

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register Listed
October 9, 2012**

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Bethany Brethren Church
other names/site number Hamlin Baptist Church; 013-2270-0001

2. Location

street & number 121 1st Street not for publication
city or town Hamlin vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Brown code 013 zip code 66434

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

SEE FILE

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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
		district
		site
		structure
		object
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)

Religion: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Gothic Revival (Carpenter Gothic)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone: limestone; concrete

walls: Wood: clapboard

roof: Asphalt

other:

Narrative Description

Summary

Hamlin's former Bethany Brethren Church is located on the west edge of town at 121 1st Street at the southwest corner of the intersection of 1st and Terrapin streets. This location is in the Gaston Addition and 1st Street is the westernmost thoroughfare in the small town. Immediately surrounding the church are residences, and the once-thriving commercial thoroughfare (known as Front Street) is one block to the south. The only business remaining on Front Street is the Brown County Co-op.

Hamlin is approximately nine miles northwest of Hiawatha, the county seat, in northeastern Brown County. It is situated along Terrapin Creek, which is adjacent to the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad that was developed through northeast Kansas in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

Elaboration

Exterior

The wood-framed building features two primary masses – the original one-room church with a corner bell-tower and a rear addition built in 1951. Together, the two sections form a T-shaped plan.

The original church building rests on a limestone foundation and has a front-facing gable roof clad with asphalt composition shingles. A vent pipe pierces the roof near the southwest corner. The exterior is clad with horizontal wood clapboard siding and there are corner boards at each corner of the building.

The east-facing front elevation includes a grouping of three one-over-one wood windows that each features a triangular top. Windows throughout the original building contain textured clear glass. Above the grouping of windows are three small diamond-shaped windows, and all of these features are topped by triangular peaked wood trim. Decorative hexagonal- and diamond-shaped wood shingles clad the gable of the front elevation. There is a trefoil window set within a triangular window frame that is centered within the gable.

The exterior of the bottom half of the bell tower is clad with horizontal wood clapboard siding on the three exposed elevations (east, north, and west). There is one window on the north elevation of the tower base – a one-over-one wood window with a triangular top. The middle portion of the tower is clad with hexagonal- and diamond-shaped wood shingles – on all four exposed sides. The upper part of the tower features arched openings enclosed by wood louvers on each of the four sides. (These louvers are not original – this part of the tower was originally open.) The roof atop the tower has a tall, pyramidal shape topped by a finial. The roof has a very small dentilated overhang.

The east elevation of the corner bell tower includes a double-door entrance. Each outward-swinging wood door has five panels: two long vertical panels atop a single horizontal panel atop two short vertical panels. The doors are topped by a triangular transom window and a small shed roof supported by curved decorative brackets. The design of the transom window mimics that of the main grouping of windows on the front of the building.

The north and south side elevations of the original section of the building are very similar in design. The north elevation contains three evenly spaced, one-over-one wood windows – each with a triangular top. The south elevation has four windows of this same style and design. Metal gutters hang from the north and south rooflines leading to downspouts at the west end of the building.

The west (rear) elevation of the original building is almost entirely obscured by an addition built in 1951, which houses classrooms, a kitchen and a dining hall. The addition rests perpendicular to the original building on a north-south axis with side-facing gables. The roof has a low pitch and is clad with a newer metal roof. The addition rests on a poured concrete foundation, much of which is exposed because of the downward sloping

terrain toward the west. The exterior of the addition is clad with horizontal asbestos tiles with a wide reveal. There are two types of windows within the addition: six-over-one wood windows on the main level and multi-light metal casements on the basement level. There are exterior entrances into the addition at the northeast and southeast corners of the building.

Interior

One enters the original church through the main double-door entrance that leads into the bell tower vestibule. This small space has a tall ceiling through which a rope/chain hangs down where one can ring the bell. There is a single small light fixture hanging from the ceiling and natural light streams into the vestibule through the window on the north wall. The vestibule walls are clad with non-historic wood paneling. A set of double doors on the vestibule's south wall leads into the church sanctuary.

Two sets of seven wood church pews are arranged around a central aisle and face west toward the elevated altar/stage area that spans nearly the full width of the building. The raised altar/stage area is partially enclosed with a wood railing. The sanctuary's wood flooring is exposed beneath the pews, but carpet lines the walkways and aisles. Above the windows the walls curve to meet the ceiling along the north and south walls. The ceiling is clad with decorative metal panels. Three historic light fixtures hang from the ceiling above the central aisle. Two historic fans hang from the ceiling – one over each section of pews.

The walls have wood wainscoting extending from the floor to the bottom of the windows. The plaster walls have been wallpapered. All baseboards and wood trim around window and door openings is historic. Centered on the west wall of the sanctuary is an arched opening that is flanked by an enclosed baptismal on the south and a small office on the north. The office on the north now provides access to the 1951 addition at the west end of the building.

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)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1895

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Undetermined

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance includes the year the building was constructed.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

Bethany Church meets the registration requirements for *Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties* because it derives its primary significance from its architecture. The property does not derive its primary significance from associations with religious doctrine.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The former Bethany Brethren Church is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the area of architecture. Built circa 1895, this church reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style executed in wood materials – also commonly referred to as Carpenter Gothic. Exterior wood shingles in the gable are reflective of the Queen Anne style that was popular in the late 19th century. This is the only remaining church building in the small town of Hamlin, which once boasted three churches. Today, there are less than 50 residents in Hamlin.

Elaboration

Hamlin is located nine miles northwest of Hiawatha in Brown County, Kansas. European-American settlers began arriving in this part of northeast Kansas in the 1850s, but Hamlin was not developed until after the Civil War. What jumpstarted development in and around Hamlin was the arrival of the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad, which pushed through in the early 1870s. In fact, the community's first religious services were held in the depot in 1871.¹ By the time William Cutler published his *History of the State of Kansas*, Hamlin had over 200 residents and included "three general stores, one grocery, one hardware, one drug, one millinery and one furniture store, an elevator twenty by sixty feet, the property of J. N. Speer & Co., of Hiawatha, a grain warehouse owned by Thomas Evans, a lumber yard and two blacksmith shops."² Two churches had been established – Congregational and Baptist – and these denominations had erected places of worship in Hamlin by 1887. (See Figure 1) The Brethren denomination followed soon after with the construction of their building in about 1895. In 1910, Hamlin remained at about 200 residents.³

The Brethren have been in Kansas since at least 1855, shortly after the opening of Kansas Territory in 1854. The earliest members of the Brethren church located in Jefferson and Douglas counties, but by 1872 "there were also members in Anderson, Bourbon, Brown, Cowley, Elk, Franklin, Labette, Neosho, Republic and Wilson" counties.⁴ The influx of immigrants into Kansas during the late 1870s and 1880s included Brethren worshippers, many of whom were enticed here by others promoting their fledgling communities and churches. For instance, "Brown county [sic] had 70,000 acres of good land at from six to seven dollars an acre, three to eight miles north of Sabetha and located on the St. Joseph and Denver Railway [also known as the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad]."⁵

The Church of the Brethren compiled statistics in 1879, which documented "nearly sixty Brethren ministers in the state, thirty counties being represented." There were four ministers in Brown County. The only other counties with more Brethren ministers were Jefferson with seven, Douglas with six, and Jewell with five.⁶ The church grew in Kansas in the 1880s and 1890s, hosting Annual Conferences that drew thousands in 1883, 1887, and 1896. Leaders of the Church of the Brethren established McPherson College in 1887. It was also during this period that church leaders discussed ideas of mutual insurance, and aid societies – such as the Brethren's Mutual Aid Society of Northeastern Kansas – were organized. Later, Brethren leaders in southeast

¹ William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883), 744.

² *Ibid.*

³ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, vol. 1* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 805.

⁴ Elmer Le Roy Craik, *A History of the Church of the Brethren in Kansas* (McPherson, KS: Published by the author, 1922), 28.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 41.

Kansas took up the cause of child welfare and, in 1908, established the Child Rescue and Orphan Society of the Church of the Brethren.⁷

The church has experienced several name changes over its history and also a major schism in the 1880s, which resulted in three divisions: traditionalists like the Old German Baptist Brethren, progressives of the Brethren Church, and the conservatives - the largest branch that changed their name to the Church of the Brethren in 1908.⁸ It is believed that the Hamlin Brethren were the progressives of the Brethren Church.

The Hamlin-area Brethren worshippers built this church in about 1895, and they attended religious services there until 1948. They sold the building to the local Baptist congregation in 1951, which still owns and occupies the building.

On February 8, 1951, the Baptist church building, which was located near the northwest corner of Terrapin and Second streets, burned to the ground. The Baptist congregation purchased the then-unused Brethren building at 121 1st Street as their new place of worship.

Shortly after their purchase, the Baptist congregation built a rear addition onto the former Brethren church building, which provided space for classrooms, a dining room, and a kitchen. The new space also served as a gathering place for community events and meetings. For several years, local students ate meals in the church's dining hall since it was the only facility in town large enough to hold everyone. The church has hosted American Baptist dinners with programs, Brown County Coop meetings and dinners, wedding and baby showers, anniversary celebrations, and funeral services there.

Today, the Hamlin Baptists are the only remaining congregation active in Hamlin, and the congregation is dwindling to a small number. The trustee owners of the Hamlin Baptist Church are Jonathan Shannon, Mark Iverson, and David Shannon.

Gothic Revival Architecture

Seemingly countless 19th century small-town churches in Kansas reflect elements of the Gothic Revival style. The great popularity of the style can largely be traced back to the 1852 publication of architect Richard Upjohn's book of church plans entitled *Upjohn's Rural Architecture*. Some of this country's greatest examples of high-style Gothic Revival buildings were built in the two decades preceding Upjohn's publication, including Alexander Jackson Davis's New York University building (1832-1837), Henry Austin's Yale College Library (1832-1837), and Richard Upjohn's Trinity Church in New York (1839-1846). Davis, Upjohn, and Andrew Jackson Downing, in particular, stressed the "picturesque effect" that characterizes so many Gothic Revival buildings.⁹ Although the popularity of the style on residential buildings declined after the Civil War, it remained a favorite for designers of religious buildings into the 20th century.

Upjohn built several large urban churches, but his services were also requested for smaller rural churches. He hoped his book of plans, which included small frame churches, "would help meet the need for good, properly designed rural churches."¹⁰ Although the high-style Gothic Revival religious buildings were typically built of stone, the use of wood was common, particularly in smaller religious buildings. Gothic Revival buildings executed in wood are known as Carpenter Gothic.

⁷ Ibid., 90.

⁸ The Church of the Brethren website, accessed 3 July 2012: <http://www.progressivebrethren.org/Home/COB.html>

⁹ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993), 53-60.

¹⁰ Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, 2001), 175-177.

Traditional Carpenter Gothic buildings usually feature a vertical board-and-batten exterior siding, but there are few examples of these in Kansas.¹¹ Vernacular examples of Carpenter Gothic can exhibit various types of wood siding. Hamlin's Bethany Brethren Church, for example, has horizontal clapboards with cornerboards and hexagonal- and diamond-shaped wood shingles in the gable and on the bell tower. These materials used in the construction of the church most likely would have arrived in Hamlin by rail delivery, just blocks from where the church was erected.

¹¹ The Natoma Presbyterian Church in Natoma, Osborne County, Kansas is an example of a Carpenter Gothic building with vertical board-and-batten wood siding. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 2006.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, Vol. 1*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Church of the Brethren website, accessed 3 July 2012: <http://www.progressivebrethren.org/Home/COB.html>

Craik, Elmer Le Roy. *A History of the Church of the Brethren in Kansas*. McPherson, KS: Published by the author, 1922. Accessed online 3 July 2012: <http://books.google.com>.

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co., 1883.

Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, 2001.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993.

Zollner, Patrick, and Kristen Lonard. "Natoma Presbyterian Church" National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Washington, DC: National Register of Historic Places, 2006. Accessed online 5 July 2012 at: http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominationsNRDB/Osborne_NatomaPresbChurchNR.pdf

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 275210 4421480
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

NAD 27

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes the church and its associated parcel - Lots 12 & 13 in the Gaston Addition of Hamlin, Brown County, KS.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nomination property includes the building and the land historically associated with Bethany Brethren Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rosemary Ward, Hamlin Baptist Church Clerk; Sarah Martin, KSHS
organization _____ date _____
street & number 616 1st Street telephone 785-459-2890
city or town Hamlin state KS zip code 66434
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Historic images, maps, etc.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Bethany Brethren Church
City or Vicinity: Hamlin
County/State: Brown County, Kansas
Photographer: Sarah Martin
Date of Photos: 22 February 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 13 East (front) and south (side) elevations, facing WNW
- 2 of 13 East (front) elevation, showing primary entrance, facing WSW
- 3 of 13 North (side) elevation, showing 1951 addition at right, facing S
- 4 of 13 North (side) and west (rear) elevations, facing SSE
- 5 of 13 South (side) elevation, facing NW
- 6 of 13 Interior, main entrance, facing E
- 7 of 13 Interior, showing entire one-room sanctuary from entry vestibule, facing SW
- 8 of 13 Interior, showing entire one-room sanctuary, facing NW
- 9 of 13 Interior, showing entire one-room sanctuary, facing NE
- 10 of 13 Interior, raised dias area, facing NNW
- 11 of 13 Interior of 1951 addition, showing typical classroom
- 12 of 13 Interior of 1951 addition, showing dining hall, facing SW
- 13 of 13 Photograph of building and surrounding context, facing E

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Hamlin Baptist Church (c/o Trustees Jonathan Shannon, Mark Iverson, David Shannon)

street & number 121 First Street – Hamlin telephone _____

city or town Hiawatha state KS zip code 66434

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1: Prior to the construction of Bethany Brethren Church. "Meacham's Illustrated Atlas of Brown and Nemaha Counties, Kansas (J. H. Meacham & Co., 1887), p. 61. Courtesy of kansasmemory.org.

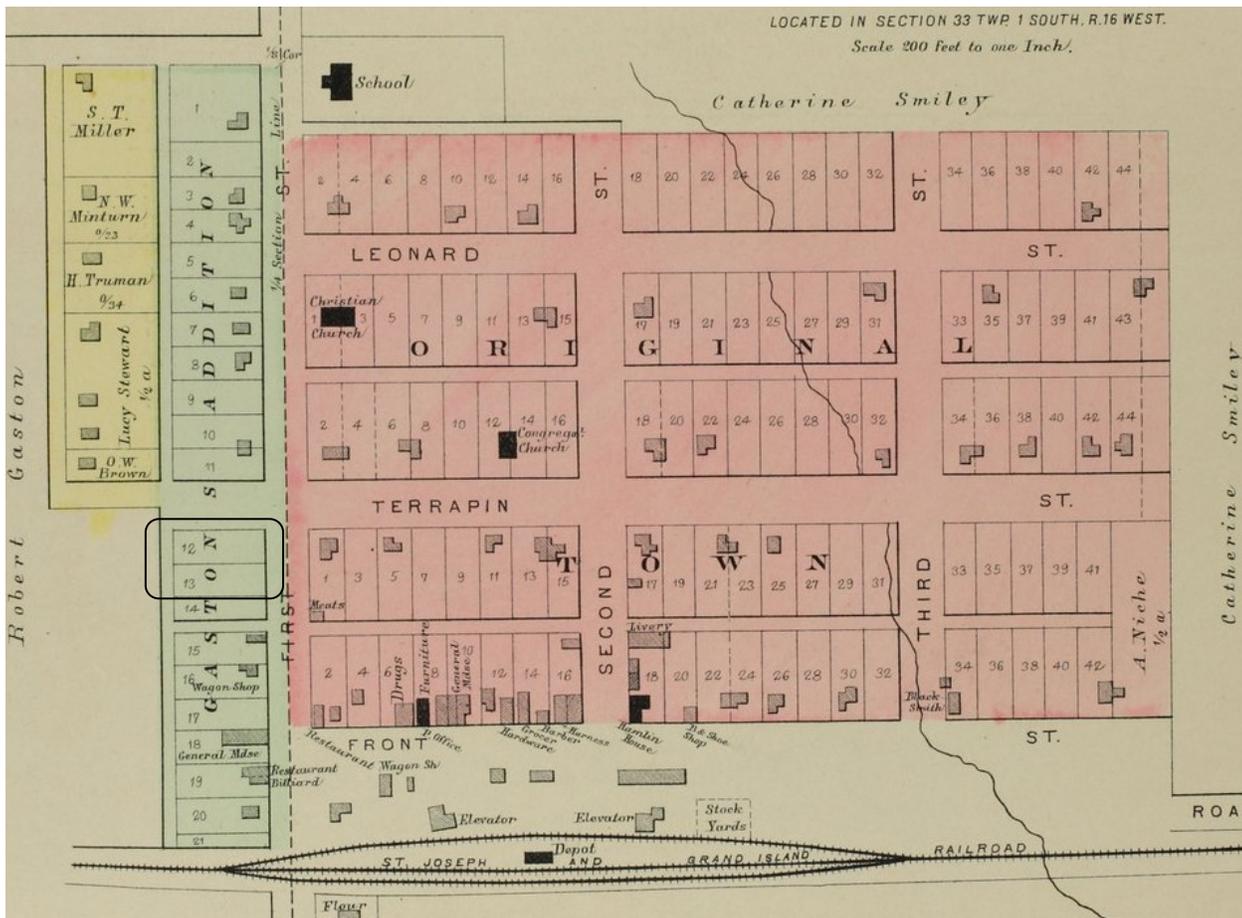


Figure 2: 1904 Plat book of Brown County, Kansas (Minneapolis: North West Publishing Co., 1904), page 7. Courtesy of kansasmemory.org

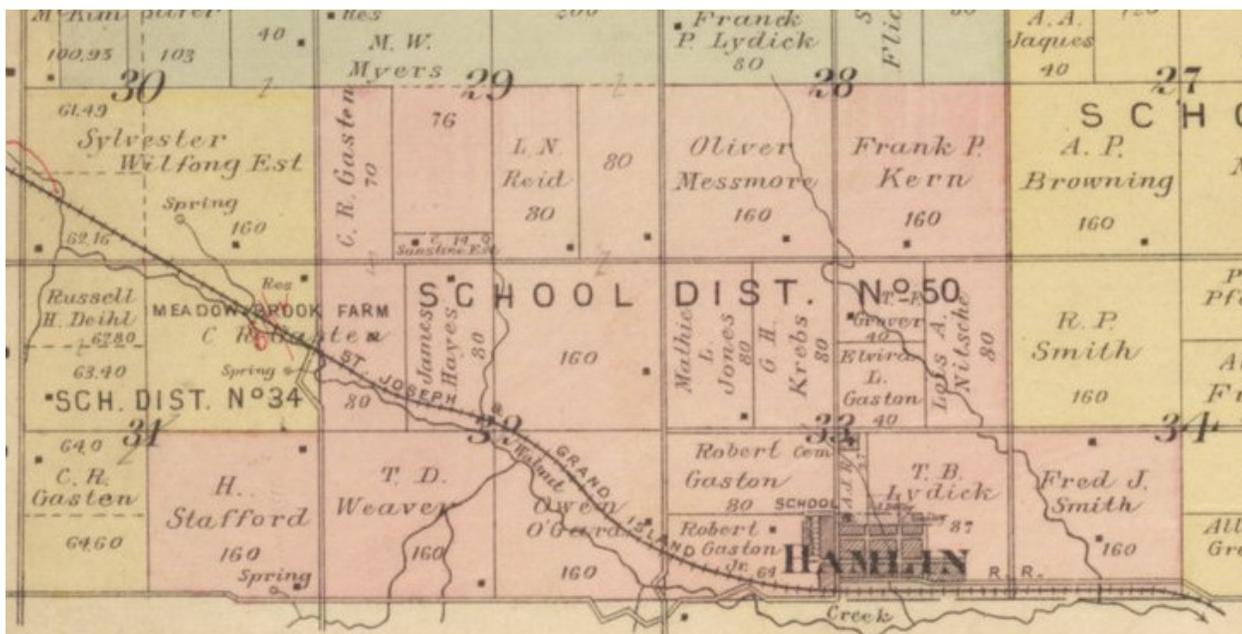


Figure 3: 1904 Plat book of Brown County, Kansas (Minneapolis: North West Publishing Co., 1904), page 18. Courtesy of kansasmemory.org

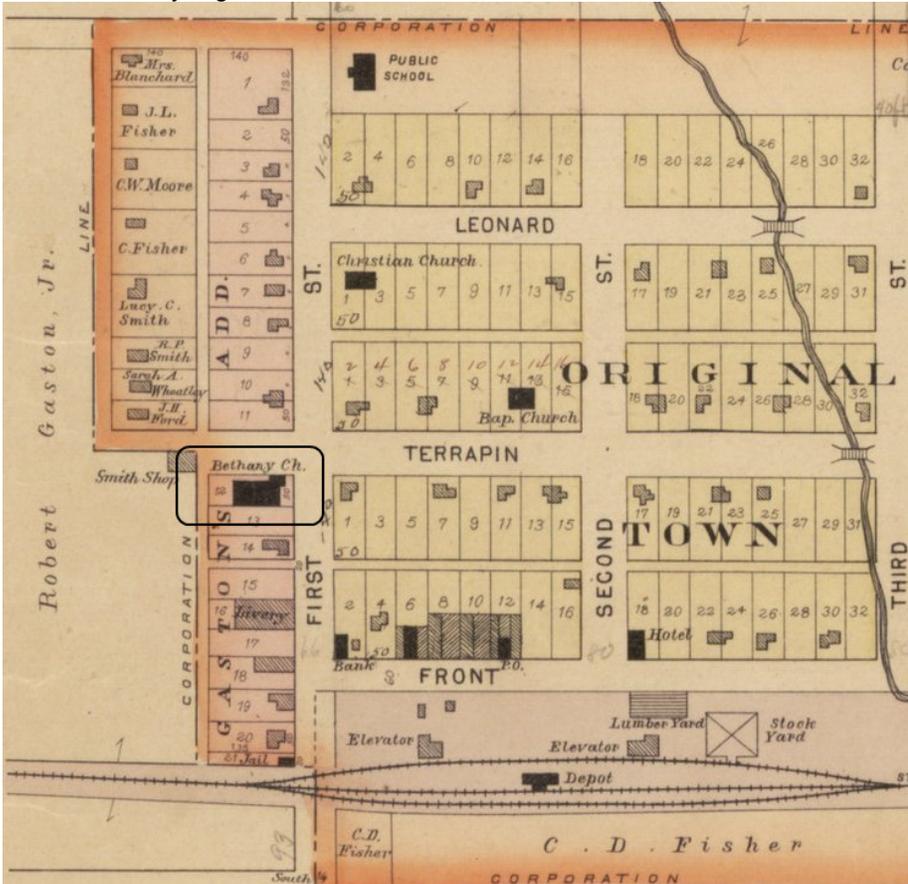


Figure 4: Standard Atlas of Brown County, Kansas. (Geo. A. Ogle & Co. 1919), page 18. Courtesy of kansasmemory.org

