NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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

# 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 Strong Hall

other names/site number Administration Building

## 2. Location

street & number 213 Strong Hall, University of Kansas, Jayhawk Drive and Poplar Lane ☐ not for publication

city or town Lawrence ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Douglas code 045 zip code 66045-1902

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XXX 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 XXX meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide XXX locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz July 31, 1998
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: 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:)

Strong Hall
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

## 5. Classification

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

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☒ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 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: college; university

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

Education: college; university

## 7. Description

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

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Classical Revival

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Terra cotta
roof Asphalt
other

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

Strong Hall
Name of Property

Douglas unty, Kansas
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

XXX **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.

XXX **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)

Architecture
Education

**Period of Significance**

1911-1948

**Significant Dates**

1911-1923

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

McArdle, Montrose Pallen

**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibilography**
(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:**

XXX State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
XXX University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
University of Kansas, Spencer Research Library

Strong Hall
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acres

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 15 | 305330 | 4314510 |
| 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 Carolyn Bailey Berneking

organization Historic Mount Oread Foundation date November 15, 1997

street & number 2517 W. 24th Terrace telephone 785-749-3520

city or town Lawrence state Kansas zip code 66047

## 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 Chancellor Robert Hemenway

street & number 213 Strong Hall, University of Kansas, Jayhawk Drive telephone

city or town Lawrence state Kansas zip code 66045-1902

**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.

Strong Hall stands at the center of the University of Kansas campus - the keystone of all the buildings. Like the cathedrals of Europe, it took a long time to build. From drawing board in 1909 to completion in 1923, was a period of fourteen years. In 1910, the student population had grown from 1,200 in 1900 to over 2,000. (1) Also the city of Lawrence grew from 10,770 in 1900 to 13,799 in 1910. (2)

Strong Hall consists of a central element with connecting links to east and west wings. The style is Classical Revival. It is three stories with an above ground basement and a sub-basement. Because of the slope of the land, the basement windows on the south are partly below ground while on the north, the windows are all above ground. The height on the north side is seventy-nine feet with sixty-five feet on the south. The length of the building is 400 feet and seventy-five feet wide. The outside building material is terra cotta cast to match the natural limestone found on other University buildings. It has vertical ribbing with alternate stone courses. Brick is used for backing and the inside walls and the foundation is suppressed limestone. (3) The roof is built up with a gravel topping. There are five skylights on each wing and two in the center section.

The front entrance faces south, 150 feet from Jayhawk Drive. On the west side of the building is Poplar Lane, a road starting at right angles to Jayhawk Drive, and curving around behind the building, meeting on the east with Mississippi Street. On the west side of Poplar Lane is Snow Hall. On the north side is Kenneth Spencer Research Library, and on the east is Bailey Hall. Double walks lead to the front entrance from the street. Walks also lead to the east and west entrances from the walk in front of the building.

There are seven semi-circular limestone steps leading to the main entrance where the entrance doors are recessed. Two metal handrails, that have been added recently, lead up these steps to the doors. Around the entrance is an overhanging Neo-Classical entablature that is supported by two pilasters on each side that rise above the architrave. The architrave has six lions' heads used as drains. Green glazed medallions in the shape of shields and enclosed by the scallop ornaments are above the pilaster. Between them is a square terra cotta panel. This panel was originally to be used for bas-relief of the nine muses (see architectural drawing of front elevation, central portion). The bas-relief was also to have been on the north elevation but they both had to be eliminated because of lack of funds. Above the shields is a cornice with a band of decorated small projecting squares adjacent to a recessed square. This entablature is capped by an upward projecting square centered on the entrance facade.

Globe lights in the form of a tin square column sit on a limestone base on each side of the entryway. These tin columns have an egg and dart molding with four rams' heads at each corner of the base. A grape and bow motif is placed at the top of each side of the column. Around the entrance way is a decorative molding band. The recessed entryway has three pairs of wooden doors. Each door handle is brass with a decorated lions' head at the top, a cartouche in the middle, and two cupids on each side. The long handle has a vertical plate with six scrolls around it. The doors are paired panel doors with eight lights in each pair. Above the doors are three pairs of casement windows that have fifteen lights each. A large band above them carries the name of the building in brass letters with a decorative shield at the end of the band. Above this band are three more pairs of casement windows--eighteen lights in each window. Six awning windows are above this with four lights in each one.

