NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 15 2005

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name Ashland Grade School

Other name/site number 025-0240-0007

2. Location

Street & number 210 W. 7th St. ☐ not for publication

City or town Ashland ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Clark Code 025 Zip code 67831

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.)

Christy Davis 10/6/05

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 herby certify that the property is | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action

☐ 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:)

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	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic Public Schools of Kansas

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)

EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt

Other: Stone Detailing

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

☒ **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)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937 - 1955

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Glen H. Thomas, Architect (Wichita)

Underhill Construction Co. of Wichita, Contractor

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

Acreage of Property: Approximately 5 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	431847	4161887
2			
3			
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 Brenda R. Spencer

Organization Preservation Planning and Design Date 22 April, 2005

Street & number 10150 Onaga Road Telephone 785-456-9857

City or town Wamego State Kansas Zip code 66547

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name USD 220 Ashland

street & number 311 Clipper, Box 187 telephone 620-635-2220

city or town Ashland state KS zip code 67831

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

Narrative Description

Ashland Grade School was constructed in 1937 through the Public Works Administration. The two story red brick structure has a flat roof with parapet and stone detailing. Reflecting an evolution of the traditional Progressive Era school, the Ashland Grade School structure was comprised of three parts. The main central section resembles a traditional Progressive Era school with its symmetrical, formal design and a grand central entrance. The first grade room was recessed on the west end of the building and the auditorium was recessed on the east end of the building. The provision of an auditorium, music room, and library were standard grade school features to emerge from the Progressive Era.

The building has four front entrances: the main central entrance, a first grade entrance on the west end of the front facade, and two auditorium entrances on the east end of the front facade. The formal central entrance is framed by four two-story stone pilasters and a stone entablature. Four stone panels with carved urns are located at the top of each pilaster above the entablature and round stone panels are located on the brick parapet between the urns. This detail is repeated at the two auditorium entrances on the east end of the south (front) façade. Stone keystones in the brick lintels distinguish the window openings at the entry bays around the building. Subtle detailing on the exterior of the building includes brick quoining at the corners, a stone water table and stone cornice. The original multi-pane steel windows and multi-light wood doors and transoms have been replaced. The original windows gave the building a modern look in contrast to the formal Classical Revival detailing.

Stylistically, the building is classified as a Late 19th and 20th Century Revival Structure embodying characteristics of the Classical Revival Style of architecture. The design reflects a number of details representative of the style: the two story red brick building with a formal central entrance, the full-height pilasters and stone entablature, cornice and frieze, and carved Greek urns.

Ashland Grade School was designed by Wichita architect Glen H. Thomas. The school is similar in design to the Louisa May Alcott Grade School in Wichita, designed by Thomas in 1926. By the late 1930s, Thomas became known for the use of Kansas icons such as the buffalo in stone bas relief panels on his schools (not included in the design of this school). Although it was constructed in 1937, the Ashland school reflects the styles common in Thomas' earlier works.

Site

Ashland Grade School was constructed on the southeast quarter of Block 26, the original block reserved for a school house by the Ashland Town Company in the mid 1880s located just east of the downtown business district. This block was the site of the first Ashland School, constructed in 1887. The first frame school was destroyed by fire about the time construction was completed; a brick school house was rebuilt and opened in the fall of 1888. The first brick school house was located in the center of the block and continued to serve the local community until the existing school was constructed in 1937. The existing school was built southeast of the first school so that school could continue in the old building while the new building was under construction.

