

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

# 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 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 Baxter Springs High School

Other names/site number Baxter Springs Middle School; KHRI # 021-0390-00006

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Public Schools of Kansas

## 2. Location

Street & number 1520 Cleveland Avenue N/A not for publication

City or town Baxter Springs N/A vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Cherokee Code 021 Zip code 66713

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Patrick Zollner Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date 6-19-14

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8-8-14

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Name of Property

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County and State

**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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	<b>Total</b>

**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.)

EDUCATION: school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Classical Revival  
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Moderne  
No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone  
walls: BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: ASPHALT  
other: SYNTHETIC  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## **Narrative Description**

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### **SUMMARY**

The Baxter Springs High School at 1520 Cleveland Avenue in Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas, is as an excellent example of a Progressive Era City High School with a New Deal Era addition, as defined by the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Public Schools of Kansas" (MPDF). The original school (1918), gymnasium/auditorium addition (1939) and adjacent Industrial Arts Building (1964) occupy a 3.0 acre lot in a residential neighborhood southeast of the central business district. The main two-story rectangular block, constructed in 1918, has bilateral symmetry and faces west. It has a raised basement and a flat roof. Brick cladding with limestone details covers the concrete and steel structure. Details such as brick pilasters with carved capitals, projecting limestone entrances, and a decorative cornice express elements of the Classical Revival style. A double-loaded U-shaped corridor organizes the interior on three levels. It is flanked by classrooms, offices and the stacked auditorium and original gymnasium. Interior finishes, including plaster walls and ceilings, are extant. The 1939 block extends from the east (rear) elevation of the 1918 block. Housing gymnasium and auditorium spaces, this block has brick cladding and a concrete foundation. A distinctive barrel-vaulted roof covers the gymnasium; a flat roof covers the auditorium. Concrete lintel courses, curved knee walls and stepped brick pilasters reference the Art Moderne style. Metal trusses spanning the barrel-vaulted ceiling define the interior of the gymnasium. The auditorium retains its original carved wood proscenium. Original glazed block walls and terrazzo and wood floors are intact on the interior. The one-story Industrial Arts Building was built just south of the school in 1964. It has brick walls, a gable roof, and utilitarian finishes befitting its function. Overall, the property retains good integrity. Each phase of the Baxter Springs High school clearly expresses the educational and architectural philosophies that shaped its period of construction.

### **ELABORATION**

#### **SETTING**

The Baxter Springs High School occupies an entire city block bounded by Cleveland Avenue on the west, 15<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, Chouteau Avenue on the east, and 16<sup>th</sup> Street on the south. Single-family residences dominate the surrounding neighborhood. Two blocks to the west is Military Avenue, a commercial corridor that runs north to the downtown commercial district, approximately five blocks northwest of the school. Military Avenue was a historic alignment of Route 66.

The original building with its 1939 addition sits near the center of the block and faces west. An asphalt driveway accessed from the east boundary extends west along the south side of the building. An asphalt parking area with a concrete sidewalk and retaining wall is inset from the street along the Cleveland Avenue in front of the school. The sidewalk continues around the north and east perimeters of the lot. Smaller concrete sidewalks lead to each of the building entrances. Mature deciduous trees line the west and north elevations of the 1918 block. An open lawn fills the remainder of the property.

South of the main school is the 1964 Industrial Arts Building (*Photo 5, 8*). A concrete sidewalk with a corrugated metal awning connects it to the entrance in the south elevation of the 1918 block.

#### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Baxter Springs High School represents three distinct building campaigns. The 1918 block has a two-story rectangular plan comprised of classrooms and an original auditorium. The 1939 block has a rectangular footprint that contains separate gymnasium and auditorium spaces. The 1964 Industrial Arts building is a one-story rectangular mass that contains a cafeteria and classroom workshops.

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1918 BLOCK

*Exterior*

The two-story block has a rectangular plan with bilateral symmetry on the primary, west elevation (*Photo 1*). Quarry-faced limestone clads the raised basement. Brick clads the upper floors. A flat roof with a parapet caps the building. An exterior chimney rises on the east elevation near the northeast corner of the building. Wide bands of windows define the fenestration on each elevation. Ornament at the entrances, windows and cornice subtly evokes the Classical Revival style.

Five blocks organize the west elevation (*Photo 1*). From the north, two brick pilasters rise from dressed limestone bases to the second floor on each side of the first block. The carved capitals have three vertical strips that descend seamlessly from the projecting cornice onto the face of the pilasters. A non-historic aluminum storefront window system fills the single openings that pierce each floor of this block. The fenestration is configured as four two-light "windows." Single-hung sashes with tinted glass fill the bottom half of the two center windows within this configuration. Opaque panels fill the remaining "sashes" of the opening.

The second block has three bays. The first bay has a single opening with paired windows. Single-hung sashes fill the bottom half; opaque panels fill the upper half. The second bay has a single band of five windows. The second and fourth windows have single-hung sashes in the lower half. Opaque panels fill the remaining openings. The third bay has a single opening filled with paired windows. Single-hung sashes fill the bottom half of the north window; opaque panels fill the remainder of the opening.

The third block projects slightly from the façade and contains the main entrance at the ground level (*Photo 6*). It has more decorative elements reflective of the Classical Revival Style. Brick pilasters rise from the basement to the second floor on each side of the block. They have dressed limestone bases and capitals that match those on the first block. The block terminates in a triangular pediment with modillions and a wide frieze. Smaller brick pilasters with carved limestone capitals support a limestone entablature above the main entrance. The entablature has brackets and carved molding with "1918 High School" sculpted in the upper frieze. An arched limestone frame with exaggerated keystone surrounds the main entrance. Non-historic glazed aluminum doors flanked by narrow sidelights access the building. Opaque panels fill the upper portion of the arched opening. A single window above the entrance has a carved limestone surround and a fixed window in the lower half and an opaque panel in the upper half.

The fourth block mirrors the second block. The fifth block is identical to the first block.

The north elevation has six bays that rise from the basement to the second floor (*Photo 3*). Brick pilasters, identical to those on the west elevation, rise at each end of the facade. From the east, the first bay has a band of four windows. Single-hung sashes with fill the bottom half of the two center windows. Opaque panels fill the remainder of the opening. The second bay has a single opening with paired windows. Single-hung sashes fill the bottom half of the opening; opaque panels fill the upper half. The third bay has a single fixed window in the bottom half and an opaque panel in the upper half. The fourth bay contains a secondary entrance at the ground level. Brick pilasters with capitals similar to those on the west elevation and a carved limestone entablature with brackets frame the entrance. The opening has a segmental arch lintel with an exaggerated limestone keystone. Non-historic paired aluminum doors capped with an opaque panel fill the opening. A tall paired window rises above the entrance between the first and second floors. It has a carved limestone frame with an exaggerated keystone and elaborate side brackets. Three limestone frames adorn the spandrel beneath the opening. Fixed sashes fill the bottom third of the opening; opaque panels fill the upper two-thirds. Continuing west, the fifth bay has a single-hung window in the bottom half and an opaque panel in the upper half. The sixth bay has a band of four windows. Single-hung sashes with fill the bottom half of the two center windows. Opaque panels fill the remainder of the opening.

The south elevation nearly mirrors the north (*Photo 2*). The opening in the second bay from the west is filled entirely with opaque panels. The band of four windows in the sixth bay has single-hung sashes in the lower half and opaque panels in the upper half. A metal awning over the entrance connects this elevation to the adjacent outbuilding.

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Construction of the 1939 addition covered the first story of the original east elevation. A two-story block projects slightly from near the center of the façade. Single openings pierce the side walls of this block. On the adjacent walls of the main building, second floor emergency exits access metal fire escapes. Bands of four openings are at the north and south ends of this elevation. Asymmetrically arranged single openings pierce the wall between these openings and the center block.

On all elevations, the first and second floor openings have limestone sills that extend vertically on each end, forming a cup around the base of the fenestration. Fenestration patterns at the basement level are identical to the upper floors. Opaque panels fill most basement openings. One basement openings on the north elevation is filled with brick. A garage entrance with a metal overhead door accesses the basement on the south elevation.

A projecting synthetic stucco cornice with modillions and a wide frieze encircles the building at the parapet. The original cornice was removed at an unknown date and replicated in 2013. Four brick soldier courses ornament the building walls on all facades. Two have projecting brick stringcourses and run above the first and second floor windows. The other two are flush with the top of the sills of the first and second floor windows. A dressed limestone water table caps the quarry-faced limestone foundation.

### *Interior*

The interior plan retains the original configuration of spaces and historic finishes. A U-shaped, double loaded corridor organizes the interior on the first and second floors (*Photo 10*). Classrooms and offices line the outer perimeter of the corridor (*Photo 12*). The auditorium fills the space in the center of the “U” at the first story (*Photo 13*). The auditorium balcony at the second story has been removed. Classrooms and restrooms line both sides of a straight, double-loaded corridor in the basement. The gymnasium sits directly below the auditorium at this level.

The auditorium retains its carved wood proscenium, wood paneling on the face of the stage, and sloped floor with historic wood seats. Lightwells with windows on the north and south auditorium walls were enclosed at an early, unknown date. Restrooms have been added in the lightwells on the first floor. The second story lightwell space is unfinished.

The original gymnasium and locker rooms are sunken below the level of the basement corridor. The gymnasium has concrete floors, wall and ceilings and now functions as storage space.

Three historic U-shaped staircases rise from the basement to the second floor (*Photo 9*). One is at the center of the west wall. The other two are at the north and south ends of the main corridor. All have concrete structures with composite treads. Original plaster knee walls with wood caps and non-historic wood railings flank the stairs.

Historic plaster walls and ceilings are intact throughout the building. Windows openings retain their historic design with simple plaster returns and no wood casings. Concrete floors are exposed. Two small closets on the second floor have original raised wood floors. Non-historic metal doors with metal frames access the classrooms. Some original wood trim and doors are extant in the basement. Windows have non-historic faux-marble sills.

