NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Swinney, E.F. School

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970

2. Location

Street & number 1106 W. 47th Street | N/A | not for publication

City or town Kansas City | N/A | vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Jackson Code 095 Zip code 64111

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: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D

Mark A. Miles August 26, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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

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.)

X	private
	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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
0	1	structures
		objects
1	2	**Total**

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.)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Sullivanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
roof: ASPHALT
other: STONE
TERRA COTTA

X **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

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.
- [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

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914

1927

Significant Dates

1914

1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, Charles A. (Architect)

Crites, F.H. (Builder)

[x] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
- ____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- X Other

Name of repository: **Missouri Valley Special Collections, KCPL**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.6 acres

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

	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
1	39.043174	-94.600215	3		
2			4		

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Nugent (Associate) and Elizabeth Rosin (Principal)

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date June 3, 2013

street & number 215 W. 18th Street, Suite 150 telephone 816-472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail Rachel@rosinpreservation.com

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**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **E.F. Swinney School**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Brad Finch, f-stop photography**

Date Photographed: **April 11, 2013, May 9, 2013**

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

1 of 16: South elevation, view NW (May 9, 2013)
2 of 16: East elevation, view NW
3 of 16: North elevation, with Non-Contributing structure (#2), view S
4 of 16: West elevation, view SE
5 of 16: East entrance on south elevation, view N
6 of 16: West entrance on south elevation with 1987 circulation tower removed, view N (May 9, 2013)
7 of 16: Temporary Classroom Building (#3, NC), view E
8 of 16: Jarboe Street, view N
9 of 16: East stair and corridor at 2nd floor, view S
10 of 16: Main corridor and west stair, 2nd floor, view SE
11 of 16: Typical classroom, 2nd floor, view NW
12 of 16: Fresh Air classroom, 3rd floor, view SE
13 of 16: Open Air classroom, view SW
14 of 16: Open Air classroom, view NW
15 of 16: Auditorium, view W
16 of 16: Gymnasium, view NE

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1. Site Plan, ArcGIS, 2013
Figure 2. Contextual Map, ArcGIS, 2013
Figure 3. Photo Map, Site
Figure 4. Photo Map, Basement
Figure 5. Photo Map, 1st Floor
Figure 6. Photo Map, 2nd Floor
Figure 7. Photo Map, 3rd Floor
Figure 8. Historic Plans, Basement (now 1st floor), 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 9. Historic Plans, 1st Floor (now 2nd floor), 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 10. Historic Plans, 2nd Floor (now 3rd floor), 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 11. Historic Plans, 1927. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 12. Historic Plans, South Elevation, 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 13. Historic Plans, East Elevation, 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 14. Historic Plans, North Elevation, 1914. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 15. Historic Plans, West Elevation, 1927. Courtesy of Kansas City Public School Archives.
Figure 16. Historic Plans, Open Air classroom alterations, 1927.
Figure 17. South and east elevations. Historic photograph, c. 1915. Courtesy of Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
Figure 18. South and west elevations. Historic photograph, c. 1915. Courtesy of Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
Figure 19. South elevation with the 1987 circulation tower attached, view north. 2012.
Figure 20. McCoy School (1914), 1524 White Avenue, 2012.
Figure 21. Milton Moore School (1914-1915), 4510 E. Linwood Blvd., 2012.
Figure 22. Bryant School (1915), 319 Westover Road, 2012.

SUMMARY

The E.F. Swinney School (Swinney) at 1106 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri sits atop a hill within a primarily residential neighborhood just west of the Country Club Plaza commercial district. The lot with its buildings, structure, and associated grounds occupies the south two-thirds of the block on the north side of W. 47th Street, between Jarboe Street on the east and Holly Street on the west. The three-story U-shaped building has a poured concrete frame, a raised basement and a flat roof. A rusticated limestone foundation supports the concrete structure and brick walls. Swinney School was constructed in two phases. The 1927 addition on the west end of the building matches the materials, fenestration patterns, and façade ornament of the original 1914 block and creates a symmetrical front façade. The tapestry brick walls and restrained organic motifs in the terra cotta ornament reference the Sullivanesque style, popular at the time of construction. Many of the original interior features and finishes are extant, including the original configuration of corridors and classrooms, wood flooring, classroom built-ins and trim. A circulation tower added to the primary façade in the 1980s was removed prior to preparation of this application. The effects of that feature are discussed below in further detail. Other alterations are limited to the replacement of windows and the installation of new restrooms in the basement. The changes to the building do not diminish one's understanding of it as a public school from the era of its construction. The primary resource is the school building. Two small non-contributing resources, a temporary classroom and the chiller enclosure, were constructed behind the building in 1987 and are therefore non-contributing. Swinney retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, and continues to convey feelings about and associations with its historic function and the era in which it was constructed. The building is an excellent example of an Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era Elementary School, particularly the Open Air sub-type, defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970." The period of significance is 1914, the date of construction for the east wing and center block, and 1927, the date of construction of the west wing and the conversion of the Open Air classroom to an enclosed but expanded Fresh Air classroom.

ELABORATION

SETTING

The Swinney School stands at the south end of a large rectangular lot flanked by quiet one-way streets just west of the Country Club Plaza shopping and entertainment district. The building faces south toward W. 47th Street, a more highly-traveled two-lane road. The surrounding neighborhood is primarily residential with an even mixture of small single-family dwellings, multi-family apartment buildings, and attached townhouses *(Photo 8).* One-story commercial buildings

are interspersed among the apartment buildings on the south side of W. 47th Street. Public concrete sidewalks with narrow tree-lawns line the streets.

The lot surrounding the school is relatively flat, although, overall, the block slopes down to the northeast. An asphalt yard spans the area in front of the building between the two south entrances and the sidewalk. A low stone wall encloses the open space. There are concrete steps at two openings in the wall. The steps at the east end of the yard access the public sidewalk. The second set of steps accesses a concrete walkway that runs across the front of the east wing and wraps around the east elevation. The lawn on the east side of the building is also flat until it nears the sidewalk. The grassy embankment at the sidewalk gets progressively higher as the street and sidewalk slope down to the east along W. 47th Street and to the north along Jarboe Street. The asphalt play area north of the school is divided into two flat sections. The east half is several feet lower than the west half. A stone retaining wall runs between them. A flat grassy lawn with evergreen trees abuts the building to the west.

1. Swinney School **Contributing Building**
1914, 1927

Exterior

The symmetrical front façade of the three-story U-shaped building faces south. Projecting wings and recessed entry bays flank a central three-story block *(Photo 1).* A small one-story wing containing the boiler room attaches to the center of the rear (north) elevation *(Photo 3).* The center block, east wing, and boiler wing were built in 1914 *(Figures 8-10).* The west wing, added in 1927, was designed to fit seamlessly with the existing building *(Figure 11).* A three-story octagonal bay projects from the center of the west elevation *(Photo 4).* A three-story concrete circulation tower constructed in 1987 that covered the west entry bay and nearly two bays of the center block *(Figure 19)* was removed in April 2013, revealing the historic brick wall, entry bay, and window bays that were behind it *(Photos 1 and 6).* The exposed façade and ornament of the west entry and west wing, and historic masonry openings in the center block are substantially intact.

The building has a rough-cut limestone foundation that is increasingly exposed as the lot slopes down to the north and east. A cut-stone water table encircles the building. Tapestry brick walls have red mortar with a recessed joint profile. A soldier brick course encircles the base of the brick wall. Where the first-story windows periodically interrupt this band, the decorative brick course either terminates at the window or continues around the window to frame the opening. Terra cotta trim as well as stylized geometric and floral ornament express understated references to the Sullivanesque style, popular at the time of construction. Horizontal terra cotta bands encircle the building above and below the third-story windows on all elevations. A brick

parapet with patterned brickwork, terra cotta diamonds, and terra cotta coping encircles the building, concealing the flat roof.

The front (south) elevation has five sections – the central block, recessed blocks containing the primary building entrances, and outer (east and west) wings that align with the plane of the central block *(Photo 1).* The east and west wings each have three bays containing paired non-historic three-light aluminum windows on the first and third floors. Soldier brick courses frame the three bays of first-story windows. The wall is blank at the second story on these wings.

The recessed blocks have a single bay of openings at each story. The openings in the east block are unaltered. The building entrance in the first story has three glazed aluminum doors surrounded by metal-framed sidelights and transom. Bands of five narrow non-historic aluminum windows fill the openings in the second and third stories above the entrance. The second story windows are tall triple-hung sashes, while those in the third story are shorter double-hung sashes. Terra cotta trim with an organic geometric motif enframes the openings in the lower two stories *(Photo 5).* A similar band enframes the third story opening. Portions of these bands are extant on the east side of the west recessed block *(Photo 6).* A terra cotta nameplate above the east doors identifies the name of the school, “E.F. SWINNEY SCHOOL.” A similar nameplate, historically located above the west entrance, has been salvaged and will be reinstalled in its original location. The openings in the west block were enlarged in 1987 to accommodate the addition. Current plans will restore the west openings to their historic appearance, matching the appearance of the east block.

The center block has five bays, each containing a paired or tripartite window opening on each floor. The openings contain non-historic three-light aluminum windows. The first-story windows sit directly atop the cut stone water table and have terra cotta lintels. Protruding brick bands form rectangles that ornament the spandrels between the first and second floors. The second-story windows have terra cotta sills. Soldier brick courses frame both the first and second-story windows in each bay. A terra cotta band with geometric pendants caps the second story. Other than a missing lintel above the first-story window in the westernmost bay, the historic openings that were behind the 1987 addition remain intact. The window frames were removed from the openings in the two west bays prior to the construction of the 1987 addition. Wood framing and interior drywall infill the openings. Plywood covers the openings on the exterior *(Photo 6).*

The third story of the center block contains the infilled pergola of the Open Air classroom. It runs along the front (south) elevation and wraps around one bay to the east and west. Paired concrete pilasters divide the façade into five regular bays that follow the fenestration patterns of the floors below. Rectangular concrete balusters create a low wall between the pilasters. Three non-historic windows fill the remainder of each opening, again mirroring the historic fenestration

patterns below *(Photo 6).* The area between the pilasters and balusters contains historic concrete infill on the interior from when the Open Air classroom was enclosed and expanded in 1927 *(Figure 16).* Rectangular modillions ornament the wide eaves. The pilasters and balusters are extant at the southwest corner of the pergola where the 1987 addition was removed.