Ashland Grade School faces south, fronting West 7th Street. The school site spans the entire block bordered on the east by Highland Street, on the west by Maple Street, and West 6th Street on the north. A perimeter sidewalk extends around the entire site; the play ground west and north of the school is enclosed by a chain link fence. Baseball diamonds with fenced backdrops are located at the northeast and northwest corners of the site and an asphalt court is located immediately northwest of the school. Playground equipment is in place west of the school. The auditorium, on the east end of the school, forms an "L" shaped plan at the southeast corner of the site. Two portable storage sheds are located in the "L" at the rear of the school. The school is setback from the street on the south and east sides creating a front and side lawn with concrete sidewalks extending from the perimeter walk to the multiple building entrances. Large mature deciduous trees are located between the perimeter sidewalk and the street in front of the school and in select locations around the site. The lawn is well-groomed and small shrubs are in place along the front of the building. The bell was salvaged from the old school and relocated to a marker at the southeast corner of the site.

Exterior

The school was built of fireproof construction with a concrete foundation, clay tile and brick walls, and steel beams. The two story building was designed with two separate basements: the boiler room in the northeast quarter of the main central building and shower/locker rooms under the stage on the north end of the auditorium. The boiler room was accessed by an interior and exterior stairway; the locker rooms accessed by interior stairways on each end of the stage. The heating system was a gas fired boiler with cast iron radiators in each room. All plumbing pipes were located along exterior walls accessed by a tunnel around the perimeter of the building.

The building's dimensions are 218 by 87 feet. The two story building has a flat roof with a brick parapet that has a stone cap. Red brick exterior walls feature a modified common bond pattern – five stretcher courses are divided by a course with alternating header/stretcher bricks. The exterior brick walls also feature brick quoining at the corners of the building and vertical stretcher courses for most window lintels and a band beneath the cornice. Smooth limestone detailing provides the only ornamentation. A projecting stone cornice with a carved frieze is located two feet below the parapet cap and a stone water table are horizontal bands that emphasize the building's horizontal character.

The building is comprised of three distinct sections. The central section or main building is comprised of three bays: the center entry bay and flanking end bays. Four windows are located on each floor or the end bays. Projecting slightly, the center entry bay is defined by four two- story rectangular stone pilasters with stone bases. The pilasters have fluted capitals and "Grade School" is inscribed in the stone entablature over the pilasters. The entablature aligns with the projecting cornice and frieze that span the entire building; the frieze features a carved scallop pattern. Stone panels at the top of each pilaster, above the entablature feature carved Greek urns, and round stone panels are located on the brick parapet, between the urns. The stone pilasters sub-divide the entry bay into three sub-bays, the center one being wider than the two ends. There is a single window on each floor of the end bays. The main building entrance is located in the center bay. It was originally a pair of multi-light over one panel wood doors with a fan light transom. A simple arched stone surround with a projecting stone keystone frames the wood doors. The doors and transom have been replaced with contemporary glass doors with metal frames. A single window is located on the second floor over the arched doorway. All of the windows on the central entry bay are distinguished by projecting stone keystones in flat arched brick lintels. Lantern style light fixtures are in place at each of the front entrances.

With its own private entrance, the first grade class room was originally located in the west end wing. The west wing is a plain brick facade with the stone water table and cornice as the only ornament. The entrance was originally a pair of multi-light paneled wood doors with an arched fan light transom like the main entrance, but the west entry has a simple arched brick surround with a projecting stone keystone. The west entry is located on the east end of the west wing, next to the central main building. A single window is located on ground floor at the west end of the wing.

The east wing of the building is the auditorium and like the west wing, it is also recessed from the main building. The auditorium however, is much larger than the west wing, giving the building an asymmetrical form despite the formal symmetry of the central main building. The south facade of the auditorium is also comprised of three bays. Twin entrances on each end flank a wide center bay. The center bay has six individual windows on each floor. These windows have brick lintels and stone sills. A stone panel inscribed "auditorium" is located in the center of auditorium on the brick parapet above the cornice. Round stone panels flank the inscribed panel and a scupper and downspout are in place between the outer two windows. The entry bays on each end of the south facade of the auditorium are defined by projecting brick pilasters that have a simple stone capital and are topped by carved stone urns like those over the main building entrance. A round stone panel is located on the parapet between the two urns. The original doors were a pair of multi-light over single panel wood doors with a multi-light transom. The stone door surrounds have a small projecting cornice with a scalloped pattern on the frieze. A window is located on the second floor over each entrance, distinguished by a stone keystone on a flat arched brick lintel.