The entire building's windows are double hung sash that have all been replaced over the years. Above each window on the first floor on the front facade is a flat arch with no rustication. The second floor windows have a flat arch with an enlarged decorative keystone rusticated voussoir. The suppressed pilasters begin at the base and go up to the entablature. This rhythm is carried out on the entire structure. The south facade has thirty windows to the right of the entrance and thirty windows to the left. The windows to the right of the entrance are in three groups. The first is a group of nine double hung sash, the second group a single, and the third group a group of three. The basement windows are below ground in an archway, which extends to the front of the east wing. The third floor windows are all half size double hung sash. Above the single windows on the first and second floor is a medallion on the third floor. Windows to the left of the entrance are in the same pattern as on the right. The second and third floors are divided by a string course with the egg and dart molding band that encircles the building. The basement windows, double hung sash, are in an areaway that continues to the front of the west wing. The third floor has two half size windows. The west side of the center section has two double hung windows on the first and second floors. There are no basement windows.

The connecting links are fifteen feet wide and twenty-five feet long with one group of three double hung sash windows on the basement, first and second floors. The third floor has three half size windows. The west wing windows are in a rhythmic pattern. There are five groups of double hung windows on the basement, first and second floors. There is a group of five half windows on the third floor directly over the groups of double hung windows below. Of the five groups of half size windows there are three groups of a pair of windows. Two of these pair are over two groups of single windows on the second floor. The third group of half size windows are

over a pair of double hung windows. The other two groups of half size windows are a group of three pair of windows separated by two blank panels. The fourth group consists of four pair of windows, each pair separated by blank panels. The fifth group of three pair of windows separated by two blank panels--this being the south group of the third floor windows.

South of the connecting link on the west wing's east side is a single double hung sash window on the first and second floors. Next is a group of four double hung windows. The next group is a group of single windows. The fourth group is a pair of double hung windows with a mullion and the fifth southernmost group is a group of three windows. The spacing of the windows in the basement are similar to the first and second floors except for the fourth group which has two single double hung windows. All of the double hung windows on this elevation are the same width except the two windows in the basement in the fourth group which are the narrowest of all the windows. The fifth southern most group of windows in the basement are in the areaway.

The west wing entrance facing south is reached by five limestone steps. It has two double doors in an archway with an enlarged decorative keystone. The entrance is recessed with two side lights on either side of the six light doors. Above this are six transom windows. There are globe electric wall lights on each side of the entrance. Large pilasters on each side of the entryway reach to the egg and dart stringcourse. Four lions' heads decorate the architrave. Above this, the third floor has three pairs of half size windows with two shield medallions between them. The first and second floor windows are half size windows. The first floor has two paired windows, the second and third floor has three. The window treatment is the same as the center section with a non-rusticated arch on the first floor and the decorative keystone with rustication over the second floor windows.

The west side of the west wing has a porch entrance with a bracketed roof. This entrance is reached by a walk way from Poplar Drive to one limestone step. The doors are identical to the west wing's south entrance doors. Above the roof of the porch are three casement windows for lighting the inside stairwell. Three single casement windows are above that on the second floor level. These offset the exterior composition because they don't line up with the second floor windows. The third floor windows on the west side are in four groups of three pairs of casement windows with a shield medallion between the first and last groups. The inside stairwell on the north side of the west wing is treated in the same manner as the stairwell on the south side with three sets of casement windows on the first and second floors. The basement level has two small casement windows. The balance of the windows on the west are in three groups. The north end

has a group of three windows at each floor. The south end has a group of three windows at each fllor and the center area has a group of seven windows at each floor. The basement double hung sash windows are in an areaway with a railing around the top of the windows.

Triple windows on the north side of the west wing begin at the basement level and go to the second floor, nine windows in all. The third floor has a sloping skylight in place of windows on the facade. Three lions' heads decorate the stringcourse above the second floor windows. The east exposure of the west wing has a group of three double hung windows on the basement, first and second floors. The third floor has three half size windows.

The connecting link windows are the same as on the south side, with the exception of a single metal door in between two double hung sash windows on the basement level. At the east end of the connecting link is the west side of the center section. This side has a group of two windows on the first and second floor. The third floor has two half size windows while the basement level is without windows on this side.

The north side of the center section has three groups of windows. The first group is a single window on the first and second floors. The third floor has a medallion in place of the window. The basement door has a metal door with a flight of four steps leading to it from the loading area. The second group consists of eight windows on the basement, first and second floors. The third floor has eight half size windows. The third group of windows are not aligned with the first two groups, because of their lighting the inside stairway. There are single windows at the basement and first floor levels and a half size window on the second level. The third level has a medallion in place of a window.

