

MP 2170



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Venango Public School

Other names/site number PR06-014

Name of related multiple property listing Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number 201 East Washington Street

City or town Venango State Nebraska County Perkins

Not for publication Vicinity

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

[Signature] SHPO/Director
Signature of certifying official/Title
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

1/9/18
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official Date

Title State of 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): _____

[Signature] Signature of Keeper
3-5-2018 Date of Action

Venango Public School
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: Brick, terra-cotta
Roof: Conklin Polynate – urethane foam

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property**County and State****Description**

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Venango Public School is located on the southeast edge of Venango (2010 pop. 164) in Perkins County. Venango is located on Nebraska State Highway 23 and is 315 miles west of Lincoln, the State capital, and 190 miles east of Denver, Colorado; it also sits one half-mile east of the state border with Colorado. Perkins County is part of Nebraska's High Plains region, characterized by flat, vast grassland composed of sandstone covered with loess.¹ Residential neighborhoods border the school property to the north and west. East and south of the school building are the athletic fields, with agricultural fields beyond.

The school is positioned on a two-block parcel bounded by Washington Street on the north, Westmoreland Avenue on the east, Fayette Street on the south, and Pennsylvania Avenue on the west. The original school building is located on the eastern portion of the parcel with a 1955 addition located in the center of the parcel. A sidewalk runs along the northern edge of the parcel, along Washington Street, and has four north-south sidewalks that provide access to the school building: one to the 1955 addition and three to the main school building. The majority of the parcel is open green space, with a former playground located in the southeast corner and numerous trees in the northwest corner.

The brick, two-story over raised basement school was built in 1921 in the Colonial Revival style and includes a 1955 International-style addition centered on a large lot; a small addition was built onto the 1955 addition in 1965. A number of window openings at the basement level have been bricked-up and all of the original windows were replaced during the construction of the addition. However, those alterations remain within the period of significance, 1921-1965 and provide a consistent style throughout the building. Overall, both the main school building and the mid-century addition retain a significant amount of their architectural integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Venango Public School is a two-story over raised basement brick building with a flat roof in the Colonial Revival style. Construction of the Public School was completed in 1921 and a brick, international style addition containing a gymnasium and cafeteria was added in 1955 and expanded in 1965.² The primary façade of the school faces the north and entry into the school is gained by two broad concrete steps that lead to the primary entrance. Centrally located, the main entrance consists of two, fifteen-light, out swinging doors capped by a five light arched transom. The entire entrance is framed by a recessed terra-cotta entry. The first story of the front entry projects out from the main façade, has a detailed terra-cotta stringcourse running above the entry, and is topped with castellations.

The central bay of the Public School is slightly projected from the main façade for the full elevation of the building. At the center-top of the building the cornice is interrupted by a decorative terra-cotta entablature, behind which is the roof-mounted flag pole. The central bay contains five window openings, all with glass-block infill over non-original glass windows. The first story has windows flanking the protruding entrance, while the second story has a large double window flanked by singled windows. All windows retain the original blonde brick lintel and terra-cotta sills. Under the center window is terra-cotta engraved 'School District No. 65'. Flanking each side of the protruding central bay are terra-cotta tablets inscribed with information regarding the building's construction. The eastern tablet lists the project architect – Wilson & Wilson of Denver and Sterling, Colorado – while the western tablet is inscribed with the names of the Board of Trustees at the time of construction.

¹ Perkins County Recon Survey, pg. 5.

² Venango Centennial Committee, *Venango "Buckle of the Wheat Belt"* (Valentine, NE: Jeannette's, 1967), 38.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property**County and State**

The east and west bays of the building are symmetrical, with each floor containing glass-block windows flanking a large window opening originally designed for five double hung windows. The top two-thirds of the first and second story windows now are glass block, with the bottom third containing four hopper windows apiece. The ratio is reversed for the above-grade portion of the basement, with the top one-third of the window containing glass block, and the bottom two-thirds containing four hopper windows. A terra-cotta belt wraps the entire building at the top of the basement story, while the top of the second story is highlighted by a terra-cotta architrave beneath a decorative brick cornice.

