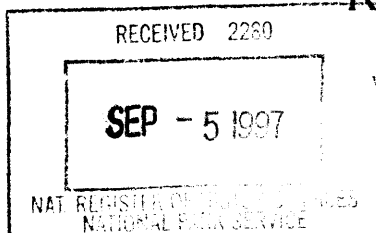


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



RECEIVED

JUL 30 1997

OHP

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wasco Union High School Auditorium
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1900 Seventh Street N/A not for publication
city or town Wasco N/A vicinity
state California code CA county Kern code 029 zip code 93280

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Harriet Ahuyta, Deputy 8/28/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9/30/97
Date of Action

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

School

Recreation and Culture

Auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

School

Recreation and Culture

Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Cement/Plaster Stucco

roof Clay Tile Composition Roof

other Cement Cast Plaster

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1928-1947

Significant Dates

1928-1947

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kump, Ernest J. Architect, Fresno, CA

Johnson, A.O. Engineer, Fresno, CA

Mellencamp, E.H. Builder, Fresno, CA

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 1	2 8 7 50 0	39 41 3 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ione Lollar, Linda Estes, and Nancy Neufeld

organization Wasco Historical Society date 05/05/97

street & number 729 Mannel telephone (805) 746-3133

city or town Shafter state CA zip code 93263

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wasco Union High School District

street & number 1900 Seventh Street telephone (805) 758-5324

city or town Wasco state CA zip code 93280

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Description

The Wasco Union High School Auditorium, constructed in 1928 and completed in 1929, stands as the oldest remaining building on the campus of Wasco High. By its age and elegance, the auditorium is set apart from other buildings. Part of the initial campus, the auditorium and the supporting school buildings were designed by architect Ernest J. Kump Sr. of Fresno, California. The original campus constructed from 1916 to 1938, has almost entirely been replaced by buildings fabricated in the 1950's and 1960's. Of the era prior to the "technological age", this auditorium survived when so many buildings were being torn down and replaced in the way of this progressive and modern period of our culture. It remains as the only auditorium in the community today and has been in continuous use throughout the years, except while under renovation in 1979. Sitting on the southeast section of the Wasco Union High School, the auditorium is surrounded by the administration building, the cafeteria, the music/band building, and the east tennis courts. Recessed on the property, the building faces a residential area of Seventh Street. This area is lined with trees in a long established single-story neighborhood of Wasco. The auditorium towers above in an evocative use of architecture in its Renaissance Revival Style. Seating 1,182 guests between the first floor and balcony level, the building is approximately 81 feet wide and 141 feet deep. Structured by steel, concrete, and wood, the auditorium stands alone in its grandiose articulation of detail and integrity in the community of Wasco. Modernization and changes have been minimal to the facility. From the exterior, one can see additional fire escapes and a rose garden that did not previously exist, and Italian Cypresses no longer erect from the front and sides of the auditorium. Connected to the northeast corner of the auditorium is a later addition of a covered walkway that leads to the music building. At the time the building was first constructed, homes were standing where the east tennis courts now sit. This building, however, retains its original honesty of design with little to no fundamental changes in its appearance or function. Attention is still commanded by the architect's use of three grand arches and the auditorium's many motifs have not changed their playful reflections of what is expected to be realized within its walls. Its style of Renaissance Revival is echoed through the use of stuccoed walls, hip roofs with Spanish tile, focal windows with balconets, a front portico, and classical detailing, giving this building reflective romance and statuesque permanence.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Description (continued)

Landscaping has served to enhance the strong central axis of the auditorium. Hedges and Italian Cypresses surrounded the building, and a central grass area once adorned its frontal approach. Today, the central grass is no longer found and has been replaced with a rose garden, a few hedges remain, but there are no longer Italian Cypress trees present. Original pines are still remaining, along with front and side lawns. While a back patio has been added, graceful lawns still encompass the area around the auditorium.

