

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Listed
1-18-2011

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 Hoff School District No. 42

other names/site number 147-86

2. Location

street & number Near Intersection of East Union Road and East 1300 Road not for publication

city or town Kirwin Township vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Phillips code 147 zip code 66951

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

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Title _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Public Schools of Kansas

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rural Vernacular One-Room School

foundation: Brick/Concrete
walls: Weatherboard

roof: Asphalt/Composition
other: _____

Narrative Description

Summary

Hoff School, District 42 (built 1899), is located near the corner of East Union Road and East 1300 Road northeast of Kirwin in Phillips County, Kansas. The one-story, wood-frame building is rectangular and features a front-gable roof with a small, hipped roof entry addition. The building faces west and is surrounded by farmland on all sides.

Elaboration

Hoff School features two principal masses – the 1899 one-room schoolhouse that measures 20 feet by 30 feet and a small wood-frame entry section added to the front (west) elevation in about 1922. The building rests on a foundation that is both concrete and brick. The building is sided with wood clapboards; the entry addition features horizontal drop siding with a bevel at the top of each board. The roof is finished with composite shingles. The building has six four-over-four, double-hung wood windows.

West Elevation (Front)

The one-story entry addition dominates the front (west) elevation. It runs the full width of the building and rests on a concrete foundation. The entry addition lacks windows, but it does have two bottom-hinged openings near the top of the eave line, which, according to one account, was used to shovel coal from a wagon or truck bed into bins on the interior.¹ Above the roofline of the addition, a portion of the main building is visible. The wood siding of the main section is aligned at an angle parallel with the simple cornice and roofline of the gable above. At each corner of the wall, there is a quarter-pilaster or corner board. Each corner board is chamfered at the outside corner and has a simple stacked block-moulding top, giving the appearance of a column capital. Adorning the top of the wall plane is a sign that reads “Hoff District 42”.

North Elevation (Side)

The north elevation of the main section has a combination of foundation materials, the original brick with gray-colored concrete replacing the brick in many areas where the foundation has been patched. The wall plane is broken by three regularly spaced windows, each with simple casings and trim. The wood windows are four-over-four double-hung sashes. The same cornice and corner boards that adorn the west elevation bound the wall of the original schoolhouse. The building’s only chimney is clearly evident from this elevation; it rests at the crest of the gable and is located near the west (front) end of the building.

The north elevation of the entry section shows the side of the hip roof. There are no openings on the north side of the entry section.

East Elevation (Rear)

There are no openings on the rear elevation, which features only horizontal clapboard siding. The visible foundation material is brick, and there are two large cracks running from bottom to top. The only ornamentation on this elevation is the corner boards and cornice trim.

South Elevation (Side)

This elevation mirrors the north side. The wall plane of the main section of the building is broken by three regularly spaced windows, each with simple casings and trim. The wood windows are four-over-four double-hung sashes. The same cornice and corner boards that adorn the west elevation bound the wall of the original schoolhouse.

¹ Ivan Burgess, “Huff [sic] School Neighbors Won’t Let Old School Crumble,” *Heartland Herald-Echo*. 9 August 1988.

The south elevation of the entry addition features a large sliding door, made of vertical beadboard and is on a top rail track like a barn door. There are two buff-colored concrete steps that run the width of the addition that provide access to the door.

Interior

The interior is accessed from the barn-style sliding door on the south elevation of the entry addition. Once inside, there is an entry vestibule with beadboard walls and ceiling, a small room directly ahead, and the original four-panel door to the one-room school. The small entry room is rough-finished with exposed sheathing boards on the walls and comprising two stalls. In this area, the original exterior wall is exposed, and the clapboards are running parallel to the foundation, and not to roofline, as they do on the west wall that is exposed from the exterior. Inside the original main door is the schoolroom. This room originally had beadboard below the simple wainscot and plaster above with beadboard on the ceiling. The walls and ceiling are covered by drywall and painted, leaving only the windows casings and wainscot trim exposed. The beadboard is still intact under the drywall. At the back of the classroom is a raised dais that runs the width of room and extends from the back of the room to the beginning of the first window. On the back wall there remains a slate chalkboard, with evidence of two more chalkboards that were placed between the first and second windows on the sidewalls. At the front of the room there is the original tin stove surround. The floors in the entire building are uniform-width tongue-and-groove wood flooring.

Overall the condition of the building is fair. The roof has been repaired and the exterior of the building has recently been painted. Aside from the middle window on the north elevation, the windows appear to be in good shape. The drywall in the interior is in various stages of disrepair, with the beadboard underneath still extant in fair condition. The school retains a high degree of integrity with the building materials associated with the period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1899-1946 _____

Significant Dates

1899, c. 1922, 1946 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Agard, Fred M. (builder) _____

Period of Significance

The period of significance begins with the construction of the school in 1899 and ends to the school's closing in 1946.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Hoff School (built in 1899) is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with public education and Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good local example of one-room country schoolhouse. The property is nominated as part of the “Historic Public Schools of Kansas” multiple property submission (MPS), and meets the registration requirements for the *One-Room Schoolhouse* property type.

Elaboration²

Phillips County was organized in 1872 and was divided into seven townships with Phillipsburg selected as the county seat. By 1912, there were 25 townships. With successful harvest seasons during the mid- and late-1870s, settlers arrived in growing numbers. Census records indicate a significant growth in population in Phillips County from 2,813 residents in 1875 to 12,014 in 1880. The county’s population peaked in 1900 at 14,442.³ As the population was peaking at the turn of the century, rural Kirwin Township residents were having the Hoff School built.

District 42 in Kirwin Township was organized and recorded with the Kansas Department of Education on September 13, 1875, and its boundary was determined to include all children living in sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, east half of 3, east half of 10, and the east half of 15.⁴ According to this record, the boundary would change slightly over the years, slightly increasing in 1876, 1895, 1900, 1908 and 1909.

A report issued by the Kansas Department of Public Instruction in 1900 recorded District 42 purchasing \$500 worth of bonds on October 6, 1899 to pay for the construction of a schoolhouse.⁵ October 1899 issues of Kirwin area newspapers confirm the construction of this wood-frame schoolhouse for District 42. They note the builder is Fred M. Agard and that he was being assisted by a Mr. Freeman.⁶ The 1900 U.S. Census records Agard as a “home carpenter” living in Kirwin. He was just 25 years old.

At one time, the school property included more structures than just the schoolhouse. According to Wilbur Norden, who attended Hoff School as a child from 1922 to 1929, there was a barn behind the schoolhouse where students could stable their ponies while in class. This barn was torn down in about 1922 and the lumber was repurposed for the front entry addition.⁷ Norden also noted that the water cistern was located at the southeast corner of the building. The building was never modernized with electric lights or heating. Photographs of the building from about 1943 show the location of a swing set and other play equipment on the south side of the building (see figures 1 and 2). The school was closed in 1946 under the 1945 School Reorganization Act that caused many schools across the state to consolidate.⁸ That year the teacher Mrs. Kultfa was instructing just three students: Don Norden, Donna Smith and Karen Dettmer.⁹

² For a complete historic and architectural context of public schools in Kansas, see: Brenda Spencer, “Historic Public Schools of Kansas.” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission. Filed by the Kansas Historical Society, 2005.

³ “Historical Census Browser,” University of Virginia Library. Accessible online at: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>. William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Accessible online at: www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html.

⁴ State of Kansas- Department of Education, *Record of School District Boundaries, School District No. 42* (unknown date).

⁵ *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction, State of Kansas, For The Years Ending June 30, 1899, and June 30, 1900* (Topeka: W.Y. Morgan, State Printer, 1900), 174.

⁶ *The (Kirwin) Independent*, 12 October 1899, page 5. *Kirwin Globe*, 20 October 1899, p. 4. It has been speculated by present-day area residents that “Mr. Freeman” may be Charles Henry Freeman, who was born in 1871 and lived in nearby Smith County.

⁷ Ivan Burgess, “Huff School Neighbors Won’t Let Old School Crumble,” *Heartland Herald-Echo*, August 9, 1988.

⁸ *Record of School District Boundaries, School District No. 42* (unknown date).

⁹ Burgess, “Huff [sic] School Neighbors Won’t Let Old School Crumble.”

Built in 1899, Hoff School is an example of the *One-room Schoolhouse* property type outlined in the ‘Historic Public Schools of Kansas’ multiple property document, which provides the following related context about one-room schools:

In addition to eastern settlers, immigrants, many of whom were craftsmen such as stone masons, helped to shape Kansas schoolhouses. The earliest country schools in Kansas were built by local settlers with the available materials. These buildings are classified as vernacular in style. The schoolhouse was typically among the first community buildings constructed, along with a church. The schoolhouse symbolized permanence and was prominently located to entice new settlers as they passed early settlements.¹⁰

A common, universal form emerged; the earliest buildings were typically a rectangular plan with one open room. The wood-frame schoolhouse with wood clapboard siding and stone foundation is most common, although in areas blessed with native stone, early schools were built of local limestone and sandstone. The schoolhouses typically had a simple gable roof with wood shingles and a brick or stone chimney located at the center or rear of the gable peak. The majority had a cupola or bell tower on the front gable. The common schoolhouse had three windows on each side and a single central door on the front, sometimes flanked by two windows. The interior of the schoolhouse was utilitarian with wood floors, plaster walls (sometimes with wood wainscoting), and plaster or wood ceilings. The schools were heated with a wood or coal stove and furnishings were limited to students’ desks, the teacher’s desk, and typically a slate chalkboard.¹¹

The multiple property document outlines four general stylistic categories for the country school: folk vernacular, mass vernacular, architect-designed through plan books, and the rare commissioned design. Hoff School falls within the mass vernacular category because it relied on the expertise of local settlers, but was constructed of machine-produced materials, such as dimensional lumber and brick.¹²

Like so many rural country schools, the Hoff School closed after World War II during an era of consolidation of public schools. After the school closed in 1946, the building was used as storage. In the mid-1980s area families began slowly repairing the neglected building. Today, no related structures remain on the school property except for the schoolhouse. It is currently being maintained and restored for a new public use.

Summary

The Hoff School (built in 1899) is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with public education in Kansas and Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good local example of one-room country schoolhouse. The property is nominated as part of the “Historic Public Schools of Kansas” multiple property submission (MPS), and meets the registration requirements for the *One-Room Schoolhouse* property type.

¹⁰ Spencer, E-16.

¹¹ Spencer, F-29.

¹² Spencer, F-30.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burgess, Ivan. "Huff [sic] School Neighbors Won't Let Old School Crumble." *Heartland Herald-Echo*, Aug. 1988: 18. Print.

Cutler, William G. *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Accessible online at: www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html.

"Historical Census Browser," University of Virginia Library. Accessible online at: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>

The (Kirwin) Independent, 12 October 1899, page 5.

Kirwin Globe, 20 October 1899, p. 4

Northwest Publishing Co. "Plat Book of Phillips County, Kansas – Kirwin Township Map." Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1900. Accessed online August 20, 2010 <<http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209372>>.

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

State of Kansas. Department of Education. *Record of School District Boundaries*. Undated.

State of Kansas. Department of Public Instruction. *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction, State of Kansas, For The Years Ending June 30, 1899, and June 30, 1900*. Topeka: W.Y. Morgan, State Printer, 1900.

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 Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ N/A _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.15 acres _____
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>492795</u> Easting	<u>4395780</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

This is a 300' by 198' parcel of land totaling 50,400 square feet (or 1.15 acres). The legal description is as follows: a tract commencing at the SW corner of Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4), Range Sixteen (16) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, thence running North, twenty (20) rods, thence East Twelve (12) rods, thence South Twenty (20) rods, thence West Twelve (12) rods to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated property includes the land historically associated with Hoff School – District 42.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melissa Westbrook & Julie Weisgerber, SHPO Staff
organization _____ date July 16, 2010
street & number 1254 East Union Road telephone _____
city or town Kensington state KS zip code 66951
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Hoff School- District No. 42
City or Vicinity: Kirwin vicinity
County/State: Phillips County, Kansas
Photographer: Julie Weisgerber
Date: July 8, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Photo 1: View from the south, showing the schoolhouse & vicinity
- Photo 2: View from the southwest, showing the south and west elevations
- Photo 3: View from the west, showing the west elevation
- Photo 4: View from the north, showing north elevation
- Photo 5: View from the east, showing east elevation
- Photo 6: Entry addition and door to classroom
- Photo 7: Coal room
- Photo 8: East end of classroom showing chalkboard and raised dais

Photo 9: West end of classroom

Property Owners:

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

name Betty Gower
street & number 209 East Highline Circle, Apt 206 telephone _____
city or town Littleton state CO zip code 80122

name John R. & Penny L. Gower
street & number 1401 Sandpiper telephone _____
city or town Seal Beach state CA zip code 90740

name Annette Gower (handles all correspondence)
street & number 5496 South Stonegate telephone (417) 882-8963
city or town Springfield state MO zip code 65810

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 18 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.

Figure 1: Undated Historic Photograph



Figure 2: Undated Historic Photograph (believed to be 1943)

