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  Paxico Rural High School

   Other names/site number  Mill Creek Valley Junior High, Wabaunsee Junior High

   Name of related Multiple Property Listing  Historic Schools of Kansas

2. **Location**

   Street & number  112 Elm Street

   City or town  Paxico

   State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Wabaunsee  Code  Zip code  66526

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
Paxico Rural High School
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [X] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>structures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>objects</td>
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</tbody>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: PLASTER, SHEET ROCK
roof: ASPHALT
other: BRICK
Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

Paxico Rural High School is located on the northern edge of Paxico, Wabaunsee County. It is an early example of a high school from the school consolidation movement in Kansas. It is unique because of its incorporation of parochial school design elements. The school is a rectangle plan in the Commercial Style of the Early 20th Century. It is the earliest example of a Walter E. Glover (prominent architect of schools during the Kansas New Deal Era) school in Kansas. The building, despite the evolving nature of educational buildings, has had limited modifications and retains a significant level of its historic integrity and character defining features such as materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Elaboration

Paxico is approximately halfway between Topeka and Manhattan, Kansas, in the Flint Hills of northeastern Kansas. Paxico Rural High School is located on the northern edge of the community of Paxico. It is situated on nearly 1.5 acres in the northwestern corner of Section 26, Township 11, Range 11E. The property is surrounded by farmland on the north and west sides, a school ball diamond to the east and the community to the south. The main entrance of the building faces south toward Elm Street and directly at Paxico Avenue which leads to the heart of the business district for the town. On the west, it is bordered by Newbury Avenue which also connects to the downtown and leads to the community of Newbury to the north. Landscaping of the school grounds is periodic tree plantings mostly around the baseball diamond, the front of the school, and the edges of the property.

The Historic Public Schools of Kansas states that school design was influenced by numerous factors, including locale, available materials, economics, federal and state legislation, educational advancements, architectural and educational journals, design standards, and architectural trends. The Paxico Rural High School, at the forefront of the school consolidation movement, took many of these into consideration at its construction. Schools in this era, like Paxico, were of a mass vernacular style utilizing machine-produced materials.

The Paxico Rural High is a rectangle with a flat parapet roof, two-story brick in a running bond, stone accents, reinforced concrete, and a composition roof. The symmetrical façade can be divided into three bays. The central bay features a stepped-back, central double-door entrance with stone accented signboard and four large one-over-one windows on either side and at each level. The simple architectural design uses stone accents around the foundation, a belt course, and the parapet, which continues on each elevation. The east and west bays feature a set of five windows on both the upper and lower levels. The windows have been replaced at some point in before 2004. The east and west elevations are identical and are divided into three bays. The north bay features a set of four one-over-one windows on both the upper and lower level, and the openings are framed by bricks stretcher-stacked and two square stone accents at the corners. The south bay features the same placement of brick framing and stone accents as the north bay, but where the window openings would are brick-filled. The central bay contains a stepped-back double door entrance with a stone accented signboard above; the east side says “Boys,” and the west side says “Girls.”

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1 Spencer 2004. Brenda Spencer in her 2004 statewide survey and report of over 300 Kansas schools, conducted through a Historic Preservation Fund grant, documented 15 Glover schools. The Spencer survey did not include Paxico Rural High as a Glover school.
Paxico Rural High School

The upper level of the school is centered down an “I” shaped corridor, double-loaded with school rooms on each side. The lower level originally housed a gymnasium but eventually was broken into classrooms. The interior finishes remain mostly intact, including the plaster walls, curved plaster railings, some wood doors with corresponding transoms, terrazzo floors, and stairs. The basement has VAT and carpet, drop ceilings, and some paneling on the walls. The school was largely unmodified until the 1956-57 school year. Due to a rising interest in sports brought on by increased leisure time in the post-war era, coupled with a growing Baby Boomer generation, a new $95,000 gymnasium was added, and the old one was converted into two floors of usable space. The upper floor was sectioned off into a classroom, study hall, office, and library, and the lower floor was renovated into dressing rooms for the gym. The stage was opened into the new gym space and closed to the old. In the 1980s, principal Dan Wagner initiated internal beautifications of the school (i.e., carpeting, paint, etc.). This was followed by other modifications, which included reroofing the original part of the school in 1989 and a locker room addition with ADA bathrooms in 1997, along with a library/media room and lunchroom/commons area.