The east elevation has three symmetrical three-bay sections *(Photo 2).* In each section, paired windows flank a wider central tripartite window. The first- and second-story windows have terra cotta sills. The center section steps forward slightly. A terra cotta nameplate, "BRANCH LIBRARY," locates the former entrance at the center of the east elevation. The entrance was infilled in 1987.[1] The infill brick matches the adjacent wall in color, texture, and joint profile. A short run of concrete steps with stone knee walls connect the former entrance to the concrete sidewalk that runs along this elevation. Four short window openings pierce the stone water table north of the former entrance. These openings follow the fenestration pattern of the stories above. Non-historic two- and three-light aluminum sliding windows fill the historic openings. These openings have stone sills and lintels.

The flat brick wall of the north (rear) elevation is vaguely divided into five sections *(Photo 3).* The two outer sections have narrow windows on the first story but are blank on the second and third stories. The two inner sections each have three bays with paired and tripartite windows. The center section has narrow windows at the second story and wide windows at the third story. The tall brick chimney divides this center section, rising from the roof of the boiler wing more than a full story above the parapet. Paired non-historic aluminum double-hung windows flank a single door that pierces the stone water table at the east end of the north elevation. These historic openings have stone lintels. An adjacent single short opening with a stone lintel and a non-historic two-light aluminum sliding window pierces the stone water table.

The symmetrical west elevation has three sections *(Photos 1 and 4).* The center section is a projecting octagonal bay. A single pair of windows pierces each side of the projecting bay. A single door pierces the stone water table in the north side of the projecting bay on the first story. The door is immediately adjacent to a single window. A tall transom window tops the non-historic metal door. The outer sections of the elevation each have three bays with paired windows flanking a wider tripartite window at each story. The windows are non-historic three-light aluminum windows.

The boiler wing attaches to the center of the north elevation and connects at the 1st floor level of the main building. The east and west elevations of this connection point have slightly recessed entrances immediately adjacent to the main building. These entrances provided direct access

[1] The Branch Library closed in 1967 and the space was converted to classrooms in 1987.

from the north play areas to the lavatories and from the north stairs to the first floor. Paired non-historic metal doors topped with multi-light transoms fill the historic entrance openings. Windows pierce the brick upper portion of the wall on the north, east, and west elevations of the boiler wing. The east elevation contains two narrow window openings flanking a metal vent. The north elevation contains narrow and wider window openings. The west elevation contains a single window. Non-historic aluminum double-hung windows fill the historic openings. The lower portions of the walls are rough-cut limestone below the cut stone water table. A single non-historic metal slab door fills the historic entrance opening in the stone on the north elevation.

Non-historic aluminum windows fill the historic masonry openings on all elevations. The single, paired, and triple windows have operable lower sashes with fixed upper sashes and transoms. Except for the west entrance on the front (south) elevation, the historic masonry openings are intact despite the non-historic windows and doors. Metal slab doors with glazed panels have replaced the historic doors in all locations *(Photo 5)*.

Interior

The Swinney School has four levels. The lowest level has a partial footprint that only holds the gymnasium, locker rooms/showers, and a classroom in the northeast corner. The first floor, second floor, and third floor are nearly identical in plan *(Figures 8, 9, 10, and 16).* The central north-south axis organizes the building interior in a nearly symmetrical configuration. Wide double-loaded U-shaped corridors follow the footprint of the building and surround the stacked gymnasium and auditorium. The fan room and ventilation stack separate the two sides of the ground floor at the north end of the building, so that there is no direct connection between the wings at this level. The gymnasium is sunken nearly a full story below grade and is accessible only from the stairs in the east and west corridors. The classroom and offices in the northeast corner of the building is accessible from a separate stair to the basement.

The south entrances at the first floor open into vestibules with quarry tile floors. Staircases rise from the entry vestibules to the second floor *(Photo 9).* Wide concrete stairwells open to the corridors continue up to the third floor. Paired staircases rise from the north entry vestibules to the second floor as well.

Swinney School has simple finishes. Rooms and corridors have plaster walls and high plaster ceilings with little or no ornament *(Photos 9-12).* Historic trim is limited to a simple wood chair rail and wood window casings and mullion caps. Lay-in grid ceilings with acoustical tiles hang below the plaster ceilings, although most spaces retain nearly their full height. Historic wood picture rail may be extant above the acoustical tile in some locations. Linoleum tile covers concrete floors in the wide corridors.

Rectangular classrooms line the perimeter of the building on each floor. Classroom entrances retain their historic wood casing and transoms. The wood slab doors with glazed panels are not historic, although the historic operable transoms are extant. The classrooms have high ceilings, plaster walls with a wood chair rail, and wood floors *(Photos 11 and 12).* Some classroom floors are carpeted. Interior walls have wood-trimmed blackboards and built-in cabinets. One wall of each classroom contains a built-in coat closet with wood panels that slide vertically to conceal the contents and provide additional chalk board work space. Some classrooms have fabric wall covering over the plaster above the chair rail. Tall window openings line the perimeter walls. Classrooms historically designated as Fresh Air classrooms have windows on more than one wall *(Photo 12).* They have simple wood casings and integrated shallow plaster sills. The administrative offices stand above the fan room on the first floor, opposite the entrance to the auditorium.

The auditorium has wood floors *(Photo 15).* The sloped floor at the rear half of the seating area was installed in 1927. The room retains its original fixed wood seats, the wood stage, and simple plaster proscenium. Sections of suspended grid ceiling fill the space between the plaster-clad concrete beams.

The gymnasium has wood flooring, glazed tile and plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The large steel beams that span the room are also clad in plaster *(Photo 16).*

The former Open Air classroom above the auditorium is accessible via short ramps at the south ends of the main corridor *(Photos 13 and 14).* The Open Air classroom was built as a narrow pergola with paired columns supporting a flat roof *(Figure 18).* The south elevation of the pergola had a concrete balustrade but was open between the balustrade and the roof. The north elevation was completely open between the paired support columns and faced the adjacent roof-top play area *(Figure 10).* The Open Air classroom was converted to a “Rest Room for the Fresh Air Department” in 1927 when the south elevation of the pergola was filled with windows and the north wall with its large windows was erected. The original paired columns were left in place *(Figure 16).* Non-historic drywall partitions added in 1987 create two classrooms. Mechanical equipment now fills the former roof-top play area between the Open Air classroom and the corridor.

The Branch Library originally occupied a large room at the south end of the east wing on the first floor. It was accessible from the exterior entrance in the east elevation. A short set of steps led from the recessed library floor to the first-floor corridor. The room was subdivided into two classrooms during the 1987 renovation. The floor was raised about two feet but still remains below the level of the corridor. The east entrance was covered on the interior and infilled on the exterior. Little remains to identify this space as the Branch Library.

The west wing, constructed in 1927, retains many of the features for which it was designed. The first floor contains the cafeteria, its historic intended function. The kitchen remains in its historic location. The cafeteria was enlarged during the 1987 renovation when walls between the cafeteria and adjacent rooms designed as Home Economics classrooms were removed. On the second floor the space was most recently used as a library but retains some of the built-in cabinets originally designed for the Kindergarten. The three classrooms on the third floor retain the built-in coatrooms associated with the Fresh Air classrooms that occupied these spaces. The west wing contains all of the same historic finishes as the 1914 section of the building.

2. Chiller Enclosure **Non-Contributing Structure**
1987

This rectangular structure stands at the northwest corner of the main school building. It has four walls but no roof *(Photo 3).* Concrete walls enclose the chiller for the air conditioning system in the main school building. The walls are painted with decorative artwork. The west wall contains two large hinged doors for vehicular access. The south and east walls contain pedestrian doors. The north and south walls contain narrow windows. While the structure retains integrity, it was constructed outside the period of significance and is therefore non-contributing.

3. Temporary Classroom Building **Non-Contributing Building**
c. 1990

A rectangular classroom building stands in the east half of the north play area, northeast of the main school building. It has wood paneled walls and a shallow gabled roof *(Photo 7).* The building has single doors and rectangular fixed windows on all elevations. Mechanical units are attached to east and west walls. The building is in fair to poor condition. It was constructed outside the period of significance and is therefore non-contributing.

INTEGRITY

The Swinney School retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship and conveys feelings about and associations with its period of significance and its historic function. It retains the unique combination of features that identify it as an Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School property type, specifically the Open Air sub-type. The Swinney School meets the registration requirements defined in the MPDF for this property type, including retaining its historic form, massing, and roof form; exterior materials; interior and exterior recreation areas; fenestration patterns; and interior configuration of corridors, stairwells, and classrooms. An unsympathetic, non-historic addition was removed in 2013 from the south elevation, revealing historic materials, openings, and ornament. A particularly rare and intact

example of the Open Air sub-type, it is the only school in the district that retains the historic pergola of the Open Air classroom. The south wall of the pergola was infilled and the Open Air classroom expanded to the north when the space was converted to the “Rest Room for the Fresh Air Department” in 1927, within the period of significance. The balustrade of the pergola remains visible, as do the original north support posts that are now incorporated into the larger space. This alteration has gained significance in its own right, although the existing windows are not historic.

The interior of the school remains highly intact. The configuration of historic corridors, stairwells, classrooms, auditorium, and gymnasium are unaltered. Most original materials and finishes are extant.

In addition to the infilled Branch Library entrance, only two exterior alterations impact the integrity of the school. Window sashes and doors were replaced within historic openings. This was a common change to school buildings in the 1980s to replace deteriorated fabric and to improve energy efficiency. Because the new windows and doors at Swinney fill the historic openings, this alteration does not significantly impact the integrity of the school.

More significantly, a circulation tower was constructed over three bays on the south elevation in the 1987 to house an egress stair and elevator that provided an accessible connection to levels of the school *(Figure 19).* The circulation tower was removed in 2013, prior to submittal of this nomination, but evidence of its location remains visible *(Photo 6).* Removal of the circulation tower exposed the historic façade, revealing that most of the historic brick walls and the terra cotta trim remain intact. The historic window openings with their terra cotta sills and lintels are extant in the two west bays of the center section at the auditorium and gymnasium. The openings on each floor of the west entry bay were widened to match the interior corridors, and holes were cut to attach structural members and connect MEP systems. Nevertheless, the impact on the historic features and configuration of the school is minimal. This area of damage will be restored using historic drawings and extant fabric on the east half of the façade.

