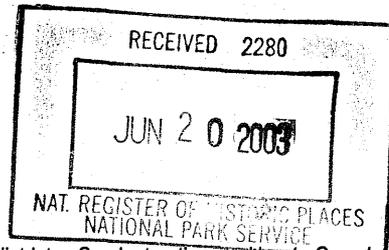


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Wolf Park Band Shell  
Other name/site number 009-1590-0013

### 2. Location

Street & number Lots 12 & 13, Block 2, 200 Block N. Main  not for publication  
City or town Ellinwood  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Barton Code 009 Zip code 67526

### 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.)

*Richard D. Parkrat* June 12, 2003  
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:)

*Richard W. Beall* Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/4/03

Wolf Park Band Shell  
Name of property

Barton County, KS  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		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)

Recreation and Culture: music facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: music facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement: Art Deco  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Brick  
Walls Brick with limestone trim  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other Terra Cotta  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property Wolf Park Band Shell County and State Barton County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Natonal 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 it 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)

Performing Arts

Period of Significance

1931- 1953

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mann and Company

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): Primary location of additional data:

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

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

Name of repository:



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The Wolf Park Band Shell (c. 1931) is located in Wolf Park in the 200 block of North Main in Ellinwood, Kansas. The band shell is the central feature of Wolf Park in downtown Ellinwood, Kansas. The band shell faces Main Street on the east side of the park and is midway from north to south facing west. The legal description is Lots 12 and 13, Block 2.

Fred Wolf deeded the land to the City of Ellinwood on August 16, 1930. The only provision that said property be used and maintained as a public park. Mann and Company Architects of Hutchinson, Kansas drew up architectural drawings for the band shell. Young Construction of Hutchinson, Kansas was hired to build the band shell. Construction of the band shell began on January 29, 1931 and was completed on April 30, 1931. The band shell was dedicated on June 11, 1931 with the first public concert held on the same date.

The band shell is constructed of blonde brick and reflects the Art Deco architectural style that was popular in the 1930s. The inside dimensions of the band shell are 17 by 25 feet with dressing rooms on both sides. There is also a room for storage on the south side of the band shell. There is a paneled design above the stage area with two like designs on each side of the panel. The design is consistent with the Art Deco style and is of a sea shell and fern design.

There is a promenade level that is even with the stage floor. The promenade is 4 feet wide and extends 14 feet on either side of the band shell. Each extension has a similar design which is characteristic of the Art Deco styling. The design on the extension is a sea shell and fern design. There are also rectangular designs on each side of the domed area.

The City Council and Park Committee authorized a concrete apron to be placed in front of the band shell's stage area to accommodate larger orchestras when they performed in the park. The apron was added in 1938. The apron is approximately 30 feet long by 10 feet wide.

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The Wolf Park Band Shell (c. 1931) is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its historic association with the growth and development of the City of Ellinwood, Kansas.

**Historical Context**

Ellinwood is a community where the German Immigration Agent C. B. Schmidt of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad recruited hardworking, fun-loving German immigrants for this central Kansas community. Ellinwood had a large variety of businessmen from early in its history. It also had a number of typical German organizations for its citizens, among them a gymnasium club, the Deutsche Military Verein and the Maennerchor or Men's Choir. Ellinwood's interest in music was evident early in its history. The Maennerchor met on Sunday afternoons at Sanger Hall to sing their German songs and drink beer. At first they had 30 members but soon attained 300. This was not the only evidence these residents loved music. They had an opera house on the upper level of a turreted building called the Mangelsdorff. It is said they had such programs as Faust at the Opera House and there are notices of many masquerade balls. Sometimes it even advertised a costumer was available downstairs prior to the ball.

