

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Listed
4-15-2011

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 Schuyler Grade School

other names/site number Burlingame Schuyler Museum / 139-282

2. Location

street & number 117 S. Dacotah not for publication

city or town Burlingame vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Osage code 139 zip code 66413

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

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	2	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	2	Total

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

Historic Public Schools of Kansas

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)

Recreation and culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Brick

roof: Wood shingle

other: Stone ornament

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

Schuyler Grade School, 117 N. Dacotah, Burlingame, Kansas, is located one block south of the main Burlingame business district on Santa Fe Avenue. It is situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of Dacotah and West Fremont Streets. A residential neighborhood of detached single-family houses extends to the west and south. The main elevation faces east. The building is set back from both streets with a large vacant lot (probably used as playground) to the north and two contemporary utility buildings on the site to the west. The school is a rectangular two-story brick masonry building on a raised basement with a foundation of rock-faced coursed limestone blocks. This late example of the Romanesque Revival style has restrained ornamental brick belt courses, recessed panels, round-arched masonry openings, a brick eave cornice, and smooth-cut stone detailing. The main block has a recessed entrance bay surmounted by a hipped roof with a central gabled roof dormer flanked by two hipped-roof dormers. There is a central hipped-roof bay projecting from the rear. A Modern-style addition with a flat roof extends from the rear facade to the west.

Elaboration

Property type

The Schuyler Grade School, Burlingame, Kansas, is an example of the "town schools:" property type. Town schools were generally those schools located in cities of the third class (between 250 and 2,000 population) but this property type was not classified solely on population. The town schools were characterized by the fact that typically one school (or one grade school and one high school) served the entire town. The town graded school did not necessarily evolve into the modern elementary school as it did in Burlingame. The Schuyler School is an early example of this property type and the Romanesque style is also unusual since many town schools were built later in early twentieth century revival styles.¹

Exterior

The building has a symmetrical façade with three bays which reflects the interior arrangement of four main classrooms with a central hallway and stairway. On the second floor, the former library is located above the entrance between the classrooms.

A tall exterior brick chimney rises on the north side of the projecting rear bay. There is contemporary composition roofing. The sides of the roof dormers are sheathed with wooden shingles. There are metal pipe railings, concrete steps and entrances in below-grade window wells on the north and south sides. The area in front of the school to the east is paved with concrete panels.

Ornamentation is a significant element of the architectural integrity of the Schuyler School building. The rock-faced stone foundation provides a contrast to the smooth-cut white limestone water course and the pressed red brick masonry walls. There are projecting smooth-cut stone window sills. Brick masonry walls are laid in running bond. There is a contrasting broad brick belt course above the first floor windows, a narrow raised brick belt at the sills of the second floor, and the windows are accentuated by a broad belt course with round Romanesque arches above the windows. The eave is ornamented by a brick course with small recessed panels and a wooden fascia board. The central entrance is distinguished by battered raised brick pillars with carved stone capitals. These features support a projecting molded stone cornice and raised brick pillars ornamented by a set of recessed brick panels, stone blocks, a metal panel with the school's name in raised letters, stone window sills and round-arched brick ornamentation above the second floor windows. Three dormers with recessed lights ornament the roof. The flanking dormers have stone sills and an upper stone belt course. The central dormer has stone sills, stone blocks above window, a projecting stone shelf, and stone eave ornamentation. The north and south facades have three bays with paired symmetrical windows in openings outlined by raised piers with ornamental stone caps.

¹ Brenda R. Spencer, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) 2005, Section F, 34-35.

Interior

Generally, the interior of the Schuyler Grade school, particularly on the main first and second floors, retains its original plan and typical room configuration. There is an entrance hall and central stair with four large classrooms, two on each main floor. Each classroom has a long cloakroom extending from the interior rear corners into the central rear bay. There is a former library with two rooms on the second floor above the central entrance (see plan drawing ca. 1954).

The first floor landing has a wooden stair ornamented with large recessed panels, a large square newel post with a molded cap, square balusters decorated with upper and lower grooves, and a molded stair rail leading to a second floor landing with a similar railing. There are wooden baseboards and plaster walls and ceiling. The classrooms and cloakrooms are less altered. There are wooden floors (now covered with carpet), wooden baseboards and window moldings. The walls are covered with plaster and most chalkboards and bulletin boards remain in place on the walls. Original vertical beaded board wainscoting and moldings remain in the second floor landing, the former library, and cloakrooms. The former library has wooden shelves and cabinets.

Alterations

Despite alterations, the overall level of architectural integrity of the Schuyler School building is good. According to the "Historic Public Schools of Kansas" MPDF, one of the most common alterations to historic public schools is the replacement of windows and doors. In the Schuyler School, original wooden double-hung windows have been replaced with aluminum windows, probably in 1955 when the Modern-style wing was added to the west.

