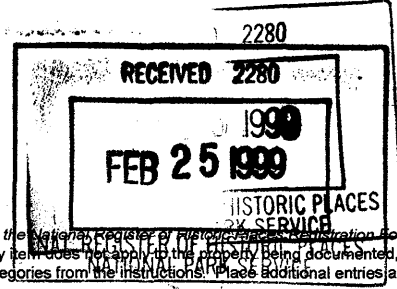


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

391



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 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 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 Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium-Auditorium

other names/site number NeHBS # JF04-469; JF04-108

2. Location

street & number Block between J & K Streets, 7th & 8th Streets

not for publication []

city or town Fairbury

vicinity []

state Nebraska

code NE

county Jefferson

code 095

zip code 68352

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

2/18/99
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or 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 this 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): _____

[Signature]

3/25/99

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
3	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)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instruction)

EDUCATION/school/technical school
RECREATION/auditorium/sports facility

WORK IN PROGRESS
EDUCATION/other: district offices/maintenance bldg
RECREATION/auditorium, sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival
Modernistic

foundation concrete
 walls brick, limestone

 roof asphalt
 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.)

- 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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1923-1948

Significant Dates

1923, 1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fiske & Meginnis

Davis-Wilson

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 for Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Four acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	655780	4444560	3.			
2.				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 Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date August 1998

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402.471.4787

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium Auditorium
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Fairbury Junior-Senior High School, Manual Arts Building, and the Gymnasium-Auditorium are located on an entire city block in a residential area of Fairbury, Nebraska. The Jefferson County seat, Fairbury is located approximately 90 miles southwest of Lincoln, the state capitol. The Junior-Senior High School and the Manual Arts Building were both constructed in 1923. The combination Gymnasium-Auditorium was built in 1947-1948 and is connected to the Manual Arts Building by a small one story (1984) addition. All of the buildings are constructed of brick with concrete and/or limestone details and ornamentation. The nomination consists of the two contributing buildings, one non-contributing building (the Manual Arts Building) and one contributing structure, a 2 -3 foot high concrete block retaining wall located on the west and south sides of the property.

The Fairbury Junior-Senior High School, Manual Arts Building, and Gymnasium-Auditorium are located on the same city block in a residential area of the city approximately six blocks northeast of the downtown commercial district and courthouse square (National Register, 1996). The three buildings occupy an entire city block between J and K, 7th and 8th streets. The school block is on a rise, lending the buildings a visual prominence. The adjacent streets are brick paved and the neighborhood is comprised of well maintained late 19th and early to mid-20th century houses.

The Jr.-Sr. High school building occupies approximately half of the block and was completed in 1923. The school is located in the center of the block, its main facade facing west. The west and south edges of the school grounds are bordered by a rusticated concrete block retaining wall which varies from 2-3 feet in height and is considered a contributing structure. The lawn features mature deciduous and coniferous trees, some with memorial plaques embedded in the ground. Ornamental shrubs and bushes are scattered through the grounds and a privet hedge flanks the main sidewalk entrance on the west side.

The prominent siting and expansive grounds surrounding the Jr.Sr High School indicate that it, along with the 1923 Manual Arts building at the northwest corner of the block, were the only educational structures intended for the site. The combination Gymnasium-Auditorium was built on the east half of the block in 1947 with its main facade facing east. Given the spatial limitations of the block the rear facades of the Jr./Sr. and Gymnasium-Auditorium are separated by a wide concrete sidewalk. The proximity of the three buildings on the block was reinforced by connecting the Manual Arts building and the Gymnasium-Auditorium with a one story brick addition in 1984.

The three buildings are described as follows:

1923 Junior/Senior High School (photos: 1,2,3,5) The 1923 combination Jr./Sr. high school is a large two story red brick irregular shaped building with raised basement. Typical of schools constructed during the 1920's in Nebraska, the Fairbury Jr./Sr. high is a brick, multiple story rectangular shaped building with multi-paned, symmetrical fenestration. Given its function as a combined Jr./Sr. High school, in a prosperous county seat community, the basic form of the Fairbury school is enhanced by architectural details suggestive of the Georgian Revival style. The main entrance for example, features a concrete facing that extends to the roof line. Three round arch windows are located above the main entrance on the second story. The main entrance is a wide, recessed round arch. Fenestration on the main facade features four paired multi-paned windows offset with concrete lintels. Concrete belt courses are located between each story on all facades.