The band loving community spirit is shown with the area having bands from its very beginning. As early as 1874, there were 9 members directed by Theo Iten. At the conclusion of a serenade they were usually told to get a keg of beer at the expense of the man they serenaded. In 1883 there were records of a band formed from the "north side." The "south side" had two bands. Frank Struttmann is credited with the north side band, which included Bill Jung, later a bandleader himself. After a number of years it was recognized by Bill Holmann as the "first Ellinwood band." Music was very important to the Germans. A south side band began in approximately 1893 by a Jenisch lasted only a short time. Another band from the south side, called Comanche, was begun by Louis Scheufler in about 1913, lasted longer, and was combined with the city band under Bill Jung. Members of the different bands are listed in the newspaper.

There are stories of a bandwagon, which was pulled out into the street at First and Main to present concerts for the citizens. Bill Holmann organized the first municipal band and the next director was sheepherder Bill Mulsauden. One of the best remembered is that of Bill Jung, which was a big band of 16 pieces. It was begun in 1900 as the Ellinwood Band Association. This band did not give free concerts but always played at the all-city picnic. Domingo Scotti, an Italian bandmaster organized an outstanding band and gave concerts on Main Street. He was bandmaster for three years in Ellinwood. He later was a guest director in the band shell in Wolf Park.

An early bandstand was on North Main where the local hospital now stands. So it was a much needed and applauded event when the band shell in Wolf Park became an assembly area for band concerts and other major community events.

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Fred Wolf attended the Evangelical Church, which was located on the southwest corner of Block 2. The west half of that block was otherwise occupied by harvesting machinery owned by a Mr. Andrae. Mr. Wolf purchased the land in the spring of 1930 at a sheriff's sale. Fred Wolf gave the ground to the city of Ellinwood for use as a park from that time on. They immediately decided to build a much-needed band shell, which was kept busy with concerts and community events. It is still used today for the same purposes and is a showpiece of the town and of Wolf Park. The period of its significance to the town extends from its erection to the present day.

**Construction**

Mann and Company of Hutchinson, Kansas designed the structure of the Ellinwood Wolf Park Band Shell. It was constructed by Young Construction, also of Hutchinson. This is one of the companies that bid on the project to keep its workers together during the hard times experienced by the region in 1931. It appears to have been constructed rapidly with it first being mentioned in The Ellinwood Leader on January 29, 1931, and then as nearly finished on April 30<sup>th</sup> of that same year.

The band shell was constructed in Wolf Park, which was already landscaped under the direction of Gordon and Mueller, landscape architects. The area included trees, shrubs, flowers and bridle paths, along with a reflecting pool. The band shell itself is of blonde/beige brick with a cement floor. It has approximately an inside shell dimension of 17 by 25 feet with dressing rooms on the side and a storage area. A promenade on level with the stage floor is 4 feet wide and extends 14 feet on either side of the shell. There are access steps down on either side. In the rear there are two access doors which lead to the dressing rooms and thus the stage doors on opposite sides.

Due to the popularity of the concerts more construction was inevitable and the Park Committee along with the City Council authorized an additional cement apron in front of the band shell. It is approximately 30 feet long by 10 feet wide and was added in 1938 to 1939 in time for the summer 1939 concert season. The band shell could now accommodate the popular Harold Palmer band, which had grown to 80 pieces. It is entirely in the style and design of the original portion and most would not realize it is a later addition.

The only other construction on the band shell itself has been that of measures of upkeep. These include such things as tuck-pointing, painting, electrical work, new secure stage doors and roof maintenance. Soon after the band shell was constructed benches were added in front of the band shell to seat 250. Fred Wolf had these put in. They had concrete standards with two backs and board seats. In more recent years they were removed by the city, as was a lot of the landscaping and reflecting pool. A 1938 aerial photo of the park included the installed benches.

**Architectural style**

The band shell itself is Art Deco in style. The beige or blonde brick might have been chosen as a reflection of the greenhorn limestone typical of the general region and used as the foundation for many of the business buildings in the city. A designed panel is at the top corners of the structure on either side of the shell. It shows the shell design

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popular in Art Deco. On the sides at the back of the promenade on both sides are rectangular panels, which also reflect the shell and fern forms. This also could be interpreted as reflection of Kansas' association with its time period under the sea.

