**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   Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University  

   Other names/site number Hall of Pioneers, Kansas Wesleyan University Administration Building, KHRI # 169-4900-00006  

   Name of related Multiple Property Listing  n/a

2. **Location**

   Street & number  100 E. Claflin Avenue  n/a not for publication  

   City or town  Salina  n/a vicinity  

   State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Saline  Code  169  Zip code  67401

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  

I hereby certify that this 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 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  Applicable National Register Criteria:  x A  ___ B  x C  ___ D  

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

   Kansas State Historical Society  

   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

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<th>Category of Property</th>
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<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: College

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
roof: SYNTHETIC
other: Stone detailing
Pioneer Hall is a distinguished four-story Collegiate Gothic building centrally located at the southern terminus of South Santa Fe Avenue on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus. The building is conspicuous with its prominent entry tower in the center of campus and notable as the sole remaining pre-1950 campus building. In addition to the quoined octagonal corners with crenulated parapets on the central tower, design features emblematic of the Collegiate Gothic style include the checkerboard panels, and quoined corners and window surrounds. The variegated red brick facade with contrasting Carthage limestone detailing, combined with projecting bays, varied heights, and assorted detailing serves to finely articulate the exterior of this large administrative and educational facility. The long, rectangular building has a modified E-shaped footprint with rear projecting center and end wings. The steel structure has concrete floor and roof slabs. A brick parapet with stone coping obscures the flat roof on the main building and end wings, while the chapel wing features a gabled roof with an arched ceiling inside. Administrative offices and classrooms are located along the north spine and in the end wings with Sams Chapel, a two-story, fifteen-hundred seat auditorium located in the center of the building on the south.

Original finishes were plain compared to the building’s detailed exterior with concrete floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and minimal wood trim, including chair rails and picture rails in select areas and chalkboards in classrooms. There have been three major remodelings, including converting the lower-level banquet room to a student center in 1959, accessibility improvements, including an elevator in 1995, and a major project involving interior remodeling, exterior improvements, and landscaping resulting in the existing pedestrian walkway and fountain in the front of the building and installation of replacement windows in 2008. The music department took over the area occupied by the student center as part of the 2008 project. These modifications generally involved minor changes in interior partition walls and upgrades to building systems and interior finishes. Despite replacement windows and doors, the exterior of the building retains a high level of integrity, continuing to convey its 1923 design. The interior retains a lower level of historic integrity, but primary features, including the building entrances, corridor configuration, building circulation, and Sams Chapel remain intact. Sams Chapel has undergone upgrades, but this prominent space continues to be a focal point in the building that reflects its original design and function.

Elaboration

Site
Pioneer Hall is the main administration and educational building, located in the heart of the Kansas Wesleyan University campus in south Salina. The original fifteen-acre campus established in 1886 encompassed four city-blocks bordered by Claflin Avenue on the north, Fourth Street on the east, Cloud Street on the south, and Highland Avenue on the west. Literally surrounded by farmland on the south until the 1950s, today the campus has expanded to include additional blocks to the east, west, and north. Santa Fe Avenue, Salina’s main north-south street through downtown, terminates at Claflin Avenue and aligns with the entrance of Pioneer Hall marked by a four-story tower. A pedestrian plaza extends from Claflin to the building entrance with a fountain in front of the entry. Mature trees, landscaping, and planters create a picturesque park-like pedestrian campus. Concrete walkways in an organic configuration provide pedestrian circulation throughout the heart of campus with paved parking lots held to the perimeter of campus. Parking for Pioneer Hall is located southwest of the building accessed off Cloud Street to the south.

Two campus buildings frame the approach to Pioneer Hall from the north: Memorial Library was constructed in 1948 northeast of Pioneer Hall and Sams Hall of Fine Arts built in 1953, is located northwest of the central building. An outdoor “living room” on the west, Bevan Green on the east and a devotional garden on the south/southeast of the building surround this central building with landscaped green space. A wide walk with brick pavers extends from Claflin Avenue, encircling the fountain and leading to the steps at the front of Pioneer Hall. Concrete walkways provide access to twin east and west building entrances with south access provided from the rear parking.

Figure 1 – Aerial view of site around Pioneer Hall (Google 2022).
Figure 2 – Front and Rear Elevations, excerpt from original blueprints by architect Lorentz Schmidt, 1923 (Kansas Wesleyan University)

Exterior

Constructed 1923 – 1930, Pioneer Hall features variegated red brick laid in a common running bond on exterior walls with Carthage limestone detailing. The building endures today as the centerpiece of the Kansas Wesleyan campus. The structure consists of steel columns and beams with concrete floor slabs and gypsum block interior partitions. A brick parapet with stone coping obscures a flat roof on the main body of the building; the roof is a concrete slab originally with composition roofing. The gabled roof of the chapel has steel trusses also with concrete slab and originally with composition roof. The existing roofs on all parts of the building are membrane, obscured by the brick parapet.

The building is a four-story structure with the main (2nd floor) raised one-half story above grade and the first floor partially below grade. The E-shaped footprint reflects three projecting rear wings – the end bays and center chapel bay with voids between the rear wings. The main body of the building is a rectangular form with the front facade facing north, serving as the spine of the “E.” The plan configuration is actually a modified “E” with the center and end bays projecting slightly from the front facade creating five distinct bays on the front of the building. The prominent distinguishing feature is a central rectangular tower that rises above the roof in the center of the main building, framed by octagonal corner towers terminated with a crenulated stone coping. A stepped shaped parapet with center finial spans between the corner towers on the front of the tower aligning with the peak of the gabled chapel roof to the south. Although originally designed for a clock on this parapet, that feature was eliminated in the original construction due to cost constraints. Years later, donations from the classes of 1949, 1950, and 1951 ultimately made that original feature possible. A clock with chimes
Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University

Saline, KS

was installed in 1991, bringing the original plan to fruition. 1 Stone quoining at the octagonal corners are a prominent feature as are narrow arched windows with stone surrounds that follow the spiral of the stair inside.

The central tower defines the primary building entrance accessed by concrete steps leading up to the second-floor entrance that has a quoined stone surround with a bronze plaque inscribed with the name of the building. The original entrance featured paired multi-light wood doors with multi-light sidelights and multi-light glass transom. Above the entrance, the third and fourth floors feature sets of five narrow arched windows with a quoined stone surround with carved spandrel panels between the floors. The upper windows on the tower are pivoting leaded glass panels with leaded transom panels above.