SUMMARY

The E. F. Swinney School is locally significant under Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. It is a rare surviving example of the Open Air sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School, as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970." In addition to retaining excellent integrity of the features and finishes that characterize it as an early twentieth century school building, Swinney School retains the distinct features of an Open Air school, specifically the modified pergola that covered the Open Air classroom at the center of the front facade. Swinney School, designed and built in 1914, clearly conveys its historic educational function and the period in which it was constructed. The surviving pergola structure, altered in 1927, continues to convey unique characteristics of the Open Air classroom philosophy and is the only example of this design extant in the Kansas City School District. The period of significance is 1914, the date of construction of the east wing and center block, and 1927, the date of construction of the west wing and the conversion of the Open Air classroom to an enclosed and expanded Fresh Air classroom.

ELABORATION

The Swinney School is an excellent example of an Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School, specifically the Elementary School sub-type described in the MPDF. It retains many of the interior elements that were designed to improve safety, cleanliness, illumination, and ventilation, issues central to the Progressive Movement. The poured concrete frame paired with masonry cladding was designed to make the building as fireproof as possible. Wide corridors and open stairwells enabled efficient egress. The classrooms had high ceilings and large windows to allow for increased light and ventilation. The Swinney School retains all of these features, including the stacked gymnasium and auditorium that were part of the initial design, rather than constructed as an addition, making it eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for the area of Architecture.

As described in the MPDF, Charles A. Smith designed eighty school projects (both new buildings and additions to existing schools) during his tenure as Kansas City Board of Education Architect. While each school had a distinct appearance, Smith developed several basic forms with standardized layouts and finishes that he repeated. Smith and his associates used a variety of popular styles to differentiate these basic forms. Sullivanesque was one of several styles the architects chose to ornament the basic building form.

"Sullivanesque" more commonly describes a specific type of ornament than an overall building style, and it is often identified in conjunction with other styles, especially the Commercial style.

Sullivenesque buildings, often commercial or civic in function, have simple forms with flat roofs that exhibit classically-inspired base-cap-shaft façade organization augmented with more modern ornament. Inspired by the work of Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, whose notable late-nineteenth century designs include the Wainwright Building in St. Louis (1890-91) and the Guaranty Building in Buffalo (1895), this type of ornament features repeating motifs of intricate naturalistic and stylized foliage.[2] Sullivanesque ornament differentiates from its contemporary, Art Nouveau, in the adherence to symmetry and the underlying geometry of the design.[3] These decorative bands, primarily terra cotta, ornament doorways, spandrels, and cornices. Paired with fenestration patterns, the ornamental bands are used to emphasize the verticality of the building. The detailing in the terra cotta bands enframing the main entrances on the south elevation *(Photo 5)* at Swinney School evoke the Sullivanesque style.

Open Air Classroom[4]

The design of Swinney School also featured elements associated with a unique Progressive Era program – the Open Air Movement. As described in the MPDF, the Open Air Movement of the 1910s and 1920s developed to provide academic instruction and a rigorous health program for anemic and tubercular children. The central tenet of this program was regular exposure to fresh air. Rather than construct schools solely devoted to educating children with the potential for such ailments, the District opted to devote a small portion of each new school to the program.[5] Smith developed a basic plan in 1914 that included all of the Progressive Era features the District deemed important and designed four schools using this plan: McCoy, Swinney, Milton Moore, and William C. Bryant Schools.[6] Of these four, only two were specifically designed with an Open Air classroom on the roof of the auditorium: Swinney and McCoy. The Open Air classroom had no fixed walls and was completely open to the elements, except for a pergola shading the south end of the rooftop play area. McCoy is nearly identical to Swinney in form and ornament *(Figure 20)*. Like Swinney, the plan for McCoy included an Open Air classroom above the auditorium. The posts and roof that sheltered the Open Air classroom at McCoy were removed prior to 1996, at which time a taller brick parapet was built. Moore and Bryant exhibit same basic plan, but with Spanish Colonial Revival and Jacobethan ornament, respectively. These two schools were historically designed without the Open Air classroom at the center

[2] Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, Revised Edition (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996), 191.
[3] Whiffen, 195.
[4] Unless otherwise noted, information about Open Air Classrooms and the Open Air Movement come from Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, Rosin Preservation, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," Kansas City, Missouri, 2012, E-19 – E-20, E-31 – E-32, F-49 – F-52.
[5] Karnes School at 550 Charlotte Street, designed in 1913, was promoted as the first Kansas City school to include spaces dedicated to this new program. There was little fanfare for subsequent schools. Karnes did not open until 1915 and was demolished in 1982.
[6] McCoy School (1914) stands at 1524 White Avenue; Milton Moore School (1914-1915) stands at 4510 E. Linwood Boulevard; William C. Bryant School (1915) stands at 319 Westover Road.

block *(Figures 21 and 22)*. This highlights Smith's versatility in the use of popular architectural styles and the variability in the implementation of programs throughout the District over the course of just two years. Swinney is the most intact example of this Open Air classroom design in Kansas City.

As the District moved away from providing completely open classrooms and towards spaces that afforded ample fresh air and/or direct access to outdoor recreation areas, Smith designed new types of school buildings and modified existing buildings to better fit the program.[7] Swinney is an excellent example of this evolution. At Swinney, in addition to indoor classrooms with large expanses of operable windows, one classroom area on the roof of the auditorium was completely unenclosed. Only the pergola roof and walls of the adjacent wings provided the Open Air classroom with some protection from the elements. The pergola of the Open Air classroom, as it was modified in 1927, remains a prominent feature of the primary south elevation of Swinney School. Conversion to a Fresh Air classroom in 1927 partially enclosed the space, allowing for better temperature regulation during weather extremes typically experienced in this part of the country. The classroom was still able to carry out the mission of educating children in a fresh-air environment.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The E.F. Swinney School, built in 1914, served Kansas City children living between 43rd Street on the north and Brush Creek on the south; between State Line Road on the west and Washington Street on the east. It was a neighborhood of modest one-and-one-half to two-story dwellings and low-rise apartment buildings. The density of the neighborhood increased as the city's population continued to move south. As described in the MPDF, the district experienced a construction boom between 1911 and 1915, during which it built sixteen schools, twice as many as in the previous decade. All of these schools embraced Progressive Era programs that emphasized safety, hygiene, and an expanded curriculum. Only the schools designed after the Karnes School (1913) specifically included Open Air and Fresh Air classrooms. The District expanded Swinney School in 1927, toward the end of its most significant building period.[8]

In 1910, the Kansas City Board of Education built a three-room frame schoolhouse at 47th Street and West Prospect Place (now Jarboe Street)[9] to serve the growing residential neighborhood that had developed on the west side of the city following the expansion of the city limits in 1909. In 1910 only a handful of small houses stood on each block, but the blocks quickly filled over the

[7] Rosin, F-49.
[8] Rosin, E-31.
[9] "Swinney, Milton Moore" *Kansas City Times*, October 21, 1910, Microfilm, Mounted Clippings: Kansas City Public Schools: Swinney, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

next few years. As the population grew, additional "temporary" buildings were erected on the school site, including a frame annex with a stone foundation constructed in 1912.[10]

The Board named the conglomeration of buildings the E. F. Swinney School, in honor of Edward Fletcher Swinney. This reflected their practice of naming new facilities after prominent U.S. citizens, district Board members, or Superintendents.[11] Swinney was president of First National Bank of Kansas City from 1900 until 1927. He also served as treasurer of the Kansas City Board of Education for thirty years, beginning in 1894.[12] His tenure as a board member coincided with the district's most prolific period to-date for the financing and construction of school facilities.[13]

Board Architect, Charles A. Smith designed a permanent Swinney School as Job No. 103 for the district in 1914. At the time, the Swinney School was a complex of five rectangular frame buildings, including a separate building for toilets, at the south end of the lot. To prepare for the new school, all of the frame buildings were relocated to the north end of the lot and plank walkways and steps were installed to connect the buildings with the street. A small dwelling was also removed from the school property.[14]

Smith designed the new Swinney School using elements of plan and configuration that were similar to other schools he was working on at the time, although Swinney offered a unique combination of amenities. The plan for Swinney was similar to the Karnes School (1913) and nearly identical to the McCoy School (Job No. 102, 1914). Like Swinney, Karnes School (demolished 1982) housed both a branch of the public library and open air classrooms. McCoy also had a roof-top pergola for an Open Air classroom, but no library branch.[15] Milton Moore School (Job No. 110) and Bryant School (Job No. 114), also designed in 1914, were similar in plan to Swinney, but incorporated neither open air classrooms nor branch libraries.[16]

The City of Kansas City issued a building permit to the Kansas City Board of Education, architect Charles A. Smith, and builder F. H. Crites for the construction of Swinney School on April 22, 1914. The permit described the project as a concrete building with brick and stone

[10] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office, Building Permit #52862 (7/18/1912).
[11] Rosin, E-13.
[12] "Edward F. Swinney" *Kansas City Star*, June 27, 1924, Microfilm, Mounted Clippings: Swinney, Edward F., Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[13] Rosin Preservation, E-15-18.
[14] Charles A. Smith, "Kansas City Schools, Job No. 103 (Swinney)," Architectural Plans, 1914, Kansas City Missouri School District Archives.
[15] The pergola at McCoy is no longer extant.
[16] Charles A. Smith, "Kansas City Schools, Job No. 102 (McCoy)," "Kansas City Schools, Job No. 103 (Swinney)," "Kansas City Schools, Job No. 110 (Milton Moore)," "Kansas City Schools, Job No. 114 (Bryant)," Architectural Plans, 1914, Kansas City Missouri School District Archives.

cladding and a tar and gravel roof. The completed Swinney School was 139 feet long on the south elevation and nearly 106 feet long on the east elevation.