The back or north entrance is identical to the front entrance with the exception of the basement level entrance under the terrace from the Spencer Research Library where Poplar Drive curves around between the two buildings. The first floor entrance has been changed in many ways over the years. It was first designed to be the main entrance with a four-way stairway and elaborate stone banisters leading to the drive below. The south entrance became the main entrance, the north side still kept its curved four-way stairway until 1940. Due to deterioration the stairway had to be torn down and the entranced closed. It became a balcony with a balustrade around it. The only entrance to the building then on the north side was by the basement doors. The tunnel was also eliminated. In 1965 when the Spencer Research Library was built, the entrance was rebuilt again with a large hanging terrace connecting the first floor of Strong Hall to the first floor

of Spencer Research Library. The existing road was still kept which runs around Strong Hall under the terrace. (3) East of the north entrance is the same construction pattern as the west side with the three groups of windows. The connecting link and the east wing are also identical in construction to the connecting link on the west and the west wing.

Even though many classrooms and offices have been sub-divided, there is a strong degree of architectural integrity in Strong Hall's interior. From the main entrance doors, three ceramic tile steps lead up to the grand entryway. These steps have balustrades on each side. Above the steps is a recessed ceiling panel with an egg and dart molding band. Ionic pilasters line the square entryway. Their form rises to the second floor but they are separated by the mezzanine which is visually heldup by the brackets on the first floor.

The interior is axially organized around the central element, the rotunda. It was originally designed to extend throught the entire four stories and be lighted through the great flat dome, thus a true rotunda. Because of lack of funds, the dome was eliminated. (4) Due to this fact, the rotunda will be called the grand entryway. In each corner of the entryway, stand three Corinthian plaster columns on bases, two round and one square. These columns define shape of the coffered ceiling on the second floor. On the second story, a mezzanine overlooks the first floor. A molded band of acanthus leaves and honeysuckle is below the mezzanine which has a decorative wrought iron railing.

To the east and west of the corridors on the first floor are pilasters that support beams every fourteen feet. These pilasters have brackets that support the beam. On each floor, hallways run the entire length of the building with two stairways at each end of the building and two in the middle on either side of the grand entryway, giving easy access to any part of the building. All stairways consist of a flight of ten risers to a landing, then twelve risers to the next floor. An elevator is also placed to the north of the grand entryway. The north entryway opens to a terrace between two of the groups of Corinthian columns. Seven steps lead down to the terrace.

The internal construction of the building is columns, beams, and slabs. The walls between classrooms and corridors are made of non-load bearing masonry blocks. A double wall is defined by a chase between the inside walls and the classrooms walls. A general feature of the interior is the large amount of window space and the handling of the lighting for each room. The windows in each room are two feet three inches wide and seven feet high. The ceilings are twelve feet high. The third floor rooms with the skylights are sixteen feet high in the center. All the rooms in the building are classrooms or offices. Most of the rooms have one light door with a transom above.

The walls have wood chair-rail molding three feet five inches in height. The south entrance on the west wing has double doors with four lights in each door and two side lights. Six steps lead down to the outer doors. Grey Tennessee and white Italian marble are in the entryway and on the stairs of both west and east wings. (5)

The west entrance on the first floor is reached by a flight of eight steps down to a landing with double doors. The double doors lead to the outside doors with an entryway between. From this landing are fifteen steps down to the basement. The basement, first and second floors of the east and west wings are defined by terra cotta brick rising seventy feet to the chair-rail molding with a painted plaster wall above.

The second floor mezzanine displays the chancellor's pictures around the east, south, and west walls. To the east on the second floor leading from the mezzanine are the administrative offices. These are entered by glass doors with a partition. In 1971, a partition was built sealing off access to the second floor center section for the enlargement and air conditioning of these offices. (6) The partition extends on the east to the east wing where there are other offices and classrooms.

There are no pilasters or beams in the third floor halls. An auditorium is in the middle of the third floor. The original auditorium had a proscenium arch with an ornament on top in the form of the head of a Roman soldier. Renovations in 1975 changed the seating in the auditorium from south to north and removed the arch. (7) To the east and west of the auditorium are classrooms and offices whose function has changed with time. Glass doors have been installed between the connecting link hallway and the west wing. Because the third floor housed the Art and Drawing and Painting classes, each wing had five skylights with skylights in the hallway of each side of the center section. These skylights have had their height lowered and in place is a recessed wood coffered ceiling. The classrooms with skylights have had the glass taken out and replaced by plywood painted white.