Bays two and four of the front facade comprise the body of the main building that is shorter than the center and end bays. These bays are defined by four sets of windows per bay on each floor that vary in size from a single window to a set of four windows, all matching in style (on second and third floors). The windows are 6/6 double-hung units with six-light transoms, each set of windows framed by a quoined stone surround. At the lower level, the windows match the configuration of the upper floors but are shorter in height with 2/2/4 single-hung units. A beveled stone water table separates the lower level from the first floor and a shaped stone belt course is located above the fourth-floor windows with a stepped brick parapet with stone coping capping the facade. A stone balustrade panel projects above the parapet at the outer end of these bays at the junction with the end bays. The end bays (one and five) extend out from the main body of the front facade and the corners of the bays feature stone quoining as do a two-story projecting bay of windows on the second and third floors. The window bay is three sided with a single window on the angled ends and a set of three windows in the center; these windows are 9/9 double-hung units. The fourth floor features a pair of 6/6 double-hung windows centered over the projecting bay below. The end bays rise above the height of the main body of the building but are shorter than the center tower. Like the main body of the north facade, a shaped stone belt course is located above the top window defining the brick parapet with stone coping above. A brick and stone checkerboard panel is located in the center of the parapet at the end bays.

Although missing a prominent feature like the central entry tower on the front facade, the east and west facades of Pioneer Hall are well articulated and share detailing with the north facade. These sides of the main building are five bays in width with slightly projecting end bays that have quoined corners like the front facade. The center three bays however are asymmetrical with a prominent building entrance in bay four (counting from the south end). The side entrance feeds the main E/W corridor on the first and second floors. A stair inside the entrance takes visitors up to the main/second floor, or down to the lower level. A projecting two-story stone bay defines the entry bay with a pair of doors featuring an arched fan-light transom. The third floor of the bay over the entrance has a set of three narrow windows with transoms with stone mullions between each window and between the windows and transoms. The bay is capped by a brick parapet with stone coping with quoined corners that feature a simple scupper. The fourth floor above the projecting bay is flush with the rest of the facade of the center three bays with a pair of windows. Except at the projecting entry bay, the east and west facades feature sets of windows in each bay, on each floor. The end bays have two windows while the center three bays feature sets of three windows. The windows are 6/6 double-hung units with six-light transoms. The narrow windows on the third-floor entry bay are 6/6 (vertical lights) with four-light transoms.

The south/rear facade is a generally symmetrical composition also five bays in width. The end bays project from the main body of the building and the interior stair towers also project from the main body of the facade at the junction of the end bays with the body of the main facade. The end bays are generally comprised of two pairs of double-hung windows with transoms per floor; the stairway has one pair of windows per floor, and the remaining body of the main building (bays two and four) have two sets of three windows per floor, also with transoms. The windows are 6/6 double-hung units with six-light transoms matching those on the other facades. It is bays two and four that create an asymmetrical composition on the south facade with a one-story bay in the void between the west end bay and chapel (original kitchen) and the east end bay has a three-story classroom bay extending from the west side toward the chapel making it wider than the west end bay. The west void is the location of the elevator adjacent to the west stair added in 1995.

The projecting rear bay in the center of the south facade is the chapel, extending fifty feet south of the end bays and featuring stone quoining at the corners of the bay. A gable roof with gabled parapet tops this three-story bay which houses the two-story chapel on the second floor. Two-story brick buttresses with stone caps divide the east and west sides of the chapel wing into five bays. Each bay features stained glass windows; on the upper level, three arched tripartite windows are located in the center of the facade with single rectangular windows with label lintels and quoined stone surrounds in the outer bays. The second floor features paired double-hung windows in bays one through four, with no opening in bay five at the south end of the wing. The rear/south facade features two paired double-hung windows on the upper level and sets of three double-hung windows flanked by single double-hung windows on the second floor. All of the rectangular windows have matching label lintels and quoined stone surrounds. A one-story entry bay was added to the rear/south facade of the chapel in 1959 to provide exterior access directly into the student center that occupied the first floor. The original exterior facade is extant and visible inside this entry bay.

The exterior of the building closely reflects its original design and construction. Replacement doors and windows are the primary modification on the front facade and the addition of an elevator bay and south entry bay are the primary changes on the rear facade. Existing windows match the original style, closely resembling historic views. The existing front entrance is a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors with glass sidelight, a distinct change from the original multi-light wood doors. The east and west entrances also have aluminum-framed glass doors, these with a fanlight transom.

This large administrative and classroom facility is brought to a personal scale with careful articulation of the exterior facades through the use of stone quoining, projecting bays, and varied window styles and configurations. Pioneer Hall clearly portrays the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture with its variegated red brick with contrasting limestone detailing that is characteristic of this popular early-twentieth century style of educational buildings. The stone quoining, crenulated parapet, checkerboard panels, and central tower are features emblematic of the Collegiate Gothic style. Renowned

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2 Note that the first and fourth floors windows on bays 1,2,4, and 5 of the rear facade do not have transoms.
Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt achieved an outstanding balance of function and stylistic expression in his design of this prominent set-piece building that stands as a reflection of Kansas Wesleyan University today.

Interior
The existing interior plan configuration reflects the original building design with no significant alterations. The four-story building is an E-shaped plan comprised of a lower-level that is partially below grade (first floor), the main level one-half story above grade (second floor), the third floor, and a fourth floor at center and end bays only. Concrete steps lead up to the primary entrance in the center bay on the north side of the second floor with a spacious vestibule providing access to the main corridor. Twin entrances on the east and west facades provide access via an interior stairway down to the first floor and up to the second, each aligning with the main E/W corridor. The chapel, a two and a half-story space is accessed from the main corridor of the second floor opposite the front entrance; the balcony level is accessed from the main corridor of the third floor. The end bays project on the front and rear with voids occurring between the end bays and central chapel at the rear. Twin stairs between the upper floors occur on the south side of the corridor at each end bay with adjacent corridors providing access into the end bays.

Historically, the main (second) floor housed university offices along the north side of the main wing, east and west of the central entrance. Classrooms were located in the end wings north and south of the end stairs. The third floor was laid out like the second floor except small classrooms were located across the north side of the floor where offices are located on the second floor. The two-story chapel is located in the rear center bay accessed from the main corridors of the second and third floors. The stage is located at the north end and a balcony with tiered seating on the south with narrow balconies extending along the east and west sides of the chapel. The central part of the auditorium is an open two-story space.

The first floor (lower level) originally housed girls and boys locker rooms along the north side of the floor flanking two vaults in the center, below the main building entrance above. The east end wing was used for art classrooms and the west for domestic science classrooms. The rear center bay housed a large banquet room below the chapel and a kitchen and storeroom spanned between the center and west wings at the north end.

