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  
Bryant School

Other names/site number  West Ward School, Second Ward School, Western Public School, Cowley County Historical Society Museum KHRI #035-5970-00059

Name of related Multiple Property Listing  Historic Public Schools of Kansas

2. Location

Street & number  1011 Mansfield St.  
City or town  Winfield  
State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Cowley  Code  035  Zip code  67156

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national  ___ statewide  _x_ local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  _x_ A  ___ B  _x_ C  ___D

See file.

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action
### 5. Classification

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

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**Category of Property**
(Check only one box.)

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

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**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- EDUCATION / School

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RECREATION & CULTURE / Museum

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- MIXED (elements of Vernacular forms of Italianate, Prairie, and Art Moderne)

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Foundation: Limestone/concrete
- walls: Limestone – 1880, 1916 & 1938
- Wood (elementary school building)
- roof: Asphalt shingle
- other: Concrete for 1995 ADA ramps and porch
Located at 1011 Mansfield Street, the Bryant School is the only school building remaining of the first five built in Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas. Now, it and the original school site, are home to the Cowley County Historical Society Museum. The main Second Ward School is a two story, full basement, limestone structure that sits in the middle of the eastern one-half of a city block. The main school structure is comprised of two major elements: the original, easternmost, 1880 building and the 1916 westernmost addition and window replacement. During the 1920’s a separate building was built for use as a kindergarten room. It was added on the northwestern corner of the school site. It is a freestanding, wood frame and wood clad structure. Adjacent to it is a moved-in outhouse of unknown date (non-contributing). Major alterations to the main school occurred in 1938 when the first indoor restrooms were constructed in the basement of the 1916 addition. Other improvements included a new south entrance with the name Bryant School overhead. In 1966, conversion of the school into the museum began and minor alterations occurred to the main school building: First, in 1990 the annex was attached to the north side and in 1994-95 interior (elevator) and exterior (ramp and entrance) ADA improvements were made. The juxtaposition of the above noted buildings is shown on an aerial photo of the site (Figure 1).

Elaboration

Setting and Site

The Second Ward School is in a residential neighborhood, just west/southwest of downtown Winfield (Boundary Map). Its site is two blocks south of Ninth Street (now also US-160) and three blocks west of Main Street (now also US-77). The original building was built in 1880 to serve all elementary age children, regardless of race or sex, living in Ward 2, an area west of Main Street. Population growth resulted in its being expanded in 1916 and again in 1938 (Figure 2). The school was closed in 1964 and deeded to the Historical Society on October 10, 1966. The main historic school building is now the Cowley County Historical Museum (CCHSM). It is a two-story limestone structure that sits in the middle of the eastern one-half of a city block. Adjoining the main school building on the north is the annex, a metal building which was added by the Historical Society in 1990 to display fire equipment and a fire truck. Further to the north is a free-standing, one story, wood structure that once was the school’s kindergarten building. This is a contributing resource that is now used for storage. Finally, at the southwest corner of the kindergarten building is a moved-in, wood outhouse. Per the Cowley County Appraisal Office, these buildings are in Mannings Addition, Block 50. The whole site is comprised of Lots 1-6, and is one acre in size. This has always been the site of the schools and their playgrounds. Currently, there is on-street parking on the north, south and east/front sides; as well as a new parking lot on the northeast side. There is a service alley on the west side.

There have been no changes to the size of the property since the city originally purchased it to build this school. The original school building has not been re-located but has expanded in size due to the 1916 addition. There are many trees and plants on this property and some could be original due to their size; there have been new ones planted as older ones died. On the front of the museum, the city constructed sidewalks (date unknown), and CCHSM added a wooden sign with the museum’s name on it. A large stone with CCHSM engraved in it was donated by a local stone company. There is a small fence around the front sidewalk that was purchased when a local hotel closed. The flagpole was donated by the local DAR group in 1967.
Bryant School

Bryant School Building

Contributing Status: Contributing

Dates of construction: ca. 1880, 1916, 1938

Architectural Style: Mixed (elements of Vernacular forms of Italianate, Prairie, and Art Moderne)

Lat./Long.: 37.238683, -97.001431

Architects/builders:
Benjamin J. Bartlett was the architect for the 1880 original school.

J. M. Fuller was the architect for the major addition in 1916. Mr. Weeks, no known first name, was the contractor and T.B. Myers was the superintendent of construction for the addition in 1916.

