NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Lanesfield School

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 18745 South Dillie Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Edgerton ☒ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Johnson code 091 zip code 66021

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	1	____ buildings
☒ public-local	☐ district	____	____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	____	____ structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	____	____ objects
	☐ object	1	____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer August 27, 1988

Signature of certifying official — 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.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) ____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Educational; school; schoolhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture; museum; museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other; native fieldstone rectangular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Stone: limestone
roof Wood: shingle
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lanesfield School (1869-1870) is located one mile northeast of Edgerton, Johnson County, Kansas (pop. 1326) in the NW¼, NW¼, NW¼, SE¼, S32-T14-R22. It is a one-story rectangular plan structure of native fieldstone with a gable roof. The schoolhouse building faces south and is forty feet (N/S) by thirty-two feet (E/W). While some cracking has occurred in the northwest corner of the building, it remains structurally sound.

The school building is surrounded by pasture. On the property owned by the Johnson County Museum System is: a wooden outhouse, a small wooden shed, a one-story metal shed which was constructed near the school in the later 1960s for storage, and a mobile home for the caretaker (all non-contributing structures).

The walls are native fieldstone of squared rubble construction, natural texture. There are three bays on each: west, east and south walls. The windows are two sash, one over one lights (originally six over six) on east and west, and six over six on the south side. Each window has plain stone lintels and stone lugsills. The building has a center door on the south gable facade. It is a transomed entryway with a flat opening, no surround.

The medium gable roof is wood-shingled with projecting verges. A bell cupola was added to the ridge in the early 1900s. A brick chimney was located directly behind the cupola (later removed). A concrete slab was constructed around 1910-1915 as a porch at the entryway and a gable roof constructed over it in the late 1920s.

The original interior was left stone. A slate backboard embedded in plaster was attached to the north wall. The floor was wood. An 1879 school record related that the "school was plastered overhead." The school board approved an anteroom built in the south end of the schoolhouse in 1883, creating two interior bays. The anteroom has two doorways (east and west ends) opening into the classroom.

In 1903, lightning struck the school and burned the roof and probably most of the interior wood. An observer of the building after the strike related: "although the ligtening (sic) had struck the roof and burned out all the wood, the stone was still intact..." Restoration began in 1903 and was completed by 1904; supplies included lumber, plaster and paint. The present lath and plaster walls date from that period.

[X] See continuation sheet

Linoleum tiles covered the wood floor in the 1950s.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Education	1870-1938	1869-1870
		1903

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

Lanesfield School (District #12) is a one-room schoolhouse in Johnson County, Kansas built in 1869-1870. It is the single structure remaining on the site of the free-state town of Lanesfield, Kansas. The Lanesfield School was built in the vernacular style of stone schools of the midwest. It served as a school from 1870 until consolidation in 1963 and also as a community gathering point. It was converted to a local museum in 1967 under the auspices of the Johnson County government. Lanesfield School is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical association with education in Johnson County.

The town of Lanesfield was established in 1858 on the west bank of Bull Creek in what would become McCamish Township, Johnson County, Kansas. The free-state town was named for one of its founders, James Lane, a leader in the movement for a non-slave Kansas and later a general in the Union Army. A town company of Lanesfield was formed and William Gans, the company president, bought 160 acres of land. Projections were ambitious: forty blocks were planned, some with twenty-five lots. Lanesfield did grow quickly, soon reaching a population of one hundred. Lane and a Captain Gardner built a two-story hotel; three stores, a blacksmith shop, Presbyterian, Methodist and Christian churches, the school and seventeen dwellings eventually were constructed.

In 1858, Lanesfield was one of the Santa Fe Trail headquarters and as such received the monthly mail brought by coaches on their trips between Westport, Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mail carried by the Sac and Fox stage agency was also delivered to the post office once a month. The Pony Express began a delivery around 1859. The post office changed names several

times: from Hibbard (1855) to Lanesfield (1861), Martinsburgh (or Martinsburg, 1870) to Edgerton (1871).

☒ See continuation sheet

The first school held in Lanesfield between 1863 and 1865 was at a house owned by William Gans. By 1867, a log schoolhouse was built a half-mile west of the present building on the Burton Dille farm. Eighteen pupils enrolled that year. A student there in 1867 later recalled that they could see the Santa Fe Trail about 100 yards away. In May 1869, nine townsmen met to vote on issuing $1000 worth of school bonds at a fixed discount rate. The bond issue passed unanimously. The District Clerk's annual report to the County Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1871 noted that for District 12 (Lanesfield) there was one stone schoolhouse valued (along with the grounds) at $2500.