The fourth floor occurs only at the center and end bays with no circulation between the three spaces. The end bays are accessed from stairways serving the upper floors, each housing two student society rooms with stages. The fourth floor of the center wing is located at the top of the tower accessed by a stair along the west side. This space was also designed for use as a student society room.
There have been no significant modifications to the plan configuration or uses of the upper floors. The primary improvement in circulation was the addition of an accessible rear entrance and elevator in 1995, located in the void between the rear chapel and west wing adjacent to the west stair (encompassing part of the original kitchen on the lower level). The elevator serves the first through third floors. The fourth-floor original student society rooms have been converted to classrooms with the original stages removed and instructor offices installed between the classrooms. The top room in the central tower is now used for archival storage. The third floor continues to be used as classroom space with small instructor offices located between some classrooms and in the original classroom in the north end of the west wing. A computer lab is centrally located over the main entrance in the tower. The second floor is now largely occupied by administrative offices with offices located in original classrooms in the end wings. The exception is Miller Chapel, a small chapel used for choir practice, located in the south end of the east wing in an original classroom. There have been no alterations to the configuration of the Sams Chapel in the center wing.

The lower level of Pioneer Hall has undergone major changes in use since the building’s original design. The locker rooms along the north wall and the former classrooms in the west end wing are in use as administrative offices. There have been no significant changes in the configuration of the entrances, main corridor or primary circulation. The former banquet hall in the rear chapel wing was remodeled in 1959 to house the McAdams Student Center, formerly located in Lockwood Hall. This transition involved some new partition walls for meeting rooms, a game room and snack bar in the former open banquet room with a wide central corridor connecting the rear entry with the main building corridor on the north. Available historic views of this space when it was in use as the student center, illustrate carpet and tile flooring. A new rear entrance was added on the south end of the wing as part of the remodeling to provide direct access into the student center. With the construction of Hauptli Student Center in a new facility on campus in 2008, the music department now occupies the lower level of the chapel wing in the space formerly occupied by the student center.

According to the 1923 drawings, original finishes throughout the building were relatively plain with floors being exposed "cement" with cement base in corridors, classrooms, and offices throughout. Walls and ceilings were plaster on metal lath, furred at perimeter walls, and on gypsum block interior partition walls. Doors were 1/1 paneled wood doors and wood trim included baseboards in select rooms such as chapel, a chair rail in corridors and chapel, picture molding in corridors, classrooms, and offices, and chalkboards in most classrooms. The few historic interior views of the building illustrate that tile flooring was installed in corridors; corridor walls retained original trim in these ca.1960s photos. Today, corridors have had (plaster or sheetrock) walls and ceilings. Most offices and classrooms have sheetrock wall finish, furred at perimeter walls and suspended ceilings, and carpet flooring. Corridors have carpet flooring with tile at the front entry.

Completed in 1926, prior to the building’s completion, Sams Chapel received the highest level of finish of the interior spaces featuring an arched plaster ceiling with ornate tracery, paneled wood at the balcony railing, and paneled wood and plaster surround at the proscenium arch framing the stage. “The Coming of the Pioneers” mural is located in the proscenium arch above the stage, and stained glass windows provide soft filtered light at perimeter walls contributing to a serene feeling throughout the chapel. The chapel had a wood stage and wood theater seating in the auditorium and on the balcony. Sams Chapel retains a high level of historic integrity with stained glass windows, plaster ceiling, stage, proscenium arch, and mural all in place today as well as historic pendant lighting. The primary changes in the chapel have been the installation of upholstered theater seating and carpet flooring.
The interior of the building retains a moderate degree of historic integrity due largely to updated contemporary finishes rather than any major modification of significant features. The building entrances, corridor configuration, and chapel remain largely unchanged despite upgrading the building’s accessibility.

**Integrity**

Existing and historic conditions are detailed above. Following is an outline of the three known major projects involving Pioneer Hall and a summary of the building’s historic and architectural integrity.

- The first floor was remodeled at a cost of $85,000 in 1959 to accommodate the McAdams Student Center in the original banquet room.
- A 1995 renovation involved the addition of a ramp and elevator inside SW rear entrance to improve the building’s accessibility. This project also included further improvements to the first floor, including changes to the student center (original banquet room). The elevator was located adjacent to the interior west stair within the footprint of the original lower-level kitchen.
- The student center was moved to a new building on campus in 2008, accommodating an expansion of the Music Department on the lower level of Pioneer Hall. This $1 million project involved interior and exterior improvements to the building as well as landscaping. The circle drive off Claflin Avenue at the front entrance to Pioneer Hall was converted to a pedestrian walkway maintaining the same circular configuration. A rock fountain and landscaping were added to the new walkway in front of the building. The original limestone piers framing the front drive off Claflin (gifted by the Class of 1912), and the Wishing Well, were relocated to the southeast side of the building.

Undocumented alterations include the replacement of exterior doors with the existing aluminum-framed glass doors and the modern interior finishes. The exterior of the building continues to clearly convey the building’s 1923 design, even with the new doors and windows, new rear entrance, and accessibility improvements. The rear entrance and accessibility upgrades are not highly visible from primary viewsheds and do not significantly impact the building’s character. The original stained glass windows in the chapel and leaded glass arched windows on the front facade remain in place; the replacement double-hung windows match the style of the original windows and therefore do not negatively affect the building’s character. Although the replacement exterior doors are noticeably modern replacements, this alteration is a common upgrade on historic structures and not does not have a major effect on historic integrity.

The building’s interior retains a moderate degree of historic integrity with minor changes in the configuration of interior partition walls and finishes and fixture upgrades throughout. The most significant interior features – the building entrances, circulation paths, and the chapel have no significant changes in configuration. The interior of Sams Chapel has undergone upgrades but continues to reflect its original design and features, including light fixtures, the balcony, stage, proscenium, and its 1928 mural. Pioneer Hall has served Kansas Wesleyan University for more than ninety years and continues to house the primary administrative offices, educational classrooms, and serve as home to Sams Chapel. The exterior clearly reflects its original Collegiate Gothic design and the interior of the building retains key features that contribute to its historic significance. The modifications and fixture and finish upgrades do not affect the building’s historic character to a degree that would make it ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
United States Department of the Interior
NPS Form 10-900

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
OMB No. 1024-0018

Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University
Saline, KS

Name of Property
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

X 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

Education

Architecture

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

1922-1930

Significant Dates

1922

1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Lorentz Schmidt and Co., Wichita (architect)

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance is the building’s design and construction spanning from 1922 to 1930.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

NA
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary
Pioneer Hall, the administration building of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Saline County, Kansas is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its local significance in the area of Education and Architecture. Kansas Wesleyan University was established in 1886 by the newly formed Northwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The fifteen-acre campus, donated by the city of Salina to attract the university, was positioned at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue, surrounded by farmland. The original administration building was completed, and Kansas Wesleyan University opened its doors for classes on September 15, 1886, with sixty-three college and preparatory students and eleven faculty. A business school and music school, run by the University, were located in downtown Salina, contributing to a close relationship between the city and college. The original administration building stood prominently as the only campus building for seventeen years, followed by a period of physical expansion that included the construction of a women’s dormitory, new science hall, and gymnasium as well as gifts of two spatial homes near campus used for residence halls. During this time additional land was acquired that doubled the size of the campus allowing the creation of an athletic field, landscaping, and general improvement of the campus.