The east façade has a two-story projected entry with three concrete steps leading to a single replacement door capped with a four light replacement transom below a thin terra-cotta arch. Between the first and second stories is a double window with glass block infill above two single light windows. The projecting center entry is capped with castillations. The east façade contains four groups of three windows with original terra-cotta sills and glass block infill. Window openings at the basement level have been filled in with brick.

The south façade contains six bays. The two outside bays are identical, with the first and second stories having a large opening originally designed for five double hung windows infilled with glass block and three hopper windows per opening. The middle four bays of the south façade protrude southward from the building and the decorative terra-cotta architrave that wraps the front, east, and west facades ends where the interior bays extend southward from the exterior bays. The terra-cotta belt course along the top of the basement level also ends on the southern façade; where the interior bays extend southward, the terra-cotta transitions to stepped brick. Three for the four middle bays are identical, with a large opening on the first and second story having been infilled with glass block and two hopper windows each. The fourth interior bay, the western most, has an identical first story window as the other three bays, with a door which accessed the now-removed metal fire escape that led from the second story to the southwest corner of the building. The second story also contains a single, glass block window. The four interior bays have no basement openings, each now having brick infill. Two of the eastern bay's openings have brick infill while two others serve as access points for the building's mechanical systems. The western bay retains its 1950s windows along the basement level. Original terra-cotta lintels and sills remain at each window opening along the southern façade.

The 1955 addition is a mixture of one-, one-and-a-half, and two-story specialized spaces. The north façade contains the one-story lunchroom (later added in 1965) and cafeteria with large glass block and hopper window openings and a half-pane, single-door pedestrian entrance. The two-story portion that housed the stage is accessible via double utility doors roughly four feet off the ground. At the western end of the building is the one-story band room that was added in 1965 that is accessible from the exterior via half-pane double-doors on the northern façade. The western façade is all brick with the two-story gymnasium visible over the one-story band room. The two-story southern façade contains four large glass-block openings with small, centered hopper windows overlooking the gymnasium along the second level. The first story has pedestrian entrances at both ends and seven glass-block openings that provide light to the locker rooms that are below grade beneath the gymnasium bleachers; the eighth opening has been infilled with brick. The eastern end of the southern façade contains a one-and-a-half story Industrial Tech shop with a pedestrian and a roll-up vehicular entrance, accessible from Fayette Street by a circle drive. A concrete sidewalk runs from Fayette Street to the south side of the breezeway.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Upon entering at the school at the main entrance, visitors pass through a vestibule and a set of original wood and glass doors framed by glass windows leading to a flight of stairs which ascend to the first floor. At the top of the stairs are administrative offices, including the Superintendent's, before the entry hall intersects with the main hallway running from end-to-end of the building. Stairwells accessing both the basement and second floor are at each end of the hall which retain the original hardwood banisters and trim. Along the south wall of the hallway are recessed glass display cases and open built-in closet spaces for students to hang their hats, coats, and bags. Along with the offices, the north side of the first floor contained two classrooms, one on each end of the main hall – the 1st and 2nd grade room on the west and the 3rd and 4th grade room on the east. On the south side of the hallway were four classrooms: drafting room, reading room, 5th and 6th grade room, and the art room (west to east). Each classroom retains original features including multiple wall-mounted chalkboards, a built-in cabinet with drawers underneath for storage, radiators along external walls, hardwood floors, wood trim, and solid wood doors. Both of the class rooms have storage areas along the exterior side walls.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property**County and State**