Ancillary buildings at the site include two modular buildings (one not in use) on the east side of the main building; two metal maintenance sheds adjacent to the school building; three lean-to structures are associated with the baseball field, a sheltered picnic area; and a cinderblock shed at the northeast corner of the property. The two modular buildings were added to the school property in the 1990s and have seen intermittent use. These buildings measure approx. 48x29’ (north) and 69x30’ (south).

The three lean-to structures associated with the baseball field are wood with a metal roof and are undated. The dugout shelters measure approx. 20x8’ and the middle bleacher shelter is approx. 16x17’. The maintenance sheds adjacent to the building are metal, and measure approximately 27x18’. The sheltered picnic area on the north portion of the property has wood gabling with an asphalt roof and supported by metal posts. This shelter measures approx. 33x23’.

The cinderblock shed on the northeast corner of the property is also undated. This building has an asphalt roof, two doors, and a set of windows on the south side. It measures approx. 24x21’.

Paxico Rural High School retains excellent historic integrity. Its location and setting are unchanged as it continues to be located just north of the Paxico community and surrounded by its baseball diamond and other open land. Though some alterations have occurred, the school maintains most of its historic materials, design, and workmanship which are evident by the character defining features, like the historic finishes, plaster walls, double-loaded corridor and arrangement of spaces, and the historic gymnasium addition. The building and property continue to function as a school and maintain its historic integrity of feeling and association as it still serves its historic function and use. Overall, the Paxico Rural High School is a great example of the “city high school” property type as defined by the Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF.

Inventory
School Building - Contributing
Modular Building 1 – non-contributing, non-historic
Modular Building 2 – non-contributing, non-historic
Maintenance Shed 1 – non-contributing, non-historic
Maintenance Shed 2 – non-contributing, non-historic
Lean-to 1 – non-contributing, non-historic
Lean-to 2 – non-contributing, non-historic
Lean-to 3 – non-contributing, non-historic
Baseball Field – Contributing site
Sheltered Picnic Area – non-contributing, non-historic
Cinderblock Shed – contributing, likely historic

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2 Lannan 1986:32
3 Lannan 1986:32
4 Manhattan Mercury 1989:52; Manhattan Mercury 1997:14
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.

**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.
- [x] 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
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**Period of Significance**

1922 - 1958

**Significant Dates**

1922

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

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Glover, Walter E. - Topeka

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Paxico school was part of a push initiated by Gov. Henry J. Allen to improve education in rural Kansas. Paxico's high school was one of the first to be built during this time. It is a good example of a secondary education building built when the Kansas education system was making great strides in standardization; therefore, its period of significance is tied to its construction in 1922 and continues through 1958 to capture the historic alterations that occurred due to growth and population, and changes in education.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

n/a
Narrative Statement of Significance
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

Paxico Rural High School is locally significant as an early example of a high school from the school consolidation movement in Kansas. The school is eligible under criteria A and C because it is a good example of a “town high school” (for a population of 250 to 2000), for its association with the progressive movement for schools and school consolidation, as well as its architectural style. Paxico Rural High school was at the forefront of the school consolidation movement and the push for improved schools across the state. When Gov. Henry J. Allen took office in 1921, one of his goals for his term was to raise the low marks that Kansas had received nationally. Paxico was (and had been) at the forefront of trends in education and was one of the first to follow his plan. To counter the problems that the town had faced in recent years with school attendance, school officials enticed the local Catholic population with parochial elements (morning chapel, separate entrances for the sexes, etc.) to draw in the needed students; therefore, it is unique because it incorporated parochial school design elements. It is also the earliest example of a Walter E. Glover school in Kansas, according to the Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF. The building, despite the evolving nature of educational buildings, has had limited modifications and retains a significant level of its historic integrity.