Pioneer Hall became the eighth campus building, constructed over an eight-year period that was marked by construction delays and economic challenges. By this time, the college served nearly 1,000 students and was preparing to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. Named “The Hall of the Pioneers” at its dedication on September 14, 1930, the new building was named to honor those in the city, state, and university who gave of themselves to establish the foundation of this new university.

Located at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue, the stately four-story Collegiate Gothic building presents a majestic presence on the tree-lined campus. Over the past ninety-two years, Pioneer Hall has served and continues to serve the varied administrative and educational needs of the university. Sams Chapel, a 1500-seat auditorium with stage is an original feature of the building, funded in large part by a contribution from E.C. Sams, original employee and founding manager of the J.C. Penney Co. The Coming of the Pioneers, a mural painted by Robert W. Grafton, is located on the proscenium arch above the stage. The chapel and mural remain prominent features in the building today. Locally significant as the centerpiece of the Kansas Wesleyan campus and architecturally as an outstanding example of Collegiate Gothic architecture, the period of significance for Pioneer Hall reflects the building’s design and construction spanning 1922-1930. The building maintains integrity of feeling and association, conveying the Collegiate Gothic style that was popularized on Collegiate campuses across the nation in the early twentieth century. It is also significant as a representative of the work of renowned Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt. The building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials and workmanship, interpreting the 1923 design and subsequent construction.

Elaboration

The city of Salina and founding of Kansas Wesleyan University
In April 1858, a group of Scottish immigrants led by William A. Philips founded a town beside the Smoky Hill River, an ideal location for agriculture and trade. As the westernmost town on the Smoky Hill Trail, Salina quickly established a burgeoning trade; but growth was halted with the outbreak of the Civil War. Following the war, the city resumed its central position in trade. Salina was incorporated and began building flour mills to process the grain from the surrounding area. When the Kansas Pacific Railroad arrived in 1867, the community rapidly transitioned into an industrial town. The first building in Salina was located on the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Iron Avenue. As the railroad brought new immigrants to the city, good frame buildings replaced the log cabins of the early pioneers, and a stone courthouse was erected. By 1871, Salina was one of the fastest growing towns in the state. Two years later, a large water-powered flour mill was built, and in 1878 a steam-powered mill added to Salina’s capacity to process the winter wheat and other grains. Salina’s economic diversity buffeted the city from some of the hardships that would devastate others in the natural and economic disasters of the coming decades.

4 Salina Daily Union. 22 Oct 1922, 19.
The 1880s were a prosperous decade in Kansas when city development and agricultural industry flourished across the state. In his book, *Fifty Years of Kansas Wesleyan University*, Professor and Historian John S. Cornett notes there was a veritable epidemic of college building and development, growing communities zealous for the honor of possessing a college of their own. By the end of the decade, Kansas boasted several new colleges, including Campbell College in Holton and Bethany in Lindsborg (1882), Kansas Christian at Lincoln (1884), Southwestern in Winfield (1885), Midland College in Atchison, Bethel in Newton (1888), and St. Johns in Salina (1887), and Central Normal School at Great Bend (1888).  

In 1884, Salina gained its first college called Salina Normal University, offering men and women a four-year course of study for teachers, as well as programs in business, science, and the classics. Sixty students were enrolled in the first academic year. Located one-half mile southwest of the courthouse on the western end of Iron Avenue, the university drew hundreds of students, as many as 700, by the early 1900s but was destroyed by fire in 1904 and not rebuilt.

During this same era, the newly created Northwest Conference of the Kansas Methodist Episcopal Church held its first annual meeting in 1883. Within the first year, the provision of higher education for the area emerged as a priority. By 1885, $3,500 had been raised on behalf of a new institution. Four communities submitted bids to become home for the new college. Salina citizens formed a "Kansas Wesleyan University Aid Association" to support the city’s bid of fifteen acres of well-suited land and the construction of a $20,000 building. Salina’s offer, according to the *Kansas Methodist Newspaper*, was considered noble and with Salina’s location near the center of the state, ensured the success of the college. The Board of Kansas Wesleyan University soon began selling plots of land around the fifteen-acre university campus to fund the university. The Wesleyan Addition was comprised of eighty acres divided into 640 lots offered for $25-$175 by land agent Paul Jordan of Beloit, Kansas. The Trustees accepted Salina’s offer and on their first visit to the new site, the group was taken out to the south end of the city; after letting down a fence and crossing a potato patch, they drove along the edge of a corn field (now Republic Avenue) into the prairie about a half mile south of the then city limits.

On a high spot of ground, they located the building site of Kansas Wesleyan University. The original administration building was constructed in 1886 and the college opened for fall classes in September 1886.

As the new century began, Salina was a hub of four rail lines—the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific, the Missouri Pacific, the Union Pacific, and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, affording transport in all directions. This ease of transportation bolstered Salina’s economy which was largely comprised of the milling and lumber industries. By 1912, Salina’s business concerns included a $50,000 alfalfa mill, several flour mills, a vitrified brick plant, and factories manufacturing everything from gloves, sunbonnets, cigars, razor strops, brooms to mattresses.

By the end of 1916, the city was booming with a record $782,627 in building permits for the year. The 220 new residences were easily filled with Salina’s growing population. The city boasted nineteen miles of brick or paved passable roads and nine motor trolleys operated by the Salina Street and Interurban Railway. Trolley service provided Kansas Wesleyan University students with easy access to downtown shops and the new Union Station on the west side of town. The boundaries of Salina’s residential areas were well-established by the turn of the century, generally radiating from the center of the city. Salina’s park system had begun with the acquisition of Oakdale Park in the 1880s. The park system branched out with the addition of Kenwood Park in 1917 as the city expanded further to the south and east in the early decades of the twentieth century.

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7 *Saline County Journal*. 4 Sep 1884, 2.
8 *The Kansas Methodist*. 15 Jul 1885, 4.
9 The *Beloit Courier*. 4 Feb 1886, 3; and *Smith County Bulletin*. 25 Jun 1886, 2.
10 *Fifty Years of Kansas Wesleyan University*, 15-16.
12 Ibid, 634.
In 1920, Salina became a city of first-class, boasted twelve miles of paved roads and over $3M in new construction.\footnote{16}{“Big Boom for Salina in 1920.” \textit{Kansas Construction News}. 17 Jan 1920, 1.} The population rose to 16,621 and the city’s flour mills ranked seventh in the nation.\footnote{17}{“The City of Salina.” \textit{The Salina Daily Union}. 12 Aug 1922, 19.} By August 1922, building construction in the city for the year was over $4,000,000 including 150 new homes.\footnote{18}{Ibid, 20.} Salina built eight new public schools between 1912 and 1926.\footnote{19}{Mary Clement Douglass, \textit{Roosevelt-Lincoln Junior High School National Register Nomination}. Washington, DC: National Parks Service, 2006. 10.} By 1930 Salina’s population had topped 20,000, automobiles were on every street and the city’s tallest building the United Life Insurance Building at Iron Ave and Seventh Street opened. Although the agricultural-based economy of rural northcentral and northwest Kansas was struggling through an ongoing depression due to diminished demand following the Great War, Salina’s diverse economic base lessened somewhat the burden of the Great Depression. These challenging economic times did take their toll on business, industry, and education alike and it was during this period that Kansas Wesleyan University built Pioneer Hall, a new administration building that continues to serve the school today.

