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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>Prescott Rural High School</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other name/site number</td>
<td>Prescott Elementary School</td>
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2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street &amp; number</th>
<th>202 West 4th Street</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City or town</td>
<td>Prescott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Linn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip code</td>
<td>66767-0223</td>
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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
☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature]

5/16/08

4. National Park Service Certification

[Signature of Keeper]

[Date of Action]

☐ 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 Keeper]

[Date of Action]
## 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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<tr>
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<td>Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Historic Public Schools of Kansas

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

N/A

## Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter Categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

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

GOVERNMENT/City Hall

## Description

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

Commercial

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt
Other:

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ 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

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society
Prescott Rural High School
Name of Property

Linn County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Four acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Zone: 15
Easting: 3 5 0 8
Northing: 4 2 1 4 1 4 0

3
Zone: Easting: Northing:

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Susan Jezak Ford
Organization: Citysearch Preservation
Street & number: 3628 Holmes St.
City or town: Kansas City

Date: December 6, 2007
Date: December 6, 2007
Telephone: 816-531-2489
State: Missouri
Zip code: 64109

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name: City of Prescott
Street & number: P.O. Box 223
City or town: Prescott

Telephone: 913-471-4521
State: Kansas
Zip code: 66787

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. 470 et seq.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 161 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20043-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503
Architectural Description

Summary
The Prescott Rural High School building is located at 202 West 4th Street in Prescott, Kansas. The two-story school is a Commercial style building with Mission/Spanish Revival ornamentation. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), Historic Public Schools of Kansas. The building falls within the MPDF's Associated Property Type, Town High Schools. It is eligible for nomination under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building, designed by architect Ray L. Gamble, retains integrity in its design, placement on the edge of town and 1920s materials.

Architectural Description
The Prescott Rural High School building is constructed of tile brick faced with buff brick. The rectangular building faces east to Main Street. Most of the building is one story tall surrounding a central two-story gymnasium/auditorium. The building is approximately 108 feet wide and 96 feet deep. Constructed in 1924, the school opened for classes in January 1925. The school received rear additions around 1950 and 1961.

The symmetrical nine-bay east façade has a central recessed entrance surrounded by stone framing and topped with an arched parapet containing a stone plaque. The façade has stone block ornament in the upper portion of the wall. A parapet with stone coping extends to the north and south sides of the building. All stone is currently painted white. A multi-paned transom tops the recessed entrance double doors. The carved entrance plaque originally read “RURAL/ HIGH SCHOOL.” It is currently filled and painted to read “PRESCOTT/ ELEM. SCHOOL.” The two bays surrounding the entrance contain two sets of windows. This central portion of the façade is pulled forward from the three outer bays on each side. Each outer bay contains three sets of windows surrounded by soldier and sailor coursing separated by brick piers that extend slightly above the parapet. The outer corners of the façade also have piers ornamented with stone. The upper portion of the school's stage and gymnasium rises above the first story. The gymnasium's façade wall has a stepped parapet that continues on the north and south sides, echoing parapet on the lower story. The gymnasium wall once had four pairs of windows, now filled with brick.

The building’s original south wall is seven bays wide. The brick piers between bays, soldier and sailor coursing, stone block ornament and stone-capped parapet found on the façade continues to this elevation. Viewing the building from east to west (front to back), the first bay is solid brick. Bay two is pulled slightly forward, contains a double set of windows and topped with a curved parapet. Bays three, four, six and seven each contain an opening for two sets of windows. Bay five contains an opening for a single window. The south wall of the gymnasium once had five window openings. Four are now bricked in and only the center opening still contains a window. A circa 1961 concrete block addition extends west of the south wall. The one-story addition, painted white, has a sloping roof with a window in the east portion and a single metal door in the west portion.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

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The original north side of the building matches the south side in bays and window configuration, except that all the window openings in the upper gymnasium wall are now filled with brick. A circa 1950 addition extends west of the north wall. The stucco one-story addition has a flat roof and a stepped parapet. The north wall of the addition has a double window opening in the east portion and a single window in the west portion.

The west side of the building contains additions from around 1950 and the early 1960s. The rear of the 1950 stucco addition on the northwest corner has a north window and two south doors. The circa 1961 addition on the southwest corner is faced with wood and has three irregularly spaced single windows. A recessed concrete block section connects the two additions. The school’s original brick smokestack projects from behind this section.

The school retains its architectural integrity with most of its original interior layout and finishes. A hallway begins at the building’s east entrance and runs along the east side of the gymnasium. The hall retains its original plaster walls, wood trophy cases and ten-foot ceilings. Floors are vinyl tile and lockers line the hallway. Offices and classrooms are located along the east, north and south sides of the building. Classrooms contain original moldings, radiators and woodwork surrounding chalkboard and bulletin board areas. Classrooms now have suspended ceilings and carpeted floors. The building’s circa 1950 and 1961 additions on the west side of the building are of concrete block. The additions housed a lunchroom, a woodworking shop and additional classrooms.

The school’s gymnasium retains its original wood floor, stage, storage areas and balconies. The two-story room has two main entrances in the east wall. Two stairways on the east wall lead to second-story balconies on the east, north and south walls. A raised stage fills most of the west wall. Storage closets are located under the stage. Second-story rooms are located on either side of the stage. Stairs at the northwest corner of the stage lead to the school’s first floor and a boiler room and shower area in the basement.

