

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

811



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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Wichita High School
Other name/site number 173-5880-08246

2. Location

Street & number 324 North Emporia ☐ not for publication
City or town Wichita ☐ vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67202

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.)

Patrick Zolner DSHPO 8/20/09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

109
Edson H. Beall

10-8-09

Wichita High School

Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas

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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Public Schools of KS MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

Education: Public School Building

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals:

English Collegiate Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Brick

Roof: Wood structure with asphalt fiber and aluminum coating

Other:

Narrative Description

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

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Wichita High School
Sedgwick County, Kansas
Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPS

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Description: The Exterior

The Wichita High School, located at 324 North Emporia Avenue in Wichita, Kansas, is a three-story brick building measuring 228 feet in length and 125 feet in width. The high school is bounded on the west, front elevation by Emporia Avenue; on the north, side elevation by Third Street; and originally on the east, rear elevation by an alley followed by a large parking lot; and on the south, side elevation at its southeast corner by the original one-story boiler and generator rooms and beyond by parking lots to Second Street. The land upon which the Wichita High School sits as well as earlier school buildings was given to the Wichita School District by James R. Mead (1836-1910), one of the early settlers and founders of Wichita.

The school is set back fifteen feet from its original retaining wall composed of three brick courses, capped by concrete slabs and surrounding the front and side elevations of the school. The exterior of the school is built of red pressed brick with white composition stone trimming. The brick courses of the school and its retaining wall are laid in Flemish bond, the strongest brick bonding course, consisting of the alternation of headers and stretchers in the same course. To emphasize the importance of the school's first floor and in keeping with its English Collegiate Gothic style, the headers were fired to a much darker red glaze than the stretchers, creating a checkerboard pattern. The foundation is concrete, and all the interior walls are brick with a plaster coating.¹ Virtually all the window and door openings are original as well as the brick rowlock sills and lintels, but, with one notable exception, none of the fenestration and doors have survived. The original fenestration was composed of wooden sash windows. Today, these windows have been replaced with aluminum sash windows with clear glass and in some instances with aqua-colored aluminum spandrel panels, with a few of the window openings covered

¹ Construction information and materials are taken from copies of the original drawings of the school. Each drawing is signed by the architect "W. B. Ittner Architect" and dated "May 1910".

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with an opaque fiberglass mesh. The modern roof is composed of wood with asphalt fiber and an aluminum coating.

The West Front Elevation

On the west, front elevation slightly projecting end bays are stone quoins defining the corners of the end bays on the second and third floors. On the first floor there is a series of four contiguous windows followed by a stone string course that wraps around the entire building and separates the first floor from the second and third floors. A series of five contiguous windows define the first and second floors followed by another string course continuing around the front and side elevations. Above the string course is a brick parapet capped by stone coping that continues around the front and side elevations. At the center of the parapet is a brick circle with brick stretchers decorating the circle. Between the end bays and the school's central section on the first, second and third floors are a series of five contiguous windows, terminated by the ubiquitous string course and a brick parapet (Plate 001).

The central section of the front elevation is the crown jewel of the Wichita High School. Slightly projecting end towers frame the recessed central section. The three floors of the towers are defined by pairs of windows that become progressively taller on each floor. Stone quoins defined the corners of the towers. A stone string course separates the first from the second floor and situated on it next to the school's main entrance is a cast concrete plaque that reads: "Wichita/High/School/ 1910-1911". Each tower is terminated by a brick parapet. At the top in the middle of each parapet is an embrasure, also known as a crenel, the downward opening in a parapet that alternates with a merlon or the raised member of a parapet. In medieval military architecture battlements or crenellation were positioned on top of castle walls and fortified buildings to ward off invading forces (Plate 002).

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Access to the first floor, which is really the ground floor, is down stairs flanking the main staircase and through doors underneath the staircase. The grand exterior staircase leads to four doors, which originally were of wood with plain glass, and led to the school's second floor. Above the entrance were seven leaded glass windows with wooden mullions. From the grand staircase one enters the vestibule and its stairs leading to the original wooden doors surrounded by the original glass windows with metal transoms and mullions (Plate 003). Embracing the entrance is a seventeen-foot tall rowlock arch consisting of five voussoirs. Above the rowlock arch is a corbel table composed of six corbels supporting six contiguous windows that originally had stone mullions and a transom bar with leaded glass windows. A brick parapet terminates the central section (Plate 002).

