

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

JUL 03 2008

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

Historic name Prescott Rural High School
Other name/site number Prescott Elementary School

2. Location

Street & number 202 West 4th Street not for publication
City or town Prescott vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Linn Code 107 Zip code 66767-0223

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.)

Patricia J. Palmer 5/16/08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Prescott Rural High School
Name of Property

Linn County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/City Hall

7. 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.)

Prescott Rural High School
Name of Property

Linn County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

- 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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1924-1958

Significant Dates

1924, ca. 1950

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ray Gamble, Architect

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.)

1

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

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

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 Date December 6, 2007
Street & number 3628 Holmes St. Telephone 816-531-2489
City or town Kansas City 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.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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 Telephone 913-471-4521
City or town Prescott State Kansas Zip code 66767

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 18.1 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 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 1

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 center 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.

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Prescott Rural High School
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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.

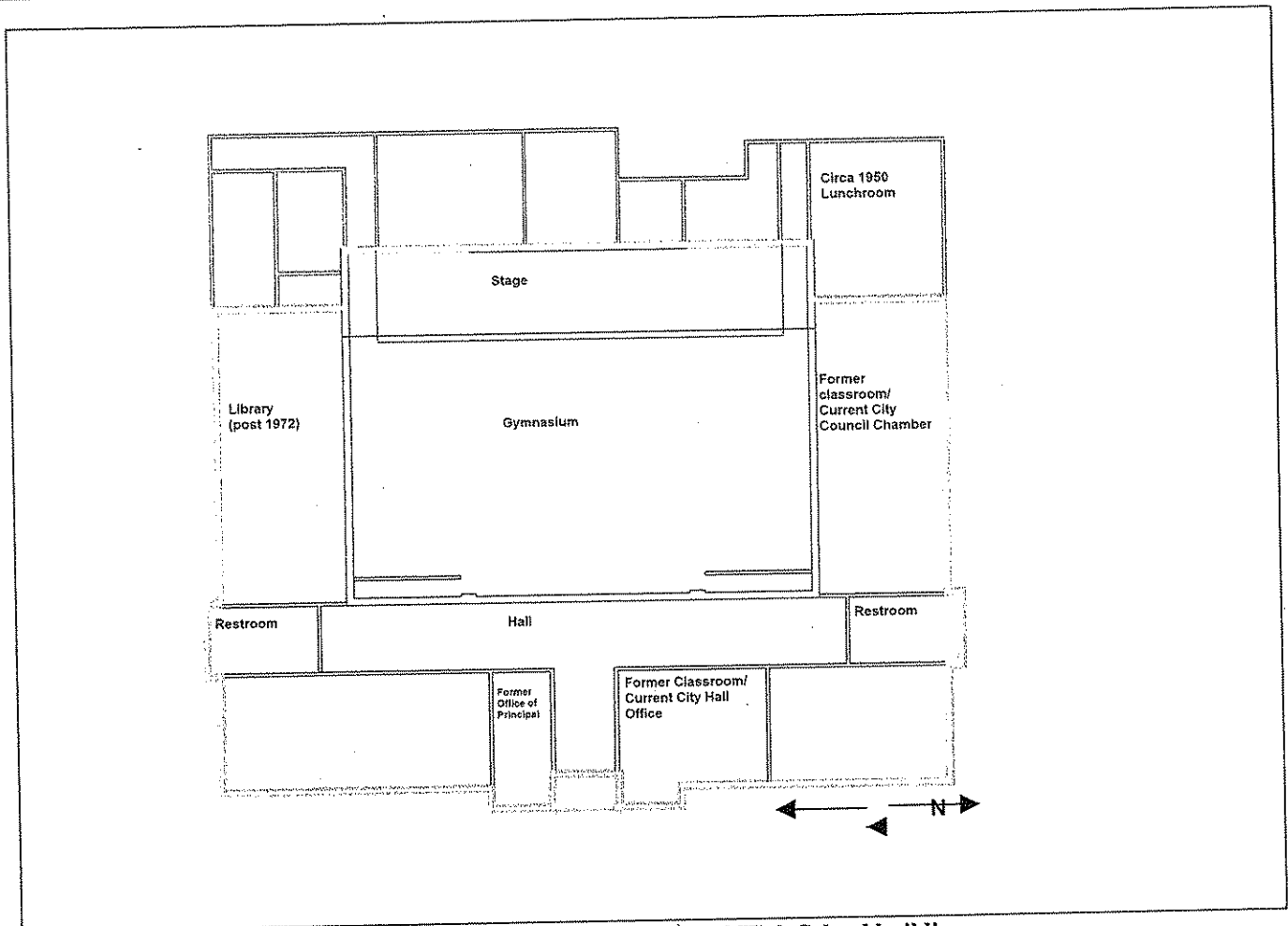
The Prescott Rural High School building is well maintained and in excellent condition. It currently serves as the Prescott City Hall. The building's current configuration is shown below.