The Prescott Rural High School building is well maintained and in excellent condition. It currently serves as the Prescott City Hall. The building’s current configuration is shown below.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Prescott Rural High School
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Current floor plan of Prescott Rural High School building
(Rowland Grigsby)
Summary
The Prescott Rural High School is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under the MPDF, *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, falling within the Associated Property Type, *Town High Schools*. It is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a 1920s Commercial design with Mission/Spanish Revival details by former state architect, Ray L. Gamble.

Architecture
Ray L. Gamble, Kansas state architect from 1917 to 1923, designed the Prescott Rural High School. Gamble received his architectural training at the Kansas State Architectural College and was first employed in the office of John Haskell. He began working in the state architect’s office in 1902 and remained there, except for four years of private practice, until 1923. Under state architect Charles Chandler, he contributed to the design of Hays Normal School, as well as Strong Hall and Watson Library at Kansas University.

Upon Chandler’s sudden death in December 1917, Gamble was appointed as state architect. He was responsible for $5 million of public building projects during his tenure, including the 1922 Power Plant and 1923 Corbin Residence Hall at Kansas University. Gamble resigned his position with the state in spring 1923 to open a private office in Topeka.

Gamble undoubtedly drew on his experience as a designer of school buildings for the Prescott Rural High School, one of his earliest following his departure from the State Architect office. After construction, the *Pleasanton Observer* praised the school building: “The Prescott Rural High School building...is one of the finest buildings in the state. Situated at the western extremity of the town and constructed of bricks of two colors, and white stone, it is an edifice of which district and town may well be proud.”

The Prescott Rural High School falls within the MPDF’s subtype, Town High Schools, a type of school that gained popularity during the 1920s and 1930s. These high schools typically had more specialized classrooms spaces and later received multiple additions. The Prescott school fits well within the subtype, serving the moderately sized town of Prescott. Specialized rooms within the school were for changing and showers adjacent to the gymnasium/auditorium. The building also received two rear additions after initial construction, a typical treatment for Town High Schools.

The MPDF notes that town schools often utilized the Mission/Spanish Revival style, as seen on the Prescott school. The Mission/Spanish Revival style was a style of architecture popular in the southwestern United States from around 1890 to 1930 and beyond. The style imitated Mission architecture found on

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4 Wiechert, 45, 15.
5 *The Pleasanton Observer*, 11 December 1924.
churches and monasteries in the southwest United States and Florida built during the 1700s. The simpler revival style usually included a recessed main entrance and a stepped or curved parapet, elements seen on the Prescott Rural High School building. The building's stone accents and buff brick also call to mind ornamentation found on the early Spanish missions. The building retains all of these character-defining exterior elements today.
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National Park Service  

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Prescott Rural High School  
Linn County, Kansas  

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History  
The Prescott Rural High School building was built in 1924, following local agitation for a proper high school building. Prior to the construction, Prescott students in the first through tenth grades attended classes in the 1882 brick school located at Third and Main Streets. High school juniors and seniors attended schools in surrounding towns, usually boarding with families. Discussion of an up-to-date, four-year Prescott high school began in 1923. By early 1924, architectural plans were available. The planned building duplicated two other Kansas schools, one already constructed in Arcadia and one approved for Hepler. These other schools have been demolished.  

A special election held in April 1924 approved $35,000 in bonds for the new school. Construction began in late summer, continuing as the 1924-1925 school year began. In the fall of 1924, Prescott students in grades nine through twelve formed the first year of a four-year high school in the town. Classes met in the Oddfellow’s Hall located above Miller’s store until completion of the new building. The first classes in the school began on January 14, 1925.  

The building served as the Prescott Rural High School until 1972. Most years the school accommodated around 50 students. After the class of 1972 graduated, Prescott high school students attended classes in nearby Mound City, Kansas. The former Prescott elementary school building closed and the high school building became the elementary school. Attendance dropped slightly from around 50 students in the 1970s to 43 in 2004. The Jayhawk Unified School District voted five to two in favor of closing the school in 2006. The building was then sold to the town of Prescott for its current use as a City Hall.
Sources

*The Hornet’s Nest; Yearbook of the Prescott Rural High School*. Volume One, 1924-1925.


*The Pleasanton Observer*: 11 October 1923; 15 November 1923; 22 November 1923; 7 February 1924; 13 March 1924; 20 March 1924; 10 April 1924; 20 October 1924; 22 October 1924; 6 November 1924; 20 November 1924; 11 December 1924; 23 January 1925.


*Topeka Daily Capital*:

“R.L. Gamble is Named as Kansas State Architect.” 26 December 1917;


Verbal Boundary Description
The Prescott Rural High School is located on four acres described as: Beginning at a point on the west line of Fourth Street of the City of Prescott, Linn County, Kansas, which point is 1354 feet west and 333.5 feet south of the northeast corner of Section 7, Township 23, Range 25, thence south along the west side of said Fourth Street 594 feet; thence west 293 1/3 feet; thence north 594 feet; thence east 293 1/3 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification
The boundaries include the property historically associated with the Prescott Rural High School building.

Photographic Information

Photographer: Susan Jezak Ford
Citysearch Preservation
Kansas City, MO

Date of Photographs: August 2007

Location of Original Photographs: Kansas State Historical Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Camera View</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>East façade</td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>East façade and south elevation</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>North elevation</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>South and west elevations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Entrance hall</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Interior hall</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Library</td>
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