Register of Historic Kansas Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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 an 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name   Gill School District 33
   Other names/site number   KHRI # 109-64
   Name of related Multiple Property Listing   Historic Public Schools of Kansas

2. Location
   street & number   1601 Plains Rd
   city or town   Wallace
   state   Kansas code   K.S. county   Logan code   zip code   67761
   not for publication
   vicinity

3-4. Certification
   I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.
   Applicable State Register Criteria:   x   A   B   C   D

   Signature of certifying official/Title   Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO
   Date

   Kansas State Historical Society
   State agency
5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)</th>
<th>Category of Property (Check only one box)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x private</td>
<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing buildings 1 Noncontributing buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public - Local</td>
<td>district</td>
<td>district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public - State</td>
<td>site</td>
<td>site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public - Federal</td>
<td>structure</td>
<td>structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>object</td>
<td>object</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register

0

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION: school</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTHER: vernacular, one-room schoolhouse</td>
<td>foundation: STONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls: STONE, STUCCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: WOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other: BRICK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gill School-District 33 (Wallace, Logan County) was built in 1888 by early settlers of the area. The school was constructed of Niobrara limestone, believed to be locally quarried. It is possible that the limestone was re-purposed from the then recently abandoned Fort Wallace, located seven miles to the west. The schoolhouse is a simple rectangular form with a front-gable roof. There are two entry bays on the front of the building, a chimney on the rear, and three windows on each side. The form and style of the schoolhouse are typical of early one-room country schoolhouses. Constructed of native limestone and bearing no specific stylistic references, the school is classified as a vernacular one-room schoolhouse.

The interior of the school also reflects the style and layout of traditional one-room country schools. The interior is currently in a dilapidated condition; the original walls are plaster over stone with wood wainscoting, and the original ceiling was of wooden beadboard. Except for the entry bay, the school is one room designed to serve all children of families in the area. Overall, it retains its historic location, setting, feeling, and association. The design and workmanship alterations to the building are historic alterations. However, due to the severe deterioration, the design, workmanship, and materials have been significantly impacted.

Site:
Gill School District 33 at 1601 Plains Rd (Wallace, Logan County) is located 2.5 miles south of U.S. Highway 40 on Plains Road, near Wallace and Logan Counties. The school is located on the north side of the road at a distance of 50 ft. The entire property site consists of two acres and is surrounded immediately by dry-agricultural lands; irrigated circles are within a quarter-mile to the north and east. The site is covered in buffalo grass and native grasses. Remnants of bushes mark the western boundary of the property.

The entrance to the property is created by Road 110 on the north side of Plains. There is no playground, outhouse, or cistern pump remaining on the site. Two cisterns remain one to the south and one to the west of the schoolhouse. Water was hauled to the cisterns for school use. A stone foundation, approximately 12' x 8', remains of the coal shed to the north of the school.

Exterior
The one-story stone schoolhouse is a simple rectangular form measuring approximately 25.5' x 35', including the entryway addition. The wood frame gable roof has one-by sheathing and remnants of wood shingles. The peak of the gable is 16' tall, and the eaves are 10.5' tall. The entire structure is covered in a deteriorated wood shingle with some visible openings in the roof. There is no distinct or ornamentation on the structure, other than the identifying keystones.

The school faces south fronting Plains road and features a single double-hung wood window on the entrance's east side. The single entry vestibule on the front (south) of the school is a later but historic alteration and constructed of wood with a gable roof. It was expanded circa 1940-50s, extending to the west and covering one window. The vestibule's dimensions are 16' from east to west and 8' from north to south with a 12' gable peak and 8' at the eaves. There is a double horizontal wood window on the south side of the vestibule and a single wood door on the east-side. A concrete slab makes a step and stoops into the vestibule entrance. A stone inscribed "SCHOOL DIST. No.33, 1888" is inserted above the original stone entrance; directly beneath it is another stone inscribed "N.H. Martin, Builder." The stucco was also added to the schoolhouse sometime in the late 1940s-early 1950s, likely to save the stone building from deterioration.
The east and west facades are identical, each with three evenly spaced windows. The windows are 4'4" tall x 2'6" wide. They are wood-framed double-hung windows with a single pane per frame, but the windows are missing all glass. The windows and lintels have a slight arch shape. Underneath the stucco, the windows have limestone lintels and sills. They appear to be original wood windows.

