

DATA SHEET

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 2 1977

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Burns Union School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southwest corner, Main and Ohio

CITY OR TOWN:
Burns

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 4, Garner Shriver

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66840

COUNTY: Marion CODE: 115

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Burns Community Historical Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Burns

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Marion County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Marion

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
66861

20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth Street

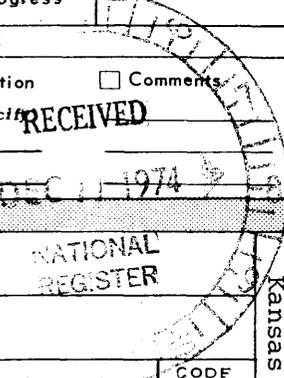
CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
66612

20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Marion
ENTRY NUMBER: 100
DATE: MAR 2 1977

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Burns Union School Building is a two-story Renaissance style structure with a full basement and an attic. The Renaissance traits in the building are subdued but evident. The building is L-shaped with the main entrance in an appendage at the inside corner of the "L." The building rests on a foundation of rough-cut limestone which extends about six feet above ground level and ends at the sill line of the first floor windows. The stone is coursed in horizontal layers and gives a massive base to the building. The walls above the foundation are constructed of red face brick laid in running bond. The wood shingled roof is gabled on one side of the "L" and hipped on the other. A broad wooden cornice which is devoid of any ornamentation separates the roof from the wall below.

Windows on the first and second floors are grouped in two's and three's and are simple rectangles with shallow curved arches for the heads. The wood sash windows are double hung with one light per sash. Window sills are cut stone and the window heads are shallow brick arches. Three dormers appear in the attic, each with a grouping of three windows and roofs that are hipped and shingled. A double window occurs in the east gable end. The basement windows are small openings in the rough stone foundation and have stone sills and lintels. The main entrance is accented by a large massive stone arch in which a transom window is located. The entrance door is double with a half glass in each.

Most of the changes to the building's exterior have occurred at the inside of the "L" near the entrance. To the north of the entrance a circular tower is situated. Formerly three stories high with a conical roof, it is now terminated by a flat roof at the roof line of the main part of the building. The entry way on the other hand, according to old photos, was originally only one and a half stories in height, but it has been extended to the main roof line. Also, two window openings on the east side have been bricked up.

The building is a typical example of the rural Kansas school building prevalent at the turn of the century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904-1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Burns Union School in extreme southeast Marion county was the first consolidated grade and high school in Kansas. Shortly after the turn of the century, several school boards in the Burns vicinity decided it had become necessary to consolidate their schools. The area's sparse population was causing tax problems, and thus inadequate facilities; so in April, 1904, four districts in Marion, Butler and Chase counties voted to consolidate. On June 8 an election was held to select a school board for the new Union School of Burns, District 156-65. At an election held July 8 voters approved bonds totaling \$8,000 for a new building and on September 10 another election determined the exact site for the school.

Classes began September 6, 1904, in the old Burns grade school and the former post office building. Students were transported from a 43-square mile area to Burns via three special-order "buses" made by an El Dorado wagon maker, F. J. Newacheck. This is reportedly the first use of school "buses" in Kansas. On December 2, 1904, bids were received for the new school and local contractors, J. J. Clayton and S. Bell, were awarded the building contract with their low bid of \$7,200. C. W. Squires of Emporia was the architect and F. L. Giddings, one of the school board directors, was to supervise the work.

Although most citizens agreed on the consolidation proposal, some were dissatisfied with the site chosen; therefore an injunction was secured December 21, 1904, to prevent further work on the building until all previous actions were proven legal. Rev. George W. Durham, who had worked for the school consolidation, went to the state legislature in Topeka and was able to get a bill passed which legalized all the work of the school board. The building was completed in time for the opening of school in the fall of 1905. The total cost of the structure with its furnishings was \$9,000. Dedication ceremonies December 16, 1905, featured Gov. E. W. Hoch as the guest speaker.

The Burns Union School served as the only district school house until 1921 when a new high school building was completed. The original building was still used for classes until a further unification of school districts in 1965 terminated its use. In 1965 the Burns Community Historical Society, Inc., was organized and received title to the old school for use as a museum and other educational purposes.

The school has significance to the development of the public education system in Kansas since it housed the first consolidated grade and high school in the state.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bruner, Hazel, C., Days to Remember (North Newton, Kan., Mennonite Press, 1970), pp. 80, 83, 84.
 Burns Citizen, December 8, 1904; February 16, September 21, December 14, 1905.
 Kingman, Marguerite, "When Kansas School Bus Was a Covered Wagon," Kansas City Times, October 10, 1962.
 Lyons, Margaret, "Burns, Kan., School First to Consolidate," Wichita Eagle Magazine, September 11, 1955.

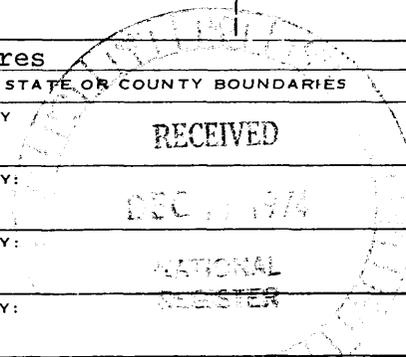
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	05	20
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	96	53	15
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1-2 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



14/6.252
421757
C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: 12/4/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: December 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A Pankratz
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/26/75

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1975

(Number all entries)

no. 9

Sidlinger, Bill, "Horse-Drawn Buses," Hutchinson News, November 16, 1969.
Sixteenth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction
of Kansas (Topeka, Kan., State Printing Office, 1908), pp. 89-137.
Van Meter, Sondra, Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present (Hillsboro, Kan.,
M. B. Publishing House, 1972), pp. 129, 130.

