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 Bethel School

other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number County Road [ ] not for publication

city, town Lincolnville [X] vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Marion code 115 zip code 66858

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[X] 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society — October 19, 1987

Signature of certifying official — Date

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)

Education; School; Schoolhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Other; Native limestone rectangular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Stone: limestone
roof Metal: aluminum
other Stone: limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bethel School (c. 1883-1885) is located five and a half miles east of Lincolnville, Marion County, Kansas (pop. 235) on the SW4, SW4, SE4, SE4, S10-T18-R5. The one-story, gable roofed, native limestone structure stands on a stone foundation. The building's gable facade has a southern orientation. The building measures approximately twenty-five feet from east to west and thirty-nine feet from north to south. A cellar stands under the southeast corner of the building, measuring approximately thirteen feet from east to west and fifteen feet from north to south. The building appears to be structurally sound but for some minor settling and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building is currently used for light agricultural storage.

Bethel School stands in an open pasture with the closest building located one-quarter of a mile east. The woodshed or coalshed and an outbuilding which were constructed in the 1930s and the two WPA outhouses which were constructed in the 1940s were sold and removed from the property in 1962. A storm cellar with a concrete top is located west of the building.

The building's gable facade wall is comprised of large, rectangular, tooth hammered limestone blocks. Its corners terminate in quoins, comprised of large, rectangular, bush hammered limestone blocks with finished edges. A transomed entryway pierces the center of the wall. Its door was replaced in the late 1930s but the original entry space has not been altered. A semi-circular limestone date stone resting on a limestone lintel pierces the facade's upper gable. The date stone's raised carving reads "Dist. No. 8-1885". A plain wooden fascia board defines the building's roof line on all elevations. A rectangular, bush hammered, limestone block water table with finished edges projects from just above the building's foundation on all elevations.

The building's east and west elevations are identical. Smaller, rectangular, limestone blocks of varying sizes with tooth hammered dressings comprise the two walls. The corners terminate in quoins, comprised of larger, rectangular, limestone blocks with bush hammered dressings and finished edges. Four, 4/4 double hung windows pierce each wall at equal distances. The original windows were probably 8/8 double hung but the window spaces have not been altered. Bush hammered limestone lintels and sills surmount and underscore each window respectively. Bush hammered limestone blocks with finished edges form a quoining treatment around the sides of each window.

The rear or north elevation wall is comprised of rectangular, limestone blocks of varying sizes with tooth hammered dressings. The stone is greyer than the stone used elsewhere on the building. The wall terminates in quoined corners, comprised of large, rectangular, bush hammered limestone blocks with finished edges.

[X] See continuation sheet

The building's original wooden shingle roof was replaced with corrugated aluminum sheeting in the 1940s. The building's three and a half foot brick chimney was also removed at this time. A poured concrete pad stands in front of the building, probably dating from the 1940s. The original raised mortar joints used to point the building are no longer visible. A grey concrete has been applied to the joints at various times and with varying degrees of skill; much of the mortar slopped over onto the stones when it was applied and some of the jointing is loose. This sloppy treatment does detract from the building's appearance but does not seem to be responsible for any structural damage.

Bethel School's interior is comprised of two bays. The entry bay contains the coat room and is separated from the classroom by a wood and plaster partition wall. Two transomed doorways pierce the partition wall at the east and west ends; the doors lead into the classroom. The two four-panel, "bible" doors appear to be original. Floorboard wainscotting accentuates the walls. A deep set window pierces the east and west walls of the coatroom. Each window retains its original surround. The school's main entryway retains its original panelled surround as well. The coatroom's cellar stairway was covered in the 1940s when new flooring was installed.

The main classroom exhibits many of the same features identified in the coatroom. Floorboard wainscotting adorns its lower walls. The walls above it are plastered. Three deep set windows pierce the east and west walls of the classroom. They retain their original surrounds. The wooden flooring dates from the 1940s. A chimney and closet stand in the center of the classroom's north wall. Most of the blackboards have been removed.

The 1883 specifications for the building called for dark blue wainscotting, light blue ceilings, and white walls. Presently, all surfaces are cream colored. Oil lantern hangers are located on the window casings. Fluorescent lights were installed in the 1940s. Fiberboard covers most of the original wooden floorboard ceiling.

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	1885-1937	1883-1885
Architecture	1883-1885	

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Brumbaugh, Jacob
Capron, E.W.

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

The Bethel School (c. 1883-1885) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Marion County, Kansas and for its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse. The present Bethel School served the Marion County School District Number 8 from its completion in 1885 until 1960, when consolidation forced its closure. The building was sold several times after its closure and was purchased by its present owners in 1985. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently used for light agricultural storage.