### 1939 ADDITION

#### *Exterior*

The 1939 addition extends east from the 1918 block. It has a concrete foundation, brick cladding, and subtle Art Moderne details (*Photo 3*). Two distinct blocks compose the massing. The barrel-vaulted west block contains the gymnasium. The flat-roofed east block housed an auditorium.

The north elevation of the gymnasium block has eight bays (*Photo 7*). From the west, the first and second bays each have a single opening. A projecting concrete lintel with rounded corners spans both openings. An entrance fills the third bay. It has concrete steps with a curved concrete knee wall and metal railing. Flanking brick wing walls support a concrete canopy with Art Moderne details. “Auditorium, Gymnasium, 1939” is incised and painted on the front of the canopy. Paired aluminum glazed doors with sidelights access the building at this location. Opaque panels fill openings surrounding the doors. The fourth, fifth and sixth bays each contain a single opening. A single projecting concrete lintel, similar to the

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east bays, extends across these openings. Shallow concrete steps lead to another entrance in the seventh bay. It has a simple concrete canopy similar to the window lintel and a concrete surround. A single aluminum glazed door with sidelights and an opaque transom fills this entry. A single opening in the eighth bay has the same concrete lintel. Two-over-one windows with sliding upper sashes fill each of the window openings on this elevation. All have brick sills.

A small, one-story addition extends from the south (rear) elevation of the gymnasium block (*Photo 4*). It has a very low-pitched shed roof and is clad entirely in brick with no openings. Entrances flanking this access the gymnasium block.

The auditorium block extends west from the gymnasium. It is a double-height one-story volume (*Photos 3, 4*). The north elevation terminates in a concrete parapet. The gabled parapet has an extremely low pitch and a ribbed face. Stepped brick pilasters rise from the foundation to the parapet at each end of the north wall. They have concrete bases and stepped concrete caps. The only openings that pierce this elevation are two small vents symmetrically placed near the top of the wall. The long, projecting concrete lintel runs spans the wall above the vents.

The east elevation of the auditorium block has seven bays created by stepped brick pilasters with cast stone bases and caps (*Photo 4*). They rise from the foundation to the parapet between each bay and at each end of the wall. The wall terminates in a straight brick parapet with a cast stone cap. A cast stone stringcourse runs at the base of the parapet connecting the cast stone caps of the pilasters. From the south, the first bay has two single openings at the basement and first floor. The second bay contains an entrance at the ground level with a single opening above. A curved concrete hood surmounts the paired metal doors. Tall, narrow paired openings fill bays three through five. The sixth bay contains a raised entrance, accessed via concrete steps with curved concrete knee walls. A curved concrete hood surmounts the paired metal doors. A small opening pierces the wall above the entrance. The seventh bay has no openings. Historic metal windows with multi-light sashes fill each window opening. All have projecting brick sills.

The south elevation has a minimal ornamentation. It terminates in a straight brick parapet with a cast stone cap. Two cast stone framed scuppers pierce the center of the parapet. Metal gutters and drainpipes descend beneath these openings. Brick pilasters, similar to the west elevation, rise at each corner of the wall. A non-historic exhaust fan projects from the center of the façade. Single openings with brick sills pierce the first floor at the either end of the elevation. A three-light metal window fills the west opening; an opaque panel fills the east opening. Beneath these at the basement level are single openings filled with opaque panels. At the center of the elevation, two separate concrete stairwells with concrete curbs and metal railings access basement entrances. A single metal door fills each entrance.

The first floor of the west elevation abuts the gymnasium block. Above this line, nine regularly spaced brick pilasters, matching those on the east elevation, extend across the façade. This elevation is devoid of fenestration.

#### *Interior*

As on the exterior, the interior of the 1939 addition is organized as two distinct spaces. A corridor runs the length of the north wall of the gymnasium block inside the entrance (*Photo 11*). Steps near the west end of the corridor lead up to the 1918 school. A slight ramp on the east end leads to the auditorium. Historic wood doors set in wood frames access interior rooms and exits on the north side of the corridor; those on the south side access the gymnasium. Historic finishes include ochre-colored glazed block walls and terrazzo floors. The original plaster ceiling, built-in wood trophy cases, and wood-framed ticket windows are also intact.

The gymnasium is a large open space with a character-defining barrel-vaulted ceiling (*Photo 14*). Metal trusses span the ceiling, while smaller wood trusses run the length of the room beneath the wood ceiling. The historic finishes, including ochre-colored glazed blocks on the walls and wood floor, are intact. Rows of concrete bleachers rise on the north and south sides of the gymnasium. One set of doors at the southwest corner accesses the auditorium. A second set of doors in that corner and a set in the southeast corner access the south addition. Brick fills window openings on the south wall of the gymnasium that are now obscured by the addition. The addition contains locker rooms and bathrooms with concrete masonry unit walls and concrete floors.

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The auditorium in the west block of the 1939 addition now functions as a secondary gymnasium (*Photo 15*). A raised, level plywood floor, covered with carpet, conceals the original sloped concrete floor. Wood stairs at the southwest and southeast corners lead down to exits and to the basement. The original plaster is intact beneath paneling on the east and west walls. Historic beams articulate the distinct barrel-vaulted ceiling. Acoustical tiles are suspended from the original ceiling surface between the beams. The proscenium and curved stage are intact on the south wall, although a drywall partition fills the lower portion of the opening. Paired wood doors access the stage. Historic concrete bleachers rise along the north wall.

#### INDUSTRIAL ARTS BUILDING

##### *Exterior*

The one-story Industrial Arts Building has a rectangular plan (*Photo 8*). Brick veneer clads the concrete block structure. Corrugated metal clads the low-pitched front gable roof. The metal extends down to form a "cornice" on the north, west and south façades. Corrugated metal clads the entire east elevation. A concrete porch with a metal awning spans the primary (west) elevation. The awning extends north and connects to the 1918 block to shelter students passing between buildings.

The west elevation has four asymmetrical bays. The first three bays have a single opening that extends the height of the façade. The first and third bays have a fixed aluminum widow in the center, with opaque panels above and below. Opaque panels fill the entire second bay. The fourth bay contains an entrance on the north side and six fixed aluminum windows on the south side. Glazed aluminum doors with a transom access building.

The north elevation has eight bays. The metal awning from the west elevation continues across this façade. From the east, the first bay has a band of four fixed aluminum windows; the second bay has a single metal door. Bay three has a band of five fixed aluminum windows. Bay four has wide opening filled with opaque panels. Bay five has a single metal door with glazing; bay six has a single metal door. Bays seven and eight have single openings with fixed aluminum windows.

Six bays divide the east elevation. From the south, bays one, three and four have a single opening filled with an opaque panel. Mechanical ductwork connecting to air conditioning units fills bays two and five. Bay six has a single large opening. Non-historic paneling, pierced with a single door fills the opening.

Five bays organize the south elevation. From the west, the first bay has a band of four windows. Bays two and four have a shorter band of five windows. Bay three has a shorter band of four windows. Two separate sets of mechanical ductwork connected to air conditioning units pierce west side of the elevation.

All of the windows have fixed aluminum sashes with brick sills.

##### *Interior*

The interior configuration retains flexible, open spaces, in keeping with the original design. Historic concrete masonry unit and historic and non-historic drywall partitions divide the interior into three large, open spaces that house a computer laboratory, a music room and a cafeteria. The spaces do not connect on the interior; a separate exterior entrance accesses each. The historic plan divided the building into two main spaces. This changed slightly with the addition of drywall partitions at an unknown date. Original dropped ceiling grids cover the ceiling throughout the building. Floors have asphalt tile and carpet with vinyl base molding. Exterior walls are painted concrete masonry units. Metal and wood doors in wood frames access small closets and storage spaces.

#### **INTEGRITY**

Baxter Springs High School retains all aspects of integrity and is an intact example of a Progressive Era City High School with a New Deal Era addition and education related support structure, as defined by the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Public Schools of Kansas." In accordance with the registration requirements for MPDF, each phase of Baxter Springs High School retains its original massing and exterior form, roof form, original building materials, pattern of

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window and door openings, and basic interior configuration. Still in its original location and setting, the building stands on a wide, open lot within a residential neighborhood. The design, materials and workmanship of the multiple building campaigns illustrate their respective periods of construction. The original 1918 block documents the changes manifest in educational buildings during the Progressive Era. The exterior references the Classical Revival style, with details including the carved limestone entrances and pilasters, while remaining true to the utilitarian function of the property type. The interior configuration of rooms around a U-shaped corridor and the original auditorium and gymnasium spaces are substantially intact. Original plaster walls and ceilings are exposed throughout the block. The walls and ceilings had simple treatment with little applied trim. Window openings have plaster returns rather than wood casings. The 1939 block evokes the ideals of modern architectural design that characterized the New Deal Era. Restrained use of Art Moderne elements is particularly evident in the stepped brick pilasters, concrete lintel course and entrance canopy. The Industrial Arts building displays the typical utilitarian elements of the property sub-type, with simple brick and corrugated metal cladding, asymmetrical fenestration and an absence of stylistic features. Its low, one-story form and banded fenestration are in keeping with the design aesthetic for public school facilities constructed in the mid-twentieth century. Overall, the Baxter Springs High School retains feelings about and communicates associations with the educational and design philosophies that shaped the Kansas Public School Buildings during each period of construction.

The most notable alteration to the 1918 block was the removal of the cornice. Prior to submittal of this nomination the current (new) owners replicated the missing element using a synthetic stucco material. The profile and dimensions of the new cornice were developed from physical evidence on the building, historic photographs, and original architectural plans.

Notable interior alterations to the 1918 block include enclosing the lightwells flanking the auditorium; replacing doors and windows; removing original floor finishes; and renovating restrooms. Most of these changes were made within the past twenty years. Alterations to the 1939 block include construction of the locker room addition on the south elevation; conversion of the auditorium into multi-purpose space; and installation of dropped ceiling and wall panels. Changes to the 1964 Industrial Arts Building are minimal and include brick infill of some former entrances and windows on the secondary north and south elevations; reconfiguration of interior partitions; and the installation of ductwork on the east and south elevations. Following the registration requirements outlined in the MPDF, these changes are common among schools across the state and were necessary for the building to continue its educational function. As such, they do not compromise the overall integrity of the resource.