The central axis is recognized in the auditorium by its symmetrical rectangular plan. The structure of the auditorium remains original. It rests on a foundation of reinforced concrete slabs supported by reinforced concrete footings. The auditorium is divided and layered into a regular massing of rectangular segments, due to its formality of function. As you enter, there is a foyer preceding the central auditorium. It is approximately 12 feet deep and a width of 47 feet with a height of 20 ft. There are stairwells on opposite sides that lead to the balcony level. The balcony level covers approximately a third of the ground floor seating. It houses the projection and lighting room, and two bathrooms. Beyond the foyer is the central auditorium with a stage visible and an orchestra pit. The ground level of the central auditorium is approximately 56 feet deep and 76 feet wide and 40 feet high. The stage and backstage dimensions are 24 feet by 60 feet. On the second level, there are prop rooms and staging areas above the main stage. On either side of the stage, at ground level are bathrooms, an organ room, and a mechanical room. Corridors lead back behind the stage where there is one large classroom and four practice rooms that are currently being used as a computer laboratory and administration offices. At the basement level, there are property rooms, mechanical rooms, a musician's room, and the orchestra pit.

The walls of the auditorium are constructed of reinforced concrete and supported by steel columns. They are covered with stucco on the exterior, and flat plaster on the interior. The roof is completed in a combination of hip deck and flat styles. The most visible portions of the roof are completed in a medium pitched hip style covered with colorful Spanish clay tile. The other nearly flat portions are finished with a composition roof. These are located above the central portico, four exterior entrances, and the center of the auditorium.

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Section number 7 Page 3

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Description (continued)

The frontal approach to the auditorium is accented through its repetitive elements. Walking up the eight steps, two lamps can be seen. On each side, rests a bronze lamppost detailed with a Greek scroll key base and an acanthus plant ascending up its base to a channeled post finished with a simple glass globe. On either side of the front of the building are two arched focal windows with balconets decorated by cast plaster theatrical panels. Two rosettes give accent above the windows. Rising above with great drama, are three arches descending upon two full round columns and two engaged columns bearing the stylistic capitals of roman composite with its central fleurons, layered acanthus, and angled scrolls. The arcade and the entire structure is elaborated by using various plaster running moldings such as ovum, bead, egg, and chain. Vivid coloration is a common technique used by the architect and is reflective of the Mediterranean. In the frieze above, the raised letters of "Wasco Union High School Auditorium" are displayed. A cornice defines this level of the building. Above this cornice, a bas-relief of cast cement plaster displays the nature of social interacting and the arts. On either side of this relief, are coupled windows with cast cement plaster tracery and spiral columns--these are faux windows and are present on the east and west sides of the auditorium totaling twelve coupled windows. Diverging classical influences can be seen by the architect's design.

On each side of the building, there are two principal entrances and one secondary. The sets of principal entrances are embellished with columns, cornices, lighting fixtures, and various moldings. These embellishments of the doorways indicate the nature of how the building works--they direct access to the central auditorium. The secondary entrance leads behind the stage and to its practical functions. It should be noted that these entrances are all subordinate to the front entryway. Theatrical cast plaster motifs, such as lyres and comedy and tragedy figures, adorn the east and west sides of the auditorium. This is a colorful thematic overtone of the architect's playful nature in which he encapsulates the building. Pilasters enrich the sides of the building, and the upper walls of the back exterior are detailed with quatrefoil plaster motifs. The finishing use of articulation of surface is the uppermost cornice, wrapping itself around the auditorium.

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Section number 7 Page 4

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Description (continued)

Through the front arcade, lies the portico. An octopartite vault is repeated three times in the ceiling. The wall ribs descend upon full and engaged columns. The color of this exterior ceiling is evening blue. American coins are represented on the wall ribs, such as the mercury dime and the buffalo nickel. The underside of the arches and wall ribs are stenciled with vibrant colors and geometrical design. On either end of the portico, an alcove or niche might be expected. The visual expectation is, however, fulfilled by the embedded ticket windows. These windows are discretely accented by running molding and surrounding skillful coloration. Lighting is achieved through the use of bronze and glass hanging chandeliers with grating and rosette detailing. These lights hang above each ticket booth and in the center of each arch, totaling five. All the lights are original, with the exception of one. There are three sets of doors in the portico which are made of wood and decorated with bronze nails. The doors are dressed with an antepagment. Moldings and theatrical themes enrich this area over the doors. Above the cornice of the doorway, rests a crest divided into four sections: the sun, grain, grapes, and a fleur-de-lis.

