

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 Blenheim School

Other names/site number N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number 2411 E 70th Terrace

N/A

not for publication

City or town Kansas City

N/A

vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Jackson

Code 95

Zip code 64132

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

Toni M. Prawl

MAY 15 2017

Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., 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

Blenheim School
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
2	0	structures
		objects
3	0	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
REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

☒ NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

☒ **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924, 1927, 1930

Significant Dates

1924, 1927, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, Charles A. (Architect)

Miller-Stauch Construction Co. (Builder)

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:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

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

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

Blenheim School
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.9 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.998550 -94.558359 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Nugent, National Register Coordinator; Alison Dunleavy, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Rosin Preservation date May 2017

street & number 1712 Holmes telephone (816) 472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail rachel@rosinpreservation.com; alison@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.

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

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: **Blenheim School**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

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

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

Date

Photographed: **January 11, 2017**

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

- 1 of 20:** Primary (east) elevation, view west.
- 2 of 20:** North elevation, view south.
- 3 of 20:** West elevation, view east.
- 4 of 20:** South elevation, view north.
- 5 of 20:** Prospect Avenue, view south.
- 6 of 20:** East 70th Terrace, view west.
- 7 of 20:** East Gregory Boulevard, view west.
- 8 of 20:** Corner of East 70th Terrace and Olive Street, view southeast.
- 9 of 20:** Olive Street, view north.
- 10 of 20:** East playground, view east from 3rd story stair landing.
- 11 of 20:** West parking lot, view northeast.
- 12 of 20:** East corridor, first floor, view south.
- 13 of 20:** North stair, east corridor, second floor, view southeast.
- 14 of 20:** North stair, north corridor, second floor, view west.
- 15 of 20:** Typical classroom, third floor, view southwest.
- 16 of 20:** Typical classroom, second floor, view northeast.
- 17 of 20:** Auditorium, second floor, view northwest.
- 18 of 20:** Gymnasium, basement, view south.
- 19 of 20:** Former Fresh Air classroom space, second floor, view southeast.
- 20 of 20:** Former Kindergarten space, first floor, view northwest.

Figure Log:

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

Figure 1. Contextual map. *Google Maps, 2017.*

Figure 2. Site map with dashed line indicating National Register boundary. *Google Earth, 2017.*

Figure 3. Blenheim School exterior photo map. *Google Earth, 2017.*

Blenheim School

Jackson County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

- Figure 4.** Blenheim School basement level photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*
- Figure 5.** Blenheim School first floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*
- Figure 6.** Blenheim School second floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*
- Figure 7.** Blenheim School third floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*
- Figure 8.** Blenheim School, aerial photo with dates of construction. *Google Earth, 2017. Page 7-2.*
- Figure 9.** Blenheim School, historic basement floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*
- Figure 10.** Blenheim School, historic ground (1st) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*
- Figure 11.** Blenheim School, historic first (2nd) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*
- Figure 12.** Blenheim School, historic second (3rd) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*
- Figure 13.** Blenheim School, east elevation with dates of construction. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017. Page 7-3.*
- Figure 14.** Seam between building campaigns. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*
- Figure 15.** Historic ventilation system. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*
- Figure 16.** Typical built-in cabinets. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*
- Figure 17.** Historic windows that provided borrowed light for the Fresh Air Classroom. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*
- Figure 18.** Bleheim School Rendering. *Kansas City Star, April 18, 1924. Source: Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.*
- Figure 19.** Bleheim Plat, filed 1910. *Source: Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.*
- Figure 20.** Swope Addition Plat, filed 1910. *Source: Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.*
- Figure 21.** Tuttle and Ayers Map, 1925. *Source: Atlas of Kansas City and its Environs. Kansas City: Tuttle-Ayers-Woodward Co., 1925.*
- Figure 22.** Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kansas City, 1927-1929. *Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 9, 1927-29), 1107.*
- Figure 23.** Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kansas City, 1951. *Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 9, 1951), 1107.*
- Figure 24.** Seven Oaks School, primary elevation. *Source: Brad Finch, 2012.*
- Figure 25.** Meservey School, primary elevation. *Source: Rosin Preservation Staff, 2011.*
- Figure 26.** Nichols School, primary elevation. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 27.** Swinney School, second floor plan showing rooftop playground and Open Air classroom. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Swinney School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1914.*
- Figure 28.** Swinney School, primary elevation showing the enclosed Open Air classroom. *Source: Brad Finch, 2013.*
- Figure 29.** Askew School, south elevation. *Source: Rosin Preservation Staff, 2011.*
- Figure 30.** Hale H. Cook School, primary and south elevations. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 31.** Troost Elementary School, west elevation. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

Blenheim School at 2411 E. 70th Terrace, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri sits atop a hill within a primarily residential neighborhood just east of Highway 71. The 3.9 acre site occupies an entire city block lined by E. 70th Terrace to the north, Olive Street to the west, E. Gregory Boulevard to the South, and Prospect Avenue to the east. The property has one contributing building (the school) and two contributing structures (a large paved playground and a paved parking lot). The school building, located in the center of the property, was constructed in three phases between 1924 and 1930. The three-story rectangular building has a stone foundation, brick cladding with cut stone ornament, and a flat roof. The 1927 central block and 1930 south block of the building match the materials, fenestration patterns, and design of the original 1924 block and create a symmetrical front façade. Shaped parapets with stone ornament reference the Jacobethan Revival 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, classroom built-ins, trim, coat closets, ventilation system, and the integral auditorium and gymnasium. Alterations to the Blenheim School include the reconfiguration of some interior spaces, updating of some finishes, and the replacement of windows within the historic masonry openings. These alterations are common to early twentieth century school buildings and do not compromise the ability of the Blenheim School to communicate its historic educational function and the eras in which it was constructed. The massing, form, materials, and functional features clearly illustrate the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School property type, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970."

ELABORATION

SETTING

Blenheim School is located at 2411 E. 70th Terrace in Kansas City, Missouri. The property occupies an entire city block lined by E. 70th Terrace to the north, Olive Street to the west, E. Gregory Boulevard to the South, and Prospect Avenue to the east (*Figure 1*). Small, single-family houses comprise the residential neighborhood surrounding the school to the north, west, and south. Prospect Avenue to the east is a primary commercial thoroughfare with stores, restaurants, and churches lining both sides of the street (*Photo 5*). Immediately east of Prospect Avenue is Highway 71, a large multi-lane divided highway. Farther east, beyond Highway 71, is Swope Park, an 1805-acre public park. The Paseo, a historic boulevard (NR listed 8/19/16), runs SW-NE two blocks west of the school.

The block is elevated from the neighborhood with slopes at the perimeters leading to sidewalks on all sides (*Photos 6-8*). Stairs at each elevation lead from the sidewalk to the school. The school building occupies the middle of the block just west of the center of the lot; its primary elevation faces Prospect Avenue. A paved playground (a contributing structure) comprises most of the eastern half of the lot with a small grassy area near the northwest corner of the playground (*Photo 10*). Steps lead up from the paved playground to a paved terrace that lines the east elevation. A paved parking lot (a contributing structure) abuts the building's west elevation; a paved driveway leading to Olive Street accesses the parking lot (*Photos 9, 11*). Large circular tree planters made of fieldstone are located on the east and west sides of the property and in the paved parking lot west of the building (*Figure 2*).

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

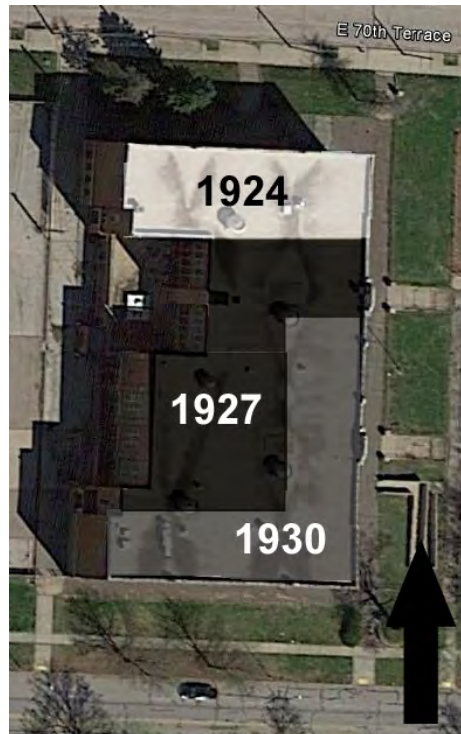


Figure 8. Blenheim School, aerial photo with dates of construction. *Google Earth, 2017.*

EXTERIOR

The Jacobethan Revival Blenheim School has a stone foundation, red brick cladding, and a flat roof. A shaped parapet with cut stone ornament caps the building. The three-story building was constructed in three phases from 1924 to 1930, creating an overall rectangular massing (*Figures 8-12*). Each phase is a component of the original design, therefore, the transitions between phases are seamless and not visible from the exterior. The first phase of construction consisted of the northernmost block of classrooms with a single corridor; Bay 9 of the east elevation and the entirety of the north elevation comprise the north block (*Photos 1-2*). The second phase included the south and east corridors of the school, the northern stair tower/entrance pavilion (Bay 7 of the east elevation), and the gymnasium/auditorium. The final phase included the remainder of the building; Bays 1-6 of the east elevation and the entirety of the south elevation comprise the south block (*Photos 1, 4; Figure 13*). The primary east elevation and secondary north and south elevations are mostly flat with small, shallow projections. The tertiary west elevation belies the true massing of the building with the regular rhythm of classrooms surrounding the recreational spaces and utilitarian functions at the center (*Photo 3*). Each elevation has non-historic aluminum windows that fill the historic masonry openings. First-story windows are boarded up. Operable hung bottom sashes are topped by two additional sashes creating a tripartite window configuration. All windows have cut stone sills. Tuck pointing campaigns on the exterior walls create a differentiation in color between the upper and lower portions of the brick walls, however, the bricks are the same historic building material throughout.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

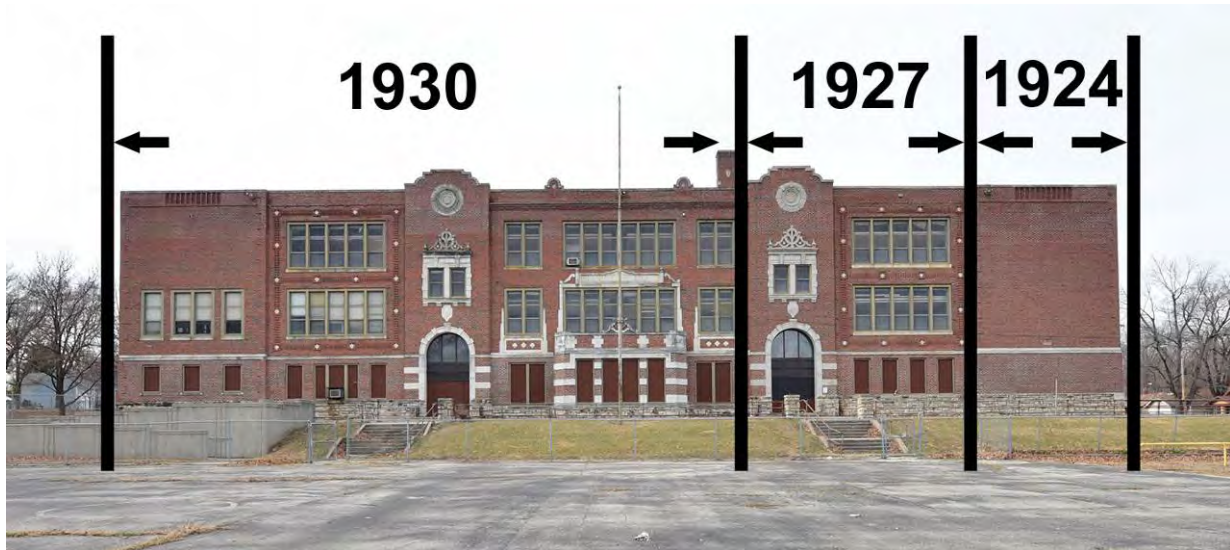


Figure 13. Blenheim School, east elevation with dates of construction. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*