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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**

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1918-1964

**Significant Dates**

1918

1939, 1964

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Overton, B.C. (architect and builder, 1918)

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the date of construction for the original building and ends in 1964 with the construction of the Industrial Arts Building.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

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### SUMMARY

Baxter Springs High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It has local significance in the areas of EDUCATION and ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in three separate building campaigns between 1918 and 1964, it documents the evolving educational and design philosophies that characterized Kansas public schools during each period of construction. As described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Public Schools of Kansas" (MPDF), the original block is an excellent example of a Progressive Era City High School that was augmented with the addition of a New Deal Era auditorium/gymnasium in 1939 and construction of a support structure for Industrial Arts education in 1964. Purpose-built as a secondary school, Baxter Springs High School features subtle stylistic references to the Classical Revival (1918) and Art Moderne (1939) design idioms. The Industrial Arts building was a purely functional design, devoid of architectural references. In accordance with the MPDF registration requirements, the school retains its historic form, massing, primary building materials, fenestration patterns, ornamentation, and interior configuration. Like many schools in small Kansas cities, the original building was enhanced with the construction of a larger, modern gymnasium and auditorium in 1939. This addition echoes both the educational and architectural philosophies of its period of construction. Construction of the Industrial Arts building in 1964, an education-related structure distinguished by its original function, completed the evolution of the educational complex. The nominated property was the first purpose-built secondary school in Baxter Springs and served an educational function until 2013. As such, Baxter Springs High School is a significant local landmark. It is also a rare surviving example of the Progressive Era City High School property type, being one of only two extant high school buildings from this period in Cherokee County. Representing three of the major periods of school facility development, Baxter Springs High School enhances our understanding of education history in Kansas.

The period of significance begins in 1918 with construction of the main school building and ends in 1964 with construction of the Industrial Arts Building. The MPDF defines the period of significance as 1884-1955, the end date determined by the arbitrary fifty-year cut off. The Industrial Arts Building is fifty years of age and is evaluated for its significance as part of the nominated property. The Industrial Arts Building is a contributing resource to the nomination based on its integrity and the significance of its function. It is significant for documenting the patterns of development that characterized the Modern School System in the post-World War II era and as an essential physical component to the continued function of the Baxter Springs High School. As such, it played an important role in the educational program of the Baxter Springs school district during the latter half of the twentieth century.

### ELABORATION

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS

The high school, as a distinct institution, evolved from normal training and manual training programs and spurred improvements in the overall educational curriculum. In the earliest years of the Kansas Public School system, high schools were not common in rural communities such as Baxter Springs. The state strove to develop county high school curricula in the late nineteenth century. These were soon adopted by local school districts following passage of new state laws enacted in the early 1900s.<sup>1</sup> The Barnes Act, passed in 1905, encouraged the establishment of free high schools in small towns or rural counties by levying taxes specifically for this purpose. The Rural High Schools Act of 1915 augmented the earlier legislation by allowing school districts to extend across county lines. Second and third class cities and rural counties across Kansas quickly responded. As a result, student enrollment in high school programs doubled in the years between 1912 and 1918. Stricter requirements for attendance also supported enrollment at the high school level.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Brenda Spencer, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," (Wamego, Kansas, 2005), E-11.

<sup>2</sup> Spencer, E-20.

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It was during this period, that Baxter Springs established its first four year high school in 1918.<sup>3</sup> As the first high school in Baxter Springs, the building ushered in a new era of education in the city. It offered an expanded curriculum, supported by specialized classrooms and enhanced facilities, which allowed students to advance their educational goals. The grand exterior design and the prominent site, occupying a full city block, Baxter Springs High School represented the pride of the community and the high value they placed on quality instruction.

Concurrent with the emergence of the high school, Progressive Era reforms were influencing programs in schools across the country. New educational philosophies defined the era, which began around 1900 and lasted until 1930 in Kansas. Educational reformers promoted a comprehensive program that supported the cultural, academic, and physical health of students. They also addressed sanitation and safety issues, such as proper ventilation and fire safety. As the Progressive Era developed, so too did the standardization movement, which sought to regulate faculty qualifications, instruction and educational materials. Specific courses in domestic science, physical education, as well as established manual and vocational training courses became a customary part of the high school curriculum.<sup>4</sup> These basic tenets of the era generated innovations in the design and construction of public schools which incorporated specific classroom and recreational spaces into their plans.

As the Progressive Era came to a close, the New Deal Era shaped the principles of Kansas Public Schools from 1930 through the end of World War II. It marked one of the greatest periods of public school expansion in Kansas, funded largely by federal programs, such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA).<sup>5</sup> Nationwide, education-related facilities represent the largest number of construction projects completed by these programs.<sup>6</sup> With the advent of these programs, the emphasis of school design shifted from interior configuration to exterior style. The modern architectural movements of the period, Art Deco and Art Moderne, characterize these buildings, which feature simple forms, the use of concrete and metal, and minimal, highly stylized decoration.<sup>7</sup> As occurred in many communities, Baxter Springs leveraged available New Deal funds to augment their existing high school building, adding larger gymnasium and auditorium spaces.

Patterns of design changed again in the years following World War II, initiating the Modern School System that characterizes schools to this day. Larger school buildings with minimal architectural ornament became the prevailing design in an intense nationwide building campaign necessitated by the Baby Boom of the 1950s. Plans often included entire school complexes with multiple buildings.<sup>8</sup> Modern School System buildings were typically sprawling one-story forms with flexible floor plans that utilized new materials and technologies. Banded windows and minimal ornament characterized the exterior of school facilities. The large open interior spaces and modern aluminum siding of the 1964 Industrial Arts Building exemplify these trends further connecting Baxter Springs High School to the evolving Kansas Public School System and to national trends. In the 1960s, mandated consolidation efforts brought organizational changes to rural and city schools alike as new schools were constructed and others closed. City high schools from this period were often built in developing suburban areas away from the town center.<sup>9</sup> Echoing this trend, the Baxter Springs school board constructed a new high school north of downtown in 1975 and converted the Baxter Springs High School into a junior high school.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROPERTY TYPE**

Baxter Springs High School is a rare surviving example of the City High School property type in Cherokee County, Kansas. Each of the three building components illustrates the philosophies of education and design from its distinct period of construction. The 1918 block of the Baxter Springs High School is a rare intact example of the high school sub-type of the city school property type from the Progressive Era. The 1939 block presents the primary features of New Deal Era

<sup>3</sup> Spencer, E-11.

<sup>4</sup> Spencer, E-18- 19.

<sup>5</sup> Spencer, E-12.

<sup>6</sup> Spencer, E- 23.

<sup>7</sup> Spencer, E-23.

<sup>8</sup> Spencer, E-24.

<sup>9</sup> Spencer, E-25.

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construction. Similarly, the 1964 Industrial Arts Building reflects the characteristics of education-related structures from the post-World War II period.

The original 1918 Baxter Springs High School building illustrates the principles of design, function, and utility that were common to public school buildings constructed during this era. Like the Baxter Springs High School, city high schools often resembled their grade school counterparts. They were one- to two-story masonry structures with a generally rectangular massing.<sup>10</sup> Double-loaded corridors had a T, I, H, or U shaped-plan. Most had a gymnasium, a cafeteria and an auditorium. The buildings had symmetrical façades with a prominent central entrance and a flat roof with an elaborate cornice or shaped parapet. City high schools were distinguished from their city graded school counterparts by their larger size and greater stylistic ornament, which typically drew influences from Beaux Arts, Colonial and Classical Revival Styles.<sup>11</sup> In keeping with the Progressive Era schools constructed throughout Kansas, the architecture of the Baxter Springs High School was intended to make it a prominent landmark in the city.

Several other features distinguished high school buildings from this period. Located near the center of the city for easier accessibility by the greatest number of students, their monumental massing and elaborate exterior designs signaled community pride and the importance of education.<sup>12</sup> They reflected the ideals of the Progressive Era through specialized rooms for the expanded academic curriculum, including designated classrooms for manual and industrial arts and scientific laboratories, and separate cafeteria and auditorium spaces sited for public access. Baxter Springs High School accommodated these features with defined classroom spaces and equipment for domestic arts, home economics, a workshop and physics and chemistry laboratories (*Figures 5-8*). Typically encompassing an entire city block, the city high school grounds, as at Baxter Springs High School, often provided areas for athletic and recreational activities as well.<sup>13</sup>

Baxter Springs High School retains many elements characteristic of small town high schools in Kansas. It originally served as both a junior high school and a high school, a dual purpose necessary in areas with smaller populations. It was the only secondary school in the region and served the entire city as well as the surrounding community. Additions, such as that constructed at Baxter Springs High School in 1939, were common in smaller cities, where there was ample open space to expand on the existing school site. The design of the addition stylistically aligned with the New Deal Era and provided larger recreational spaces than those originally built as part of the school.

The simple form of the 1964 Industrial Arts Building aligns with the education-related structure sub-type identified in the MPDF. Although it was constructed outside the period of significance defined in the MPDF, the characteristics of the property type remain applicable. As required in the MPDF for this property sub-type, the Industrial Arts building is a "support structure used for education-related purposes."<sup>14</sup> Its distinguishing feature is the original use, which supported the operation of the school by offering a kitchen, a sewing room, and two industrial arts workshops designed for vocational training. It is in close proximity to the school, located on site immediately adjacent to the school. Like other examples of this type, it is a utilitarian building with no distinct style.<sup>15</sup> Baxter Springs High School fulfilled its Progressive Era mission with the construction of the Industrial Arts Building. The school continued to expand and offer a variety of training courses, utilizing the much-needed space.