The new Swinney School highlighted a litany of Progressive Era programs and philosophies important to the district. As described in the MPDF, these included developing a physical plant designed to promote safety and hygiene and to be able to accommodate a broad range of activities and courses to enhance the curriculum. Smith's schools boasted concrete frames and wide corridors and stairwells to facilitate quick egress in the event of a fire and mechanical ventilation to pump ample fresh air throughout the building. There were rooms specifically adapted for instruction in physical education, arts, sciences, and vocational instruction.[17] The inclusion of these types of rooms was critical for any modern school to adequately teach the District's curriculum as it evolved beyond the narrow focus on reading, writing, and arithmetic. Swinney had eleven classrooms, including one Fresh Air classroom and two kindergartens. A cloakroom and individual lavatory connected the two kindergarten rooms.

Beyond the normal range of Progressive Era design elements, Swinney featured Open Air and Fresh Air Classrooms designed for children identified as being susceptible to tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. The Open Air classroom had no fixed walls and was completely open to the elements, except for a pergola shading the south end of the rooftop play area. The Fresh Air classroom offered a more-traditional classroom setting, but with windows on two walls rather than one. The additional windows allowed for increased ventilation without completely subjecting children to the mercy of the weather. The schedule of activities maintained in these classrooms was meant to boost the overall health of the participating students and to prevent disease. Part of the schedule involved bathing each day. Accordingly, the building contained large lavatories and showers on the ground level.[18] By 1927, when Swinney was enlarged, the Open Air classroom had fallen out of vogue, and the rooftop space was enclosed to function as a Fresh Air classroom.

Additionally, Swinney School was one of the earliest Kansas City schools to incorporate a gymnasium and auditorium, both of which were important components of the modified Gary Plan/Platoon Plan. Developed in Gary, Indiana in 1907, the Gary Plan, or Platoon Plan as it was called outside Indiana, incorporated a variety of cultural and physical activities into the standard academic curriculum and thus required dedicated spaces, such as the gymnasium, auditorium, and vocational shops. Students were divided into groups, or platoons, to rotate through a regular schedule of academic courses, vocational training, and physical activity, both indoors and outdoors. In addition to broadening the educational experience for the child, this plan

[17] Smith, Swinney Architectural Plans.
[18] Smith, Swinney Architectural Plans.

allowed the district to accommodate a greater number of students by using the entire property throughout the school day.

Plans for Swinney also included a branch of the public library. Housed in the east wing on the first floor, the library was intended to be accessible to local residents. The Board of Education established the Public Library of Kansas City in 1873. The mission of the library was to collect and disseminate information for use by officers, teachers, and pupils in the district.[19] As the library program grew during subsequent decades, branch libraries opened in new and existing buildings throughout the city. Kansas City touted itself as the first city in the U.S. to establish branches of the public library in its public school buildings.[20] The first branch library incorporated into an existing public school opened in the Switzer School in 1911. The first schools specifically designed with branch libraries were Karnes School (1913), Northeast High School (1914), and Swinney School (1914). Due to construction schedules, the Northeast High School branch library opened first. In 1915, the Swinney Branch became the first library to open in an elementary school. The Karnes Branch opened in 1916. When the Plaza Branch Library opened in 1967, it replaced the branch in Swinney School. The library resources at Swinney were transferred to the new facility.[21] The old Swinney space was converted to classrooms as part of the 1987 renovation. Aside from the enclosed entrance on the east elevation, little remains of the interior Branch Library space.

As was common during this period, Swinney School was constructed in stages. Anticipating the need for growth, Smith designed a future addition that could be constructed as finances and population dictated. In 1927, the school district received a second permit to build the 28-foot by 105-foot west wing in the location indicated on Smith's 1914 plans. The wing was one classroom wide and three classrooms long, although an octagonal bay extended the center classrooms to the west. The new wing housed the lunch room and two home economics rooms on the ground floor, and classrooms, including a kindergarten room with a fireplace, on the first floor. The second floor held a traditional classroom and two fresh air classrooms, expanding the fresh-air opportunities of the Open Air program. The 1927 plans also called for enclosing the Open Air classroom on the roof by constructing a new wall on the north side of the pergola. The spaces between the balusters were infilled with plaster. Windows filled the pergola openings, matching the fenestration pattern on the floors below. Large windows were installed on the north wall. Architectural plans identify this new room as a "Rest Room for the Fresh Air Department."[22]

[19] Carrie Westlake Whitney, *Kansas City Missouri: Its History and Its People 1808-1908, Vol. 1* (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908) 349.
[20] "Library, Public, Branches, High School – First in the U.S." *Kansas City Star*, September 11, 1927. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings: Library, Public, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
[21] "Library Timeline," Kansas City Public Library, http://www.kclibrary.org/timeline (accessed 23 May 2013).
[22] Charles A. Smith, "Addition to Swinney School," Architectural Plans, 1927, Kansas City Missouri School District Archives.

(Figure 16). The design and essential structural elements of the Open Air classroom were retained and remain visible.

After 1927, the school was little altered for over fifty years. When funds became available through the district's desegregation program in 1987, the district completed a series of improvements. The most notable alteration was the addition of a circulation core on the south elevation to improve accessibility. The three-story concrete addition contained a staircase, an elevator, and a small classroom. Openings were created in the upper wall of the school to connect the existing corridor to the new circulation core. The ground-floor entrance doors were removed but much of the terra cotta surround was retained. The entrance to the Branch Library entrance was also filled at this time. The district added air conditioning to the school, housing the chiller in a new concrete structure (#2) built just beyond the northwest corner of the building *(Photo 3).* The district built a temporary classroom (#3) at the southeast corner of the east play area sometime after 1987 *(Photo 7).* The 1987 circulation tower was removed in April 2013.

Swinney School served the community as a public elementary school until it permanently closed in 2010 as part of the School District's rightsizing program.

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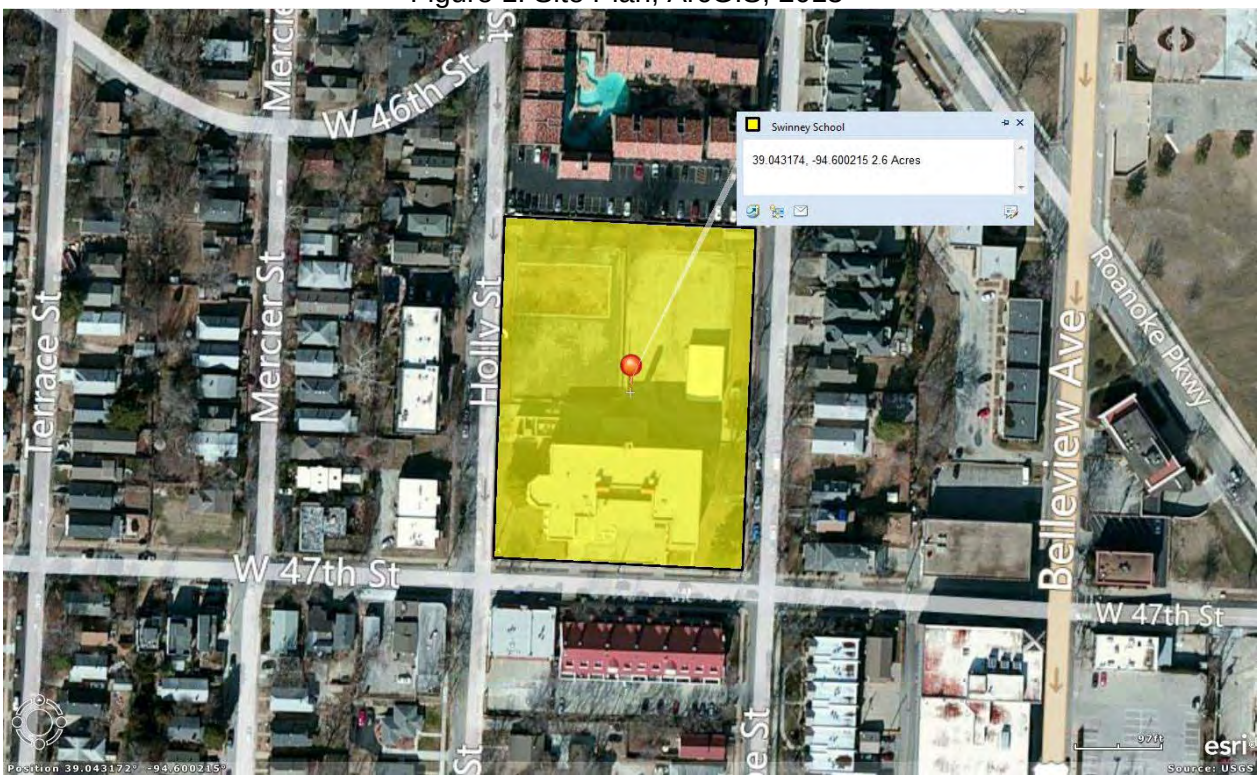
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E.F. Swinney School: the south five feet of Lot 8, all of Lots 9 thru 40 and the south five feet of Lot 41, Block 13, Bunker Hill, a subdivision in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