Entering the foyer, murals represent numerous subjects such as theater, music, dance and being. Stairwells, leading to the balcony level, are adorned with niches, tapered ceilings, and stenciled borders. Chamfered edges are common in the numerous archways of the foyer and stairwells. On the second platform of the staircase, one stands center stage in the large arched window facing the street.

Upon entry to the central auditorium, towards the stage, the proscenium is decorated with a painted mural of a family. This scene represents the foundations of civilized life--embraced in family, nature, technology, the arts, and education. The proscenium is framed and presided over by two painted winged trumpeteers. Three balconets and one organ grille enrich each side of the auditorium, as well as a central cast plaster lighting piece. Throughout the auditorium, one can see the unique use of stenciled borders, walls, and exaggerated illuminated light. From a faux curtain to chevron borders, playhouse deception is revisited.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Description (continued)

Through the years the auditorium has undergone some renovations. In 1959, the structure was updated for earthquake and fire safety. Decorative urns were taken off the exterior, and were later sold to local citizens. The chimney had metal bands added to its structure. A covered ramp was added, connecting the band building to the auditorium. Two fire escapes, in the form of metal staircases, were supplemented to the side exterior balcony level. They were given no stylistic or period treatment. A sprinkler system was added over the stage. In 1979, a sound system was attached to the proscenium. The foyer, balcony, and auditorium were re-carpeted. The carpet was not re-matched to the original. However all flooring elsewhere is original, such as the wood floors located on the stage and back rooms. A center railing was installed to the front entrance steps. The composition roof was re-roofed. The interior and exterior of the building were repainted using carbon dating to match the original colors. The integrity of the auditorium is in good condition, however, neglect and deterioration are constant battles with aging buildings. It is especially significant since this auditorium has been in almost constant use. Water damage is prevalent on the ceiling. Painting is needed throughout the building. Destroyed lights need to be duplicated. Though the auditorium seats are original, they have been vandalized through the years and need work. The front doors of the exterior need to be refinished. Extraordinary restoration, however, is not needed. The building stands in its original state with only minor modifications as discussed above.

The Wasco High Auditorium represents a temple in a rural community. It is where the town and school children have converged throughout the years. Its Renaissance Revival style presents itself in still fashionable and unique grace. It is a building that evokes social trust, stability, permanence, and artistic beauty. The auditorium both literally and figuratively takes the community to another time and place.

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Section number 8 Page 6

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Statement of Significance

Built on the campus of Wasco High School in a Renaissance Revival design, the Wasco Union High School Auditorium is anchored regally on the west end of the main street of the small, rural community of Wasco, California. The auditorium served as an assembly hall for school functions and community events and showcased cultural experiences such as concerts, theater and dance. From 1929 through 1947 the Wasco Union High School Auditorium played a pivotal role in the architectural evolution and social history of Wasco. The period of significance is ended arbitrarily in 1947 because for purposes of National Register eligibility, nothing of exceptional significance has occurred in the last fifty years. The Wasco Union High School Auditorium is significant under Criterion A-Social History and Criterion C-Architecture.

Criterion A-Social History

The Wasco Union High School District was formed on September 16, 1915, with eight grammar school districts providing the student body. Grammar school districts had been formed, but the need for a high school became apparent as the population grew. In 1916 the first of several campus buildings was designed by Ernest J. Kump and built for the district. It was on this campus that the Wasco Union High School Auditorium, also a Kump design, was completed in May of 1929. The graduates of the Class of '29 walked across the new stage with the community in attendance, viewing this magnificent building for the first time. From that date through 1947, all Wasco eighth grade and high school graduates walked across that stage. The auditorium was a place of beauty for the "rites of passage" of the hardworking families of the small farming community of Wasco, in the arid southern San Joaquin Valley of California.