Similar to the first floor, the second floor contains a main hallway with classrooms on either side. Recessed openings for open lockers remain, but the wooden dividers have been removed. Along the north side of the building are four classrooms: math room, business room, a small computer room, and the science laboratory (west to east). The business room and computer room each are separated by a wall with windows and are connected by a doorway; each room contains its own entrances to the hallway. The science laboratory contains seven historic lab stations each with electrical outlets and a sink, along with a fume hood that has been inserted into the original built-in closet. The laboratory has two hall entrances and a separate storage space behind the east wall for supplies, laboratory coats, etc., Similar to the science laboratory on the east, the math room on the west end of the building has a walk-in storage space separating the classroom from the exterior side wall. The south side of the hall contains the English room on the west end and the history room on the east, with a large library room in the middle. The English and history rooms contain similar features to the classrooms on the first floor. The library has two hall entries, a check-out desk, bookshelf lined walls, and the librarian office in the southeast corner. The west wall has a small stage that has been infilled with wood paneling and a multi-colored tinted window. Flanking the stage are doors that give access to the stage and its wings, which were last used for storage. The library contains the second story access to the fire escape.

In the basement, the north side of the hallway contains the home economics room, girls' restroom, boys' restroom, and the kindergarten room. The south side of the hallway consists of a teachers' work room on the west and the boiler room on the east. The gymnasium is located in the center of the south side, is accessible by stairwells on either end of the basketball court, and is open to observation from the basement hallway above.

Entry to the 1955 addition is gained via the breezeway between the addition and the school building. At various points along the concrete block walls are wood and glass trophy and display cases. A door on the south side of the hall is the access point to the industrial technology shop with an elevated ceiling, brick columns supporting steel ceiling joists, and a roll-up vehicle access on the southern end. Opposite the industrial technology shop to the north are boys' and girls' restroom, the kitchen, and the lunch room. The hall leads to the northeast corner of the gymnasium with a basketball court running east-west, concrete bleachers along the south side and an opening for a stage on the north side. The lower-third of the gymnasium walls are tan, rectangular tiles which extends to the ceiling on both sides and across the top of the stage opening. The north wall of the gymnasium has the American flag and banners recognizing conference championships for the high school athletic teams on the eastern end, a wall-mounted basketball goal on the western end, and doors on each side of the stage for access. The bleachers on the south side are concrete with wood plank seating. On each end of the bleachers are hallways that lead to the below-bleacher locker rooms that contain bathrooms, lockers, and showers. In the northwest corner of the gymnasium are double doors that leads to the band room which retains its carpet flooring and wall and ceiling acoustic tiles.

The design of the school and the addition reflect the trends in educational architecture during the times each was constructed. Despite some interior deterioration since its closing in 2001, the school retains a significant amount of the features – flooring, wood trim and doors, chalkboards, built-in storage spaces – that contribute to its architectural integrity. The exterior brick and terra-cotta is in excellent shape and the building retains nearly all of the windows that were installed during the alterations that took place during the addition of the 1955 expansion.

Venango Public School
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1921-1965

Significant Dates

1921 – Original Construction

1955 – Gymnasium Addition

1965 – Band Room & Cafeteria Addition

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Wilson & Wilson – architect (1921 building)

McNett & Company – architect (1955 addition)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

In accordance with the registration requirements of the *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska* the Venango Public School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Locally significant, the Venango Public School is associated with the development of education in Nebraska through expansion and consolidation practices common throughout the state in the 1920s and 1950s. Architecturally, embodies the distinct characteristics of a type of school building. It retains sufficient integrity to serve as a fine example of early-20th century educational

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

architecture with specialized classrooms, centralized physical education space, and surrounded by abundant outdoor recreation areas.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

