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 Norman 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Street & number 3514 Jefferson Street (3521 Summit Street) | N/A | not for publication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 Nov 25, 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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Jacobethan Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: STONE
roof: ASPHALT
other:

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
1906
1911

Significant Dates
1906
1911

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Smith, Charles A. (Architect)

[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
- ____ Other

Name of repository: **Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.6

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

	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
1	39.063893	-94.594363	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 Elizabeth Rosin, Principal; Lauren Rieke, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Rosin Preservation date September 2013

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

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail lauren@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: **Norman School**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Brad Finch, F-Stop Photography**

Date Photographed: **July 7, 2013**

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

1 of 12: Southeast corner; view northwest.

2 of 12: East elevation; view west.

3 of 12: Rear (north) elevation; view south.

4 of 12: West elevation; view southeast.

5 of 12: Norman school and property from Summit Street; view northeast.

6 of 12: Former playground in front of school; view northeast.

7 of 12: Main entrance on south elevation; view north.

8 of 12: Detail of historic windows on east elevation; view west.

9 of 12: Main stair from basement to first floor; view northeast.

10 of 12: Typical classroom; first floor, view southwest.

11 of 12: Typical cloakroom; second floor, view south.

12 of 12: Detail of door frame; second floor, view northwest.

Figure Log:

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

Figure 1. Site Map, ArcGIS 2013

Figure 2. Contextual Map, ArcGIS 2013

Figure 3. Photo Map of current floor plan (Exterior).

Figure 4. Photo Map current floor plan (First Floor).

Figure 5. Photo Map current floor plan (Second Floor).

Figure 6. Historic Plans- 1st and 2nd floors of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 7. Historic Plans- North elevation of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 8. Historic Plans- West and East Elevation of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 9. Historic Plans- Site plan, 1926. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 10. Historic Plans- Basement plan with 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 11. Historic Plans- Plan of 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 12. Historic Plans- South and north elevations of 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Figure 13. Photograph, original school with only center and west wings, c. 1906. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Figure 14. Photograph, main elevation of Norman School, 1915. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Figure 15. Postcard of Norman School, n.d. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*

SUMMARY

The Norman School is located at 3514 Jefferson Street on a slight hill in the residential Valentine neighborhood, in the heart of Midtown, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. The building stands at the north end of the 1.6 acre property, facing south toward a large semi-circular paved playground. It was constructed in two phases in 1906 and 1911. The two-story building has a rectangular plan with a one-story block extending from the north elevation. Projecting pavilions at the center and end bays of the building create the symmetrical five-part plan characteristic of the Elementary School sub-type of Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era School property type outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Resources of the Kansas City, Missouri School District Pre 1970." The building stands on a limestone foundation and is capped with a flat roof. It features rusticated limestone cladding, accented by dressed limestone. The standardized form of the building is enhanced by applied Jacobethen Revival elements, including masonry cladding, shaped gables, strapwork ornament, and crenelated parapets. Stone details consist of quoining around the window openings, dentils below the projecting cornice at the parapet, and curvilinear carved limestone ornamentation at the parapet. The interiors retain the original layout and features designed to improve ventilation and safety in public schools, including wide corridors, mechanical ventilation systems, and large open transoms above the doors.

ELABORATION

Setting

The Norman School is located at 3514 Jefferson Street in Kansas City, Missouri. The 1.6 acre property encompasses two lots, listed as 3514 Jefferson Street and 3521 Summit Street. The lots are bounded by Jefferson Street on the east, 36th Street on the south, Summit Street (Southwest Trafficway) on the west, and single-family residences on the north. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of single family homes with a commercial area along Broadway three blocks east of the property.

The property sits on a slight hill, enhancing its prominence over the surrounding Valentine neighborhood. A limestone retaining wall extends the length of the west and north boundaries of the property. Public sidewalks span the east, west, and south boundaries and a gravel alley runs along the north side. Concrete stairs with historic limestone cheek walls are located at the southeast, southwest, and northwest corners *(Photo 5).* Similar concrete stairs along the east side of the school access concrete sidewalks that lead to each of the entrances.

A semicircular concrete retaining wall in front of the building arcs north from the southwest to the southeast corners of the lot, defining the playground area, which is paved with asphalt *(Photo 6)*. Concrete sidewalks lined with mature trees curve around this area and lead to the main entrance. The ground immediately surrounding the building is paved with brick and asphalt. Additional trees line the south boundary and the west and north sides of the school.

Exterior

The two story building faces south and has a rectangular plan with bilateral symmetry *(Photo 1)*. It was constructed in two planned phases, in 1906 and 1911. The phases have nearly identical form, materials and details, creating one unified building. Projecting pavilions are located at the center and end blocks, creating a five-part plan characteristic of Progressive Era schools. The three west blocks comprise the 1906 building and the two east blocks comprise the 1911 addition *(Figure 3)*. A small one-story wing with a raised basement constructed in 1906 protrudes north from the center of the rear (north) elevation *(Photo 3)*. The building stands on a limestone foundation with a raised basement and is capped with a flat asphalt roof. The primary cladding is rusticated limestone blocks of varying sizes, with dressed limestone accents. Two beige brick chimneys centrally located near the back of the building rise approximately two stories above the flat roof. Both feature simple limestone molding and the west chimney has a gable roof cap of corrugated metal.

The south elevation is divided into five blocks. The first, westernmost block (1906) projects slightly from the main façade. It has three bays in the raised basement level, two bays in the upper two stories, and terminates in a shaped gabled parapet. An oculus window set in a stone surround pierces the gable. Wood muntins form a hexagram in the window. See below for further description of the basement and upper-story windows that are typical throughout the building. The second block from the west (1906) has four bays filled with single openings. A straight parapet ornamented with stone strapwork caps this block. Below the parapet is a slightly projecting cornice with dentil molding. The center, third block (1906) projects slightly from the main façade *(Photo 7)*. It contains three bays with the main entrance at the center. The central bay has tripartite windows at each story and terminates in a shaped gable parapet. A short tripartite window adorned with curvilinear ornament pierces the gable. The outer bays project slightly and have a single opening at each story. They terminate in a stepped gable parapet pierced with a small rectangular window.

The main entrance is located in a two-story projection in this block (1906). The first story is clad in bands of rusticated limestone alternating with bands of dressed limestone. The dressed bands connect to the dressed limestone frame of the main entrance. A stone segmental arch hood with decorative brackets frames the paired wood panel doors with six-light windows, sidelights, and arched transoms. The second story of this projection features a tripartite window with historic one-over-one wood windows. The single opening on either side of the window contains a steel grid originally designed as a vent but now infilled with plywood. A small cornice with dentil molding runs below the base of the windows, while another small cornice with curved brackets runs above. A small parapet mimics the larger one above, with the same shaped gable and curvilinear ornament.

Similar to the second block, the fourth block (1911) has four bays filled with single openings. A straight parapet ornamented with stone strapwork caps this block. Below the parapet is a slightly projecting cornice with dentil molding. Like the first block, the fifth block (1911) projects slightly from the main façade. It has two bays and terminates in a shaped gabled parapet. It features the same oculus window and hexagram muntins. A stringcourse located at the top of the second floor windows and a water table above the basement windows, both of dressed limestone, continues across the entire south elevation.

The west elevation (1906) *(Photo 4)* and east elevation (1911) *(Photo 2)* are identical. They have bilateral symmetry and are divided into three blocks. The north and south blocks contain four bays with a single opening in each. A straight parapet ornamented with stone strapwork caps each block. Below the parapet is a slightly projecting cornice with dentil molding. The center block projects slightly from the main façade. It has one bay with an entrance at the first story and paired openings above. It terminates in a shaped gable parapet with dressed limestone ornament. Dressed limestone quoins surround the recessed entrance. Paired wood doors between the glazed sidelights match those on the front of the building. "Norman School" is inscribed in the lintel above the entrance.