The 1929 Wasco Union High School Yearbook, the Wasconian, states on page 10, "The Board plans a most liberal policy with regard to the use of the building for both school and community events. There is no doubt that the auditorium will prove one of the first public improvements in Wasco and one of the greatest helps in community affairs." This liberal policy set by the school board continued through the years. School functions were the prime source of entertainment and social interaction for the community. Talents of the youth were showcased in school plays, recitals, debates, and instrumental and vocal

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

performances. Parents, grandparents and relatives gathered to listen to sons and daughters playing newly learned instruments in school band and orchestra concerts. Senior classes presented dramas and Junior classes performed comedies bringing theater to relatives and friends. The Latin Club did plays in Latin. Speakers and lectures offered opportunities for learning. In addition, the student body gathered in the auditorium for assemblies and award presentations. The ambiance of the auditorium set the tone for an appreciation of the event taking place.

The liberal policy of the Board of Trustees encouraged the use of the auditorium by the community. Service clubs, civic groups and churches were provided enhanced seating capacity when entertaining a larger segment of the community in the auditorium. Service clubs sponsored events such as variety and talent shows which displayed the thespian aspirations of young and old-farmer, housewife and businessman. Touring musicians offered musical events from country to classics and marveled at the acoustics in the building. Churches performed pageants and preachers preached occasionally. In 1947 a chapter of Community Concerts Incorporated was chartered to bring to the community a cultural feast of classical musicians, opera, ballet, soloists and orchestras. The richness of the auditorium enhanced the performances of all.

The Wasco Union High School Auditorium continues to serve the school and community in the same capacity today.

Criterion C-Architecture

The Wasco Union High School Auditorium is locally significant for its Renaissance Revival architecture. There is no other building in the community of Wasco of this classical style and stature. Other builders and buildings were influenced by it, but none are comparable. Its stuccoed walls, hip tiled roof, and front portico are gestures of this style. These Mediterranean influences could be found more typically in southern California, but focal windows, balconets, and classical detailing stated their place in fashionable credence in this central valley auditorium.

The high artistic value of the auditorium can be seen within its walls. The interior artwork is an integral part of the distinctiveness of the Wasco Union

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Section number 8 Page 8

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

High School Auditorium and therefore must be noted in detail. Entering the foyer, between and on either side of the two curtained doorways leading into the auditorium are four panels. These panels done in shades of black, silver, gray, and bronze depict four muses. The first holds comedy-and-tragedy masks, a second plays a flute, a third suggests dance, and a fourth is facing forward, looking upward with arms outstretched. One is struck by the diversity in the stylized background of mountains, desert, trees, plants, and cacti. The symbolism is one of the remaining puzzle pieces to be found as we have been unable to locate either the names of the artists or documentation of this artwork. In the stairwells, leading from the foyer to the balcony are wide painted borders of mythological-type birds and animals which adorn the tapered ceiling edges.

Entering through the velvet curtains one is struck by the large mural arching over the stage in the proscenium. It depicts a stylized family trio surrounded by items symbolizing knowledge (books), education (a diploma in the hand of the child), the "halls of learning" (distant buildings), and other items whose symbolism is yet to be discovered (a gear wheel, a barrel, a dove, a lyre, a lily). The style in which the figures are done, the exposed limbs and the drape of the clothing fabric, suggests almost an anatomical study. Large, ornate matching organ grilles on each side of the stage provided for the placement of a sound system in the future. Continuing around, one finds on each side of the stage winged trumpeteers--blowing their horns as if to call attention to the center stage. There are subtle discrepancies in the right and left figures which indicate that the figures were individually done. A painted background of metallic silver gives them an added dimension of flight. The ceiling is painted like an evening sky with gold stars scattered about. From the center of the ceiling hangs a chandelier which sets the tone for the entire room. WUHS Board minutes dated 12/7/28 read in part: "The Board selected opera chair number 6103 from the C.F. Weber Co. catalogue..." 1,182 seats were delivered and installed at a cost of \$9.10 each. These same seats, though reupholstered, are in use today. On each side of the balcony are three gilded balconets along the walls with opulent fruit and bird patterns. The walls of the balcony are adorned with a repeated plant motif which appears as wallpaper but was applied using paint and templates or stencils.