William N. Caton was the architect for major alterations and the minor expansion in 1938 with Otto F. Frankenfeld acting as contractor.

Gordon/Embers were the architects for the ADA Renovations during the years of 1994 and 1995.

Description:
The main Bryant School is a two-story, full basement, limestone structure that sits in the middle of the eastern one-half of a city block. The main school structure is comprised of two major elements: the original, easternmost, 1880 building and the 1916 westernmost addition with a (historic) window replacement project. The architectural style of the 1916 addition is strikingly reflective of the original 1880 building. Some commonalities are as follows: the sawn limestone banding that caps the stone foundation and defines the first-floor level; the ashlar stone pattern; the consistency of the stone material; and the decorative exposed rafter tails. J. M. Fuller, the architect of the 1916 addition, was sensitive to Benjamin Bartlett’s design (the original building’s architect). This sensitivity is also evident in William Caton’s 1938 improvements. The overall style of the building incorporates elements of Italianate, Prairie, and Art Moderne and is therefore best described as Mixed. This school is also reminiscent of various substantial limestone, late 19th century residential and commercial buildings in Winfield. An example is the National Register-listed W. P. Hackney House at 417 E. 10th Avenue. Constructed in 1886, the style of this residence is noted as “Eclectic” and is an early design of William Caton, the architect for the 1938 improvements.

Original 1880 School Building

When built, the original two story school building was essentially T-shaped (Figure 3); it had (and still has) a full, slightly raised basement. The exterior is of locally quarried limestone set in an ashlar pattern. Sawn limestone banding caps the stone foundation and defines the first-floor level. The current east façade is basically from this era, as are the eastern portions of the north and south façades. The school had four classrooms connected by halls and support spaces: two on the main level and two on the upper level. A gabled roof with decorative rafter tails and a bell steeple were set on the load-bearing stone walls (Figure 4). All façades had well-spaced, individual windows with stone lintels. Windows were double-hung four-over-four sashes; only two of these remain today, and both are located on the north end of the west elevation. No architectural plans have been found for the original school.

1916 Addition & Alterations

A major addition on the south side in 1916, also of two stories and a full basement, was added to the west of the 1880 building; this brought the school into its current cruciform footprint. (Figure 6). Like the original building, the exterior is clad with an ashlar limestone. This addition consisted of two classrooms, one each on the main and upper levels. The south walls of both classrooms contain a band of double-hung windows; the bottom classroom’s windows have transoms. No windows appear to have been installed in the north and west walls.

1 The bell steeple may have been added later, as it does not appear on Sanborn maps until 1905 (Figure 5).
Additionally, windows in the north and south façades of the 1880s building were replaced with bands of six double-hung windows to maximize light in these classroom spaces. The new windows also intentionally correspond to the windows installed in the addition. These windows appear in the 1938 “current condition” plans, indicating they were installed prior to the 1938 alterations. The 1916 date for window changes is supported by the fact that it would have been a major structural project to replace the original building’s classroom windows and that replacing them as a part of the 1916 major addition project would have been cost effective.

1938 Alterations
In 1938 major alterations were made, with only minor footprint changes. These improvements included: the school’s first indoor restrooms in the basement of the 1916 addition; the central concrete stairs installed in the east end of the 1916 addition; the installation of double doors at the east end of the 1916 addition, as well as a new, two-story addition at this exit; and a fire escape addition from the second level at the east end of the 1916 addition’s north elevation (Figure 7). The two-story stone addition on the south elevation has an open portico at the ground level with a smooth stone surround with stylized lettering reading “Bryant School.” Centered above this is a square metal window. The north two-story stone addition contains the new concrete stair with a tall metal window in the north elevation at the landing. A door in the west elevation of this addition leads to the exterior metal fire escape.

Gable roofs are shown in the 1938 plans, but currently they are all hip roofs, except on the westernmost/alley side façade. Also, the bell steeple is no longer present in these plans. Figure 8 shows an undated historic image from between 1916 & 1938 that shows the hipped roof and no belfry, indicating these changes occurred prior to the 1938 alterations.

Another substantive change to the original 1880 building is indicated in the 1938 plans. They show as an existing condition (in 1938) that most individual masonry window openings with stone lintels had either been infilled with limestone. The date of the infill is unknown, but Figure 8 shows the east façade’s main level center window intact; today this masonry opening does not contain a window.