The east facade is the side of the auditorium, comprised of three bays. Two end bays project slightly and feature a single upper window; the water table and cornice are the only ornament. The center bay is divided into four sub-bays by projecting brick pilasters. Like on the south facade of the gymnasium, the pilasters are topped by a stone urn with round

panels between. Each sub-bay has a pair of multi-light steel windows on each floor. There is a single door on the north end bay, providing access to the stage and locker rooms on the north side of the auditorium.

The rear (north) facade is simple and utilitarian compared to the front. The stone water table and cornice provide the only ornamentation. Like the front, the rear is divided into three distinct sections: the central main building, the auditorium on the east and first grade on the west. On the east end, the auditorium features one window on each floor at each end of the north facade. Scuppers and downspouts are in place like on the front of the building. The rear of the central main building is defined by projecting entry bays on each end and a large square chimney in the center of the rear facade. The rear entrances provide direct access to twin stairways. These entrances are simply a pair of doors, originally multi-light over single panel wood doors, like those on the front without the transom. A window is located on the second floor over the door in each of these bays. The windows on the rear of the auditorium and the rear entrances have the stone keystone where all others are plain brick lintels. The two central bays on the rear facade of the main building are separated only by the chimney. These bays have four windows per floor with the exception of the upper level nearest the chimney on the east center section – there are only three windows instead of four. The rear facade of the west wing is plain with only three windows: an upper window on each end and a lower window on the east end. The west facade is the side of the first grade room; it is a single bay wide with five narrow windows per floor.

There have been no additions to the building and few modifications. The only exterior modification is the replacement doors and windows installed in the late 1980s for improved energy efficiency. Although the new windows do not resemble the style of the original multi-pane steel windows, the building's is so near original condition with the exception of the windows and doors, that this modification does not render the property ineligible for listing. The original masonry openings and proportions are maintained; the replacement windows and doors are a common modification in historic schools that continue to be used as public schools. This modification is acceptable as defined in the registration requirements of the multiple property listing.

Interior

Ashland Grade School was built with eight classrooms, a music room, library and auditorium. The plan is a straight forward, simple layout with four rooms on each floor in the central main building, the music room over the first grade room in the west end wing, and the two-story auditorium on the east end. The auditorium extends beyond the rear of the main building forming an "L" shaped plan. A small office was located off the central entrance in the main building and rest rooms located on the east end of the main central building. Twin stairways are located on each end of the rear of the center section. A double loaded corridor provides access to the classrooms in the central section extending from the west end wing to the auditorium on the east. There is a separate entrance in the west end wing providing direct access to the first grade room. There are two primary entrances into the auditorium; a small ticket window is located just inside the west auditorium entry.

The grade school was built in 1937 to replace the original graded school on the site that had been constructed in 1888. Although the original school had been built to serve all grades, a separate high school was constructed in 1917 in the southwest part of town (this school was used until a new high school was built in 1963 on the northwest side of town). The new grade school was built to serve grades 1 – 8. It was constructed without a cafeteria or kitchen; the grade school students are bussed to the high school for lunch.