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Section number 8 Page 9

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

When the auditorium was completed in 1929 it could be seen for quite some distance, for the community had not expanded that far west. Entering the town from any direction the auditorium was highly visible. The auditorium was the largest assembly hall in the community with a seating capacity of 1,182. The architectural evolution of Wasco had begun primarily as single-story wood-frame dwellings, with a scattering of adobe, and an occasional two-story home. As the community moved westward, one-story homes continued to be built in a variety of styles. Commercial and community government buildings were gradually added, though none compared with the classic design and seating capacity of the auditorium.

The area of the Wasco Union High School District includes Lost Hills, whose tax base is primarily oil producing companies. Oil money played an important part in the construction of a project of such merit. Completed just prior to the crash of 1929 and the Great Depression the elegance of this building reflects the period when funds were spent more readily for institutions of learning. The auditorium has maintained its integrity through the years.

- * The location of prominence of the auditorium on the high school campus maintains its high visibility and it continues to play the same role for which it was created.
- * The design conceived by Architect Ernest J. Kump and approved by the school board was meant to serve the community as well as the school and its students. A quote from the May 2, 1928 Fresno Bee, regarding bids for the construction of the proposed auditorium, states, "Of a ...classic type of architecture, the new building will harmonize with the existing units and at the same time show by its exterior design the social and recreational purpose for which it is intended."
- * It has maintained its setting on three sides with lawns, plantings and sidewalks. The north side (the back of the auditorium) is bordered by a 1950s addition of a large patio the width of the building.
- * The property retains the original exterior materials dating from the period of its historic significance, with the exception of the metal fire escape stairways. The 1928 Fresno Bee also states, "In the main floor and gallery, a seating capacity of 1200 persons is provided, with careful consideration given to the subjects of acoustics and visibility."

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Continuation Sheet

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Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

- * Outstanding examples of workmanship continue to be seen in the ornamentation and use of Exposition colors. In the September 1916 copy of The Architect and Engineer of California, page 39, an article titled, "Some Recent Work of Mr. Ernest J. Kump", states that "...the architect who may be said to be the first to make use of Exposition colors outside the Exposition City." These colors derived from the Panama-California Exposition, San Diego 1915, are used extensively on the exterior of the auditorium. Interior artwork, also, lends itself to the building's distinctive nature. The results of the artisans' labor can be seen in the interior murals in the foyer as well as those surrounding the stage.
- * The property expresses an historic sense of a particular period of time through its classical design, ornate embellishments, light fixtures and distinctive artwork. Aesthetically pleasing to the eye, the auditorium evokes an earlier period of social graces and formal attire.
- * The property retains its association to the historic pattern of events in the community of Wasco and continues to this day to convey its historic character.

Architect Ernest J. Kump specialized in school architecture. During his 27 years as an architect, Mr. Kump designed and built some 175 school buildings. The Wasco Union High School Auditorium is one of his few works still standing. The following quote of Mr. Kump in a monograph sent to the school board reads, "Your town is judged by its schoolhouse, for when a prospective settler comes, he first investigates what educational facilities you have for his children." The board of Wasco Union High School heeded his words when they commissioned him to design and build the Wasco Union High School Auditorium.

The Wasco Union High School Auditorium has been, since its completion in 1929, and remains to this day, a focal point for school and community events. The design of the building, the ornate embellishments, and the distinctive artwork throughout give it a character that is becoming increasingly rare in the San Joaquin Valley.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

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Articles

The Architect and Engineer of California. Volume XLVI, Number 3,
September 16, pp. 39-55. "Some Recent Work of Ernest J. Kump."

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September 3, 1927-August 27, 1929

August 20, 1953-October 22, 1959

April 28, 1977-May 25, 1978

October 12, 1978-August 9, 1979

September 26, 1996

Blueprints

Original Auditorium Plans-Mary Kump Byrnes, Berkeley, CA, Granddaughter
of Ernest J. Kump Copied and returned to owner

Computer Web Sites

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/sdhs/pancal/sdexp12.htm>
Panama-California Exposition San Diego 1915

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

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Information on Ernest J. Kump by John Edward Powell

Correspondence and Papers Correspondence

Kump, Edwina (Mrs. Peter Kump)
Letters dated January 30, 1997, February 14, 1997

Papers compiled by Peter J. Kump, Architect

"The Offices of Ernest J. Kump I, Architect, From the Year His
Name First Appeared until 1939" (1 page)

"Ernest J. Kump Consultant Inventory" 5/2/83 (13 pages)

"School Architecture" by Ernest J. Kump (1 page)

Papers received from John Edward Powell, Archival Historian, Fresno, CA

Stanford University, Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and
Peace, "The Ernest J. Kump Papers,"
File 38 (5 pages)
File 36 (1 page)

Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA, "News of the San Joaquin" Section,
Thursday, May 3, 1928, page 10, Volume 13, No. 1921

Interviews and Tapes

Eleanor Warren Annin, WUHS Domestic Science Teacher, 1929 (Tape)

C.R. Waugh and Jean Barrows Waugh, WUHS Students, 1929 (Interview)

John Edward Powell, Archival Historian, Fresno, CA (Telephone
Interview)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9,10 Page 13

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Bibliography (continued)

William Guenther, Painting Contractor, 1979 WUHS Auditorium Restoration
(Telephone Interview)

Jack Cutner, WUHS Superintendent-Principal, 1979 WUHS Auditorium
Restoration (Telephone Interview)

NOTE: Copies of the Wasconian, Wasco Union High School Yearbooks, are stored
at the Wasco Union High School Library.

All other material, including tapes and interviews, is on file at
729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263.

Future repositories include Wasco Union High School and Wasco
Historical Society

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Wasco Union High School Auditorium begins from a point that is 40.9 ft. E of the SW corner of lot 47 of the Fourth Home Extension Colony, in the incorporated city of Wasco, County of Kern, State of California, made by F.M. Sayre, Surveyor, and filed in the office of the County Recorder in the County of Kern, in book one of maps, page ninety-nine thereof. The Auditorium boundary is as follows, from the beginning point above go N 227.7 ft., then E 184.1 ft., S 227.7 ft., then W 184.1 ft to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification

Only the auditorium is being nominated. The boundary is drawn to include the auditorium and its immediate setting. Other original campus buildings no longer exist, resulting in loss of integrity.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA**

Additional Items: Vote of Support

The Wasco Union High School Auditorium is owned by the Wasco Union High School District. On Thursday, September 26, 1996 the WUHS Board of Trustees voted unanimously to allow the Wasco Historical Society to pursue placing the auditorium on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It was moved by Montgomery and seconded by Voth to provide Board support and approval to the Historical Society submitting an application to designate the auditorium as a national historical building. Motion carried. Ayes: 5; Noes: 0; Absent: 0."

Wasco Union High School District Board Minutes
September 26, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 15

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Additional Items: Photographs and Slides

#1

3. Ione Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South (front) elevation, looking north

#2

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South (front) elevation, looking north

#3

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. North (back) elevation, looking south (2 copies)

#4

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. West (side) elevation, looking east (2 copies)

#5

3. Ione Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. East (side) elevation, looking northwest (2 copies)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 16

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Additional Items: Photographs and Slides (continued)

#6

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. West elevation, looking southeast

#7

3. Ione Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South (front) facade, looking northwest (2 copies)

#8

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Portico and steps, south elevation, looking northwest

#9

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Portico ceiling, looking northerly and skyward

#10

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Portico and south (front) elevation, looking northerly and skyward

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 17

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Additional Items: Photographs and Slides (continued)

#11

3. Ione Lollar
4. November 1983
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South (front) facade detail, looking north

#12

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Portico, east elevation, looking east (2 copies)

#13

3. Nancy Neufeld
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Portico doors, south elevation, looking northwest

#14

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Foyer, south wall, looking northeast (2 copies)

#15

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Foyer, south wall, looking northwest (2 copies)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 18

Wasco Union High School Auditorium
Kern County, CA

Additional Items: Photographs and Slides (continued)

#16

3. Ione Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Tapered ceiling of stairwell, looking upward and north (2 copies)

#17

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Edge of chandelier and painted ceiling, looking up

#18

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. Organ grille, west wall, looking west (2 copies)

