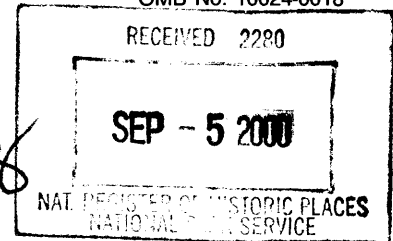


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1188

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

other names/site number OTTAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

2. Location

street & number 526 AND 506 S. MAIN STREET  not for publication

city or town OTTAWA  vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county FRANKLIN code 59 zip code 66067

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. Stewart D-SHPO AUGUST 18, 2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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 certifying 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 10-6-00 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: LATE  
GOTHIC REVIVAL: COLLEGIATE GOTHIC

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LIMESTONE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other CONCRETE; STONE: LIMESTONE

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1917 - 1950

**Significant Dates**

1917

1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

WASHBURN, GEORGE P. & SON

WASHBURN & STOOKEY ;SMITH, REA & LOVITT

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 5.68 ACRES

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	115	3024610	42757810
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 MATTIE PERRY & BOB MARSH

organization FRIENDS OF OTTAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL date JULY 1998

4381 NEBRASKA TERRACE (PERRY) 785-242-3220 (PERRY)

street & number P.O. BOX 129 (MARSH) telephone 785-242-9561 (MARSH)

WELLSVILLE (PERRY) 66092 (PERRY)

city or town OTTAWA (MARSH) state KS zip code 66007 (MARSH)

**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 U.S.D. 290

street & number 123 W. 4TH STREET telephone 785-229-8010

city or town OTTAWA state KS zip code 66067

**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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Located at the southwest corner of Fifth and Main, the school is located at the south edge of the downtown business district. The Franklin County Courthouse is on the east side of the 300 block and the Downtown Ottawa Historic District is on the east side of the 200 block, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Across the street to the east is a large city park where the Ottawa Carnegie Library and the Dietrich Cabin are located, both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 5.68 acre site is bounded on the west by the Prairie Spirit Trail, a "Rails to Trails" project, currently extending from Ottawa to Garnett.

The area south of the high school building was used as a practice field for football, track and baseball. The baseball diamond was in the southwest corner. The track was a one-eighth mile cinder track. The high school games were played at Cook Field on the Ottawa University campus. When A.L. Cook built the field at O.U., it was with the understanding that the high school would use it, too. During school hours, on suitable days, the gym classes used this field also. The band practiced there when necessary. Before the need for parking became necessary, there were tennis courts behind the buildings.

**1917 High School Building:**

The building has a "U" shaped arrangement of classrooms around a rectangular block containing a gymnasium on the lower level and auditorium/theater above. The classroom portion is three stories. The east front, facing Main Street, is divided into seven bays, the center projecting bay for the entrance and the outside bays, projecting slightly, are classroom windows on the first and second stories with the third story solid masonry and ornamental stonework. The remaining four bays are predominately windows for the classrooms.

The exterior surface is brick with stone trim. The brick is Fredonia Brick, rug-faced, in eight mingled shades, laid in a mortar of Carney's cement and sand and colored dark chocolate. Except for the upper wall on the north, east and south, the brick is laid in running bond with every sixth course in Flemish bond, alternating headers and stretchers. The upper wall on the north, east and south elevations of the classroom portion, between the upper stone drip course and the stone coping is laid in English bond with a diaper pattern created by utilizing an orange shade of brick to accent a stretcher and the headers immediately above and below. The nearly flat roof is concealed by parapets.

The buildings were originally designed to have a structural floor and roof system utilizing "metal lumber" as manufactured by Berger Mfg. Co. of Canton Ohio. Part of the revisions to reduce the construction cost was to change the floor and roof structure, except for the auditorium roof, to a reinforced concrete joist, beam and girder system, known as the Widner System, bearing on the masonry walls. Steel lintels were changed to reinforced concrete.

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The ornamental stonework is of Carthage Limestone. A majority of it is concentrated in the entrance bay. The bay is defined with flanking engaged octagonal towers with castellated tops. Approaching the main entrance, first there is a full width entrance stair and platform with flanking masonry wing walls. At the base of the stairs, as you look up to the doors, the full effect of the Gothic detailing is apparent. A wide two-centered arch, trimmed in stone, fills the space between the octagonal towers. Four, 12-lite doors with an 8-lite transom, fill the arch opening. The transom is defined with cusped mullions. The arch face has two cavetto moldings bounded by two torus moldings. The cavetto moldings are divided by a four-petal floral boss at the apex and three-petal floral bosses at the quarter points.

The space between the arch and the large drip stone course above is filled with stone panels with a circle and shield motif at either side. The south shield is engraved with "19" and the north shield is engraved with "17". Above the drip course is a stone balustrade engaged with the masonry wall. The balusters are ribbed and the openings have a cusped ogee arch. The balustrade rail is another drip course. Above the balustrade are three stone trimmed window openings for the school office and the principal's office. Above the windows are three brick and stone panels featuring stylized stone crosses. Above the panels are three third floor classroom windows with three-centered arches, the long radius having little, if any, curvature. Above the windows and the upper drip course is the major carved ornament for the entrance bay.