The north elevation is divided into five blocks *(Photo 3)*. Fenestration, ornament and massing are identical to the south elevation with the exception of the center block. The center block connects to a one story wing with a flat roof and a crenellated parapet. The wing connects to the basement and first story of the main building. The raised basement contains the sunken boiler room. The wide rectangular wing has walls that angle inward to connect back to the main building. Single bays with narrow windows at each story of the main building flank the connector. Three windows pierce the east elevation of the wing. A plywood-covered entrance and window at the basement level provide access to the boiler room. The metal door of the historic coal chute is extant. The west elevation has two windows and an entrance at the upper story. Although the entrance is covered with plywood, it is accessed via a metal staircase with metal rail. Rusticated stone fills two window-sized openings in the basement level. The third opening contains a metal vent. The north elevation of the wing contains no openings.

Fenestration throughout the building consists of tall, narrow single openings on the first and second floors *(Photo 8)*. Openings have dressed limestone frames with large lintels and quoins. Historic double-hung wood windows have a unique configuration of lights that give the appearance of three separate sashes. Three lights with vertical muntins divide the upper third of the top sash, while the lower two-thirds and bottom sash each have a single light. Newer wood sashes with six-lights replaced some of the lower sashes. Several windows have removable air conditioning units. Basement openings are shorter, single openings but still have dressed stone quoins and sills. The dressed stone water table serves as the lintel for the basement windows. They have historic three-over-three wood windows. Some basement openings are covered with plywood or infilled with rusticated limestone or louvered vents.

Interior

The 1906 and 1911 sections connect seamlessly on the interior as well as the exterior. Interior finishes and the configuration of corridors and classrooms are identical in each section. The building has eight classrooms on each floor arranged around a double loaded corridor that runs east-west through the center of the building. Doors and arched openings along the corridor access classrooms and adjacent cloakrooms. The exterior entrances on the south, east, and west open into vestibules in the raised basement. The vestibules have glazed brick walls and terrazzo floors with a Greek key or geometric pattern in the tile along the perimeter. Paired openings lead from the vestibules to stair halls. Historic wood frames with wide sidelights (east and west vestibules) and transoms (south vestibule) contain the dark wood panel doors with glazing.

The building contains three historic staircases. A straight staircase at the center of the south elevation rises from the basement to the first floor and remains open *(Photo 9).* U-shaped stairs at the east and west ends of the corridor rise from the basement to the second floor. The steel frame staircases have decorative newel posts, spindle balusters, and wood railing caps. Non-historic metal-framed partially glazed partitions with paired doors separate the stair halls at the east and west ends from the corridor for fire-safety purposes. The classroom doors within the stair halls were replaced with metal fire doors as well.

A short staircase rises from the first-story corridor at the center stair to a small office above the main entrance. The office has large interior windows that overlook the corridor and a wood panel door with a single light and a transom. Located across from the main office, a wood and glass partition with paired doors leads to the assembly room on the upper story of the north wing. The room features two built-in cabinets on either side of the short hallway that leads from the entrance to where the walls angle outwards and the room widens. Large windows line two walls of the assembly room.

The corridors have wood floors, plaster walls, and acoustical tile adhered to the ceiling between the beams. The corridors feature simple wood base, chair rail, and, occasionally, painted crown molding. Pilasters with egg-and-dart capitals project slightly from the walls below the beams. Classroom and cloakroom entrances retain their historic wood casings, wood paneled and glazed doors, and operable glazed transoms. Arched openings at the east and west ends of the second-story corridors lead to small nooks containing two doors. One door accesses the classroom while the other door accesses the cloakroom.

Most classrooms and offices have wood floors with simple wood base trim. Cloakrooms and some classrooms have non-historic VCT or asbestos tile floors. Walls and ceilings are plaster, though most spaces have dropped ceilings with a grid of lay-in acoustical tiles. Wood casework lines the wall under the windows in the classrooms. Built-in cabinets are recessed into the wall. Wood-framed chalkboards cover most of the walls in the classrooms *(Photo 10).* The wood chair rail continues around the room at the level of the wood chalk rail at the chalkboard. Cloakrooms adjacent to each of the classrooms have dark wood wainscoting *(Photo 11).* The building retains many of the historic five-panel wood doors between classrooms and cloakrooms.

Windows have simple wood frames and deep sills. Wood panel doors with a single light and large transom access classrooms, the assembly room, and office, while wood panel doors access the cloakrooms. All are framed with simple wood trim *(Photo 12)*. The majority of the lighting is non-historic pendant and fluorescent fixtures, through some historic pendants with opaque glass shades are extant. Some rooms have historic wall-mounted porcelain sinks, and one room features a more decorative marble sink with turned metal legs.

Basement rooms are partially unfinished, with concrete floors, painted brick or limestone walls, and plaster or acoustical tile ceilings. The basement also contains the original large lavatories. These rooms have concrete floors, glazed brick wainscot, and wood partitions between the fixtures.

INTEGRITY

The Norman School retains most of its character-defining features and displays excellent integrity in accordance with the registration requirements of the MPDF. It retains its original form, massing, and exterior materials; contains an interior assembly room and original configuration of classrooms and corridors; and features original fenestration patterns. Still in its original location and setting atop a small hill in the residential Valentine neighborhood, the school stands before a wide, open playground representative of the era. The materials, workmanship and design of the original five-part plan with native limestone exterior, historic wood windows, and paired doors are extant. Following basic tenets of the Jacobethan Revival style, the school features contrasting dressed and rusticated stone, strapwork ornament at the parapet, and shaped gables. It retains interior finishes and the original plan reflective of Progressive Era schools, including the mechanical ventilation systems, wide, double-loaded corridor, and wood doors with large, operable transoms. The building has endured very few alterations and updates in its one-hundred-year history. The only alterations are the inclusion of small bathrooms on the upper floors, the installation of metal fire break walls near the staircases, and updates to some classroom finishes and MEP systems. The bathroom fixtures in the basement were removed at an unknown date. The school retains the feeling of and association with the educational philosophies that defined the architecture of the Progressive Era of the Kansas City School District.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norman School is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. It is an intact example of the Elementary School sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era School property type as outlined in the MPDF "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970" (MPDF). Construction of the two-story building occurred in two planned phases, beginning with the center, west, and north wings in 1906 and ending with the east wing in 1911. Charles A. Smith, architect for the Kansas City School Board from 1898 to 1936, utilized his standard five-part plan for the building that exemplified the newest technologies and safety concerns highlighted during the Progressive Era. Typical of Progressive Era schools, a dense residential community surrounds the property; the primary elevation faces the playground on the large, open lot; and the building displays distinctive Jacobethan Revival details, fenestration, and materials as applied to the standardized building form. The Norman School retains its original five-part form, limestone exterior; fenestration patterns with tall, narrow openings; and interior configuration. The overall plan of the school, with wide, double-loaded corridors, specific classrooms spaces and assembly room, and mechanical ventilation systems, addressed the safety and health concerns that shaped school buildings during the Progressive Era. The Norman School retains nearly all of its historic interior and exterior features, clearly representing its historic function and property type as a public grade school built in the early twentieth century. The unique features of the Norman School, compared with similar schools in the district, include the earliest exclusive use of local limestone as an exterior cladding and the retention of the building's original five-part plan without the construction of a later gymnasium and auditorium addition. The period of significance for this property is 1906 and 1911, the dates of construction for the two building campaigns, as dictated by the MPDF.