School District No. 65 was originally formed from part of District 51 in August 1887 while still a part of Keith County.³ A white framed building was erected at site of the extant Venango Public School building and was in use until school district consolidation in 1918 required the building of the larger brick school in 1921. An election was held on January 27, 1921 to secure \$80,000 in bonds to finance the new school building.⁴ The bond passed by a vote of 95 to 7 for a new school that would be modern in every way, including electric lights. Work on the new building was expected to start on March 1 so work could be completed by September 1.⁵ However, due to unidentified reasons, a contractor was not selected to building the school until the end of March. The school board selected the site for the new school, siting it east of the two-story framed school building with the entrance facing the north.⁶ To make room for the larger building and surrounding grounds, the school board bought the block east of the school and closed off the north-south road intersecting the lots to form a large school yard. Nearly forty bids were submitted for building the school,⁷ with the contract being awarded to Hansen (first name unknown). Despite not starting work until April 13, the building was still expected to be ready for classes by September 1.⁸ The foundation was completed by May 5⁹ and by late June a “full force of men” were at work on the school.¹⁰ Although reports in July stated that work was “progressing quite rapidly now” the school would not be completed by September 1.¹¹ Work progressed throughout August and there were hopes that the school year could start in the new building on September 20 if enough could be finished.¹² However, classes commenced in crowded conditions on September 12 in the frame school house and construction of the new school was expected to last another five weeks.¹³

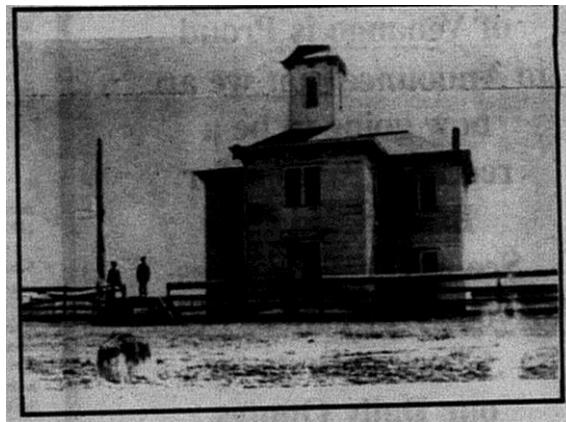


Figure 1: Two-story frame school house that served School District No. 65 from c.1890 to 1921 (Venango Union, August 1987).

³ Perkins County Diamond Jubilee, Committee *Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Album, 1887-1962: Jewel of the West* (Utica, NE: Houchen Bindery, 1962), 30.

⁴ “Notice of Bond Election” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), January 6, 1921.

⁵ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), February 2, 1921.

⁶ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), February 17, 1921.

⁷ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), March 31, 1921.

⁸ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), April 7, 1921.

⁹ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), May 5, 1921.

¹⁰ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), June 30, 1921.

¹¹ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), July 21, 1921.

¹² “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), September 8, 1921.

¹³ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), September 15, 1921.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property**County and State**

Despite the new school building not being ready, efforts to provide the district's children with the best possible education persisted. Consolidation and the addition of a high school led to more students attending classes in Venango. In October a school bus was purchased in Omaha and brought across the state to Venango to allow pupils in need of transportation to attend school regularly.¹⁴ The ladies of Venango, including the Kensington Club, worked toward securing a library for the school which was necessary for the school to receive accreditation, which was hoped would be achieved by spring.¹⁵

No classes were held on November 3 and 4, as school supplies, records, and furniture was moved into the new building which was hailed as "the best school building in Perkins County"; classes resumed on Monday, November 7. The new building contained electric lights and "is modern in every way. Machines for the sewing classes are installed, paraphernalia for domestic science, a fully equipped laboratory and typewriter for the business course have been added."¹⁶ Thereafter the previous school building was sold for \$500 and dismantled for lumber.¹⁷