On a background of Gothic tracery, repeating the ogee arch in the balustrades and rising above the coping line is a magnificent cartouche with elaborate carvings, molding and volutes. At the base of the cartouche is a garland of fruit and ribbons tied to torches. Within the cartouche, in ornamental lettering, is intertwined the letters "o", "h" and "s" in lower case. Secondary ornament on the East elevation occurs around the second floor classroom windows in the outside bays. The windows have stone sills, quoined stone jambs and stone lintel panels. The panels support an ornament consisting of horizontal scrolls connected by a garland of fruit that supports a pointed shield ornamented with fruit festoons. Depicted above the shield is a hemisphere of the earth. The earth is turned to North and South America on the south and to Asia, Africa and Australia on the north.

In the center of this bay above the upper drip course in the diaper brickwork, is a stone panel, with two Gothic ogee arches and quatrefoil tracery, breaking the coping line slightly. This same panel occurs at the top of the projecting entrance bays on the north and south elevations. The south and north entrance doors have stone trimmed openings with quoined jambs and straight lintels. This rectangular opening is filled with two door and sidelights and a 6-lite transom following the main entrance motif. The remainder of the building, except for pilasters and cap stones, has standard brickwork.

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The interior contained twenty-eight classrooms or laboratories, the principal's office, the Board of Education Office, medical inspection room, rest rooms and other supporting rooms. The auditorium for seating about 800 had a balcony, stage, stage equipment and projection room. The main entrance to the auditorium was on the second floor and the auditorium balcony entrance was on the third floor. The gymnasium, under the auditorium, had a perimeter balcony reached from the first floor. To reach the gym floor was a stair flight down. There are toilets, lavatories and drinking fountains on each floor.

There is a split system of heating and ventilating with the heating controlled by a regulating system. There was semi-direct electric lighting and a electric clock and bell system. The interior woodwork was stained and varnished red oak, the classroom floors were maple and the corridor floor and stairs were concrete.

**1927 Junior High School**

The building has three stories of classrooms on two sides of a second floor gymnasium with a shop/cafeteria on the ground floor below. The classroom portion is composed of three sections, one facing Main Street on the East, one facing Fifth Street on the North and a third section placed on a diagonal between the first two and facing Northeast toward the intersection of Main and Fifth. The gymnasium & shop portion is also placed on a diagonal to the classroom wings adjoining it on two sides.

The exterior is brick with stone trim. The brick is Fredonia Brick or equal, rug-faced, mingled shades as selected by the Architect and Board, laid in a mortar of Fort Scott cement and screened fine sand and colored dark chocolate to match the High School. The brick is laid in running bond with every sixth course in Flemish bond, alternating headers and stretchers. The face brick for the octagon corners was cut at the brick plant before firing. The nearly flat roof is concealed by parapets.

The ornamental stonework is of Carthage Limestone. The exterior has less ornament than the 1917 High School and it is concentrated in the narrower entrance bay that faces the street intersection. The bay is defined with flanking engaged octagonal towers, smaller than those on the High School, with castellated tops. The left tower has a granite corner stone inscribed "Central School, Erected 1872, Razed 1898, Washington School, Erected 1898, Razed 1927" Behind the stone was placed information about the two schools. The right tower has a granite corner stone inscribed "Junior High School, Erected 1927". Behind this stone was placed a time capsule. The entrance has only three shallow risers. The main entrance has stone jambs quoining into the towers and a composite (Tudor) arch with one torus and one cavetto molding and a chamfered edge. Above the arch is a wide horizontal center panel and two square side panels with tracery. The center panel is engraved with "JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL" in incised capital letters.

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Above a major drip course, which is similar to the high school, are three windows for a second floor classroom; above this are three rectangular panels with tracery and then windows to a third floor classroom. Above the third floor windows is a segmental arch. Above this arch is the major entrance ornament. It consists of three panels of Gothic blind tracery rising above the coping line and containing multifoil arches with a quatrefoil above that containing shields surrounded by ribbons. The outer panels have shields with a diagonal lined pattern and the center panel, rising slightly higher, has a shield with a fleur-de-lis.

The classroom wings have projecting brick pilasters capped with stone panels placed at the corners and dividing the east and north building elevations into three bays. The stone panels, though smaller, repeat the Gothic blind tracery motif from the entrance panels. The classroom wing entrance doors and the windows above are trimmed with stone. The remainder of the building is standard brickwork.

The interior of the junior high has more dramatic features and better finishes than the high school. From the main diagonal entrance doors you enter an entry hall with a decorative terrazzo floor, columns with capitals, beams, and moldings. Straight ahead is the main stair tower, a major interior design feature in the building. Beginning on the ground floor a wide stair rises to a landing placed on the diagonal and then turning right or left, two stairs, half the main stair width, rise perpendicular to the second floor classroom wing corridors. This arrangement is then repeated between the second and third floor. The stairs have natural light from skylights above and on the main floor, either side of the stair, are cabinets for trophies.

The building was constructed to be fire-proof structure. It contains seventeen class rooms including a cooking room, dining room and serving room. an art room was equipped with tilting desks with separate locking compartment for each student, an agriculture room was built with a laboratory, a woodwork room was equipped with lathes, band saw, variety saw, jointer, mortiser, and tool grinder, and an adjoining finishing room and stock room; auto mechanics room was equipped with tool racks, a tool room, storage room and lavatories; study hall-library furnished; science room with the latest equipment in laboratory; swinging seats attached to the desks, English room with a small stage for public speaking purposes. The gymnasium has terraced seats for 1200 persons. Showers and lockers are located at each side under the seat terraces, plus two outside entrances. Every classroom has natural slate blackboards, a cork bulletin board, a telephone, clock, teacher's closet, bookcases and a thermostat for automatic heat control. The music room has a small stage at one end and an instrument storage room at the other, and a new grand piano. The school nurse has two rooms, there is a rest room for teachers, offices, lunch room, closet, store rooms and a vault.