1994-95 ADA Renovations
Slight changes were made to the exterior by way of a small, front door porch and handicapped ramp at the building’s southeast corner. The major interior improvement was the addition of an elevator in the 1880 building’s south classroom.

Use Changes
The basic configuration of the school building remains intact; only two partitions reconfigure any of the classrooms. Interior circulation patterns are mostly unchanged, except for door removal. Access into the building is now primarily where it was in the original building, i.e., the southeast corner. The main school access into the building after the 1916 addition was on the south and remained there until its closing. Now, this is a secondary one for the museum. Also, a north access to the school building now goes to the annex (see below). HVAC, electrical, and plumbing have been made with little impact on the school’s original layout. Door removal and limited interior renovations have successfully converted the school into the museum’s current need for admission, display, storage, workroom and office space.

Interior
Entrance into the 1880 portion is through a pair of doors in the south wall at the east end of the building. In the northeast corner of the entry foyer is a wooden stair to the upper level. Under the stair, at the north end of the foyer, is a small kitchenette and storage area in a former closet. Two single door openings in the foyer’s west wall lead into separate classrooms, one on the north and one on the south. The foyer has a concrete floor with

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2 Edna Carttar, “Old school is home to museum,” Winfield Daily Courier, Achievement Edition (26 Feb. 1983): 10B. When describing the 1916 west addition as a new wing, the article states, “The windows in the old building were changed to conform to the modern ones in the new wing.”
plaster and wood walls. There is original beadboard wainscoting on the lower section of the walls in this foyer with a chair railing and then the upper portion is lath and plaster.

Taking the door to the kitchenette there is a sink/cabinet area with a refrigerator and shelves for storage. The window in the kitchenette has been covered with wood on the inside and there is a small closet that is used for storage for the museum’s publications. This room is set up for permanent displays.

In the south classroom are two windows in the east wall. The northern one was covered on the inside when the elevator was installed. The south wall contains the row of six windows installed in 1916. The west wall contains a door into the 1916 addition. Along the north wall are closets. One closet is open and is used for displays; the second closet has two doors and is used for storage. The north classroom is a mirror of the south classroom and is also used for displays. A former masonry window opening is located at the north end of the west wall.

The second level of the 1880 building is nearly identical to the main level. Above the entry foyer is a landing with access to the north and south classrooms. Doors in the west wall of these classrooms lead into the 1916 addition.

The basement of the 1880 building is now only accessed through the 1916 addition; it contains three rooms. Under the entry foyer and north classroom are two rooms that now serve as office and storage space for the historical society; under the south classroom is display for the museum.

Before 1938 access into the 1916 addition appears to have been directly through the classrooms of the 1880 building. At the time of the 1938 addition, space was made in the east end of the 1916 addition for a wide corridor and new stair. The doors in the 1880 building’s west wall lead directly into this corridor. At the north end is the 1938 switchback stair, connecting all levels. A single door in the west wall of the corridor in the main and upper levels leads into the 1916 classroom on both levels. At the south end of the main level’s corridor is the double entry added in 1938; at the south end of the second level corridor is a small room above this entry.

Both the main and upper level 1916 classrooms have a bank of windows along their south walls but no other windows. Each has an alcove at the northeast corner of the room. The exterior fire escape connects to the west wall of the upper level alcove. Both classrooms and both alcoves are used for display.

At the landing between the main and upper levels is a large metal window. At the landing between the main level and basement is another pair of doors that were installed in 1938 and originally led outside to the play yard. Today these historic doors lead into the annex described below.

The basement corridor has doors in the east wall, leading into the 1880 building’s basement. Two doors in the west wall lead into the 1916 addition basement that was adapted in 1938 into bathrooms. The bathrooms retain their glazed concrete block wainscot. There are two closets located in the hallway area, one is used for storage and one is the janitors closet. The basement floor throughout is concrete.