In 1883 the residents of the independent School District Number 8 voted to replace the original, one room, frame Bethel School, constructed in 1875, with a one room, stone schoolhouse. The frame school stood approximately three quarters of a mile north of the present Bethel School. Bethel School is located near the center of School District Number 8; the district served a ten and a half square mile area. Four families lived in the school district in 1885, the year that the stone schoolhouse was completed. To quote Wayne Fuller, "(t)he people of the district had voted for the school's construction, picked the place where it would stand, and controlled its use when it was complete."

School District Number 8 contracted with E.W. Capron and Jacob Brumbaugh, "carpenter mechanics" from Marion, Kansas, in 1883 "to furnish all material necessary to do the carpenter work and painting of a stone school house... according to plans and specifications hereinto attached." Capron and Brumbaugh were paid $460.00 upon the completion of the project. Standard specifications for schools did not exist in Kansas before 1911; the school district's specifications for Bethel School were extremely detailed, noting for example, the various dressings to be employed on the stones and the paint colors to be used on the building's interior.

Bethel School exemplifies the prototypical, one room, country schoolhouse in its form and design. The one story, gable facade schoolhouse with four large windows piercing each of its two side elevations, no windows on either the rear or facade elevations, and a coatroom foyer with a classroom behind it is typical of the rural schoolhouses constructed in Marion County and Kansas between 1870 and 1900. Additionally, the native limestone used in the construction of Bethel School was a common material used for schools and other buildings in Marion County and Kansas. Extant one room, stone schoolhouses in Marion County include the East Creek School, the Pleasant View School - District Number 21, and the District Number 34 school. Of the many one room schoolhouses constructed in Marion County between 1870 and 1900,only the District 34 school and the Bethel School retain their integrity. One can only speculate as to the reasons for the wide acceptance

☒ See continuation sheet

of the prototypical form and remember that most Nineteenth Century rural school districts were independent bodies, able to select the most affordable and appealing school design desired without the constraints of statewide specifications.

Students of all ages attended Bethel School until the early 1900s, when compulsory education laws restricted attendance to grades 1 through 8. The length of the Bethel School year fluctuated in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, averaging about twenty-five weeks or six months a year. These fluctuations were dependent on factors such as the weather, epidemics, the total number of students in attendance, and the school district's ability to pay the teacher's salary. The school year rose to a length of seven months in the 1930s and in 1948 the Marion County School Board adopted an eight month school year for all district schools. Regardless of the lack of compulsory education laws during the Nineteenth Century, the fluctuating length of the school year, and the uncertain attendance levels, Kansas shared an illiteracy rate with Iowa and Nebraska that was below three percent between 1870 and 1900.

As the school year increased in length, so too did the curriculum, a reflection in part of the compulsory education laws of the Twentieth Century which standardized educational curriculums. The 1895 Bethel School curriculum consisted of reading, grammar, arithmetic, geography, history, and physiology. The subjects in the 1919 Bethel School curriculum included orthography, reading, classics, writing, arithmetic, geography, language, grammar, U.S. History, Kansas History, physiology, civics, agriculture, music, and drawing.

The breadth of such curriculums, the varying abilities and numbers of students, the working conditions, and the salaries presented extreme challenges to those who taught in the one room country schoolhouse. Rarely did these teachers remain at a school for more than two or three years. Emma Shanklin taught thirty students at the Bethel School during the twenty week 1887 school year, receiving a salary of $250.00. Margaret Collier taught twenty-seven students during the twenty-four week 1889 school year, receiving a salary of $250.00. In 1900 a female teacher received a salary of $280.00 for a twenty-eight week year school year, males generally received a higher salary. Naomi Linn received $62.50 a month for the 1919 school year and Katharine Bishoff received $160.00 a month for the 1946 school year.

Bethel School served the families of School District Number 8 for seventy-five years as a center for education, public meetings, and social events. Bethel School's historical significance through its association with education in Marion County spans the period from 1885, when the first classes were held in it, until 1937, the National Register fifty year cut-off date for significance. Bethel School is also architecturally significant as an example of the prototypical Nineteenth Century, one room schoolhouse. Its architectural period of significance is defined by its construction dates of 1883-1885. In conclusion, Andrew Gulliford notes that "(c)ountry schools have always been important in the rural areas of this nation as a symbol of cultural continuity and of the opportunities gained from education."

9. Major Bibliographical Referer

Fuller, Wayne E. The Old Country School - The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West. (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1982).

Groneman, Nancy. "Bethel School." (National Register nomination drafts, March, 1985 and March, 1987).

Gulliford, Andrew. America's County Schools. (Washington: Preservation Press, 1984.

Marion County, Kansas. School District Records, 1883. Register of Deeds Office, Marion County Courthouse, Marion, Kansas.

Marion County, Kansas. Daily Term Registers, Teachers First Weeks Report to County Superintendent and End of Term Reports, Bethel School (1875-1960). Marion County Clerk's Office, Marion County Courthouse, Marion, Kansas.

☐ 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
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	686580	4262560	B			
C				D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located on the SW4, SW4, SE4, SE4, S10-T18-R5 in Marion County, Kansas on a tract measuring 45' x 59', whose northeast corner is 14.1' directly northeast of the northeast corner of the school's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 59' south, 45' west, 59' north, and 45' 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 Marion County. The school's dimensions are 25' x 39', a 10' perimeter of ground bounds the building on all sides. The boundary includes a 45' x 59' parcel which contains the school. Although a larger area is historically associated with the school, it consists of playground space and land on which non-extant outbuildings stood.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

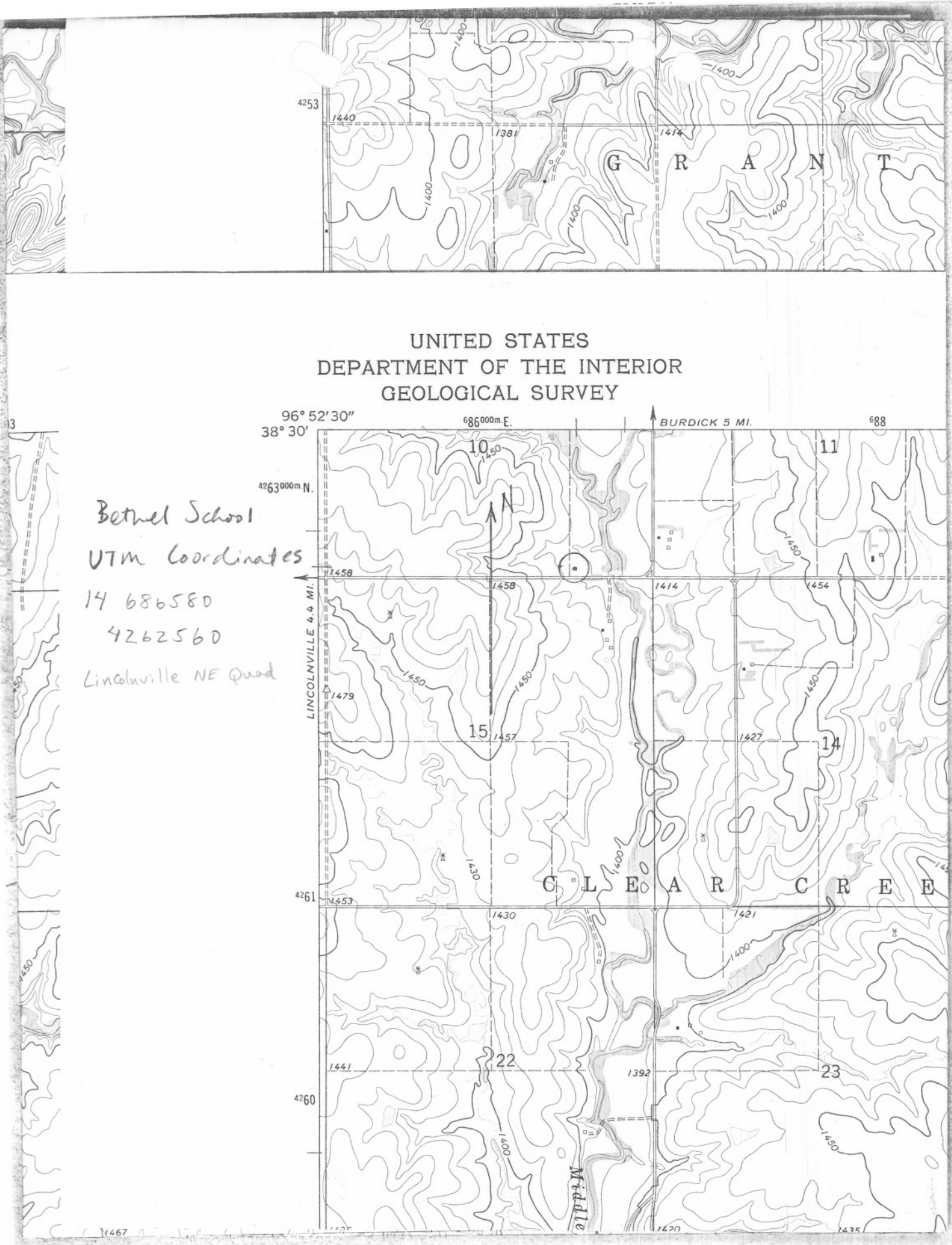
name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date October 19, 1987

street & number 120 West 10th Street telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Bethel School
UTM Coordinates
14 686580
4262560
Lincolnville NE Quad