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Marble terrazzo, with integral terrazzo base, is used for floors in the vestibule, main lobby, main corridors and toilet rooms, in addition to the stairs treads, risers and landings. Maple floors were used in all the classrooms except for the study hall-library where 1/4" battleship linoleum flooring was used. Concrete floors were used in the shops and locker rooms. Wall and ceiling finishes are typically plaster, except for the music room and stage area which has a celotex acoustical treatment. The gymnasium interior walls are light buff hollow tile and the ceiling is exposed wood framing and the roof deck.

The concrete building foundation is supported on ninety concrete piers, 16 to 22 inches in diameter, extended to solid rock below. Except for the gymnasium roof, the structural system is reinforced concrete, beams, girders, columns and slabs. The gymnasium roof is steel roof trusses supporting wood framing. The structural engineer was H.A. Noble, Consulting Engineer, Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1950's a non-contributing addition was made to the southwest corner of the High School to provide shop and agricultural teaching space. In the early 1980's it was remodeled to provide a weight room, showers, toilet & locker facilities, etc., to support the gymnasium.

In 1976 a non-contributing addition was made by removing the corridor connecting the High School and the Junior High School and constructing a dining/meeting room. This building has window-walls on three sides with the west wall solid. The solid wall is adorned by a large mural incorporating butterflies painted by William Howe, nationally known artist and a graduate of the Ottawa High School Class of 1945.

In 1987-89 the Ottawa Middle School Parent Teacher Association erected a display board supported by brick and stone masonry with castellated towers and wing walls facing Main Street in front of the school.

Modern aluminum windows were installed in the 1960s and some of the arch detailing in window and door openings were covered. Some deterioration of the masonry has occurred on the north elevation of the High School building, probably from a improper pointing materials. Repointing has covered the chocolate colored mortar, but in most places with only a 1/4" layer of gray mortar tooled over the existing mortar, without cleaning the joint to any depth.

Some concern has been expressed about the structural stability and anchorage of the masonry. Conflicting engineering opinions have been presented. A qualified engineer specializing in masonry construction and repair has conducted a preliminary survey and presented a preliminary budget for repair.

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The Ottawa 1917 Senior High School Building and the 1927 Junior High School Building (now named the Former Ottawa Middle School) are nominated under criterion "A" for their association with the growth and development of Ottawa, Kansas between 1917 and 1950. This period of time included World War I, the Economic Depression and World War II. No other buildings in Ottawa had a more positive association with more of its citizens than these schools.

The buildings are also nominated under criterion "C" for their distinctive architectural characteristics and methods of construction and represent the work of the architectural firms of George P. Washburn and Son, Washburn & Stookey and Charles A. Smith of Smith, Rea and Lovitt, of Kansas City, Missouri. The designs use innovative structural systems and are examples of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style.

The tradition of a school building on the southwest corner of Fifth and Main Streets began on June 8, 1872. On that date the Ottawa Board of Education paid the city one dollar for the area known as the west half of College Park. This deed describes it as "being all that part of West College Park lying west of Main Street for a site for public school buildings and public school grounds" It consisted of approximately 5.68 acres of land.

In 1873, a large three-story brick building was constructed by contractor Fred Fletcher on the north portion of this tract of land. Because of the location near the center of Ottawa it was named Central School. It contained twelve rooms and housed grades one through twelve. The first Commencement was for the graduating class of 1876.

Ottawa kept growing and the people continued to be interested and involved in the school system. The student enrollment in 1881 was 1200 pupils. Three more elementary schools were built between 1883 and 1896. They were named First Ward, Second Ward and Third Ward.

Central School was becoming overcrowded by 1896, so plans were made to build a larger school. It was decided to build on the site where the present school stood so in 1898, the old Central School was demolished and a new two story brick structure was built. It had a full basement, an octagon tower with a conical roof at the northeast corner and accommodated grades one through twelve. It is believed the architect was George P. Washburn.

When a school board member suggested renaming all the schools in Ottawa, the students decided to name each school for a president or writer. First Ward became Lincoln School, Second Ward was renamed Hawthorne, Third Ward became Eugene Field and Central School was renamed Washington School.

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By 1900, the student population was 2,400. Ottawa continued to grow and the student population increased, especially the high school classes. The schools became so crowded that by 1912 classes in English and European History met on the second floor of the Carnegie Library across the street. Domestic Science and Art classes were held above Kaiser Drug Store, a half block north of the school.

The Commercial Department held their classes on the second floor of the City Hall located at Fourth and Walnut Streets, a block and a half north of the school. A few juniors and seniors attended the Ottawa University Academy on the university campus. If they received a diploma, they were automatically admitted to Ottawa University.