The Fairbury Jr./Sr. High is further distinguished from the basic masonry school form with its gymnasium/auditorium, located at the rear or east facade of the building. The area includes locker rooms and classroom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium Auditorium
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 7 Page 2

space, extends from basement level to the roof giving it an irregular form. The rear facade is irregular shaped, to accommodate the full story auditorium and adjacent classrooms.

The school was used for its original purpose until 1989 when a new high school was completed. The building was then vacant until 1996 when it was purchased by a local non-profit organization that has been restoring it for use as community center. Although some interior deterioration occurred during the school's period of vacancy, it retains many features such as auditorium seats, stage, built-in cupboards, blackboards, and woodwork. The exterior exhibits a high degree of integrity. In its prominent location, the 1923 Junior-Senior High School conveys a strong sense of its historic importance to the community.

1923 Manual Arts Building, Non-contributing (photos: 4,5) The Manual Arts building is located east and slightly north of the 1923 school, occupying the northeast corner of the block. A doorway located on the east facade of the 1923 school opens to a sidewalk which extends northeast to the Manual Arts building. The simple, one story rectangular shaped red brick building was also completed in 1923. The main entrance is centrally located on the west facade of the building, flanked by two large windows. Four large windows were located on the north facade with additional windows and an opening on the east facade. The building is considered non-contributing because the windows have been in-filled and the east entrance has been substantially altered. The building is still owned by School District #8 and is used as a shop/maintenance building.

1947 Gymnasium-Auditorium (photos: 5,6,7) The large two story blonde brick combination gymnasium-auditorium occupies almost the entire east half of the school block. The Gymnasium-Auditorium's main entrance faces east; its rear addition is separated from the 1923 Jr. Sr. High School by a wide concrete sidewalk. The large rectangular shaped building, completed in 1947, has modernistic style details. The main entrance features two foot high metal letters at the second story level: "Fairbury Schools Gymnasium ad.1947." The entrance features a limestone surround, half round light, and asymmetrically placed doors.

The west and south facades have band windows on the second level with limestone surrounds. On the first level of the south facade, the former classroom space features tall windows surrounded with blue slate and limestone. Although these windows have been partially in-filled, this alteration does not adversely effect the rhythm that the punctuation of the fenestration projects. The building is still considered to be contributing.

The interior of the building contains the combination gymnasium/auditorium which consists of a stage area located at the north end of the gymnasium space with integral concrete benches along the south wall. The building is still used for gymnasium purposes while the former classrooms now serve as offices.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium Auditorium
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The 1923 Fairbury Junior Senior High School and Manual Arts Building, and the 1947 Gymnasium-Auditorium are being nominated to the National Register on the local level of significance under Criteria A for their association with education. The three buildings reflect the changes in educational needs of the city of Fairbury. The period of significance, 1923-1948, encompasses the date of construction for the Junior-Senior High and Manual Arts Building through completion of the 1947 Gymnasium-Auditorium.

Fairbury, the Jefferson County seat, is located in southeastern Nebraska. Platted in 1869, the town was located on branch lines of two major railroads: the Union Pacific and the Burlington. The community's first school was built in 1871. By 1880, the population was 1,600 and a combination elementary and high school building had been constructed along with two ward schools. During the next decade Fairbury's population continued to grow, due in part to its designation as the Western Division point for the Rock Island Railroad. This designation, along with Fairbury's county seat status and importance as a regional trade center, resulted in a population of 3,140 by the turn of the century.

In the meantime the community had outgrown its existing school buildings. In 1903, a new high school was constructed. Within a decade, however, the building was insufficient for the city's educational needs. Rather than construct a new junior-senior high school the city purchased the old hospital building and grounds on the block between 7th and 8th, J and K Streets for \$13,000. The former hospital was then remodeled for use as classrooms.