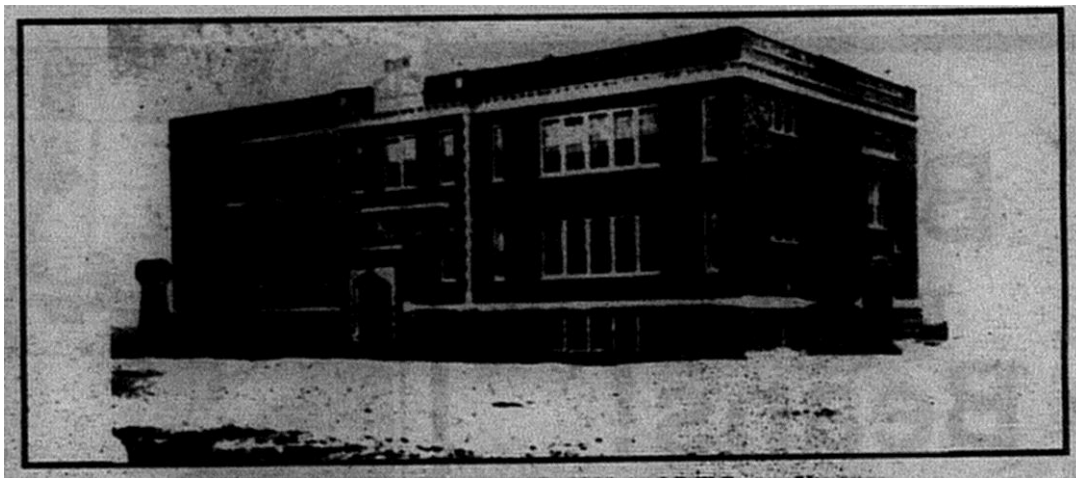


Figure 2: Venango Public School prior to 1955 addition (Venango Union, August 1987).

The school was immediately a draw for the entire community. November 18 and 19 saw a picture show drawing a good crowd at the new building as preparations were underway for a fundraiser the following week to benefit the creation of a school library.¹⁸ Books began arriving at the school in March 1922 with expectation of the library containing more than two-hundred volumes, "including books and books of fiction."¹⁹ While it is possible that Venango Public School achieved its goal of receiving accreditation as early as 1922, no records are available that indicate that. However, evidence exists that the school was accredited no later than at the conclusion of the 1923-24 school year.²⁰ The first twelfth grade class to graduate from the Venango Public School consisted of three students who received their diplomas on May 24, 1922. Two days later the school put on a play of "Kicked out of College" for the public to enjoy.²¹

The school continued to be the center of activities and performances into the next school year as Halloween festivities were held at the school after-hours²² and the American Legion post in Venango staged a production of "The Brookdale

¹⁴ "Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), October 6, 1921.

¹⁵ "Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), November 3, 1921.

¹⁶ "Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), November 10, 1921.

¹⁷ Venango Centennial Committee, 116.

¹⁸ Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), November 24, 1921.

¹⁹ Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), March 23, 1922.

²⁰ John M. Matzen, *Twenty-eighth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, For the Biennium beginning January 4, 1923 and ending January 2, 1925* (Lincoln, NE: State of Nebraska, 1925), 35.

²¹ Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), April 27, 1922.

²² Venango News" *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), November 2, 1922.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property**County and State**

Farm” in the auditorium. However, to accommodate the production the stage had to be expanded, exposing what was considered “the only error found in the architecture of the building” and prompted the school board to construct a permanent stage expansion;²³ the play drew a standing room only crowd.²⁴

Further consolidation of rural school districts led to needed expansion of the school facilities in Venango. Originally proposed in 1953, by 1955 five school districts that taught elementary through eighth grade – school districts 29 and 49 in Chase County and school districts 31, 61, and 8 in Perkins County – joined school district 65 in Venango for high school purposes only.²⁵ In doing so, the number of high school students attending classes in Venango increased from an average of 30 to over 50.²⁶ A “Notice to Bidders” was advertised in January and early-February 1955 to select a contractor “for the construction of extensive Additions and Alterations to the Existing High School” based on plans by architects Frank McNett & Company of Grand Island.²⁷ While information on the construction of the new gymnasium including a performing arts stage and lunchroom is scant, by January 1956 basketball fundraisers involving both grade schoolers and the town teams were taking place to help pay for items such as the gymnasium time-clock (scoreboard), indicating the addition was complete, or nearly so, by the end of 1955. The Venango Town Team also contributed to the effort by “volunteering to lay the floor in the new school.”²⁸ The larger gymnasium with adjoining kitchen and restrooms was immediately a hit with the local community, as an estimated eight-hundred people made use of the new gym on John Deere Day in late-January 1956. The county newspaper appreciated the new space, proclaiming “this community and school certainly was in need of a place in which to hold community affairs,” and that “The space accommodated the crowd very well.”²⁹ Small additions were added to the 1955 building to include an expanded lunch room and band room.³⁰