Ottawa had grown substantially by 1917. Perhaps this was due to the fact that the Santa Fe Railroad crossed the Missouri Pacific Railroad near the center of town. The Santa Fe constructed shops and a Division Headquarters as well as the Santa Fe hospital, which served a regional base of employees. Factories located in Ottawa due to the good transportation system that the railroads provided. Ross Mill became one of the largest manufacturers of flour in Kansas. The Bennett Creamery manufactured dairy products such as butter, ice cream and powdered milk. The Bennett Ice Plant provided ice for the bunker cars on freight trains en route to the east coast from the west coast as they went through Ottawa. A Coca Cola Bottling plant located at the creamery. A.L. Cook Construction Company was one of the largest contractors in the state. Warner Fence Company began by making fences and expanded to make farm related machines such as gasoline engines, log saws, windmills, post hole diggers, components for weapons in World War II and refrigerators. These industries created many job opportunities.

With Washington School in need of much more space to provide for an ever expanding curriculum and student population, the board of education began planning for another bond election. At the regular City election held on April 1, 1913, a \$100,000 bond election was defeated soundly, 772 for to 1,602 against. At a special election held on December 15, 1914, a similar bond issue was defeated again, 1,105 for and 1,204 against. Four months later, on April 6, 1915, a bond election for a lesser amount, \$85,000, and specifying a site further south at Seventh and Main was again defeated. The yes votes totaled 627 and the no votes totaled 1,324. This was the third school bond election within two years and Ottawa's population of 9,127 had quadrupled since Washington School was built.

Finally, on April 4, 1916, a bond election for \$125,000 to construct a senior high school at 526 South Main and an elementary school to be named Garfield, passed, with 1,828 voting for it and 1,013 voting against. Ottawa's first school to be designed exclusively as a high school and the new elementary school would become the eighth and ninth schools to be built in the last fifty-two years

Immediately following the passing of the successful bond issue there was a discussion to consider moving the Washington School Building to the center portion of the land and building the new high school on the corner of Fifth and Main.

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The prominent Ottawa residents who proposed this idea thought this most attractive, modern and best equipped building for the money in Kansas, should be at the corner site to face directly on both Fifth and Main Streets, to be opposite the Carnegie Library and the Federated Church. Following an investigation and some discussion, the board held a special meeting on May 10, 1916 to choose a bid from the eight received and sold the bonds to Central Savings Bank & Trust Company of Denver, CO. The Board made the decision to construct the new high school on the grounds south of Washington School Building.

**1917 High School Building:**

Although Ottawa had approved issuing bonds for the two new school buildings on April 4th, over a month later the school board still had not selected an architect. During a Board Meeting on May 20th they were still deadlocked, three were in favor of George P. Washburn & Son of Ottawa, two were in favor of Charles A. Smith of Smith, Rea and Lovitt, then architects for the Kansas City, Missouri school board. One member proposed that George P. Washburn & Son be the architect and Charles A. Smith as an associated architect. The compromise proposed apparently had not been discussed with the George P. Washburn & Son firm because they rejected the idea of an associated architect. The Board was also remained deadlocked on rehiring the superintendent for the coming year.

By approximately a week later, on May 26, the local architects had reconsidered, perhaps after meeting with Smith, and the School Board appeared ready to hire George P. Washburn & Sons with Charles A. Smith as advisor. Then some Board members tried to combine hiring the architect with rehiring the superintendent and they again deadlocked. Board member John Nelson made the motion to hire the architects and J.M. Everman seconded the motion. Considerable discussion followed in which C. M. Thomas, Dr. W. L. Jacobus and Fred H. McCune took the position that if a compromise was reached on the architects the superintendency should be embodied in it. Considerable discussion followed. Board President John Scott, Everman and Nelson took the position that employment of an architect was wholly removed from determining upon a superintendent. A vote was taken and Nelson, Everman and Scott were for the motion with Thomas, Jacobus and McCune against. The newspaper reported: "As it became generally known along the streets today that the board still disagreed, there was considerable unfavorable comment". The community was beginning to get impatient.

Finally, on June 6th, the Board, by unanimous choice, hired George P. Washburn & Sons with the firm of Smith, Rea & Lovitt of Kansas City to act as consultants. George P. Washburn & Sons were prepared to do all the plans and supervise the construction for four percent and to associate with a consulting architect suitable to the board, Charles A. Smith of Smith, Rea & Lovitt, whose fee would be one percent.

Washburn would furnish a competent superintendent of construction suitable to the Board. The Washburn office was at 413 South Main, Ottawa, was less than a block away. They could watch construction from their office window.

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George P. Washburn had retired from the firm in 1910. Charles A. Smith had been the architect for the Kansas City, Missouri school district since 1898 and had an excellent reputation as a designer and architect. Perhaps some of the board wanted a Collegiate Gothic style building and Charles Smith had designed in that style, while Washburn's style was more Victorian and later Classical Revival.

As planning began, the newspaper reported on May 20 that, "The cost of materials had increased from ten to twenty percent, the result of the war and that they (the board) will to have to revise somewhat their ideas of what the new high school and ward buildings shall be like."

By June 20 it was reported that preliminary plans would be completed soon. On June 21, it was reported that it was practically decided that the location of the new \$100,000 high school would be on the grounds south of the Washington School at 5th and Main.

On August 6, Clarence A. Washburn and Charles A. Smith, of Kansas City, met with the board and various details of the new high school were discussed and decided upon. The Washburn firm would now proceed with the final drawings.

On October 11, 1916, bids for the High School were received and exceeded the \$100,000 appropriated. The low bids for general construction, heating, plumbing, ventilating, electrical and heat regulation totaled \$126,268 which when combined with the architects fee of \$5,000 totaled \$131,268, nearly a third more than the appropriation.