The primary elevation faces east (*Photo 1; Figure 3*). Nine bays divide the elevation visually, alternating projecting and recessed facades. A cut stone beltcourse runs the length of the facade above the first story. A shaped parapet with cut stone coping tops the building. Bay 1 at the south end of the facade has three punched openings for single windows at the first story while the second story has a pair of windows with flanking single windows. The brick wall at the third story is devoid of openings. Bay 9 does not have any windows. These windowless bays have brick quoins at the corner, a simple brick cornice with a blind brick balustrade, and a flat parapet with stone coping. The cornerstone for the building is located at the northeast corner, incised "1924". Bays 2 and 8 are nearly identical with punched openings at the first story and bands of five windows at the second and third stories. A band of projecting header and stretcher bricks ornamented with small diamond-shaped stone pieces frames these upper-story windows. Full-height entrance pavilions fill Bays 3 and 7 and project from the façade. The two entrance pavilions are the most prominent features of the elevation. Stone bands articulate the first story of the entrance bays. Round arched doorways span from the first story to the landing of the stairs above. Stone comprises the door surrounds with exaggerated voussoirs and a central keystone. Double doors topped by a transom and tripartite lunette comprise the entrances. Elaborate stone window surrounds with exaggerated keystones, stone tracery pediments, and stone shields in the spandrels frame paired windows that illuminate the stair landings between the second and third stories. Circular stone medallions center the shaped pediment above the third story, topping these pavilions. Bays 4 and 6 are identical with a pair of windows in each story. Tapered stone panels frame the lower half of the second-story opening and the brick and stone spandrel panel beneath. The third story has punched openings with a pair of windows, stone sills, and soldier-course brick lintels. The central bay has a projecting block at the first story, articulated with cut stone bands. The projecting bay has a heavy stone lintel spanning the distance over four centered windows. A flat parapet with geometric stone ornament rises above the lintel. The remainder of Bay 5 is recessed in line with Bays 4 and 6. A band of six windows fill the second and third story openings. Above the band of windows at the second story, stone scrolls flank a stone banner incised "BLENHEIM SCHOOL". A corbelled brick cornice tops the third story with a shaped parapet above.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The north and south elevations are nearly identical (*Photos 2 and 4*). Raised pattern brickwork with diamond-shaped stone details delineate the center bays on the second and third stories. Rounded projections on the parapet mark either side of the center bays. The outer bays have brick quoins at the corners and blind brick balustrades at the parapet.

The north elevation is four bays wide; a band of five windows fills each bay on the third story and Bays 1, 3, and 4 on the second story; two sets of paired windows fill Bay 2 on the second story (*Photo 2*). On the first story of the north elevation, a tripartite window flanked by single windows fills Bay 1; Bays 2 and 3 each have four single windows; four half-height single windows fill Bay 4. The fenestration pattern is historic; the only alterations to the north elevation occurred in 1927 when the original entrance in Bay 2 was converted to window openings after the construction of the 1927 entrance on the north side of the east elevation.

The south elevation retains its historic fenestration pattern and is five bays wide (*Photo 4*). On the second and third stories, bands of five windows fill Bays 1, 3, and 5; paired windows fill Bays 2 and 4. On the first story, four single windows fill Bays 1 and 3, however, one of the window openings in Bay 3 has brick infill and was never extant.¹ Paired windows fill Bays 2 and 4; a tripartite window flanked by single windows fills Bay 5.

The rear (west) elevation is asymmetrical and features less ornament than the other three elevations (*Photos 3, 11*). A flat parapet with stone coping tops the entire elevation and a stone beltcourse marks the top of the first story. The massing of this elevation is irregular with the central sections recessed to varying degrees. The four outermost bays, however, are symmetrical. The two outermost bays are almost identical, featuring windowless first and second stories, brick quoins, a small brick cornice, and a blind brick balustrade at the parapet. The south bay lacks first story windows while the north bay has four evenly spaced windows covered with plywood. The next two bays, on the interior of the outermost bays, are symmetrical in massing. These bays contain the two west stairs and are recessed from the outermost bays. Double doors are centered on the bays. The northern door is topped by a flat stone sign reading "BLENHEIM SCHOOL" while the southern door, due to changes in grade, is higher up than the northern door, requiring the stone beltcourse to wrap up around the door frame. "BLENHEIM SCHOOL" is incised in the beltcourse above the south door. A small pent eave with a standing seam roof shelters this entrance, which projects slightly from the rest of the bay. Paired windows top the door opening in the northern stair bay with a single window at the second story while the southern stair bay only has the single second-story window. Rings of raised bricks with a centered diamond-shaped stone detail top both stair towers.

Toward the center of the west elevation, the gymnasium/auditorium block forms the primary mass, recessed from the stair towers. Four brick buttresses with stone details run the height of the mass from the below-grade windows to the parapet; an additional buttress that is narrower than the rest abuts the south side of the gymnasium/auditorium block. Four paired hung windows are located below grade, topped by the stone beltcourse with a window well to allow light into the gymnasium.² The second and

¹ Plans for the 1930 addition note a brick panel instead of a window opening.

² A brick and concrete block trash enclosure stands in front of the south bays of the basement. The enclosure is not connected to the west elevation.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

third stories of this mass contain the auditorium, with two bays of large expanses of windows and one bay with two pairs of windows illuminating the seating area, and a single window illuminating the stage. North of the gym, a one-story mechanical room fills the space between the gymnasium/auditorium and the north stair tower. The mechanical room has five window openings infilled with brick, plywood, or metal louvers, and a projecting brick vestibule with a pair of metal slab doors. A large brick chimney rises from the mechanical room, abutting the west wall of the school, above the parapet of the school. Stone details, including a round-arched blind window with exaggerated voussoirs, stone shields, and stone coping adorn the prominent chimney (*Photo 11*). Behind the chimney, banks of windows illuminate classrooms and restrooms on the second and third stories. Plywood covers the second-story window openings. The south elevation of the north bay has one pair of windows at the second and third stories. Plywood covers the second-story windows. The north elevation of the south wing does not have windows.

INTERIOR

The interior of Blenheim School reflects its continued use as an elementary school until 2009. Alterations on each floor the building vary, but do not compromise its integrity.³ Lighting updates, bathroom renovations, and reconfigurations of large classroom spaces are the most common alterations. The rooms have plaster walls; tile or carpet floors; and dropped ceiling grids with acoustical tiles and fluorescent lighting. Historically, the floors were organized as basement, ground, first and second floors, which corresponds to the present-day basement, first, second, and third floors.

A wide, double-loaded U-shaped corridor organizes the first, second, and third floors (*Photo 12*). Finishes in the corridor include composite tile floors, concrete base trim, plaster walls, wood chair rails, and dropped lay-in grid ceilings. In the east corridor, a metal track and sliding door mark the seam where the second and third phases of the building connect (*Figure 14*).

Four sets of stairs rise from the first floor to the third floor. Two sets of stairs fill the entry pavilions on the east elevation (*Photo 13*). On the first floor, corridors from the stairs lead to entrance vestibules on the east side of the building. Partitions on the landings between the second and third stories create offices and utility rooms. The two remaining stairs are located at the west ends of the north and south corridors; these stairs access entrance vestibules on the landings in between the first and second floors (*Photo 14*). Stairs are concrete with closed plaster bannisters, simple metal pipe railings, wood chair rails, and wood caps.

Classrooms line the perimeter walls and are uniform in finishes and general layout (*Photos 15-16*). The typical classroom is an open rectangle with a single door leading to the corridor. In the majority of the classrooms, a recessed alcove with a non-historic partial wall adjacent to the doorway creates a coat closet (*Photos 15 and 16*). Non-historic wood doors fill historic door openings. Vents, connected to the central ventilation system, are typically located above or next to the doorways (*Figure 15*). Chalkboards hang on one or two walls within historic wood frames. Finishes in classrooms include non-historic composite tile floors and historic concrete base trim and window sills, wood chair rails and chalkboard

³ Plans documenting interior renovations at Blenheim School date from 1985. No other sets of plans documenting interior alterations were available from the Kansas City School District archives, so changes to the building's interior with no other sources of documentation will be stated as occurring either before 1985 or after 1985.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

frames, wood built-in cabinets and shelves, and plaster walls (*Figure 16*). Classrooms have dropped lay-in grid ceilings beneath plaster ceilings, but the dropped ceilings have been held back from perimeter walls in most rooms, exposing the historic plaster ceilings and wood picture rail. Some classrooms have been reconfigured with demising walls removed or relocated to create larger spaces for rooms such as the cafeteria, library, and administrative offices. Reconfigured classrooms often retain their historic closets and cabinetry.

First Floor and Basement

Boy's and girl's restrooms fill the southwest corner of the first floor; three classrooms with typical configurations and finishes fill the southeast corner (*Figures 5, 10*). The former kindergarten classroom in the center of the east corridor was converted into administrative offices sometime after 1985 but retains its historic fireplace with a glazed tile surround depicting images from traditional nursery rhymes (*Photo 20*). Four classrooms line the east and north sides of the corridor in the northeast and northwest corners of the building.

Non-historic small office spaces line the west side of the east corridor along the former gymnasium balcony, which was enclosed sometime after 1985. A non-historic elevator in the center of the corridor across from the administrative offices, added after 1985, runs from the basement to the third floor. A door immediately to the north of the offices accesses a hallway that leads to small offices and utility spaces as well as stairs down to the gymnasium. Mechanical rooms line the south side of the north corridor; a door on the south side of the north corridor leads to stairs that access the mechanical rooms (*Figure 4*). The mechanical rooms are two stories high and have sunken floors that align with the basement level.

The gymnasium at the basement and first floor (beneath the auditorium), has high ceilings, plaster walls, and concrete floors covered with a rubberized material (*Photo 18*). Large expanses of windows provide ample light to the space. Acoustical panels have been installed along the upper portion of the east wall. Large metal beams span the gymnasium; a dropped lay-in grid ceiling hangs between the beams. A high wood chair rail lines north, west, and south walls, beneath the windows. The primary entrance to the gym is at the southwest corner from the stairs. A secondary entrance and stairs at the northeast corner leads to a hallway on the first floor. Utilitarian spaces on the north side of the gym provide storage and lead to the secondary stairs.

Second Floor

The cafeteria occupies the south end of the building and was created from the Fresh Air classroom and dressing rooms and two primary school rooms prior to 1985 (*Photo 19; Figures 6, 11*). Remnants of these classrooms such as the windows to the corridor for borrowed light, coat rooms, and the built-in cabinets are extant (*Figure 17*). The auditorium, located in the southwest corner of the building across from the cafeteria, has tall ceilings that rise to the third floor (*Photo 17*). The stage is located at the north end of the auditorium with primary entrances at the rear (south). A ramp in the east corridor provides an accessible entrance to the stage. Large windows illuminate the space from the west. Plaster bead-and-reel, cavetto, and ribbon-and-reed moldings comprise the basket arch proscenium. Plaster cornucopias flank a central plaster vegetal cartouche inscribed with the letter "B". The elevated stage has maple tongue-and-groove floors. Attached rows of wood theater seats stand on a gently-sloped concrete floor with two aisles leading to double doors at the rear. Plaster walls have low wood wainscot in line with the stage level. Plaster

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

beams create a coffered ceiling with acoustical tile applied directly to the plaster ceiling on the flat surfaces within the coffers. Historic Art Deco wedding cake light fixtures hang from the ceiling. The balcony was enclosed sometime after 1985 and is presently used for offices on the third floor.