Within a decade, however, the former hospital was inadequate for the city's educational needs. In January 1923, construction of a new junior-senior high school was proposed. School board members visited schools in nearby towns to gather ideas for an appropriate design. The architectural firm of Fiske and Meginnis of Lincoln developed plans for the building which were presented to the community through a bond issue in February, 1923. The new school at a proposed cost of \$200,000, would be a brick, rectangular-shaped, two story structure with raised basement. The building would feature an auditorium and stage extending from first to second floors. The basement would contain mechanical systems, cafeteria, gymnasium, and locker rooms. A separate Manual Arts building on the same block would contain classrooms and laboratories.

After the bond issue passed in February, 1923, construction began in late summer of the same year. Since the new buildings would be constructed on the site of the old hospital, it would be demolished and materials salvaged wherever possible (*Fairbury Journal* 8-9-1923). In the meantime, the school district rented classroom space in downtown Fairbury. Following the demolition of the former hospital building, construction proceeded rapidly.

The new Jr. Sr. High School and Manual Arts building were completed for the 1924 school year. The formal dedication of the two buildings occurred during Education Week in November of that year. During this week local citizens were encouraged to visit the school during the day, and at night, to inspect the new buildings. The formal dedication occurred during the week with over 1,000 in attendance.

The buildings were praised in the local newspaper, particularly the stage-gymnasium in the Jr. Sr. High which was described as a "unique feature". The large stage served both for athletic events and entertainment with audience seating in the large auditorium. This multiple use design it was reported was "new in school architecture" and "works out the greatest possible economy in the building." (*Fairbury Journal* 8-21-1924)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium Auditorium

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Twenty four years later, in 1947, Fairbury had once again outgrown its existing educational facilities. The city would reach its peak population of 6,395 in 1950. The student population had witnessed an even greater increase due to the number of rural students who attended high school in Fairbury. A bond issue was raised for a combination auditorium-gymnasium to be constructed on the same city block as the existing junior-senior high school and manual arts building.

Similar to the stage-gymnasium in the 1923 building, the new structure was intended to be an efficient and economical use of space. Further, the new gymnasium-auditorium was expected to seat 2,000 people. Unlike the 1923 building, however, the audience seating was on the gymnasium floor, supplemented by concrete benches along the south wall. The building was designed by the Lincoln architectural firm of Davis Wilson. During the period between 1946 and 1950 the firm would design as new buildings, or additions, combination gymnasium-auditoriums in Osceola, Crete, and North Platte.

The new building was completed in the fall of 1948 and the newspaper called it "disappointing" noting that it was "essentially a gymnasium." (*Fairbury Journal* 2-17-1949). One year later, in 1949, the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) would discuss combination gymnasium-auditoriums in its year book. The AASA also noted that such combination buildings were undesirable since they could not fulfill either intended function adequately. It was also noted, however, that such buildings would continued to be constructed, due to financial necessity. (AASA, 1949)

The city of Fairbury however, was well served by the combined functions of the building. Given the growth of the community at the time, this multiple use building was considered a necessity and served its purpose well. The 1947 Gymnasium-Auditorium, along with the 1923 Jr./Sr. High School and Manual Arts Building continued to serve the educational needs of Fairbury until 1989 when a new Jr. Sr. High school was built.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairbury Jr/Sr High School & Gymnasium Auditorium

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9-10 Page 1

Bibliography

American School Buildings. 27th Yearbook of the American Association of School Administrators. (Washington, DC: National Education Association, 1949).

Carpenter, Estaline: *Friendly Fairbury: A History of Fairbury, Nebraska* (Jefferson County Historical Society, 1981).

Griffing, Dale; Burchfield, Gary, *Pages of History: Nebraska High Schools Present and Past, Public and Private, 1854-1994*. (Lincoln, NE: The Society, 1994).

Newspaper:

The Fairbury Journal, 1922-1949.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is a tract of land describes as follows, all of Block 1 McDowell's First Addition to the City of Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the tract of land historically associated the three school buildings.