The red brick chimney is located on the north end of the building and is still in good condition. There are no existing windows or openings on the north-facing side (back) of the building.

**Interior**
The interior of the entryway vestibule is wallboard over wood framing. The tongue and groove flooring are still intact in the vestibule but in a rotted condition. The ceiling is disintegrating. A south-facing double window measures 5' wide x 3' tall (originally, this was an exterior window until the vestibule was expanded). Very few other features remain in the entryway. A shelf was installed on the west wall for lunch pails and a water bucket with a ladle at one time.

A nearly intact door remains, leading into the main classroom but is in very poor condition, with a missing door panel. The classroom floor is littered with debris from the fallen-in roof. Remains of wooden beadboard wainscoting still surround most of the classroom. The blackboards are missing from the front of the classroom, with the original limestone now revealed. What was once the north window was filled in early in the school's history, and the window alcove became the school's storied library, once consisting of 300 volumes. It had cupboard doors originally, but those no longer remain. Few other features are remaining inside the school. There was never indoor plumbing.

**Alterations**
Exterior alterations include the addition of stucco and the front vestibule and its expansion, which are historic alterations. The demolition of the coal shed was once located north and slightly west of the school. The original coal shed was made of wood. Evidence of two cisterns exist; the one on the west is the original cistern, and a later cistern was established on the south of the school.

**Condition & Integrity**
The school is in a dilapidated condition. Most of the roof structure is gone but has been now protected with a plastic tarp. The limestone structure is still in good condition due to the stucco's protective covering over the years. The stone/concrete foundation is still in stable condition. There are cracks in the stucco, but it remains largely intact. The exterior door to the vestibule is missing. The schoolhouse retains in its original location, with the surrounding rural and agricultural setting intact. The building still feels like a one-room schoolhouse, and it can be directly associated with that historic period. Since the building has sat vacant for many years and the envelope is not sealed, there is severe deterioration to the windows and most of the interior structure, ceiling, floors, walls, etc. Therefore, the materials, design, and workmanship are significantly impacted.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria
(Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State 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)

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

Period of Significance
1888-1960

Significant Dates
1888

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance begins with the construction of the schoolhouse in 1888 and continues through the use of the school into 1960. The school is very important to the rural education in Logan County.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
N/A
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph *(Provide a summary paragraph that notes under what criteria the property is nominated.)*

Gill School - District 33, located in Wallace, Logan County is nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places. The school is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its historic association with rural education in the state and as the only known remaining rural one-room school in Logan County. The school served the community of Gill and far-West Central Logan County. The Gill School served the very local community in Western Township for seventy-one years, the last term being the 1959-1960 school year.

Elaboration *(Provide a brief history of the property and justify why this property is locally significant.)*

Wallace & Logan County Context
Logan County was originally part of Wallace County when it was established in 1868 and is located western Kansas. Prior to 1893, it was required of Kansas counties that they have a minimum of 4,325 square miles and be small enough that the county seat could be reached in a day’s journey from any point within its borders. Therefore, in 1881, Wallace County was divided, and all land approximately 101° W and 39° N became St. John County, named for the contemporary Kansas governor. Governor St. John left the GOP to become a Prohibitionist candidate in 1886, and this angered local Republicans, so they asked the Legislature to change the County name to honor General John A. Logan, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic. Logan died on December 26, 1886, and the state legislature granted the request in February 1887. The first county seat was at Russell Springs, and the first County Superintendent of Schools was R.S. Tumpany. The population of the county at the time of organization was 3,112. In 1888, there were 37 school districts in Logan County.