Perhaps one reason the bids were higher than anticipated was because of World War I. The war had started in Europe in 1914 and German submarine warfare had continued to escalate until President Wilson's April 1916 ultimatum caused the German's to abandon their unrestricted warfare for a few months. On February 1, 1917, with the war going against them, the Germans again began unlimited submarine warfare knowing it would bring the United States into the war. Following the Germans deliberate sinking of American ships and attempting to get Mexico to take action against the U.S., America entered the war on April 6, 1917.

Another reason the original bids were high could have been because the structural system specified had limited manufacturers and suppliers. The floor and roof framing was designed and specified as "metal lumber" and probably was similar to what today we would call "light gauge steel construction." It was specified as "pressed steel" manufactured by the Berger Manufacturing Co., of Canton, Ohio.

The specifications provided that for any other system of "pressed steel" to be approved as an equal, it had to have an official, authentic report of fire, load and water tests. These tests were to have been made by competent, disinterested authorities showing the construction "capable of sustaining a live load of 150 lbs. per square foot, under a temperature of 1700 degrees F. for four hours, after which water is applied at a pressure of 60 pounds per square inch at the nozzle, and the structure then loaded to 600 pounds per square foot, with a deflection of not more than 2-1/2" on 12 foot spans." Considering that structural steel would only have lost much of its tensile strength at

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that temperature, there probably was nothing equal, including Berger's. With such a "metal lumber" specification there would have been little competition. That a decision was made to change to concrete construction is not surprising

The board and architects began negotiating with the low bidders and within a few days had agreed upon revisions to the plans that reduced the cost and temporary contracts for the construction of the new high school were signed. One major revision was that the auditorium, balcony and stage would be temporarily omitted and the floor of the auditorium covered with temporary composition roofing. Another was that the "metal lumber" structural system be changed to the "Widner System" of concrete construction which is discussed further later in this nomination..The ventilation system and one boiler was also omitted.

J.W. Prince of Parsons, Kansas was the general contractor; Elder Mercantile of Ottawa was the plumbing, heating, & ventilating contractor; Bushong Electrical Works of Ottawa was the electrical contractor and Powers Regulation of Kansas City was the heat regulation contractor. The total of the temporary contracts was approximately \$99,000.

The school board now had the task of raising the additional \$30,000 to complete the auditorium. It is interesting to note that the board chose not to compromise the basic quality of construction or eliminate the carved stone ornament and other architectural details.

Although the school board meeting minutes and newspaper articles have been reviewed, it is not clear the additional money was raised. At the dedication, the financial statement for the high school showed that the building cost \$124,932.31.

The building was dedicated on February 15, 1918. Finally, Ottawa had a new High School building, the first of Ottawa's schools designed exclusively as a senior high and the eighth new school in fifty-two years.

**1927 Junior High Building:**

Following a survey taken in 1921, it was obvious that the Ottawa school system needed additional space for its expanding junior high and senior high populations, as well as the desire to offer a larger curriculum. Kindergarten was also recommended for the elementary schools at this time.

On May 25, 1926, a bond issue was approved for a new junior high school building. Bonds for \$210,000 were approved, 1,005 (53%) for and 885 (47%) against.

The Architects selected were Washburn & Stookey, the same architects as the High School, but ten years later the board did not ask for an associate architect. The new building was to be designed to accommodate 500 to 600 students.

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The new school was to be located north of the 1917 Senior High School and required tearing down the old Washington School. The suggestion made by John Nelson, a member of the Ottawa Board of Education in 1916, and others, who proposed having the high school, then thought to be the most attractive, modern and best equipped building for the money in Kansas, be at the corner site to face directly on both Fifth and Main Streets, got their wish with the 1927 school. The Ottawa Junior High School Building does indeed face both Fifth and Main Streets. The new school was to be connected to the senior high by a tunnel for piping and an enclosed corridor for passing from building to building without exposure to the weather.

The construction contracts were let April 20, 1927 and construction started about July 15. Busboom Brothers, Carthage, Missouri was the general contractor. At the time they were building the Masonic Hall less than a half block north on Main. The Sell-Orr Heating Co., Independence, KS, was the heating and plumbing contractor, the Worzell Electric Co., Fort Scott, KS, was the electrical contractor and Johnson Service Co., Chicago, was the heat regulation contractor. C.A. Novak, Ottawa, was superintendent for the Architect and Board and G.H. Hawley, Fairbury, Neb., was superintendent for the General Contractor. Except for a few details, the project was complete July 17, 1928 and dedication was held on December 10, 1928.

By the 1960s the Ottawa Jr.-Sr. High School was crowded and it was decided to build a new high school at 13th and Ash for sophomores, juniors and seniors. This building was opened in 1966.

By the 1970s the five elementary schools in Ottawa were overcrowded. To help solve this problem the middle school concept was adopted in 1976. The freshman class was moved to the high school and the sixth grade classes moved from the elementary schools to join the seventh and eighth graders at the two buildings at Fifth and Main now named the "Ottawa Middle School. At the nearly the same time, following unification of the schools and the adoption of the closed lunch hour, a large multi-purpose room was added joining the two buildings and eliminating the connecting corridor.