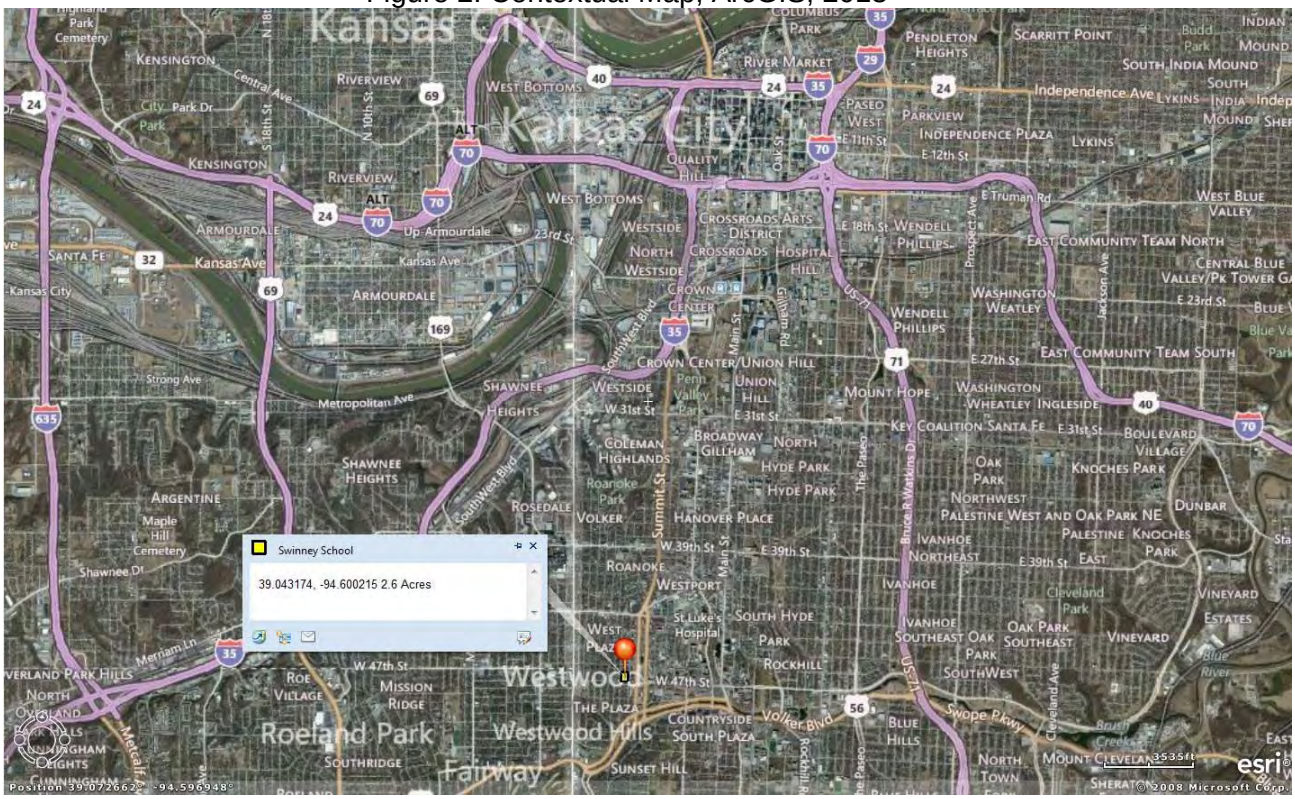
The boundary of the nominated resource includes the parcels of land historically associated with the property.

Figure 1. Site Plan, ArcGIS, 2013



Swinney School
1106 W. 47th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
Latitude: 39.043174
Longitude: -94.600215

Figure 2. Contextual Map, ArcGIS, 2013



Swinney School
1106 W. 47th Street
Kansas City, Missouri
Latitude: 39.043174
Longitude: -94.600215

Figure 3. Photo Map, Site

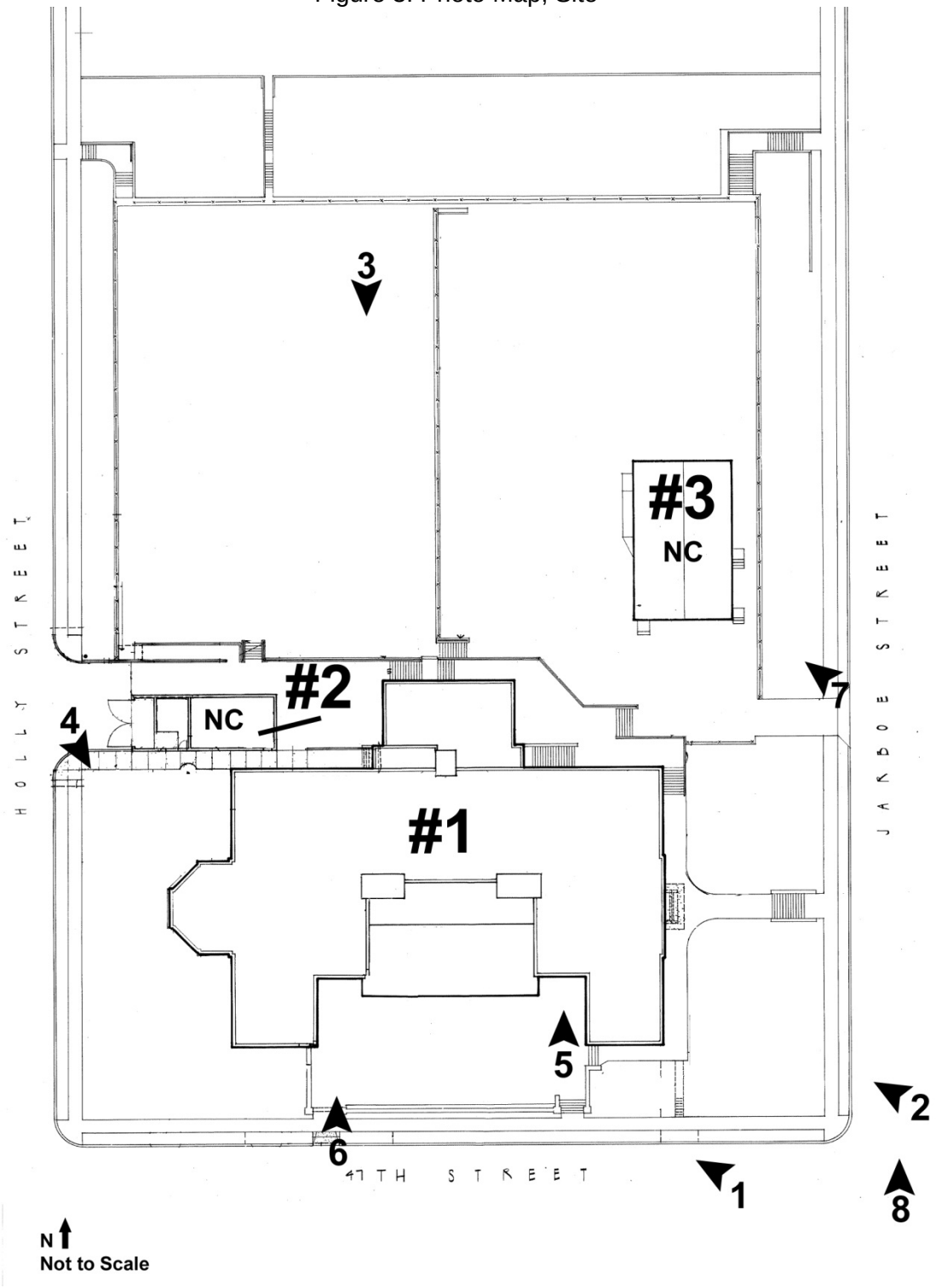


Figure 4. Photo Map, Basement

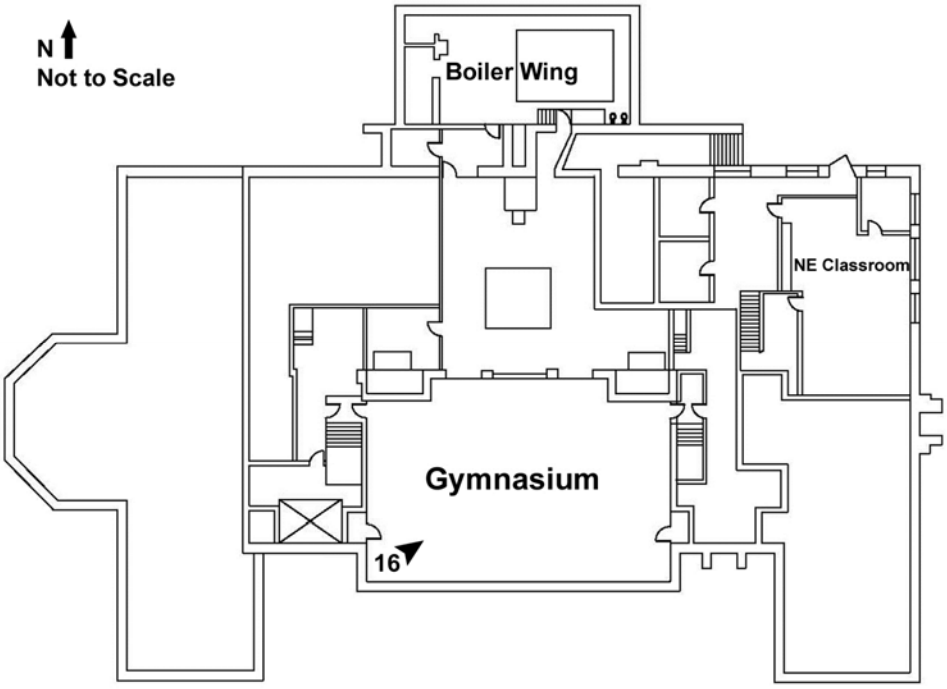


Figure 5. Photo Map, First Floor

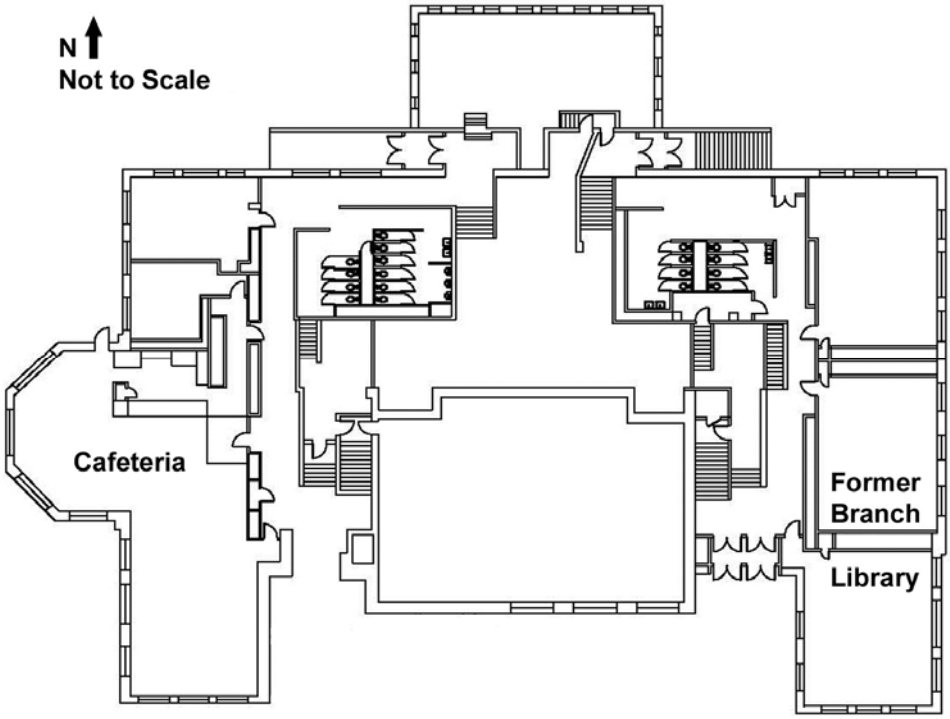


Figure 6. Photo Map, Second Floor

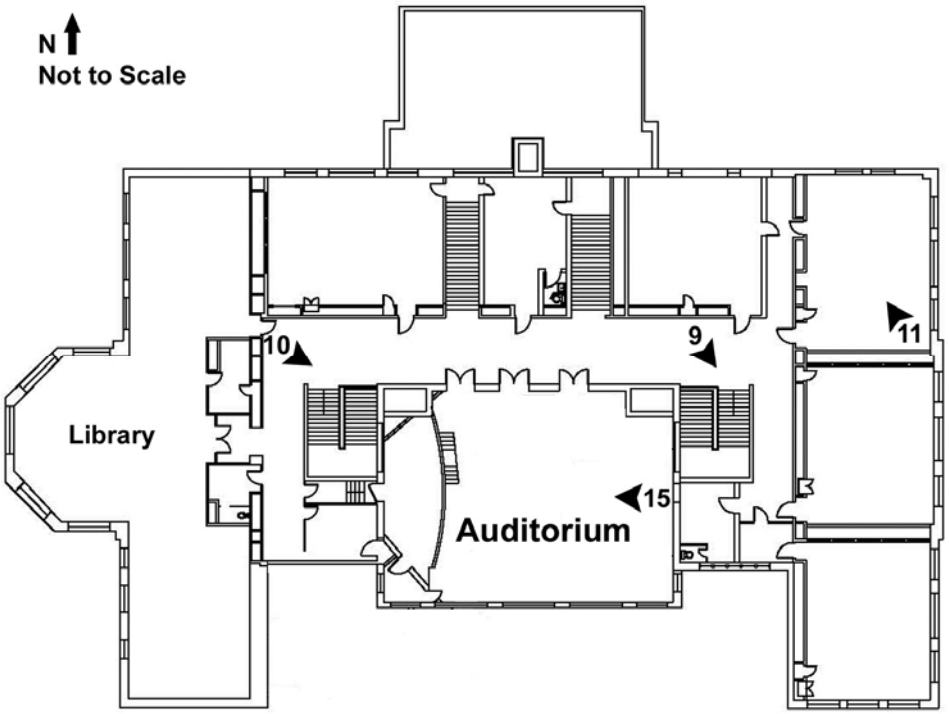


Figure 7. Photo Map, Third Floor

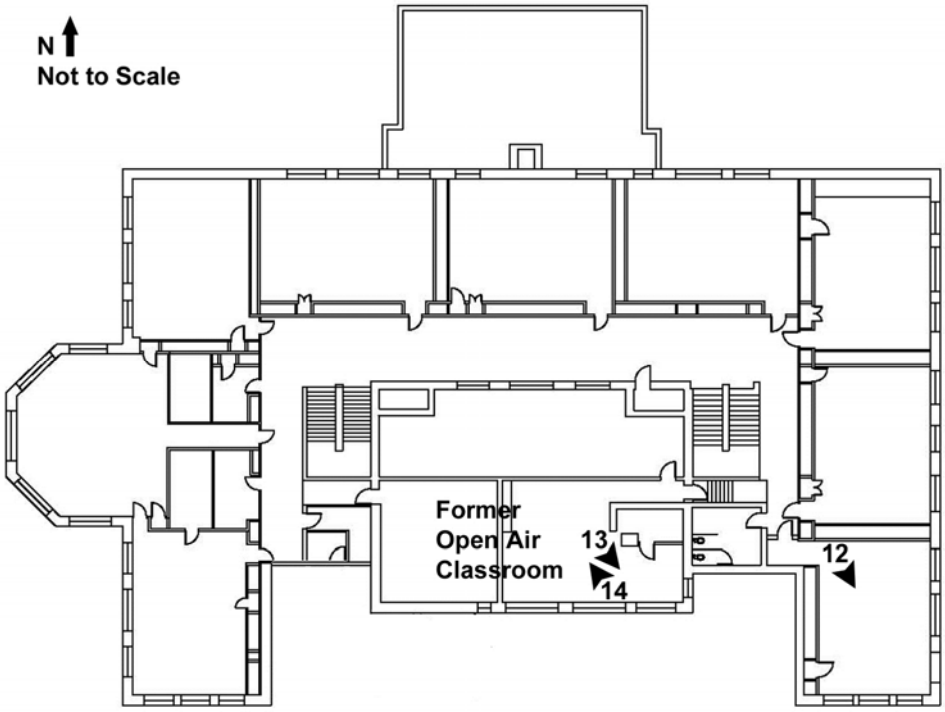


Figure 8. Historic Plans, Basement (now 1st Floor), 1914.

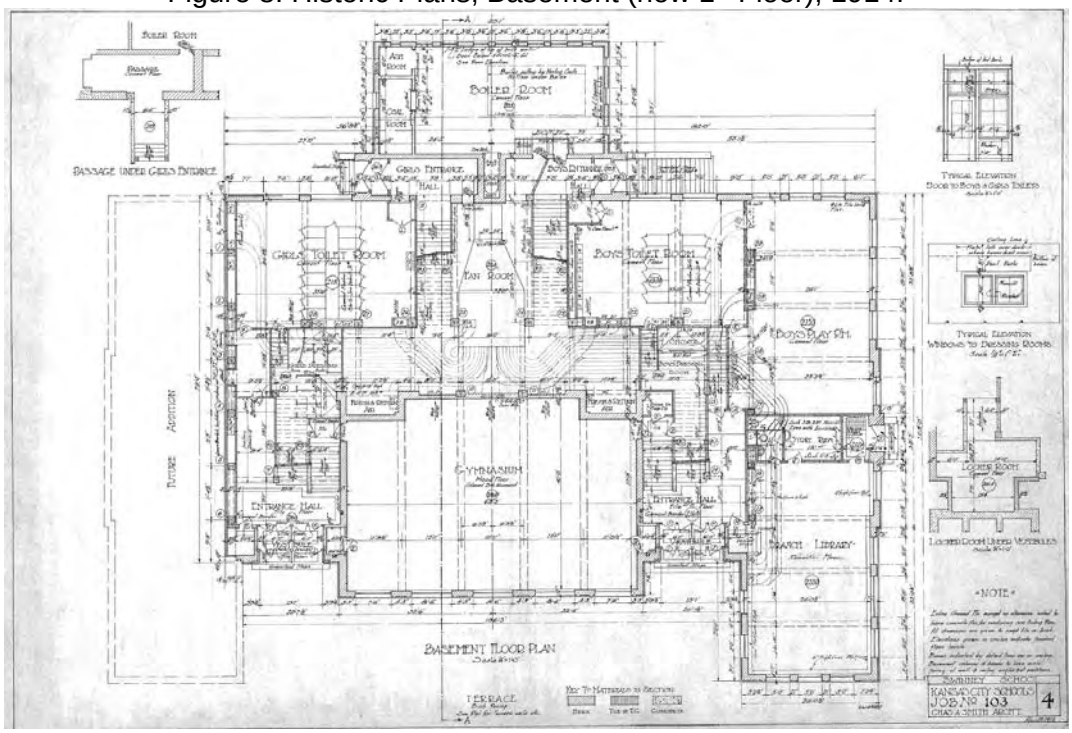


Figure 9. Historic Plans, 1st Floor (now 2nd Floor), 1914.

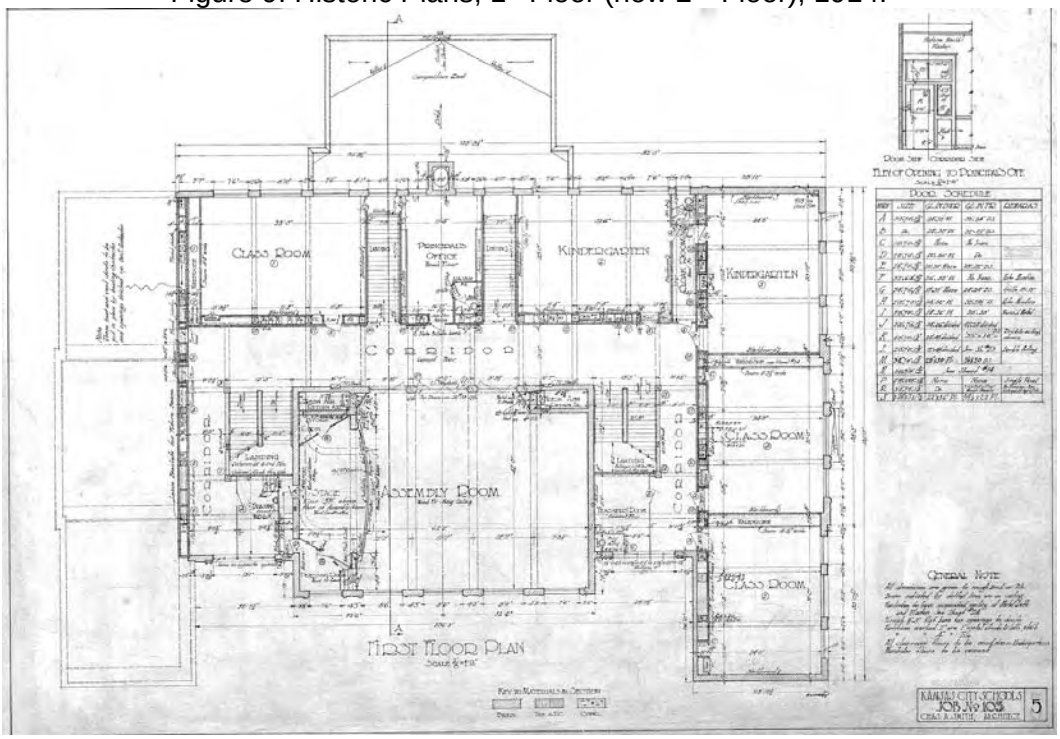


Figure 10. Historic Plans, 2nd Floor (now 3rd Floor), 1914.