Each building campaign at the Baxter Springs High School illustrates the architectural trends of the period. As was typical of historic public schools in Kansas, the architectural expressions are restrained, befitting the utilitarian function of the school. The intrinsic plan and form of the building took precedence of over the architectural style. The Classical Revival elements applied to the exterior of the original block were common for school designs following World War I. The formal details evoke subtle feelings of prominence, befitting the first high school building in Baxter Springs; yet, the restrained

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<sup>10</sup> Spencer, F-32.

<sup>11</sup> Spencer, E-20-21.

<sup>12</sup> Spencer, E-21.

<sup>13</sup> Spencer, F-32.

<sup>14</sup> Spencer, F-33.

<sup>15</sup> Spencer, F-33.

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expression of the style underscores the functional purpose of the building. The Art Moderne detailing and form of the 1939 block recalls the tenets of Depression Era design that were commonly applied to school buildings during that period.<sup>16</sup> The curved knee walls at the entrances, smooth concrete lintel courses, stepped brick pilasters and geometric canopy all evoke these modern architectural concepts. Following World War II, Modern Movement school buildings lacked added embellishments. School design focused on plan, rather than architectural style.<sup>17</sup> In line with these ideals, the 1964 Industrial Arts Building is purely functional and devoid of ornament.

#### PROPERTY HISTORY

Baxter Springs High School was the first high school constructed in this small city, and remains a prominent local landmark in the area. The Baxter Springs community established a public school system in 1869, just one year after incorporation of the town. The railroad had just arrived in the city and the economy was expanding. Louissa Butler was the first teacher. In that same year, bonds funded construction of the first school building, known as the Lincoln School, which served the community for many years. These early years of public education were problematic for the Baxter Springs School Board. Prior to 1907 few of its teachers or administrators met the Kansas state guidelines for qualified instructors, and the school district struggled for accreditation. Despite these issues, the student body continued to grow.

In 1900 Baxter Springs had a population of 1,539.<sup>18</sup> Fueled by mining activities in the surrounding region, the city's economy and population expanded in the early 1900s. During the years from 1916 to 1921, the Tri-State Mining District mined sixty-five percent of the country's lead and zinc. Baxter Springs was at the center of this region. Many new businesses opened to support the industrial economic base, and new houses and commercial buildings were constructed.<sup>19</sup> The population rose to 2,379 in 1917,<sup>20</sup> and by 1920 reached 3,608. School enrollment likewise grew. The School Board acquired a new building in 1912 and constructed new buildings in 1916, though space for the growing student body remained inadequate.<sup>21</sup> By the late 1910s, the School Board had taken steps to sustain a four-year high school program.

Construction of the Baxter Springs High School in 1918 solidified these goals. Architect B.C. Overton of Miami, Oklahoma designed and constructed the building.<sup>22</sup> When completed later that year, the new \$180,000 building boasted twenty-two rooms. It featured a library, laboratories for chemistry and physics, Manual Training and Domestic Science rooms, an art room, a gymnasium and an auditorium (*Figures 5-10*). Seventeen different subjects formed the extensive curriculum. The Sanborn Map published in 1926 also shows a small outbuilding on the property for "primary school rooms."<sup>23</sup> These new facilities, far surpassed the size and scale of the town's existing schools, and many people considered the new school to be an extravagance. The building proved its worth when just two years later in 1920, when the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges accredited Baxter Springs High School as a Class A high school. The student population at the time was 140. Enrollment surged, along with popular perception of the school. By 1922 the high school was nearing full capacity with 262 students, an eighty-seven percent increase in only two years.<sup>24</sup>

By 1930 the population of Baxter Springs had reached 4,541, just as mining operations began to decline. The population likewise, decreased, measuring only 4,012 in 1935.<sup>25</sup> Despite a shrinking student population, the Baxter Springs High

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<sup>16</sup> Spencer, F-34.

<sup>17</sup> Spencer, E-24.

<sup>18</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*, 1899-1900, (Topeka: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1901), 690. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/225338/page/702>, (accessed November 19, 2013).

<sup>19</sup> Baxter Springs Centennial, *The Baxter Springs Story (Souvenir Program) 100 Years, 1858-1958*, (1958), np.

<sup>20</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, *Twenty-First Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*, 1917-1918, (Topeka: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1919), 390. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210699/page/21>, (accessed November 15, 2013).

<sup>21</sup> *Jayhawker Junior*, 1923, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, Baxter Springs, Kansas.

<sup>22</sup> *The American Contractor*, Vol. 39, No. 14 (April 6, 1918), 80C.

<sup>23</sup> Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Baxter Springs, Kansas, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1926), Sheet 11. Database online, available at <http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.mcpl.lib.mo.us/ks/2897/dateid-000007.htm?CCSI=45n>, (accessed August 29, 2013).

<sup>24</sup> *Jayhawker Junior*, 1923, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, Baxter Springs, Kansas.

<sup>25</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, *Thirtieth Biennial Report, Statistics by county showing population, acreage, production, and livestock, 1935-1936*, 280. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210699/page/21>, (accessed September 3, 2013).

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School facilities were becoming inadequate. When funding became available through federal public works programs, as part of the New Deal Era reforms, the school board took advantage of the opportunity to add a modern gymnasium and auditorium to the school (*Figures 11, 12*). The new spaces epitomize the New Deal Era schools built in Kansas. They offered larger spaces to accommodate extra-curricular activities. Additionally, as the economic opportunities in the city declined, the public works project supported construction jobs for unemployed workers.

The population of Baxter Springs remained steady at around 4,500 through the end of the twentieth century. In the early 1960s Baxter Springs High School needed new facilities to support changing educational ideals and to house the newly established Home Economics and Industrial Arts Departments. The one-story building was a necessary component in enhancing the educational opportunities of the school.

In 1975 the school board constructed a new high school complex on the north side of town. The Baxter Springs High School was converted to a middle school. As part of the conversion, finishes were updated and windows were replaced. The property functioned as the Baxter Springs Middle School until December 2013.

Comparative Analysis

Baxter Springs High School is significant as a rare surviving example of a Progressive Era High School sub-type of the City School property type in Cherokee County. The county has no other school buildings listed in the National Register or the Kansas Register of Historic Places. Only four other properties in Baxter Springs are listed in the National Register. None of these are educational structures, making Baxter Springs High School an important manifestation of the educational history of the community. One other school constructed within the period of significance of the MPDF, Central Elementary School, is located in Baxter Springs. Constructed in 1950, the one-story concrete building closely aligns with the grade school sub-type of the city school property type of the Modern Era, as outlined in the MPDF. It differs in both construction date and form from the nominated resource, enhancing the importance and uniqueness of Baxter Springs High School.

The Kansas Historic Resources Inventory includes sixteen other school buildings in Cherokee County.<sup>26</sup> Some of these no longer function as schools; some have been demolished. Most are smaller than Baxter Springs High School, having functioned historically as elementary schools or junior high schools. Of the five buildings that originally functioned as high schools, only two are comparable to Baxter Springs High School. Weir City High School (1916) is a two-story brick building with Gothic elements and smaller in size and scale than Baxter Springs High School. It also features a gymnasium addition, constructed in 1936 by the PWA. However, the addition connects to the front (north) elevation of the building, obscuring the original main entrance and impacting the overall impression of the building. Only the county seat, Columbus, boasted a high school building of comparable size and design, as the cities themselves were once similar in size. The Cherokee County High School in Columbus was demolished and replaced with a new high school in the 1980s or 1990s. The two other high schools listed in the inventory have likewise been demolished.

Of the extant school buildings in Cherokee County, Baxter Springs High School stands apart. It is notable for its larger size and scale; the function and design of the three building components represent distinct eras of construction; and the primary façade remains intact, with the 1939 addition and 1964 Industrial Arts Building sensitively placed to the rear and side of the main building, respectively. The massing and façade treatment of the Baxter Springs High School expresses its importance and prestige as the first high school in Baxter Springs. It gains significance as a rare surviving example of the City High School property type in Cherokee County.

**CONCLUSION**

Baxter Springs High School is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A for EDUCATION and Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE. It is an excellent intact example of the City High School property sub-type as described in the MPDF "Historic Public Schools in Kansas." The nominated resource meets all of the registration requirements

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<sup>26</sup> This number does not include secondary buildings such as gymnasiums.

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defined in the MPDF for this property. The main block, a Progressive Era high school, was constructed in 1918. A 1939 New Deal Era gymnasium/auditorium and a 1964 Industrial Arts Building completed the evolution of the complex. Each phase of the building illustrates the educational trends in public school design that defined the respective eras of construction. Most importantly, Baxter Springs High School is significant as one of only two extant purpose-built high schools in Cherokee County. As the first high school in Baxter Springs, it stands as a prominent local landmark, enhancing its importance in the community.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

*The American Contractor*, Volume 39, Number 14. April 6, 1918.

Baxter Springs Centennial. *The Baxter Springs Story (Souvenir Program) 100 Years, 1858-1958*. 1958.

*Jayhawker Junior*, 1923, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture, *Thirtieth Biennial Report, Statistics by county showing population, acreage, production, and livestock, 1935-1936*. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210699/page/21>. Accessed September 3, 2013.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*. 1899-1900. Topeka: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1901. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/225338/page/702>, Accessed November 19, 2013.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture. *Twenty-First Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*. 1917-1918. Topeka: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1919. Digital copy available at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210699/page/21>. Accessed November 15, 2013.

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Baxter Springs, Kansas. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1926. Sheet 11. Database online. Available at <http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.mcpl.lib.mo.us/ks/2897/dateid-000007.htm?CCSI=45n>. Accessed August 27, 2013.