William B. Ittner, the architect of the Wichita High School, believed in using school buildings to educate. In many of his schools he employed tile murals on the exterior and interior of a school to great advantage.² At the Wichita High School he used his educational tools sparingly, but powerfully. He selected sculpture to tell the story of the beneficial rewards of an education obtained at the Wichita High School. All the sculpture is located on the central section of the front elevation above the entrance doors to the top of the brick parapet. On the seven corbels beneath the windows are three male medieval figures (Plate 004). Reading from right to left on the second corbel is a figure of a man wearing a scull cap, curled up underneath the top member of the corbel and holding a large W in his right hand (Plate 005). On the middle corbel is a another man also wearing a scull cap, with a big grin on his face, holding a large tome and looking at those below (Plate 006). On the next to the last corbel

² See Cleota Reed's article on the five schools in Erie, Pennsylvania Ittner designed and his use of tiles on the school's exterior and interior to educate students. Cleota Reed. William B. Ittner and Henry C. Mercer: The Architecture and Art of the Erie Public Schools, 1915-1920. *The Journal of Erie Studies* (1982): 32-55.

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is a man holding a diploma in the form of a scroll in his left hand and wearing a mortar board on his head (Plate 007). These three medieval figures represent the student's career at the Wichita High School. Enrollment in the school is symbolized by the first figure holding a large W. The second figure holding a large open book symbolizes study and learning, and the third figure, who holds a diploma in his left hand and wears a mortar board on his head, represents a graduate of the Wichita High School.³

Separating the third floor from the brick parapet is a string course that continues across the central section. At the four corners of the string course are male faces wearing medieval scull caps and peering intensely into space (Plate 008). At first glance these men would appear to be an illusion to the gargoyles found on down spouts and parapets of medieval churches. But in this instance the reference is to learning and learned men who in the Middle Ages wore scull caps to keep warm as they studied.⁴

The third and last sculpture is located at the top of the brick parapet terminating the central section of the front elevation. There in the center of the parapet is a merlon, the projecting member of a battlement, decorated with a scroll cartouche. In the center of the cartouche is an open book and sitting on top of the book is the lamp. At the apex of the cartouche is an owl (Plate 009). The open book is a symbol of learning and the lamp is a beacon of truth and virtue. Presiding over this ensemble is the owl, the wise old owl. Since classical Greece the owl, as the attribute of the goddess Athena, is a symbol of wisdom, and in many instances the owl is depicted perched on a pile of books. The cartouche's didactic, hierarchical message to students and those who take time

³ In Wichita the culmination of using a school building as an educational tool are the tile murals on the exterior of Wichita High School North designed by Glen Thomas and erected in 1929.

⁴ An elaborate version of a scull cap is depicted in the portrait of Erasmus of Rotterdam by Hans Holbein the Younger in the Louvre Museum, Paris.

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to study the cartouche is clear: through reading one obtains knowledge, and from it will flow truth and virtue, and at the summit if one is persistent in the pursuit of knowledge, truth and virtue, will come wisdom personified by the owl.

The North, Side Elevation

The school's north elevation faces Third Street. All the elevation's window openings are intact except for the pair of windows on the third floor at the northwest corner. Here a metal fire door surrounded with windows replaces the pair of windows and steel fire escape stairs issue from the door to the ground. On the ground floor at the northwest corner is an original door opening with its stone surrounds (Plate 010). On the roof, but not visible from the street because of the tall brick parapet, is an art studio with glass skylights to take advantage of the northern light (Plate 011).

The East, Rear Elevation

The east elevation is divided into three sections with the central section slightly elevated above the end sections. Originally the east elevation faced a brick alley which survives, and today beyond the alley is a large parking lot ending at St. Francis Avenue. The north section of the east elevation retains all of its originally window openings. On the ground floor of the central section windows have been inserted to the south of double doors and three pairs of double windows are bricked shut. On the second floor of the six original window openings only two remain. The third floor did not fare any better, four of its original nine windows are gone, as are the two skylights on the roof which illuminated stairs at the rear of the building. On the south section only one of the windows located on the ground floor is no longer functional and is bricked shut. On the roof are the vocational school's heating and cooling units (Plate 012).

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The east elevation of the one-story boiler room is attached to the school's south elevation. The boiler room door is not original, the window next to it has been turned into a vent and next to it is a pair of windows with modern aluminum sashes.