The corridors in the basement are treated the same as the first floor with pilasters that support beams every fourteen feet. These pilasters have brackets supporting the beam. Classrooms, the post office and vending machines are on this floor. The sub-basement contains mostly storage. It was originally a dirt floor that had to be excavated in order to pour concrete. There are now steam and electric lines running through it. (8)

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| BUK | Bulletin of the University of Kansas |
| GM | Graduate Magazine |
| KA | Kansas Alumni Magazine |
| KSBA | Kansas State Board of Agriculture |
| LJW | Lawrence Journal World |
| OAC | Our Amazing Chancellors |
| UDK | University Daily Kansan |
| UK | University Kansan |

ENDNOTES

1. Griffith, p. 242.
2. KSBA, p. 832.
3. LJW, April 12, 1940. p. 6.
4. UDK, August, 1984. Campus section. p. 4.
5. UK, Vol. 8, no. 4, September 21, 1911. p. 2.
6. UDK, August, 1984. Campus section. p. 4.
7. Interview: Don Whipple. Design and Construction Management, University of Kansas. October 11, 1994.
8. Interview: Jack Reigle. Facilities Operation, Egineering Office, University of Kansas. October 29, 1994.

Strong Hall is significant under Criterion A because of the leadership of the chancellors who have been responsible of the making of a great university. The offices of the chancellors have been in Strong Hall since its completion. It is significant under Criterion C because of its distinctive Classical Revival style and the architect who designed it, Montrose Pallen McArdle. As long as the offices of the adminstration occupy Strong Hall, its significance will continue with the growth of the university, but the period of historical significance for this paper is recorded as ending in 1944 to comply with the fifty-five year cut off date.

Criterion A.

The first chancellor of importance in the history of the building was Chancellor Frank Strong, 1902-1920. He made dire predictions in his inaugural address that has had inherited a third-rate university in danger of becoming a fourth-rate one. He promised to graduate students who could "solve the economic and industrial problems of the state" if, in turn, the state would supply much more state money. (1) By the end of his tenure he had added ninety-five acres to the original campus, practically doubling its size. (2) The university went through the greatest building in its history during Strong's time. (3) Under his chancellorship six buildings were erected: Green Hall, 1904; Haworth Hall, 1910; Robinson Gymnasium, 1906; Marvin Hall, 1908; Engineering Laboratory, 1908; and Strong Hall, 1911-1923. Dr. Strong left the university before the final completion of Strong Hall. (4) The country went to war in 1917, and it saddened the Chancellor to see so many students called to serve in the armed forces. The Kansas National Guard, Company M, camped on the lawn of Strong Hall in front of the foundation of the center section. (5) Chancellor Strong founded the School of Journalism, the School of Education and a four year School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kansas. (6) He also saw to it that the university was admitted to membership in the Association of American Universities. (7) The regents named the building Frank Strong Hall after his death in 1934. Before 1934 it had been called the Administration Building or the Ad Building. The Graduate Magazine of January 1924 said, "The Administration building, next to the state capitol, is recognized as the most impressive state-owned structure in Kansas." (8)

Ernest Lindley served as Chancellor of the University from 1920 to 1939. Under his leadership, the campus added Watson Library, Hoch Auditorium, new Snow Hall and Corbin Hall, which was the first residence hall built on the site of Old North College. Though there was a depression and many students had to leave because of it, Lindley provided the leadership needed in "securing federal money for students to work on and around the campus." (9) Through Elizabeth Watkins' donations, Watkins Memorial Hospital and Watkins and Miller Scholarship Halls were built. When Mrs. Watkins died, her home was given to the University for the chancellor's residence which it still is today. (10)

From 1939 to 1951, Deane Malott was the chancellor. He took the position just in time to cope with World War II, when the university housed thousand of Army and Navy recruits. The entire third floor of Strong Hall and all of its west wing were occupied by the Navy machinists. (11) Appropriations from the legislature and the Endowment Association increased dramatically. When Malott began his tenure, the operating budget was slightly more than $1 million and when he left twelve years later, it was nearly $5 million. (12) Watson Library and Fowler Shops were expanded under Malott's chancellorship. The Military Science building was added to the campus in 1943. Six annexes were placed on the north side of Strong Hall in 1946 and 1947, due to the influx of students after the war. (13) In memory of the KU students lost in World War II, the campanile with its carillons was built in 1951. From 1940 to 1943, several dormitories and scholarship halls were added. Malott saw to it that the university was on the track to prosperity when he left KU for the presidency of Cornell University in 1951.