**Integration:**

Integration of the Ottawa School District occurred more than fifty years before larger communities. Many of the early leaders of the community were from the North or Northeast and many were not in favor of segregation. In 1870, all black students were taught in one room by one teacher. In 1876, a group of black parents petitioned the school board to remove the black teacher while others insisted on having their children placed in the various grades regardless of whether the teacher was removed or not. The teacher was removed and it appeared that Ottawa's desegregation had begun. However, four years later, the school board's committee on buildings and grounds recommended that black and white students be separated again.

When the Ottawa Superintendent refused Leslie Tinnon admission to the school near his home, his father, Elijah Tinnon, brought suit. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that second class cities could not discriminate. The decision in the Tinnon case was one of the earliest in the nation to favor racially integrated schools.

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Both Franklin County District Court Judge Nelson T. Stephens and Supreme Court Justice Daniel M. Valentine found for Tinnon on the basis of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guaranteed equal protection of the law. Judge Stephens directed the superintendent to admit Leslie Tinnon to the regular public school on the grounds that the 14th amendment "deprived the Kansas Legislature and the local school board of the power to authorize or maintain a separate school for black pupils". Later, in 1954, on the basis of the 14th amendment, the U.S. Supreme Court banned school segregation in the nation.

**Curriculum**

Beginning in 1926, Ottawa High School was approved for cooperative relations by Chicago University. This meant they could receive financial aid for vocational agriculture under the Smith-Hughes Law. Since the community believed that education was an investment in people that would yield good returns, adult education was introduced. There was no cost to the board of education but the classes were free with two stipulations.

Each class must have fifteen people enrolled and three-fourths of the classes must be attended by those enrolled. If these conditions were met, the appropriations could be given to other cities in the state. Classes offered were: dressmaking, millinery, home decorating, carpentry, brick laying, shop math, cost estimating and blue-print reading. The most popular classes were millinery, dress making and manual training.

Night school for adult farmers was held in 1934, under the same law. Classes taught were: rope splicing, harness repairing, forge work, rebuilding machinery, and other mechanical problems. The classes concerning soil improvement, feeding livestock and poultry had to be extended because of the large and unexpected response.

The C.C.C. Company 4719, Ottawa, Kansas, was established northwest of Ottawa in 1935. The Board of Education signed a contract with the Civilian Conservation Corps on December 13, 1937. This contract stated the Board of Education would furnish light, heat, power, teaching, janitorial and all other services and materials incidental to instruction, including the use of the school building for twenty enrollees in a course of Vocational Agriculture. The cost was 25 cents per enrollee. The classes were from January 1, 1937 to March 31, 1937.

A similar contract was signed on April 27, 1938 by the board. The classes were to be from May 3, 1938 until June 28, 1938. The only difference was the cost. This contract was for a flat rate of (\$50) dollars.

The next contract was for the period January 1, 1940 to April 30, 1940. It was for the same instruction for thirty-four enrollees @ \$1.0073 per enrollee, making a total of \$34.25. For many years Ottawa High School was the only class 'A' school in Franklin County. This meant it was accredited and approved by the North central Associations of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Any graduate could attend any college or university affiliated with the Association without further examination.



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The Jr.-Sr. High school was organized on what was known as the 3-3 plan. This simply meant that Junior High included grades seven, eight and nine and Senior High included grades ten, eleven and twelve. The better schools followed this plan.

The curriculum for the high school by 1927 included: American and European History, Latin, French, Spanish I,II,III, English I thru V, Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Commercial Geography, Commercial Arithmetic, Bookkeeping I, II, III, Stenography, Typing I, II, Psychology, Advanced Drawing, Domestic Science, manual Training I, II, III, Sewing I, II, III, Office Training, Mechanical Drawing, Domestic Art, Economics, Journalism, Constitution, Civics, Band, Orchestra, Vocal Music, Gym, Agriculture I,II,III and Normal Training. Normal Training was a course for those wishing to teach school. Upon completion of this course, the student was required to pass the Franklin County Teacher Examination to receive a certificate to teach any place in Kansas. Later, college courses with college credits were required.

Student Teaching was introduced in 1935. The state required one complete semester of student teaching under the guidance of certified teachers. When this program was started the student teachers came from Ottawa University.

Beginning in 1928 with the junior high building, more classes were added. They were Manual Arts including auto mechanics, home mechanics, sheet metal and concrete construction. If a student decided desired to prepare for a career in business, a complete course was taught by well trained instructors. Immediately after graduation, the student could obtain employment. Training in industrial arts included wood, auto mechanics, sheet metal, electricity, an mechanical drawing. Completing these courses prepared students to enter some jobs without further training. College predatory classes were also taught. The agriculture department had outstanding equipment and an outstanding instructor for those interested in agriculture. Ottawa and vicinity has always been an agricultural community.

R.E. Gowans changed the class periods to 70 minutes each, allowing three classes and a thirty minute activity period before lunch. After lunch ere two classes and a thirty-five minute supervised study period. Everyone was out of the building by 4:30. Activity period included chapel on Monday, Thursday and Friday, with Hi-Y and Girl reserve meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Many clubs were organized in the student body and were factors in the development of their efficiency. These included Girl reserves, Hi-Y, Art Club, Future Farmers of America, Latin, Spanish, French Clubs, Home Art Club, Girls Athletic Association, Glee Clubs, Home Room Groups, 'O' Club for athletic proficiency and the 'O' Club to recognize the news publications of the High School (Yearbook and Bi-weekly newspaper).

