, architect Kimball and Monmouth Park School were again the subjects of discussion. The building committee was debating whether or not it would be wise to have Kimball draw plans for the new Vinton School. One school board member stated what he felt was the problem. "Mr. Kimball is a first class architect, but he has the reputation of being expensive and contractors say they figure higher on jobs that he supervises." In reply, another member asserted, "That's because he insists upon the specifications being lived up to and the right kind of work." The article concluded with the following statement by a building committee member pertaining to the final design of Monmouth Park School. "The architectural beauty of the building was sacrificed to keep the expense down." This, of course, was an exaggeration. Kimball's fine sense of scale, proportion and composition, as well as his attention to detail and knowledge of architectural style, are all evident in the Monmouth Park School building.

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