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

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 3.0

**Provide latitude/longitide coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.020224</u>	<u>-94.732426</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

Lots 1-8, inclusive, Block 1 Solomon's Addition and Lots 1-12, Block 6, Horner's Addition, all in Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary of the nominated resource includes the parcels of land historically associated with the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal; Lauren Rieke, Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization Rosin Preservation date June 2014  
street & number 215 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street #150 Telephone 813-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64105  
e-mail lauren@rosinpreservation.com

**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name BSSR, LP, c/o. Kelley Hrabe  
street & number 1712 E. 123<sup>rd</sup> Street telephone 816-686-2416  
city or town Olathe state KS zip code 66061

**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 100 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.

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

#### Photograph Log

Name of Property: Baxter Springs High School

City or Vicinity: Baxter Springs

County: Cherokee State: Kansas

Photographer: Brad Finch, F-Stop Photography

Date  
Photographed: January 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 21: 1918 block, front (west) elevation. View east.
- 2 of 21: 1918 block, northwest corner. View southeast.
- 3 of 21: 1918 block, north elevation. View south.
- 4 of 21: North elevation, (1918 block on right, 1939 block on left). View South.
- 5 of 21: 1939 block, north elevation. View southeast.
- 6 of 21: Northeast corner. View southwest.
- 7 of 21: Southeast corner, (1939 block in foreground). View northwest.
- 8 of 21: Southeast corner, (Industrial Arts Building on left, 1939 block on right), View northwest.
- 9 of 21: Southwest corner, (Industrial Arts Building on right, 1918 block on left), View northeast.
- 10 of 21: 1918 block, southwest corner. View northeast.
- 11 of 21: Industrial Arts Building, southwest corner. View northeast.
- 12 of 21: Industrial Arts Building, southeast corner. View northwest.
- 13 of 21: Industrial Arts Building, north elevation. View southwest.
- 14 of 21: 1918 block, entry detail, west elevation. View northeast.
- 15 of 21: 1918 block, typical stair hall. View west.
- 16 of 21: 1918 block, typical hallway. View north.
- 17 of 21: 1918 block, typical classroom. View northwest.
- 18 of 21: 1918 block, auditorium. View northeast.
- 19 of 21: 1939 block, hallway. View east.
- 20 of 21: 1939 block, gymnasium. View northeast.
- 21 of 21: 1939 block, auditorium. View southeast.

#### Figures

**Figure 1:** Site Map, *ArcGIS 2013*.

**Figure 2:** Contextual Map, *ArcGIS 2013*.

**Figure 3:** Photo Map, exterior

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**Figure 4:** Photo Map, first floor, second floor

**Figure 5:** Historic plans, first floor.

**Figure 6:** Historic plans, second floor.

**Figure 7:** Historic plans, south elevation.

**Figure 8:** Historic plans, section.

**Figure 9:** Existing building plans, 1918 block, first floor.

**Figure 10:** Existing building plans, 1918 block, second floor.

**Figure 11:** Existing building plans, 1918 block, basement.

**Figure 12:** Existing building plans, 1939 block, gymnasium.

**Figure 13:** Existing building plans, 1939 block, former auditorium.

**Figure 14:** Baxter Springs High School 1918 block, 1920. *Source: Jayhawker Junior, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1920.*

**Figure 15:** Baxter Springs High School 1918 block, 1921. *Source: Jayhawker Junior, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1921.*

**Figure 16:** Baxter Springs High School with 1939 block, [c. 1939]. *Source: Postcard in the collection of Rosin Preservation.*

**Figure 17:** Baxter Springs High School 1939 block, 1940. *Source: The Cardinal and White, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1940.*

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Figure 1: Site Map, ArcGIS 2013.

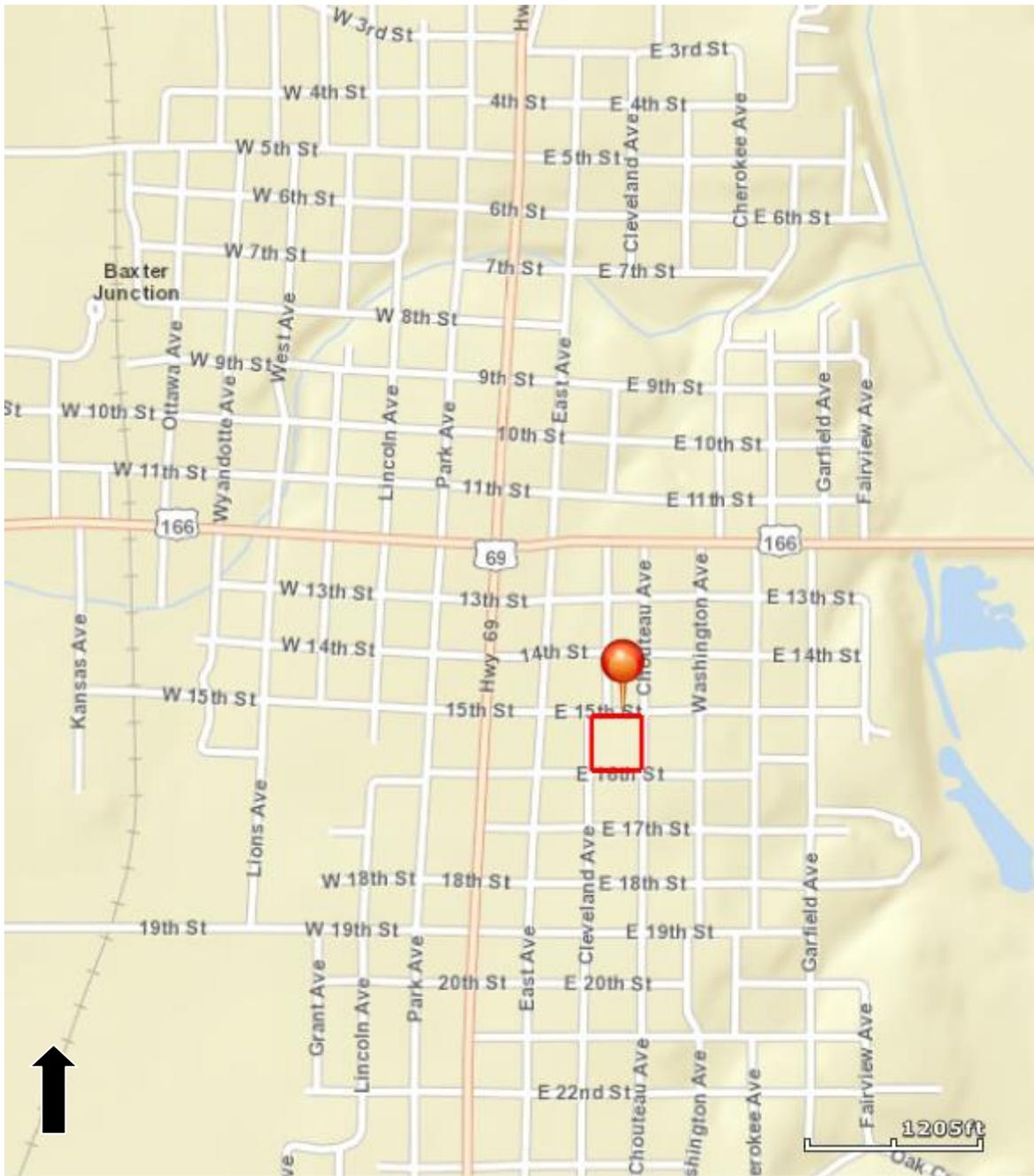


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Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas  
Latitude/ Longitude:  
37.020224  
-94.732426  
Datum WGS84

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Figure 2: Contextual Map, ArcGIS 2013.



Baxter Springs High School  
Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas  
Latitude/ Longitude:  
37.020224  
-94.732426  
Datum WGS84

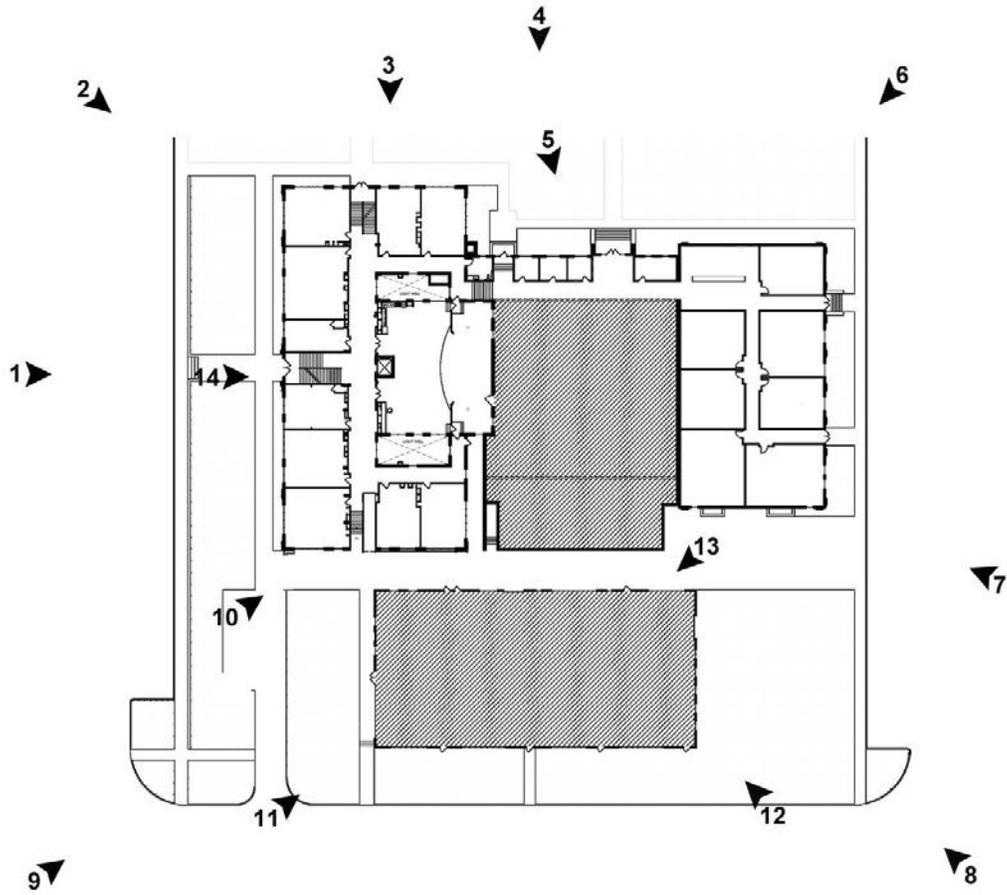
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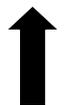
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**Figure 3:** Photo Map, exterior