Elaboration

Paxico, Wabaunsee County
Wabaunsee County was originally named Richardson County when it was created in 1855, under the “bogus legislature” which supported slavery in the Kansas territory. Settlement within the county increased greatly during 1856 and 1857 in response to the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Beecher Bible Society of Connecticut arrived in force and established New Haven Colony in Wabaunsee township. The group carried on underground railroad activities from the two main stations within the county, one located on Mission Creek and the other near the community of Wabaunsee. In 1859, the county’s name was changed to Wabaunsee County, in honor of a Pottawatomie chief Wah-Bahn-Se. The county’s population in 1860 was 1,023 and grew to 8,757 in 1880. The land that now includes the townships of Kaw, Newbury, and Maple Hill had been used to form Pottawatomie reserve lands and was originally closed to white settlement.

In order to discuss Paxico, the mention of neighboring Newbury must be made. The communities are entwined in both the historical record and with social activities. The town of Newbury, which had aspirations for becoming the county seat, was established first in 1870. Initial settlement was from a colony from Ohio, and the community became largely settled by Germans. However, due to many factors, Newbury lost the opportunity at the county seat. A mill was created in 1879 near the site of what would be become Paxico, at the site of the former claim of Pashqua, a Pottawatomie Indian. In 1881, a post office was founded at the mill site and named Paxico in honor of Pashqua, the original landholder. As the prospect of rail traffic increased, Paxico was laid out as a town and won the rail stop instead of nearby Newbury. When the Rock Island Railway advanced through the county, the railway chose a more desirable location near an adjacent mill that was chosen for a station in 1886. Principal businesses that had been located at Newbury shifted to Paxico.

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5 Cutler 1883
6 Cutler 1883
7 Cutler 1883
8 KS Directory Co. 1906: 90
9 KS Directory Co. 1906: 90
along with many of the Protestants that had been living in the town.\textsuperscript{10} By 1902, the Missouri-Pacific Railway ran from Alta Vista through Alma and Paxico.\textsuperscript{11} Paxico’s population shortly after was not quite 250, just over a quarter of the population of Alma, the county seat.\textsuperscript{12} The population for the town in 2010 was 221.\textsuperscript{13}

Education in Wabaunsee County

The rise of interest in a high school education occurred primarily in Kansas after 1900. Contributing to this, the “Barnes Law” of 1905 gave certain counties the ability to garner taxes for support and maintenance of a high school within a county. Further improvements to rural education were expanded with acts by the 1911 legislature, which provided for free tuition for rural pupils, authorizing the creation of rural high schools in conjunction with the State Board of Education, among other advancements in education.\textsuperscript{14} By the second decade of the 20th century, high school enrollment had grown by more than 200%, more than any other grade level.\textsuperscript{15} The community of Paxico has continuously taken steps to be at the forefront of these changes in education. By the time of the population boom with the railroad, Wabaunsee County boasted 63 schools, eight of which were in Newbury township.\textsuperscript{16}

The area surrounding Paxico and Newbury is primarily Catholic, and the Catholic church is a fusing influence between the two towns. Countywide, Catholicism at one time accounted for 25% of the population and was centered in Newbury Township, with a branch in Alma.\textsuperscript{17} Newbury’s Catholic church was originally built in 1874 and serviced by Jesuits from nearby St. Marys.\textsuperscript{18} When the church was rebuilt in 1884, a corresponding parochial school was built, catering to the lower grades.\textsuperscript{19} The conflict between religion and public education proved to be a difficult balancing act and hampered the establishment of a successful public school at Paxico. When Barnes Law funding was made available, attempts were made for public secondary education at Paxico. A public high school was started under principal Morris Walton (Protestant) in 1905.\textsuperscript{20}

After what appears to be a gap, another attempt was made; a two-year high school began for the 1909-1910 school year, enrolling 16 students.\textsuperscript{21} Attendance was hard to maintain, however, and after six students graduated in 1913, no new enrollments were made, and as a result, classes were not held the following year.\textsuperscript{22} It was at this time that Principal Roy C. Walden proposed a consolidated district to meet the state requirements and cover a large part of Newbury Township, which consisted of a population of approximately 929 individuals.\textsuperscript{23} The officers of this early school were split in religious affiliation with equal representation of Protestants and Catholics.\textsuperscript{24} Walden (Protestant) canvassed the area with school treasurer Nick G. Schumaker (Catholic) in search of students to fill the new rural high school and ensure sufficient class size for the upcoming year.\textsuperscript{25} At the start of the school term in the fall of 1914, Walden encouraged parents to commit their

\textsuperscript{10} Haynos 2011: 5
\textsuperscript{11} Geo. A. Ogle & Co. 1902
\textsuperscript{12} KS Directory Co. 1906: 89
\textsuperscript{13} U.S. Census Bureau 2010
\textsuperscript{14} Monroe 1925: 582
\textsuperscript{15} KS St. Board of Ag 1915: 3
\textsuperscript{16} Cutler 1883
\textsuperscript{17} Cutler 1885
\textsuperscript{18} Haynos 2011: 4
\textsuperscript{19} Heigert 1982; Cutler 1885
\textsuperscript{20} Harveyville Monitor 1905:5
\textsuperscript{21} Lannan 1986:31-32; Alma Signal 1914:1
\textsuperscript{22} Lannan 1986:13
\textsuperscript{23} Alma Signal 1916:1; KS St. Board of Ag 1915:920
\textsuperscript{24} Alma Enterprise 1916:5
\textsuperscript{25} Lannan 1986:32
students to the school with regular attendance.26 The school was successful, and a third-year was added to the high school curriculum.27

Education Consolidation in Kansas
Nationally, acknowledgment of the benefits of consolidation and concerns about the limits of a rural education took hold.28 In agricultural settings, the main obstacle was transportation to a consolidated school. Also, rural schools were the center of the small neighborhoods/communities that scattered the landscape, and reluctance to relinquish independence was a problem to overcome. The desire for standardization and increased educational opportunities was a driving force for consolidation. With consolidation, it gave rural communities the opportunity for a graded school system. State legislation in 1920 raised school local levy limits by 50% as well as raising the limits of school indebtedness contributed significantly to an increase in school construction.29

When Kansas Governor Henry J. Allen took office in January 1921, part of his inaugural address placed focus on the improvement of rural schools. Hot topics of the time included improvements through consolidation or offering a high school level education. The education system in Kansas had nationally received low marks, and Allen was set to improve it.30 School consolidation was not new by any means; Atchison County had established the first county high school in 1891, schools in Lorraine (Ellsworth Co.) and Burns (Marion Co.) had consolidated in 1898 and 1906, respectively, but it was only a drop in the bucket compared to the number of small districts that crossed the state. In 1920, there were 118 consolidated schools, a number that would rise to 174 within a decade.31

At the time of the governor's inauguration, over 40 new schools opened their doors in 1921-22 year.32

“[Rural people] need advantages which will stand out in bold comparison to those of the city, thus showing the opportunities of farm life when handled scientifically as any real business must be handled….general inadequacy of rural educational facilities prior to the advent of the consolidated plan and in this connection how many boys and girls from the farms were drawn to city life because not systematic effort was made through educational channels to hold their interest in their home locality and its needs.” 33

Consolidation in Wabaunsee County
By February 1921, Wabaunsee and Geary Counties were putting the issue of school consolidation to a vote.34 Wabaunsee County, in particular, took the governor’s call seriously, and schools in Paxico and Harveyville were considered. Petitions for Paxico’s new rural high school showed favorable results, and by July, a vote for $40,000 in bonds passed by a 68-vote majority. Anticipation was that a school would help boom the town and eventually generate additional town improvements, “We cannot think of anything that Paxico needs worse than a new up-to-date school building and this will put our town on the map in fine shape.”35 A request for bids for the construction of the school went out in early September, and contracts were awarded by the end of the month. Local contractors were chosen for the project:

• Architect – Walter E. Glover, Topeka

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26 Alma Signal 1914:1
27 Alma Enterprise 1915:5
28 Fought 1919
29 Spencer 2005: 12
30 KS St. Board of Ag 1915:4
31 Herndon 1936:7
32 Fairchild 1908:19
33 Mae Cain, Topeka Daily Capital 1921:26
34 Junction City Daily Union 1921:1
35 Alma Enterprise 1921:5
Walter E. Glover builds Paxico Rural High

Walter Glover was an important architect during the early large push in school consolidation. Glover was identified as the architect for 15 of the schools surveyed in the statewide historic school survey of Kansas (2004). At the time of the 2004 survey, the Paxico Rural High School building was not known to be a Glover design. During the first world war, Glover worked for the architectural department of the U.S. Navy. By early 1918, he was employed as an architect with the Santa Fe Engineering department in Topeka. In March of 1919, he found employment in an architectural firm owned by James C. Holland. Holland had come to Topeka in 1885, working in the architect trade. He specialized in building courthouses and churches but had completed a large number of schools and businesses in the state, as well as a wing of the Kansas statehouse. Upon Holland’s death, the firm was eventually absorbed by Walter Glover.

Glover was secured as the architect on multiple school projects starting in 1921-22. Still, while the other projects appear to have stalled (i.e., Perry, Harveyville, and Valley Falls), the Paxico project would come to completion as planned. Construction of the new high school began in the fall of 1921. By October, work on the basement was progressing and followed within a couple of months by cement work on the second floor.

The school was dedicated in May 1922, with Gov. Henry J. Allen giving a dedication address. “The building is a handsome one, of which a larger town might well feel proud. It is of pressed brick with white stone trimmings, has seven good classrooms, a 500-capacity auditorium and gymnasium, and heat, electric light, toilets, offices and everything needful,” as reported by the Alma Enterprise, 1922.

Enrollment at the new school increased by twenty students in its first year, presumably in part because of its ability to meet the broader needs of its community by better inclusion of the Catholic constituency. The school’s Catholic influence is evidenced, particularly in the early years. Chapel was held before school or rallies, the absence of meat at Friday lunches, etc. The separate entrances, although still extant, were not used for their intended purpose in modern memory. As with most rural schools in Kansas of the time, the cost to segregate on account of the race was prohibitive and not practiced.

Conclusion

Paxico Rural High was a typical design for architect Walter E. Glover: two-story, brick, stone, reinforced concrete, and composition roof. While typical in the structure of the building, the design was specifically geared to the Paxico community, which was predominantly Catholic. Adding parochial elements to the school as a whole (both architecturally and in its practices) was likely done as a way to make public school schooling

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36 Construction News of Kansas 1918:1
37 Construction News of Kansas 1919:4
38 Kansas Construction News 1919:2
39 Alma Signal 1921:8
40 Alma Enterprise 1922:5
41 Alma Signal 1922:1
42 Kansas Construction News 1920:1; Kansas Construction News 1919:1
appealing to the large Catholic families in the immediate area. This was a trend while accessing funding. The most noticeable feature is the separate entrances for “boys” and “girls” on either side of the structure. The fusing of religion and public schooling was especially important to generate the numbers needed for successful attendance, something that was not able to be maintained in earlier attempts at a public high school in Paxico.