There are still many original fixtures throughout the building such as chalkboards, light fixtures, closet doors, and wooden stair railings. In one of the upper level coat closets there are still name tags pasted to the wall; although, it is unsure as to what year these students attended. There is still the painted shuffle board drawing on the floor of the large display room in the basement, date of original painting unknown. Also extant are the inside school bells, one on each level, with the switch in the foyer that still works (installation date unknown). Board members demonstrate it during school tours to illustrate how it would signal recess. All the interior rooms have original lath and plaster walls with the original oak tongue-and-groove flooring. During the years of 1966-68, as the building was being adapted for a museum, duct work was added throughout the original building, electrical work was updated, and the roof was repaired. Glass was replaced in several of the windows with screening and bars added to prevent further vandalism.
Bryant School Annex

**Contributing Status:** Non-contributing

**Date of construction:** 1990

**Lat./Long.:** 37.238807, -97.001544

**Description:**
Adjoining the main Bryant School on the north is the one-story annex. It was added by the historical society. This is a large open space, pre-fab structure and hallway. Both have metal sidings and roof. It was built to house an antique fire truck loaned to the museum by the City of Winfield. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 28, 1990.\(^3\) Ralph Russell Construction of Winfield constructed it at a cost of $14,000. The main annex structure is 30’ (north/south) by 40’ (east/west). The hallway to the annex is accessed from the school at the midpoint landing of the central stairway that leads to the school’s basement. Upon entering the annex’s hallway, there is a main door about four feet from the double doors. It leads outside to a patio area to the west. On the west/alley side is an overhead metal door that accommodates the movement of the fire truck and other large pieces of equipment. The chain link fence along the alley has a gate for access to the annex. Although not historic, this annex does not significantly detract from the historic integrity of the main school building. Constructed at the northwest corner of the main school building, the annex is only attached to the historic building by a short hallway. Other than the historic exterior doors, no other openings are covered, and this annex could be removed at any time without harm to the stone building.

Bryant Elementary Kindergarten School Building

**Contributing Status:** Contributing

**Dates of construction:** ca. 1922\(^4\)

**Architectural Style:** Vernacular (with some Craftsman influence)

**Architect/builder:** Unknown

**Lat./Long.:** 37.239005, -97.001500

**Description:**
Near the northwest corner of the school site is a free-standing, one room, one story, wood frame and wood clad structure that was the school's kindergarten building. This is a contributing resource that is currently used for storage. Due to lack of documentation, there has been no exact date determined for the construction of the kindergarten building. Sanborn maps show that the building was not there in January of 1918 but was in place by September 1925 (Figures 6 & 9).

The building measures 40’ (north/south) by 25’ (east/west). The gable roof peaks at 18’, and the eaves overhang 2’ all around the perimeter. The exterior of the building is wood clapboard, with an asphalt roof, and the foundation appears to be rusticated concrete block. The school’s main entrance faces north. The historic wood door (with 15 lights and transom) is centered in the elevation with a single historic window (nine-over-one, double-hung with historic screens) on either side. Above the door is a gable-front roof with exposed rafters and knee braces that covers a two-step concrete stoop (8’ wide by 4’ deep).

The west façade has no windows but has an entrance door at the south end (non-historic door in historic opening). The east façade has a band of six historic windows. These windows match the units on the north elevation. The south façade contains four shorter historic windows (also nine-over-one, double-hung sashes with historic screens).

The interior is comprised of one large classroom space with four evenly-spaced rooms along the south end of the building. The classroom’s south wall contains a doorway at the east and west end that accesses two rooms each. Each room measures approximately 18’ (north/south) by 6'-3” (east/west). The eastern rooms appear to have been closets and/or a small office. The westernmost room was storage/closest with a

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bathroom. It is assumed to be original from construction or to have been added when the indoor restrooms were added to the original school building in 1938; there is no documentation to verify this, but the fixtures are historic.

A historic slate chalkboard is centered in the classroom’s south wall; a historic water fountain is located at the east end of the chalkboard. The west wall contains a brick chimney that no longer extends past the roof. This chimney vented a wood or coal stove; there is also a floor furnace, which was likely added at a later date.

Four original ceiling lights are in the ceiling of the classroom, and the inside walls are 10’-6” tall. These walls are lath and plaster, and the floor is 2” oak tongue-and-groove. There have been no renovations to this building.

**Outhouse**

**Contributing Status:** Non-contributing  
**Dates of construction:** ca. 1935  
**Lat./Long.:** 37.238975, -97.001601  
**Description:**

At the southwest corner of the Kindergarten School Building is a moved-in, wooden outhouse with concrete bowl. This is a non-contributing resource that now reflects a past, exacting condition. Per a previous CCHSM board member, this outhouse was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which would be circa 1935. This non-functioning outhouse was brought in for display purposes; it is not original to either the 1880 school or the Kindergarten school building. It measures 51”X51”, it is 72” high with an elevation of 92”. 
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.