Kansas Wesleyan University and Pioneer Hall

The fifteen-acre campus, donated by Salina to attract the university, was positioned at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue, surrounded by farmland. The original administration building was completed and Kansas Wesleyan University opened its doors for classes on September 15, 1886. The three-story building housed classrooms, laboratories, a chapel, museum, hall for literary societies, and the president’s room. The school’s first class included two college students (a freshman and a senior), sixty-one preparatory students and eleven faculty members. Tuition and fees were thirteen dollar per term.\footnote{20}{Kansas Wesleyan University. \textit{Historical Timeline}. Accessed online 7 Jul 2022 at \url{https://www.kwu.edu/about/our-history/}.} Henry M. Mayo was the first graduate of Kansas Wesleyan in 1887 and C.W. Burch was the first four-year graduate in 1891.

The year 1892 brought the next major advancement in the school’s development when the Board of Trustees contracted with Thomas Watson (T.W.) Roach to launch a commercial department for the university. Dr. T.W. Roach had come to Kansas from Ohio in 1871 and is recognized as a pioneer educator, county superintendent of schools, and for his role in the formation of the State Teachers Association. He had moved to Texas to establish the National Business College in 1890, returning to Salina in 1892 to launch the Kansas Wesleyan Business College under a separate charter. Prominently located at Santa Fe and Walnut in downtown Salina, the business school was a three-story brick building with eighteen classrooms. Under Roach’s leadership, the business school grew from two students and two instructors to a flourishing program nearing 1,000 students with a staff of seventeen instructors. In 1920, the Kansas University of Commerce was officially purchased by the school, becoming Kansas Wesleyan College of Commerce and later the Kansas Wesleyan Business College.\footnote{21}{Cornett, 22 & 39.} By 1935, the University disassociated itself from the business college, which was later incorporated as the Brown Mackie School of Business.\footnote{22}{Heck, 10.} Wesleyan also operated a music school located on Santa
Fe Avenue in downtown Salina that provided music lessons to high school students and courses to college students. Wesleyan students took advantage of Salina’s street-car and trolley service to travel between campus and downtown for classes and social activities.

For seventeen years, the original administration building stood as the single campus structure prominently sitting at the terminus of South Santa Fe Avenue with farmland beyond. A variety of factors contributed to the University’s lack of physical expansion, including a decade of economic struggles throughout the state and a rapid succession of school presidents that led to a lack of continuity in administrative policy. Dr. Roach served the university and business school for twenty-one years and was active in the Salina community, serving as mayor in 1900. Roach was named president of the university in 1903, a role he served for five years. Roach’s presidency marked a period of physical expansion, including the construction of a women’s dormitory and the planning for a new science building. The acquisition of additional land doubled the size of the campus during this time, allowing the creation of an athletic field, landscaping, and general improvement of the campus.

The school's second building - Schuyler Hall, was completed in 1904. Located in the 100 block of West Claflin, the dormitory was named for the University’s second president Dr. Aaron Schuyler. It served the school until 1966, when it was razed for the construction of Wesley Hall.

The first new academic facility to be built after the school’s original administration building would occur four years later as a result of a generous donation. Andrew Carnegie gifted $25,000 to the University for a new Science Hall and a library, with the provision that the school matched that amount and cleared their outstanding debts. The cornerstone was laid on November 15, 1908 and the three-story brick building was topped with an observatory dome that housed a reflecting telescope. The building held classrooms and laboratories on the first and second floors, while the school museum and library were located on the third floor. Carnegie Science Hall stood until 1980, when it was demolished to clear a site for a new gymnasium (Bob D. Muir Physical Education Center 1981).

By 1908 Kansas Wesleyan had an enrollment of over 400 and a teaching staff of twelve. Course offerings included classical, philosophical, and scientific, a normal department for the training of teachers, and a preparatory department grooming students for college and scientific schools.

In addition to his legacy as the founder of the business school and president of the university, in 1909, T.W. Roach donated his personal residence on the northwest corner of Claflin and Santa Fe to the school. The house served as the University President’s residence until it was razed in 1966 for the construction of Wesley Hall.

Also in 1909, the University Methodist Church was organized to serve the university and south Salina community with services held in the chapel of the Kansas Wesleyan Administration Building until 1917. The church remains at the northeast corner of Claflin and Santa Fe, serving the school and community today, one example of the ongoing close ties between the Salina community and the university.

23 Cornett, 33.
24 Ibid.
25 Heck, 10.
26 Heck, 15.
28 Blackmar, 69.
While the previous decade saw the expansion of campus land to accommodate an athletic field, it was not until 1914 that pledges were secured and the ground was broken for construction of a gymnasium. King Gymnasium was completed in 1916 and dedicated to Dean King, who had led the effort to build the facility that housed a swimming pool, basketball court, YMCA assembly room, shower and locker rooms, a kitchen, and a central heating plant that would serve all campus buildings. The gymnasium contributed significantly to student life, soon becoming a center of campus activity. It stood until 1987, when it was razed due to structural damage resulting from a 1979 fire.

While optimism abounded at the end of World War I, it was evident that Kansas Wesleyan needed a significant infusion of money to improve campus facilities and fortify endowments. The College embarked on The Victory Memorial Campaign, linked with the Centenary Movement of the Methodist Episcopal Church that had been launched at war’s end to provide an adequate endowment for the Church’s educational institutions. Kansas Wesleyan set a goal of six hundred thousand dollars and raised pledges of two hundred and forty-one thousand dollars in 1920. The Board raised their goal to one-million dollars, half of which was to be dedicated to physical improvements that would include a new administration building. By September 1921, just over one-million dollars in cash, in-kind, and pledges had been secured. The future of the school looked bright as plans commenced for a new administration building.

The original administration building was moved in 1921 to the southwest corner of campus to make way for the construction of a new building. Renamed Lockwood Hall in honor of Rev. J.H. Lockwood, pioneer founder of Kansas Wesleyan, the building served as Liberal Arts classrooms until the new administration building was completed and then housed the Division of Music and Art for nearly thirty years until Sams Hall of Fine Arts was constructed in 1952. Lockwood Hall was razed in 1959.