Classrooms along the east corridor retain their historic configurations except the boy's and girl's restrooms on the west side of the east corridor that were historically a single classroom. Three historic classrooms and two historic offices along the north corridor were converted into the library and small offices after 1985. Two classrooms created the main library room; their historic coat closets and built-in cabinets are extant. The coat closet, built-in cabinet, and fragments of the blackboard frame of the classroom in the building's northeast corner are extant.

Third Floor

The third floor of Blenheim School retains its historic configuration of classrooms (*Figures 7, 12*). Three classrooms line the south corridor; the historic girl's restroom between the center and west classroom was converted into an office; the historic book room between the center and east classroom was incorporated into the center classroom. The third-floor auditorium balcony was infilled, creating three offices with level floors and drywall partitions.

Classrooms along the east corridor retain their historic configurations except the current boy's and girl's restrooms on the west side of the east corridor that were historically a single classroom. A historic swinging black board is extant in the classroom on the west side of the east corridor. Four classrooms line the north corridor.

LANDSCAPE

A paved playground occupies the east end of the property and is a contributing structure (*Photo 10*). The playground is approximately 210 feet long and 225 feet wide. A tall chain-link fence encloses the playground, which slopes downward at its north, east, and south edges. Grass covers the north, east, and south slopes. Mature deciduous trees cover the south and east slopes; historic fieldstone planters surround the trees on the east slope. An unpaved area approximately sixty feet long and ninety feet wide occupies the northwest corner of the playground. Playground equipment fills the space. The playground has two basketball courts in the southeast corner of the lot. The playground was historically unpaved; it was paved sometime between 1962 and 1969 but retains its historic configuration and function. Two sets of concrete stairs and a concrete ramp lead from the entrances on the school's primary elevation to the playground.

A paved parking lot abuts the building's west elevation and is a contributing structure (*Photo 11*). The parking lot is approximately 220 feet long and 155 feet wide and has space for three rows of parking. A tall chain-link fence encloses the area. A driveway on the lot's west side and sidewalks on the north and south sides access the parking lot. Historic circular fieldstone planters occupy the center of the parking lot and the center of the property's western edge just outside of the chain link fence. The lot was paved sometime between 1962 and 1969 but retains its historic configuration.

INTEGRITY

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Blenheim School retains sufficient architectural integrity to clearly communicate its historic function and the era in which it was constructed and meets the registration requirements defined on page F-51 of the MPDF "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970" for the property type "Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School," property subtype "Elementary Schools." The school retains its historic form, massing, and roof form; exterior materials; interior and exterior recreation areas; fenestration patterns; and interior configuration of corridors, stairwells, and classrooms. Still in its original location and setting, Blenheim School remains a key institutional presence in a predominantly residential neighborhood. The property is little altered, retaining its historic open recreation and parking areas to the east and west, respectively. Specific site features, such as field stone tree planters and concrete stairs, also remain. The design, materials, and workmanship of the Blenheim School communicate both its Jacobethan Revival style and Progressive Era school design principles. The exterior of the school retains its historic rectangular massing, shaped parapets, and exterior masonry cladding. While the windows were replaced, a common alteration in schools across the country, the original fenestration pattern is extant within the historic masonry openings and this alteration does not compromise the integrity of the overall façade. Furthermore, on page F-51, the MPDF identifies this as a common alteration that does not compromise the integrity of the building, particularly when the historic masonry openings remain unaltered. On the interior, the historic U-shaped corridor remains the organizing feature of the school, with light and airy classrooms lining the perimeter. The majority of classrooms retain their historic configuration and features, including wood chair rails and chalkboard frames, built-in cabinetry, coat closet, and ventilation system. Plaster walls and ceilings, concrete base trim, wood chair rails, and decorative plaster elements are intact in many classrooms. The kindergarten fireplace, ornamented with patterned brickwork and storybook-themed terra cotta tiles, remains in its original location although the room was subdivided and converted to offices. The auditorium is extant, retaining its volume, wood-floored stage, decorative proscenium, coffered ceiling, and historic seating. The gymnasium retains its volume and utilitarian features.

Although some of the interior spaces have been reconfigured, these alterations met the evolving needs of an educational institution and do not compromise the building's ability to convey associations with the Progressive Era. Changes to the basement and third floor configurations are minimal and reflect the repurposing of smaller offices for additional classroom space. The balcony and gallery spaces of the auditorium and gymnasium were converted into small offices; however, these changes are inconspicuous and both primary recreation spaces retain their historic volume. The original small lunch/sewing room and girl's and boy's playrooms on the first floor were converted into classrooms as increasing enrollment required a larger cafeteria and additional classrooms, while schools discontinued the use of play rooms as well as other programs such as the Fresh Air classroom. The Fresh Air classroom and dressing rooms became the new cafeteria. Blenheim School's original design lacked space for administrative offices as well as a library; the repurposed large kindergarten classroom and two second floor classrooms accommodate these related educational needs. While spaces such as the boy's playroom, serving room, and lunch/sewing room were converted into classrooms, the rooms retain their historic configuration and finishes. Furthermore, converted classrooms such as the cafeteria and the library retain many of their Progressive Era features such as the coat closets and built-in cabinets, ventilation systems, and large spans of windows.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The current boundaries of the paved playground east of the school were in place at the time of construction. Although the playground on the east side of the property and the parking lot on the west side of the property were paved in the 1960s, these contributing structures retain their historic configuration and open space necessary to convey their historic function of providing abundant space for outdoor physical activity. Therefore, the playground and parking lot retain sufficient integrity to communicate their contribution to the significance of the property as outdoor recreation areas associated with Progressive Era schools.

Blenheim School maintains the feeling of and association with the Progressive Era elementary schools of Kansas City, Missouri. The school's physical features communicate feelings about and associations with its historic function and the period in which it was constructed.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

Blenheim School at 2411 East 70th Terrace, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. As defined by the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970," Blenheim School possesses the distinct characteristics of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School property type and the Elementary School property subtype. Its character-defining elements include fire-proof concrete and brick construction, wide double-loaded corridors, large windows for fresh air and natural light, integrated auditorium and gymnasium, and specialized classrooms. Charles A. Smith, architect for the Kansas City School District, designed the three-story red brick Jacobethan Revival school with a symmetrical façade and ornate cut stone trim. The school was built in three phases, as designed by Smith, to accommodate the growing population in the area. Specialized classrooms were important components of the diverse Progressive Era curriculum designed to promote learning by doing and to provide direct access to informational sources. Blenheim School's Fresh Air classroom, large Kindergarten, integral auditorium and gymnasium, manual training, and domestic science classrooms reflect the Progressive Era educational philosophy embraced by Kansas City, Missouri in the 1920s. The building retains the historic interior and exterior features that illustrate its historic function and its property type as a public elementary school built during the Progressive Era. The period of significance for Blenheim School is 1924, 1927, and 1930 with significant dates of 1924, 1927, and 1930, the dates of construction for the north, central, and south building blocks, respectively.

ELABORATION

ARCHITECTURE

The Progressive Era 1900-1932

The Progressive Era, as described in the context "Public Education in the United States (1776-1970)" of the MPDF, encompassed a period of political and social reform that emphasized the use of science and technology to improve all aspects of life. Education was "the primary factor in social and economic successes achieved during the Progressive Era."⁴ Progressive Era ideologists strove to improve standards of living, health conditions, and society in general. They believed improving and expanding the nation's public education system would lead to better working conditions and hygiene practices, thus producing a healthier population that could better contribute to society. As a result of these advances as well as compulsory attendance laws such as the one enacted in Missouri in 1905, the nation experienced a school building boom between 1900 and the mid-1920s.⁵

The Progressive Era marked a fundamental shift in education methodologies, encouraging experimentation, diversification of skills, individualized instruction, and manual training as opposed to rote memorization and recitation.⁶ School building designs expressed the principles of Progressive Era educational theory, adopting nationwide standards that focused on safety and sanitation while providing new types of specialized classrooms to support an expanded curriculum. Progressive Era schools utilized

⁴ Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Properties Documentation Form* (2012), E-3.

⁵ Ibid, E-3, E-4.

⁶ Ibid, E-4.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

fireproof materials such as brick and concrete along with the latest technological advances in plumbing and electricity. Wide, double-loaded corridors made of concrete or glazed tile with stairwells at either end organized the school's linear footprint and provided a more efficient means of egress in case of fire than earlier schools, which had square footprints. Furthermore, Progressive Era schools strove to be clean, logical, light-filled, and well-ventilated. Consequently, school construction during this time period emphasized logical organization, large expanses of windows and ventilation systems allowing for fresh air and abundant light, and a diversity of classroom types to suit various specialized training activities.⁷

Blenheim School is an excellent example of an Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School, specifically the Elementary School subtype, as described in the MPDF. The architectural significance of Blenheim School is directly associated with the following historic contexts from the MPDF: "Public Education in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)" and "Public School Buildings in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)". As often occurred during this era in Kansas City, Blenheim School was designed holistically but built in phases as funds allowed and population warranted. The design was intended to be built in sections as needed, leading to a complete building with a symmetrical façade (*Figure 18*).⁸ Materials and overall design elements reflect a concern for safety, typical of Early Twentieth Century Schools as outlined in the MPDF. Brick, stone, and concrete created a fireproof structure, while wide corridors and stairs allowed for efficient evacuation during an emergency.⁹ In addition to these features, the school retains many interior elements typical of the Progressive Era focus on improving safety, cleanliness, illumination, and ventilation. Large expanses of windows provided ample light to the interior of the building. A ventilation system featuring louvered vents in each classroom, along with the windows, allowed fresh air to circulate throughout the building. Classrooms line the exterior of the double-loaded U-shaped corridor with bathrooms, offices, the elevator, the auditorium, and the gym on the interior.

Typical of a Progressive Era School, classrooms in Blenheim School were designed for specialized coursework, such as science, manual training, and sewing, and organized by age, with the youngest children on the lowest floors. As stated on page E-28 of the MPDF, standardization affected both the design and the curriculum of early twentieth century schools. Books featuring T, I, L, or U-shaped floor plans for educational facilities published by architects and educators set architectural standards for Progressive Era public schools.¹⁰ Wilbur Thoburn Mills and Fletcher Dresslar's books on American public school design describe the ideal features of a Progressive Era school building.

Blenheim School exemplifies this building type; design elements discussed in Mills' 1910 book, *American School Building Standards*, and summarized in the MPDF are found throughout the nominated building. Mills suggests that all school buildings use masonry to be as fireproof as possible and that the building be "simple, dignified, and plain."¹¹ Blenheim School is three stories tall with a basement and has a symmetrical red brick façade, a flat roof with shaped parapet, and stone ornament. Articulated entrance pavilions centered on the front elevation are the most ornate elements of the building's façade (*Photo 1*).

⁷ Rosin and Nugent, E-5.

⁸ Ibid, E-29.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid, E-28, E-29.