Franklin Murphy, 1951-1960, came to the university as chancellor after serving term as dean of KU's medical school. He had a talent for attracting superior scholars and distinguished researchers to the university. He established the Greater University Fund which raises millions of dollars for the university every year. He increased faculty salaries by 60%. Funds for reasearch were increased form $500,000 to more than $2.5 million. (14) Malott Hall, Allen Fieldhouse and Murphy Hall were built in 1954, '55, and '57. Dormitories and scholarship halls, such as Sellards, Pearson, Stephenson, Douthart, Summerfield and Lewis halls were erected. An apartment house for retired faculty, Sprague Apartments, was added to Dr. Murphy's list of accomplishments. He resigned in 1960 to become chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles. He was there for several years before he left to take the chairmanship and CEO of the Time Mirror Company. He died in 1994. (15)

After finishing their tenure at the university, many chancellors moved on to take positions in other important fields. W. Clarke Wescoe, 1960-1969, became CEO of Sterling Drug Company in New York City. E. Lawrence Chalmers, 1969-1972, became president of the Chicago Art Institute. Archie Dykes, 1973-1978, became CEO at Security Benefit Life Insurance Co., in Topeka, Kansas. In 1994, Gene Budig, 1981-1994, became professional baseball's American League President. And since 1923, Strong Hall has been home to all these greats.

Criterion C.

The Classical Revival style evolved out of the Beaux-Arts tradition. In the United States it was generally seen in colossal public buildings such as the Cannon Office Building of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. and the Nelson Gallery of Art and Mary Atkins Museum of Fine Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. Characteristics of the style were the flat dome in the center of the roof, the large paired columns on an ashlar base and arched fenestration which we see in the Strong Hall plans. The style's popularity was from the 1890s through the 1920s. (16)

In 1904, George E. Kessler, a landscape architect with offices in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri, was commissioned by the regents to draw a master plan for the campus. (17) To range in a semi-circle around Mount Oread, these buildings showed the influence of the Classical Revival architecture seen at the Columbian Fair in Chicago in 1893 and the St. Louis Exposition of 1904 where Kessler was the advisory landscape architect. (18) In 1910, Kessler designed and constructed the parks and boulevard systems of Kansas City, Missouri. (19) His plan for the city was bold and effective, a model other cities emulated. His plans for the buildings on Mount Oread were just as bold and effective, and architectural historians say if that plan had been followed, today the University of Kansas would surely be a showplace among universities.

One building in the center of Kessler's plan was to be a crown jewel with a long vista of trees and walks leading up to it from the valley below forming the main entry to the University. This was to be the huge central administration building which Chancellor Strong and the regents hoped would be "one of the largest and most beautiful buildings in the state and would stand for a hundred years as the center of the university architecture as well as the university life." (20)

Two professors were selected to work on the plans of this building: William A. Griffith, head of the Department of Drawing and Painting and Olin Templin, dean of the college. (21) The regents

approved these plans, and an architect was hired to assist the state architect, John F. Stanton. This person was Montrose Pallen McArdle, a prominent architect from the St. Luois offices of Peabody, Stearns & Ferber of Boston. M.P. McArdle was born in St. Louis in 1868. He received his college education at Georgetown University and began his career in the offices of Eames and Young, Architects, in 1886. He was chief assistant in the St. Louis office of Peabody, Stearns and Ferber from 1889 to 1894. In 1904, he was awarded the Gold Medal for the design of the Temple of Fraternity at the St. Louis Exposition. He was a member of the National Jury of Awards at the Exposition. He architectual experience was chiefly in the line of office buildings, warehouses and large municipal buildings. (22) It was probably at the St, Louis Expostion that McArdle met George Kessler, resulting in his being recommended for the position at the University of Kansas. McArdle was to furnish the drawings for the building, supervise the construction and deliver at least ten lectures on architecture in the School of Engineering. (23) In a letter to Governor Walter Stubbs, Chancellor Strong said he wanted "to begin some high level grade work in architecture in the Scool of Engineering." (24) This was to be the beginning of the School of Architecture at the University of Kansas.

McArdle took a year to draw the plans which resembled Kessler's grand building in the master plan. McArdle had also experienced the influence of the Classical Revival style at the St. Louis Exposition. (25) His plan for Strong Hall consisted of an east and west wing joined to a center section by two intermediate sections. A large north wing leading off of the center section was to be the main entrance. Built of native stone the center section was to be four stories high with the wings three stories and the intermediate sections two stories. (26) The building was to be 480 feet long with the center section 130 feet square, the intermediate section 65 feet square, and the wings 70 by 170 feet. The fifteen-foot-wide main hall was to run the entire length of the building. (27) There were to be 130 classrooms. The center section of the building was to have two floors underground on the north side, a basement and a seven foot sub-basement. Because of the slope of the land, only the sub-basement was to be underground on the south side. (28) The main entryway was to be a four-story rotunda, 60 feet in diameter. In the center of the roof would be a huge dome through which sunlight would fall. Kessler planned the entrance to be on the north side with a colonnade of pillars across the center section and an elaborate four-way stairway to the drive below. (29) The building would cost a half-million dollars.