Throughout the 1920s and into the 1950s, Ottawa High School maintained a high standard of excellence in academic, business skills, athletic and music competition. The students received many awards, trophies, ribbons and pins for outstanding achievement in state and national contests as individuals and teams. This is a result of the interested and cooperative parents, professional and dedicated teachers and disciplined, motivate and aggressive

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students.

Under the direction of C.O. Banta, the Ag Instructor , a project was started like no other in the United States. The F.F.A. Chapter bought one sow and nine pigs. Eighteen students bought a \$5 share. These students fed and cared for the litter of pigs by scientific methods until Mr. Banta agreed they were ready to sell. When the price was high enough to sell at a profit, they were sold, and the profits were divided among the stock holders. The purpose of this experiment was to prove scientific management of a farm was profitable and how to do it. This experiment was repeated later with sheep. This project involved shares of \$2.50 and the profits were divided equally between the F.F. A. chapter and the stock holders. A new course was added under Mr. Banta's guidance in 1929. The student would spend one half day with regular school work at school. The other half day was spent on the farm carrying out definite farm projects. This continued through he summer under Banta's direction. One class was Animal Husbandry with an enrollment of 24 students. The other class was Crops with an enrollment of 13. These were both the maximum number of students. Mr. Banta coached judging teams who won State Fairs, National Contests in Chicago in 1932, the Chicago Coliseum Poultry Exposition and the National 4-H Congress.

About one-third of the enrollment in his classes were students from outside Ottawa. A great many F.F.A. Members regularly attended the National F.F.A. Convention in Kansas City. The Ottawa Chapter had at least one member become a Star Farmer, which is the highest award fro an F.F.A. Member.

The concept of Junior-Senior high school was used until the mid 1970s. This was organized on what is known as the 3-3 type of organization. Three year of school work, divided into first year (seventh grade) second year (eighth grade) third year (ninth grade or Freshman) which constituted Junior High School. Senior High School consisted of three years of work, divided into first year (tenth grade or Sophomore), second year (eleventh grade or Junior), and third year (twelfth grade or Senior). This plan was usually followed by the better schools of the country.

### **Collegiate Gothic Style**

The Collegiate Gothic style in America was introduced in the early 1890s at Bryn Mawr, Bryn Mawr, PA., then in 1896 to the campus of Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, where it flourished. Princeton had decided to change its name from the College of New Jersey, and with aspirations of becoming an internationally famous university was convinced that emulating the architectural style of Oxford, England would produce a similar intellectual climate at the new university. Later, Duke University and the University of Chicago also chose Gothic.

The Gothic style had large window areas, a desired feature when natural daylight classroom lighting was desired. The architects employed a modified use of the Collegiate Gothic in both designs for Ottawa. The main use of Gothic elements is restricted to the entry pavilions, where the lancet arch and emblematic cartouches are employed, along with crenellated battlement towers. In both cases, the rectangularity of plan and the symmetry of windows recalls traditional classical styling but clearly the inspiration for both the 1917 and 1927 schools was guided by the

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Collegiate Gothic. While the two schools do not combine in a fashion that would create a quadrangle, the “U” and “E” shaped do begin to recall quadrangles. The quadrangle is an important feature of the pure Collegiate Gothic and of course extends back to earlier academic applications of the Gothic style.

In Kansas, Topeka High School and Wichita High School East are other examples of high schools using this style. These schools employed fuller interpretations of the Collegiate Gothic through the simple insertion of tall entry towers. In its purest form, the Collegiate Gothic is vertical in emphasis, employing towers and tall windows. As already stated, the Ottawa schools selected a lower design profile by eliminating the towered entries.

**George P. Washburn, Architect**

George Putman Washburn was born March 21, 1847 to Peter Shaw and Hannah C. (Boyce) Washburn, on a farm in Brown County, Ohio near the town of Ripley Ohio.

He joined his father at the Civil War Battle of Shiloh in 1862, then enlisted in Company H, 21st Missouri Infantry and served as a private until 1866. the next two years were spent in Quincy, Illinois learning the carpenter's trade. He attended night school at Bryant and Stratton's Commercial College to study drawing, mathematics and architecture. He graduated from this college as well as an International Correspondence School.

He married Alice Ama Sponsler on March 2, 1870 and they moved to Mount Pulaski, Illinois where he became a journeyman in the contracting and building business. In 1878, he was employed as an architect and superintendent for the architectural firm of Cross and Taylor in Kansas City. Asa B. Cross was a pioneer architect and builder while William E. Taylor was a civil engineer.

Washburn's first job was as superintendent for building the first Union Pacific Depot in Atchison. This was followed by the Union Pacific Depot in Denver and the one in Peoria, Illinois.

After Taylor's death in the spring of 1882, George P. Washburn moved to Ottawa, Kansas and opened a office at 413 South Main. At this time there were fewer than fifty architects in the state. Washburn was involved in all aspects of building during the town's boom in the 1880's and 1890's. He built churches, public buildings, office buildings, stores, barns, buildings for the Chautauqua grounds in Forest Park, and many residences. In Ottawa, he designed the Santa Fe Depot, the Old City Hall, the United Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Franklin County Courthouse, the Franklin County Infirmary, the Carnegie Library, the Ottawa University Administration Building, the Hamlin Building, the Washburn Office Building, the Washburn Home, the Washburn Mausoleum, and at least other twelve homes still occupied today.

At the same time he worked on major public commissions in the State of Kansas and elsewhere. He designed thirteen county courthouses in Kansas, one in Beaver County in Oklahoma and one in Pittsfield, Illinois.

