NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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 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 any 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 **BONNER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL**
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number **200 EAST THIRD** not for publication ___
city or town **BONNER SPRINGS** vicinity ___
state **KANSAS** code **KS** county **WYANDOTTE** code **209** zip code **66012**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this **XX** 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 **XX** meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide **XX** locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D Pankratz — **May 21, 2002**
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 for additional comments.)

_____
Signature of commenting or other official Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property: Contributing	Noncontributing
___ private	1 building(s)	1	___ buildings
X public-local	___ district	___	___ sites
___ public-State	___ site	___	___ structures
___ public-Federal	___ structure	___	___ objects
		1	___ Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE: Limestone
roof OTHER: Composition
walls BRICK
other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

___ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
___ B removed from its original location.
___ C a birthplace or a grave.
___ D a cemetery.
___ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
___ F a commemorative property.
___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance
1920- 1952

Significant Dates
1920

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
CHARLES A. SMITH, SMITH REA AND LOVITT

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

9. Major Bibliographical References
(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:
X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	337103	4324660	3			
2				4			

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 CONNIE HARRINGTON, PRESIDENT

organization BONNER SPRINGS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY date FEBRUARY 2002

street & number 674 NORTH NETTLETON telephone 913-441-2233

city or town BONNER SPRINGS state KS zip code 66012

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.

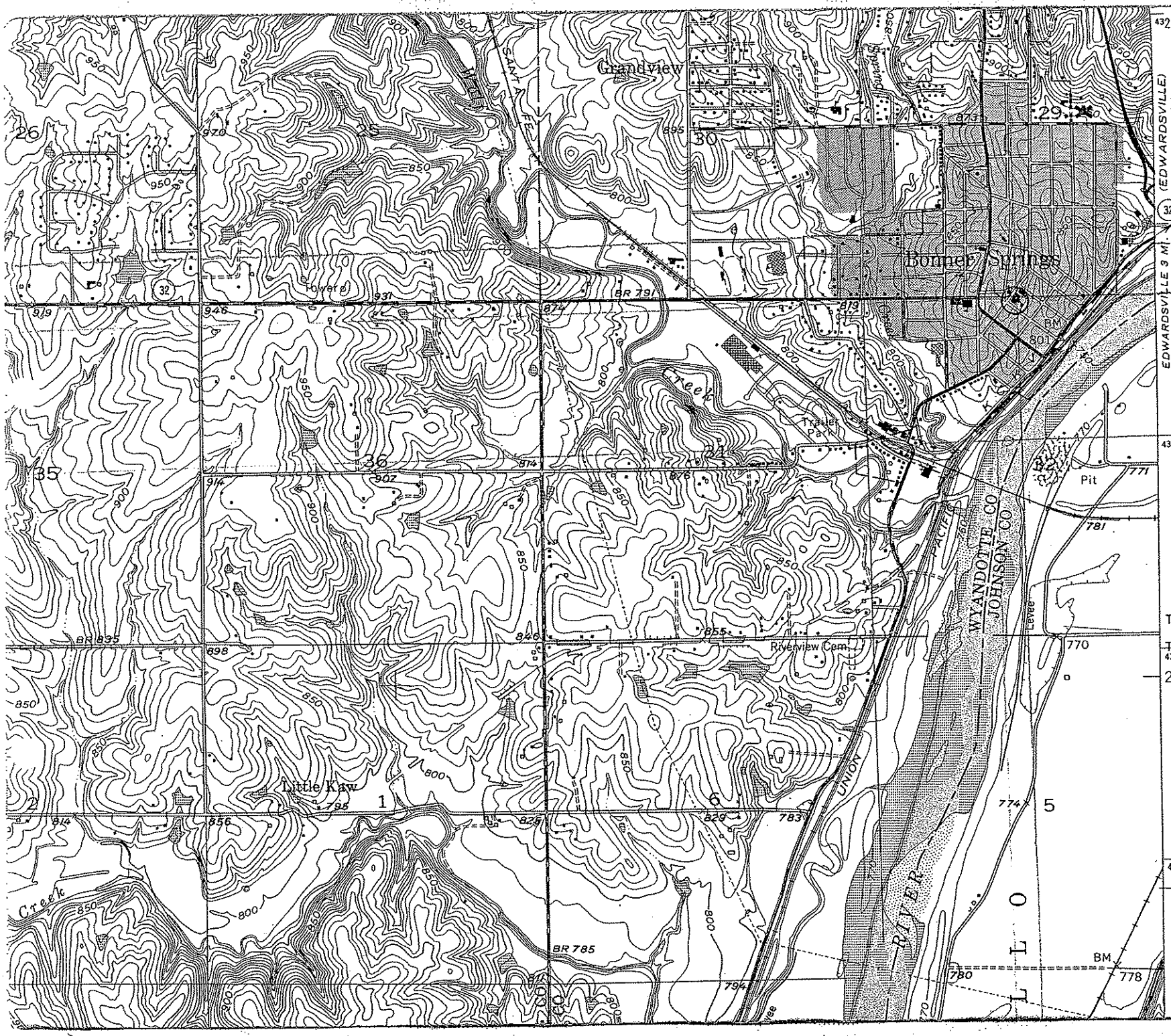
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name CITY OF BONNER SPRINGS
street & number 205 EAST SECOND telephone 913-422-1020
city or town BONNER SPRINGS state KS zip code 66012