Getting appropriations from the legislature of 1909 was difficult, so plans had to be simplified. The impressive north entrance was scaled down, and the dome was eliminated. The two intermediate sections were changed to connecting links. The stone facade was also changed to terra cotta. The legislature of 1909 allocated only $50,000 in 1910 and $75,000 in 1911. (30)

The building would have to be constructed in stages with $125,000 for the erection of only the east wing.

However, before any excavation work was done the building was moved--on paper. It was thought to be too close to the three buildings across the street; Robinson Gymnasium, Haworth and Marvin. It was moved thirty feet farther north and fifteen feet farther west than was called for in the original plans. (31) The excavation work begun in December 1909 was carried out by the Lawrence Railway Company which needed the dirt to grade the approach to the University on the Mississippi street car line. (32) The contract for the construction of the east wing went to Hiram Lloyd Building and Construction Company of St. Louis, Missouri for $95,557 to be finished by June 1, 1911. (33)

The basement story was made of reinforced concrete, and so it was completed more quickly than it could have been if stone had been used. (34) In November 1910 work was suspended waiting for the arrival of the terra cotta. The Graduate Magazine of January, 1911 states that:

> In a terra-cotta building, each block of the material is burned to fit into its own particular spot, and when one piece is lost or damaged in shipment, its place in the wall must be blocked up with brick until a new tile can be ordered from the factory, but as each piece is marked with a number denoting the tier and course it is to occupy, replacement is comparatively easy.
>
> The terra cotta came from St. Louis and the brick for the backing and inside walls came from the state penitentiary kilns at Lansing. The outside walla were thirty inches thick, about ten inches of which were terra cotta and the rest brick masonary. (35)

Again January 1910 work was slowed by the cold weather. By this time, though, the first floor had been finished. Workmen commenced laying the slabs of grey Tennessee and white Italian marble on the entrance and stairways. (36) It was not until December 1911 that the east wing was completed. (37) It stood alone until 1918, and many thought that 'East Ad' was the entire building. The legislature of 1911 made $42,500 available on July 1, 1912 for the excavation and foundation of the connecting links and the center section. The Board of Regents in their report for the period ending June 30, 1912 said:

It is expected that the next legislature will provide for the superstructure of this connecting link and central portion which will be used largely for the administrative offices. The present

administrative offices of the university are absurdly inadequate, being smaller and more illy equipped than the offices of many high schools. It is imperative that the executive side of the university be better housed and have better opportunity to do its work. (38)

Excavation for the basement of the center section began in the fall of 1912. (39) Contractors were Merrill Construction Co. Of St. Louis. The foundation was 240 feet long and 72 feet wide. The form of the foundation was likened to a prehistoric aeroplane. (40) The two parts of the center section floored over were the basement and not the first floor as they appeared to be. The sub-basement was underneath. The wing at the extreme north of the center section was originally planned to be a 120-foot by 77-foot grand entrance. Those plans were changed, and the small curved bit of wall at the south marks the point later selected for the main entrance. (41) After the foundation was laid, work was stopped again for lack of funds which brought about an editorial in the 1913 University Daily Kansan:

> For two years more the central portion of the new Administration building will exist only in our hopes. The legislature has decided we shall not behold it in reality this biennium. In our mind's eye we have seen that building arise for two years. We have paused to admire its beauty, we have strolled through the light hallways which echo to the feet of coming generations and have sat in spirit in the modern classrooms where Kansas will train its children for life's work. We can only wait and dream and hope for two more years; and when hopes grow weak and dreams misty, we can stroll over to the Museum to gaze at the plaster model there. (42)

With money from the legislature of 1917, the contract for the west wing and completion of the center was 1st on November 2, 1917. Olson & Johnson Construction Co. of Omaha, Nebraska was the contractor and Charles Chandler, the state architect, was the supervisor. The west wing was ready for occupancy by December 1918. The center section was not completely finished for another six years. (44) The legislature of 1921 provided $250,000 for the final completion. Again to keep costs down something had to be eliminated. This time it was the north wing, but the north entrance would still have the same ornamentation as the south entrance. The four-way staircase was kept with the elaborate bannisters on each side. A driveway around the the building went under this north entrance creating a tunnel or underpass. (45) In the end the entire cost of the building was $644,730. (46)