From community events to school reunions, the Venango Public School continued to serve both the community and school district throughout its history. Following the 1991-92 school year, grades 9-12 were sent to the Perkins County High School in Grant³¹, after which the Venango Public School served as a K-8 school until following the 2000-01 school year when all classes were moved to Grant and Venango’s building was closed.³²

Section F, page 1 of the National Register Multiple Property Submission (MPS) *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska* states:

To qualify for the NRHP, the property must be an intact example of a school or related resource and should retain essential elements of the seven aspects of integrity...Overall, the property must retain a high degree of physical integrity and should reflect its period of construction...The resource does not need to retain its historic function to be eligible...(and) can be eligible...under Criterion A for its historical association with education in Nebraska;...and/or Criterion C for its architectural significance, including representation of method of construction....or representative of a property type.

Section E, page 10 (subheading “Early School Architecture”) of the MPS states:

National publications continued to advocate the ideas of the “modern schoolhouse”...the trade Journal *The Brickbuilder* featured this topic. The series addressed a variety of issues, including the classroom; wardrobes, toilets and special rooms...such as the cooking room, assembly hall, manual training room, (and) gymnasium...Brick (for obvious reasons) was discussed as the exterior material of choice for the modern school. Even the style of the building

²³ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), November 23, 1922.

²⁴ “Venango News” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), December 7, 1922.

²⁵ Perkins County High School District v. McQuiston, 93 N.W.2d 32 (Neb.1959)

²⁶ Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc. *Pages of History – Nebraska High Schools, Past and Present – Public and Private, 1854 – 1994* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc., 1994) 598.

²⁷ “Notice to Bidders” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), January 13, 1955.

²⁸ “Venango Will Have Clock As Result of Benefit Basketball Games Monday” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE), January 12, 1956.

²⁹ “News About The Venango People” *Tribune-Sentinel* (Grant, NE)

³⁰ Venango Centennial Committee, 38.

³¹ Nebraska High School Historical Society, 598.

³² Cory Dean Worrell, Cory Dean. 2015. *The History of Nebraska Public School Reorganization Over the Past 30 Years and How This History Might be Used to Predict Nebraska School Reorganization in the Future: A Mixed Methods Study.* PhD diss., University of Nebraska.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

was discussed with the following: "The exterior treatment of a modern elementary school should always be dignified but never showy or ostentatious."

Section E, page 11 (subheading "Post World War I Consolidation and Construction Boom") of the MPS states:
New curriculum requirements often affected the types of specialized teaching areas that were incorporated into the design of school buildings, primarily at the junior high school and high school level...For example, a rising concern for health and nutrition led to the inclusion of a gymnasium, lunchroom and indoor bathrooms. In many cases, an assembly room or auditorium was also included, either as a separate room or as a stage at one end of the gymnasium.

The Venango Public School largely retains its physical integrity: the interior of the building is suffering from deterioration but retains many of its original features, and the 1950s exterior window modifications do not significantly detract from the original design of the School. Both the original school building and the later addition were designed following trends that characterized the development of education in Nebraska during the early to mid-20th Century: specialized courses in a variety of subjects in designated learning spaces equipped with modern technology. The location of the school on a large lot, with space for recreation and athletic competition reflects the emphasis of health and playground activities that was prevalent in the early-20th century.³³ In accordance with the registration requirements of *Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska* the Venango Public School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.