Although farmers ended the previous decade enthusiastic, the agricultural boom market of the war years soon ended as demand from Europe faded. Many farmers had invested heavily in land and equipment to meet the burgeoning demands of the war years. Prices of farm products declined, the value of farms shrank, and many farmers faced indebtedness.

The church and Wesleyan’s successful funding campaigns drew heavily from the agricultural economy in rural northcentral and northwest Kansas. Although little blame could be placed on the farmer, pledges went unpaid. Wesleyan’s building program proceeded, albeit with many delays and resulting in heavy indebtedness for the University.

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29 Cornett, 38.
32 Historical Campus Buildings.
33 Cornett, 46-47.
Excavation for the new administration building began after the former building was relocated but would be delayed for a variety of reasons ultimately completed eight years later and dedicated on September 14, 1930. Construction was slow due in part to the Board of Trustee’s decision that work proceed only as funds in hand allowed and an anticipated decrease in the cost of materials. Original building plans by Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt are dated 1923 and an April 1923 article in the university newspaper described plans for the new building.

This building when completed will be the most perfectly adapted college building in the country. It is particularly well arranged for administrative offices, adapted to the latest methods of business administration. The new chapel hall will seat at least 1500 and will accommodate the student body for many years to come. There are also fourteen classrooms with private offices for instructors. The building will also contain halls for the convenience of literary societies and student groups. The basement will contain one of the largest banquet halls in the city of Salina. The building is to be of maroon brick and gray limestone and will be the crown of the Kansas Wesleyan campus as well as the head of Santa Fe Avenue. The City of Salina is undertaking improvements including the paving of Claflin in front of the college campus.34

The skeletal frame and concrete floor slabs of the new building were completed in 1923 and the cornerstone was laid on March 29, 1924, but visible progress was slow. Reportedly due to the lack of headway on the new building, Salina businessmen led an effort to raise fifty thousand dollars in the fall of 1924 with the goal of enclosing the structure, which was achieved the following spring.35

Earl Corder (E.C.) Sams, president and chairman of the board of the J.C. Penney Company, donated $25,000 toward the building’s completion, and on May 26, 1926, the Sams Chapel was dedicated in honor of E.C.’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Lee Sams. The 1500-seat chapel also serves as a venue for university-wide ceremonies, an auditorium for guest lectures, and a concert hall. A mural entitled “The Coming of the Pioneers” depicts families of pioneers in covered wagons coming to the forefront while the Native Americans of Kansas sit in the periphery.36 The thirty-plus foot mural graces the proscenium arch above the chapel’s stage. Designed and painted by Robert W. Grafton of Michigan City, Indiana, the mural was unveiled at the 1928 commencement. Known as the Grafton-Clubb mural, the name honors the painter and benefactor, Mrs. Laura A. Clubb of Kaw City, Oklahoma, who was a patron of the arts and friend of Christian education.37

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34 “Steel on Hand and Building is to be Pushed.” The Wesleyan Advance. 11 Apr 1923, 1.
35 Cornett, 45.
37 Cornett, 50, and Heck, 7.
Gradually construction progressed ultimately resulting in occupancy of the classrooms in the spring of 1930. Dedication of the building was postponed until fall to coincide with the forty-fifth anniversary of the opening on the university. The ceremonies took place September 14, 1930, when the building was officially named “The Hall of the Pioneers.” Wesleyan Historian Jack Warner VanDerhoof said:

This was a most fitting name. For those who have sensitivity for the great stream of tradition, Hall of the Pioneers, as long as it stands at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue, shall symbolize all people of years past who gave of themselves and their resources in order that a splendid and courageous educational effort be undertaken and sustained in the shape of Kansas Wesleyan University.38

The decade of the 1920s was largely focused on completion of the new administration building but the school did receive another facility during this time. In 1925 the spacious home of the late Mr. C.C. Eberhardt, one of the early members of the Board of Trustees, was presented to the university by Eberhardt heirs. Eberhardt Hall served the school as a faculty residence and center of student social interests until it was demolished for construction of a new dormitory – Wilson Hall in 1960.39 Also, in 1928 the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) was formed with Kansas Wesleyan University joining Bethany College in Lindsborg, Ottawa University, McPherson College, Baker University in Ottawa, and the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth in a new athletic conference, a significant development for the athletic programs at these schools.40

By 1930 Wesleyan boasted 283 students in the Liberal Arts College, 182 students in the Music College (including high school students), 427 students in the Business College and the University had a total enrollment of approximately 900.41 Tuition, room and board totaled $400 per year. The extensive building program of the 1920s was “built” on financial campaigns that had not yielded the anticipated level of funds. In 1927 the Northwest Conference had authorized Wesleyan to bond university property up to a maximum of $250,000.42 Larkin Bruce (L.B.) Bowers had led the university throughout this period, a tenure that exceeded one-third of the university’s existence. Dr. Bowers’ leadership distinguished his service, his administration experienced a steady growth in the student body, a strengthening of faculty, and a progressive approach to the curriculum to meet the changing needs of the professional and educational world.43 He led Wesleyan through the construction of the new administration building amidst severe economic challenges ever faithful that the money would come. Remarkably Bowers, in conjunction with the Northwest Kansas Conference, led a new effort in the midst of the Depression to liquidate all accumulated indebtedness. Looking toward the school's fiftieth anniversary that fall, two-thirds of the funds had been committed by summers’ end in 1936. Bowers’ untimely death resulting from injuries in an automobile accident in 1937 brought his tenure to an end. Economic challenges and debt would remain for subsequent administrations, but Bowers’ legacy lives on.44

The completion of the new administration building in 1930 brought the total number of university facilities to eight, a significant accomplishment considering the original administration building was the sole building for the first seventeen years of the school’s existence. Pioneer Hall remains today as the only extant structure representing this period of the university’s early development.45

Known today as Pioneer Hall, the building stands as a symbol of the tradition and history of Kansas Wesleyan and Salina. The building continues to serve educational and administrative needs of the university although specific uses have varied through the years. When Lockwood Hall was demolished in 1959, the basement of Pioneer Hall was remodeled to house the McAdams Student Center, a function it served until 2008. Today business offices and student services occupy the lower two floors and Sams Chapel continues to serve as a multi-use auditorium. The third and fourth floors house the humanities departments, psychology and sociology, and the education program, including

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38 VanDerhoof, 33.
39 Cornett, 52.
40 Kansas Wesleyan University remains a part of the KCAC with other member schools including Avila University in Kansas City, Bethany College in Lindsborg, Bethel College in Newton, Friends University in Wichita, McPherson College, Oklahoma Wesleyan in Bartlesville, OK, Ottawa University, Southwestern College in Winfield, Sterling College, Tabor College in Hillsboro, University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, and York University in York, NE.
41 VanDerhoof, 35.
42 Cornett, 60.
44 VanDerhoof, 25, and Cornett, 60-61.
45 The University Methodist Church with domed roof at Santa Fe and Claflin, built in 1917, also remains from this era but is located adjacent to campus and is not a college-owned building.
classrooms and computer labs. The school’s music department is also located on the lower floor with a planned expansion in the coming years.