**Importance of use in the town**

The structure was put to use by the residents of Ellinwood as soon as it was constructed. In anticipation of its dedication the town once again seeks "a more unified effort to reorganize the municipal band" we learn from the newspaper. The school had an "excellent band" under Professor Durham at the time. In fact, by a month later, there is mention of Durham directing the municipal band.

At dedication ceremonies there was an address by Mayor C. A. Krueger who was in charge of the program. The photo of the band shell and dedication program was published in the newspaper of June 11, 1931. Thus the band concerts in the Wolf Park Band Shell began and continued for many summers. More than 1000 people came to that dedication concert. There is evidence through a sampling of The Ellinwood Leader newspaper the band shell was indeed used for Thursday night concerts through the ensuing summers, including during World War II. Each concert contained a wide variety such as marches, overtures and novelty numbers. There were specialty numbers and several different bands at times. Guest artists were included in the presentations including Domingo Scotti who it is said wrote a march for Ellinwood and one for Larned, Kansas.

As the years evolved, the residents participated in a great gathering at the band shell in the park to celebrate VJ Day of World War II. Many remember going to see the fish in the pond behind the Wolf Memorial in the front of the park. Later in the 1950s the band shell was a popular site of the freshman initiation events. The photos reflect this in the school annuals. They also show the construction of the benches and some placement of the bushes and civil defense tower to the north of the band shell for a brief period of time.

With the advent of town festivals and events, Wolf Park with its band shell was the scene of the first "Fest in dem Park" in 1974. It continued to be held in Wolf Park for many years after that. The park and its band shell are used during the annual "After Harvest" festivals for band performances. Musicals, such as "Little Mary Sunshine," "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and "Oklahoma" have been held in the band shell for the community's enjoyment. Other special community events included those of the Hutchinson Repertory Company, band concerts by Ellinwood schools, an alumni band concert, pep rallies and memorial assemblies. There recently has been enthusiasm over the last ten years to renovate the band shell to maintain its usefulness and its beauty as a gem of the community. Maintenance has been done to the exterior portions of the structure, such as painting, securing the stage doors and the roof. The structure reflects then and now, the community's central love of a good time.

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Sometime, probably in the 1950s, the goldfish pond was filled in and a rose garden was planted. Lily Dick, the first to receive a Rotary Citizen Servant Award, cared for that rose garden for many years. The pond's outline is still visible today. The grandeur of Wolf Park is slowly being restored and it remains a beauty spot in the city.

**Fred Wolf**

Fred Wolf is the distinct community person involved in the creation of the band shell and its settings. Fred Wolf was the son of John Wolf and Mary Katherine Haas Wolf and was born in Toledo, Ohio. He came to Ellinwood with his family in 1877. They lived on the west side of town on the Santa Fe Trail. His father, John Wolf, was a prominent businessman in Ellinwood having the Wolf Brewery until 1884, a large pond for fishing and a picnic area, an ice cutting and storage facility, and the Wolf Hotel. Fred grew up knowing the importance of town development and improvement.

In 1900 the M. K. Wolf Company, founded by John Wolf was changed to M. K. Wolf and Company to include his son Fred and his son-in-law George Heim. Fred and his brother-in-law George Heim invested in the Wolf Milling Company in 1908. The Wolf Milling Company was a major employer for the town and its flour was distributed internationally. It was known as one of the largest flour manufacturers in the Midwest.

Fred Wolf, it is said, knew "the regular people in town, the farmers, laborers, blue collar workers and played cards in the pool hall." He had gone to Ellinwood schools and married Lotta Schaefer of Kansas City and would "epitomize the example of a true public servant to the city of Ellinwood." He was himself a prominent member of the community and belonged to various organizations as well as having a large variety of business endeavors.

Wolf believed in being a contributing member to local organizations. He gave the brewery building to the American Legion. He fixed a basement area in the front of the Peoples State Bank in the Wolf Block and donated it, rent free, for a public library. He found the local Boy Scouts a home, designing and building a cabin, south of Wolf Pond, just for their use. He gave a green golf course, the only one in western Kansas, to the public. He built a clubhouse for it that is now known as Grove Park Club. The Wolf tennis courts behind his and his sister's homes were open to the public. He hired landscape architects and planted the Wolf Park in the downtown area and then donated it as a park for use by the citizens of Ellinwood. It is where the band shell stands today.

He was also a member of the Masonic fraternity, The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Elks. He served many years as city clerk, township treasurer and local school board. He became president of Peoples State Bank. In his obituary, it says Wolf's "greatest and finest memorial is the fact everyone liked him." That is the monument that he would have valued over all others. His friends and associates did erect a monument to his memory with the actual sculpture done by an artist originally from Italy.

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**Onorio Routolo**

A memorial was erected in the front of Wolf Park in memory of Fred Wolf. The bronze on this tan veined granite base as a satyr's head found below it as well as an ornamental bronze bowl. Oreste Scalise, a business friend of Fred Wolf, arranged to have Onorio Routolo to do the sculpture. Routolo was from Italy and studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Naples. He immigrated to the United States in 1908. He founded the Leonardo de Vinci Art School in New York City. He is especially noted for his portrait sculptures of Caruso, Arturo Toscannini, Thomas Edison, Theodore Dreiser and Helen Keller. He is known as the "Rodin of Little Italy." He had a number of famous students including Isamu Noguchi who is known as one of the most original artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Domingo Scotti**

Domingo Scotti is a bandleader who for three years led the municipal band in Ellinwood. He was one of the best known band masters in Kansas and led the Larned, Kansas, band before coming to Ellinwood approximately in 1923 and remaining until 1926. He then went to Nebraska for a year before returning to lead the Great Bend, Kansas band. He wrote a march for Larned and is said to have written his *Forsyth March* for Ellinwood.

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**Bibliography**

The Ellinwood Leader. September 11, 1930; September 25, 1930; January 29, 1931; April 30, 1931; June 4, 1931; June 11, 1931; June 18, 1931; May 25, 1933; May 30, 1935; May 28, 1936; January 13, 1937, December 13, 1937; January 6, 1938; May 26, 1938; June 13, 1949.

The Ellinwood Eagle Yearbook, 1947, 1951, 1955, 1959.

Mann and Company, Architectural Drawing. "Band Shell, Ellinwood, Kansas." 1931.

**Special Performances at band shell**

Mull, Iona, National Broadcasting Company, June 18, 1931.

Scotti, Domingo, August 27, 1931.

Denker, Fred, Coker College in South Carolina, August 31, 1931.

**Other Performances at band shell**

Ellinwood City Choir, July 23, 1931.

Ellinwood 65 Voice Choir, September 3, 1931.

VJ Day, August 16, 1945.

Hutchinson Repertory Company, June 26, 1980.

The musical *Oklahoma*, June 16, 1981.

The musical *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, July 15, 1982.

The musical *Little Mary Sunshine*, July 17, 1983.

Rededication of the band shell, July 2002.

**Personal interviews**

Betty Ziegenbusch, 3820 Broadway, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Yvonne Brenn, 607 North Bismark, Ellinwood, Kansas 67526.

Adrianna Deirolf, 108 East 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ellinwood, Kansas 67526.

Mary Jo Cunningham, P. O. Box 455, Ellinwood, Kansas 67526.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Wolf Park Band Shell is located in Wolf Park in the 200 block of North Main in Ellinwood, Kansas. The band shell faces Main Street on the east side of the park and is midway from north to south facing west. The legal description is Lots 12 and 13, Block 2. The property stands on part of larger parcel which is bounded to the west by Main Street, to the north by East Third, to the south by East Second, and to the east by Bismark Street.

**Boundary Justification**

The Wolf Park Band Shell is located in Wolf Park. The property stands on part of a larger parcel (the park), and only the band shell and a small perimeter of land around are being nominated.