In December 1923, the building was finished, and in January the student, faculty and administration moved in. Goldwin Goldsmith, the first professor of architecture, noted in his

article "Campus Planning" Kansas Engineer, 1914-15: "This is the first building to be placed with any thought of future development of the campus." The building housed the Fine Arts School, the Department of Drawing, Painting and Design, the Business School, the Chancellor's office and administration, the registrar, the psychology, mathematics, economics, and philosophy departments and the graduate school offices in its 130 rooms. A new chapel and auditorium for recitals and faculty meetings were on the third floor. (47) One of the main attractions in the building was the Thayer Art Collection and Museum, presented to the university by Mrs. William B. Thayer of Kansas City, Missouri. (48)

The stairways and underpass of the north entrance had to be torn down in 1940 due to deterioration. Students told of seeing stalactites hanging from the roof of the tunnel from water seepage. The remainder of the entrance would be closed and the only north entrance to the building would be at the basement level. (49) From 1945 to 1951 a memorial to the university men and women who lost their lives in World War II was taking shape in the form of a campanile and carillon. Memorial Parkway, a curving drive built on the edge of the hill, enhanced the north entrance to Strong Hall.

Kenneth Spencer Research Library, a two-million dollar building was erected in 1965, north of Strong Hall. This made necessary the removal of the annexes. The library is a four story building with one level below ground and the other three floors on a level with Stong Hall's three floors. Again, the north entrance was changed. Though there was still an entrance on the basement floor, the first floor entrance was rebuilt with a large concrete terrace connecting the first floor to the first floor of the Spencer Research Library. Viewed from the north, it is an imposing side of Strong Hall. (50)

Fred Ellsworth, who was Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association from 1924 to 1963, stated in his manuscript Our Amazing Chancellors; "It (the building) is symbolic of Chancellor Strong; of large and balanced proportions, clean, unadorned and pleasing to the eye. No one will ever tire of viewing it." (51) Like the cathedrals of Europe it took a long time to build Strong Hall. And like the cathedrals of Europe, may it stand long into the future.

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1. K.A., Spring, 1981, p. 42.
2. Griffin, p. 237.
3. GM, Vol. 22, no. 1, October 1922, p. 7.
4 Taft, p. 83, 85, 89.
5. Ibid., p. 111.
6. KA, Spring 1981, p. 43.
7. OAC, p. 10.
8. GM, Vol. 22, no. 4, January 1924, p. 3.
9. KA, Spring 1943, p. 43.
10 OAC, p. 10.
11. GM, Spetember 1942, p. 8.
12. OAC, p. 13.
13. LJW, November 12, 1964, p. 4.
14. KS, Spring, 1981, p. 44.
15. OAC, p. 15, 16.
16. Poppelier, p. 70.
17. Griffin, p. 238.
18. Who's Who in America, p. 1524.
19. Ehrlich, p. 54, 121.
20. Griffin, p. 241.
21. The Kansan, Vol, VI, no. 61, March 1, 1910, p. 1.
22. Who's Who in America, p. 1794.
23. Frank Strong's letter to M.P. McArdle, February 8, 1910.
24. Frank Strong's letter to Governor Walter R. Stubbs, March 15, 1910.
25. Who's Who in America, p. 1794.
26. Compton, p. 155.
27. GM, Vol. 8, no. 5, February 1910, p. 181.
28. UDK, Vol. 10, no. 120, March 6, 1913, p. 3.
29. GM, Vol. 8, no. 5, February 1910, insert.
30. The Kansan, Vol. 5, no. 62, March 9, 1909, p. 1.
31. Ibid., Vol. VI, no. 36, December 11, 1909, p. 3.
32. Ibid., Vol. VI, no 35, December 9, 1909, p. 3.
33. GM, Vol. 8, no. 9, June 1910, p. 339.

34. Ibid., Vol. 9, no. 1, October 1910, p. 31.
35. Ibid., Vol. 9, no. 4, January 1911, p. 144.
36. UK, Vol 8, no. 4, September 21, 1911, p. 2.
37. Taft, p. 101.
38. BUK, p. 21.
39. GM, Vol. 11, no. 2, November 1912, p. 58.
40. Ibid., Vol. 12, no. 1, October 1913, frontspiece, p. 9.
41. Ibid.
42. UDK, March 3, 1913, p. 2.
43. Ibid., Vol. 15, no. 94, February 21, 1918, p. 1.
44. Taft, p. 101.
45. UDK, Vol. 20, no. 85, January 31, 1921, p. 1.
46. Compton, p. 161.
47. UDK, August 1984, p. 4, campus section.
48. Ibid., Vol. 21, No. 8, September 25, 1923, p. 1.
49. LJW, April 12, 1940, p. 6.
50. Ibid., January 25, 1966, p. 6.
51. OAC, p. 10.