Homesteader George Gill arrived at Wallace, Kansas, in an emigrant train car on February 17, 1887. He was a Civil War Veteran originally from Massachusetts who had served the Army as a bootmaker. George, his wife Charlotte, and five children initially resided in the old Fort Wallace stone hospital. The Fort had recently been decommissioned from service and was in the process of being dismantled. After he had completed his one and a half story house, work began on a schoolhouse on the corner of his homestead. Education was important to the family, and George donated the plot of land. The school was built of locally quarried yellow limestone and opened in 1889. George Gill added an addition to his home housing a general store and a post office, and for a time, the community of Gill was shown on maps.

Gill School History ¹
A two-mill levy was established, and the newly-elected board voted to build the school at a cost not to exceed $600. A subsequent meeting of patrons established bonds to pay for the school. Construction proceeded in August, and the school was completed in time to open the school in January 1889. District #33 Clerk records show school expenses, including labor, furniture, coal shed, and building materials costs. Records do not reflect any more information about the "locally-quarried limestone." With this absence of information, it is speculated that the limestone was purchased or scavenged from Fort Wallace, which was supposedly still being dismantled at this time. The Fort had been built with locally-quarried limestone, as well as wood and materials delivered by the railroad. Homesteaders were taking these materials since the Fort was abandoned in 1882, and the Fort Military Reservation had been released by 1888. Under these circumstances, it is not difficult to imagine that some of the materials made their way into the construction of the Gill School.

¹ Gill School Renovation Committee Patty Lou Lock (and Gill School former student) has possession of early Gill School records, including the minutes of the initial meeting to form the new school district on August 8, 1888.
The first teacher, Mrs. Olive Burr, received $30 a month to instruct students. District records show a varying number of students, with as few as eight, but usually between fourteen to twenty-four students. There was often an excellent education since the school had a reputation for producing more educators than any other school in the area. Previous students remember the cistern used for washing and drinking water, with parents taking turns keeping the cistern full. Each student brought their lunch in a 1-gallon syrup pail. The extensive library in the Gill School is often mentioned as a fine asset.

The teachers and pupils describe some of the happy times. One student, Patty Lou Kirkhan Lock said, "In the Fall and spring when Mr. McNall taught, sometimes we would take our lunches and go to the Smoky River on our noon hours. We would play games, go wading, learn how to use a bow and arrow, make sand castles and just have fun." It is also interesting that one student, Jerome "Pete" Bussen, only received an eighth-grade education at the Gill School but became a well-known self-educated paleontologist, with specimens placed at the Cleveland Natural History Museum and the University of Kansas.

The school closed in 1960 due to the inability to find a suitable teacher. The students were bussed to a school in Wallace. Kirkham family members have owned the schoolhouse in the subsequent years. It is currently owned by Patty Lou Kirkham Lock, who attended Gill School until its closing in 1960.

**Kansas Education Context**  
In 1858, the Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools was set up to help create a better education system for earlier settlers. The Superintendent established the first school laws to help establish the structure based on eastern states' systems. As part of the structure, the county superintendent positions were created to oversee schools at a local level and relieve responsibility from the city council. "The early laws established the basic structure of the Kansas education system that remained in effect for over 100 years."  

By 1896, there were 9,284 school districts, and consolidation began in the eastern counties. One major concern regarding consolidation for western counties was the issue of transportation and accessibility.

By 1920, enrollment in one-teacher schools was 139,000, a drop of over 40,000 students in ten years. Although the enrollment in one-teacher schools was declining at a rapid pace, the number of organized school districts was still well over 8,000 in the 1930s. The persistent challenge of consolidation is traced to two primary factors. First and foremost was the absence of legislation mandating consolidation and second was public opinion against consolidation. Just as small towns fight against the loss of their schools today, most communities ignored attempts at consolidation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The rural school was often the center of the community, used for social and political gatherings as well as the education of local children.