Figure 3: Venango Public School with 1955 addition (*Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Album, 1887-1962*).

Shortly after halting public school services, the Venango Public School was proposed by the USDA – Rural Development for redevelopment. The project did not materialize and the Venango Public School has since been in private ownership.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ittner, William B. "Forty Years in American School Architecture." *American School Board Journal*, 82 (May 1931) 49-51.

Matzen, John M. *Twenty-eighth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, For the Biennium beginning January 4, 1923 and ending January 2, 1925*. Lincoln, NE: The Acme Printing Co., 1925.

³³ William B. Ittner, "Forty Years in American School Architecture," *American School Board Journal*, 82 (May 1931), 49.

Venango Public School

Perkins County, Nebraska

Name of Property

County and State

Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc. *Pages of History – Nebraska High Schools, Past and Present – Public and Private, 1854 – 1994*. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska High School Historical Society, Inc., 1994.

Perkins County Diamond Jubilee Committee. *Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Album, 1887-1962: Jewel of the West*. Utica, NE: Houchen Bindery, 1962.

Perkins County High School District v. McQuiston, 93 N.W.2d 32 (Nebraska Supreme Court, 1959).

Save America’s Heritage. *Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Perkins County, Nebraska*. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1990.

Venango Centennial Committee. *Venango, 1887-1967: Buckle of the Wheat Belt*. Valentine, NE: Jeannette’s, 1967.

Worrell, Cory Dean. “The History of Nebraska Public School Reorganization Over the Past 30 Years and How This History Might be Used to Predict Nebraska School Reorganization in the Future: A Mixed Methods Study.” PhD diss., University of Nebraska, 2015

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- 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 #

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)
Perkins County Historical Society (Grant)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.56 USGS Quadrangle Venango

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | | | | |
|----|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>40.453854</u> | Longitude | <u>-102.22324</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 3. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 4. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property is the land immediately surrounding the building. It is bounded by Washington Street on the north, Westmoreland Avenue on the east, Fayette Street on the south, and Pennsylvania Avenue on the west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Nomination boundary was based on land historically associated with the school. The athletic fields to the east and south were not included since they do not contribute to the significance of the property and are physically detached from the main parcel.

Venango Public School
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Calease / National Register Coordinator
organization Nebraska State Historical Society – SHPO date 11/17/2017
street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402-471-4775
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501
email David.Calease@nebraska.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch 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.

Photo Log

Name of Property Venango Public School
City or Vicinity Venango County Perkins State Nebraska
Photographer Patrick Haynes / Nebraska SHPO Date Photographed 10/12/2017