A contract for the railroad was let by Johnson County on 16 December 1869 that the "Kansas City and Santa Fe Railroad Company shall construct and put in operation a Railroad from...town of Olathe via the village of Gardner...thence to the west line of said county in the direction, and to Ottawa, Kansas...said Railroad shall be so constructed and put in operation by the 1st day of July A.D. 1870". By 15 July 1870, "Owing to the failure on the part of the Kansas City and Santa Fe Railroad Company to Equip and Complete its line of Railroad to the West line of Johnson County by the 4th day of July 1870," the county commissioners voted to hold delivery of the bonds to the railroad company. The town of Lanesfield was only about two miles northwest of the spot where the railroad would cross the county line, it was not past there by July 1870. On 8 August 1870, the commissioners extended the railroad deadline to 1 April 1871. The branch reached Ottawa from Olathe in 1870 or 1871, by passing Lanesfield and passing through what would become Edgerton. Lanesfield residents quickly abandoned their town for the more promising site near the railroad, but they did move the majority of the buildings to the site of Edgerton. In 1872, very little of the town remained: the stone schoolhouse, a few dwellings and a hotel.

Grades one through eight were taught at Lanesfield School. The schoolhouse also served as a community meeting place, although in 1881, the school board recommended that "no literary entertainments should be allowed in the schoolhouse this winter as it is believed to be detrimental to the school." Other uses for the school between 1870 and 1938 were as a polling place, for annual "Home Coming School Reunions at Lanesfield Schoolhouse" (which started on a regular basis in 1917, continuing through 1938), and as a meeting place for the school board and others.

The clerk's report for the spring term of 1870 (18 April-8 July) showed sixty-nine pupils enrolled (twenty-four males, forty-five females) with the average daily attendance at fifty-one. The numbers of pupils engaged in the particular study areas were as follows: sixty-nine-spelling, sixty-reading, sixty-nine-writing or printing, fifty-two-written or mental arithmetic, thirty-six-geography, forty-four-map drawing, thirty-six-English grammar, two-physiology, and three-algebra. Textbooks were: Wilson's Readers, Guyot's Geography, Cutter's Physiology, Ray's Arithmetic & Algebra, and Harvey's Grammar. The clerk's report of

School District #12 for the term of 4 September 1871-2 February 1872 shows seventy-one students on the rolls for the one-room stone schoolhouse. The Teacher's Report to the District Clerk for the spring term (23 April- 29 June 1877) for Lanesfield School lists forty-five scholars. The first readers were on the blackboard, second and third with the New American Reader and Primary Arithmetic. The advanced grade was using the New American Reader, Green's Grammar, Goodrich's History, Guyot's Geography, and Gray's Botany. Forty-six students were enrolled in 1887, ranging from five to twenty years old. During 17 September 1894-14 May 1895 semester, twenty-two pupils were enrolled, ranging from four years to eighteen years. For the 7 September 1896-26 March 1897 semester, the first through fifth readers were in McGuffey, intermediate arithmetic was White's, grammar level used Appleton's Algebra, Townsend's Constitution of the U.S. and Bryard and Stratton Book-Keeping. There were twenty-eight students.

On 2 July 1879, the school board of District #12 resolved that:

> McGuffeys Readers-Revised Ed & Harveys Spellers, Whites Arithmetics, Harveys Grammars, Eclectic Geographies (Kansas Edition), Eclectic Copy-books & Venables U.S. History, & other books of the Eclectic Educational Series, as follows: Rays Algebra & Geometry, Nortons Elements of Physics, Kedzies Ag(?) Geology & Browns Physiology & Hyg. are hereby adopted for uniform use...for five years...in compliance with sec. 1 of the School law approved Mar. 12, 1879.

In 1874, District #12 was an area of over six square miles. Teacher enrollment reports for 27 September 1886-24 February 1887 shows the names Dille, Starr, Hulett, Rankin, and Rhodes. These names appear on area maps of property holders in sections 32, 5, and 29 of Township 14.

For school year ending 31 August 1871 two teachers were employed by the school district, they both held First Grade Certificates. In 1891 Nellie Thompson taught a twenty week term, earning $35.00 per month and Rose Herman taught a twelve week term, earning $25.00 per month. In 1894 Florence Limberd taught a thirty-two week term and earned $38.00 per month. In 1896 John Garnes (State Certificate) taught a twenty-eight week term for $42.50 per month. George Marvel (Second Grade Certificate) taught a twenty week term for $45.00 per month and Esther Marvel (Second Grade Certificate) taught an eight week term for $40.00 monthly. Later records show that Miss Gladys Strong earned $41.00 a month in 1902-03 and $41.00 a month in 1913.

The school board regularly voted on the length of the terms and it varied between seven and eight months. In 1878, there was a four month winter term and three month spring term. In 1886 there was a five month winter term and three month spring term.