ELABORATION

The Kansas City Missouri School District (District) formed in 1867. It quickly expanded with the city limits. The District had constructed or annexed approximately fifty school buildings by 1906, the date of the first phase of Norman School.[1] The city as a whole grew rapidly in the early 1900s with the annexation of Westport and other areas south and east of the original boundaries. These once-rural areas quickly became new residential neighborhoods in need of educational facilities.[2] The school district likewise grew and experienced its greatest expansion from 1900 to 1932. By 1911, the construction date of the second phase of the building, the District had built approximately twenty-five more schools.[3]

Paralleling this development of the District was a transition in the educational system, itself, that marked other reforms characteristic of the Progressive Era. New ideas emphasized experiential learning over strict memorization; they introduced new subjects such as art and music, and they encouraged personal interest and individuality among students. The quality of instruction likewise grew, as the District sought to hire teachers who specialized in each of these new areas.[4] Children spent a growing number of hours attending school, and consequently, the introduction of several new features into school buildings focused on mounting health and safety concerns.[5] Indoor bathing facilities addressed new standards in hygiene

[1] The Paseo Alliance, *A History of Paseo High School and the Kansas City Missouri School District,* no date, http://paseohighschool.org/paseohighschool/PDF/PaseoHistory.pdf (accessed November 8, 2011).
[2] Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," Kansas City, 2012, E-15.
[3] The Paseo Alliance.
[4] Rosin and Nugent, E-16.
[5] Ibid, E-17,

and sanitation. Improvements in technology encouraged adequate ventilation and fresh air throughout school buildings. Large open playgrounds enriched the overall well-being of the students. Architects of the Kansas City School District studied these ideals and sought ways to incorporate them into new plans for school buildings in the rapidly growing district.

Charles A. Smith, notable architect for the Kansas City School District from 1898 until his retirement in 1936, designed the Norman School. His buildings became a hallmark of the District with their distinct five-part form and characteristic features such as classically inspired details. Over the course of his career as School Board Architect, Smith designed approximately eighty new schools and school additions for the District, using the most modern technologies such as mechanical ventilation systems and reinforced concrete construction. Additionally, the plans could be easily adapted and expanded according to the changing philosophies in education reform. During his employment with the District, Smith utilized variations on a single basic plan, to which he would apply various styles and materials, such as the Jacobethan Revival style at the Norman School.[6]

Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era Elementary Schools

The Norman School stands as an excellent example of the Elementary School sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era School property type as described in the registration requirements in the MPDF.[7] It clearly illustrates the features architect Charles Smith designed specifically to address health and safety issues that were important during the Progressive Era. As distinguished by the MPDF, the Norman School stands as an early, intact example of architect Charles Smith's five-part plan with a symmetrical façade and projecting center entry. The linear plan arranges rooms around a double loaded corridor, while a north wing contains the assembly room and mechanical equipment. As at the Norman School, construction of the standard plan could occur in phases, utilizing the same exterior ornament and materials at each stage to create a single unified building.[8] Smith used this form and floorplan for at least eleven other elementary schools between 1903 and 1913, two of which, Greenwood School at 3711 East 27th Street and Morse School at Charlotte and East 22nd Street, were also constructed in 1906.[9] Norman is the only school of this plan with a stone façade. All of the other schools are primarily brick with stone or terra cotta ornament.

Similar to other schools of the period, the building sits on a small hill overlooking the surrounding residential neighborhood. In front of the building is an open, semi-circular playground that encompasses nearly half of the block. Characteristic of Progressive Era Schools, this area allowed students adequate space for recreation, thus improving the overall health and well-being of the children.[10] Norman's rustic walls of native Kansas City limestone made it unique among Kansas City, Missouri school buildings at the time, as the other schools are clad in wood or brick. Furthermore, the use of heavy stone construction contributes to the school's sense of permanence and stability in the community, another basic tenet of the era. Ornament is primarily reserved for the entrances and parapet.[11]

[6] Rosin and Nugent, E-35.
[7] Rosin and Nugent, F-48.
[8] Rosin and Nugent, F-48.
[9] Rosin and Nugent, E-22. The Greenwood School is extant. The Morse School was demolished at an unknown date.
[10] Rosin and Nugent, F-43.
[11] Rosin and Nugent, E-28.

The Norman School's interior contains many of the identifying features of a Progressive Era elementary school that emphasized safety, cleanliness, and ventilation. The historic ventilation system is extant and includes two vertical fresh air plenums that flank the front entrance, as well as vents at the floor level in the classrooms. Wood doors with large, operable transoms line the wide double-loaded corridor on each floor improving the function of the mechanical ventilation system.[12] The corridor doors access classrooms and adjacent narrow cloakrooms. The large open classrooms could accommodate growing enrollment in the developing neighborhood. Tall, narrow windows pierce the perimeter walls in the classrooms to admit abundant light and ventilation. Bathrooms for the student body occupied large rooms in the basement, although the fixtures are no longer extant.[13]

The school also retains many features intended to improve fire safety. The limestone exterior is entirely fireproof; wide open corridors allow for easier evacuation during a fire; and the restrained application of wood trim on the interior minimizes flammable materials. The presence of steel I-beams, iron staircases, and wood floors in the corridors illustrate how earlier construction methods, the height of fire-safety technology at the time, were used in Smith's new building form, prior to the widespread use of reinforced concrete that began just a few years later.[14] These specially designed measures to improve safety, cleanliness, illumination, and ventilation address issues central to the Progressive Era of the Kansas City School District.

As the district continued to expand with the growing city throughout the 1920s, overcrowding became a major issue in Kansas City schools, as it was in public schools throughout the country. To accommodate growing enrollment and recreational activities, Smith began to design many new schools with a stacked gymnasium and auditorium. If this was not feasible, he constructed these facilities as additions to existing schools.[15] Thus, many of the earlier schools in the District, especially those that have floorplans similar to the Norman School, have large additions. The Norman School, however, never received such an addition, and is one of the few schools in the District that still stands with its original 1906-1911 five-part plan that includes only the assembly room on the north elevation.

Jacobethan Revival

The Norman School is an example of restrained Jacobethan Revival architecture as applied to the standardized form of a Kansas City public school. The Jacobethan Revival style is not a true revival; rather, it combines elements from the English architecture of the Jacobean and Elizabethan periods. It developed from the English architectural style of the early 17th century and formed in England around 1830.[16] The style was prevalent in the United States from approximately 1890 to 1915, emerging at a time when revival style architecture was growing in popularity. Pattern books by authors such as Andrew Jackson Downing promoted Jacobethan Revival as an appropriate style for country houses. Houses most often exhibit the style, though architects also used it extensively for educational facilities, as can be seen at the campus at the University of Pennsylvania (1895).[17]

[12] Rosin and Nugent, E-30.
[13] Ibid, E-29.
[14] Ibid, E-29.
[15] Ibid, F-44-45.
[16] Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: Guide to the Styles*, (Cambridge, Mass: M.I.T. Press, 1969), 179.
[17] Ibid, 181.

Windows, gables and chimneys define much of the exterior ornament in the Jacobethan Revival Style. The large rectangular windows had multiple lights and transoms. Distinct curved or straight gables rise above the flat or gabled roofline. Tall chimneys with individual shafts for each flue are typically grouped or placed in a line. The primary cladding is usually brick, with details such as window frames, quoins, and parapets distinguished by stone. Tabernacle frames surround entrances, though other classic details are rarely employed. Strapwork, a specific type of ornament that consists of flat scrollwork similar to leather straps, is a unique feature of the style.[18]

The character-defining features of the style exhibited at Norman School include gables which rise above roofline, Flemish style or crenellated parapets, and round-arched doorways. Although native limestone is the only material used at the Norman School, as opposed to stone and brick, a combination of rusticated stone and dressed stone achieves the distinction between overall cladding and ornament. Strapwork adorns the parapet, while a variation of the pattern ornaments the gables. Although the building expresses the Jacobethan Revival Style, as in all of Smith's designs, the overall form and function of the building took precedent over its applied style. The restrained version of the style utilized at Norman School reflects the utility and efficiency of design characteristic of other District schools.

Charles Smith designed at least eight other buildings in the Kansas City School District in the Jacobethan Revival style, including Greenwood School at 3711 E. 27th Street (1906) and Faxon School at 3710 Paseo (1911). However, several elements distinguish Norman School from these other buildings. The unique application of limestone cladding was the first of its kind in the District; dressed stone surrounds each window opening; a distinct sash configuration divides the original windows; hexagram glazing fills the openings beneath the gables; and ornamental strapwork, characteristic of the Jacobethan Revival style adorns the parapet. These elements are exclusive to Norman School. They enhance the overall significance of the building as a representation of the Elementary School sub-type of the Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era School property type as described in the MPDF.

Property History

Located near the newly platted Valentine Neighborhood, Norman School opened in November of 1901 at Jefferson Street between 35th and 36th Streets. The District named the school for the Superintendent at the time, Joseph Lafayette Norman. He had previously worked as a teacher and served on the Kansas City Board of Education from 1887 to 1904. It initially served first and second grade students, who had previously attended school nearly seventeen blocks away. It was part of the Westport District of the Kansas City School District, annexed on May 12, 1899, that extended from approximately Woodland Avenue to State Line Road, east to west, and 27th Street to 55th Street, north to south.

As with many of the early public schools in Kansas City, the Norman School was constructed in two planned phases. It subsequently expanded as need dictated and funding became available for new classroom space. The 1901 school was a small wood-frame building on the site of the present school. As Kansas City expanded to the southwest and the surrounding Valentine neighborhood developed, enrollment at the school outgrew the existing facilities. Thus, the District authorized construction of a new school building. Beginning in early 1906, while children attended classes in the frame building, the west

[18] Ibid, 178-179.

and center wings of the current stone building was completed.[19] *(Figures 6-7, 13, 15).* The Santa Fe Construction Company constructed the original building for $54,883.[20] On November 5, 1906 the building opened with partial occupancy, but by January of 1907, it operated at full capacity.[21] The new building contained the center entry and the west and north wings for a total of ten classrooms that could hold approximately fifty students in each, plus an office, mechanical room, and boys and girls bathrooms. It was also one of the first school buildings in the city constructed using Missouri limestone.[22]

Five years later in 1911, construction of the east wing completed the intended symmetry of the five-part plan.[23] *(Figures 10-12, 14).* The O. Lea construction company built the eighty-six foot by seventy-two foot addition for a cost of $30,000.[24] It added approximately twelve new rooms, including a domestic science classroom. The new plans also converted some rooms in the original building new uses, including a manual training room and boys' and girls' playrooms.

Like many Kansas City school buildings at this time, Norman School served as more than an elementary school, but as a social center of the community. Such places developed to create a unified community in the increasingly urbanizing city and likewise became the focus of the social life of Kanas Citians.[25] Events included a variety of activities including meetings, lectures, debates and even election booths. At Norman School, teachers and "patrons" organized the events. During the 1912-1913 school year a total of five hundred visitors to the school attended seven meetings that addressed current civic affairs in the city, issues with school enrollment, illustrated lectures, and parent-teacher conferences.[26]

In addition to their academic work, students of Norman School participated in extra-curricular activities both within the school and around Kansas City, including the Drum Corps and cooking classes. Graduates of Norman School moved on to higher education, and many became leaders in the community. Additionally, 114 former students served the United States during World War I.[27]

By 1926, enrollment at the Norman School had reached 434, the average size for the Kansas City School District ward schools at the time.[28] On the 1909 and 1951 Sanborn maps, a small rectangular two-story dwelling is located at the northeast corner of the property. Historic plans identify this as a janitor's house. A permit from 1959 authorized its demolition.[29] The Norman School closed after nearly one-hundred years of services as a result of dwindling student population, but housed offices for the District-sponsored

[19] "Norman School History," "Schools – Public – Kansas City – Norman" vertical file, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
[20] "Of Rubble and Stone in Part," *Kansas City Star,* March 18, 2006.
[21] *Title unknown, Kansas City Journal,* December 28, 1906, mounted newspaper clippings, "Schools, Public- Norman," Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
[22] "Of Rubble and Stone in Part," *Kansas City Star,* March 18, 2006.
[23] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office, Building Permit #10334 (9/11/1911)
[24] Ibid.
[25] Kansas City, Missouri Board of Public Welfare, *The Social Center in Kansas City, Missouri,* (Kansas City, MO: Cline Printing Company, 1913), 3,
[26] Ibid, 11.
[27] "Norman School History," "Schools – Public – Kansas City – Norman" vertical file, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
[28] "Schools, Public Enrollment, First Day, 1890-1926," *Kansas City Times*, September 9, 1926, Clippings file, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.
[29] City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office, Building Permit #60459 (8/7/1959).

"Parents as Teachers" program until 2006. A private developer purchased the property in 2009, but it remains vacant.

CONCLUSION

The Norman School is an excellent, intact representation of an Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era Elementary school in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. Designed by District architect Charles Smith and constructed in two planned phases in 1906 and 1911, the building illustrates the educational philosophies that characterized school buildings during this period. Specific classroom spaces and original assembly room on the interior, and an open playground on the exterior ensured the overall health and well-being of the students. Wide, double-loaded corridors, mechanical ventilation systems and large expanses of windows addressed concerns for fire safety and proper ventilation. The standard five-part plan has a unique limestone exterior with applied Jacobethan Revival style details. Overall, the Norman School stands much as it did during the initial phases of construction, further enhancing its significance as an Early Twentieth Century/ Progressive Era Elementary school in Kansas City.

Bibliography

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office. Building Permit #10334 (9/11/1911)

City of Kansas City, Historic Preservation Office. Building Permit #60459 (8/7/1959).

Collison, Kevin. "Plan envisions a Norman conquest." *Kansas City Star* April 3, 2009. "Schools – Public – Kansas City – Norman" vertical file. Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Kansas City Public School Survey. Landmarks Commission City Development Department, Kansas City, Missouri. October 1989.

"Norman School History." "Schools – Public – Kansas City – Norman" vertical file. Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

"Of Rubble and Stone in Part," *Kansas City Star,* March 18, 2006.

The Paseo Alliance, *A History of Paseo High School and the Kansas City Missouri School District,* no date, http://paseohighschool.org/paseohighschool/PDF/PaseoHistory.pdf (accessed November 8, 2011).

(Title unknown), Kansas City Journal, December 28, 1906, mounted newspaper clippings, "Schools, Public- Norman," Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Kansas City, Missouri Board of Public Welfare. *The Social Center in Kansas City, Missouri.* Kansas City, MO: Cline Printing Company, 1913.

Rosin, Elizabeth and Rachel Nugent. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970." Kansas City, Missouri, 2012.

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City, Missouri.* New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909. Kansas City (Missouri) Library website, http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.kclibrary.org/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=121n (accessed November 7. 2011).

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Kansas City, Missouri.* New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1951. Kansas City (Missouri) Library website, http://sanborn.umi.com.proxy.kclibrary.org/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=121n (accessed November 7, 2011).

"Schools, Public Enrollment, First Day, 1890-1926." *Kansas City Times*, September 9, 1926. Clippings file. Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Smith, Charles A., Plans for Norman School, 1906. *Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Smith, Charles A., Plans for Norman Addition, 1911. *Kansas City Public School Archives.*

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge, Mass: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Norman School is located in two tracts at 3514 Jefferson Street and 3521 Summit Street (Southwest Trafficway). Tract one is in Section 19, Township 49, Range 33 of the part defined as follows: beginning on the west line of Jefferson Street at the north line of said section, thence two hundred ninety-seven feet thence west to the east line at Summit Street thence north to the north line of said section then east to the point of beginning. Tract two is in Section 18, Township 49, Range 33 in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter in the west half of south two acres east of Summit Street and West of Jefferson Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nomination includes the parcel of land historically associated with the resource.

Figure 1. Site map, ArcGIS 2013

Figure 2. Contextual map, ArcGIS 2013

Figure 3. Photo Map (Exterior). *Historic plans identical to current plans.*

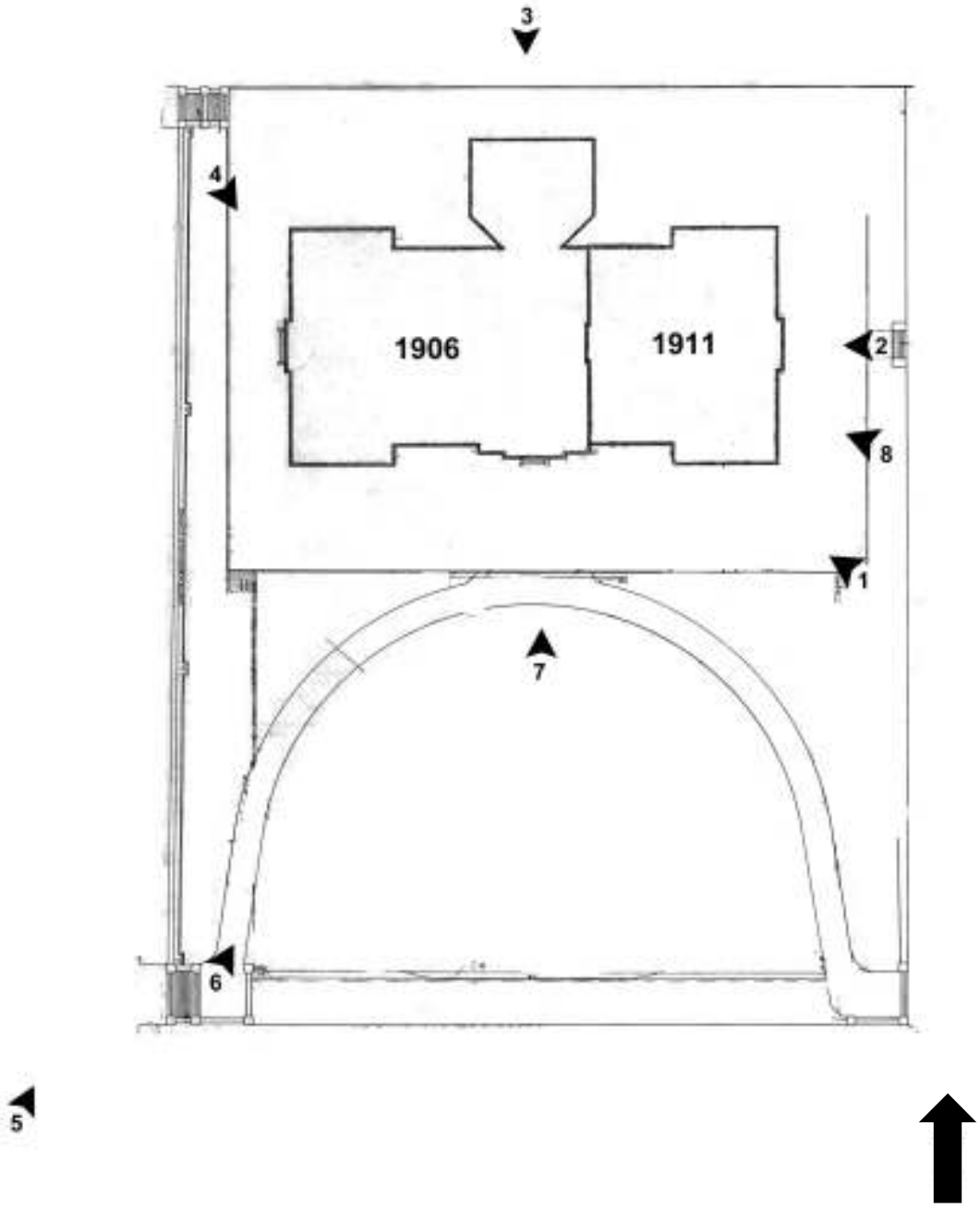


Figure 4. Photo Map (First Floor). *Historic plans identical to current plans.*

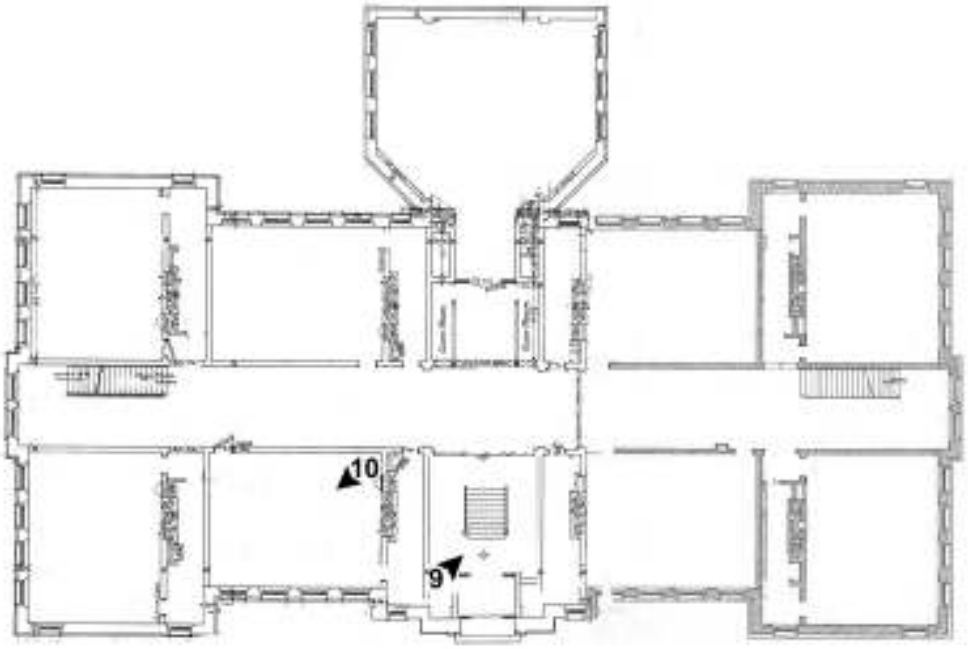


Figure 5. Photo Map (Second Floor). *Historic plans identical to current plans.*

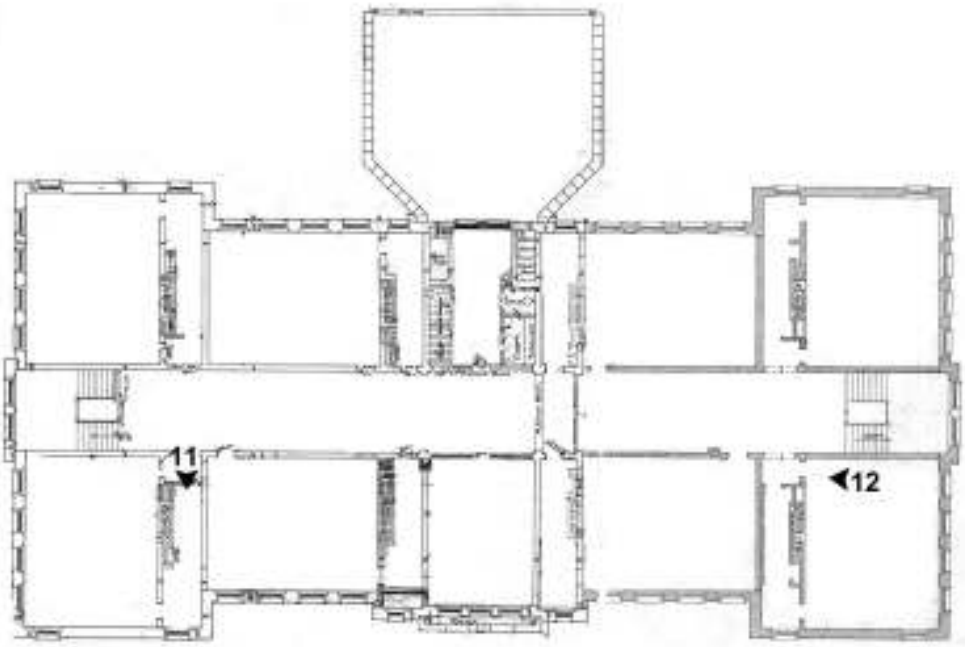


Figure 6. Historic Plans- 1st and 2nd floors of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

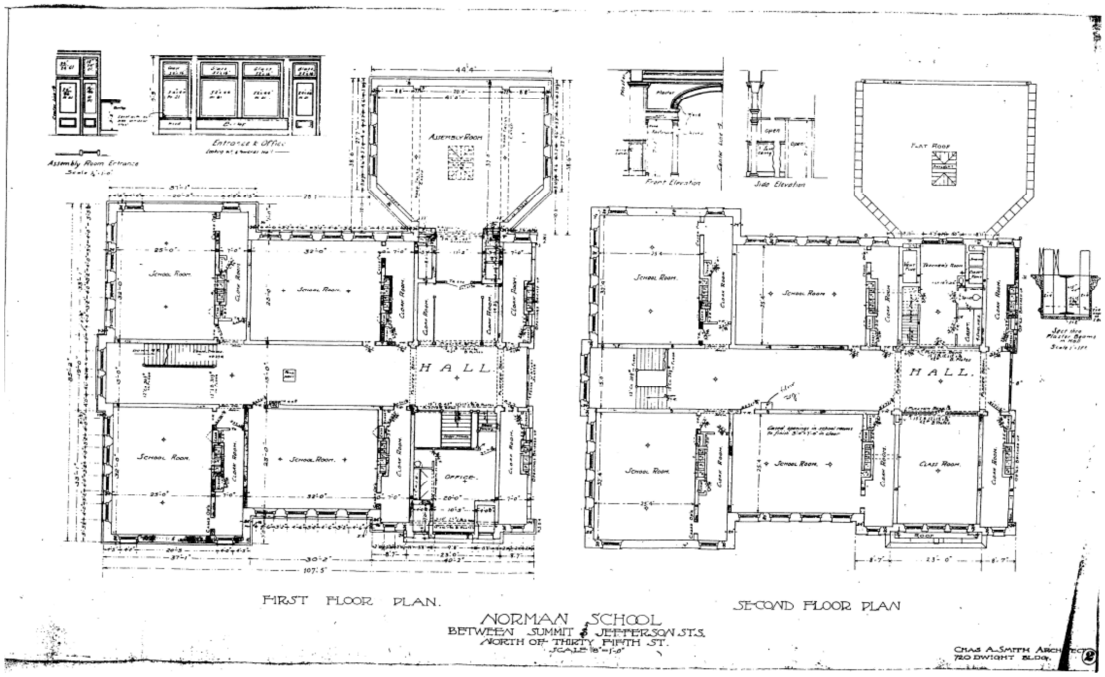


Figure 7. Historic Plans- North elevation of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

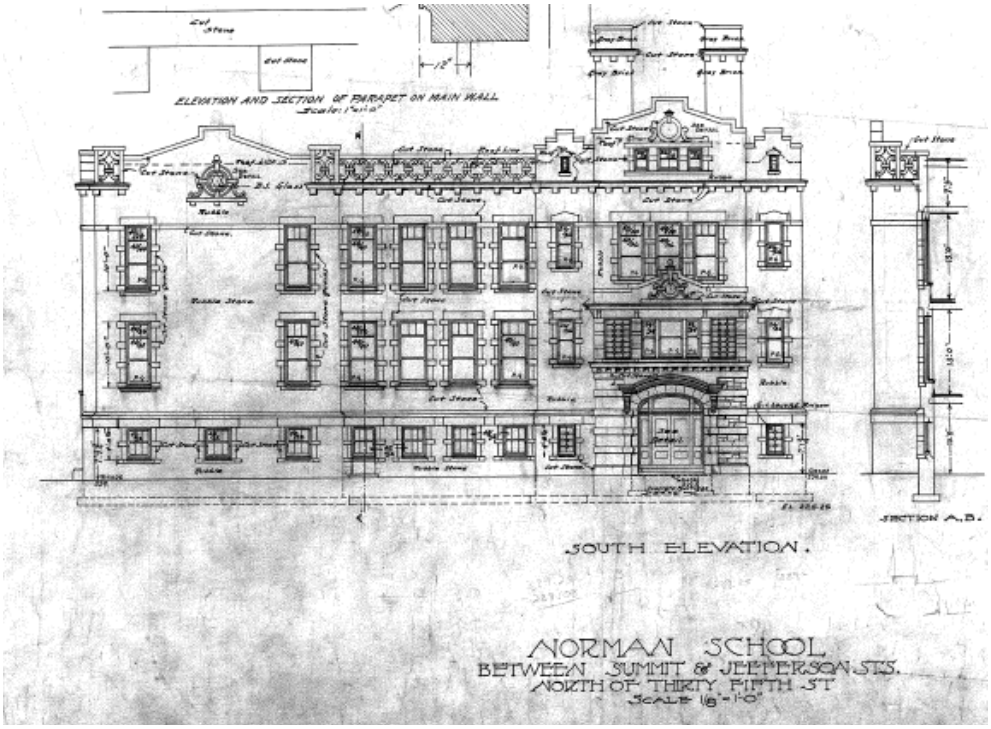


Figure 8. Historic Plans- West and East Elevation of 1906 west wing. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

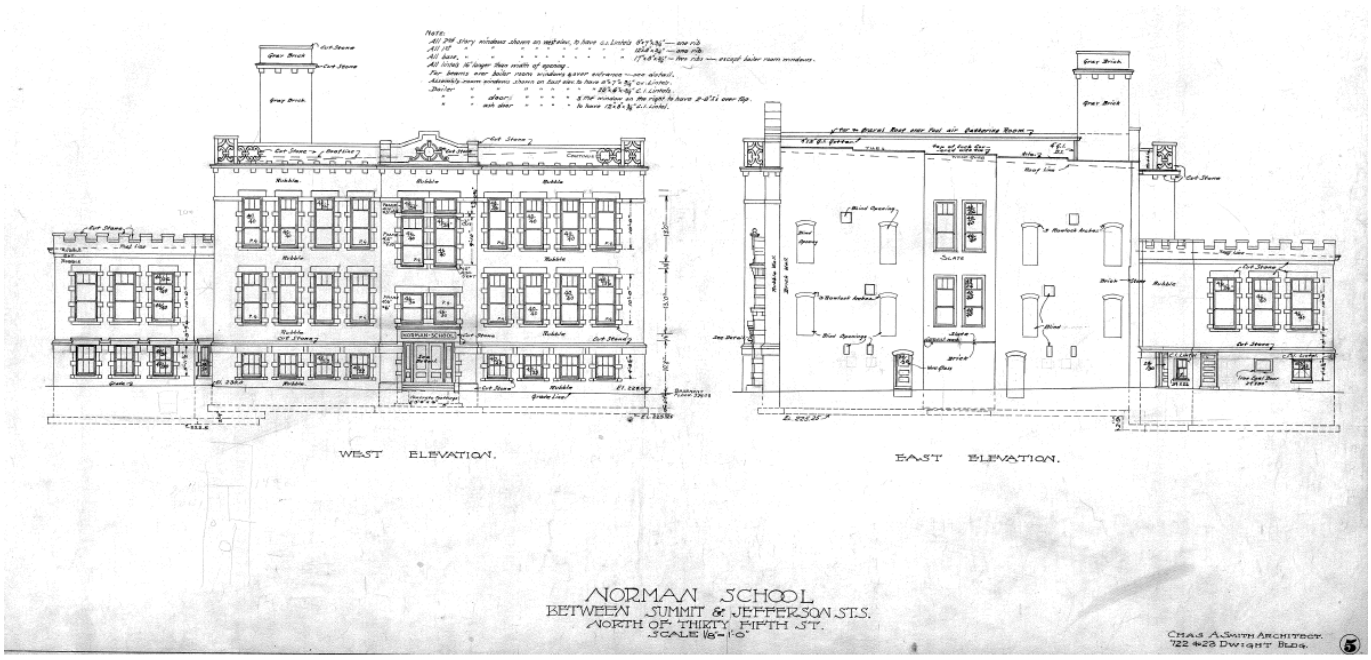


Figure 9. Historic Plans- Site plan, 1926. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

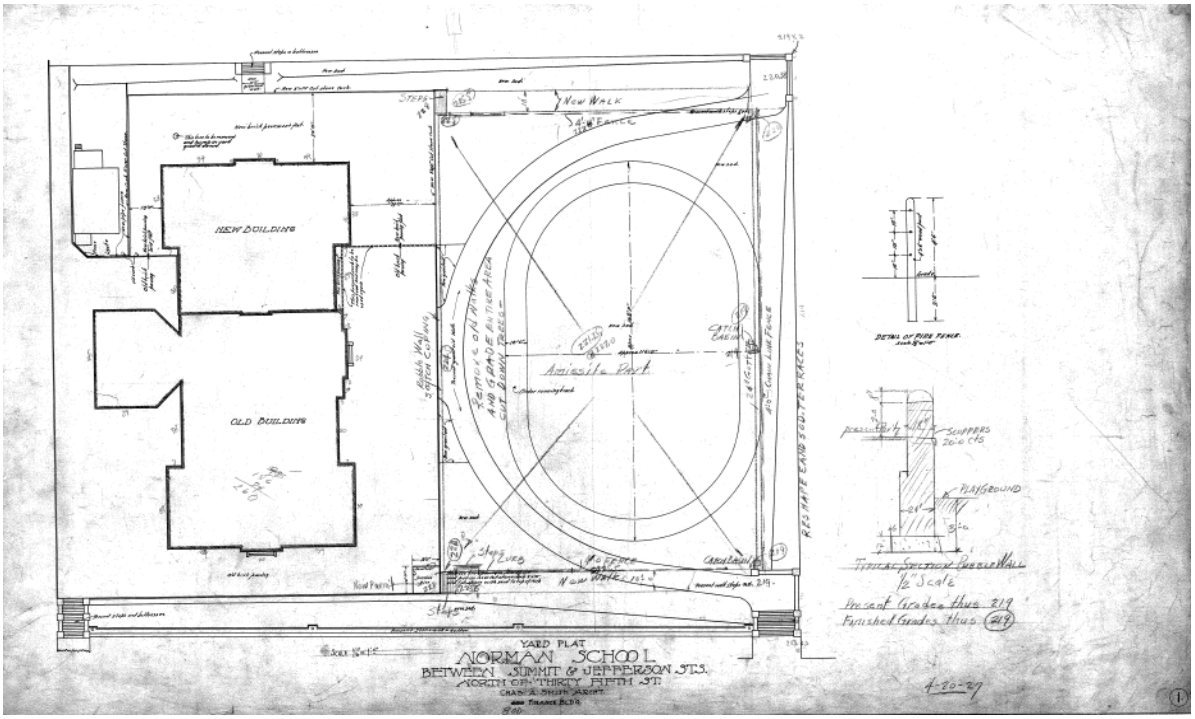


Figure 10. Historic Plans- Basement plan with 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

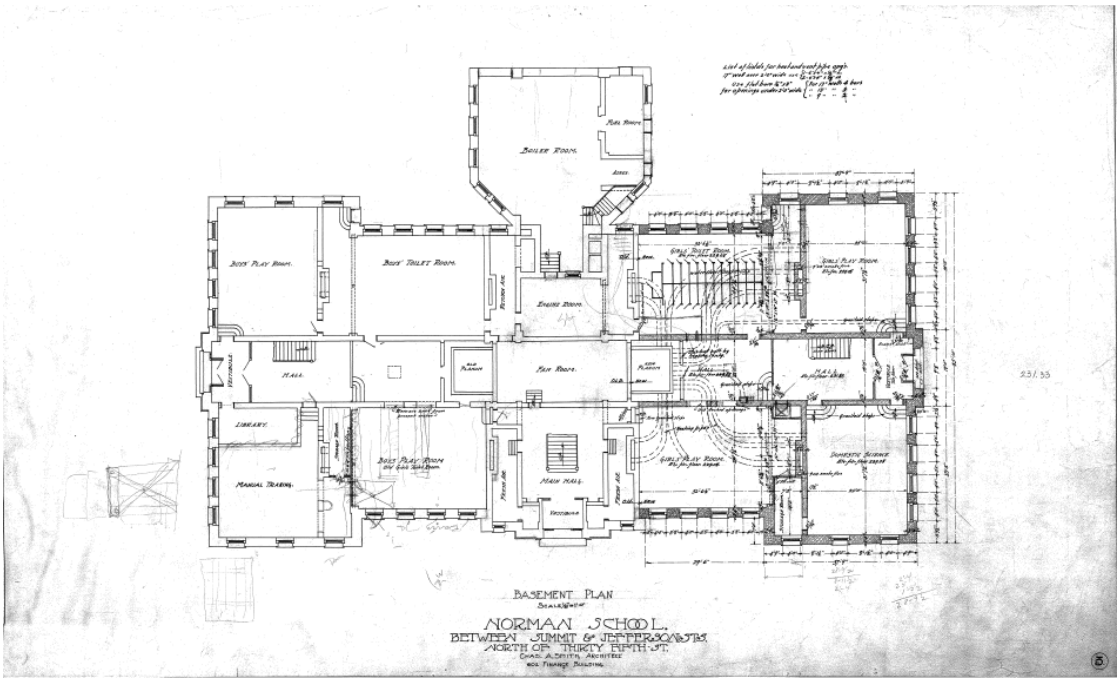


Figure 11. Historic Plans- Plan of 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

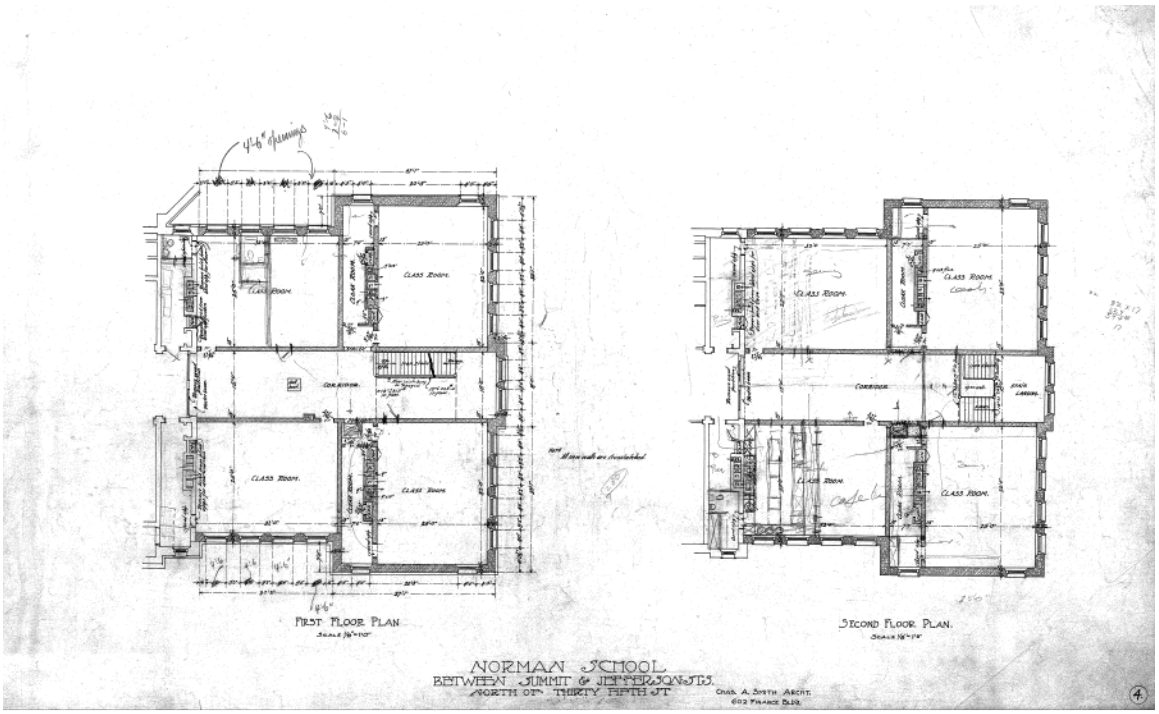


Figure 12. Historic Plans- South and north elevations of 1911 addition. *Source: Kansas City Public School Archives.*

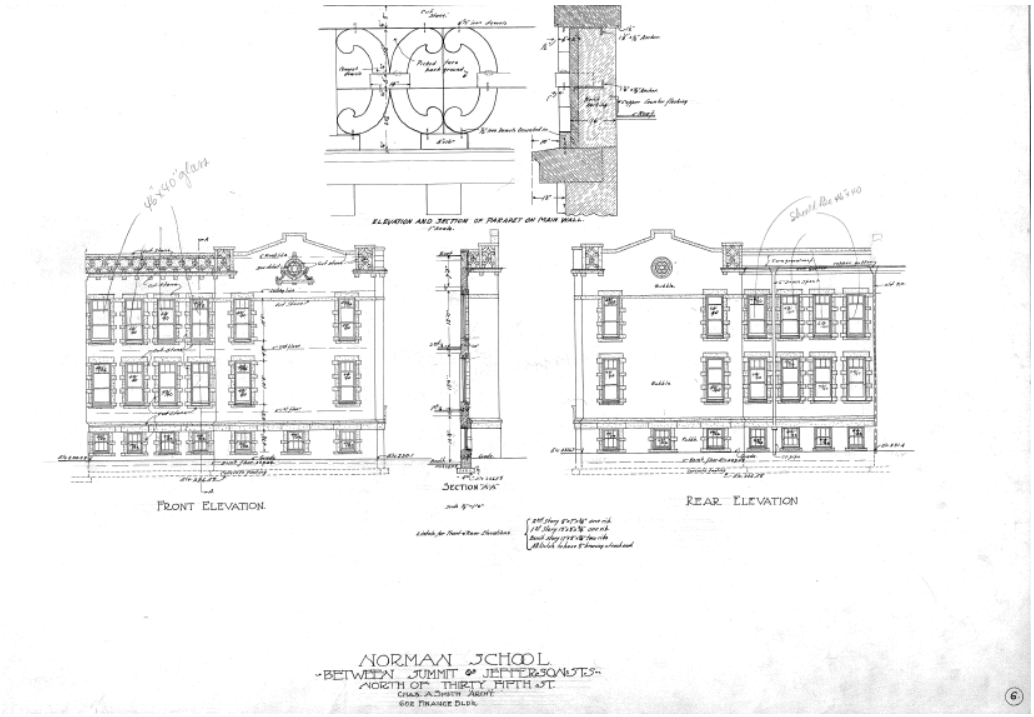


Figure 13. Original 1906 school with center and west wings. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*

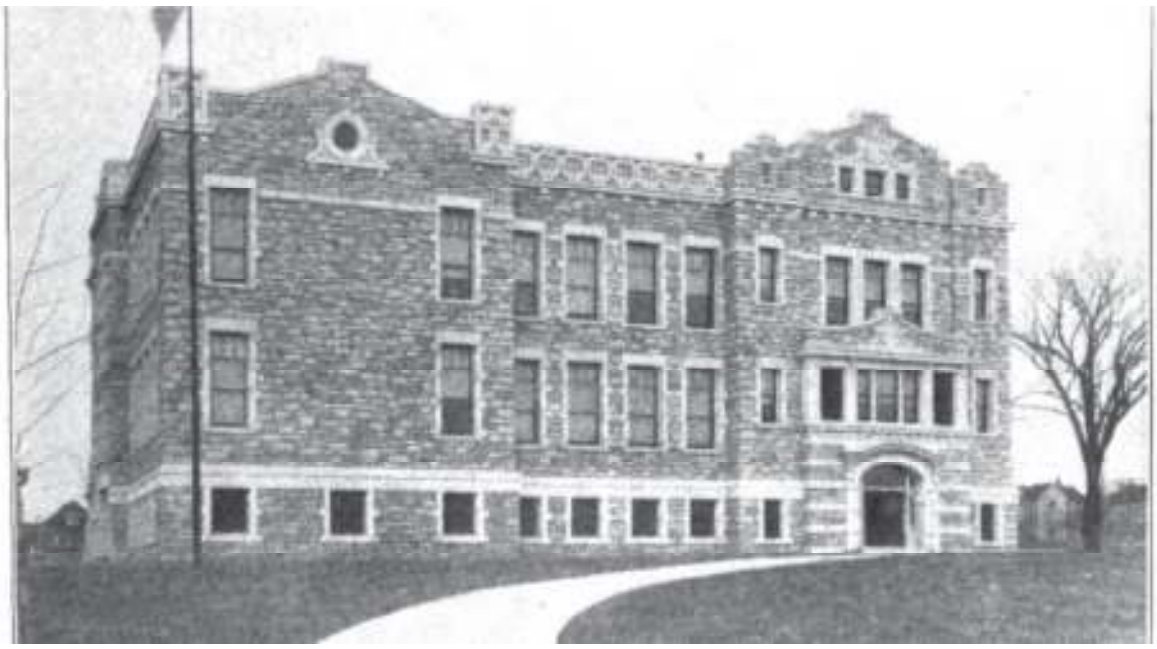
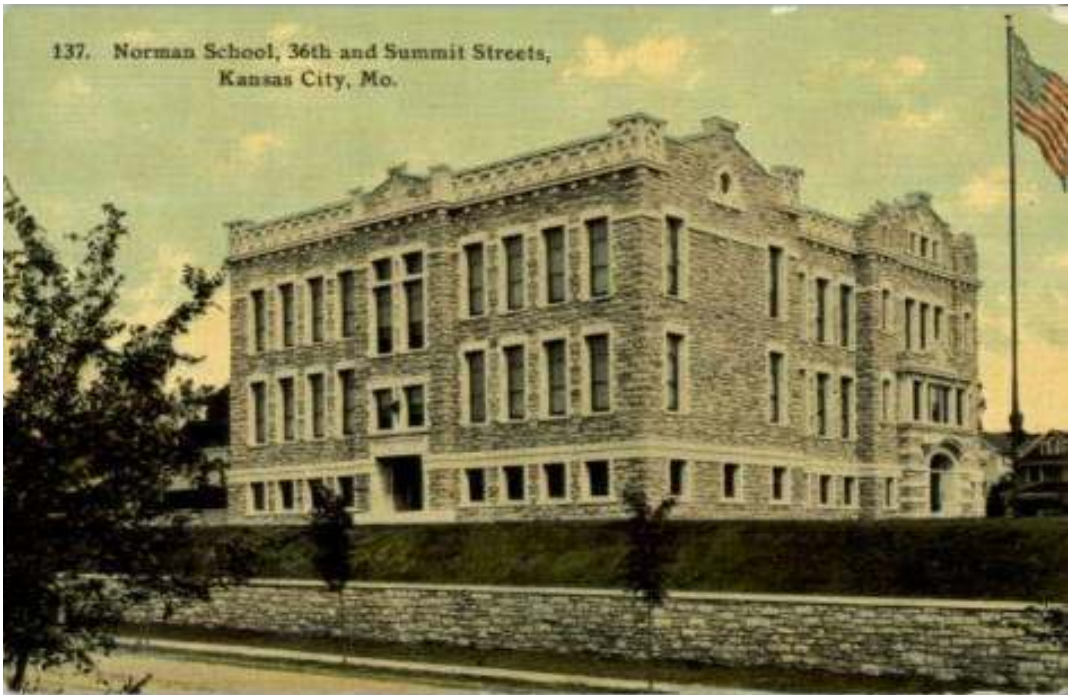


Figure 14. Norman School, 1915, main elevation from Summit Street. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*

Figure 15. Postcard of Norman School, n.d. *Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.*



NORMAL SCHOOL

NO
PARKING
BETWEEN
SIGNS

NO
PARKING
NO
PARKING

SCIENCE IS CRAZILY
MATH

201