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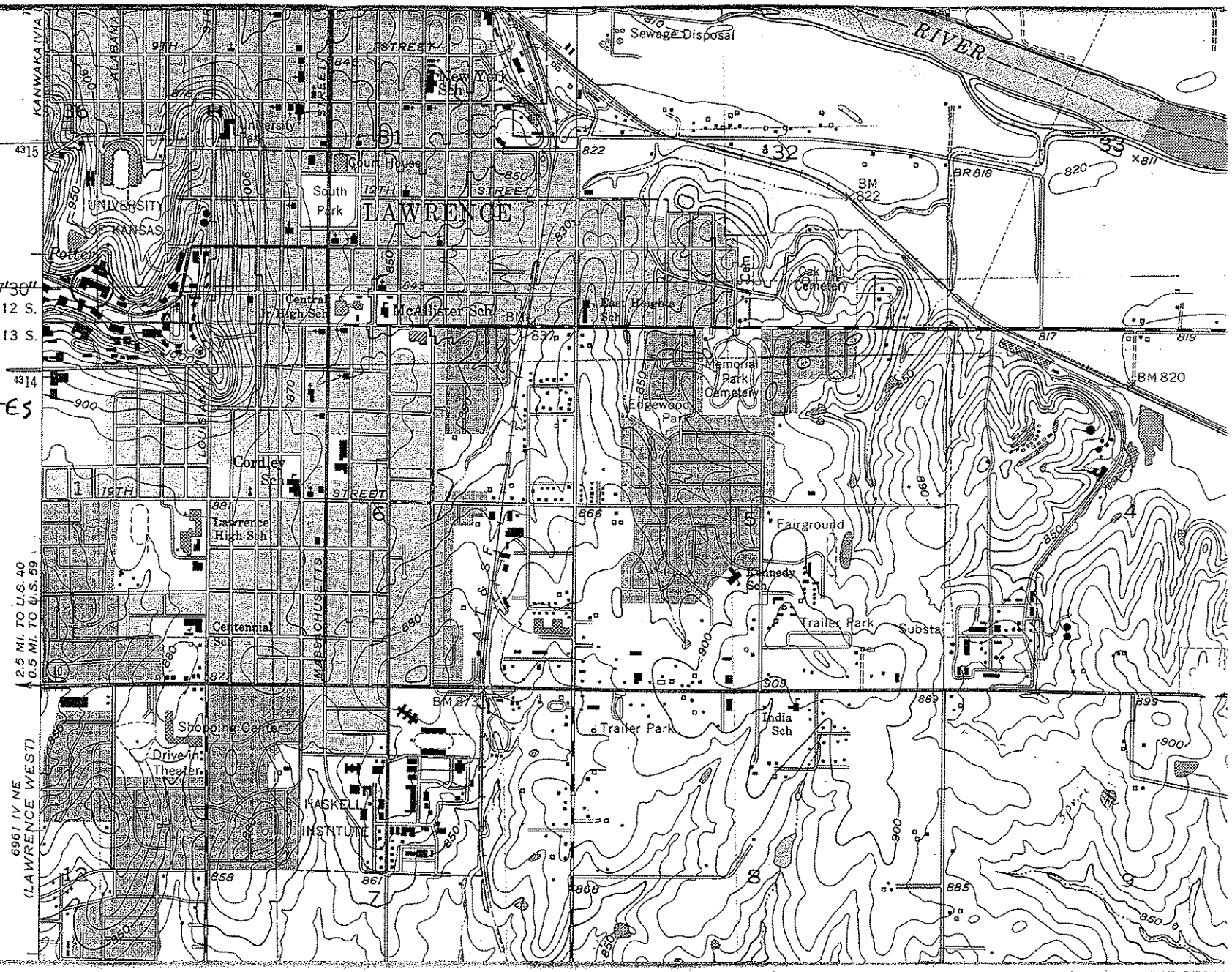
## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property stands on the 36-12-19 Beg 340(S) W of SE cor SE/4, W 2315(S) to SW cor SE/4, N 660, E 15 (S), N 1640 (S), E 280 (S), NE 10 (S), S 50, E 334.2, N 55 (S), E 1 POB. The property is part of a complex of university buildings located at the crest of Mount Oread at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas. The nominated property is bounded by Jayhawk Drive to the south, Poplar Lane to the west and north, and Bailey Hall directly to the east. Snow Hall stands to the west of Poplar Lane and the Kenneth Spencer Research Library stands to the north of Poplar Lane.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the property that is historically associated with Strong Hall.

STRONG HALL
UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS
LAWRENCE EAST
QUAD
UTM COORDINATES
15 / 305 330 /
43 14510