With the extant records as examples, the school board and county school officials were very specific about using the appropriate forms and making the reports required by the state superintendent. The State School Textbook Commission's Circular No. 14 was found with other records from Lanesfield School. The extant tax valuations for the School District #12 from 1884 to 1900 show an average of taxable property from $48,500 to $53,000 which included farm lands, personal and railroad.

Edith Barnett, County School Superintendent, reported in 1897 that Lanesfield School had new textbooks, a fair globe, a good dictionary, but that the schoolhouse needed some clean-up; the playgrounds were in good shape. Maud E. Clavin, County Superintendent in 1901 related that the school was in good shape, there were new desks and state textbooks. The school needed a new globe and maps and the old coal house needed repair. In 1897, the county superintendent reported that the school interior and furnishings were in poor condition. This spurred a clean up and purchasing effort for in the 1901 report, the schoolhouse was in very good condition and the teacher had a new desk; the coal house did need repair, however.

In 1903, the Gardner Gazette reported that the Lanesfield School was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The Edgerton News related merely that the building was "engulfed with smoke." In a letter in 1934, Missouri State Representative C.E. Still, a former student at Lanesfield, related on a visit to the area not long after that "although lightening (sic) had struck the roof and burned out all of the wood, the stone was still intact and they had made a modern schoolhouse out of this old school." The Edgerton News reported on 7 August 1903 that "R.J. Hughes and Lavern schoolhouse which is being repaired." The extent of the repairs can be partly discerned from the school treasurer's reports which show a total of $886.26 spent for labor, building materials and school supplies in late 1903 and early 1904. The Edgerton News mentioned in 1909 that Lanesfield had "one of the nicest schoolrooms and playgrounds in the country," and that the board had recently purchased a large bell for the school.

The schools located closest to Lanesfield were Round Oak (1884) and Splinterville (1870, new building 1882). In 1950, both schools were consolidated with Lanesfield School and classes held at the latter building. When Lanesfield School closed its door to students in 1963, merging with School District #81 in Edgerton, it had been in continual use for ninety-three years. Lanesfield School's historical significance through its association with education in Johnson County spans the period of 1870, when the first classes were held in it, until 1938, the National Register fifty year cut off date for significance.

After Lanesfield School closed, the McCamish Township board requested that the school board save the building because of its historical value. The school district then agreed to sell the building and lot to Johnson County for $1.00. In 1966, the Lanesfield School Historical Society was formed with 125 members and the building opened as a museum in 1967. An architectural study started in 1987 makes recommendations for repairs and restoration of the building and action on those is expected in 1988.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barnes, Elizabeth E., Historic Johnson County, A Bird's Eye View of the Development of the Area (Shawnee, KS: Neff Printing, 1969).

Blair, Ed, History of Johnson County, Kansas (Lawrence: Standard Publishing Co., 1915, Reprint ed., 1976).

Edgerton (KS) News, May, 1903.

Fisher, Mrs. L. Dille letter, n.d. (JCHM).

Gardner (KS) Gazette, 28 May 1903.

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository: Johnson County Historical Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	326940	4295100	B			
C				D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on the NW¼, NW¼, NW¼, SE¼, S32-T14-R22 in Johnson, County, Kansas on a tract measuring 60' by 52', whose northeast corner is 14 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the school's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 52' south, 60' west, 52' north, and 60' east to the point of beginning.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is located in an open pasture in a heavily agricultural part of Johnson County. The boundary includes a 60' x 52' parcel which contains the school and excludes other structures associated with the property's use as a museum since 1969.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doran L. Cart, Curator of History

organization Johnson County Museum System date 15 January 1988

street & number 6305 Lackman Road telephone 913-631-6709

city or town Shawnee state Kansas zip code 66217

Gulliford, Andrew, America's Country Schools (Washington: The Preservation Press, 1984), p. 184.

Heisler, E.F. and D.M. Smith, Atlas Map of Johnson County, Kansas (Wyandot, KS: Heisler & Co., 1874).

Johnson County, KS Board of Commissioners' Minutes, Book B, 16 December 1869, 1 July 1870, July 1870, 15 July 1870, 8 August 1870.

Johnson County, KS Record of District Board and School Meetings, 1878, 21 July 1879, 14 August 1879, 4 November 1881, 23 August 1883, 1886 (on file at the Johnson County Historical Museum, hereafter cited JCHM).

Johnson County, KS School District Treasurer's Record Book, District #12, 25 February 1904, (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS School District #12 Treasurer's Report, 29 July 1865, 25 February 1904 (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS School District's Treasurer's Pay Order, 1902, 1903, 1913 (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS Poll Book of an Election in School District, 13 May 1869 (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS District Clerk's Annual Report, 8 July 1870, 18 April 1870, 31 August 1871, 4 September 1871, 2 February 1872, 1897 (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS County Superintendent's Report to District Board, 12 November 1897, 31 October 1901 (JCHM).

