

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Strang School District #36
other names/site number NEHBS # FM11-008

2. Location

street & number Box 96 [NA] not for publication
city, town Strang [NA] vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Fillmore code 059 zip code 68444

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>6</u>	<u> </u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>7</u>	<u> </u>
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>NA</u>		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Bob P. Schenk DSHPO 5/11/92
Signature of certifying official Date

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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. *Patrick Andrews* 6/25/92
 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Education/School

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival

foundation Concretewalls Brickroof Other: cementother Brick**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Strang School District #36 is located at the end of Strang's Main Street beside the southern boundary of the Strang city limits in Fillmore County, Nebraska. A simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style, the two-story brick building was constructed in 1929-30 to replace the previous schoolhouse that was destroyed by a fire in 1928. The nomination also includes six contributing objects: one flag pole and five pieces of playground equipment. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved.

The rectangular brick school, symmetrical in plan, and measuring approximately 32 by 66 feet, was constructed as a two-story building with a partial basement. The blueprint design was drawn by architects Meginnis and Shaumberg. G. Stake was the general contractor and E. Anderson (a Strang businessman and resident) had the contract for the cement work. The building's exterior features a prominent central pavilion with a stepped gable parapet wall. The flat roof, covered with roofing cement, has a parapet wall with coping.

Six over six paned double hung windows are located on the east and west facades of both levels and on the south facade of the upper level only. There are no windows on the north side. The entry way and vestibule have two sets of double doors situated in the center of the front facade which faces east.

The first level has a central hall with stairway, two classrooms with each containing a cloakroom that has a set of three swivel doors, two bathrooms, and four small storage closets. The second level consists of three classrooms (originally an assembly room, laboratory and recitation room), office and three small storage closets. Slate chalkboards spanning one wall and older-model coiled heat registers are found in each of the five classrooms. The metal fire escape door is located in the center of the west side of the second story. A large storage room, a coal room and coal furnace are found in the partial basement. The coal furnace is no longer used as a gas furnace now supplies heat for the building.

The original flag pole is located outside the main entry. Gym bars, tether ball, swing sets, slippery slide and merry-go-round make up the original playground equipment placed to the south and along the west side of the schoolhouse. A tennis and basketball court is contained in the fenced-in area on the north side of the building. An open playground and track field exist in the western half of the school property. The tennis court and playground track area are not counted in this information.

The historic function, as well as the current function, of the Strang School, was, and is, to provide a place where education can be obtained by the student of the surrounding vicinity. Both primary and secondary education classes were offered from 1930 to 1951. The primary grades (1-8) occupied the classrooms of the lower level while classes for grades 9-12 were held in the three classrooms of the upper level. In 1951, following a decline in enrollment, classes were reduced to elementary grades K through 8, which is the status Strang School maintains today.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1930

1930

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Meginnis, Harry W. (Meginnis & Schaumberg)
Schaumberg, Edward G. (Meginnis & Schaumberg)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Strang School District #36 is significant under criterion "C" in the area of architecture as a multi-story, brick, "fireproof" school building, an example of a type, period, and method of construction representative of school buildings constructed in many communities of Nebraska, particularly in Fillmore County, during the first quarter of the twentieth century. These public school buildings are a symbol of community permanence and progressive interest in public education at the local level. The period of significance is derived from the year (1930) the school was completed.

The present school facility was constructed as a result of a fire in October 1928 that completely destroyed the schoolhouse. Classes for the remainder of that school year and the first half of the next school term were held in two local churches and Belle Prairie Township Hall. A replacement structure was necessary. After many meetings and discussion, plans for a new school building were drawn up and approved by the residents of District #36. Construction began in 1929 and the first classes were held in the new building in February 1930. Much of the manual labor, horses and equipment used in the construction of the schoolhouse was provided by the residents of District #36.

The Strang School was designed to house both primary and secondary educational classes for the students of District #36 and the high school students from nearby districts. Its location near the edge of Strang made it convenient for teachers, and high school students from the surrounding districts, to board with the residents of the town, along with providing a "county" atmosphere.

The acreage provided a large playground area to accommodate the various age groups and individual interests of its students. There was enough area to establish ball diamonds or set up a track field.

The Strang School represents a well-preserved example of a multi-story, brick school building in Fillmore County. These modern, "fireproof" educational facilities, of masonry construction, usually replaced first or second generation frame buildings constructed in the late nineteenth century. The community's decision to erect a new school generally called for an architect designed drawing, incorporating contemporary plans and building methods. Other similar schoolhouses can be found in neighboring towns including Exeter, Grafton, Milligan, Ohiova, and Shickley.

As a representative example of its type, the Strang School retains a high degree of both exterior and interior integrity. It is representative of its role in the education of students in District #36 and the community's progressive interest in providing a modern educational facility for Strang.

The Strang School is an important structure in the community, as it is one of the few original public buildings of the vicinity. This sturdy brick schoolhouse stands as a reminder that a good

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

education is the basis of life's success--worthy of continued use, preservation and a place in the local history of Strang, Nebraska.

9. Major Bibliographical References

MAY 19 1992

Reflection, 1886-1986, compiled by Janet Lentfer, printed by Record Printing Company of Cairo, Nebraska, 1986, pages 35-47 and 120.

Fillmore County Story, compiled by Geneva Community Grange Number 403, edited by Wilbur G. Gaffney, 1968, page 25.

The Nebraska Signal, county newspaper printed at Geneva, Nebraska, various articles about school, issues and construction from August 1929 to February 1930 along with weekly or monthly articles covering the events and happenings at the school since 1930 to the present day.

Nebraska High Schools--Past and Present, State Committee to Preserve Nebraska High School History, (to be printed in near future).

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.1 acres

UTM References

A

1	4
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6	1	9	8	9	5
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4	7	1	4	2	3	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is described as a square tract of land 300 by 300 feet, the extreme SE corner of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 7, T 5 N, R 2 W, Fillmore County, Nebraska

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Janet K. Lentfer--Community Historian</u>	date <u>March 22, 1991</u>
organization <u>Strang Community Improvement Association</u>	telephone <u>(402) 627-2085</u>
street & number <u>RR 2, Box 9</u>	state <u>Nebraska</u> zip code <u>68444</u>
city or town <u>Strang</u>	