The school remained a high school until 1974, when in a move by the district, the school was closed with the intent to bus students to nearby Alma. The sudden closure of the school brought about a civil rights suit and subsequent appeal for the closing of the school. The issue with busing to Alma was considered a hardship, however, and many families opted to send their students to the Catholic community of St. Mary’s rather than the Lutheran community of Alma. After this time, the school was put into use as a junior high school and currently retains that status.

There are twenty-five schools recorded in Wabaunsee County (several have been demolished), two are listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and ten have been evaluated as potentially eligible for listing, three of which are high schools. Paxico Rural High School is an excellent local example of a school built during the education consolidation period in Kansas. It fits the definition of the “town high school” subtype as defined in the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas MPDF*. Paxico Rural High School is in a rural location serving the entire surrounding community and towns and uses more local materials and a simplistic design/style. Paxico Rural High School retains excellent historic integrity and character defining features such as the simple historic design, parapet roof, historic finishes, plaster walls, double-loaded corridor and arrangement of spaces, and the historic 1950s gymnasium addition.

43 Perko 2017
Alma Enterprise
1921  *Alma Enterprise* (newspaper), Alma, KS. July 1, 1921, p. 5.

Alma Signal

Haynos, Thomas

Heigert, Douglas
1982  *A Tale of Three Towns: Newbury, Paxico, and Old Paxico*. Newbury Collection, Wabaunsee County Historical Museum, Alma, KS.

Junction City Daily Union
1921  “Will Vote on Consolidation,” *The Junction City Daily Union* (newspaper), Junction City, KS. February 17, 1921, p. 1.

Kansas Construction News
1921a “Roofing on Paxico School Let,” *Kansas Construction News* (newspaper), Topeka, KS. September 24, 1921, p. 3.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture
1915  *Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*. Topeka, KS.

Lannan, Vida W.
1986  *Paxico: 1886-1986*. Ag Press, Manhattan, KS.

Manhattan Mercury

Monroe, Paul
1925  *Cyclopedia of Education*. MacMillan Co. v. 3.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
OMB No. 1024-0018

Paxico Rural High School
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas
County and State

Paxico Rural High School

Ross, W. D.

Spencer, Brenda

2005 Historic Public Schools of Kansas. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Brenda Spencer, Wamego, KS.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _______________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _______________________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 5.17

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 39.072738° -96.168796°
   Latitude: Longitude:

2 39.072753° -96.167046°
   Latitude: Longitude:

3 39.071512° -96.168777°
   Latitude: Longitude:

4 39.071504° -96.167032°
   Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Paxico Rural High School is and has been located on the same three parcels throughout its existence. Though, it is important to note that the parcels/lots have not been consolidated and are divided into three separate parcels with some gaps between them. Therefore, the boundary actually includes: approximately 500 feet west-east from both the NW corner (1) to the NE corner (2) and SW corner (4) to the SE corner (3); and approximately 455 feet north-south from both NE corner (2) to the SE corner (3), and the NW corner (1) to the SW corner (4). The school faces and is bound to the south by Elm Street, to the east by Topeka Ave, to the west by Newbury Avenue, and to the north by a tree line. Within the boundary are the historic school building, its additions, modular structures, a baseball diamond, and several ancillary buildings described in Section 7.
The legal description is Township 11, Range 11 E, Section 26:
Paxico Avenue Lots 113-147 odds
Paxico Avenue Lots 114-148 evens
Topeka Avenue Lots 113-147 odds

**Boundary Justification**
(explain why the boundaries were selected)
The boundary for the Paxico Rural High School includes all of the lots within the legal description and the gaps between those parcels. These three lots have been historically associated with the school since its construction in 1921 and continue to be used by the school today. There is surrounding open space associated with the school, a baseball diamond, a few ancillary structures such as lean-tos and sheds also within the nominated boundary. The baseball diamond and open space contribute to the overall significance of the school and are included within the boundary. The ancillary structures do not detract from the significance of the property and are not substantial in size.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  In consultation with Kansas State Historic Preservation Office
organization  Kansas SHPO  date
street & number  6425 SW 6th Ave  telephone

city or town  Topeka  state  KS  zip code

e-mail

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

name  Wabaunsee USD 329

street & number  213 E. 9th; P.O. Box 157  telephone  785-765-3394

city or town  Alma  state  KS  zip code 66401

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
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.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
OMB No. 1024-0018