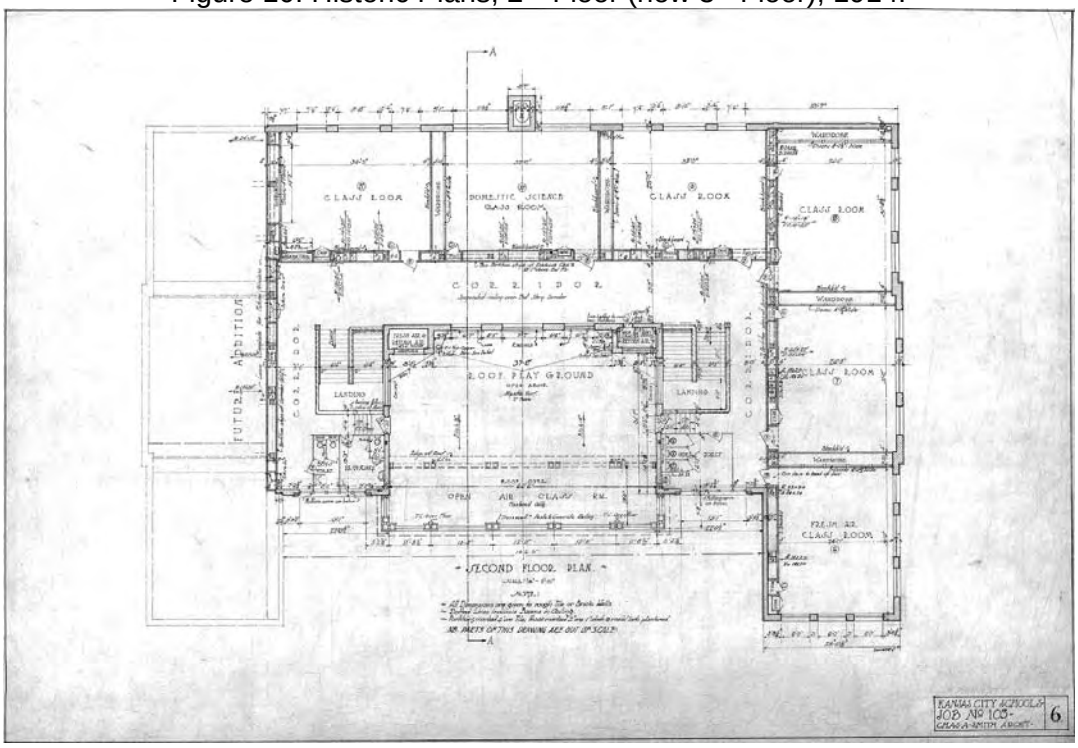


Figure 11. Historic Plans, 1927.

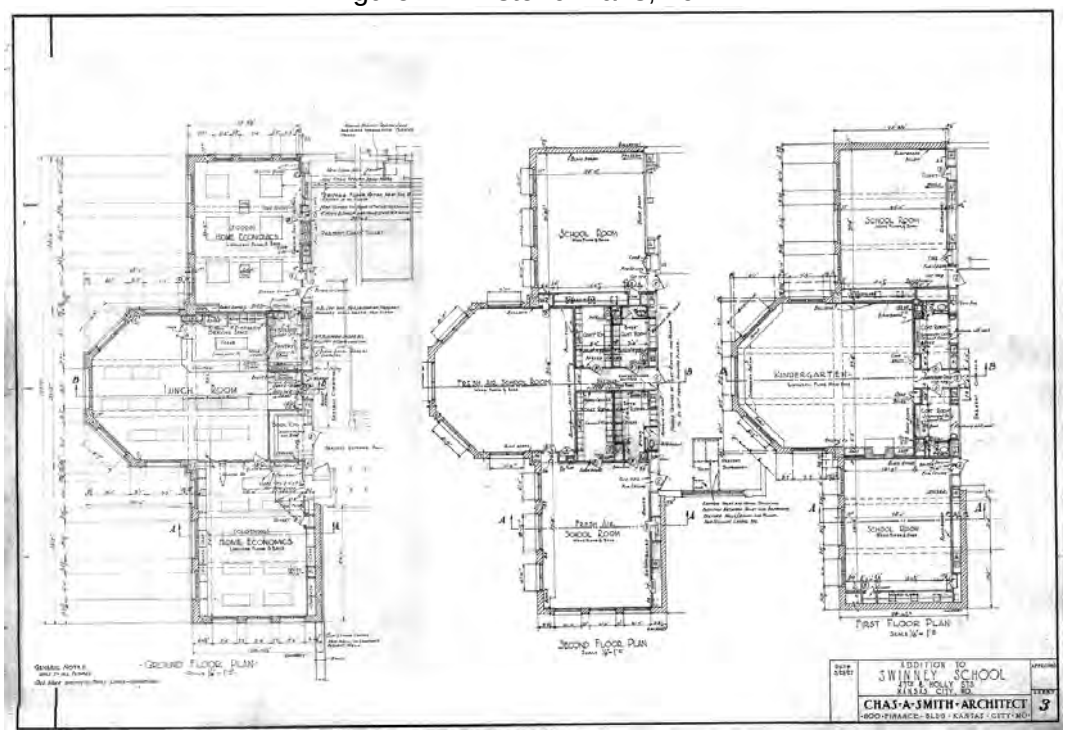


Figure 12. Historic Plans, South Elevation, 1914.

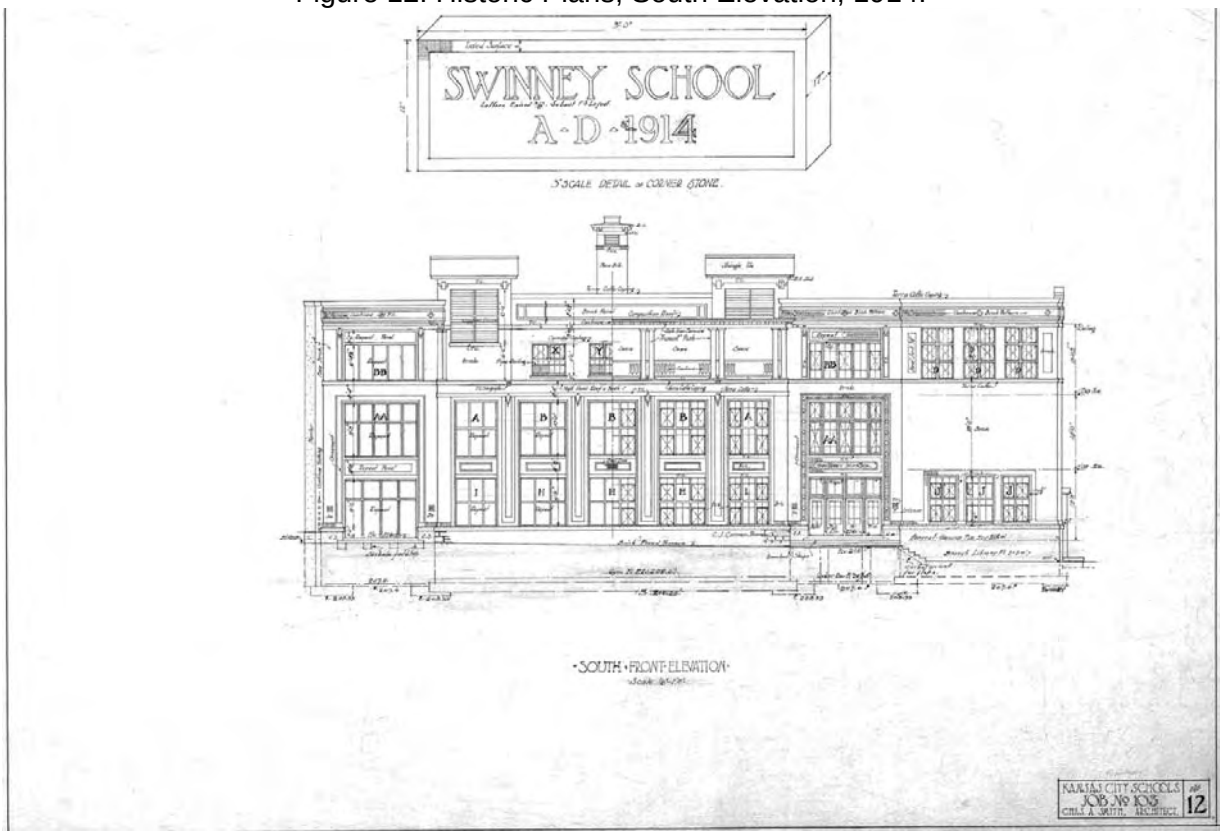


Figure 13. Historic Plans, East Elevation, 1914.

Figure 14. Historic Plans, North Elevation, 1914.

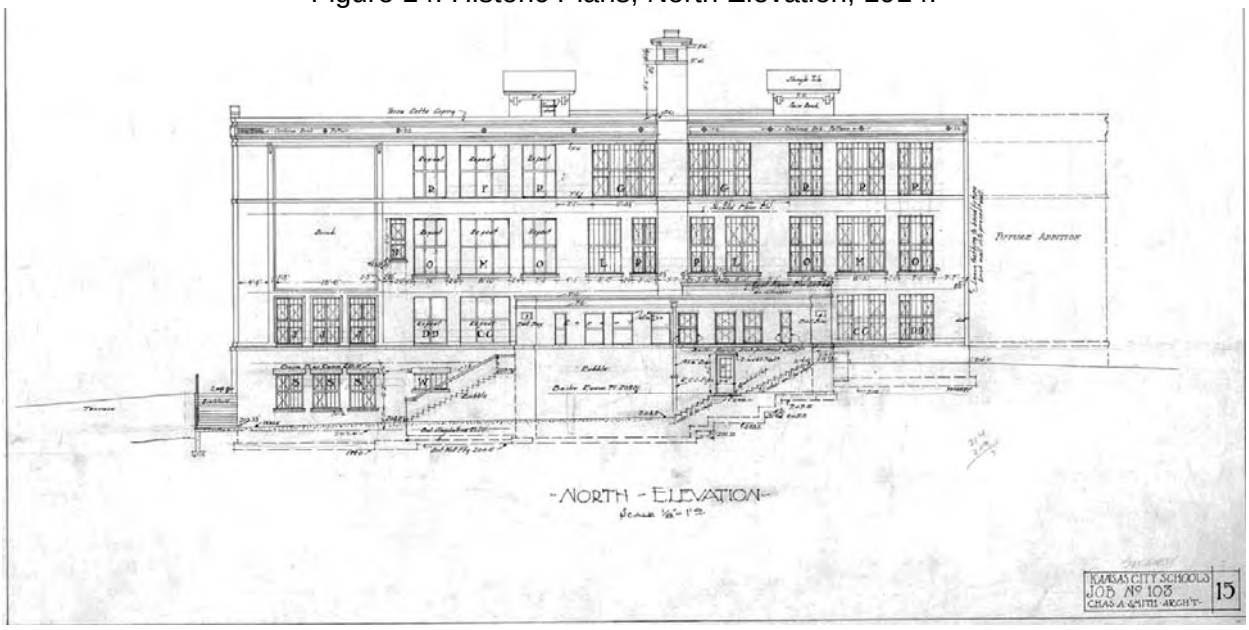


Figure 15. Historic Plans, West Elevation, 1927.

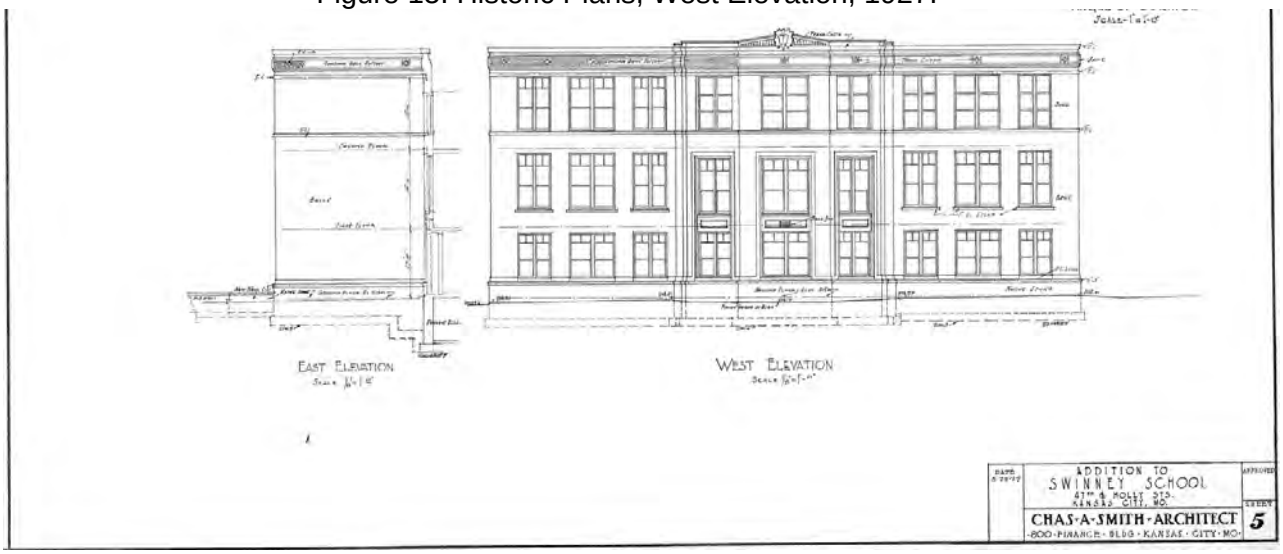


Figure 16. Historic Plans, Open Air classroom alterations, 1927.

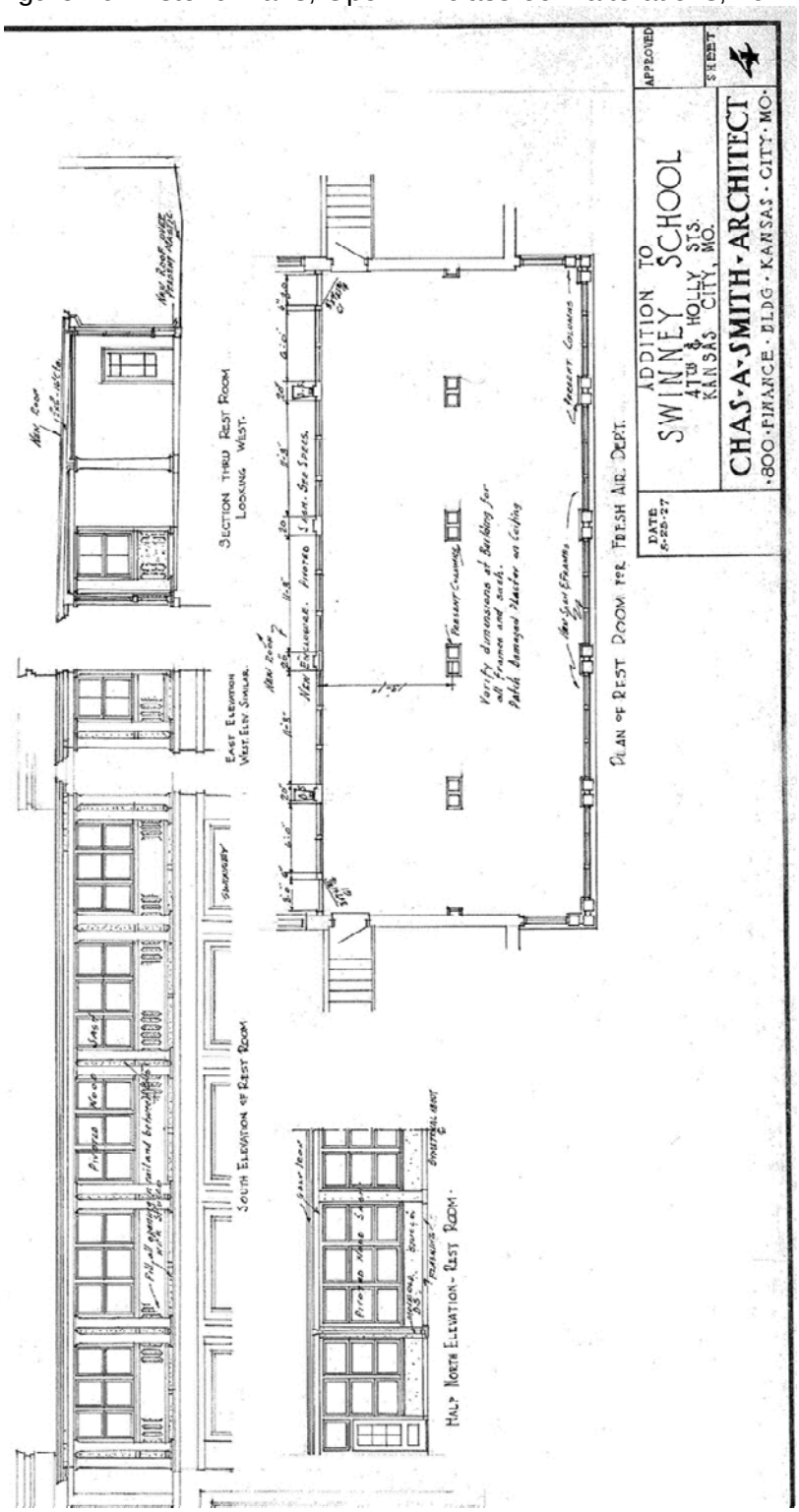


Figure 17. South and east elevations. Historic photograph, c. 1915.

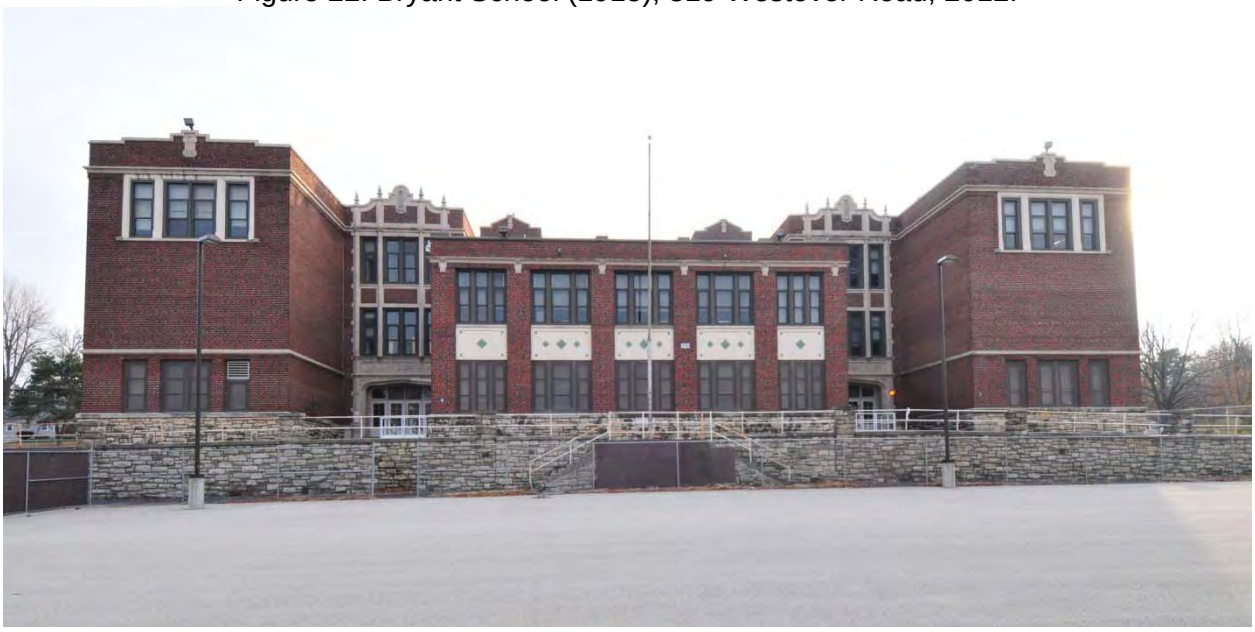
Figure 18. South and west elevations. Historic photograph, c. 1915.

Figure 19. South elevation with the 1987 circulation tower prior to removal, view north. 2012.

Figure 20. McCoy School (1914), 1524 White Avenue, 2012.

Figure 21. Milton Moore School (1914-1915), 4510 E. Linwood Blvd., 2012.

Figure 22. Bryant School (1915), 319 Westover Road, 2012.



SWINNEY ELEMENTARY

BLOCK

E.F. SWINNEY SCHOOL

Planet Aid
clothes
shoes
Planet Aid
clothes
shoes

47TH ST

EXIT