¹¹ Wilbur T. Mills, *American School Building Standards* (Columbus: Franklin Educational Publishing Company, 1910), 34.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

In his 1911 book, *American Schoolhouses*, Dresslar states that corridors and stairs should be wide, well-lit, and made of fireproof materials. Corridors in an elementary school should be straight, twelve feet wide to provide enough space to exit the building during an emergency, and have tile or concrete floors for durability. Classrooms should line both sides of the corridor; stairwells with rectangular landings between floors located at either end of the corridor would provide ease of passage during an emergency.¹² Corridors at Blenheim School have tile floors and concrete baseboards (*Photos 13-14*). Classrooms line the exterior side of the U-shaped corridor on the first floor with the gymnasium and mechanical rooms on the interior side; classrooms line both sides of the second and third stories with the auditorium stacked above the gymnasium. The historic configuration of corridors and classrooms is extant. The stairs, located at the west ends of the north and south corridors and equally spaced on the east side of the east corridor, are concrete (*Figures 4-12*). Large windows on the landings between floors let in natural light.

As described by Mills, the ideal classroom measured 24 x 30 feet (720 ft²) or 25 x 32 feet (800 ft²) with 12-14 foot ceilings.¹³ According to Dresslar, classrooms should be 24 feet wide and 32 feet long with 12 ½ foot ceilings, large enough to hold forty to forty-five students. One wall with large bands of windows set as close together as possible and as high up as possible let in natural light and fresh air. Blackboards, preferably made of slate, should line the walls opposite the windows and in the back of the room. The height of the blackboard should be proportionate to the height of the children in the school, so an elementary school would have lower blackboards than a high school. Large cloakrooms, located in the rear of each classroom, should be well-lit and ventilated.¹⁴

Classrooms in Blenheim School range from 750 to 1000 ft² with high ceilings. Large expanses of windows provide ample light and air to the classrooms, which are neatly organized along the U-shaped corridor. Blenheim School retains historic large classrooms on each floor. The extant classrooms, as well as some reconfigured classrooms like those used to house the library, have extant cloakrooms accessed from within the classroom. All classrooms have fireproof concrete floors and original concrete baseboards, some are covered with tile and others are carpeted. Most classrooms have one wall of large windows; the southeast and northwest classrooms on the first floor and southeast classroom on the second floor have windows on two walls, but the windows in the first floor classrooms are smaller and high up on the wall. Chalkboards line the walls opposite the windows and coat closets (*Photos 15-16*).

Classrooms dedicated to the instruction of specialized subjects are an important aspect in Progressive Era school design. Rooms for play and domestic arts as well as auditoriums, gymnasiums, and libraries became standard in all schools. Dresslar suggested that a school's basement floor be used for heating and ventilation systems, playrooms, toilet facilities, and manual training classrooms.¹⁵ Blenheim School's basement is half-excavated and houses the gymnasium and mechanical rooms. Historically, the ground floor (first floor) housed boys' and girls' toilets and playrooms, the sewing and lunch room, and the foods laboratory (*Figure 10*). The play rooms and boys' toilets were reconfigured to create additional classroom space. The former sewing and lunch room and the foods laboratory retain their historic configuration. In early Progressive Era elementary schools, libraries were often a small collection of books housed in the principal's office. Blenheim School originally had a book room, a space one-half the size of a classroom, in

¹² Fletcher B. Dresslar, *American Schoolhouses* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911), 53-56.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Dresslar, *American Schoolhouses*, 19, 21, 41, 52; Mills, *American School Building Standards*, 24-31.

¹⁵ Dresslar, *American Schoolhouses*, 14-15.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

the southwest corner of the third floor until two classrooms in the northwest corner of the second floor were combined, creating a full-size library (*Figure 12*).¹⁶

Playgrounds provided space for children to have structured physical education and unstructured outdoor play. Outdoor space was central to the Progressive Era emphasis on fresh air and physical activity to improve general health and ward off common infectious diseases. The configuration of this contributing structure at Blenheim School is extant. Both of the primary front entrances provide direct access to the playground (*Figure 1*).

Progressive Era school design stressed the importance of proper heating and ventilation systems. According to Dresslar, the most effective method of heating a school is through steam. Boilers in the basement would fill coils with hot steam; fans passed air over the coils and into classrooms, thus heating the space. Schools should have a fan-driven ventilation system in addition to operable windows. A plenum system, one of the suggested methods of ventilation, used a fan in the basement of the building to force air out through ducts into the classrooms, which were often located in the cloakrooms.¹⁷ Mechanical rooms on the basement level of Blenheim School housed a boiler and plenum fan system. Steam-powered radiators heated each classroom and the corridors; louvered vents for the plenum fan system are extant in every classroom above the coat closets (*Figure 15*).

Blenheim School is an exemplary building designed by School Board architect Charles A. Smith. As described on page E-35 of the MPDF, Smith's school designs utilized concepts from Progressive Era educational philosophies and reform movements, including components of the Open Air Movement and Gary Plan, and adapted them to suit the needs of the Kansas City School District.¹⁸ During the rise of the Open Air Movement at the turn of the twentieth century, for example, Smith, along with the Assistant City Health Commissioner Dr. H. DeLamater, Superintendent J. M. Greenwood, and Board Engineer J. H. Brady toured a school in Toledo, Ohio designed specifically to house and educate tubercular students. Smith and the others learned from this visit and incorporated Open Air concepts, including broad expanses of windows, outdoor play areas, and exterior entrances to classrooms to Kansas City schools.¹⁹

The Gary Plan, an educational system developed in the first decade of the twentieth century in Gary, Indiana, to complement Progressive-Era school design, included a new curriculum that maximized efficiency of building use during the school day. Students organized in groups pursued instruction in several departments that utilized all of the specialized spaces within the facility simultaneously (e.g. academic subjects in classrooms, plays or dance in the auditorium, recreation in the gymnasium). As stated in the historic contexts "Public Education in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)" and "Public School Buildings in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)" of the MPDF, Progressive Era programs such as the Gary Plan became popular in the late 1910s and early 1920s. The Kansas City Board of Education decided to test a modified version of the Gary Plan at the Irving School (E. 24th Street and Prospect Avenue) in 1913.²⁰ After several years of experimentation, Smith, working alongside the Superintendent and Board,

¹⁶ The date of the library renovations is unknown.

¹⁷ Dresslar, *American Schoolhouses*, 87, 94.

¹⁸ Rosin and Nugent, E-35.

¹⁹ Ibid, E-19.

²⁰ Irving School is no longer extant.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

adapted components of the Gary Plan to Kansas City schools.²¹ Gary Plan schools designed by Smith included an auditorium, gymnasium, library, manual training rooms, academic classrooms, and an outdoor play area. By the 1920s, these spaces, particularly the integral auditorium and gymnasium, were standard features in Smith's new designs, such as Blenheim, and they were often added to schools constructed prior to 1910.²² The Platoon Plan evolved from the Gary Plan and also divided students into groups which rotated between subjects for a more efficient use of classroom space, but put less emphasis on unstructured recreation than the Gary Plan. The Kansas City Board of Education tested the Platoon Plan educational system at Kumpf (E. 45th Street and Wabash Avenue) and Greenwood (3711 E. 27th Street) Schools in 1922.²³ Like the Gary Plan, the Board adapted components of the Platoon Plan, which reinforced the importance of having an auditorium and a library in every school, to suit the needs of Kansas City Schools.²⁴

The integral auditorium and gymnasium are significant as a new feature of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School property type and the Elementary School subtype as stated on page F-48 of the MPDF, and as a key component of the Gary Plan as adapted for Kansas City schools by architect Charles A. Smith.²⁵ Elementary schools constructed prior to 1910 included only an "Assembly Room" for large gatherings. This simple, open room lacked the sloped floor, individual seating, and stage of later auditoriums. Physical activity was reserved for the school yard. With the implementation of the Gary Plan, all newly-constructed Kansas City schools included an integral auditorium and gymnasium. The rise of the gymnasium in public schools reflects the increased emphasis on the overall health of the pupil. The auditorium not only served as a gathering place for school children but was often utilized by the larger community for meetings and other public functions.²⁶ The gymnasium and auditorium at Blenheim School are small and well-suited to the young students (*Photos 17-18*). Playgrounds adjacent to the school's north and south elevations accommodated structured physical education and unstructured outdoor play (*Photos 10-11*). Blenheim School's double-loaded corridors, one-story mechanical wing on the rear elevation, and multi-phased construction approach are additional features of the Elementary school property subtype as categorized in the MPDF.²⁷

Blenheim School was built during a massive building boom. In the 1920s, the Kansas City School District constructed twenty-three new school buildings as well as twelve additions to existing schools. To accommodate this volume of work, architect Charles A. Smith employed a prototypical floor plan. In order to maintain visual variety, Smith adapted the base plans, designing a different style of revivalist ornament for each school design. Most schools were phase-built with the growth of enrollment dictating the need for additional space. Smith's early Progressive Era school designs utilized a five-part symmetrical façade with projecting bays; some early schools also incorporated components of the Open Air movement. The Open Air Movement "provided academic instruction to anemic and tubercular children in a specialized, controlled environment with year-round exposure to fresh air."²⁸ Open Air classrooms were located on the roof and had no fixed walls, leaving them open to the elements. At the start of each day, children would

²¹ Rosin and Nugent, E-20-21. While Blenheim did not have a full-size library, the 1930 plans designate a "book room" on the third floor in the southeast corner of the building.

²² Rosin and Nugent, E-31.

²³ Kumpf School is no longer extant; Greenwood School is extant.

²⁴ Rosin and Nugent, E-22.

²⁵ Ibid, F-48.

²⁶ Ibid, E-30.

²⁷ Ibid, F-48.

²⁸ Ibid, E-31.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

change into warm clothes in a dressing room. They would have class, meals, and time for rest in the Open Air classroom in order to strengthen their bodies and prevent diseases such as tuberculosis.²⁹

COMPARABLE PROGRESSIVE ERA SCHOOLS

Blenheim School, categorized as the Elementary school subtype on page F-48 of the MPDF, was the first to implement the school plan typified by the incorporation of Progressive Era design principles and a long, relatively-flat facade. Stone ornament and patterned brickwork on the exterior of Blenheim School convey a restrained Jacobethan Revival aesthetic, in keeping with Charles A. Smith's practice of adorning his schools with popular historical revival styles. The prominent position on a hill and heavy massing communicate the institution's pivotal role in the community. Three other schools, Seven Oaks School at 3711 Jackson Avenue, 1926-7 (NR listed 10/09/12); Meservey School at 4210 E 45th St, 1927; and Nichols School at 6903 Oak St, 1926, have similar floor plans to Blenheim School, but distinctly different façade treatments (*Figures 24-26*).³⁰ These schools differed from previous Progressive Era school designs that placed greater emphasis on the Open Air movement.

Swinney School (1106 W. 47th St.), constructed in 1914 and categorized as the Open Air school subtype on page F-49 of the MPDF, (NR listed 10/16/13) had typical Open Air facilities with roof-top recreation areas and classrooms designed to allow direct access to fresh air (*Figure 27*).³¹ In the late 1920s, the Open Air Movement began moving away from classrooms and recreation areas completely exposed to the elements, utilizing classrooms with two walls of large, operable windows to bring in fresh air and sunlight while keeping the temperature between sixty-three and sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit.³² Open Air classrooms that were completely unsheltered, such as the rooftop classroom at Swinney School, were infilled with windows to keep the rooms up to date with the latest healthcare practices (*Figure 28*).³³ Two Fresh Air classrooms along with a Kindergarten were added to Swinney School in 1927. Blenheim and Nichols Schools had Fresh Air classrooms; historic plans indicate that Seven Oaks School did not have a Fresh Air classroom.³⁴

Askew School (2630 Topping Ave), Hale H. Cook School (7302 Pennsylvania Ave), and Troost Elementary School (5917 Forest Ave), constructed between 1920 and 1923 and categorized as a second Open Air school subtype on page F-49 of the MPDF, follow a different prototypical plan. The one-story schools have skylights and classrooms with individual exterior entrances (*Figures 29-31*).³⁵ Blenheim School and the three other schools which follow its model focused more on an organized, safe configuration typical of the Progressive Era that provided light and air through careful organization of

²⁹ "Open Air Schools in 13 Schools Fight Tuberculosis," *Kansas City Star*, December 20, 1934. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

³⁰ Seven Oaks School was listed on the National Register on October 9, 2012 and was rehabilitated into apartments in 2014. Meservey School is currently vacant. The Nichols School functions as a charter elementary school.