Pioneer Hall remains the dominant building on Wesleyan’s campus located inside the campus entrance majestically standing at the terminus of Santa Fe Avenue surrounded by a landscaped campus full of trees and shrubs. In addition to its historic significance as Kansas Wesleyan University’s administration building, Pioneer Hall is significant architecturally as an outstanding example of the Collegiate Gothic and a representative of the work of Wichita architect Lorentz Schmidt, renowned for his career designing of schools and churches and prominent Wichita landmarks between 1915 and 1952.

Figure 9 – Upper: 1937 Aerial View – Red X marks buildings no longer extant (2022). Lower: 2013 view of Pioneer Hall which remains the centerpiece of the Wesleyan campus (Kansas Wesleyan University).

Architect Lorentz Schmidt and his Collegiate Gothic design for Wesleyan’s Administration Building Cyril M. Harris, in his book, *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*, describes Gothic Architecture as the style of the High Middle Ages in Western Europe, emerging from the Romanesque and Byzantine forms in France in the later 12th century. Cathedrals are the classic representatives of the style, characterized by the pointed arch, rib vault, exterior flying buttress and richly decorated fenestration. The Gothic period lasted until the 16th century; in English architecture, the style is typically divided into three periods - Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular. Harris defines the Perpendicular style as the last and longest phase of Gothic architecture in England (1350-1550), the final development (1485-1547) is referred to as Tudor architecture.

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46 Ibid.
Collegiate Gothic (also referred to as Late Gothic Revival) is a secular version of Gothic architecture, prevalent around the turn of the 20th century in the United States and England, particularly on college campuses. Introduced to educational buildings at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, Collegiate Gothic emerged as a dominant style on the campuses of Princeton, Yale, Duke and the University of Chicago. Defining characteristics of the style – pointed arches, crenellations, and towers are rooted in the 16th century English Perpendicular style. Collegiate Gothic generally dates from 1890 to 1930. Although named for its emergence on college campuses, Collegiate Gothic became the dominant style of public school buildings across the nation by the end of the First World War. This period resulted in the first attempts to develop an architectural expression for school buildings, Monumentalism became the norm as growing communities designed schools as a testament to their devotion to education.

Lorentz Schmidt (1884-1952) was born in Clyde, Kansas on 25 April 1884, the eldest of nine children born to Bernhardt and Magdalene (Gram) Schmidt. Following a farming accident that resulted in the loss of his leg, Schmidt learned the barber trade to earn money for school. He completed high school and attended one year of normal training in Emporia. At the age of twenty-four, he decided he wanted to be an architect. Schmidt graduated with a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1913 and worked in Chicago for two years. In 1915, he moved to Wichita and opened his own architectural firm where he practiced until his death in 1952. With a career spanning nearly forty years, Schmidt designed hundreds of buildings in Kansas reflecting a variety of architectural styles including grand Collegiate Gothic schools.

A native of Clyde, in Cloud County, Kansas, Schmidt had the opportunity to design a school for his hometown early in his career. The need for a new school building in Clyde came about as a result of a fire in 1916 that destroyed the previous building. Cost constraints and economic uncertainties brought about by the country's entry into World War I led the town's school board to take a cautious approach to the building project. As a result, the building was erected in two phases. Built beginning in 1917-1918 and completed in 1923-1924, Clyde School originated from plans by Schmidt who designed the modest school in the Collegiate Gothic style.

Lorentz Schmidt became widely known for his designs of public schools, designing his first building for the Wichita school system in his third year of practice. However, it was his grand Collegiate Gothic design for Wichita’s East High School that solidified his reputation as an outstanding designer of school buildings. The new high school was required to alleviate overcrowded conditions in Wichita High School and the residential growth to the south and east of downtown led to the district’s decision to build on the east side of town near the College Hill neighborhood. The city passed a bond issue in early 1922 and Lorentz Schmidt was commissioned to design the school that was later called “the million-dollar high school.” His design for Wichita (East) High School was featured in City Manager Magazine in 1923 as an example of the “modern” high school.

The building was a three-story brick structure with a simple form and décor highlighted by an ornate Collegiate Gothic tower at the entrance. With a prominent tower at the front entrance being a common feature of the style, Collegiate Gothic designs lent itself to prominent public schools and was a natural choice for the style for the new administration building on the Wesleyan campus.

When Schmidt came to Wichita, he was first associated with Glen H. Thomas for three years until Thomas formed his own practice. Cecil Francis (C.F.) Boucher (1890-1969) joined Schmidt in 1917 and Harrison George (H. G.) Overend (1892-1957) joined the firm in 1919. The firm was reorganized in 1925 under the name Schmidt, Boucher & Overend (all


graduates of University of Illinois School of Architecture) who remained together until 1931. Overend and Boucher left to form a new company that was active into the 1950s.

Other known Wichita schools designed by Schmidt include Woodlawn, Sunnyside, Stanley, Gardiner, and Meridian Grade Schools and Roosevelt, Horace Mann, Alexander Hamilton, and James Allison Junior High Schools. Throughout his career, Schmidt and his firm designed a number of Wichita landmarks including the Allis Hotel, Brown Building, Innes Department Store, Montgomery Ward, Petroleum Building, Wolf Brothers Clothing Building, Hillcrest Apartments, Raney Davis Wholesale Grocery, Packard Building, Studebaker Building, McCormick-Armstrong Press Building, the Twentieth Century Club Auditorium, the Fresh Air Baby Camp, several Coleman plant buildings, the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. James Episcopal Church.

Schmidt designed other schools and churches in Kansas including: the First Church of Christ Scientists in Arkansas City (1915), Clyde School in Cloud County (1924), Wellington High School (now Junior High (1928)), Cooper and Washington Schools, the high school and McKinley School (now Administration Center) in Newton (all in 1938), McPherson High School (now Middle School (1938)), Liberal High School, Lincoln and Jefferson Elementary Schools in Iola (1939). Designed in the late 1920s, the Science Hall at Wichita State University is the only other known college building designed by Schmidt.51

Lorentz Schmidt was the first practicing architect in Kansas elected to a fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in 1951. This prestigious selection was based on his service to the profession, specific accomplishments that were cited included: his effort in the passage of the Kansas Architectural Registration legislation; his work to establish the Wichita Association of Architects in 1945 and service as its first president; helping to organize the Kansas Builders Forum; his service on the Wichita Planning Commission; and activities with the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Community Chest, and Boy Scouts. Schmidt also established annual scholarships at Kansas State and Kansas University- the two state colleges offering architectural degrees. Lorentz Schmidt died in 1952 in Wichita. His obituary in Kansas Construction Magazine stated that he was one of the best known and respected architects in Kansas.52

Pioneer Hall at Kansas Wesleyan University is an excellent representative of the work of architect Lorentz Schmidt and the Collegiate Gothic style.