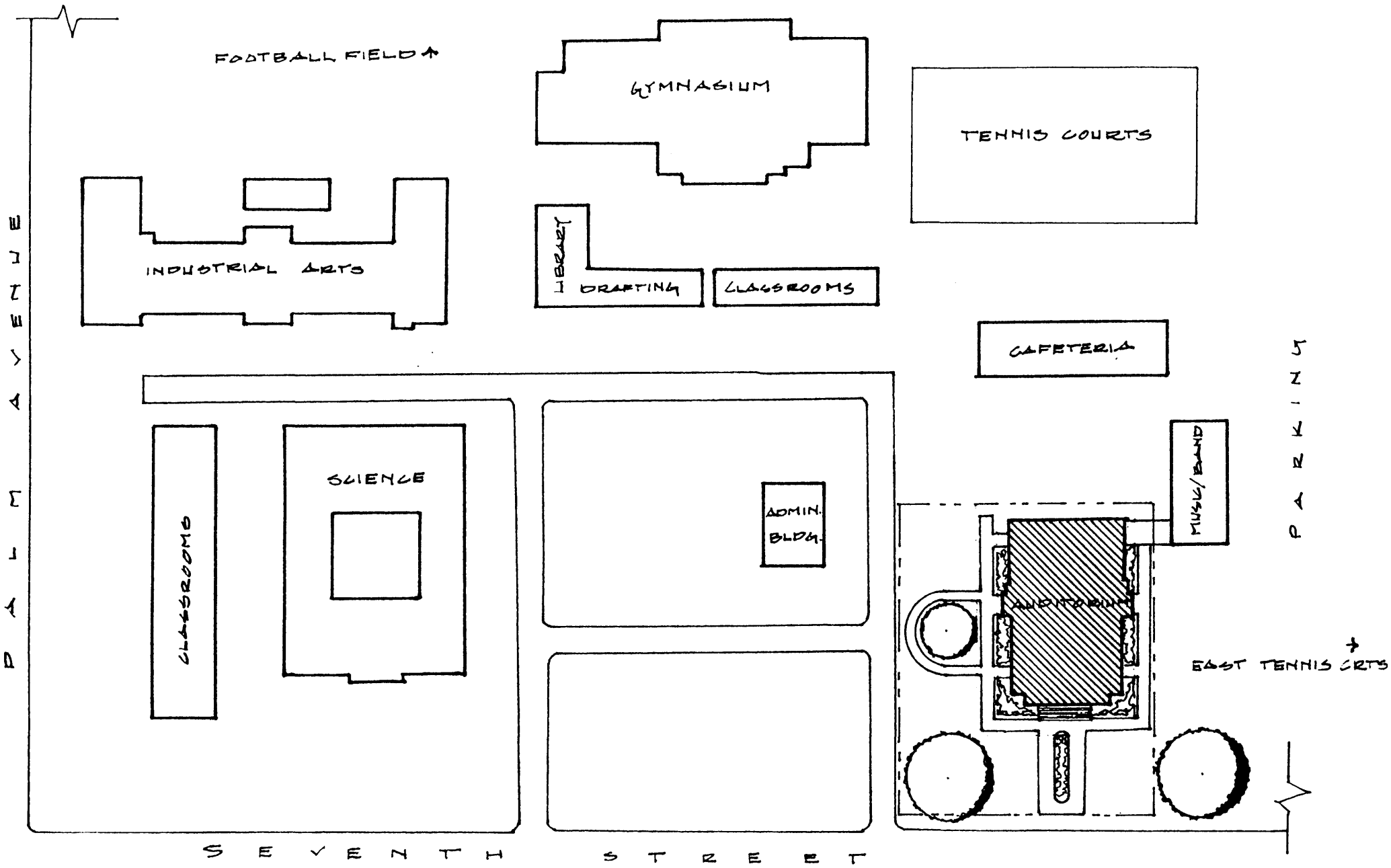
Slides:

#19

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South (front) elevation, looking north

#20

3. Richard Lollar
4. March 1997
5. Wasco Historical Society, 729 Mannel, Shafter, CA 93263
6. South facade detail of bas-relief, looking north



SITE PLAN

SCALE 1"=100'0"

· AUDITORIUM



WASCO UNION HIGH SCHOOL
 1900 SEVENTH STREET
 WASCO, CA 93280
 SKETCH MAP
 LOT 47