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



BONNER SPRINGS
HIGH SCHOOL
BONNER SPRINGS
QUAD
UTM COORDINATES
15 337103
4324660

The Bonner Springs High School (c. 1918) is located one block off main street and is visible on K-32 from Lawrence and K-7 from Olathe. The three story brick school stands on a raised limestone foundation with a basement below it. While essentially a rectangle, the building mimics a more complex form with the slight projection of its western facing, facade corner pavilions. The rear of the building contains the gymnasium projection. Understated in style, the building may be classified in the Collegiate Gothic tradition.

The first floor is hand carved stone (quarried locally), and the upper two stories are made of brick. There are many big windows that balance the look of the building. The front door is in the center with concrete steps leading up to it. There is a carved stone centerpiece above the door that says, "High School." There is a corner stone on the southwest corner that reads "1918." The ground drops off in elevation to the rear, exposing the back of the building. There is a door in the center of the west side. There are two doors to enter the building on each side of the gym on the back or east side. From the back you can see two floors of hand carved stone and two floors of brick. The north side is where the 1951 addition was built. There is a driveway and parking area on the rear of the building.

The building was designed with many, nine over six windows but they were replaced in 1968. Every room seems flooded with light - even the gym and the old power plant had windows so it was not a dark, dreary place. The ceilings have been dropped and the stage partitioned off, but you can still see three original, large skylights in the ceiling of the gymnasium which is located in the basement. The gymnasium had a viewing/seating section that has been removed. The other floors of the building seem to be fairly true to the original blueprints except for the main stairs. The stairway connecting the front entrance to the ground floor has been sealed off with a wall. The building had nineteen classrooms, wide halls and stairs of concrete. The wood banisters, doors, chair rails, bookcases and crown molding are still there and could be restored easily. Much of the woodwork has been painted, but it remains intact and could be restored to the original finish. Receipts from 1918 tell the stain and varnish that was used originally.

The library was located on the northwest corner of the main floor. The third floor contained the commercial department, science laboratories and vocational agriculture. The laboratories were large and well lighted, with supply closets adjoining each, with a lecture room, equipped for lantern slides, adequate for the use of thirty pupils. The vocational agriculture room was one of the largest and best equipped in the building, situated in the center of the upper floor.

Two large steam furnaces heated the school. Each room was connected to the ventilation system and had a pulley to open or close the vent. Maple floors lie beneath the tile in the classrooms. Tunnels run under the gym floor. Blackboards that could be raised and lowered with a pulley, were in many of the classrooms. A very tall chimney rises from the old power plant.

An annex was built in 1951, housing a new gymnasium and industrial arts area. It was added onto the north side of the original structure and attached by a wide corridor. In 1968 the building became our Junior High School when Bonner Springs built a new High School. In 1985 the City of Bonner Springs and USD 204 School System entered into a contractual agreement to exchange property. The newer annex area presently houses the city's community center, library, senior center and multi-purpose meeting facility.

Due to lack of heat in winter, moisture from the gymnasium roof and previous roof leaks in the main structure, significant deterioration has occurred on the building's interior. Paint is peeling and chipping, and debris and dropped ceilings are falling down inside the building. The gym has been divided into two large rooms with a fake wall right down the center. The ceilings have been dropped and the stage partitioned off, but three original, large skylights pierce the gymnasium ceiling.

The Bonner Springs High School (c. 1918) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its historical association with the growth and development of education in Bonner Springs. Built in 1918 the school was in continuous use until 1982. The City, Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools wanted a modern, safe high school with a gymnasium and auditorium. They wanted to have an accredited Class A High School to give the students of Bonner Springs the best education they could possibly give them. The 1918 High School met these standards both architecturally and educationally.

Bonner Springs was fortunate to hire a well regarded Kansas City architect - Charles Ashley Smith. In 1898 Mr. Smith became architect for the Kansas City, Missouri School District. He designed more than fifty buildings for the Kansas City school district before he retired from that position in 1936. He was associated with Smith, Rea and Lovitt Architects and designed for colleges, airports, office buildings, churches and private homes. Eight of his buildings in Kansas City, Missouri are on the National Register, and twenty-three of his schools in Kansas City, Missouri have been determined eligible for listing.

Charles A. Smith was born in Ohio in 1866, moved to Iowa with his family in 1874 and began working in the architectural offices of Bell and Hackney in Iowa at the age of 16. It is very likely that his interest in architecture was based on his father's career as a builder and contractor. Smith came to Kansas City as a draftsman with William Hackney in 1887 and became his partner within five years. Hackney served as architect to the Kansas City School Board from 1887 until he died in 1898. At that time, Smith was named as his replacement, a position he held until his retirement from the position 38 years later. While much of Smith's career revolved around his school commissions, he was also involved in the design of other types of buildings. The firm of Smith, Rea & Lovitt was active in Kansas City from 1910 until the deaths of Walter Lovitt in 1920 and Charles Rea in 1921 ended the partnership. Charles A. Smith died January 11, 1948 at the age of 81. One of his last designs was the Unity Temple in Kansas City, Missouri, built in 1948.

This property at Third and Cedar has always been a school. John McDanield, the founder of Bonner Springs, donated the property in 1873, before the town of Bonner Springs was plotted out. The deed filed in 1873 gave the school ground to the city of Bonner Springs to be used as a school. If the town did not use it as a school it would be reverted to the heirs of the McDanield Family. A small brick school was built upon it and was called Tiblow School. This one-room building served the needs of the community until 1897 when a two-story frame structure was built. This school was known as McDanield School and was for elementary age students. At one time, high school classes were held on the upper floor. A new McDanield school was built in 1906 on the corner of Nettleton and Kump and was first used as a High School, later changed to a grade school only when the 1918 High School was built. The 1918 High School was built on the spot where the white two-story frame building stood. L. L. Hart organized the high school in Bonner Springs in 1899. Only a two-year course was offered until 1905, when the two other years were added.

On June 4, 1918 Bonner Springs residents voted - three to one - to increase their tax levy and issue $48,000.00 in bonds for the construction of a new high school and build an addition for Lincoln School, the grade school for black children. Bonner Springs High School was always integrated. The Board of Education members Dr. H. C. Hays, President; Mrs. Flora L. David, Vice-President; Frank Alden, Herman Theden, Roy S. Filkin, and Mrs. Ruth L. Randall, Superintendent C. S. Miller and the architect Charles A. Smith requested sealed construction bids to be submitted by September 12.

The *Kansas Construction Newspaper* reported on September 14, 1918 that all of the bids came in higher than the $50,000 budgeted for the project and were rejected. The article indicated that only the basement might be built, and that the superstructure would be built later. On September 21, 1918 the Board of Education announced they would call for bids again soon. The architects had made slight changes to the specifications and the budget was increased to $70,000. On October 3, 1918 the Board of Education and the architect decided to build according to the plans. On November 9, 1918 it was reported in the *Kansas Construction Newspaper* - "END OF WAR NEAR - IF NOT HERE - Lift the Lid on Building and Lets Go".

Schools and big buildings were just waiting to be built all over the state as the war draw to a close. H. H. Daniels, of the Wyandotte County Council of Defense has asked the State Council of Defense to pass upon the project of building a $40,000.00 High School building in Bonner Springs. The proposal was approved at the state level. George H. Hodges, Bonner Springs businessman and Dr. H. C. Hays, President of the School Board went to Washington D. C. at the time the project was presented to the War Industries Board to help cut through "Red Tape". On November 16, 1918 the *Kansas Construction Newspaper* reported that the project had taken an unexpected turn. The government permit was secured and construction had started. Architects Smith, Rea & Lovitt of Kansas City, Missouri were selected to handle the sub-contracts for labor and materials.

On November 30, 1918 the *Kansas Construction Newspaper* reported the, "Work was started, day work, architects superintending." Bonner Springs was very lucky they had not let the bids be accepted, because after the Armistice had been signed and it was evident that World War I was over, the cost of building supplies went down. It was not built by contract, but by day labor, under the supervision of Charles A. Smith. The Lone Star Cement Plant had lay-offs every winter and they were able to hire those men. The returning soldiers from World War I were good workers as they reassimilated into society. Smith assisted the board with bid selection as well. The hand carved stone was quarried right here in Bonner Springs at the Herman Theden (School Board Member) Quarry, located on the northeast corner of Highway 7 and K-32 Highway.

Charles A. Smith was well acquainted with the needs of well-designed Class A Schools, as he was architect for the Kansas City, Missouri School System for 38 years and designed over 50 Schools in the city. He had a solid reputation for his thoughtful and progressive design of school buildings. His school plans, scientific ventilation and other sanitary features had been adopted throughout the country. He was a member of the Kansas City Chapter of

the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers and was known for his fireproof buildings and furnaces.

The building's construction occurred when the nation and Bonner Springs were suffering from the 1918 Flu epidemic. Schools were closed most of the time that fall. Students studied on their own and mailed their homework in to the teachers. Bonner Springs schools were under a hardship anyway because they had to rent the Oddfellows Hall to have high school classes meet.

On March 9, 1920 Bonner Springs High School was dedicated. Printed on the *Bonner Springs Chieftain* front page on March 11, 1920 was the following: "Dedicatory services for the new $150,000 high school building were held Tuesday afternoon and evening. During the afternoon the rooms were thrown open for inspection and the teachers were on duty in their rooms. The High School building now completed is a building of which a city twice the size could justly be proud. It has nineteen classrooms and a gymnasium and auditorium combined with a floor space of 50 by 70 feet. The gym is fully equipped. The building has automatic heat and the latest and most approved system of ventilation."

This high school gymnasium was the first in Bonner Springs, and was the pride of Bonner Springs for many years. It was used as our Community Center for years. On January 22, 1920 the first Basketball game was played in the gym. From then on the gym was busy almost every night. The gymnasium was used for various activities including the Men's Athletic Club events, American Legion meetings, speakers, box suppers, band concerts, operettas and community mixers. The first class to be graduated from the new high school building was on June10, 1920 at the gym (auditorium). The gymnasium and auditorium served the Bonner Springs community until 1951 when the new annex was built on the north side of the high school. The annex contained a new gymnasium that could be used as an auditorium with a stage. The basement was rearranged to house the Industrial Arts Department.

The new high school brought the young people together. The social activities that occurred in the school made it the center of interest and pride of the community. The high school helped to unify the community. It not only provided educational facilities for the young people, but also served as a social center for the older members of the community.

APPENDIX

Charles A. Smith has 8 buildings listed on the National Register in Kansas City, Missouri.

1. Kansas City Public Library Building, 500 East 9th Street , built in 1895-97, addition in 1917,18, listed April 23, 1977.
2. Jenkins Music Company Building, 1217 Walnut, built in 1911-12, addition 1931-32, listed March 2, 1979.
3. Professional Building, 1101-07 Grand Avenue, built in 1929, listed July 17, 1979.
4. Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, 2301 East Linwood Blvd., built in 1920-22, listed May 2, 1985.
5. Firestone Building, 2001 Grand Avenue, built in 1915-16, listed January 3, 1986.
6. Paseo YMCA, 1824 Paseo, built in 1914, listed in 1991.
7. Attucks School, 1815 Woodland Avenue, build in 1905, addition in 1922, listed in 1991.
8. Liquid Carbonic Company Building, 2000 Baltimore, built in 1888, listed April 29, 1994.

The Archives of Architects, University of Missouri at Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri lists over 70 of Charles A. Smith buildings. These are some of the more famous ones: The Kansas City Club Building, Mercy Hospital, Westport High School, Northeast High School, Central High School, Barstow School, Border Star School, Paseo High School, Southwest High School, Trinity Evangelic Church, Pla-Mor Natatorium and Hockey Rink, Liberal Arts Building UMKC, Science Building UMKC and Fine Arts Building UMKC.

Bibliography

Avery, Samuel Oscar, *"The Small Kansas High School - Its Weaknesses and Strengths"*, Thesis, Kansas State Teachers College, 1945, William Allen White Memorial Library, Emporia.

Bowman, B. P., *The place extracurricular activities have in the rural high schools of Kansas"*, Master of Science Thesis, Kansas State College, 1928.

Bundy, Frank L. Roy and Bundy, Mildred L. Rudell, *A History of Bonner Springs, Kans*as, Wyandotte County Historical Museum. Bonner Springs, Kansas, 1988.

Credentials for Architects, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Newcomb Hall, Second Floor, UMKC.

Deonier, Richard. *The Natural History of Bonner Springs,* Master's Thesis, University of Kansas, 1958, Bonner Springs Library.

Historic Preservation Mgmt., Div/Landmarks Commission, Kansas City Public Library, 414 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

Kaw High School Yearbooks, Bonner Springs High School, 1919 to 1938, Bonner Springs High School Library.

Microfilm, *Kansas Construction News*, Kansas State Historical Library, Topeka, KS, 1918.

Microfilm, *Bonner Springs Chieftain*, Bonner Springs Library, Bonner Springs, KS, May 9, 1918 to September 9, 1920.

O'Brien, Francis Paul, *"The Shawnee-Mission Rural High School"*, Kansas Studies in Education, Bulletin of the University, 1921, Kansas State Printing Plant, State Library, Topeka.

Rhoades, Kenton, *Ruth Esther Griffith Garrett's Memoir, Tonganoxie to Wilder - The Long Way 'Round,* Ed & Judy Garrett Private Collection, April 2000.

Schauer, W., *The status of the small high schools in Kansas"*, Master of Science Thesis, Kansas State College, 1940.

Trump, J. Lloyd, *High-School Extracurriculum* Activities",Chicago, Illinois, The University of Chicago, 1944, Wichita State University Library.

Vickers, Russell G., *"A Study of the Status of the Rural High School in Kansas"*, Master of Science Thesis, 1935, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, Kellogg Library, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

_____, *"Economical Enrichment of the Small Secondary-School Curriculum"*, Department of Rural Education, National Education Association, 1934, Wichita State University Library.

_____, *"High School Curriculum Reorganization,"* Ann Arbor, Michigan, The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, 1933, University of Kansas Libraries.

_____, *"A History of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools 1895-1945"*, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, 1945, De Paul Library, Saint Mary College, Leavenworth, Kansas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on Block 3, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Bonner Springs, Kansas. The property is bounded to the west by East Third Street, to the south by Cedar Street, to the north by East Second Street and to the east by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property contains all land historically associated with it.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Bonner Springs High School
Bonner Springs, Wyandotte County, KS
Craig Cooper
April 2002
Kansas State Historical Society

1/7 northeast view, west facade, south elevation
2/7 northwest view, south and east elevations
3/7 corridor view
4/7 gymnasium
5/7 stairwell
6/7 stairwell
7/7 classroom