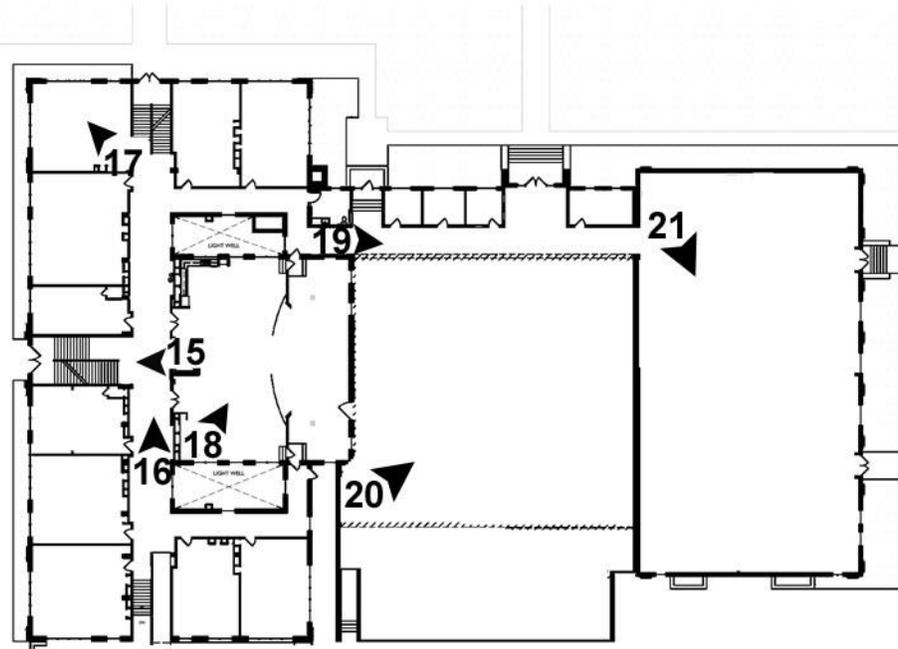


**Figure 4:** Photo Map, interior



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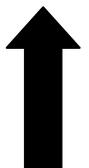
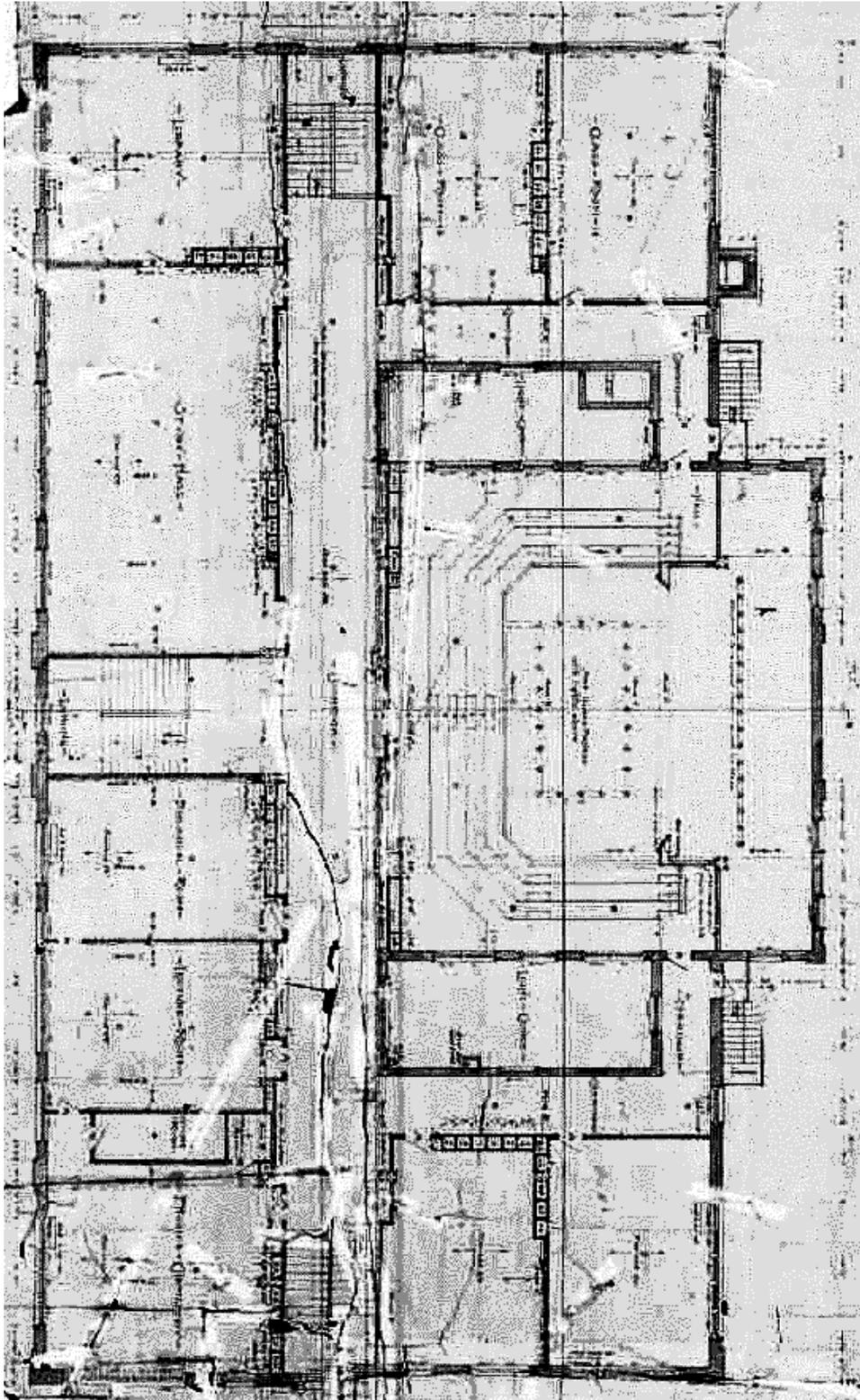
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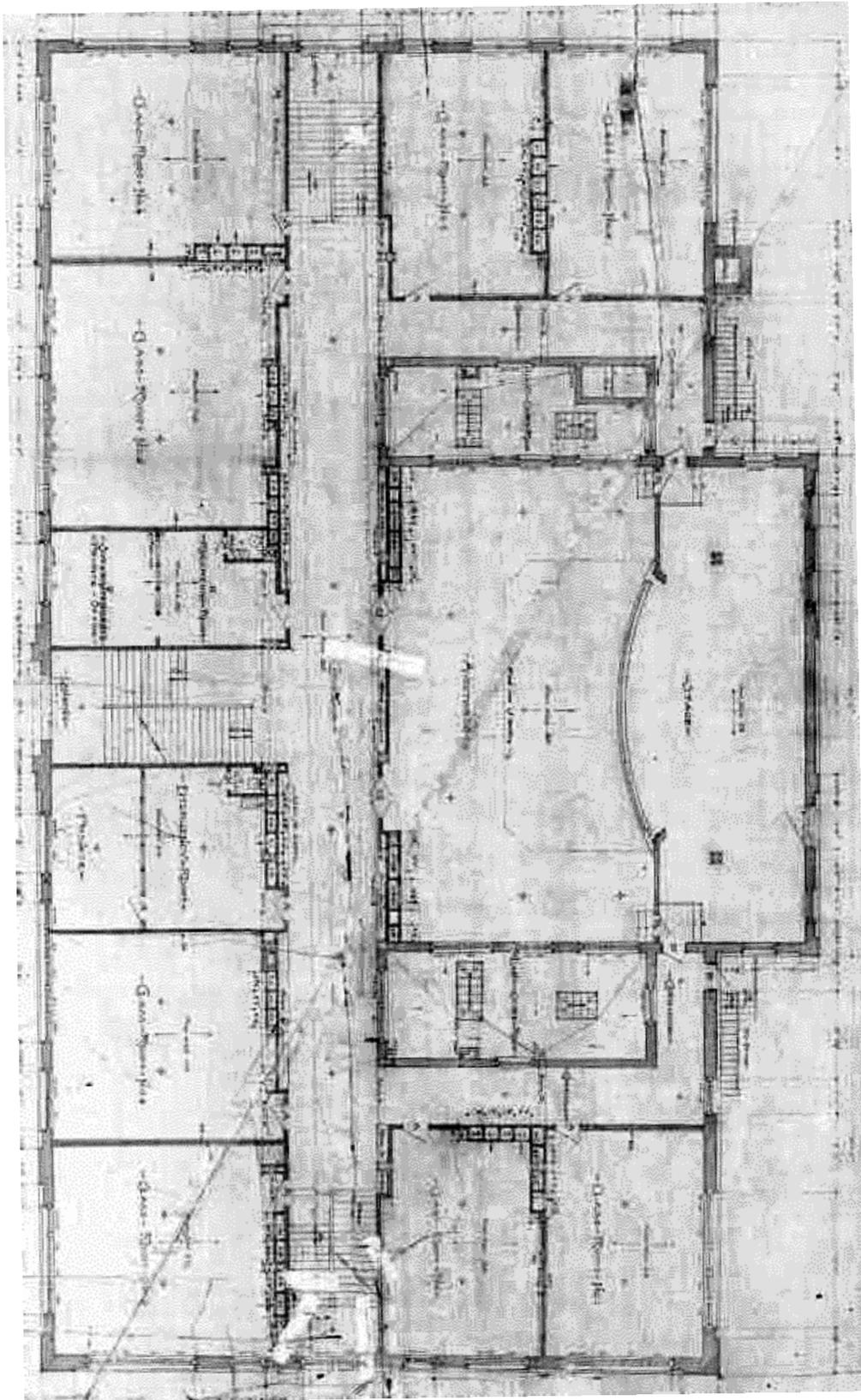
Figure 5: Historic Plans, 1918 block, first floor.