The school was built with features and finishes typical of the era in which it was constructed. The original terrazzo floors are extant in the entry vestibules, corridors, stairways, and rest rooms. Glazed block wainscoting is extant in the corridors, stairways, rest rooms and auditorium. The original interior doors were nine light over four panel wood doors with single light transoms. The original wood doors, door and window surrounds, and wood base are in place throughout the building. The original plaster walls are extant; the original ceilings are obscured by suspended ceilings in the corridors but visible in the stairways. Most classrooms retain the original applied acoustic panel ceilings. Carpet has been installed over the original tile floors in most classrooms, but the original VAT is in place in at least one classroom. A unique feature in the classrooms was a built-in wardrobe with a chalk board on one side. The original wardrobes are in place in most classrooms and original radiators are in place throughout the building. The original school clock and bell system is extant in the ground floor corridor. Although the doors have been removed, the original frame and multi-light transom is in place

in the vestibule at the building entrances. The school retains its original plan configuration and circulation pattern including the central corridor and twin rear stairways. The auditorium is oriented north-south with the stage on the north end. Fixed seating was located on the south end only with floor seating and a balcony. The wood balcony with its original, fixed wood seats is extant.

Like the exterior, there have been few modifications on the schools' interior. A former classroom across from the main entrance has been converted to the school office; the original office is used for the counselor and a small conference room. The music room, originally located on the second floor over the first grade room in the west end wing, has been modified. A partition wall was installed dividing the space into two rooms but the original stage located at the north end of the room is in place. Additionally, the library that was original located in the northwest corner of the second floor of the main building was converted to a classroom and an original partition wall removed. As a means to meet current life safety codes, cinder block enclosures were constructed at the rear stairways. Florescent lights have been installed throughout the building and surface mounted conduit is in place. Additionally, the seating area on the south end of the auditorium (ground floor) was converted to a classroom.

The school retains a high degree of integrity. With the exception of the replacement doors and windows, the building clearly portrays its original design. The modifications are typical of those structures continuing use a public school. All former alterations are within the parameters set forth in the multiple property submission.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Ashland Grade School is being nominated to the National Register under the multiple property documentation form, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*. The school is significant on a state and local level under Criterion A as the public grade school in Ashland, an important component in the development and survival of the small rural community in southwest Kansas. The school is also significant under Criterion C as a representative of a New Deal Era school and the work of regional school architect Glen H. Thomas. The two-story red brick school with its formal central entrance and classical detailing reflects characteristics of the Classical Revival Style. Designed with a combined gymnasium and auditorium, as well as a music room and library, the school reflects educational trends emerging from the Progressive Era. Ashland Grade School is an excellent example of the work of Wichita architect, Glen Thomas who was responsible for the design of numerous public schools throughout Kansas. The school was designed and continues to be used as the town's elementary school. Ashland Grade School is an excellent representative of the Town Graded School property type and meets the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property submission.

The Town of Ashland

Clark County was initially surveyed in 1861 and the boundary lines re-laid in 1884; the area was originally a part of Ford County. The county was named for Charles F. Clarke, a captain in the 6th Kansas Cavalry.[1] The first town in the county was Clark City, founded in June of 1884 and located one and one half miles north of the present site of Ashland. The town of Ashland was located on the trail from Fort Dodge to Fort Supply, previously called Bear Creek and Soldiers Graves. A temporary mail station was established at Bear Creek in 1870, halfway between the two forts. In May of 1870, Kiowa braved killed two soldiers who escorted a wagon train to prevent it from attack; the site became known as Soldier's Graves. It became a stop on the Dodge-Supply Trail, where cowboys got mail, horses were changed on the stage line, and freighters stopped for the night.[2]

The Ashland Town Company was organized in Winfield, Kansas in October of 1884. Ashland was named after Ashland, Kentucky, the home town of one of the founding members of the Ashland Town Company. The Company purchased the land in Bear Creek valley called Soldiers' Graves. To avoid a battle over the location of the county seat, the Ashland Town Company offered residents of Clark City (located 1-1/2 miles to the north) a deal and all except one building was moved from Clark City to Ashland. By the spring of 1885, the population of Ashland was over 2,000. In July of 1885, the Company gave the County a block in the town for the construction of a courthouse and a jail. The Town Company also reserved Block 26 for a school house and gave lots to the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches.[3]