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Washburn was appointed by Kansas Governor, John A. Martin, to the State Board of Charities and re-appointed by Governor Lyman W. Humphrey. He served from 1885 to 1893.

Washburn's long career traces the passage of architectural styles from Victorian Gothic through Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Romanesque Revival, Colonial Revival and Classical. In 1885, he became a member of the American Institute of Architects. Fraternally, he was active in the work of George H. Thomas Post No. 18 of the G.A.R., the Kansas Commandery of the Loyal Legion, the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He was a member of the Christian Church. He was very well thought of among the citizens of Ottawa. He had a reputation for liberality and enterprise as well as for success in his chosen business. George P. Washburn died June 16, 1922 in Ottawa.

**George P. Washburn & Son, Architects:**

Clarence Augustus Washburn was born May 31, 1881 in Ottawa, Kansas, the third of George P. and Alice A. Washburn's five children. Clarence was influenced to a great extent by his father, learning to be a carpenter and architect working for and with him. The firm became known as Washburn & Son, Architects beginning in about 1900.

Clarence married Flora Walker on June 15, 1904. They had one daughter, Mrs. Lewis (Mary Alice) Tyler (later Mrs. John L. Herbert) and three sons, George Walker, James Julian and Clarence Scott.

It is believed that the Forest Park gates, built in 1900, featuring columns of rock cut limestone, was the first project to which Clarence was assigned. The gates were erected by the citizens of Franklin County "In Honor of Company K, 20th Regiment, Kansas Volunteers, in appreciation of their Gallantry and Patriotism in the Philippine Islands 1898-1899.

Roy W. Stookey became George's son-in-law and Clarence's brother-in-law in 1909 and began working for the firm.

Following the death of his wife in 1910, George P. Washburn retired from the firm.

**Washburn & Stookey, Architects:**

In 1920, with the blessing of George P. Washburn, Clarence Washburn and Roy Stookey became partners and the firm changed it's name to Washburn & Stookey.

Although the firm's projects have not been extensively researched it is know that in addition to the 1927 Junior High School, the firm designed the Catholic Rectory at 409 South Cedar, the 1937 Eugene Field School, (George P. Washburn had designed the 1891 Eugene Field School that it replaced) and a number of residences.

The partnership lasted until 1939, the year Roy Stookey was appointed State Architect.

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Prior to Clarence Washburn's death on April 4, 1943, he was employed as a supervisory engineer with the army engineers at Lake City, Missouri. The project had lasted 18 months and Washburn had returned to Ottawa when he died suddenly from a heart attack. In April of 1943, an Ottawa Herald editorial commented "The death of Clarence A. Washburn removed a citizen who will be missed by friends and business associates. His architectural firm has made the plans for many homes and business buildings in Ottawa. His father before him had planned many of the older buildings. The name of Washburn has become linked with much of the construction work in Ottawa over a long period of years. Personally, Mr. Washburn was quiet but well liked. His judgment was valued. Ottawa has lost a substantial citizen."

Roy Wayland Stookey was born in Belleville, Illinois in 1884. He attended the Manual Training School in St. Louis and then graduated from the University of Illinois as a civil engineer and architectural engineer. He came to Ottawa in 1906 to help build the city waterworks system. He met and married Hazel B. Washburn, George and Alice's fourth child in 1909. In 1939 he was appointed State Architect by Governor Andrew Schoeppel, filling that position till he retired in 1946. He and Hazel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary together in 1959. He died in 1964 and was buried in the Washburn Mausoleum.

**Charles A. Smith:**

Born in Ohio his family moved to Iowa where his father was a contractor and builder who served on the Des Moines Board of Education and City Council. Charles was interested in architecture from an early age and following public school education; at 16 he secured a position at the architectural firm of Bell & Hackney, designers of both the Iowa and Illinois State Capitols.

When Hackney moved to Kansas City in 1887, Smith, then 21, accompanied him. For a time Hackney served as architect for both the Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri Board of Education. Smith became a partner in the firm of Hackney & Smith in 1892. They designed the Old Kansas City Public Library in 1895-97 and Smith added an addition in 1917. Following Hackney's death in 1898, Smith assumed his position as architect for the Kansas City, Missouri, Board of Education. He held this position for 38 years, until 1936. He did non-school work as well, the most notable the Kansas City, Missouri YMCA built in 1907-08.

In 1910 Smith joined with Charles Rea and Walter Lovitt to form Smith, Rea and Lovitt. The firm lasted for ten years, with Lovitt dying in 1920 and Rea dying in 1921. Two notable buildings were the Firestone Building in 1915 and the Kansas City Club in 1918.

Among Smith's many school designs, one of the finest was the Woodland School, built in 1921 in the Gothic Revival style. At the time it was the largest elementary school in the city with 27 classrooms. Kansas projects, in addition to the Ottawa High School, were the Old Bonner Springs High School of 1918 and the White Church Elementary of 1926-27.

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November 4, 1932  
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#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property stands on a 5.68 acre tract comprised of all of Block 110 and North ½ of Block 123; Lots 1, 3, and 5 and North 12.5 feet of Lots 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 of Block 123, Original Town of Ottawa. The property is bounded to the east by Main Street, to the west by Walnut Street, to the north by Fifth Street and to the south by adjacent property lines.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property stands on the tract of land that was historically associated with it.