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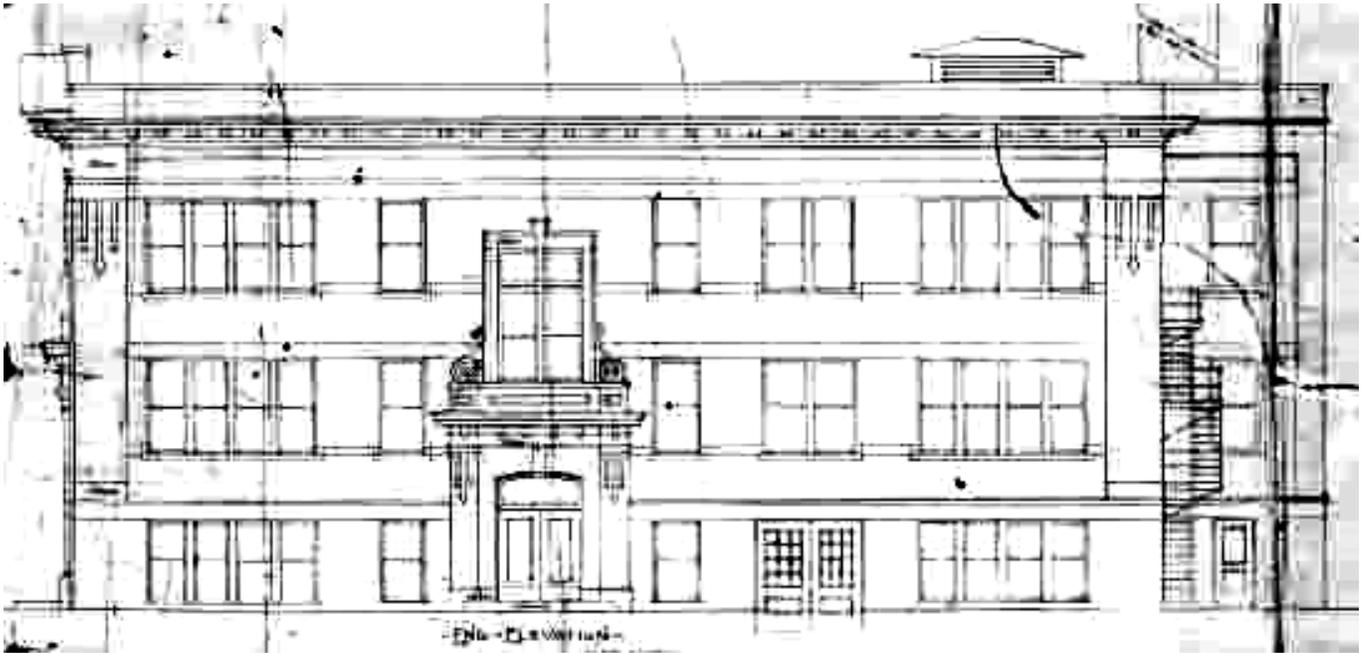
**Figure 6:** Historic Plans, 1918 block, second floor.



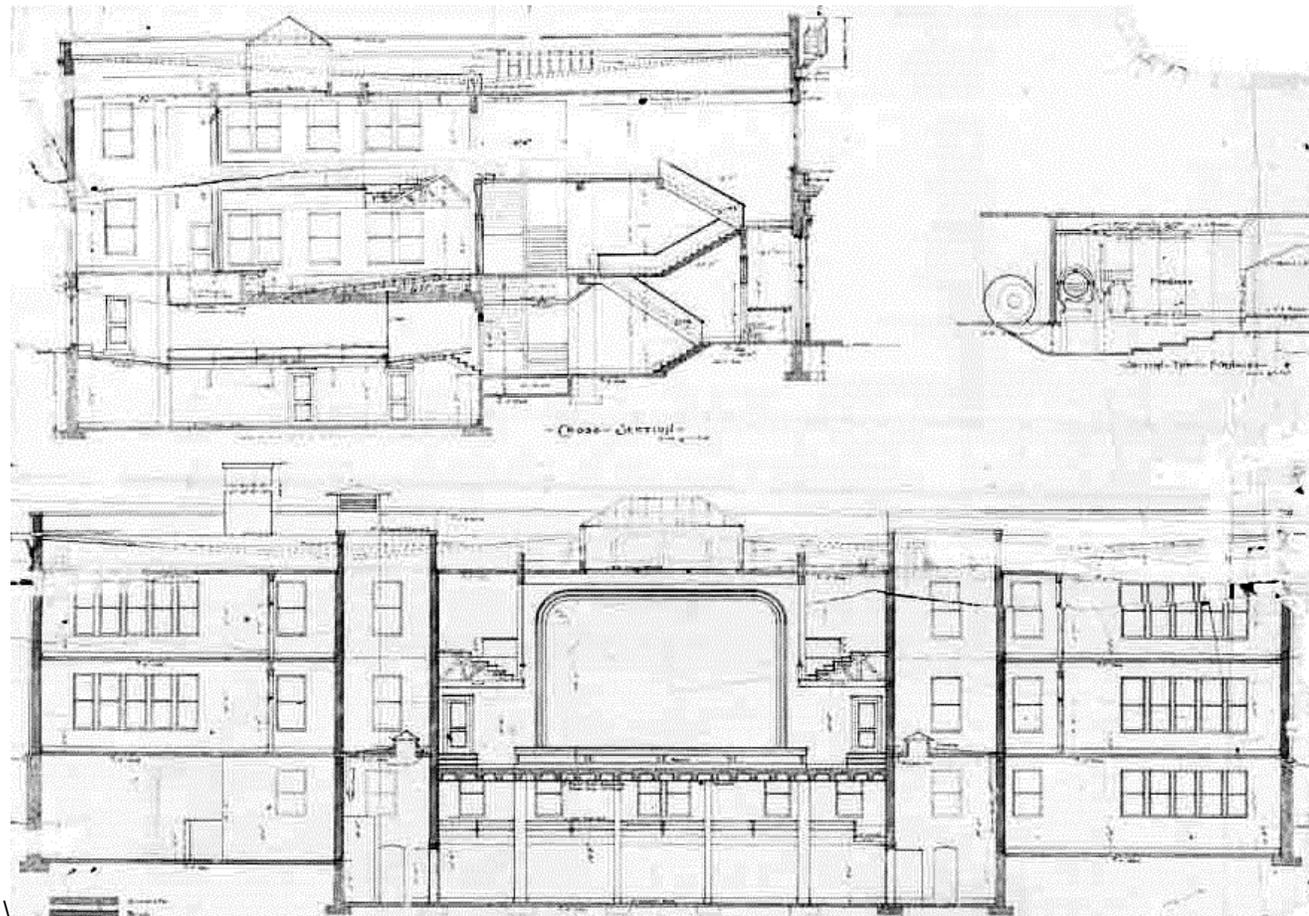
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**Figure 7:** Historic Plans, 1918 block, south elevation.



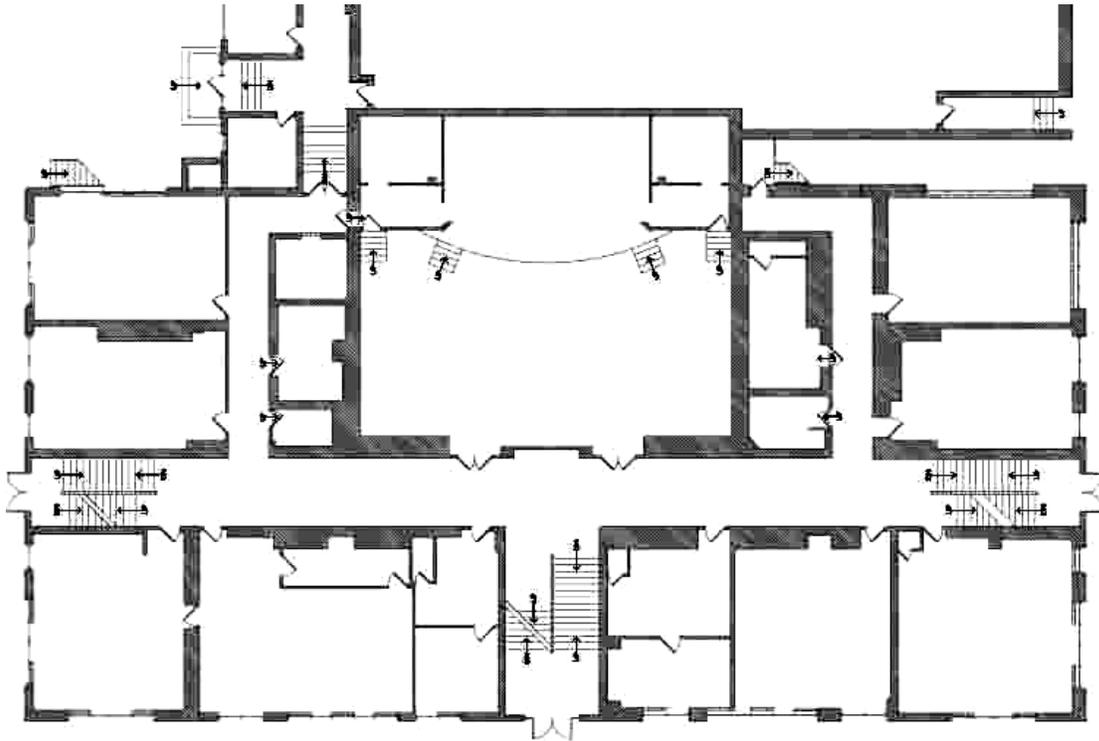
**Figure 8:** Historic Plans, 1918 block, section.



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**Figure 9:** Existing building plans, 1918 block, first floor.



