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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	X Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
	(Check One)				(Check One)	
	X Alter	ed	Unaltered	j Į	Moved	📉 Original Site

The White Cloud School, a two-story red brick structure designed in an Eclectic style, measures approximately 60 feet long, 30 feet wide, 35 feet high and has a basement. The original rectangular structure runs in a southeast to northwest direction with the projecting front entrance way facing northeasterly. Separating the foundation of rough cut stone from the brick is a belt course of smooth cut stone.

The building has basically a hip roof which is intersected by a gable roof over the projecting front entrance way. The frame cornice features some dentils and is supported by decorative coupled brackets. A square frame bell tower with a hip roof extends some 15 to 20 feet above the roof line. It has two louvered windows on each side.

All windows in the original section are of the double hung sash type. Most windows and doors occur in segmental arch openings. An exception is the second floor window over the front entrance which has a semicircular arch. Located within that opening are a small circular window at the top and two rectangular windows with semicircular arches. Another small circular window is placed near the top of the gable above the front entrance. The window and door heads are of smooth cut stone and extend about 12 inches down the side of the openings. Stone sills are supported by cut stone brackets.

A two-story addition of a lighter colored red brick was added to the southwest in 1914, giving the building a T-shaped appearance. The cornice matches that of the original building, but it is supported by groups of three brackets instead of two. The window openings are simple rectangles on the northwest side and squares on the southeast side. There are no openings in the southwest wall. The addition is considerably less attractive than the original whose clean lines are enhanced by decorative stone trim.

The roof is now covered with composition shingles, but otherwise the exterior of the building is believed to be little changed from the original. In the fall of 1972 the roof was reshingled, windows were screened and painted, deteriorating cornices were repaired and painted, and the bell was repaired.



PERIOD (Check One of More as	s Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	▼ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)	1872-73	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CI	neck One or More as Approp	oriate)	141/15
Abor iginal	🔀 Education	☐ Political	Author Planning
Prehistoric	Éngineering	Religion/Phi.	Sthe Desperitor 1
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Communications	Military	Theater	6
Conservation	Music '	Transportation	1101

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The White Cloud School was built in 1872-73 on land dedicated as a public square in 1856. In 1871 local citizens began planning for new educational facilities because an 1865 school building had become overcrowded. A special election held June 9, 1871, resulted in the defeat of a \$25,000 school bond proposal; three weeks later, however, the voters approved a \$15,000 bond issue, and plans were made to erect a new school house.

The White Cloud School building was designed in late 1871 by an architect referred to in contemporary newspaper sources as Mr. Carr. (In all probability he was Erasmus T. Carr of Leavenworth, one of Kansas' most prominent early architects. Carr came to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, in the fall of 1855 to take the position of assistant superintendent of repairs and later assumed the superintendent's post. He designed and built a considerable number of structures at the fort prior to his departure in 1871, some of which are still standing and are integral parts of the Fort Leavenworth Historic District. He later designed many public and private buildings throughout the state, including part of the state capitol, the state penitentiary, several county courthouses, and many school buildings.)

A local brickmaker, John S. Hook, received the contract for grading the school grounds in late December, 1871, but the construction bids were not obtained until March, 1872, at which time the contract was awarded to M. B. Bowers, a local contractor, for \$11,000. The structure's foundation was completed by two White Cloud men, F. M. Bradley and John Whitham, by late June, and the brick work was commenced a month later.

When the school term began on September 9, 1872, the building was not yet ready for occupancy. Work was finally completed several months later, and the doors of the new school house were officially opened on Monday, January 27, 1873. The final cost of the building was \$13,500, which was \$2,500 above the contract bid. Apparently the school board agreed to pay \$1,000 of the extra expense.

Because of increasing enrollment, the school board voted in April, 1914, to build an addition to the west side of the structure. The contract was awarded to A. G. Gibson of Shubert, Nebraska, and

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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GPO 931-894

Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Kansas	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. the addition was completed in 1915-1916. The building was used as an educational facility until 1968. In 1970 the city of White Cloud deeded the school to the Ma-Hush-Kah Historical Society which is presently restoring and using it as a museum. (Ma-Hush-Kah is the Indian name for White Cloud.)

The White Cloud School, although not itself an outstanding architectural example, was designed by one of the state's earliest professional architects, Erasmus T. Carr. The building is of importance to the history of White Cloud as it provided educational opportunities for the young people of White Cloud for almost 100 years, as well as facilities for cultural and community activities.

9. Kansas Chief (Troy), August 1, 22, September 12, November 28, 1872,
January 16, 30, February 13, March 13, 20, 1873, July 27, 1972.

"Museum to Reopen for Summer Months," St. Joseph (Missouri) Gazette,
April 10, 1972.

von Achen, J. Kurt, <u>Lives and Works of Early Kansas Architects</u> (unpublished Master's thesis, submitted to University of Kansas School of Architecture, June, 1966).