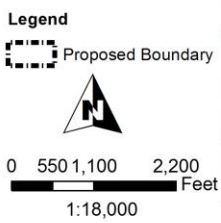
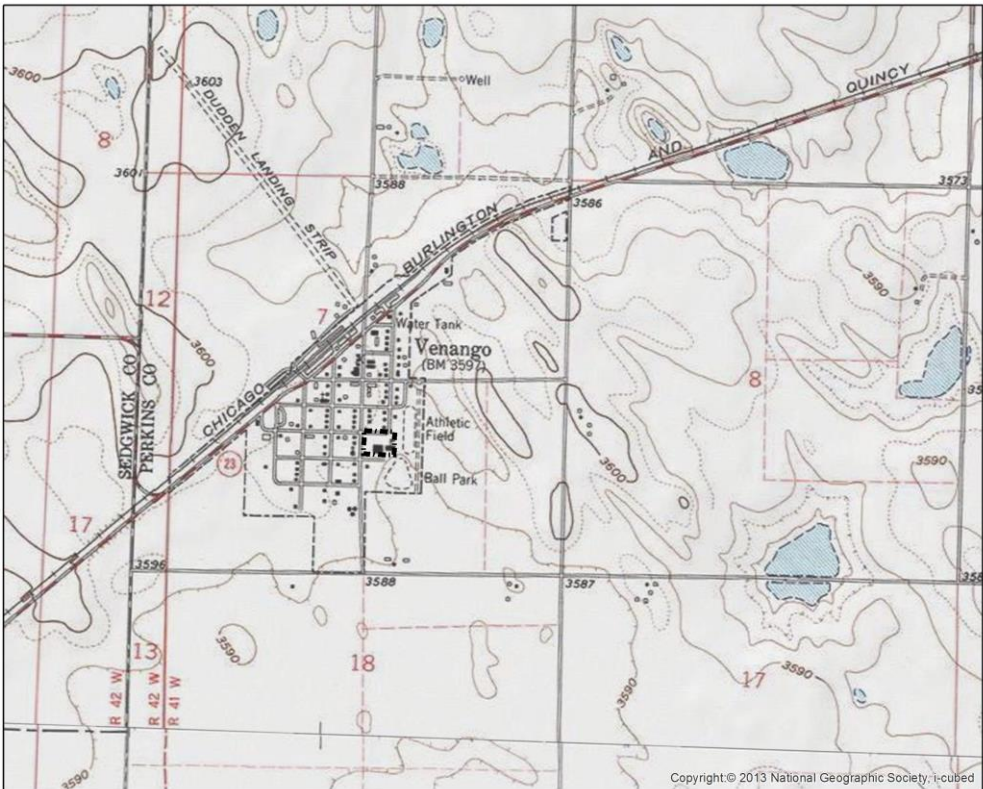
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

- Photo 1. 1921 school building, north facade; view facing south.
- Photo 2. 1921 school building with 1955 addition; view southeast.
- Photo 3. 1921 school building with 1955 addition; view northwest
- Photo 4. 1921 school building, north façade cornice detail.
- Photo 5. 1921 school building, interior entrance door.
- Photo 6. 1921 school building, first floor hallway.
- Photo 7. 1921 school building, first floor classroom.
- Photo 8. 1921 school building, stairwell.
- Photo 9. 1921 school building, second floor business and computer rooms.
- Photo 10. 1921 school building, second floor science laboratory.
- Photo 11. 1921 school building, basement gymnasium.
- Photo 12. 1955 gymnasium addition.
- Photo 13. 1965 band room addition.

Venango Public School
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

Venango Public School
201 East Washington St.,
Perkins Co., Nebraska

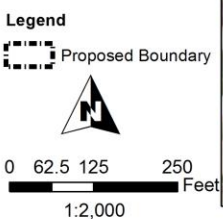


Venango Public School
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State



Venango Public School
201 East Washington St.,
Perkins Co., Nebraska



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.



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 88

















SEXTILLION
 (602,000,000,000,000,000,000)

PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS
 based on carbon-12

H	He																														
Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F	Ne																								
Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr						
K	Ca																														
Rb	Sr																														
Cs	Ba	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	Lu																









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/18/2018 Date of Pending List: 2/21/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/8/2018 Date of 45th Day: 3/5/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 3/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



January 8, 2018

Jim Gabbert
NPS-National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Venango Public School, Venango, Perkins County, NE

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

Enclosed is the complete nomination packet for the Venango Public School, located in Venango, Perkins County, Nebraska. The enclosed contents are as follows:

- The signed first page of the Venango Public School nomination;
- One archival disk with the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Venango Public School to the National Register of Historic Places in PDF format; and
- One (1) disc with the photographs for the Venango Public School nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the submitted materials, feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Calease".

David L. Calease
National Register and Historic Marker Coordinator
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Phone: 402-471-4775
Fax: 402-471-3100
david.calease@nebraska.gov

Enclosures (2): 1 disk with Nomination
1 disk with National Register Photographs

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554
p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100
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