Name of Property: Paxico Rural High School
County and State: Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Wabaunsee Junior High
City or Vicinity: Paxico
County: Wabaunsee
State: Kansas
Photographer: In consult with KS SHPO
Date Photographed: 2021

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo Number</th>
<th>View</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Front view south (right) and west (left) elevation, camera facing northeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>East elevation, camera facing northwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>East elevation showing additions, camera facing north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>East elevation showing additions and modular buildings, camera facing southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>West elevation, “Girls” entrance, camera facing east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>West elevation, camera facing northeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>East elevation showing adjacent maintenance shed, camera facing northwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Typical classroom on east side of main floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Typical classroom on main floor, southwest corner of the building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level (former gym), camera facing south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level, camera facing east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level bathroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#14</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level utility room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15</td>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>Lower level utility room – wall detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#16</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>South view of east elevation showing maintenance sheds, adjacent to school building, camera facing northwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#17</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Metal maintenance shed (east elevation – left, north elevation – right) adjacent to the west side of the school, camera facing southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#18</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Metal maintenance shed (south elevation – left, east elevation – right) adjacent to the west side of the school, camera facing northwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#19</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>North elevation of modular building on west side of school, camera facing south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#20</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Cinder block shed (west elevation – left, south elevation – right), camera facing northeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#21</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>East elevation, cinder block shed, camera facing west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#22</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>West elevation, picnic shelter, camera facing east.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#23</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Ball diamond and shelters, camera facing northeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#24</td>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>Eastern portion of property, camera facing northwest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures
Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.
Paxico Rural High School

Google Earth
Paxico Rural High School

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State
Paxico Rural High School
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Paxico Rural High School

1. 39.072738° -96.168796°
2. 39.072753° -96.167046°
3. 39.071512° -96.167032°
4. 39.071504° -96.168777°
Photo 1: Front view south (right) and west (left) elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo 2: East elevation, camera facing northwest.
Photo 3: East elevation showing additions, camera facing north.

Photo 4: East elevation showing additions and modular buildings, camera facing southwest.
Photo 5: West elevation, “Girls” entrance, camera facing east.

Photo 6: West elevation, camera facing northeast.
Photo 7: East elevation showing adjacent maintenance shed, camera facing northwest.

Photo 8: Typical classroom on east side of main floor.
Photo 9: Typical classroom on main floor, southwest corner of the building.

Photo 10: Lower level (former gym), camera facing south.
Photo 11: Lower level, camera facing east.

Photo 12: Lower level bathroom.
Photo 13: Lower level classroom.

Photo 14: Lower level utility room.
Photo 15: Lower level utility room – wall detail.

Photo 16: South view of east elevation showing maintenance sheds, adjacent to school building, camera facing northwest.
Photo 17: Metal maintenance shed (east elevation – left, north elevation – right) adjacent to the west side of the school, camera facing southwest.

Photo 18: Metal maintenance shed (south elevation – left, east elevation – right) adjacent to the west side of the school, camera facing northwest.
Photo 19: North elevation of modular building on west side of school, camera facing south.

Photo 20: Cinder block shed (west elevation – left, south elevation – right), camera facing northeast.
Photo 21: East elevation, cinder block shed, camera facing west.

Photo 22: West elevation, picnic shelter, camera facing east.
Photo 23: Ball diamond and shelters, camera facing northeast.

Photo 24: Eastern portion of property, camera facing northwest.
Construction of the school 1921-1922 (*Pirate* 1974)
1922 school photograph (*Pirate* 1974).

1974 school photograph (*Pirate* 1974)
Wabaunsee Junior High