There are rectangular single-light windows in the basement covered with metal security grates. Other windows are 1/1 double-hung sash in aluminum frames. The upper sashes have been covered on the exterior. Basement windows to the north and south have been covered. There are rectangular fixed lights in the narrow dormer windows. Generally, the 1/1 sash pattern has been maintained and the original masonry openings are intact. Although the existing windows are serviceable, this alteration could be reversed with reconstructed windows. The upper segments of the round-arched window openings on the east and west elevation have been covered. Similarly, the main entrance has been altered. It has been covered on the exterior and paired doors with aluminum frames have been installed in the main east entrance. The transom area has been covered. Also, there are metal doors in the north and south basement entrances. Masonry openings in the rear west façade on the second floor were filled and first floor openings were altered to accommodate the west addition. One of the second floor windows has been converted to an exit. Metal roof vents have been installed in the west side of the main roof.

Typically, the interiors of historic schools have been remodeled with contemporary finishes and fixtures. This occurred in the Schuyler School in the basement, the entrance hall, and stairway, but the stairway to the second floor, the classrooms, and the historic interior plan are largely intact. When the Schuyler School was remodeled in 1955, the main recessed entrance was enclosed. The stair to the basement also was relocated. The floors have been covered with carpet. Contemporary solid wooden entrance doors in metal frames have been installed in the doorways from the hall to the classrooms. Contemporary suspended ceilings have been installed in the second floor landing and hall as well as the first and second floor classrooms.

According to the MPDF, historic grade schools often have additions and additional classrooms were added to the Schuyler School.² Although the flush connection to the historic building is less appropriate than contemporary preservation practice would dictate, the horizontal, one-story addition with a flat roof was attached to a rear façade and, from the east, north, and south, the building's original tall two-story form is obvious and intact. The site also has been altered with the construction of two accessory buildings, but most of the school property remains and the newer buildings are unobtrusive.

Exterior, rear addition

The rear addition is a one-story brick masonry structure on a concrete foundation. The rear wing has a flat roof. The north and south facades have two banks of eight 1/1 double-hung windows in bright aluminum frames. There is a rear entrance with paired metal entrance doors to the west with a portico on two poles. In the northeast corner, there is a small boiler room under the former boys' bathroom. The boiler room is accessed from the outside on the north side. Two metal fire escape stairs from the rear of the historic block are mounted on the east end of the addition.

² Spencer, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," F-36

Interior, rear addition

In the addition, there are two bathrooms and four classrooms divided by a wide hallway. A short flight of steps leads down to the rear entrance. Interior partitions are constructed of concrete block. Most of the interior features remain intact. There are glazed wooden entrance doors, concrete floors with vinyl tile, and suspended ceilings. Free-standing partitions shielding coat racks are not original, but were installed by 1976.

Accessory Buildings (2, non-contributing, ca. 1975, 2000)

West of the historic Schuyler School and the addition stands a long, rectangular concrete block building with a side gable roof. The estimated construction date is ca. 1975. The building is oriented north and south with the four entrances facing a driveway and the addition to the east. The building has three bays with glazed metal entrance doors and 1/1 double-hung windows. There is a garage door entrance in the north end of the building. A lower wing with a wide entrance has been added to the north end of the building. Northwest of the former grade school, there is a small rectangular building with a gabled roof. The estimated construction date is ca. 2000. It is sheathed in plywood with a garage door entrance to the west facing the driveway. Both accessory buildings have composite roofing.

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.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1902—1961

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. F. Schrage, draftsman

J. F. Mehl, contractor

Period of Significance (justification)

Constructed in 1902, the Schuyler School served as a school for the Burlingame community until 2001. The period of significance begins in with the construction of the school in 1902 and ends in 1910 with the fifty-year cut-off date established by the National Park Service to provide sufficient passage of time to allow objective evaluation of the historic resource eligibility at the time of its listing.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes the level of significance and applicable criteria. Elaborate on the property's history and argue the property's significance according to the criteria selected.)

Summary (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Schuyler Grade School (1902) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with significant developments in the history of education in Kansas. It is locally significant. Even with alterations to the 1902 school building, the school is eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance as a turn-of-the-century example of a Romanesque style school building with a Modern-style addition. The context for historic schools in Kansas has been outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* (2005). Schuyler School is an example of the Town Graded School property type and meets the registration requirements stated in the MPDF. Despite a mid-twentieth century addition and replacement windows, the original building has good exterior integrity and most of its original interior plan form with a high degree of interior architectural integrity. This evolution is consistent with typical patterns of development in Kansas towns documented in the MPDF. As many communities grew in population after 1945, additions to existing schools provided more space and improvements for a growing population of young students.

During the early twentieth century, the standardization movement in education attempted to equalize teacher qualifications, textbooks, and school buildings and led to the standardization of schoolhouses as well as school instruction. The Schuyler School plan is a representative example of a rectangular two-story two-room plan that became popular during this period. As the Schuyler School exemplifies in its form, hipped roofs became popular by the early 1900s and "the typical town schools were symmetrical in design with a central entrance that was usually the architectural focal point of the building. The schools were typically two stories with a basement, although one and three-story examples can be found. In its conservative architectural style, the Romanesque Schuyler School is more characteristic of the Late Victorian period than the Progressive Era. Spencer concluded that, by the 1920s, Classical Revival, Beaux-Arts, Colonial, and Mission/Spanish Revival dominated the design of city schools.³

Elaboration

Schuyler Grade School was constructed on the site of the former Osage County courthouse and named in honor of one of Burlingame's founders and most important community leader. Not long after his death in 1872, Philip Church Schuyler was described, "every town must have a father, some one who patiently brings it up by hand from its swaddling clothes period till it can stand alone. Such was Judge Schuyler of Burlingame. He laid it off, was president of the first town company, stood its sponsor when it was named, and was its next friend during all its career until his death. Politically Judge Schuyler was an old-fashioned abolitionist, and his prime object in coming to Kansas was to aid in making it a free state. He was a descendant of the old revolutionary Schuyler (family) and a lover of his country... He was a man of great credit and influence among the free state party. He was a gentleman of culture, and fine natural ability, an eloquent orator, a supple and dangerous debater, and a writer of pure vigorous English. He was elected secretary of state under the first free state organization and was afterwards nominated and elected to the same office under the Lecompton constitution."⁴

What is now Santa Fe Avenue was the northern boundary of Schuyler's original land claim. He donated the lots upon which the first Osage County courthouse, a stone building in Burlingame, was erected. After the county seat moved to Lyndon, the school district purchased the property from the Schuyler heirs to construct a new school at that location.⁵

In the spring of 1855, Phillip Schuyler and Samuel Caniff located claims where the town of Burlingame now stands. Town founders boasted in a promotional pamphlet of May, 1857, "the location of Burlingame is not equaled—certainly not surpassed—by any point on this road [Santa Fe Trail] at all suitable for a town. It lies on a beautiful piece of land gently sloping to the East, on the border of Switzer [sic] Creek; the Santa Fe Road passes on its main street thro' the town East and West—gentle bluffs rise on the West and South, which protect the town somewhat from the heavy winds in the winter and spring, that prevail in this country."⁶ Today the two-block long commercial district is situated east-west along Santa Fe Avenue, the route of the historic Santa Fe Trail and present-day Highway 56

³ Spencer, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," Section E, 18-20.

⁴ Osage County *Chronicle* 27 December 1872.

⁵ Burlingame *Enterprise* 4 January 1912.

⁶ Burlingame Town Association, "Burlingame: Kansas Territory, Its Location, Present Improvements and Future Prospects," (Topeka, KS: Ross Brothers, 1857), 9.

Schuyler and Caniff surveyed the new town in 1857 and it was named Burlingame on January 30, 1858. On February 1, 1858, the Burlingame Town Company was incorporated. Members of the company included Phillip C. Schuyler, Samuel R. Caniff, George Bratton, John Drew, N.P.B. Schuyler, and James Rogers. On February 18, 1860, the Territorial Legislature granted a charter and approved the incorporation of the town of Burlingame. Residents elected Phillip Schuyler the first mayor.⁷ In the spring of 1861, the county seat was located at Burlingame. By 1870 Burlingame became a city of the third class.⁷ In 1875 a majority of citizens demanded a more central location for the Osage County seat and the seat of government was moved to Lyndon.

Railroad building was essential to town growth in the post Civil War period. Residents of Osage County voted for bond issues to support their construction and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad completed its line to Burlingame in September 18, 1869. In 1880 the Manhattan, Alma, and Burlingame Railroad was built to transport the coal that Osage County miners began to produce. This line later became a branch of the AT & SF Railroad

Burlingame was booming early in 1888. As one reporter boasted, "there are eight grocery stores here... There are three dry goods and general stores, one very large furniture store, three drug stores. Filley and Son have a very large hardware store, occupying the handsomest brick block in the city, fifty feet front, 125 feet deep and two stories high stored with everything in their line from a tack to a traction engine. There are three livery stables, three lumber yards, one jewelry store, three millinery stores, and without further enumeration it can be said that there are butchers and bakers and the rest of the trades represented." Also, the reporter commented, "there has been considerable building, mainly business houses, during the last year."⁸ By 1910, the population of Burlingame was 1,422.

In 1897 the old two-story stone courthouse building was being used as an elementary school. There were 154 children, aged from five to nine years, enrolled. Fifty-six attended all day; forty-three attended school in the morning and fifty-six in the afternoon. Clearly, this crowding was unsatisfactory. Furthermore, as a reporter commented, "it may be that it is yet perfectly safe, but the fact that, in the northwest corner of the second story, the ceiling has pulled away from the wall or the wall from the ceiling, so that there is a gap of about four inches, does not tend to increase one's confidence in the safety of the structure."⁹ At a school board meeting in May, 1897, board president Major H. Dubois explained that three years ago the school board called a meeting to consider the question of a new building. A committee was appointed but nothing came of the effort. Since then he said that the board "has kept an eye on the building, has watched it closely and only temporary repairs have been put on it." He added that a two-story brick building with outside measurements of 43 by 50 feet, with hall 26 x 12 feet, cloak rooms 31/2 x 13 feet, all with ceilings of the first story 13 feet high and of the second story 12 1/2 feet high, could be put up for about \$6,000. After discussion, the school board decided to "build on the present site providing a satisfactory title can be obtained."¹⁰

Even after this decision, four years passed before construction began and the first attempt was unsuccessful. In 1901 the first contractor for building a new school was fired and in 1902 his masonry was torn down and a new structure begun. This time the school board received the commodious and handsome building that they had envisioned. As the Burlingame Enterprise reported on August 22, 1901, "the impression has gotten out that Contractor Schultz [sic, also identified as Schrage?] was never notified legally or otherwise to stop work on the new school house. The first point is that the school board ordered the work stopped four times. First a verbal order was given on July 8th. Second, a written notice was given on July 9th. Third, a verbal notice the next morning after the indignation meeting held in the city building. Fourth, on Thursday evening immediately after the adjournment of the annual school meeting. Whether the notices were in proper form and legal is another matter."¹¹

Construction began again in the spring. The Enterprise reported that "work will commence today" [April 3, 1902] on the new school house. The other newspaper in Burlingame, the Chronicle, described the first step on April 4. "The school board got tired of trying to effect a settlement with the contractor for the school building and set a dozen men to work yesterday to yanking the foundation out so that another building can be commenced. The men did not have any great amount of trouble getting the wall to come down. A push with a pick would send over pieces of the wall which would fall to the ground like so much loose stone and sand. The mortar did not set and appears like nothing more than whitened sand. There can be no doubt in the mind of anyone who took a look at the wall as to the inferior quality of it. In several places, especially on the west side, there were cracks running from top to bottom of the wall and one in particular was opened so wide that the hand could be put into it. The work of putting up the new building will go along under the supervision of J. F.

⁷ William G. Cutler, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, IL: A. T. Andreas, 1883), Osage County, Part 5, 1-2. Accessed online 4 December 2009 at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/osage/osage-co-pt.html>, 1-3.

⁸ "About Burlingame," Topeka Capital 31 March 1888.

⁹ Osage County Chronicle 20 January 1897.

¹⁰ Osage County Chronicle 27 May 1897.

¹¹ Burlingame Enterprise, "News Notes," 22 August 1901., p. 5, col. 4.

Mehl, and this in itself insures a good building. It will be located a little south and east of the foundation just taken out. The cost of the new building will be about \$6100.00¹²

On May 15, the Enterprise commented, "the stone for the new school house is a blue limestone from the George Mader quarry north of town. The quality of the stone is the best in this locality." On May 16, the Chronicle described the new structure under construction in very personal terms, "the foundation on the new school building is nearing completion. It is a might good wall that is being put in. The plans are entirely different from the others discarded. There will be four school rooms to the building and an extra room for the library. The hall will be in the center, and Miss Adams and Miss Haller will each have one of the ground floor rooms. Miss Rehbein's scholars will be brought to the new building and occupy on of the upstairs rooms. The library will be upstairs over the hallway. It will have a nice room. That will leave one extra room which no doubt will be needed as the school is growing. Miss Vaughn's room is now over-crowded, she having seventy-nine pupils. It will require another teacher as it is too large a number for one teacher to handle. The brick work will be commenced on the new building in about two weeks. The brick is here, being the same grade as is used on the Rulison building. Mr. Pratt [sic, Issac Platt?] of Lyndon, who had charge of putting up that building, will have charge of the brick work on the school building."¹³ Local brickmakers George and Arthur Ramskill furnished about 100,000 brick for the school house. The Enterprise commented that their brick was used for the inside wall of the new school house so the pressed face brick may have been imported.¹⁴

At a ceremony July 8, 1902, the cornerstone of the eagerly awaited new school house was laid. In her address, Mrs. Effie Miner, noted that "this building is erected on one of the historic spots of the old town." There was music; attorney C. H. Curtis presided and a large crowd attended.¹⁵ Unfortunately, the new school building was not completed in time for the opening of school in September and classes were dispersed throughout the town. As the Chronicle reported on September 19, "school will commence next Monday. Miss Haller's room will be in the Oliver building next to the Chronicle office. Miss Conley's room will be in the city building, and Miss Arnold's in the basement of the High school building. The new building will be done some time between Thanksgiving and Christmas." In fact, the community had to provide additional funds for the long-needed building. According to the Chronicle on November 19, "the building that has been commenced and is nearly completed for the primary school is a fine structure. It is well made of good material throughout. It is large, roomy and will serve the purpose for generations. Anyone who will take the pains to go and examine the structure must be convinced that from foundation to roof-top it is a good building. It is going to take some more money to complete it, and while doing so the best plan is to do it well. A petition has been circulated for bonds to the amount of \$2500 to finish it. This should have the general support of the district."¹⁶

A city bond election scheduled for November 20 was called off because the petition was incorrectly worded. Although a second vote in December affirmed support for the bond issue, it did not carry because the issue required a majority of all voters in the districts and there were not enough "yes" votes. Finally, in an election on January 2, 1903, 570 votes out of the 985 registered voters were cast with only 7 votes against the bond issue. With this success, the school board could actually pay for the nearly completed building.

Local newspapers described the new building and its operation with a full measure of civic pride and provided a glimpse of a typical turn-of-the century town graded school. The first classes were held in the new building in January, 1903. On January 29, 1903, the Chronicle boasted, "Burlingame is proud of her new school building and she has a perfect right to be. A neater, more up-to-date school building of its size does not exist in Kansas. The material used in its construction is the best obtainable and the quality of the workmanship is beyond criticism. The rooms are all well lighted, ventilated and heated and have the appearance of a comfortable room at home rather than the usual dinginess of school rooms. Of these rooms there are four to be used as class rooms and one as a library. This room will answer the purpose very well until the new Carnegie Library is erected in the city park after which it will be a good place for the "trimming down" of the young aspirant who disobeys his teacher or plays the game commonly known as "hooky." At present there are three classes in the new building; the primary taught by Miss Ada Haller and also the first and second grade conducted by Miss Alberta Conley and Sophia Arnold, three of as good a teacher as ever graced a school room. Yes, Burlingame is proud of her school and their Principal and teachers are proud of its efficient school board and prouder yet of the bright intelligent pupils. God bless them."¹⁷

¹² Burlingame Enterprise, "News Notes," 3 April 1902, p. 5, col. 1; Osage County Chronicle 4 April 1902. Mehl was a Burlingame resident. According to the 1910 Federal census, J. F. Mehl was a 54-year-old "house carpenter" with a wife and three grown children in his home (this information provided by Sarah Martin, National Register coordinator).

¹³ Osage County Chronicle 16 May 1902; Burlingame Enterprise, "News Notes," 29 May 1902, p. 5, col. 1.

¹⁴ Osage County Chronicle, 2 June 1902; Burlingame Enterprise 5 June 1902, "News Notes," p. 5, col. 1.

¹⁵ Burlingame Enterprise, 10 July 1902, p. 4, col. 3-6, p. 5, col. 2 Osage County Chronicle 11 July, 1902.

¹⁶ Osage County Chronicle, 19 November 1902.

¹⁷ Osage County Chronicle 29 January 1903.

The passage of mandatory consolidation in the 1960s had a significant impact on country, town, and city schools. The growth in city schools was due primarily to the post-war baby boom, but also reflected increased student populations from annexation and consolidation. New construction materials and techniques provided inexpensive and lightweight construction that featured wide flexibility for interior spaces. Sprawling one-story facilities became the norm.¹⁸ These trends were reflected in the construction of a Modern style wing in 1954 behind the original Schuyler School building.

Late in 1952, the Burlingame school board acquired the property to the west where the historic Presbyterian Church once stood. Supporters of a new grade school building lobbied the school board in February, 1953, and the board agreed that the construction of such a building would be incorporated in any proposal submitted to patrons of the district.¹⁹ Town leaders set a bond election for May 29, 1953, which, if approved, would provide funds for an addition to the high school building and a new grade school building.²⁰ However, voters did not approve the \$200,000 bond issue for construction of a new grade school building and \$65,000 for a vocational agriculture addition to the high school.

Consequently, in June, 1954, the school board considered the “problems facing the school system and arrived at what is believed to fundamental requirements as soon as possible for the Burlingame district.” Board members unanimously agreed to propose a four-room addition to the present (Schuyler) building with two restroom facilities and school equipment and a vocational agriculture building. By providing restrooms in the addition, the old restrooms could be removed and that space added to basement class rooms. As the reporter explained, the board’s action was intended to take care of immediate needs because the general community growth and the possible inclusion of one nearby school district plus part of another district “could very likely crowd the building again a few years from now.”²¹

Another bond issue election was scheduled July 16, 1954 with two questions to approve an amount of \$63,000 for the grade school addition and \$23,500 for the high school addition.²² That bond issue was approved and the school board moved ahead. Bowers & Company, Topeka, were the low bidders on construction of the two school structures and began work on the vocational agriculture addition in September, 1954. Sheahan & Deagan were low bidders on the plumbing and heating contract and Jordan Electric Company was awarded the electrical contract. Both contractors were from Topeka.²³

Early in 1955, the school board announced that Schuyler School would have a grade school principal for the next school year because additional pupils and the completion of the addition. Classes would include the fifth and sixth grades, then taught in the Lincoln building, and the addition of a kindergarten class. Despite some delays, the addition to Schuyler School was completed in May, 1955. As the newspaper commented, “grade school children in the Schuyler building were happy last week and this when they moved to the new addition which was just completed and equipped with new desks. The kindergarten, first, second and third grades initiated the new rooms and the fifth grade was moved downstairs in the old section but are also happy with the new desks and other equipment.” Superintendent R. E. McAdoo authorized the move as soon as plumbers completed installation of heating units. The report continued, “The arrangement now in effect will be continued when school reopens in the fall with the two upstairs rooms used for a divided sixth grade... The new addition has a rather unique ventilation system which forces air through classrooms into cloak rooms and out ventilators in the roof. At the same time, classrooms will be naturally lighted with large window space, further by adequate ceiling lights. The Schuyler addition will be open for inspection during the last day of school celebration during Springesta events. Everyone is welcome to see the building at that time.”²⁴

Once the new addition was occupied, the school board turned to the improvement of the “old part of the Schuyler building.” The walls and foundation of the old building were examined and found in good shape. The engineer suggested new windows matching the west wing which would provide a natural light for classrooms. However, bids exceeded the budgeted funds and the newspaper reported that no major work would be attempted on the basement, but the board issued contracts for new windows and other improvements. Bowers & Company agreed to install new “steel” windows in the old section of the Schuyler building like those installed in the new west wing. They also agreed to fill in windows in the west wall, plaster, and build shelving and closets. The Burlingame Cash Hardware store was low bidder for wiring, plumbing, and heating. The contract provided all new wiring, light fixtures, and a ventilation system for the four classrooms in the old building.

¹⁸ Spencer, “Historic Public Schools of Kansas,” Section E, 25.

¹⁹ “Patrons Request Plans Include New Grade School Building, Burlingame Enterprise-Chronicle 5 March 1953.

²⁰ “School Bond Election Set for Friday, May 29,” Burlingame Enterprise-Chronicle 7 May 1953.

²¹ “New Proposal for School Buildings,” Enterprise-Chronicle 17 June 1954.

²² “School Building Plans to be Given,” Enterprise-Chronicle 8 July 1954.

²³ “Bowers Co. Low Bidders on Buildings,” Enterprise-Chronicle 16 September 1954.

²⁴ “Grade School Moves into New Schuyler Annex,” Enterprise-Chronicle 12 May 1955.

Renovation was nearly completed by August 11, 1955. As the Enterprise-Chronicle described, "new and large windows like those in the east and west [sic, actually in the north and south facades] and wainscoting was removed from the walls and stairways inside which was followed by plastering. The work greatly helps the interior and after painting is completed, the old rooms will look almost as nice as the new." Other improvements included a heating system in the old section similar to the new building which provided ventilation of the cloak rooms into the main hall. Removal of the old restrooms opened the basement rooms for indoor recreation. Fire escapes were provided to the west with an exit to the roof of the new addition from the second floor. A firewall was constructed between the old and new sections. The newspaper article commented, "the original Schuyler school structure is sound from the foundation to the roof in spite of the fact that bricks in the wall are not as hard as modern bricks. The roof dormers, which identify the period in which the old building was built, are said to be good and do not affect the roof in particular. Floors in the old building are hardwood and in good condition. They will not be refinished this year for lack of funds and time, but, if sanded, would be very attractive."²⁵

Construction of the Modern-style addition and renovation of the Romanesque-style school building were the major alterations to the historic Schuyler School. It served at the community grade school until May, 2001 when a new school building was constructed. A detached annex building was constructed in the 1970s and was used as a classroom, lunchroom, and gymnasium. The Burlingame Historical Preservation Society was organized in April, 2001 and acquired the former school building in October 1, 2001. A grand opening of the Burlingame Schuyler Museum was held June 22, 2002.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burlingame Town Association, "Burlingame: Kansas Territory, Its Location, Present Improvements and Future Prospects," (Topeka, KS: Ross Brothers, 1857).

Cutler, William G., History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, IL: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Accessed online 4 December 2009 at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/osage/osage-co-pt.html>.

Newspapers

Burlingame Enterprise 4 January 1912; "News Notes," 22 August 1901, p. 5, col. 4; "News Notes," 3 April 1902, p. 5, col. 1; "News Notes," 29 May 1902, p. 5, col. 1; "News Notes" 5 June 1902, p. 5, col. 1; 10 July 1902, p. 4, col. 3-6.

Burlingame Enterprise-Chronicle "Patrons Request Plans Include New Grade School Building," 5 March 1953; "School Bond Election Set for Friday, May 29," 7 May 1953; "New Proposal for School Buildings," 17 June 1954; "School Building Plans to be Given," 8 July 1954; "Bowers Co. Low Bidders on Buildings," 16 September 1954; "Grade School Moves into New Schuyler Annex," 12 May 1955; "Renovations of Grade School Pared Down," 23 June 1955; "Grade School Nearly Finished," 11 August 1955.

Osage County Chronicle 27 December 1872; 20 January 1897; 27 May 1897; 16 May 1902; 2 June 1902; 11 July 1902; 19 November 1902; 29 January 1903

Topeka Capital "About Burlingame," 31 March 1888.

Other

Nimz, Dale E. and Susan Ford, "Burlingame Downtown Historic Preservation Survey," Project Report (2010).

Spencer, Brenda R., "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) 2005.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
 previously listed in the National Register

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency

²⁵ "Renovations of Grade School Pared Down," Enterprise-Chronicle 23 June 1955; "Grade School Nearly Finished," Enterprise-Chronicle 11 August 1955.

Schuyler Grade School
Name of Property

Osage County, KS
County and State

previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: **Kansas Historical Society**

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

10. Geographical Data

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

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>253460</u> Easting	<u>4293930</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Lots 1-5, E 6.5' Lot 6, Block 33, Burlingame Original Town.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

This is the original site of the Schuyler Grade School and these lots are historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale Nimz, historic preservation consultant; research by Linda Fagan, BHPS
organization For Burlingame Historical Preservation Society date October 27, 2010
street & number 1928 Countryside Lane Telephone 785.842.8992
city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66044
e-mail dalenimz@gmail.com

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

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: Schuyler Grade School
City or Vicinity: Burlingame
County/State: Osage County, Kansas
Photographer: Dale Nimz
Date: 29 September 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 of 15 | Main façade, view from east. |
| 2 of 15 | Main block and addition, view from east southeast. |
| 3 of 15 | South façade, view from southwest. |
| 4 of 15 | Main block and addition, view from west southwest. |
| 5 of 15 | North façade, addition, accessory buildings from northeast. |
| 6 of 15 | West accessory building, view from southeast. |
| 7 of 15 | Interior, stairway detail. |
| 8 of 15 | Interior, stairway. |
| 9 of 15 | Interior, first floor south classroom, view from east. |
| 10 of 15 | Interior, second floor south classroom, view from west. |
| 11 of 15 | Interior, second floor south classroom, view from east. |
| 12 of 15 | Hallway in addition, view from east. |
| 13 of 15 | Southeast classroom in addition, view from northwest. |
| 14 of 15 | Northwest classroom in addition, view from northeast. |

Property Owner:

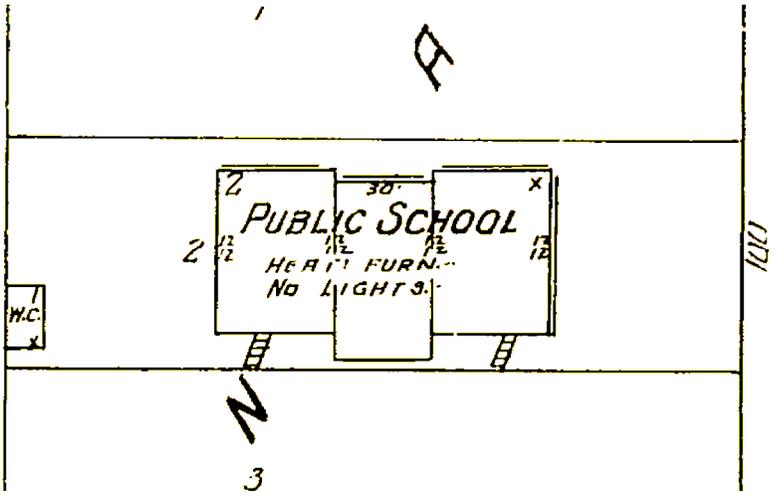
(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Burlingame Historical Preservation Society (BHPS), attn: Linda Fagan, Carolyn Strohm
street & number 117 S. Dacotah Telephone 785.654.3170
city or town Burlingame state KS zip code 66413

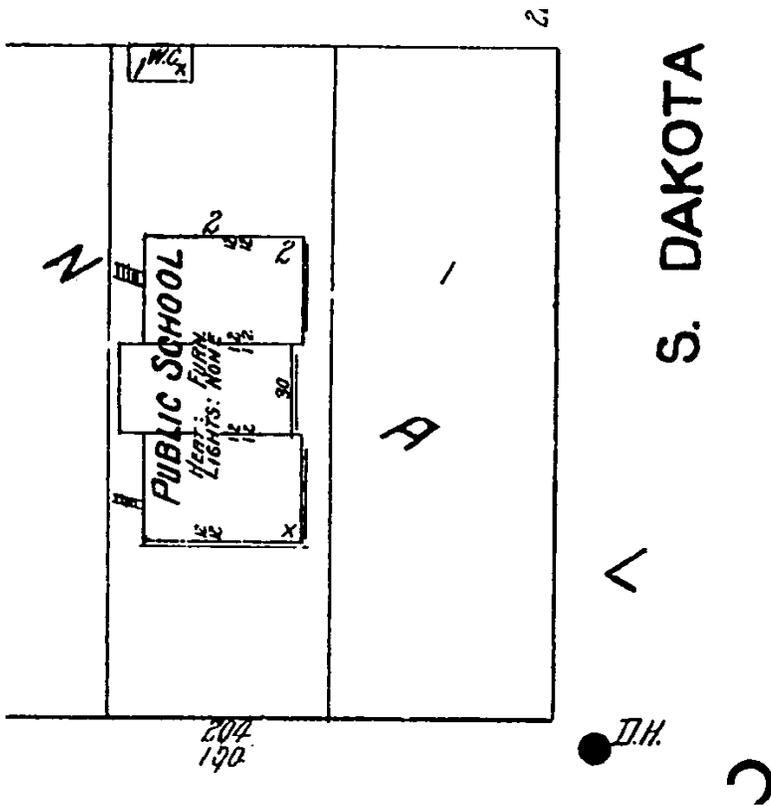
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – 1912, Sheet 1



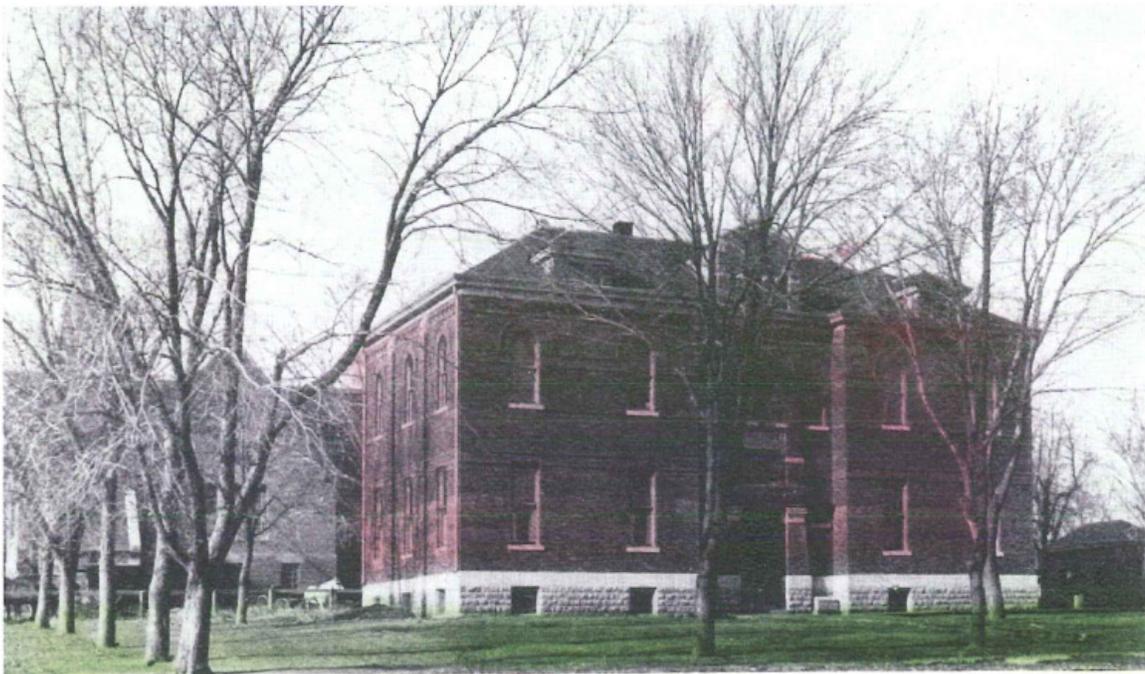
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – 1923, Sheet 3



Historic Photographs – Courtesy of Burlingame Historical Preservation Society



This 1908 photograph of the school shows the steps and doors inside the entryway.



Historic Photograph: From a postcard c.1908. The school was 6 years old at this time.