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Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

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Current floor plan of Prescott Rural High School building
(Rowland Grigsby)

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Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

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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

¹ "R.L. Gamble is Named as Kansas State Architect," *Topeka Capital*, 26 December 1917.

² Sandra Swanson Wiechert, *Historic Mount Oread* (Lawrence: Kansas University Endowment Association, 1999) 53, 65.

³ "Ray L. Gamble Resigns: State Architect to open private office in Topeka," *Topeka Capital*, 12 March 1923.

⁴ Wiechert, 45, 15.

⁵ *The Pleasanton Observer*, 11 December 1924.

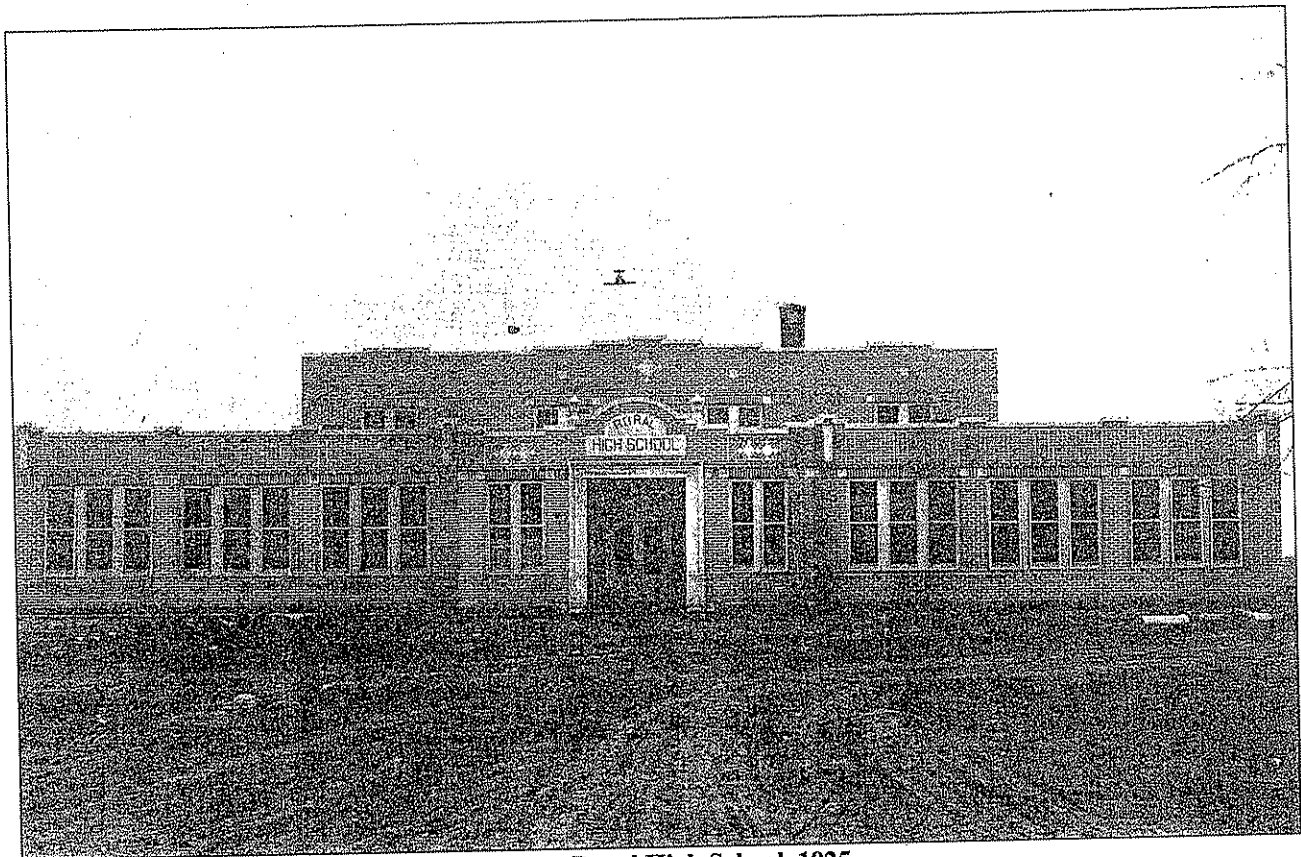
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Prescott Rural High School
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churches and monasteries in the southwest United States and Florida built during the 1700s. The simpler revival style usually included a recessed main entrance and a stepped 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.



Prescott Rural High School, 1925
(The Hornet's Nest Yearbook, 1924-1925; Photograph by Ray Gamble)

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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.

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Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

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Sources

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

The Linn County News: "1922-23 Prescott students." 30 June 1983.

"National Register of Historic Place Inventory-Nomination Form, Prescott School." 1982.

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.

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

Topeka Daily Capital:

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

"Ray L. Gamble Resigns: State Architect to Open Private Office in Topeka." 12 March 1923.

Wiechert, Sandra Swanson. *Historic Mount Oread*. Lawrence: Kansas University Endowment Association, 1999.

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Prescott Rural High School
Linn County, Kansas

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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.

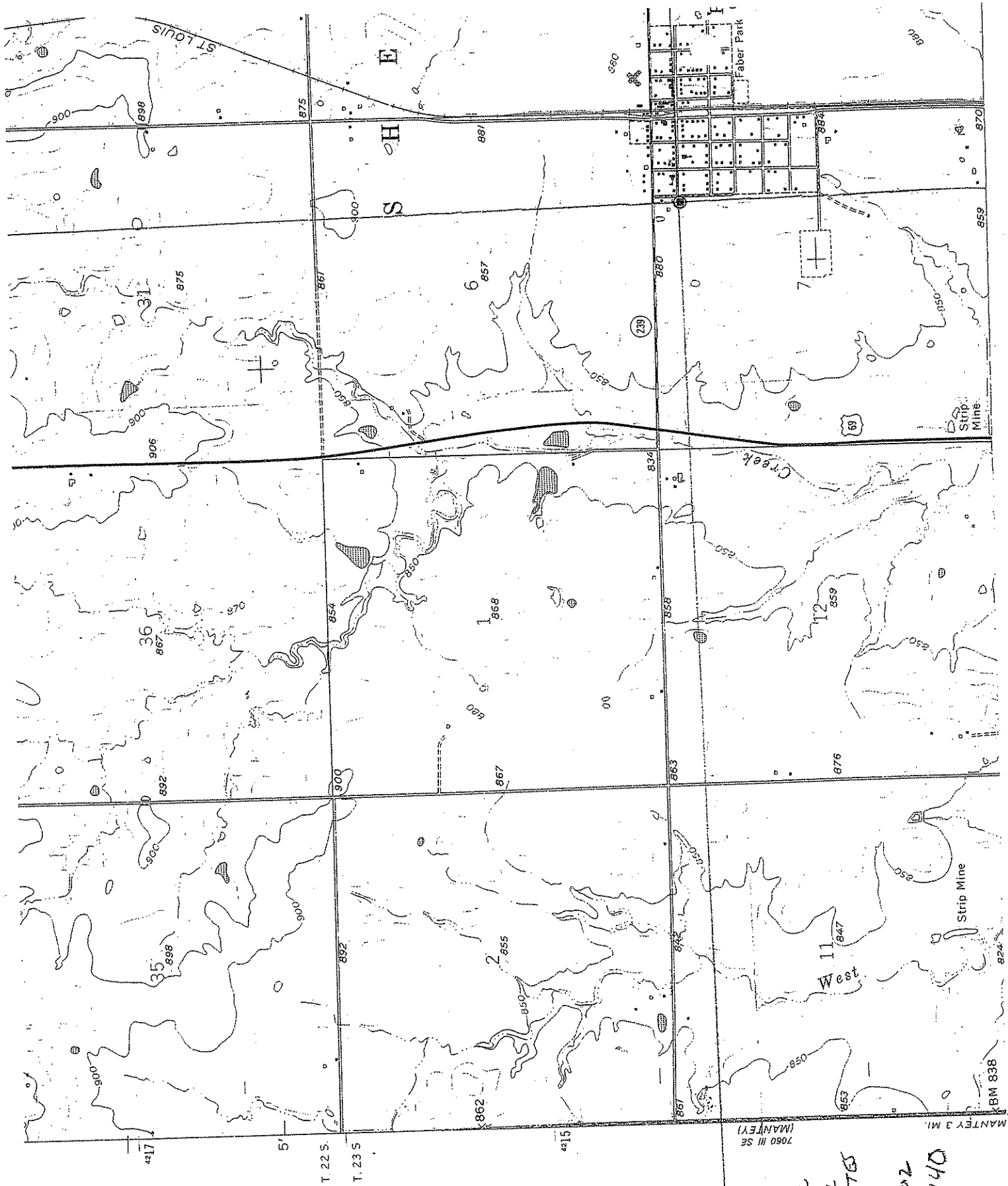
Photographic Information

Photographer: Susan Jezak Ford
Citysearch Preservation
Kansas City, MO

Date of Photographs: August 2007

Location of Original Photographs: Kansas State Historical Society

Photograph Number	Description	Camera View
1	East façade	West
2	East façade and south elevation	Northwest
3	North elevation	Southeast
4	South and west elevations	Northeast
5	Entrance hall	West
6	Interior hall	North
7	Former interior classroom/ Current City Hall office	Northeast
8	Library	West
9	Gymnasium	Southeast
10	Gymnasium stage	Southwest



PRESCOTT RURAL
 HIGH SCHOOL
 UTM COORDINATES
 ZONE 15
 EASTING 350882
 NORTHING 4214140