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
Education

Architecture

Period of Significance
1880-1964

Significant Dates
1880, 1916, c.1925, 1938

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
Bartlett, Benjamin J. (1880 architect)
J. M. Fuller (1916 architect)
Caton, William N. (1938 architect)
Frankenfeld, Otto F. (1938 contractor)

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance begins with the construction of the school in 1880 and extends to 1964 when the Bryant School (aka Second Ward School) ceased its function as a school for the western portion of Winfield. The period of significance also includes the years when additions and modifications were made to the building and site to support continued educational use.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
N/A
First constructed in 1880 for Winfield’s second or west ward, the Bryant School is the only extant school building that illustrates the town’s earliest public education history (Figure 10). As the town’s population grew, the school building was expanded to include additional classroom space first in 1916 then in circa 1922 when a separate elementary building was constructed on the north side of the parcel. The main school building was again updated in 1938 to accommodate better circulation and the building’s first indoor restrooms. The Bryant School continued to serve the children of western Winfield until 1964. By the end of the 1960s this was the home of the Cowley County Historical Society Museum, who continues to own and operate it today. The school complex is nominated as part of the Historic Public Schools of Kansas multiple property submission as an example of the City School property type (City Graded School subtype).

**Elaboration:**

E.C. Manning, one of the founders of Winfield, came to Kansas in 1861 and to the Winfield area in 1869. He was instrumental in proclaiming Winfield the county seat of Cowley County. Winfield was found, on February 28, 1879, to have a population of 2,000 by Governor John P. St. John, who declared it a city of the third class. Winfield was then divided into two wards; the eastern side of Main Street was the first ward with the west side being the second ward. Education was very important to the citizens of Winfield as evidenced by a 1901 article in the Winfield Daily Courier, which indicated that even before Winfield was declared a city, citizens wanted their children educated.

The first school of Winfield was held on the second story in the “Old Log Store” in the winter of 1870. As the city of Winfield grew the school age population also grew, prompting the need for more room to hold classes. Classrooms were moved from the Old Log Store when the Central School building was built. A school bond was approved in 1872 to build additional room to the north wing at the Central school building. By 1880 the town’s population neared 3,000, and the clerk of the Winfield school district reported 780 children of school age in the district. To accommodate this number of students, a new building was built on the west side of Winfield, which became Bryant School, and additions were made to the Central (High) School. Winfield continued to grow, prompting the construction of other elementary schools, including Webster, Irving, and Lowell all built in a similar style to Bryant (Figure 10).

After the school board’s decision to construct a school on the west side of town, the board purchased from local Henry Brown a quarter block on 10th avenue in Manning’s Addition on which to erect the second ward’s schoolhouse. Architect Benjamin J. Bartlett of Des Moines, Iowa, designed the 1880 school building.

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5 Historic records so far do not document why the school is named Bryant.
9 According to Sanborn maps, Central Public School was located in east Winfield at the northeast corner of Fuller and E 9th. A different school building, now known as the Winfield Early Learning Center, is now located here.
11 According to Sanborn maps, Irving was located at 4th and Harter in north Winfield where the current Irving Elementary School (ca. 1960) is located. Webster was (is) south of E 11th Street on Courier, also in east Winfield. Lowell (1950s) was (is) at E Riverside (14th) and Loomis streets in south Winfield.
13 Born in New Hampshire in 1834, Bartlett received his architectural education in Boston. In 1855 he settled in Chicago, and in 1876 he removed to Des Moines where he made “a specialty of school-houses and churches, and his
According to the *Winfield Courier* in April 1880, Bartlett was the architect for a Mr. Rigby’s new dwelling, and he guaranteed the new school would cost less than $10,000 with heating and ventilation completed.  

By mid-June, “The contract for building the second ward school was let to John Q. Ashton, for $9,950. Mr. Ashton built the Arkansas City schoolhouse and the new stone buildings on north Main street for McMullen & Bryan. Mr. John H. Lee was appointed superintendent of erection.” Not until November 1880 did construction commence on the new graded school building.

Bryant School’s two-story, four-classroom building is typical of the city graded school property type, outlined by Brenda Spencer in *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, “Most early graded schools were two-story, four-, six-, or eight-room schools, typically with rectangular or central tower plans. Italianate was the dominant architectural style.”