The South, Side Elevation

The south elevation differs significantly from the north elevation, because the boiler room and generator rooms are attached to the first floor from its mid-section to the southeast corner. Until 1923, when it was razed, the first Wichita High School was attached to the south elevation of the boiler and generator rooms. The south elevation retains its original door opening and its stone surrounds. All but two of the elevation's window openings are intact. The pair of windows next to the west projecting end bay on the third floor have been replaced with a metal fire door with glass windows at its top and sides. Issuing from the door are steel fire escape stairs to the ground. The other window alteration is in the east end bay just above the boiler room where a set of three contiguous windows are bricked shut (Plate 013).

Description: The Interior

The layout of all three floors is the same. The classrooms are arrayed around the periphery of the building to take advantage of sunlight issuing from the banks of windows on all the elevations. Each classroom was designed to be twelve feet high. Manual Arts, chemistry, physics, the Commercial Room, and a lecture room were located on the first floor. A dining room, tool room, instructors' room and a storage room were located in the first floor of the towers. The lunch room, serving area, kitchen and ventilators were located in the center of the first floor and were flanked by the boys' and girls' locker rooms and toilets. To the east and west of the boys' and girls' locker rooms are stairs to the upper floors (Plate 014). A fifteen-foot wide corridor next to the classrooms on the west elevation runs the length of the school and terminates

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at exit doors on the north and south. Two east/west corridors between the classrooms and locker rooms and toilets join the main corridor.

The second floor had eleven classrooms as well as a lecture room, a large biology and physical geography classroom. At the center of the floor is the auditorium flanked by a light court and stairs followed by the boys' and girls' locker rooms and toilets. Between the auditorium and the east, rear wall was the boys' gymnasium, with showers and a locker room to the north of it. An instructors' room, the principal's office, along with a vault and two storage rooms, occupied the rooms on the second floor of the tower.

The third floor had fourteen classrooms as well as a teachers' room and a storage room. At the center of the floor is the auditorium's balcony and between it and the east, rear wall was the girls' gymnasium, which was the same size as the boys' gymnasium.⁵ Flanking the auditorium balcony is a light court and stairs followed by the boys' and girls' locker rooms and toilets. The school library was located on the top floor of the west, front elevation's central section.

When it ceased to serve as a public school in 1961, changes were made to the school's fabric. From 1965 to 1995, it was the home of the Central Vocational Building and from 1995 to 2008, it served as the Central Campus of the Wichita Area Technical College, part of the state's junior college system.⁶ During this period of time, the boys' and girls' gymnasiums were eliminated

⁵ This equality of gymnasium spaces for girls did not have a long life. As physical education evolved the girls' were given considerably smaller gymnasiums, locker rooms and toilet space. Good examples of this inequality are Wichita High East opened in 1923, and Wichita High School Southeast opened in 1957.

⁶ Nina Davis & Sara Lomax, *A History of Wichita Public School Buildings*. (Wichita, Kansas: United School District 259, 1996) p. 208, and an oral interview with Kirk Peterson of the Wichita Area Technical College, February 16, 2009.

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along with their locker rooms, showers, and toilets. A false ceiling was inserted between the auditorium and its balcony to provide more classrooms (Plate 015). All the twelve-foot high classrooms were given six-foot high false ceilings (Plate 016). The classrooms' wooden sash windows were removed and replaced with aluminum sash windows with clear glass and in many instances with aqua-colored aluminum spandrel panels. All the school's original lighting fixtures were removed and the halls were carpeted. On the first floor the kitchen was modernized and the lunchroom became a cafeteria and at some point two elevators on the east and west side of the building were installed.

Wichita High School

Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas

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)

- ☐ 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 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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910-1911

Significant Dates

1910-1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

William Butts Ittner (1865-1936), Architect

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Wichita State University

Wichita High School
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.29 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	6	4	7	0	5	0	4	1	7	2	6	8	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 Dr. Pamela D. Kingsbury
Organization Historic Preservation Consulting Date
Street & number 224 North Crestway Telephone 316-686-1731
City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67208-3840

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Wichita High, L.L.C., David Burk
Street & number 151 North Rock Island Telephone 316-267-0505
City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67202

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

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The Wichita High School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, because of the school's architect William B. Ittner whose progressive ideas transformed public school architecture in the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. Ittner's concepts of a healthy classroom environment as well as the importance he placed on the manual arts and physical education as a means of educating the mind and the body are an integral part of the fabric of today's school buildings. In addition, Wichita High School is being nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* Multiple Property Submission as an example of the *City Schools* property type defined by the Multiple Property Document.