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51 This list was compiled from Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF by Brenda Spencer (2004) and survey records in the Kansas State Historical Society’s Kansas Historic Resource Inventory.

52 This biography of Lorentz Schmidt was assembled from three previous National Register nominations of other Schmidt-designed buildings: Residential Resources of Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS 1870-1957 MPDF by Kathy Morgan and Barbara Hammond (2008), Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF by Brenda Spencer (2004) and the J. Arch Butts Packard Building (Wichita) by Brenda and Michelle Spencer (2010). Lorentz Schmidt, Jr. continued his father’s legacy in a subsequent Wichita firm of McVay, Schmidt, and Peddie, which was active through the 1960s.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography


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Heck, Kristin. Script for Kansas Wesleyan University Building History Video. 2021 (provided by author).
Kansas Historical Resources Inventory.
Kansas Methodist. Multiple dates.
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Kansas Wesleyan University website accessed multiple dates in July 2022 at https://www.kwu.edu/about/our-history/The Coyote. Kansas Wesleyan University Yearbook. Multiple volumes/years. (Available at Memorial Library, Kansas Wesleyan University).

Memorial Library, Archives Room, Kansas Wesleyan University.
Salina Daily Journal. Multiple dates.
Salina Daily Republican-Journal. Multiple dates.
Salina Daily Union. Multiple dates.
Salina Herald. Multiple dates.
Wesleyan Advance. Multiple dates. (Available at Memorial Library, Archives Room, Kansas Wesleyan University).
Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University
Name of Property

Saline, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Approximately 3

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1 38.813530    -97.609452

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The nominated property is a strip of land (on which Pioneer Hall stands) in the center of the original campus spanning from twenty feet west of the west facade of Pioneer Hall to twenty feet east of the east facade of Pioneer Hall, north to south from Claflin Avenue to Cloud Street.

Pioneer Hall is addressed at 100 E. Claflin, located within the Kansas Wesleyan University Campus defined by the following legal description:

648301 SQUARE FEET, Kansas Wesleyan University – GROUNDS OF COLLEGE CAMPUS AT THE S END OF SANTA FE AVE & VAC 4TH ST RW W RR RW - S24, T14, R3 Salina, Saline County, Kansas

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The original campus when Kansas Wesleyan was established in 1886 was a 15-acre site donated by the City of Salina at the south end of Santa Fe Avenue. The site was bordered on the north by Claflin Avenue, on the east by Fourth Street, on the south by Cloud Street, and on the west by Highland Avenue. This area now houses eight buildings, but most of the buildings do not retain the degree of integrity necessary for historic listing. Only two of the eight buildings are eligible for listing – Pioneer Hall and Peter’s Hall (the 1969 Science Hall with nomination planned).

The proposed boundary for this nomination of Pioneer Hall includes the circle “drive” in front of the building that aligns with South Santa Fe Avenue which has been the primary approach to Pioneer Hall since its construction and extends to Cloud Street at the rear of the building including the devotional garden southeast of the building and the parking area southwest of the building. This proposed boundary for Pioneer Hall includes the green space in and around the building such that its historic approach and campus setting are included as a part of its historic significance.
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Brenda & Michelle Spencer  
organization: Spencer Preservation  
date: 08/05/2022  
street & number: 10150 Onaga Road  
television: 785-446-9857  
city or town: Wamego  
state: KS  
zip code: 66547-9584  
e-mail: brenda@spencerpreservation.com

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

name: Kansas Wesleyan University (Rhonda Bethe, CFO)  
street & number: 100 E. Claflin Ave.  
television: 785-833-4503  
city or town: Salina  
state: KS  
zip: 67401

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 100 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.
**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property:  *Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University*

City or Vicinity:  *Salina*

County:  *Saline*  
State:  *KS*

Photographer:  *Brenda R. Spencer*

Date Photographed:  *11 May, 21 June, and 9 August 2022*

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

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Stained glass window on east side of chapel – typical on east and west</td>
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<td>Central tower on north facade, looking up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 of 24</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Entry foyer inside front central entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 of 24</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Second-floor corridor, looking E from lobby inside central entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 of 24</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Admissions Office on north side of second floor, west of entry lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 of 24</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>President’s Office/reception area on north side of second floor, east of lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 of 24</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>West stair, looking up from second floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 of 24</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Looking east from west end of third-floor corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 of 24</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Classroom in SE corner of third floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 of 24</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Computer Lab in center bay, north side of third floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 of 24</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Classroom in SW corner of third floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 of 24</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Looking S along east side of chapel, from rear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 of 24</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Chapel stage with “The Coming of the Pioneers” mural in the proscenium arch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 of 24</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sams Chapel with balcony on south end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 of 24</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Tripartite stained glass window on east side of chapel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Photo Key on following page*
Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University

PHOTO KEY

PIONEER HALL, KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
100 E. Claflin, Salina, Saline County, KS
Aerial View from Google Maps 2022
Original plans updated with current uses for base floor plan

NOTE—The red line on the aerial map illustrates the boundary of the nominated property.
FIGURES

Figure 11 – Context Map and Campus Plan – Salina, KS (Google Maps, 2022)
Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University, 100 E. Claflin, Salina, Saline County, KS
Latitude 38.813530  Longitude -97.609452, Datum WGS 84
Figure 12 – January 1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for City of Salina, Kansas. Excerpt Sheet 31 showing Kansas Wesleyan University Campus at southern edge of Salina and new administration building illustrated “from plans.”
Pioneer Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University

HISTORIC VIEWS

Figure 13 – Undated Postcard showing new administration building (Kansas Wesleyan University).

Figure 14 – Mid-1920s Commencement – note building is still under construction (Kansas Wesleyan University).
Figure 15 – Undated views of Pioneer Hall shortly after completion (Kansas Wesleyan University).

Figure 16 – Undated view of Pioneer Hall by Gunnerson Photography, Salina (Kansas Wesleyan University).
Figure 17 – Undated views of Sams Chapel in Pioneer Hall (Kansas Wesleyan University).
Figure 17 – Undated views of lower-level corridor and McAdams Student Center located on first floor of Pioneer Hall 1959 – 2008 (Kansas Wesleyan University).
Figure 18 – Above and on following pages are select elevation and floor plans from the original drawings for Pioneer Hall labeled Administration Building for Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas
Lorentz Schmidt & Company, Architects, Wichita, Kansas, 1923
The full set of drawings are available at Buildings and Grounds, Kansas Wesleyan University and the Kansas State Historical Society.