These first schools were called graded schools because, unlike the country school, they incorporated separate grades from the earliest days. The schools typically included courses for grades one through eight and the first high school instruction was through one to four years of high school courses within the graded school. The sheer number of students had as much to do with the emergence of separate high school buildings as educational doctrine. … In larger cities, the pattern of neighborhood schools was established from the beginning as a means to serve the children throughout the city. Even in smaller cities [like Winfield], it was common to have east and west or north and south graded schools to serve residents of specific areas of the city.

In 1903 Bryant School had four teachers – presumably one for each classroom – who made a combined monthly salary of $180 ($4,876 in 2016).

There were several changes to Winfield’s population over the years that affected the school district. Between the construction of the Bryant School in 1880 to 1910, the city’s population more than doubled from 2,844 to 6,700. As Spencer again notes, “The city grade schools were susceptible to shifting populations within a city. Growth in one area of the city often resulted in the addition of a new classroom or classroom wing, or freestanding modular classroom.” All the schools in Winfield had 40-50+ students in each classroom, as exemplified in an April 1911 article about an Easter celebration, “The class, of forty-eight members and the teacher, walked to Hiatt’s park.”

In 1910 Bryant school had 154 students in four classrooms. To alleviate the crowded conditions, the school board opted to expand the existing school rather than build elsewhere due to land in town being at a premium. In January 1916 Winfield citizens voted to approve $72,000 in school bonds to improve the town’s schools, and it was hoped that by the start of the fall 1916 term, the work on the buildings would be accomplished.

designs may be seen from” Ohio to Colorado to Texas [*The History of Polk County, Iowa* (Des Moines: Union Historical Co, Birdsell, Williams & Co., 1880), 769]  

14 *Winfield Courier* (15 Apr. 1880): n.p. The Rigby referenced in the article could have been Reverend Nicholas Rigby, who is listed in the 1880 census as living in Winfield.  


18 Ibid.  


20 “Schools MPS,” 32.  


24 Ibid.
At the beginning of April 1916 the school board requested bids “for the completion of a two room addition to three ward school buildings (Bryant, Irving and Webster Buildings).”25 J. M. Fuller was the architect of the additions.26 At Bryant School the two-room addition was built as a western extension of the 1880 building with one classroom on each level. The work also extended the raised basement to the west side; there was extreme care given so the modifications matched the original building: the use of similar stone and stone pattern; the gable end treatment on the west end of the extension; the raised basement, and the replacement of windows in the 1880 building to match the 1916 addition. There is little differentiation between the two periods of construction. The current west façade is basically from this era, as are the west portions of the north and south facades. On September 4, 1916 the school reopened for the new school term “with an unusually large number of children….“27 Although the article did not specify numbers, enrollment was considered “one of the best if not the best in the history of the schools….“28 The addition appears to have been completed in time, as the school had six teachers that term, teaching first through sixth grades.29

Another large population increase – of 40% – occurred between 1910 and 1930. In Per the Winfield Daily Free Press the Board of Education met on September 4, 1922, to address the issues of overcrowding and improvements to the ward schools.30 Between the city’s four graded schools, total enrollment in 1922 was 934.31 Bryant School’s kindergarten building was in place by 1925 (Figure 9), indicating it was constructed shortly after the 1922 board meeting; there is no documentation as to the actual construction date or why a separate structure was preferred over another addition to the stone building. Irving School also received an additional classroom at this time.32

In 1923 a significant event in Winfield inadvertently impacted Bryant School’s enrollment. A major flood of the Walnut River in June of that year caused from $1 million to $1.5 million worth of damage in Winfield alone (over $14-$21.5 million in 2017).33 The local flood was part of a larger weather event that affected the entire region, including Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. As the Associated Press reported, in Winfield “several hundred families [are] homeless. Early today water from Walnut river was running through the center of the city. The water and light plant there, as well as in many other towns, was put out of commission.”34 Besides the business district, the greatest impact in Winfield was to the western part of town where the Walnut River is located. Whole residential blocks were destroyed, and residents who rebuilt did so on the east side of town away from the river. This is significant because as Winfield’s population increased during the 1920s, the school-age population of the second ward actually decreased in the decades following the flood.

Although enrollment gradually decreased, Bryant School continued to support the education of the second ward children from kindergarten through sixth grade. In 1938 alterations were made to modernize the building. These improvements included the first indoor restrooms in the basement of the 1916 addition, a central concrete stair and corridor between the 1880 and 1916 structures, double exiting doors, and a fire escape from the second level. The same year, Webster School was replaced with a new structure designed by William Caton,35 the architect of the Bryant School alterations, using New Deal-era funding.36 Bryant School

26 Ibid. The 1920 US Federal census lists a John M. Fuller in Winfield, with the occupation of carpenter.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
32 1925 Sanborn map. The classroom building, as it is called on the map, is not on the 1918 map.
35 William Caton (1895-1993) was born and raised in Winfield, graduating from Central High School in 1913. After graduating with an engineering degree from what is now Kansas State University, Caton returned to Winfield and opened
finally closed in May 1964 due to the loss of the school age population on the west side of town. The students at Bryant were consolidated with another school starting in 1965, and the school property was unused for the first time since 1880.

The following year, 1966, the school building was acquired by the Cowley County Historical Society (CCHS). Roland Mueller, a museum board member in the 1960s, related how the CCHS acquired the Bryant School building:

The CCHS was organized in the early 1900s by a group of interested citizens with a small collection of artifacts, but there was never a permanent home for their collection. The collection was housed in different locations, including a public school, a downtown store, and the two local colleges. Visiting hours were nearly non-existent and the number of supporting members was small. Under such limitations, it could hardly be classified as an operational museum. A solution presented itself when, in 1966, the local board of education decided to raze Bryant School, the last of Winfield’s original elementary school buildings. CCHS selected a small committee to explore the possibility of using Bryant School for a museum. On August 22, 1966, an open meeting was held at the old Chamber of Commerce building to discuss this topic and because of favorable public response, it was decided to request the use of the building. The school board responded by conveying the building and the grounds to CCHS on October 10, 1966, with the stipulations that it would revert to the school district if not used as a museum and open at least four days each month.

As Mueller notes, Bryant School was the sole remaining graded schoolhouse from Winfield’s initial campaign for school buildings. Based upon their current architecture, Central, Irving, and Lowell appear to have been replaced in the 1950s or 1960s. As previously mentioned, Webster was replaced in the late 1930s.

After the CCHS acquired the school property, minor alterations made it ready to open as a museum. During the years of 1966-68, ductwork was added throughout the original building, electrical work was updated, and broken windows and the roof were repaired; aluminum screens and bars were added to the first-floor windows at this time, too. Heating and cooling units were added, and the main doors were repaired from damage and new locks added. In the 1990s ADA changes were made with an elevator being added in the 1880 building and a wheelchair ramp installed at the southeast corner. The front entry was remodeled with a canopy and scrolling to match the roof. The restrooms were updated; also, plaster walls were repaired and painted. After 1996 there have only been minor changes. In 2004, the basement was renovated to create a research library and an office. In 2013, a closet on the main floor was converted into a kitchenette. A parking lot on the north side of the building was recently added in January of 2017 to support the on-going functions of the museum.

On November 16, 2015, Mayor Beth Wilke read a proclamation recognizing the site of the Cowley County Historical Society Museum as an important building to the community. The proclamation calls the building “a significant facility reflecting the cultural and educational heritage of our community.” The proclamation also recognized the efforts of Cowley County Historical Society members in maintaining the building and preserving the county’s heritage. Bryant School is the perfect setting for CCHSM to provide a variety of historical and educational projects for the county. This includes oral histories, an archive section that includes photos,
newspaper articles, and personal information from numerous citizens that includes pioneers. In continuous operation since the 1960s, Bryant School is a good setting for an organization whose mission statement is “Sharing the Past with the Future.”
9. Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Cowley County Historical Society Museum Archives.


Newspapers (from CCHSM archives and/or Newspapers.com)


Winfield Courier, 1879-1880.


The Winfield Tribune, 1885-1886.

Bryant School
Name of Property
Cowley County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property
One

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

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

1 37.238683 -97.001431 3
Latitude: Longitude:

2 Latitude: Longitude:

3 Latitude: Longitude:

4 Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
Per the Cowley County Appraisal Office, these buildings are in Mannings Addition, Block 50. The whole site is comprised of Lots 1-6 and is one acre in size.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
Although graded schools were typically a full city block, Bryant School historically occupied only half of Block 50. The nominated boundaries include the lots historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Hostetter, board member, Shawn Marie Stover, CCHSM Director, & Ken Kallenbach AICP
organization Cowley County Historical Society Museum
date Summer 2017
street & number 1011 S. Mansfield St.
telephone 620-221-4811
city or town Winfield
state KS
zip code 67156
e-mail cchsm.kans.com