The town of Ashland received another boost two years after its initial settlement. In September of 1887, tracks of the Chicago, Kansas and Western Railway Company (C K & W), reached Ashland. The C K & W was a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail line. In no time, Ashland reported a booming freight business; the depot opened in November of 1887.[4]

By the turn of the century, Ashland was a bustling community with more than thirty businesses and many fine two-story residences. The town boasted a brick courthouse and school. A water and electric plant was constructed in 1910 and the first sewer system in 1920. A new brick high school was constructed in 1917. Like most western Kansas towns, Ashland endured the challenges of drought and economic depression in the 1930s. The town was struck by its most disastrous fire in March of 1933 which destroyed the Smith and Woodbury Blocks on the west side of Main Street. "Black Sunday" rolled in on April 14, 1935, the worst dust storm to ever hit the plains. Kansas lost over a quarter of a million residents during the 1930s, most moving west to California or Colorado. Ashland was no different; they experienced their first significant decline in population since the town was founded. Ironically, it was during this decade that Highway 160 was constructed through town, and the existing grade school built. Clark County is known for its cattle ranches and wheat fields. Technological and transportation advancements contributed significantly to the town's decline. Santa Fe dropped rail service to the town in 1972. Today the population of Ashland is less than one thousand residents; the county's population is approximately 2400. The area is still predominantly reliant on farming and ranching. The town maintains a core group of businesses that provide basic goods and services to local residents. The schools are an integral part of the local community.[5]

Ashland Schools

When Ashland was established, there was one rural school district spanning eight square miles. The Ashland district was organized in 1886. By 1887, there were 62 organized school districts in the county. Following two failed attempts to pass a bond issue for the construction of a school in Ashland, a bond for $5,000 was approved on June 1, 1887. As the building was nearing completion, the structure was consumed by fire. The following year, the school was rebuilt of brick. The first Ashland school opened in the fall of 1888 with an enrollment of 127 students in ten grades; including a two-year high school. This school was constructed in the center of Block 26, the site of the existing grade school. The first high school was constructed in 1917 in the southwest part of town and the original school became the grade school. The existing grade school was constructed in 1937 through the federal Public Works Administration. Following completion of the new grade school, the old school was dismantled through the Work Projects Administration and the materials used for construction of a Vocational Agriculture building at the high school. A bond issue was passed in 1960 to finance the construction of a new high school. This building, located in the northwest corner of town, was occupied in the 1963-64 school year. The 1917 high school building has since been demolished but the Vocational Agriculture Building remains standing although it is no more than a shell. Through the state-mandated consolidation, Englewood schools were unified with Ashland in 1966. The existing grade school continues to serve as the district's elementary school and the Ashland High School as the district's high school.[6]

Construction of the Ashland Grade School was made possible by the federal government through the Public Works Administration which financed up to 45% of the cost of school construction. The school was PWA project number KANSAS 1157-D. The architect's plans were approved by PWA in December of 1936. The cost of the school was estimated at $100,000, financed through a PWA grant of $45,000 and district bonds in the amount of $55,000. The bonds were purchased by Dunne-Israel Co. and Small-Milburn Co., both of Wichita.[7] The Underhill Construction Company of Wichita was awarded the construction contract with the low bid of $87,998.[8] Myron Thomas, the architect's representative on the project provided *The Clark County Clipper* with a sketch of the proposed building and the following description.

> The building is of fireproof construction, two stories with a basement for the heating plant. In it are nine class rooms 22 x 31 feet and a large library room, besides the auditorium. All classroom floors are to be asphalt tile in varied colors and patterns and the ceilings acoustically treated. Wardrobes are built in at the ends of each class room and each has blackboards and cork bulletin boards. The large music room is on the second floor and has a small stage for dramatics. The primary room is at the west end of the building with a private entrance and drinking fountain. The corridors have glazed tile wainscot and terrazzo floors. All trim in the building will be oak. The auditorium and gymnasium are combined, the auditorium proper being 78 x 87 feet, the playing floor of the gymnasium being 50 x 76 feet. The seating capacity of the auditorium is approximately 1,000 with folding chairs. There are upper and lower balconies at the south end of the auditorium. The stage across the north end of the auditorium is 16 feet in depth with a proscenium opening 40 feet wide and 15 feet high. Dressing rooms are on the second floor off ends of the stage, and large shower and locker rooms are located under the stage.[9]