The Architect

William Butts Ittner (1865-1936) was a towering figure in public school architecture during the first half of the twentieth century, dramatically changing the design and function of America's public schools. Like so many talented architects of his age, he has been largely forgotten subsumed by the tidal wave of glass and steel that defines the International Movement.

Ittner was born and reared in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1883, after attending St. Louis' public schools, he enrolled in the three year-course of study, equivalent to a high degree, at the Manual Training School of Washington University. Founded by Calvin Milton Woodward (1837-1914) in 1879, who believed that intellectual pursuits in the classroom should be complimented by the manual arts. Woodward's motto for his manual arts school was 'The Cultural Mind, The Skillful Hand'. In addition to Ittner, Woodward's manual training school attracted such students as the brothers Charles and Henry Greene, who transformed California residential architecture into an Arts and Crafts heaven.¹ After graduating from Washington

¹ Edward R. Bosley, *Greene & Greene*. (London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2000), p.11.

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University's Manual Training School in 1886, Ittner enrolled at Cornell University, the first university to have a school of architecture, as a special student in architecture and graduated in 1887. Upon graduation he enriched his architectural schooling with traveling and studying in Europe.²

By 1888, he returned to St. Louis to begin his architectural career in the office of Eames & Young. He remained there for less than a year before establishing his own office where he remained until 1897, closing his office to become Commissioner of School Buildings for St. Louis. He served in this capacity until 1910, when he was promoted to the position of Architect of the Board of Education. During the next six years Ittner was responsible for designing all of St. Louis' public schools.³

From St. Louis his reputation as a public school architect spread throughout the country. He designed many public schools in his home state of Missouri as well as in Washington D. C., Connecticut and New York, and in the southern states of Texas, Tennessee and in Florida. In the Midwest he designed schools in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and two schools in Lawrence, Kansas, Liberty Memorial High and Woodlawn Elementary. With this nomination we can add another Kansas school to Ittner's list, the Wichita High School. The total number of schools he designed is estimated to number more than five hundred, erected in one hundred and fifteen cities in twenty-nine states.⁴

Ittner's Wichita High School was not the first school building to occupy the site. In 1871, a two room frame school was erected on the southwest corner

² Henry F. Withey & Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970), p. 316.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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of North Emporia Avenue and Third Street. Eight years later in 1879, the school was destroyed by fire. In 1880 on the same site the Fourth Ward or Webster School was erected. This was Wichita's first brick school and accommodated grade school through high school. The Webster School was razed in 1910-1911 to make way for Ittner's Wichita High School. In 1884, with an ever increasing population, Wichita's first high school, a two-story brick building with limestone sills and lintels and a tall bell tower capped with a high pitched gable roof, was erected to the south of the Webster School. At some point between 1888 and 1895, the Wichita High School was shorn of its bell tower and its entrance and joined to a much larger brick addition done in the Romanesque Revival style. This building served as the Wichita High School until Ittner's school was erected in 1911. The old high school was joined to the south elevation of boiler and generator rooms of the Wichita High School until 1923, when it was razed.

Unfortunately, we do not know who selected Ittner as the architect for the Wichita High School. He made only one visit to Wichita on January 12, 1910, to study the site for the high school and to meet with the school board. At that meeting he learned the budget for the school was to be \$150,000, and that it must have fifty-three rooms to accommodate between 1,200 and 1,500 students. The projected opening date for the school was to be the autumn of 1911.⁵ The Wurster Construction Company of St. Louis, Missouri, was the contractor of the high school⁶ and H. H. Morrison of St. Louis, Missouri, was the mechanical and electrical engineer.⁷ When the school opened on September 11, 1911, the total cost of its construction had risen to \$200,000,

⁵ *Wichita Beacon*, January 13, 1910, p.3.

⁶ *Wichita Eagle*, October 20, 1910, p. 6. The Wurster Construction Company built many residential and commercial buildings in Wichita. Foremost among them is the Morton-Simmons Hardware Company fondly known as the Keen Kutter warehouse located in Wichita's jobbers and warehouse district and now the Hotel at Old Town.

⁷ Sheet No. 9, the drawings for the Wichita High School.

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and it had sixty-seven rooms with an enrollment of nine hundred and thirty-one students.

Ittner and the Wichita High School.

Ittner's concepts of the appropriate, functional school were shaped in large part by his experiences as a student in the St. Louis public school system during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The headline of his obituary in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* read: As a Boy He Resented Prison like (sic) Buildings, as a Man He Changed the Style Throughout the Country.⁸ The schools he attended in St. Louis were probably similar to the first school erected on the site of the Wichita High School in 1871, a box-like wooden frame building of two rooms with small windows, inadequate lighting and virtually no heating or ventilation.

Wichita High School embodies Ittner's progressive ideas about public school buildings. He designed within the English revival canons of the Tudor, Jacobean, Georgian and English Collegiate Gothic styles. His schools were planned to be no more than two or three stories and were horizontal rather than vertical to adopt them to the Midwestern landscape, a concept at the heart of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture. According to his specifications a school's exterior should be faced with ordinary hard, red brick mixed to color and laid up with a large bed joint in pleasing bond and that all outer and interior bearing walls be of hard brick laid in Portland cement. In the case of the Wichita High School, he used Flemish bond done in alternating hues of red and all outer and interior bearing walls were of brick. One of his top priorities was that a school be of fireproof construction.⁹ All of Wichita High School's load bearing walls are masonry and the floors and stairs are concrete. In

⁸ Robert W. Dufy, William B. Ittner: Architect's Buildings Stand For His Vision Of Education. *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Section B, p. 1, November 30, 2003.

⁹ William B. Ittner, Modern School Architecture. *The American School Board Journal* 36(1908): 3.

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addition, he placed the one-story boiler and generator rooms outside the school, but attached to its south elevation. Furthermore, he recommended that: "Stone is used sparingly, and no attempt is made to accent any part of the building except the main entrance, which is generally dignified by fitting architectural treatment".¹⁰ At the center of the Wichita High School's front elevation he designed a modest sculptural program of dramatic content depicting the beneficial rewards of a high school education.

Ittner believed every school should be a Hall of Health.¹¹ He considered lighting a building material, not an afterthought, and he regarded ventilation as part of the infrastructure of learning.¹² For him sanitation, cleanliness, perfect lighting, airiness and cheerfulness constituted the eternal, unwritten laws of successful school planning. The school's layout was essential to provide a healthy environment.¹³ He recommended corridors have outside lighting, be at least fourteen feet wide, but preferably sixteen feet wide. Classrooms should be at least thirty-two feet in length and should receive an abundance of natural light.¹⁴

The Wichita High School epitomizes Ittner's concept of a school as a Hall of Health. The entire school was electrically lighted, and it was heated with forced air through vents in the walls. The school's major north/south corridor is fifteen feet wide and the two subsidiary east/west corridors are nine feet wide. In accordance with his ideas, the main exits are as remote from each other as possible, and are located at the end of the major north/south corridor. The classrooms range in length from sixty feet, five-and a-half inches to twenty-eight feet, nine inches and all of them were twelve feet high.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Wm. B. Ittner, The School Plant in Present-Day Education. *The Architecture Forum* 37 (1920): 46.

¹² Robert W. Duffy, William B. Ittner: Architect's Buildings Stand For His Vision of Education. p. 5.

¹³ Ittner, The School Plant in Present-Day Education. p. 46.

¹⁴ Ittner, Modern School Architecture. p. 3.

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Sedgwick County, Kansas
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Natural light played a major role in Wichita High School's healthy environment. Banks of two, four and five contiguous windows illuminated the classrooms arrayed around the periphery of the school's three stories. For each classroom Ittner planned to have the natural light enter the classrooms on the left side of each pupil.¹⁵ This would require that the pupils' desks face north on the west, front elevation; on the north, side elevation they would face east; on the east, rear elevation they would face south; and on the south, side elevation they would face west.

The second major component of Ittner's concept of a school as a Hall of Health is his emphasis on physical activities in gymnasiums and playgrounds. He claimed that "Certainly no other parts of the school plant can do more to correct delinquency and truancy. Nothing else has so direct an appeal to the expanding physical and mental powers, and with health as an objective the health quarters are no longer luxuries to be added if funds permit."¹⁶ At the Wichita High School the gymnasiums, locker rooms and toilet facilities were well designed and spacious and were located around the core of the building on all three floors. Both the girls' and boys' gymnasiums were large, measuring seventy feet eight inches in length and twenty-four feet in width, illuminated with natural light from eight tall windows and supplemented by electric lighting.

The third important aspect of Ittner's Wichita High School is the emphasis he placed on the manual arts. He had graduated from Washington University's three-year course on the manual arts and appreciated the value of developing the mind as well as manual dexterity. Unlike our vocational

¹⁵ *Wichita Beacon*, September 15, 1910, p. 5.

¹⁶ Ittner, *The School Plant in Present-Day Education*. pp. 46-47.

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training today that teaches the manual arts as a vocation, the Manual Training Movement advocated manual arts training as a complement to academic learning.¹⁷ The manual arts were well represented at the Wichita High School with courses in woodworking, woodturning, mechanical drawing, a machine shop and a forge shop. For the girls there were classes in sewing and cooking.

The structural integrity of Ittner's Wichita High School is sound. Some but not all of the alterations made to the school through the years are reversible. The school has been purchased by Wichita High L. L. C. and will be turned into apartments. All the windows that have been bricked shut will be opened. The original wooden sash windows with wooden transoms, mullions and clear glass panes will be replicated as well as replacing the modern door openings with the same materials as the original doors. Furthermore, the false ceilings in all the classrooms will be eliminated and all the carpeting covering the wooden floors in the classrooms will be removed and the floors renewed. The original plaster walls will be retained and cleaned, but the plaster ceilings, which are not in good condition, will be sheet rocked. The two elevators will be retained and refurbished to meet the City of Wichita's building codes. A major alteration that will not be reversed is the floor inserted between the auditorium and its balcony. These two large areas will be converted into large apartments. The boiler room attached to the school's south, side elevation also will be converted into an apartment.

¹⁷ Reed, William B. Ittner and Henry C. Mercer: The Architectural Art of the Erie Public Schools, 1915-1920. p. 35.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Wichita High School
Sedgwick County, Kansas
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The Wichita Daily Beacon. Clearing Site For The New High School Building.
February 17, 1910.

The Wichita Daily Beacon. The New Wichita High School Which Will be Built at
North Emporia and Third Street This Year. January 28, 1910.

The Wichita Eagle. For a New High School and Three New Ward Buildings.
March 2, 1909.

The Wichita Eagle. New High School As Now Outlined Will Be a Model. January
13, 1910.

The Wichita Eagle. School Board Adopts Plan For High School. April 19, 1910.

The Wichita Eagle. Two Stories Are Up On City High School. October 20, 1910.

The Wichita Eagle. Wichita's \$200,000 High School To Be Dedicated Today.
November 28, 1911.

The Wichita Eagle. School Is Warmed Up. November 29, 1911.

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Wichita High School
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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 51, 53, 57, 59, 61, 63 and Lot 65, except the south 2 Feet, on Emporia Avenue, all located in J. R. Mead's Addition to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, commonly known as 324 N. Emporia, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, together with all improvements located thereon.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all the property associated with the Wichita High School in Wichita, Kansas.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Sedgwick County, Kansas
Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPS**

Section Number__Photos__ Page__19__

Photographs

Plate 001.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: West, Front Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 002.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: Central Section of the West, Front Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 003.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: View of the Vestibule Doors to the Second Floor of the West, Front Elevation

Plate 004.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: Corbels with Sculpture, West, Front Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 005.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: The Matriculating Student Holding a W on a Corbel, West, Front Elevation of the Wichita High School

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Sedgwick County, Kansas
Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPS**

Section Number__**Photos**__ **Page**__20__

Plate 006.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: The Student on a Corbel, West, Front Elevation of the
Wichita High School

Plate 007.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: The Graduate on a Corbel, West, Front Elevation of the
Wichita High School

Plate 008.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: Head of a Medieval Man Wearing a Scull Cap, West, Front
Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 009.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: Scroll Cartouche, West, Front Elevation of the Wichita
High School

Plate 010.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury: February 24, 2009

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: North, Side Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 011.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

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National Park Service**

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Sedgwick County, Kansas
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Section Number__**Photos**__ **Page**__**21**__

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Interior View of the Art Studio Looking North

Plate 012.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: East, Rear Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 013.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: South, Rear Elevation of the Wichita High School

Plate 014.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: View of the Stairs to the Third Floor of the Wichita High School Looking East

Plate 015.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: View of the Auditorium With Its False Ceiling Looking East

Plate 016.

Photographer: Pamela D. Kingsbury

Date of Photograph: February 24, 2009

Location of Original Negative: Pamela D. Kingsbury

View and Direction: View of a Classroom With Its Six Foot False Ceiling Looking North

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wichita High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of Kansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Sedgwick

DATE RECEIVED: 8/25/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/14/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/08/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000811

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10-8-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



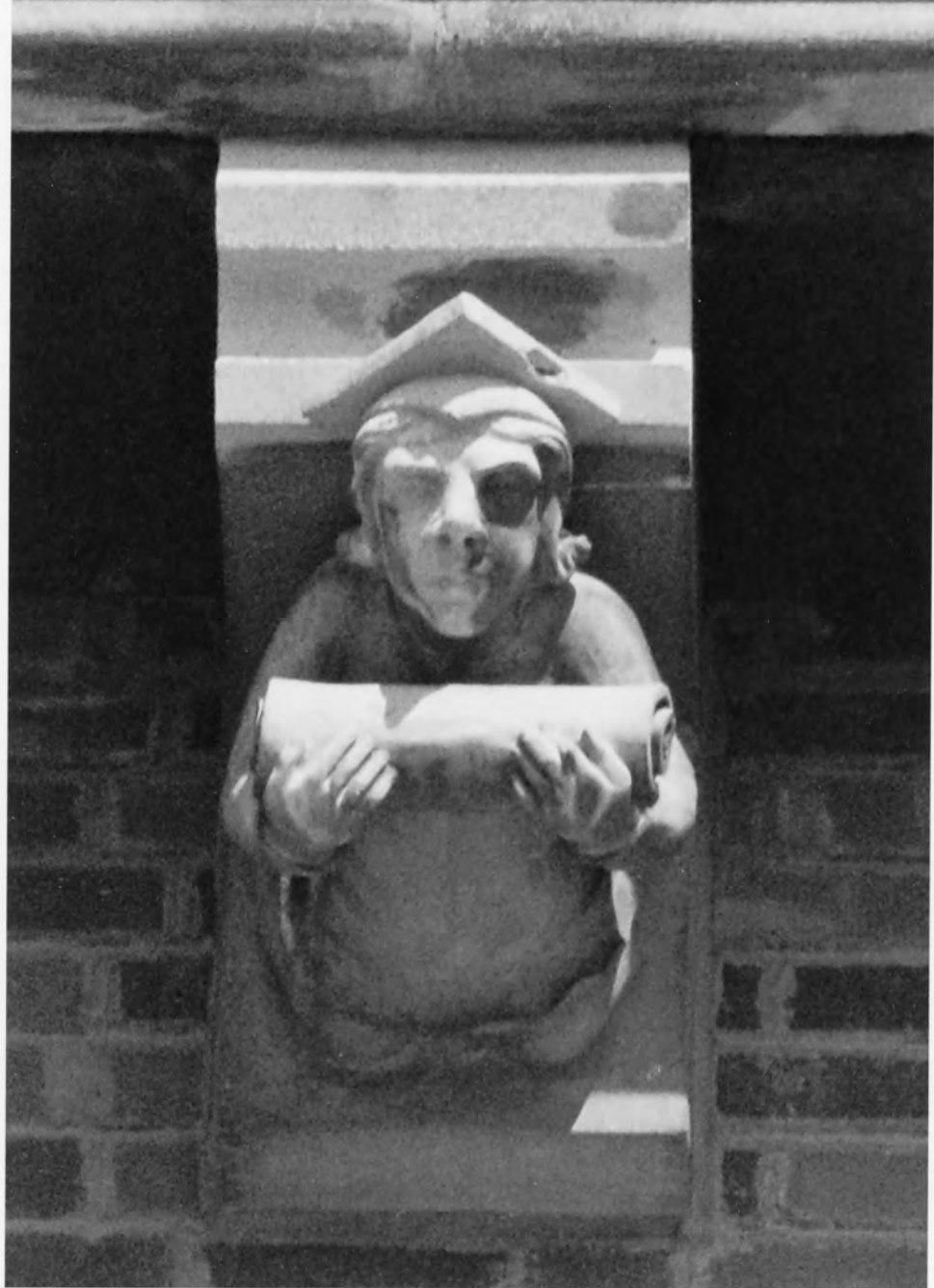






















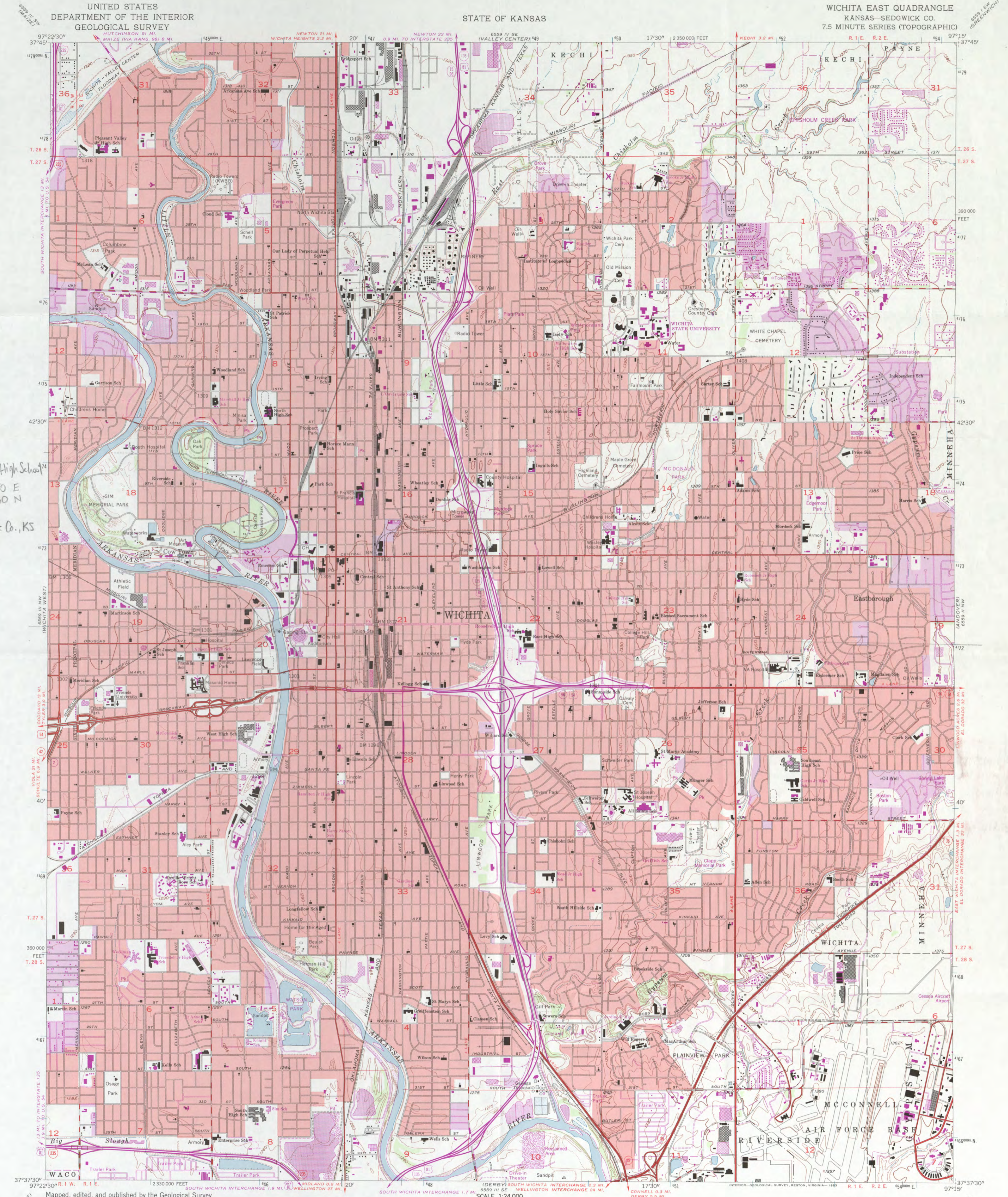








Wichita High School
647050 E
4172680 N
Sedgwick Co., KS



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies

Control by USGS and USCGS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1954. Topography by planetable surveys 1940-1941
Revised 1961 in cooperation with the City of Wichita
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 27 meters east as shown by
dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

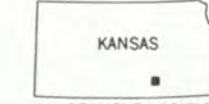
UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1980 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



WICHITA EAST, KANS.
N 37° 37' 30" W 97° 15' 15"

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1982

DMA 6559 III NE—SERIES W878



KANSAS



Kansas Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

August 21, 2009

Dr. Janet Matthews
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, N. W.
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Please find enclosed the following National Register nominations:

- Cuba Blacksmith Shop – Cuba, Republic Co., Kansas
- Helmers Manufacturing Company Building – Leavenworth, Leavenworth Co., Kansas
- Wichita High School – Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas
- United Presbyterian Center (Ecumenical Christian Minsitries Building), (re-submission to Linda McClelland) – Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

The following request for removal from the National Register is also enclosed:

- Shedd & Marshall Store – Whiting, Jackson Co., Kansas

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or smartin@kshs.org.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah J. Martin
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures