

KANSAS

Kansas State Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES

CERTIFICATE OF LISTING

Established by K.S.A. 75-2721, the Register of Historic Kansas Places is the state's official list of properties deemed significant in our past. All Kansas properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are also listed in the state register.

Property Name: Wilmington School

Address: N ¼ N ¼ S ¼ SEC 15 T 15 S R 13 E, Wilmington Vicinity, Kansas

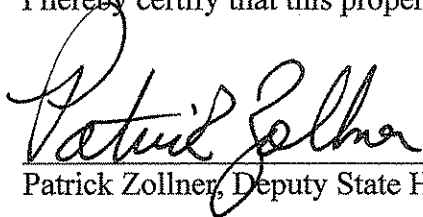
County: Wabaunsee

Owner(s): Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association/ Attn: Carol Retzer

Address: 4215 East 245th Street, Lyndon, Kansas

This nomination was approved by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for the Register of Historic Kansas Places on May 3, 2008.

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.



Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

5/7/08

Date

Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Wilmington School
Other name/site number 197-0000-0213

2. Location

Street & number N 1/4 N 1/4 S 1/4 SEC 15 T 15 S R 13 E not for publication
City or town Wilmington vicinity
State: Kansas Code: KS County: Wabaunsee Code: 197 Zip code _____

3.,4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.
Patrick Zollner 5/7/08
Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

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	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	_____	total

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

N/A

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)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular: Stone Schoolhouse

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Limestone

Walls: STONE: Limestone

Roof: METAL: Tin

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the State 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)

EDUCATION

ARCHAEOLOGY: HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL

Period of Significance

1870-1951

Significant Dates

1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Andrew Pringle, Sr.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	2	4	2	4	2	5	4	2	9	2	3	8	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 Carol Retzer, President

Organization Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter Date 1-14-2008

Street & number 4215 East 245th Street Telephone 785-828-3739

City or town Lyndon State KS Zip code 66451

Property Owner

Name Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association / Attn: Carol Retzer

Street & number 4215 East 245th Street Telephone _____

City or town Lyndon State KS Zip code 66451

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilmington School

Wilmington, Wabaunsee County, KS

Section Number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Wilmington School (1870) is located in the southeastern corner of Wabaunsee County, Kansas, in the original town site of Wilmington. Once a thriving settlement along the Santa Fe Trail, this community was passed over by the later railroad and declined in the twentieth century. The nineteenth-century school is Wilmington's last remaining structure.

Wilmington School was built in 1870 from limestone that was quarried within a few miles from the structure. It was designed and constructed by Andrew Pringle, Sr., a town resident. The date of construction still shows on the stone engraving above the entrance on the south elevation. The school stands in a grassy area and there are no other structures nearby. Four hedge posts that may have been used as hitching posts stand on the west side of the school.

The original south-facing one-room schoolhouse is constructed of native limestone and sits on a native limestone foundation. The building's corners feature a simple decorative quoining. The original roof was hand-made shake shingles, but was replaced with tin when electricity was installed in the building (believed to be 1949). The south (front) elevation features a gabled wood frame entry addition flanked by two windows. The window frames are gone, but the openings have been covered on the exterior with wood shutters to protect the interior. The entry leads to the original central double-door entrance with a transom and measures approximately 5 feet (E-W) x 10 feet (N-S) x 8 ½ feet high on the interior.

There are three evenly-spaced windows on both the east and west (side) elevations. Like those on the south elevation, the window frames are gone, but the openings have been covered on the exterior with wood shutters to protect the interior. All the windows are 2 ¼ feet wide x 7 feet high and feature stone lintels and sills. A portion of the west wall around the central window collapsed in 1998 and has been rebuilt.

The north (rear) elevation is unadorned and contains no windows. The gable portion of this wall has been covered with a cementitious coating. Two outhouses once stood behind the school to the north, but were torn down.

There is a chimney protruding from the roof at the gable peak on the south end of the building. The original material of brick and mortar has been covered with a cementitious coating. The chimney measures 1 foot 11 inches (E-W) x 1 foot 7 inches (N-S). No open fireplace exists, but there is a column that once connected to a stove.

The interior dimensions of the classroom are: 23 feet (E-W) x 33 feet (N-S) x 11 feet (high). The two 5-panel wood doors each measure 29 inches wide x 8 feet high. Along the north side of the classroom is a raised (6-inch rise) stage area that spans the full width of the classroom and is 8 ½ feet deep. The chalkboard is no longer extant, but would have spanned the north wall. All the flooring in the classroom is of tongue-and-groove design, but was recently removed during archeological investigations. The floor in the entry is cement. The classroom ceiling is currently deteriorating and the plaster is gone in some areas. The lath is showing through in some areas and the attic area can be seen in some places.

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 2

Wilmington School
Wilmington, Wabaunsee County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilmington School (1870) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places under Criterion A for its associations with public education in Kansas¹ and Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information through archeological investigation. Schools reflected the growth of the state during early statehood. Wilmington was a small, thriving settlement in southeast Wabaunsee County along the Santa Fe Trail. With population growth and the possibility of a railroad line coming through, more people desired to settle in Wilmington. The railroad, however, did not go through Wilmington and activity along the Santa Fe Trail eventually diminished. The town started shrinking and many of the businesses moved to other towns. The schoolhouse is the only remaining structure in the former town and reflects its early growth.

Rural Schools²

Country or rural schools are known by a variety of terms including one- (and two-) teacher schools, one- (and two-) room school, and common schools. Country schools literally dot the landscape in every county of the state. Schools were built by early settlers beginning in the territorial period (1854). They were typically located on section corners at two mile intervals, reflecting the walking distance of school children. By the end of the 19th century, there were more than a hundred schoolhouses in many counties. In 1896, the number of school districts in Kansas reached its peak, totaling over 9,000. These schools were often located on Sections 16 and 36 of a Township, sections that had been appropriated by the federal government for the use of common schools in new states. School sites were also sold or donated by farmers; they were typically one-acre in size and fenced off from the surrounding land, often with trees along the fence line. The school sites traditionally included playground equipment, a hand water pump, and one or two outhouses. Some sites also had a flagpole and coal-storage shed.

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. The most common alterations were the addition of a gable or hip enclosure on the front or side of the original schoolhouse. These additions provided for an enclosed entry foyer and typically included a cloakroom and library and/or teacher workroom.

¹ Although this nomination is not part of the Historic Public Schools of Kansas National Register Multiple Property Submission, it provides important historical context public education in Kansas and the design of nineteenth century one-room schoolhouses. See Brenda Spencer, "Historic Public Schools of Kansas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, 2005. Filed at the Kansas State Historical Society.

² Ibid, p. F-29.

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Wilmington School
Wilmington, Wabaunsee County, KS

Wilmington School

Wilmington School is an example of the common one-room stone schoolhouse. It was built along the Santa Fe Trail in an era when the town of Wilmington was a thriving trade center. Individuals would come from other counties to buy, sell, and trade in Wilmington. Many people coming west along the Santa Fe Trail found this area of Kansas to be the place they wanted to settle and desired to have a school for their children.

Prior to 1859 when Wabaunsee County was organized, there were only four schoolhouses in the county. By 1882, there were 63 schools in Wabaunsee County including thirteen in Wilmington Township. This nominated school was one of seven stone schools.³

The school was a spot for pride in the town for many years. Educating area children from 1870 to 1951, the one-room school was the center of community activity. After its closure in 1951, the building was used as a community center.

Wilmington School is the last remaining structure of the original town of Wilmington. It was designed and constructed from native limestone that was quarried within a few miles of the school. The design was by the builder, Andrew Pringle, Sr. and represents the solidity of design and material from that time.

Santa Fe Trail ruts can still be seen nearby, and the one lone building stands to represent the time when wagon trains traveled through the area. Wilmington School is the sentinel of a once thriving town along the historic passage between the settled east and the wild southwest. Wilmington School is still a stop-off for campers when, in current times, Boy Scouts and other groups travel along the Santa Fe Trail to relive history.

Archeological Investigations

In partnership with the Kansas Anthropological Association (Shawnee Chapter), the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association hosted an archeological dig at the site of the school (14WB430) in November 2007. KDOT Archeologist Marsha King, and member of the Shawnee Chapter and professional archeologist whose specialty is historic archeology, directed the excavations. (Her report on the site is forthcoming.)

Volunteers dug eight excavation units both inside and outside the building. Rotted and warped floorboards were removed to make way for four interior units. The most telltale signs of schooling recovered from under the structure are the slate pencils, small flat broken fragments of slate boards, and the tip of a writing pen. A variety of buttons were found. Among many items found in the exterior excavations include parts of a potbelly heating stove, coal, nails, and scrap metal.⁴

³ William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Company, 1883).

⁴ Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter. Volume 19, No. 4. October-December 2007.

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

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Wilmington School
Wilmington, Wabaunsee County, KS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: Andreas Publishing Company, 1883.

Eskridge Star, 1883-1896, Eskridge, KS.

Harveyville Monitor, 1886-?, Harveyville, KS.

Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter. Volume 19, No. 4. October-December 2007.

Osage County Chronicle, 1861-1994, Burlingame, KS.

Spencer, Brenda. *Historic Public Schools of Kansas*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, 2005. Filed at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Wabaunsee County Register of Deeds, Book E, April 7, 1870, pp. 131-134.

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos Page 5

Wilmington School
Wilmington, Wabaunsee County, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the N ½ SW ½ of Sec 15, Twps 15S, Rng 13E of the 6th PM, formerly described as Lots 207, 211, 215, & 219 Virginia Ave., and Lots 208, 212, 216, & 220 Union Ave, Town of Wilmington, Plumb Township, County of Wabaunsee, State of Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the remaining parcels historically associated with the Wilmington School.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Wilmington School
Location: Wilmington vicinity, Wabaunsee County, KS
Photographer: Sarah Martin
Date: November 10, 2007

- Photo 1: South elevation, front entrance, facing N
- Photo 2: Northeast corner, facing SW
- Photo 3: Southwest corner, facing NE
- Photo 4: North elevation and overview, facing S
- Photo 5: Overview of landscape, looking toward Wilmington from the rear schoolyard, facing SE
- Photo 6: Interior, facing entrance, facing S
- Photo 7: Interior, from vestibule, facing N
- Photo 8: Interior, excavations at SW corner, facing W
- Photo 9: Close-up above entrance showing date of school – 1970, facing N
- Photo 10: Close-up of roofing showing various layers
- Photo 11: Interior, showing excavation area