³¹ Rosin and Nugent, F-49.

³² "Public Open Air Schools," *Kansas City Star*, April 14, 1946. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

³³ Rachel Nugent and Elizabeth Rosin, "E. F. Swinney School," *National Register Nomination* (2013), 13.

³⁴ It is unclear whether Meservey School had a Fresh Air classroom. Historic plans were not available and current floor plans give no indication of the historic function of individual classrooms. One classroom in the southwest corner of the third floor has two walls of windows, however, the windows on the south wall are very small and seem inappropriately sized for a Fresh Air classroom.

³⁵ Rosin and Nugent, F-49. Swinney, William C. Bryant, Askew, Hale H. Cook, and Troost Schools are extant.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

windows, doors, and a ventilation system rather than providing direct exterior access from classrooms. Blenheim School's Fresh Air classroom, part of the 1930 addition, has a floor plan similar to the fresh air classrooms at Swinney School. Two walls of large windows provided fresh air and sunlight; another wall of windows overlooking the east corridor utilized borrowed light.³⁶

As discussed in the MPDF, Kansas City annexed over thirty-four square miles in 1909, extending the city limits south to 77th Street. As the population moved farther south, the School District expanded its boundaries as well. The construction phases at Blenheim School, along with Seven Oaks, Meservey, and Nichols Schools, reflect the growth of the Kansas City neighborhoods surrounding each school. Blenheim School was built in three phases; only one of the two phases planned for Seven Oaks School was constructed; Meservey School was built in two phases in the early twentieth century with a third phase constructed during the mid-twentieth century that exhibits a Modern aesthetic; and Nichols School, like Blenheim School, was constructed in three phases in the early twentieth century. This adaptability allowed the School District to be nimble in its school construction in order to accommodate a growing and shifting population. For example, although Seven Oaks School, at E. 37th and Jackson streets at the eastern edge of Kansas City, had a planned expansion, that addition was never completed because the population shifted south, closer to Blenheim School and Nichols School, which both underwent two expansions to the original block of classrooms. Designed as one cohesive structure but built in three phases, the pieces of Blenheim School fit together to form a unified design with seamless connections on the exterior. Newspaper accounts announcing the school prior to construction included a rendering of the façade as it would appear when complete (*Figure 18*). The only physical evidence of the multi-phased approach is a seam visible in the corridor immediately south of the north entrance pavilion (*Figure 14*).

The Progressive Era ended in the early 1930s with the start of the Great Depression. The Public Works Administration (PWA), a New Deal program, attempted to stimulate the nation's economy by providing funding for federal building projects and awarding grants to state and local agencies. School districts allocated funds for the construction of new school buildings and additions to existing schools. While the architectural style of the new construction shifted from a historical revival to Art Deco aesthetic, the functionality of the spaces followed Progressive Era educational theories. Libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, and manual training classrooms were built in schools that lacked these specialized spaces.³⁷ Construction of new school buildings halted again during World War II and resumed after the war as a result of the baby boom in combination with years of deferred maintenance. Starting in the 1950s, the design of new school buildings reflected a shift in educational philosophies from teacher-centered classrooms to child-centered classrooms and a changing architectural aesthetic that incorporated the Modern Movement into school building design.³⁸ In addition, improvements in living conditions, sanitation, and vaccines reduced the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis and thus the need for Fresh Air classrooms.

³⁶ Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School," *Original Drawing*, Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, April 1924; Charles A. Smith, "Addition to Blenheim School," *Original Drawing*, Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, November 1926; Charles A. Smith, "The Third Addition to the Blenheim School," *Original Drawing*, Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, July 1930.

³⁷ Rosin and Nugent, E-6.

³⁸ Ibid, E-7.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

History of Blenheim School

Blenheim School illustrates historic contexts "Public Education in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)" and "Public School Buildings in Kansas City, Missouri (1867-1970)" of the MPDF. The Kansas City Board of Education was formed in 1867. As the city expanded and residential neighborhoods spread south and east from the original core, more and larger schools were needed to accommodate the growing school-age population. The largest expansion of the Kansas City limits and, consequently, the School District, occurred after the turn of the century and through the 1920s. Shortly after Kansas City passed an ordinance in 1909 to extend the city limits from 49th to 77th Street, individuals and development groups filed plats for large tracts of land.³⁹ The Phoenix Land and Improvement Company filed the Blenheim plat in 1910, subdividing the land between Prospect Avenue and the Paseo from 67th to 71st streets into thirty-two blocks containing a total of roughly 350 lots (*Figure 19*).⁴⁰ That same year, a large group of individuals filed the Swope Ridge plat for the east side of Prospect Avenue between 69th and 71st streets. The sixteen blocks in Swope Ridge were designed to have a total of 480 lots (*Figure 20*).⁴¹ Between 1910 and 1920, Kansas City's population grew from 248,381 to 324,410. Much of the city's population shifted southward, building new houses on residential lots.⁴² Paralleling Kansas City's residential building boom of the 1920s, the School District added a significant number of buildings in these newly acquired areas during this time, using multiple bond issues approved to fund the expansion.⁴³

The School District built the first Blenheim School building in 1913 as property owners began constructing small residences in the surrounding neighborhood. As the neighborhood population increased, more buildings were added to the school grounds. Three frame buildings on the west side of the school grounds housed classrooms and a manual training facility. Twenty-one students attended the original Blenheim School in 1913. By 1924, enrollment grew to 318 students, creating the need for a larger educational facility in the area. The School District decided to replace the original frame buildings with a school building designed to be constructed in phases as needed depending on school enrollment by School District Architect Charles A. Smith. The three-phased construction was planned for by Smith and indicated in 1924 bid advertisements.⁴⁴ The call for bids stated that the first phase of the school, to be completed by the next school year, would include seven rooms and cost \$65,000 (*Figure 18*).⁴⁵ Miller-Stauch Construction Company received the contract and laid the cornerstone in July of 1924, completing the first phase of the building by the start of the school year in the fall. The first phase included the north corridor, the north wing of classrooms, and the boiler room.

The neighborhood surrounding Blenheim School continued to grow throughout the mid to late 1920s. By 1925, roughly two-thirds of the subdivided lots were occupied (*Figure 21*) and enrollment at Blenheim School was 475. The school board called for bids on the second phase of the building in 1926, awarding

³⁹ James R. Shortridge, *Kansas City and How It Grew, 1822-2011* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012), 78.

⁴⁰ Blenheim Plat, Jackson County Recorder of Deeds, 1910.

⁴¹ Swope Ridge Plat, Jackson County Recorder of Deeds, 1910.

⁴² Campbell Gibson, Population Division, *Population Division Working Paper No.27: Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790-1990*, (Washington D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998). <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027/twps0027.html> <Accessed 24 Jan 2017>.

⁴³ Landmarks Commission, City Development Department, *Kansas City Public Schools Survey, Final Report (pre 1940)* (Kansas City, Missouri, 1989), 22.

⁴⁴ "Blenheim - Cornerstone Laid," *Kansas City Star*, July 13, 1924. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

⁴⁵ "The New Blenheim School, for Which Bids will be Received Until May 1," *Kansas City Star*, April 18, 1924. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

the contract to Miller-Stauch Construction Company for \$110,990. In 1927, with the student population at 583 and growing, the Board of Education received a permit for the construction of an addition to the school that included six classrooms, the gymnasium, auditorium, and the extension of the corridors (*Figure 22*).⁴⁶ Sanborn maps indicate that the third phase of the building was completed in 1930 (*Figure 23*).⁴⁷ The addition completed the symmetrical façade arrangement and included the primary entrance to the building and a reversed L-shaped bank of classrooms forming the southeast corner of the building, which included the Fresh Air classroom.

Blenheim School remained much the same over its years of use. In 1949, demising walls between the sewing room and adjacent classrooms were removed to create a cafeteria on the first floor with an adjacent kitchen.⁴⁸ This cafeteria renovation was part of a Board of Education program of expansion and remodeling of cafeterias undertaken throughout the District. Other alterations during the life of the school include the installation of carpet and composition tile in most rooms and some classroom reconfiguration. The school closed in 2009 and has remained vacant.

Architect: Charles A Smith

Charles Ashley Smith, born in 1866, spent much of his life and the beginning of his architecture practice in Iowa. He moved to Kansas City when his employer, architectural firm Bell & Hackney, opened a Kansas City office in 1887. Smith became a partner in 1892, working with William Hackney on school designs through 1899 and was appointed the Kansas City Board of Education architect upon Hackney's death. During his thirty-eight years of service for the Board of Education, Smith designed over sixty new schools and additions including elementary, middle, and high school buildings. In order to meet the demands of the rapidly-expanding Kansas City Public School system, Smith employed several prototypes, adapting the plans for each project. Smith utilized the building's ornament to create unique exteriors in a variety of historical revival styles. Smith's schools express the tenets of Progressive Era school design: the buildings are adaptable for expansion, well-ventilated, well-lit, and include specially-designed spaces for manual training, sewing, art, and music as well as gymnasias and auditoriums.⁴⁹

In addition to designing schools for the Board of Education, Smith was also a principal in the prominent local firm of Smith, Rea, and Lovitt from 1910 to 1921. The firm is responsible for numerous commercial buildings, private residences, the YMCA Building at 1822-28 The Paseo and the Kansas City Club at 1228 Baltimore in downtown Kansas City. Smith designed many notable civic, commercial, religious, and residential buildings throughout Kansas City until his death in 1948.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Permit #14911, January 21, 1927, Kansas City Historical Commission. Kansas City, Missouri; "First Day Enrollment," *Kansas City Times*, September 9, 1926. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library; *Atlas of Kansas City and Environs* (Kansas City: Tuttle-Ayers-Woodward Co., 1925); "Enrollment," *Kansas City Times*, September 14, 1927. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library; Unknown title. *Kansas City Star*, December 12, 1926. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

⁴⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 9, 1951), 1107.

⁴⁸ "Blenheim School Cafeteria," *Kansas City Star*, February 25, 1949. Microfilm, Envelope Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

⁴⁹ Rosin and Nugent, E-35.

⁵⁰ Rosin and Nugent, E-36.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

CONCLUSION

Blenheim School was constructed in three phases between 1924 and 1930 and embodies the physical characteristics of the Early Twentieth Century/Progressive Era School property type and the Elementary School property subtype as defined by the MPDF. The school was designed with features that address the specific components of Progressive Era educational philosophy, including wide corridors and stairwells for improved egress, improved ventilation and heating systems along with a Fresh Air classroom designed to keep occupants healthier, and spaces designated for specialized instruction, such as vocational training, physical education, and artistic expression. These physical characteristics illustrate Progressive Era educational philosophy in Kansas City, Missouri as described in the MPDF. Blenheim School embodies these features within the building while the property includes a large historic expanse of playground, which was also an important part of Progressive Era philosophy that promoted structured physical education and unstructured outdoor play. The three-phase construction of Blenheim School illustrates the southward shift of Kansas City's growing population. The completed building presents a unified façade and interior that retains a majority of the features and amenities designed to promote safe and sanitary conditions while providing educational spaces tailored to the diverse Progressive Era curriculum, such as the integral auditorium/gymnasium and the Fresh Air classroom. Blenheim School retains the distinctive Progressive Era characteristics integral to its design, such as the brick and concrete fireproof structure, the wide corridors and stairwells, and ventilation system. Most of the classrooms and corridors retain their original configurations and finishes. The east playground and west parking lot retain their historic function, configuration, and open space.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 20

Blenheim School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District Pre-1970
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atlas of Kansas City and Environs. Kansas City: Tuttle-Ayers-Woodward Co., 1925.

"Blenheim – Cornerstone Laid," *Kansas City Star*, July 13, 1924. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Blenheim Plat. Jackson County Recorder of Deeds, 1910.

Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." *Architectural Drawings*, n.d.

"Blenheim School Cafeteria," *Kansas City Star*, February 25, 1949. Microfilm, Envelope Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Dresslar, Fletcher B. *American Schoolhouses*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911.

"Enrollment," *Kansas City Times*, September 14, 1927. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Finch, Brad. Photographs, 2012, 2013, January 2017.

"First Day Enrollment," *Kansas City Times*, September 9, 1926. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Gibson, Campbell. Population Division. *Population Division Working Paper No.27: Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790-1990*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1998.
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0027/twps0027.html>. Accessed 24 Jan 2017.

Google Earth, 2017.

Google Maps, 2017.

Landmarks Commission, City Development Department. *Kansas City Public Schools Survey, Final Report (pre 1940)*. Kansas City, Missouri, 1989.

Mills, Wilbur T. *American School Building Standards*. Columbus: Franklin Educational Publishing Company, 1910.

Nugent, Rachel and Elizabeth Rosin. "E. F. Swinney School." *National Register Nomination*, 2013.

"Open Air Schools in 13 Schools Fight Tuberculosis," *Kansas City Star*, December 20, 1934. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Permit #14911. Kansas City Historical Commission. Kansas City, Missouri. January 21, 1927.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 21

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

"Public Open Air Schools," *Kansas City Star*, April 14, 1946. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

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

Rosin Preservation Staff. Photographs, 2011.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. *Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 9, 1927-1929.

———. *Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 9, 1951.

Shortridge, James R. *Kansas City and How It Grew, 1822-2011*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012.

Smith, Charles A. "Blenheim School." *Original Drawing*. Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, April 1924.

———. "Addition to Blenheim School." *Original Drawing*. Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, November 1926.

———. "The Third Addition to the Blenheim School." *Original Drawing*. Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, July 1930.

———. "Swinney School Plans." *Original Drawing*. Kansas City: Charles A. Smith, Architect, March 1914.

Swope Ridge Plat. Jackson County Recorder of Deeds, 1910.

"The New Blenheim School, for Which Bids will be Received Until May 1," *Kansas City Star*, April 18, 1924. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

Unknown title. *Kansas City Star*, December 12, 1926. Microfilm, Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 22

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Blenheim School: 2411 E 70TH TER / BLENHEIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOTS 307 THRU 312 & N
127.46 FT LOTS 343 THRU 348 BLENHEIM

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 23

Blenheim School

Name of Property

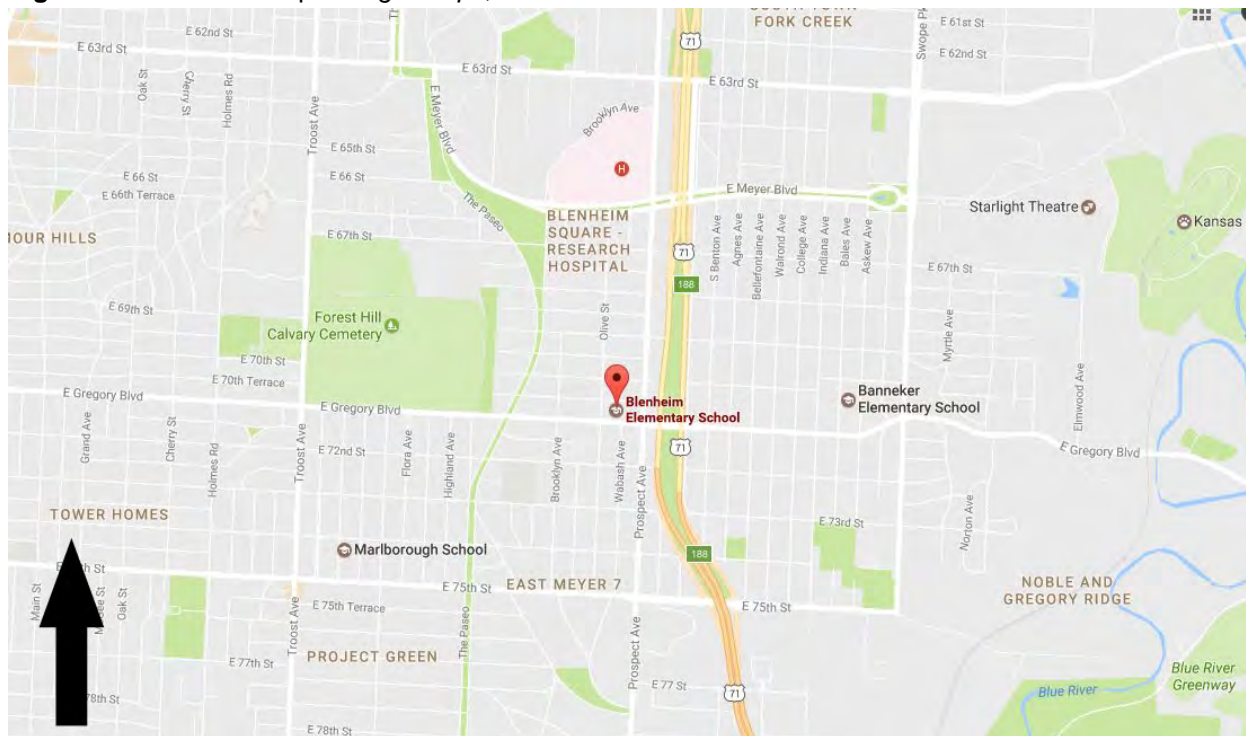
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Contextual map. *Google Maps, 2017.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 24

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 2. Site map with dashed line indicating National Register boundary. *Google Earth, 2017.*



Blenheim School
2411 E 70th Terrace
Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri

Latitude: 38.998550
Longitude: -94.558359

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 25

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3. Blenheim School exterior photo map. *Google Earth, 2017.*



Blenheim School
2411 E 70th Terrace
Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri

Latitude: 38.998550
Longitude: -94.558359

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Blenheim School

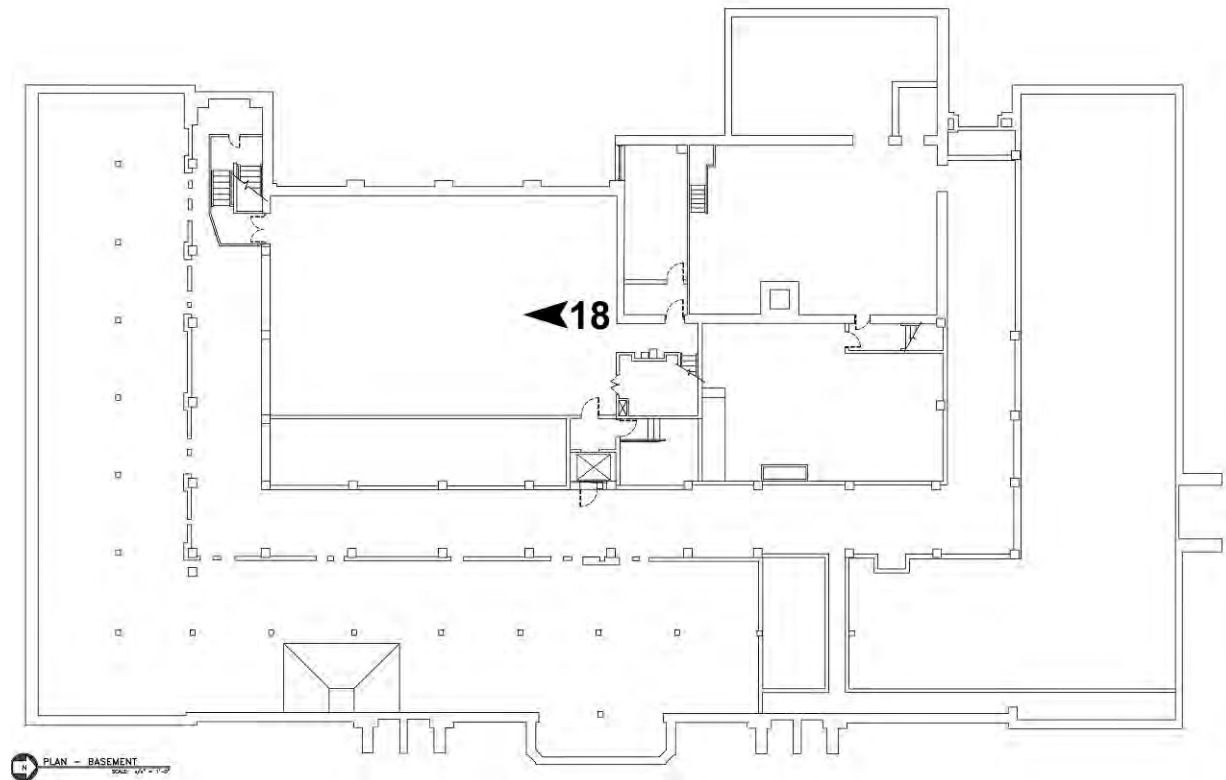
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 4. Blenheim School basement level photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 27

Blenheim School

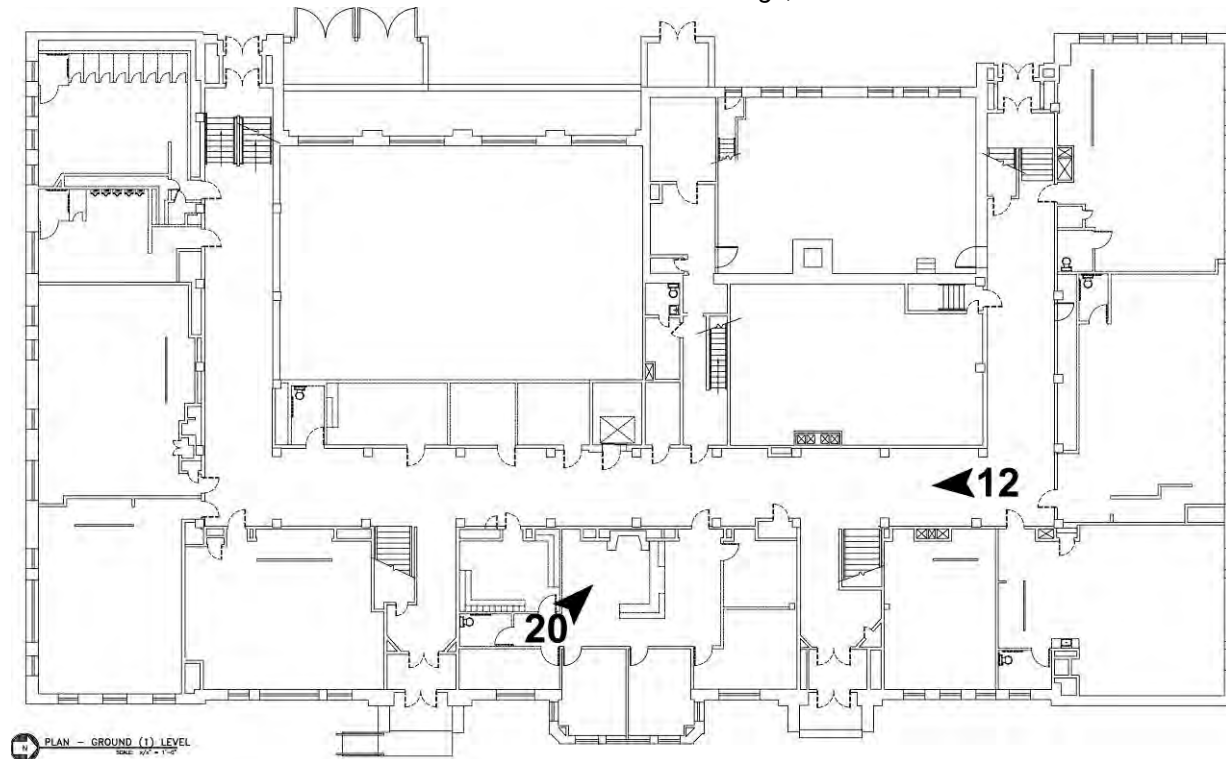
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5. Blenheim School first floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 28

Blenheim School

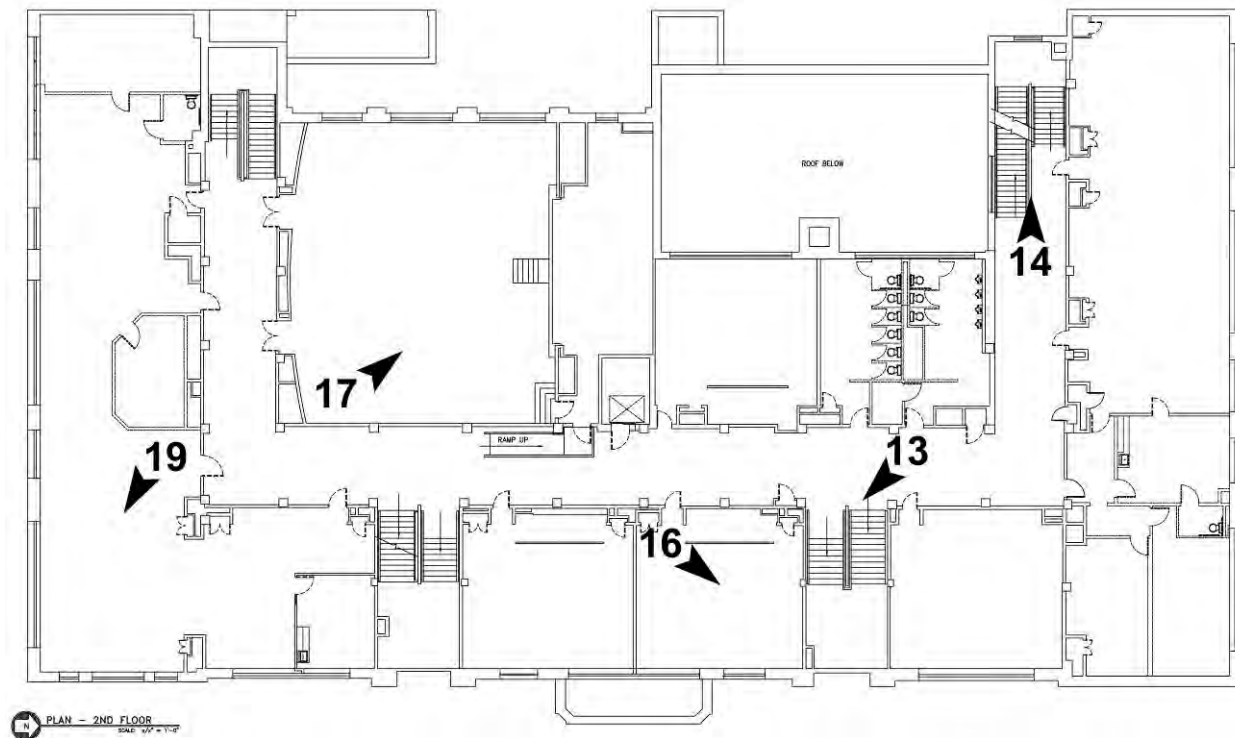
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6. Blenheim School second floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 29

Blenheim School

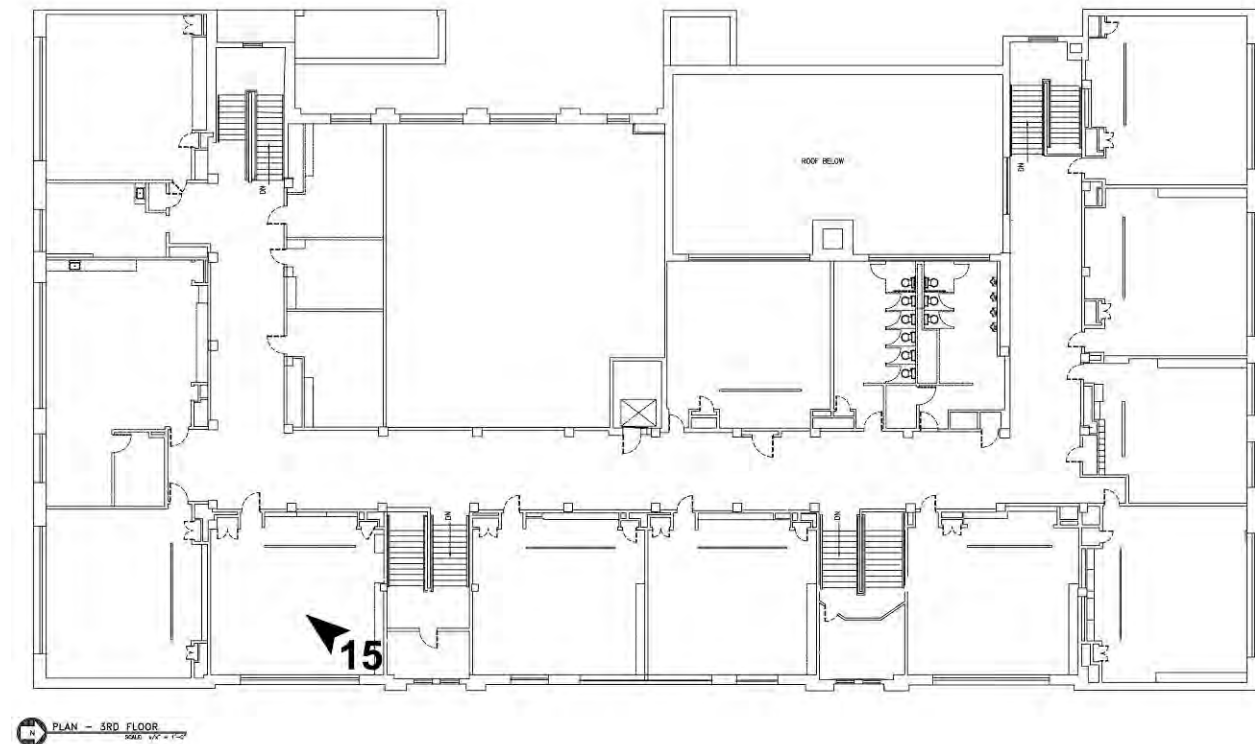
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 7. Blenheim School third floor photo map and current floor plan. *Source: Kansas City Public Schools. "Blenheim School As-built Plans." Architectural Drawings, n.d.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 30

Blenheim School

Name of Property

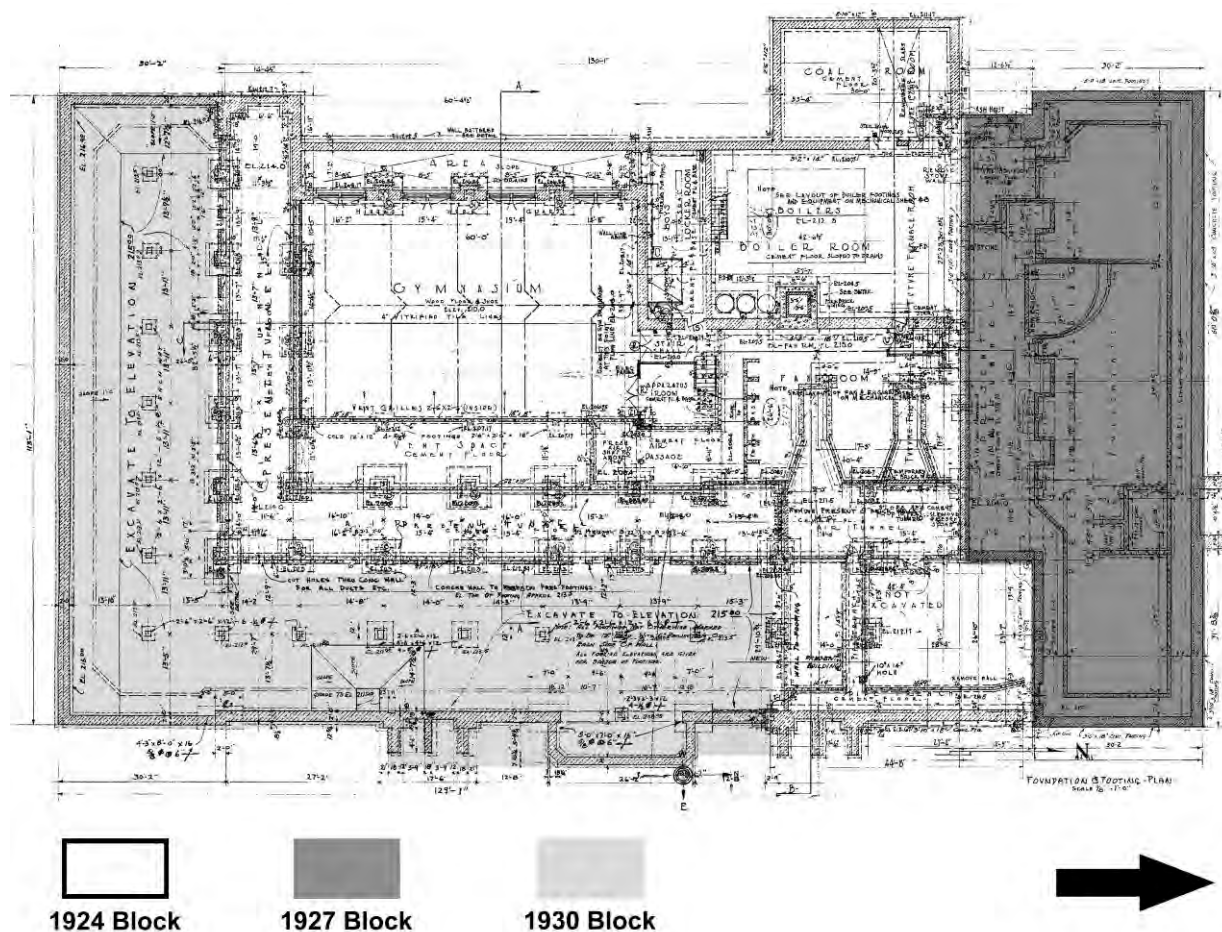
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9. Blenheim School, historic basement floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 31