**Figure 10:** Existing building plans, 1918 block, second floor.

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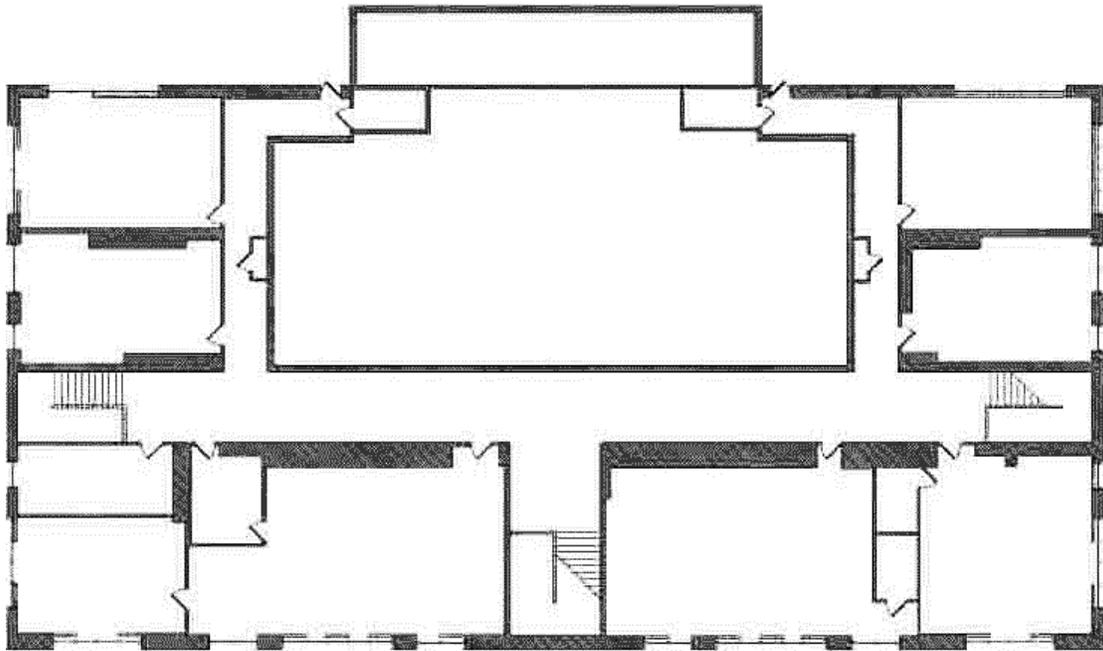


Figure 11: Existing building plans, 1918 block, basement.

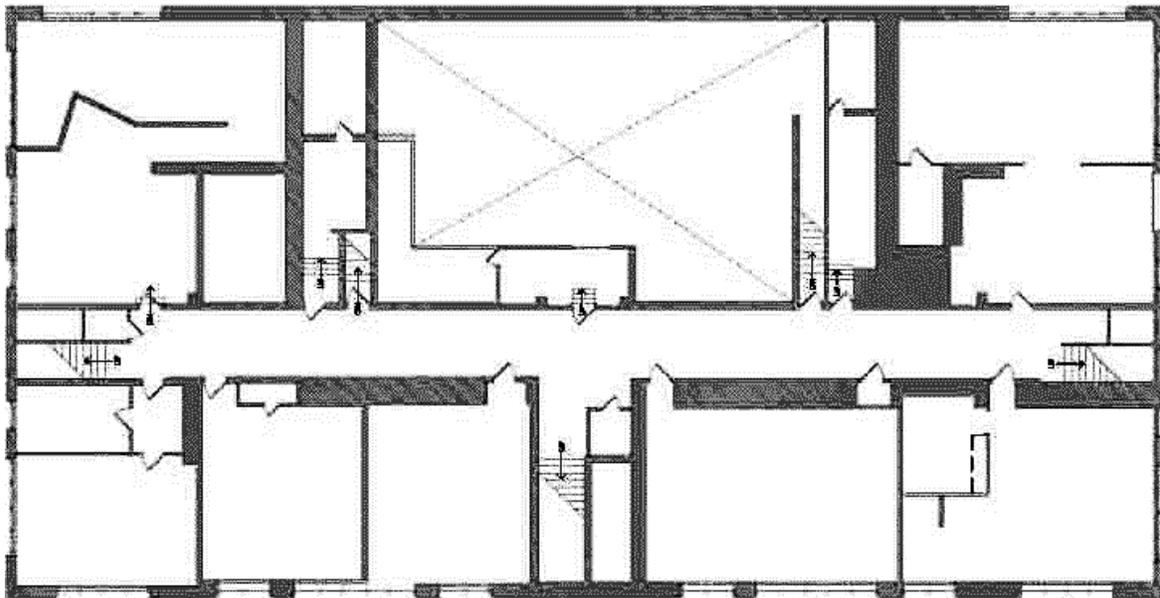


Figure 12: Existing building plans, 1939 block, gymnasium.



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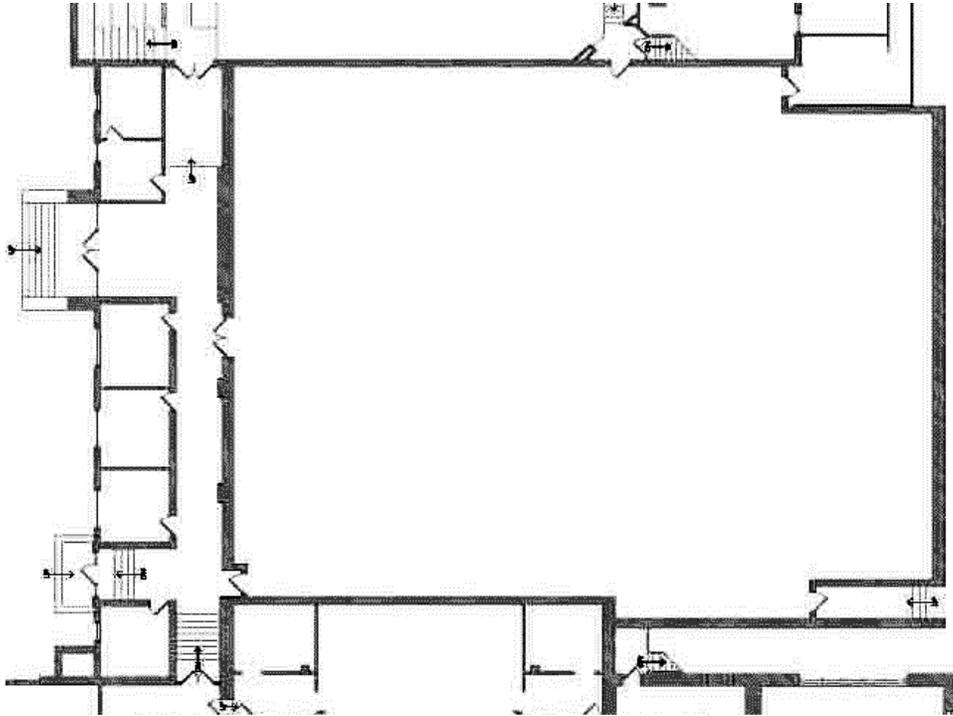
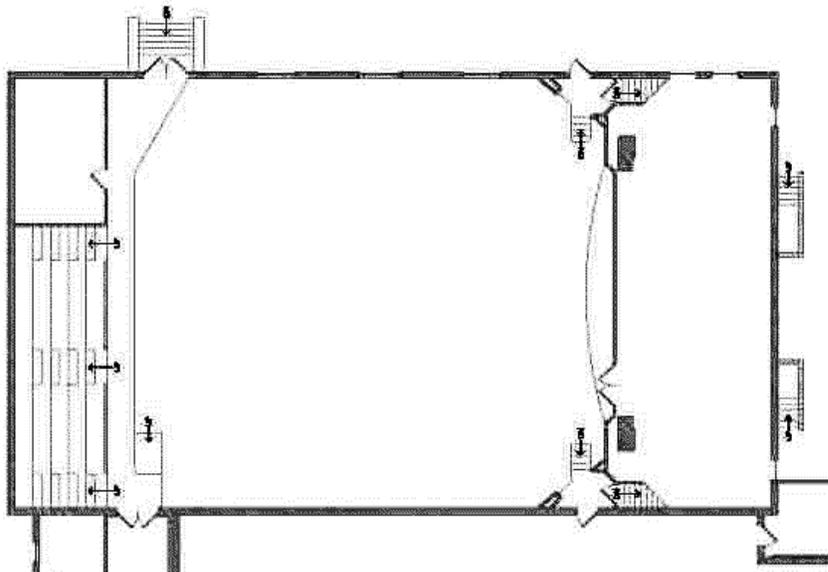


Figure 13: Existing building plans, 1939 block, former auditorium.



Baxter Springs High School  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

Baxter Springs High School  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

**Figure 14:** Baxter Springs High School, 1920. *Source: Jayhawker Junior, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1920.*



**Figure 15:** Baxter Springs High School, 1921. *Source: Jayhawker Junior, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1921.*



Baxter Springs High School  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State

**Figure 16:** Baxter Springs High School with 1939 block, [c. 1939]. *Source: Postcard in the collection of Rosin Preservation.*



**Figure 17:** Baxter Springs High School with 1939 block, 1940. *Source: The Cardinal and White, Baxter Springs High School Yearbook, 1940.*

Baxter Springs High School  
Name of Property

Cherokee County, Kansas  
County and State







BAXTER  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL





NO PARKING



AUDITORIUM  
GYMNASIUM























EXIT



5













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Baxter Springs High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of Kansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Cherokee

DATE RECEIVED: 6/24/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/22/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/06/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/10/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000479

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 8.8.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

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.

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



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

Kansas Historical Society

Sam Brownback, Governor  
Jennie Chinn, Executive Director

June 20, 2014

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



Re: National Register Nominations – new submissions

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your consideration the following National Register documents:

- **Baxter Springs High School – Cherokee County** (new nomination)
  - Enclosed: Signed copy of nomination and 2 disks (with nomination, GIS, and photo files)
  - The enclosed disk #1 contains the true and correct copy of the nomination.

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,

Sarah J. Martin  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures