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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 27 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Vinton School  
other names/site number D009:0108-009

### 2. Location

street & number 2120 Deer Park Boulevard N/A not for publication  
city, town Omaha N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Douglas code 055 zip code 68105

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

James A. Hanson October 13, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 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:)

Beth Boland 11/29/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

work in progress

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE/Limestone

Tudor Revival

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A two-story brick structure designed in the Tudor Revival style, Vinton School was built as a 14-room elementary school in 1908. Rectangular in plan, the building employs a technical system of load-bearing walls to support floors of wood joist construction. A series of hipped roofs shelters the structure. Although the school's interior has been subject to remodeling, the exterior remains largely unaltered; overall, the building has retained a high degree of historic and architectural integrity. A certified historic rehabilitation adapting the property for use as apartments is currently underway.

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Vinton School is a two-story over raised-basement, brick elementary school building, measuring approximately 140 x 90 feet. Building permit records list the date of construction as 1908 and Omahan Frederick W. Clarke as architect. Generally rectangular in plan, the building is bilateral both in its room arrangement and in the design of its primary elevation. Rising from behind a parapet, a series of hipped roofs covers the structure; originally slate, the roof is now clad with asphalt shingles. Wooden, double-hung windows — most with 9-over-9 lights — are used throughout.

Functionally, classrooms are arranged around wide, central corridors that occur on both the first and second floors. Access to the first floor — which is approximately one-half story above grade — is via stairs located at both ends of the building. Only the end stairs continue to the second floor. Originally, a picturesque wooden stair located on axis with the main entrance served to connect the first and second floors. Removed during a 1953 renovation, the stair had reportedly been the location of many special events and programs. Each classroom was designed with an accompanying "wardrobe" (coatroom), although several of these rooms have since been converted to other uses, including restrooms to supplement the two large original restroom facilities that are located in the basement. A small gymnasium, labeled "assembly room" on the original plans, occurs on the second floor at the rear of the structure. Interior finishes are simple, consisting primarily of plaster walls, minimal oak trim and maple floors of 2-inch wide strips.

A two-and-one-half-story central bay — reminiscent of English medieval gatehouses and entrance towers — dominates the facade of the school designed in the Tudor Revival style. Individual elements associated with the style include: a four-centered arch that marks the main entrance; a second-story projecting bay with stone window surrounds; two octagonal entrance towers; crenelated parapets; stone hood moldings, balusters and coping; four carved stone heads resembling gargoyles; and diamond patterned brickwork. Simple rectangular panels delineated by raised brick or brick of a contrasting color or pattern also appear on the building, apparently influenced by the Prairie Style.

Structurally the building utilizes masonry perimeter and interior bearing walls to support a wood floor system comprised of 3 x 16 inch joists, 16 inches on center. A series of wood trusses in combination with wood purlins and joists makes up the roof structure.

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Heat is provided by a steam boiler and radiator system. An original ventilation system utilizing the building's turrets as intake and circulation towers remains in place, although it has not been determined to what extent the system has been used in recent years. Overall, the building has been subject to few exterior alterations and there appears to be little deterioration of historic fabric.

A large, irregularly shaped parcel of land, the Vinton School site consists of 3.3 acres bounded by Vinton Street on the north and Deer Park Boulevard on the south; residential development and a church about the property on the east and west. The school site is located on a high ridge about two miles from Omaha's central business district in an area annexed to the City of Omaha in 1887 and urbanized over the next several decades. Situated in the southwest quadrant of the lot, the building fronts on Deer Park Boulevard, opened in 1902 as a connecting link between Riverview and Hanscom Parks.

With a street setback of approximately 80 feet, the site design accommodates the slight rise in grade from street level to the building's entrance by a series of broad concrete steps flanked by low brick walls. Brick walls also define a terraced area at the building's entrance. Historic photographs reveal that the walls were topped by stone balustrades. Only the balustrades parallel to the building's front wall remain and these survive in a deteriorated state due to the loss of balusters.

While the school's front yard is covered by turf, the extensive rear yard has been overlaid with asphalt and gravel for parking purposes. To the east of the building, a chain-link fence encloses an expansive lawn area.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1908

Significant Dates  
1908

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Clarke, Frederick W.

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

Constructed as an elementary school by the Omaha Public School District in 1908 to the plans of Omaha architect Frederick W. Clarke, Vinton School is significant locally in the area of architecture (Criterion C). Related to the historic context, "Public Education in Omaha, Nebraska, 1859 to Present," the building is a particularly fine example of Tudor Revival schoolhouse design and survives as Omaha's earliest and most elaborate representative of the style. The building's period of significance, noted as 1908, corresponds with its date of construction.

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A 14-room masonry building, Vinton School succeeded a group of four small classroom structures, the earliest of which originated from the period when the area was part of a rural district, before annexation by Omaha in 1887. In response to residents' complaints about the poor quality of the classroom facilities, the School Board in 1903 adopted a resolution to replace the structures on the Vinton Street site with a "modern and commodious building." A 1907 bond issue allowed for the completion of the school, along with the construction of another elementary school and major additions to four other buildings. Constructed at a cost of more than \$80,000, Vinton School was opened to students in the fall of 1908; for the next eighty years, the building served as an elementary school. In 1988, attendance areas were realigned and the property was sold to the current owner who intends to adapt the building for residential use through a certified historic rehabilitation.

Referenced to the historic context, "Public Education in Omaha, Nebraska, 1859 to Present," Vinton School was evaluated against other buildings with similar associations to the historic context grouped together as the property type, "Public School Buildings in Omaha 1863 - 1939." Through a comparative analysis of the property type, Vinton School was identified for its significance in the area of architecture under Criterion C. As the city's earliest and most elaborate representative of Tudor Revival schoolhouse design, the property holds importance for its role in the architectural development of the locality and for its high artistic values.

According to data derived from the Omaha/Douglas Historic buildings survey, of the forty extant school buildings considered in the property type evaluation, at least fifteen exhibit Gothic revival stylistic characteristics. Representing the work of at least six different Omaha architectural firms over a twenty-two year period from 1908 to 1930, all — with the exception of South High School — were constructed as elementary schools.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(See Continuation Sheet)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Omaha City Planning Department

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 3.3

UTM References

A 

1	5
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2	5	3	2	2	5
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4	5	6	8	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Vinton School is shown as the shaded area on the accompanying map entitled, "1984 Omaha/Douglas County Historic Buildings Survey: Vinton School, D009:0108-009."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Meyer, Preservation Administrator; Lynn Bjorkman, City Planner  
organization Omaha City Planning Department date August 1989  
street & number Omaha/Douglas Civic Center; 1819 Farnam Street telephone (402) 444-4927  
city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68183

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Although buildings recalling Gothic castles, churches and cloisters had been built on American college campuses beginning in the mid-1800s, European medieval architecture, particularly that of England, did not become a widely popular source for the design of educational buildings in the United States until after the turn of the century. Following the lead of designers such as Cope and Stewardson, and especially, Cram and Goodhue, "Collegiate Gothic was built everywhere" (Whiffen and Koeper: p. 289). In Vinton School, Omaha architect Frederick Clarke adapted aspects of the Tudor Revival in his designs for the 1908 building including a gate-house-like entrance complete with castellated entrance towers; an oriel with stone mullions and transoms; and a central doorway enclosed with a tabernacle frame. Other school buildings such as Miller Park and Castelar incorporate similar elements such as crenelated parapets and flattened pointed arches for door surrounds, however, in Vinton School these features are more fully developed. The building is further distinguished from others of its type for its ornamental richness and terraced yard, characteristics which enhance the property's aesthetic merits.

Little is known about the architect of Vinton School, Frederick W. Clarke, apart from his fairly extensive work for the Omaha Public Schools. The architect's major Omaha commission was Technical High School, a \$3 million building project completed for the district in 1921. In addition to Technical High and Vinton School, Clarke was responsible for the designs of four other extant public elementary schools in Omaha: Rosewater (1910); Rosehill (1916); Clifton Hill (1917) and Sherman (1926). Rosewater School, listed in the National Register in 1984, has been noted for its Second Renaissance Revival design, and Sherman, the architect's final commission for the Board of Education can be described as an eclectic design featuring gabled pavilions with tall round-arched windows. Like Vinton, both Rosehill and Clifton Hill exhibit stylistic characteristics inspired from Gothic precedents. The designs for Clifton Hill — which include ornamental buttress-like forms, pinnacles and carved stonework resembling tracery — represent Clarke's shift in interest from the Tudor Revival style first used in Vinton School to the Late Gothic Revival or Collegiate Gothic style.

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Omaha World-Herald, "Two New School Houses; Repairs to Many Others," 22 August 1905; "School Board Plans Expenditure of Funds," 3 December 1907; "Building of Omaha Schools To Meet Growing Demand," 30 August 1908.

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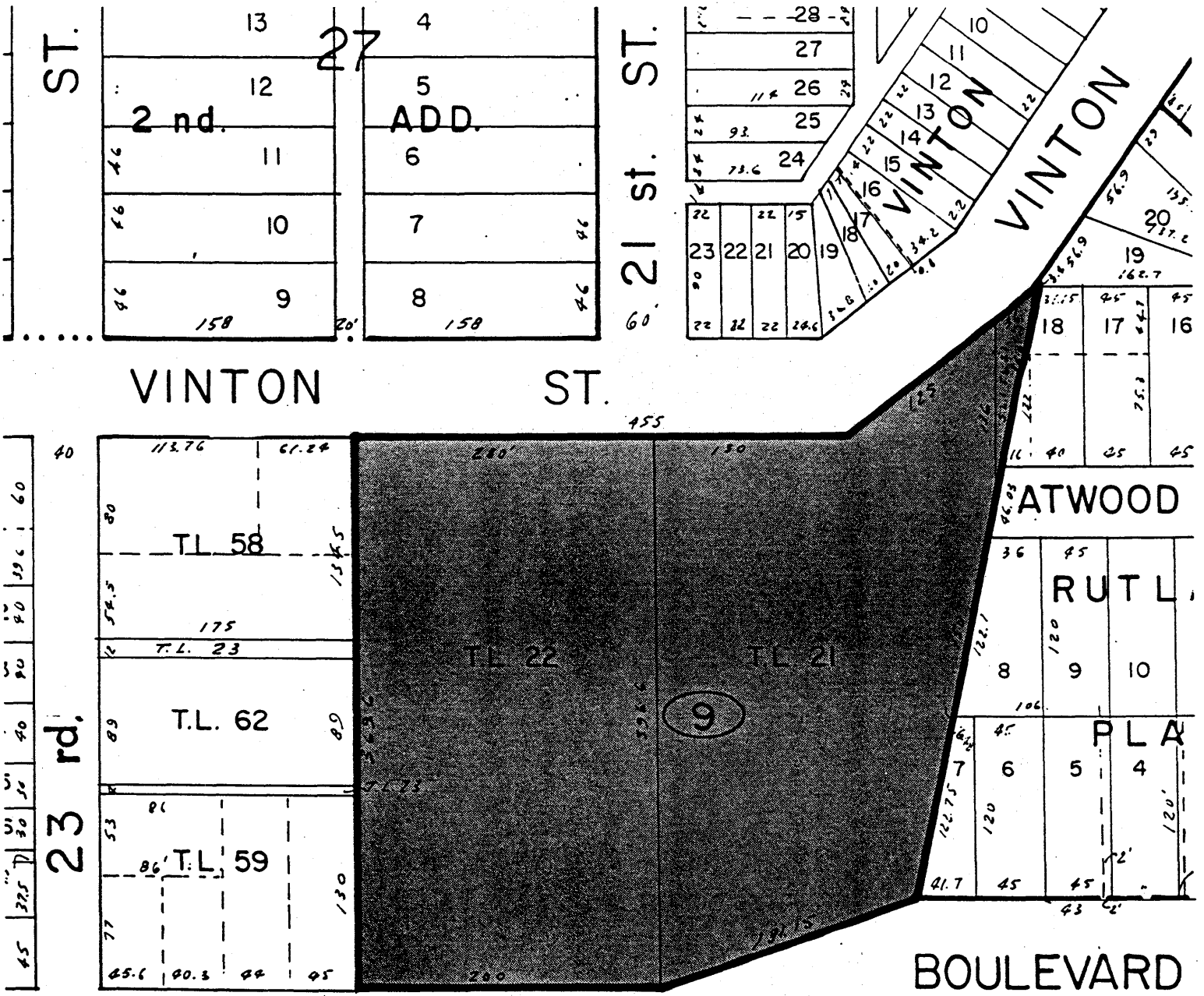
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Map from:  
 1984 Omaha/Douglas County Historic  
 Building Survey, Site #D009:0108-009

SCALE  
 1" inch - 100 feet

↑  
NORTH