In the 1930s, the education system was changed after a thirty-year effort to improve the system. Until 1937, there was no consistent funding source for schools, but the State Aid Act (or School Equalization Act) created a sales tax that was explicitly designated for elementary schools and weaker school districts. The 1938-89 school year report showed that "84% of the total school districts in the state were one-teacher schools and those schools were educating only 19% of the state's school children." In 1966, the current structure for the Kansas Board of Education was created.

**One-room School Houses**
Fifty-eight new Kansas counties were established between 1870-90, and most often, the settlers of the area would construct the schoolhouses. Shortly after creating a community comes the schoolhouse, one of the earliest buildings in most towns. Early Kansas schoolhouses were influenced by the eastern settlers arriving in
the area, using whatever materials that were available to them, commonly in a vernacular style. "The schoolhouse symbolized permanence and was prominently located to entice new settlers as they passed early settlements." The land was donated by a community member and commonly around one-acre of land. The rectangular plan one-room schoolhouse was very common in the country school designs, usually made from native stone with a gable roof. "The common schoolhouse had three windows on each side and a single central door on the front, sometimes flanked by two windows. The interior of the schoolhouse was utilitarian with wood floors, plaster walls (sometimes with wood wainscoting), and plaster or wood ceilings... Designs were distributed for 'sanitary' outhouses, cloak rooms were recommended, and standards were developed for adequate ventilation and proper lighting."7

The Gill School - District #33 is a traditional example of the Country School property type as the one-room schoolhouse constructed to educate the children of local families on the Wallace-Logan County line in West-Central Logan County. The Gill School was a beloved institution for local families from 1889 to 1960, a total of 70 years. The school serves as a present reminder of the dedication of early settlers to educate their children and work together as a community for the betterment of all. The Gill School is the only known remaining one-room rural school in Logan County. It serves as a reminder of early education in rural Kansas and the fine education that could result from simple circumstances.

The schoolhouse is constructed of locally quarried limestone, conceivably procured from the nearby Fort Wallace. The Gill School retains its original location, design, feeling, association, and setting. The school is in a state of deterioration but has been determined to be salvageable by restoration expert Len Schamber. No major modifications have been made to the building since its closing. It has only had maintenance performed to keep the building intact as a way to help preserve the building for future generations. Gill School - District #33 is eligible for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places as a good example of education and the Country School (one-room) property type.

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6 Ibid., section E page 16
7 Ibid., section F pages 29-30
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Booklet "Gill School Memories" collected by Rebecca Kirkham Musil; Memories by Vira McMillan, Disa Teichmer David, Pearl Stanton Kirkham, Paul McNall, Dell Jackson, Ruth Unruh Williams, William Unruh, Brian Kirkham, Patty Lou Kirkham Lock, Lulu Ukele Kirkham.

Logan County Kansas Historical Society, History of Logan County, Kansas; from Prairie pioneers to pioneers of progress. Centennial Edition. 1986

National Register of Historic Places multiple property documentation, Historic Public Schools of Kansas, statewide, NRIS # 64500921.


Wallace County Historians. Wallace County History: A Story of Grass, Grit and Chips. 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates. (Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________________________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.918252 -101.463066 3  __________________________
Latitude:  Longitude:  Latitude:  Longitude:  

2  __________________________  __________________________
Latitude:  Longitude:  Latitude:  Longitude:  

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The southeast corner of S.E. quarter of Section 18, Township 13, Range 37. The site is bordered on the south by the present Plains Rd.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The boundary reflects the one acre site deeded to District No. 33 by George Gill in 1888.
Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name: Patty Lou Lock
street & number: 3130 Pebble Road
city or town: Wallace
state: K.S.
zip code: 67761

e-mail: bkirkham1@gmail.com

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Gill School – District 33
City or Vicinity: Wallace
County: Logan County
State: Kansas
Photographer: Len Schamber
Date Photographed: 8/19/2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include a description of view indicating the direction of camera:

1) Exterior facing south, from south.
2) Exterior facing west, from west
3) Exterior facing north, from north
4) Exterior facing east from east
5) Exterior entrance from east
6) Interior vestibule from the east
7) Interior classroom door from the south
8) Interior classroom overall from the south
9) Interior wainscoting and stone
10) Interior
11) Interior north library alcove
12) Exterior chimney
13) Exterior inscribed blocks over south door

Figures
Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below
Register of Historic Kansas Places Form

Gill School District 33
Name of Property

Logan County
County

Gill School District 33
1601 Plains Rd
Wallace (vicinity), Logan County
38.918252 -101.463066

Legend

- Gill School District 33
Gill School District 33
1601 Plains Rd
Wallace (vicinity), Logan County
38.918252 -101.463066
Gill School District 33

1601 Plains Rd
Wallace (vicinity), Logan County
38.918252 -101.463066

Legend
- Gill School District 33
List of Figures
Figure 1: Gill School image from 1915 – clipping from Dexter Graphic, November 3, 1960.
Figure 2: Gill School photo from 1930s – clipping from Dexter Graphic, November 3, 1960.
Figure 3: Gill School c1930s
Figure 4: Gill School “Last Day of School” photo from April 22, 1938.
Figure 5: Gill School students date unknown, possibly Halloween c1930-1940s.
Figure 6: Gill School 1890s pupils in 1940 - clipping from Dexter Graphic, November 3, 1960.
Figure 7: Community gathering at Gill School, image taken 1945.
Figure 8: Photo of Miss Case, Rebecca Kirkham, and Patty Lou Locke from 1953.
Figure 9: Page from the Wallace Grade School scrap book – image dates to 1980s.
Figure 2: Gill School photo from 1930s – clipping from Dexter Graphic, November 3, 1960.

GILL SCHOOL in the 1930’s shows little outward change. A flag staff has been added, but the vestibule and bell are still there.
Figure 3: Gill School c1930s
Figure 4: Gill School “Last Day of School” photo from April 22, 1938.
Figure 5: Gill School students date unknown, possibly Halloween c1930-1940s.
Figure 6: Gill School 1890s pupils in 1940 - clipping from Dexter Graphic, November 3, 1960.
Figure 7: Community gathering at Gill School, image taken 1945.
Figure 8: Photo of Miss Case, Rebecca Kirkham, and Patty Lou Locke from 1953.
The Gill Schoolhouse

The Gill schoolhouse was built in 1888. N.H. Martin built the school. G.J. Gill donated the land for the school. The school opened its doors in 1889. The teachers were the following: Miss Burr, J.F. Clark, Loedisa Teichmer, Mrs. A. Sheldon, Lucy Gill, Mary Kowalke, Mrs. V. McMillen, May Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Charles Davis, Prue Morgan, Malcom Peterson. Esther Williams, Clara Norris, Alfred Rogge, Lucille Burk, Maude Mabry, Mrs. Ford, R.D. Buel, Lyda Joseph, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Wassemiller, Gene Whitman, Mrs. Holmberg, Marie Kronvall, Walter David, Miss Knight, Alice Case, Addie Hill, Della Johnson, Pearl Stanton, Dean Barton, Mary Mason and Paul McNall.

Figure 9: Page from the Wallace Grade School scrap book – image dates to 1980s.
Gill School District 33
Name of Property
Logan County
County

Photo 1: Exterior south facing from southwest

Photo 2: Exterior facing west, from west
Register of Historic Kansas Places Form

Gill School District 33
Logan County

Name of Property
County

Photo 3: Exterior facing north, from north

Photo 4: Exterior facing east from east
Gill School District 33
Logan County

Name of Property

Photo 5: Exterior entrance from east
Photo 6: Interior vestibule from the east
Photo 7: Interior classroom door from the south
Photo 8: Interior classroom overall from the south

Photo 9: Interior wainscoting and stone
Gill School District 33
Name of Property
Logan County
County

Photo 10: Interior
Photo 11: Interior north library alcove
Gill School District 33

Name of Property

Logan County

County

Photo 12: Exterior chimney
Photo 13: Exterior inscribed blocks over south door