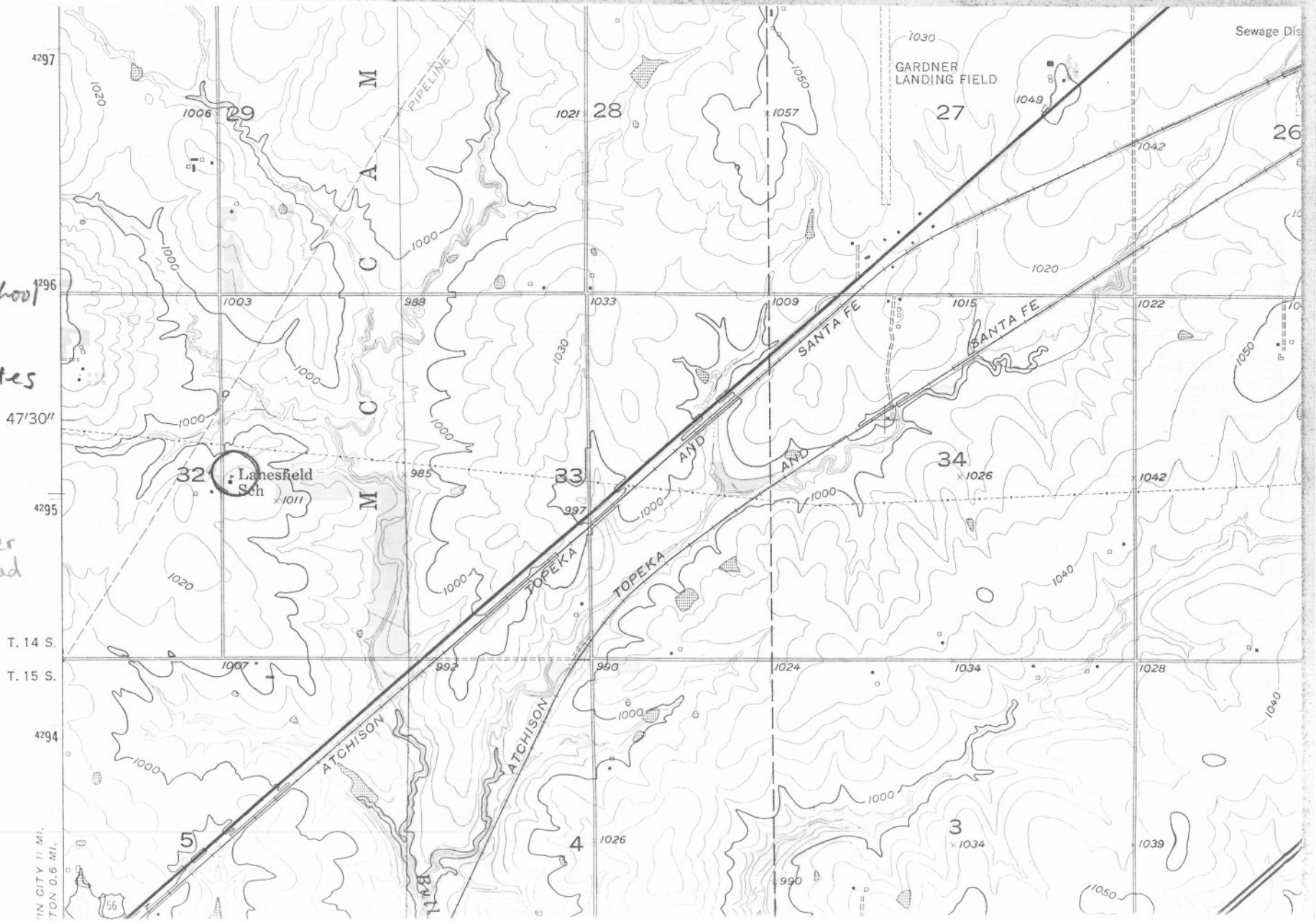
Johnson County, KS School Superintendent's Valuation of Taxes, 1884-1900 (JCHM).

Johnson County, KS Teacher's Term Report to District Clerk, 27 September 1886, 24 February 1887, 17 September 1894, 14 May 1895, 7 September 1896, 26 March 1897 (JCHM).

Johnson, Virginia Armstrong, History of Edgerton, Kansas (Gardner, KS: Prairie Printing Co., 1983).

McIntyre, Sadie, interview, Gardner, KS, 9 July 1987.

Still, C.E. letter, 28 September 1934 (JCHM).

Lanesfield School
Edgerton, KS.
UTM Coordinates
15 326940
4295100

Gardner Quad