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

name Cowley County Historical Society Museum
street & number 1011 S. Mansfield St.
telephone 620-221-4811
city or town Winfield
state KS
zip code 67156

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

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Bryant School
City or Vicinity: Winfield
County: Cowley State: KS
Photographer: CCHSM & Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)
Date Photographed: May 2015* (CCHSM) & May 2017 (KSHS)

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

01 of 24: View of school complex, looking SW prior to parking lot’s construction (CCHSM)
02 of 24: Main building, looking NW at partial south and east elevations (CCHSM)
03 of 24: Main building, looking WSW at east elevation (CCHSM)
04 of 24: Main building, looking NE at partial south elevation (CCHSM)
05 of 24: Main building, detail of 1938 south entrance (KSHS)
06 of 24: Main building, looking ESE at west elevation (CCHSM)
07 of 24: Main building, looking SW at partial north; annex is to right (CCHSM)
08 of 24: Main building, entry foyer of 1880 portion, looking south from stair (KSHS)
09 of 24: Main building, 1880 stair, looking WSW from landing (CCHSM)
10 of 24: Main building, main level south room of 1880 portion, looking SW (KSHS)
11 of 24: Main building, main level north room of 1880 portion, looking NW (KSHS)
12 of 24: Main building, main level of 1938 corridor, looking south (CCHSM)
13 of 24: Main building, 1938 stair looking south from landing between main and upper levels (CCHSM)
14 of 24: Main building, upper level of 1938 corridor, looking north (KSHS)
15 of 24: Main building, upper level classroom in 1916 portion, looking NW (KSHS)
16 of 24: Main building, 1938 doors at landing between main level and basement, looking north (KSHS)
17 of 24: Main building, basement corridor, looking north at 1938 stair; men’s bathroom to left (KSHS)
18 of 24: Main building, basement office area in 1880 portion, looking NNE (KSHS)
19 of 24: Looking east at corridor connecting main building to annex (CCHSM)
20 of 24: Looking SE at north and west elevations of annex (CCHSM)
21 of 24: Elementary school, north elevation (CCHSM)
22 of 24: Elementary school and privy, looking NE at south and west elevations (KSHS)
23 of 24: Elementary school, looking NNW at main classroom space (KSHS)
24 of 24: Elementary school, looking SW at main classroom space (KSHS)

*Conditions seen in 2015 photos were verified in May 2017 site visit by KSHS.

Figures
Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

01 of 10: Google aerial image illustrating layout of buildings.
02 of 10: Schematic (overlaid on 11038 William N. Caton blueprint) of the three building phases.
03 of 10: 1884 Sanborn fire map, shows Western Public School.
04 of 10: Undated historic photo, showing school before 11016 addition.
05 of 10: 11005 Sanborn map, shows the Bryant School with belfry.
06 of 10: 11018 Sanborn map, shows addition to west.
07 of 10: Annotated 11038 William N. Caton blueprint of basement.
08 of 10: Undated image of Bryant School, looking north. Taken between 11018 & 11038.
09 of 10: 1925 Sanborn map, shows elementary building to north.
10 of 10: 1904 Souvenir postcard of Winfield’s schools; only the Bryant School Building is standing.
**Figure 1.** Aerial image showing the nominated boundary and the individual resources.
Figure 2. Schematic showing building additions.
Figure 3. Snippet of 1884 Sanborn map, showing the original portion of the school building.
Bryant School
Name of Property

Cowley County, Kansas
County and State

**Figure 4.** Undated historic photo, showing school before 1916 addition.
Figure 5. Snippet of 1905 Sanborn map, showing the original portion of the school building with belfry.
Figure 6. Snippet of 1918 Sanborn map, showing addition.
Figure 7. Annotated basement plan from 1938.
Bryant School
Name of Property

Cowley County, Kansas
County and State

**Figure 8.** Undated (between 1916 & 1938) photo, showing hipped roof and no belfry.
Figure 9. Snippet of 1925 Sanborn map, showing elementary building to north.
**Figure 10.** 1904 Souvenir postcard of Winfield's schools.
Boundary Map. The nominated site is depicted by the outlined shape. Contextual map shown below, showing parcel location within Winfield.
Photo Key Overall.
Main Level Photo Key.
Upper Level Photo Key.
Bryant School
Name of Property

Cowley County, Kansas
County and State

Basement Photo Key.