The school was completed in the fall of 1937; students moved into the new school in November. The building dedication ceremonies took place on December 15, 1937. Dr. C.E. Rarick, president of the Kansas State Teachers College at Fort Hays gave the address and the school band provided music. Patrons of the district were invited to view the new school.[10]

The Ashland Grade School celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 20, 1987. The 1988 school yearbook noted that the building had stayed the same until this year when improvements included new rest room fixtures and new energy-saving doors and windows. New playground equipment was also installed.[11] The school continues to serve as the district's elementary school.

Summary

Ashland Grade School was constructed in 1937 through the Public Works Administration. It was built to replace the town's first graded school, built in 1888 on the same site (a separate high school had been constructed in 1917). The design of the school represents the transition from the Progressive Era to modern school design. Classified as a Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival structure for its Classical Revival detailing, the school's plan reflects Progressive Era

tenets of physical education and fine arts being a part of primary school curriculum. The school was designed with a combined auditorium and gymnasium, a library and music room, in addition to regular classrooms. It also featured specialized treatment of the primary classroom (first grade) with a separate entrance and drinking fountain, all trends emerging from the Progressive Era. However, unlike the typical Progressive Era schools, the Ashland Grade School was "L" shaped in plan and had an asymmetrical composition. The two story red brick building embodies classical detailing with stone pilasters, a stone water table, cornice, frieze and entablature. Detailing included subtle brick quoining, and carved stone urns. In direct contrast to the classical detailing, the school had multi-light steel windows and an irregular plan form illustrating modern influences.

The school was designed by Glen H. Thomas of Wichita. Thomas went to work for Lorentz Schmidt in Wichita in 1916, later establishing his own firm. Thomas is perhaps best know for his design of Wichita's North (1929) and West (1951) High Schools, as well as the Administration Building at McConnell Air Force Base, the auditorium and commons buildings at Wichita State University, the Kansas Gas & Electric Building, and the Sedgwick County Courthouse. Thomas designed schools in Coffeyville, Fort Scott, Pratt, Jetmore, Otis, and Mantor, and the Clark and Nemaha County Courthouses. Although constructed in 1937, the Ashland Grade School is representative of Thomas' work in the 1920s.

Ashland Grade School maintains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association. The school retains the general characteristics of the property type including: its original site and setting, the original building form, the original roof form, the exterior brick and pattern of window and door openings, original ornamentation in the brick and stone detailing, and the interior corridor configuration.

The school retains a high degree of integrity on both the interior and exterior. Replacement of the original windows and doors are the only major exterior alteration. Although the replacements do not match the style of the original, the original masonry openings and proportions have been maintained. The interior has undergone only minor modifications with some changes in interior partition walls, enclosure of the two stairways, and conversion of the ground floor auditorium seating to a classroom. All of the modifications to the school are within the parameters defined in the multiple property submission and do not sufficiently impact the integrity of the building as to make it ineligible for listing. The school retains its original exterior form, with no additions to the building. On the interior, significant features and finishes include plaster walls, glazed block wainscoting, terrazzo floors and stairways, original interior doors and wood trim, radiators, and the original school clock and bell system.

Ashland Grade School is nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property documentation form, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* as a representative of the Town Graded School property type. It is a traditional example of the property type as the public grade school built to serve all community residents, and continues to serve that function today. The structure is also significant as a representative of a New Deal Era school constructed through the PWA, and of the work of Wichita architect, Glen H. Thomas.

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[1] Old Settlers' Association, Souvenir of Ashland, Clark County, Kansas – 1884 – 1909. (Mt. Vernon, Indiana: Windmill Publications, Inc., 1991) no page numbers.
[2] History Book Committee, Ashland, Kansas 1884 – 1984 – The Story of its first 100 Years. (Shawnee Mission, Kansas: Kes-Print, Inc., 1984) 23-24.
[3] Ibid, 24-26.
[4] Ibid, 45.
[5] Ibid, 49 – 85.
[6] Ibid, 97 – 101.
[7] Clark County Clipper, December 17, 1936.
[8] Clark County Clipper, January 14, 1937.
[9] "Ashland's New $100,000 Grade School Building," Clark County Clipper. July 8, 1937.
[10] Clark County Clipper, December 9 and 16, 1937.
[11] The Blue jay -school yearbook. (Jostens publications, 1988) 62.

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Ashland School Yearbooks: The Weejun, 1948; The 49er, 1949; The Blue jay, Topeka: Myers & Co., 1950; and The Blue jay, Topeka: Jostens, 1988 (all available at the Pioneer-Krier Museum in Ashland).

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Pike Studio. Early Photo of Ashland Grade School (provided by Diana Redger, All-School Reunion Committee.

Spencer, Brenda R. *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, National Register Multiple Property Nomination, 2004.

Spencer, Brenda R. *Reconnaissance Survey of Sylvia Rural High School,* May, 2004.

The Clark County Clipper. December 17, 1936; January 14, February 4 & 18, March 4, April 15, June 3, July 8, August 12, and December 2, 9 & 16, 1937.

Thomas, Glen H. "Grade School, Ashland, Kansas" - Original design documents, 1936. (Provided by USD 220).

Most information on the school was obtained from Karen Maris and Diana Redger of the All School Reunion Committee, and the Pioneer-Krier Museum in Ashland.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description – Lots 1-23, Block 24, Original Town of Ashland. The site is one city block bordered on the south by West 7th Street, on the east by Highland Street, on the north by West 6th Street, and on the west by Maple Street.

Boundary Justification – The site is comprised of the original block set aside for use a public school by the Ashland Town Company in 1886. The site is clearly defined by geographic features; it encompasses the school and rear playground and ball diamonds.

Additional Documentation

Maps
USGS map attached
Figure 1 – Site Plan Sketch (Spencer, 2004)

Historic Views
Figure 2 – Historic View of Ashland Grade School
Figure 3 – Original Design Documents by Architect, Glen H. Thomas

Photographs

Ashland Grade School
Clark County, Kansas

Photos were taken by Brenda Spencer March 28 & 29, 2005. KSHS holds the original negatives.

#	Description of View [direction of camera]
1	Front (south) facade [northeast]
2	Front (south) facade of central/main section [north]
3	Detail of central/main entry bay, south facade [north]
4	Detail of entablature and parapet over front entry on south facade [north]
5	Front (south) facade of auditorium on east end of building [northwest]
6	Detail of one of two twin auditorium entrances on south facade [north]
7	East facade [west]
8	Rear (north) facade [southeast]
9	West and south (front) facades [northeast]
10	First Grade entrance on west end wing, south facade [south]
11	First floor corridor [west]
12	One of two twin stairways at rear of central/main section [north]
13	Typical interior door, glazed tile wainscoting and terrazzo corridor floor
14	Typical classroom, ground floor, north side [east]
15	Original music room on second floor, west wing – converted to classroom [north]
16	Built-in wardrobe/chalk board extant in most classrooms
17	Original varnished stool/apron extant at replacement windows and original radiator [north]
18	Auditorium/gymnasium on east end of school [northeast]
19	Auditorium /gymnasium with balcony on south side (lower seating area converted to classroom) [southeast]
20	Auditorium balcony with original wood seats [southeast]

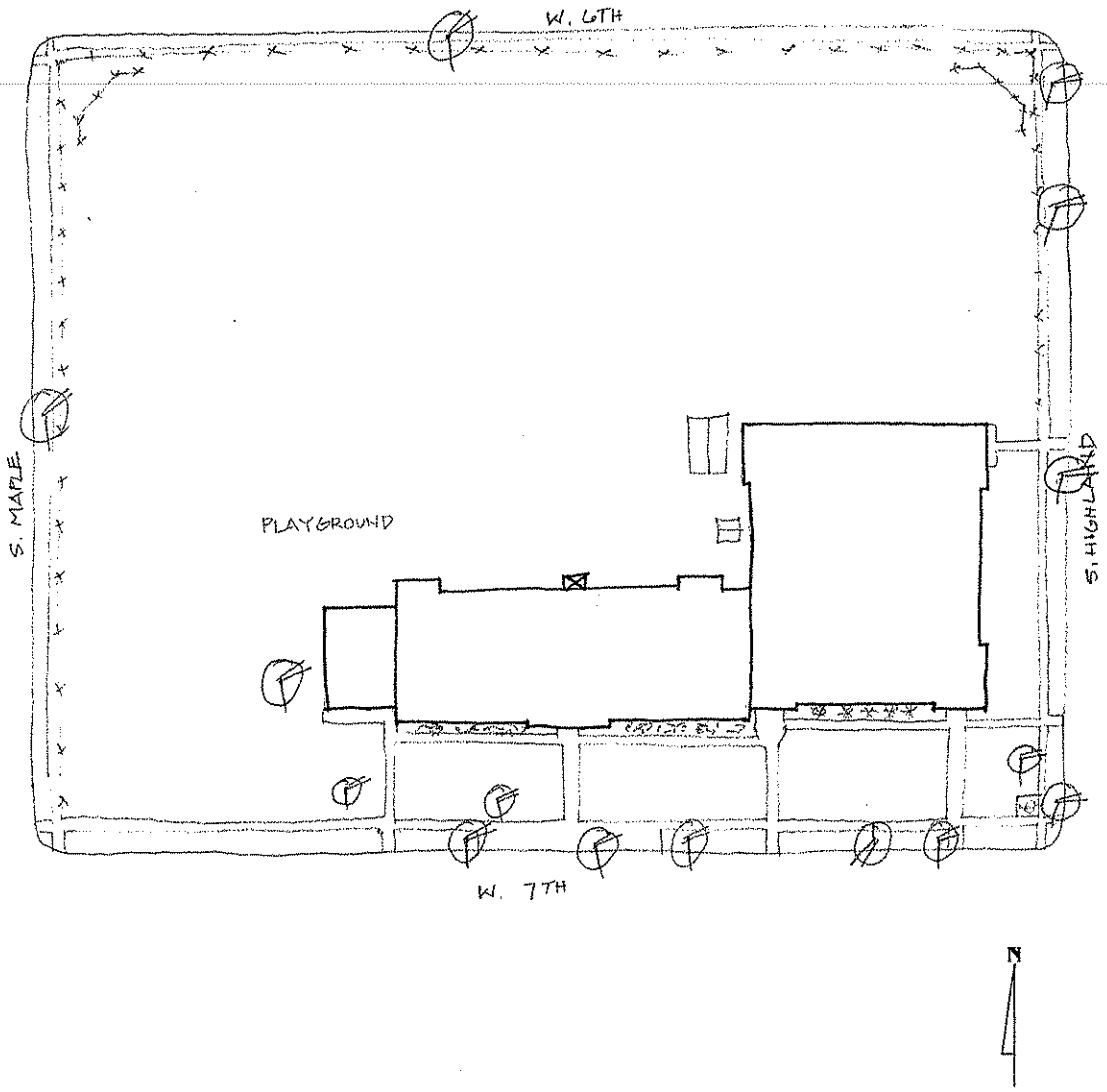

Figure 1 – Site Sketch Plan (Spencer, 2004)