Blenheim School

Name of Property

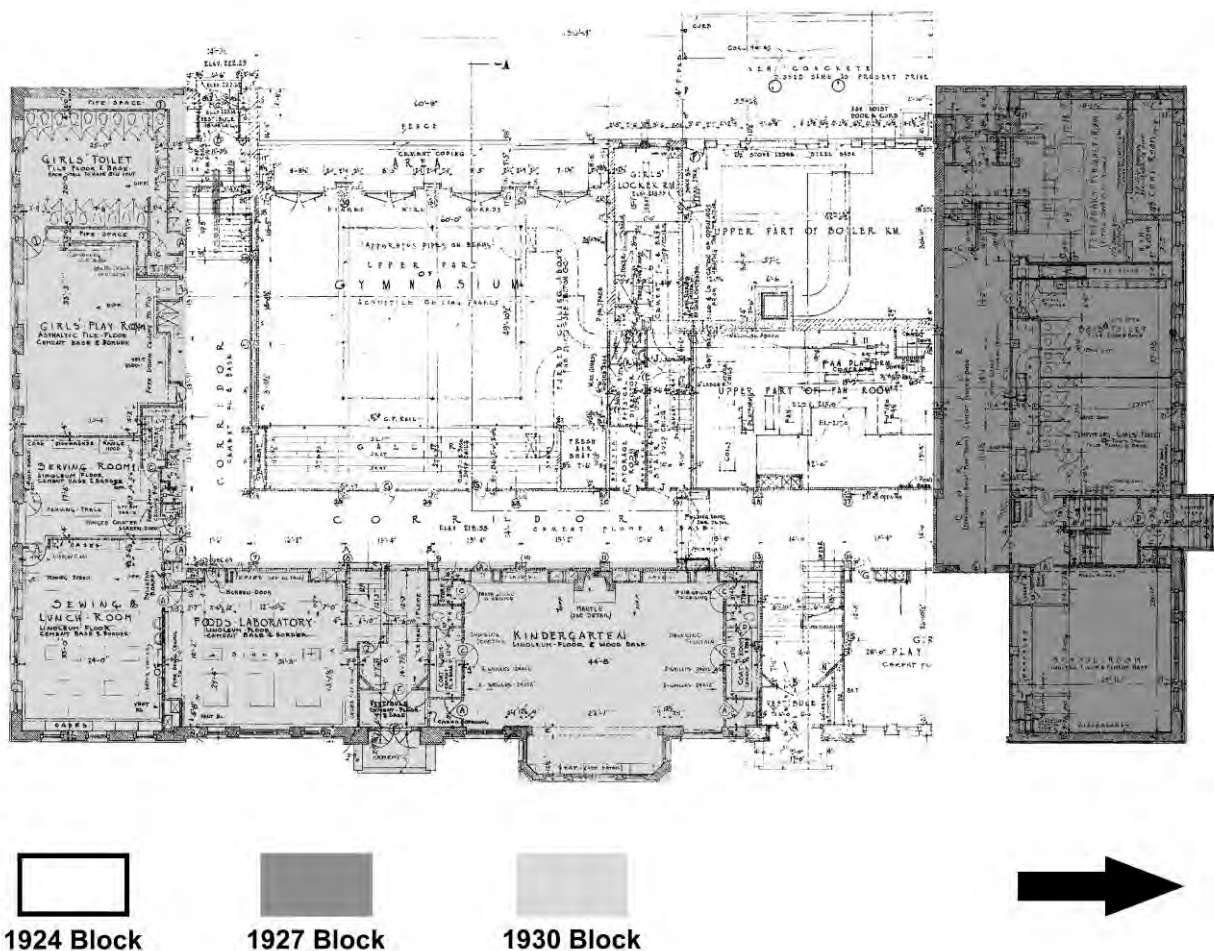
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10. Blenheim School, historic ground (1st) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 32

Blenheim School

Name of Property

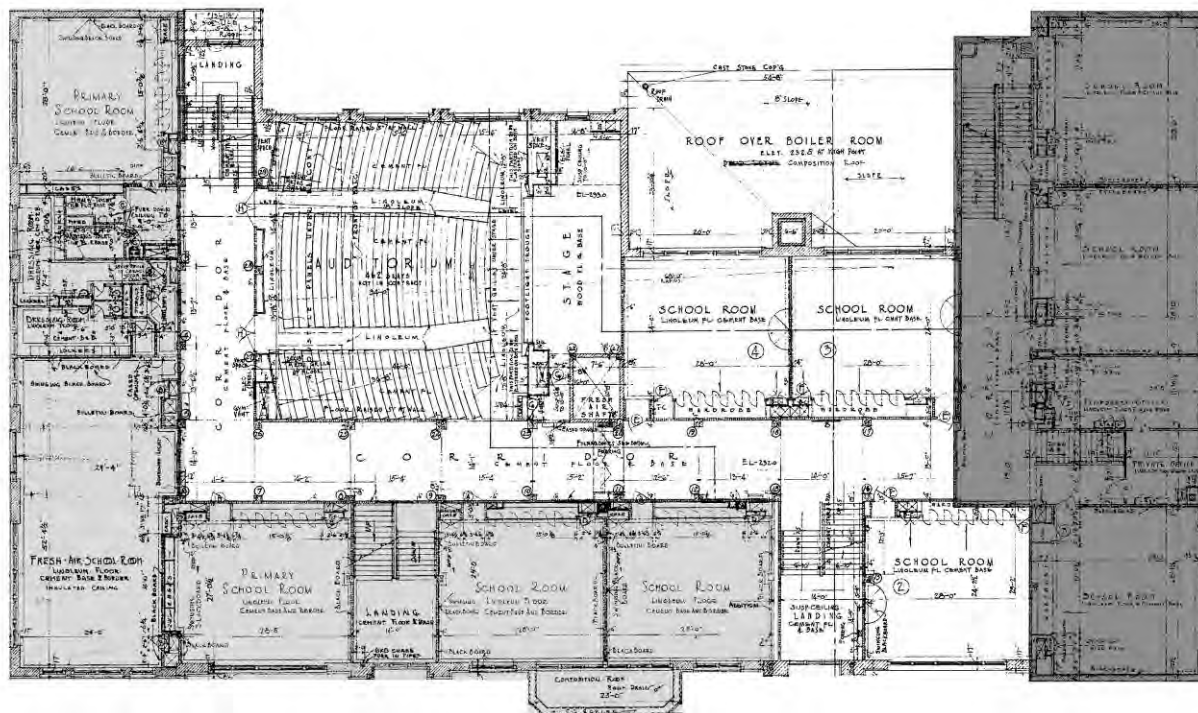
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 11. Blenheim School, historic first (2nd) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*



1924 Block

1927 Block

1930 Block



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 33

Blenheim School

Name of Property

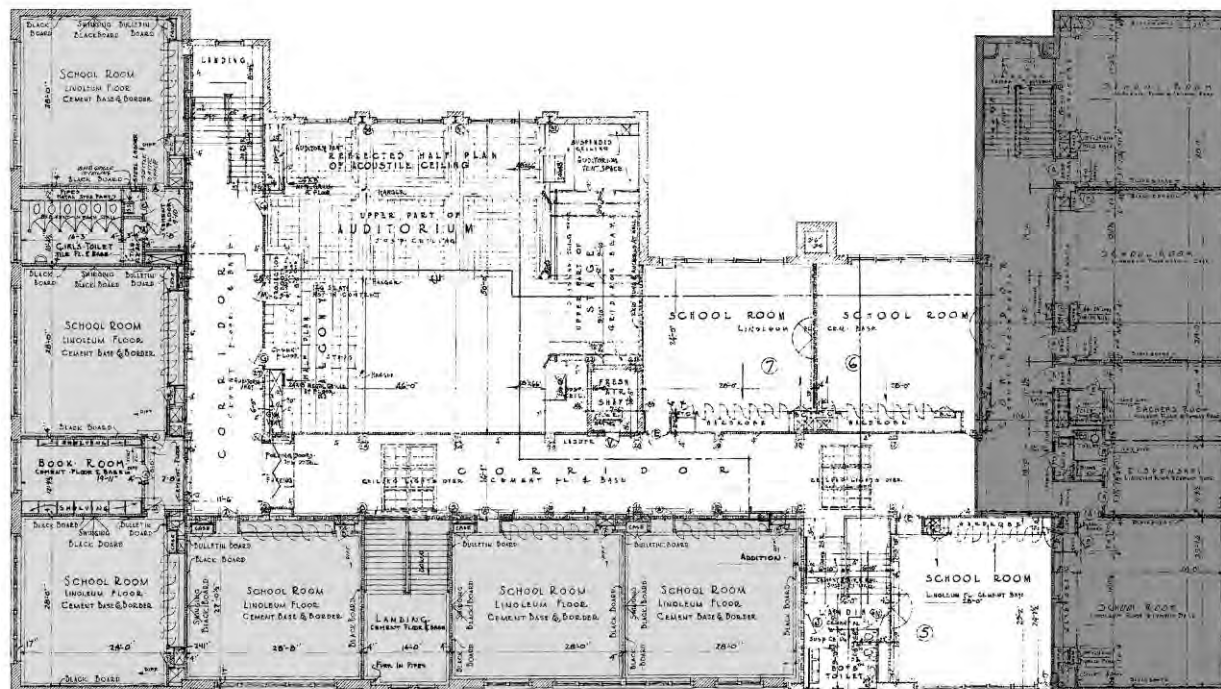
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 12. Blenheim School, historic second (3rd) floor plan with dates of construction. *Source: Charles A. Smith, "Blenheim School Plans," Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1930.*



 1924 Block  1927 Block  1930 Block



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Blenheim School

Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 14. Seam between building campaigns. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 35

Blenheim School

Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 15. Historic ventilation system. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 36

Blenheim School

Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 16. Typical built-in cabinets. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 37

Blenheim School

Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 17. Historic windows that provided borrowed light for the Fresh Air Classroom. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 38

Blenheim School

Name of Property

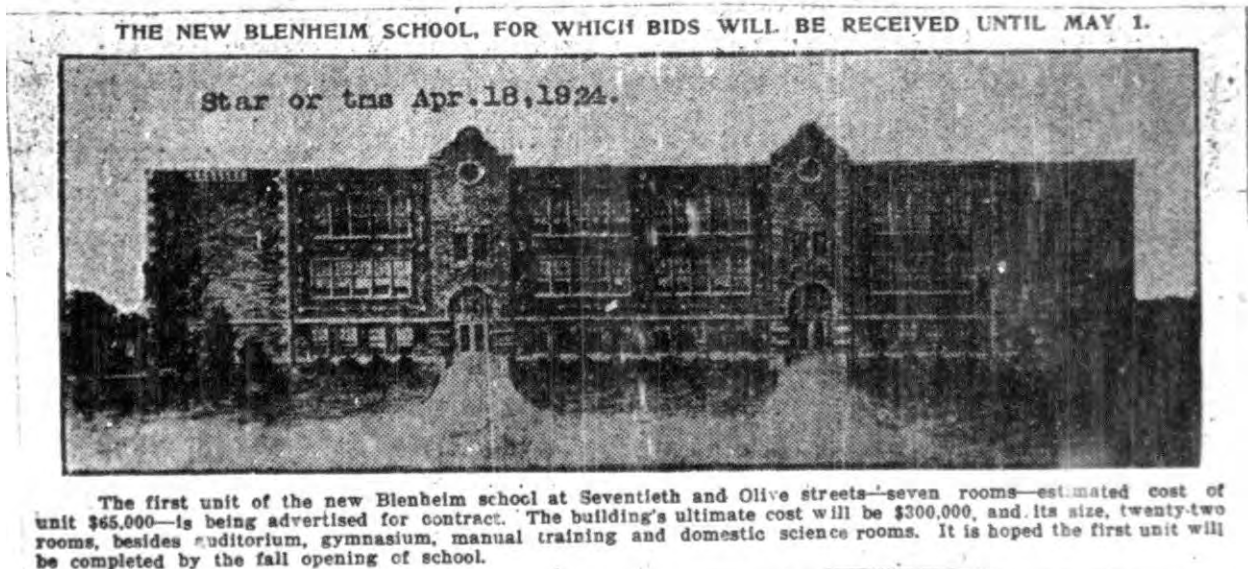
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 18. Bleheim School Rendering. *Kansas City Star*, April 18, 1924. Source: *Mounted Clippings, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 39

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

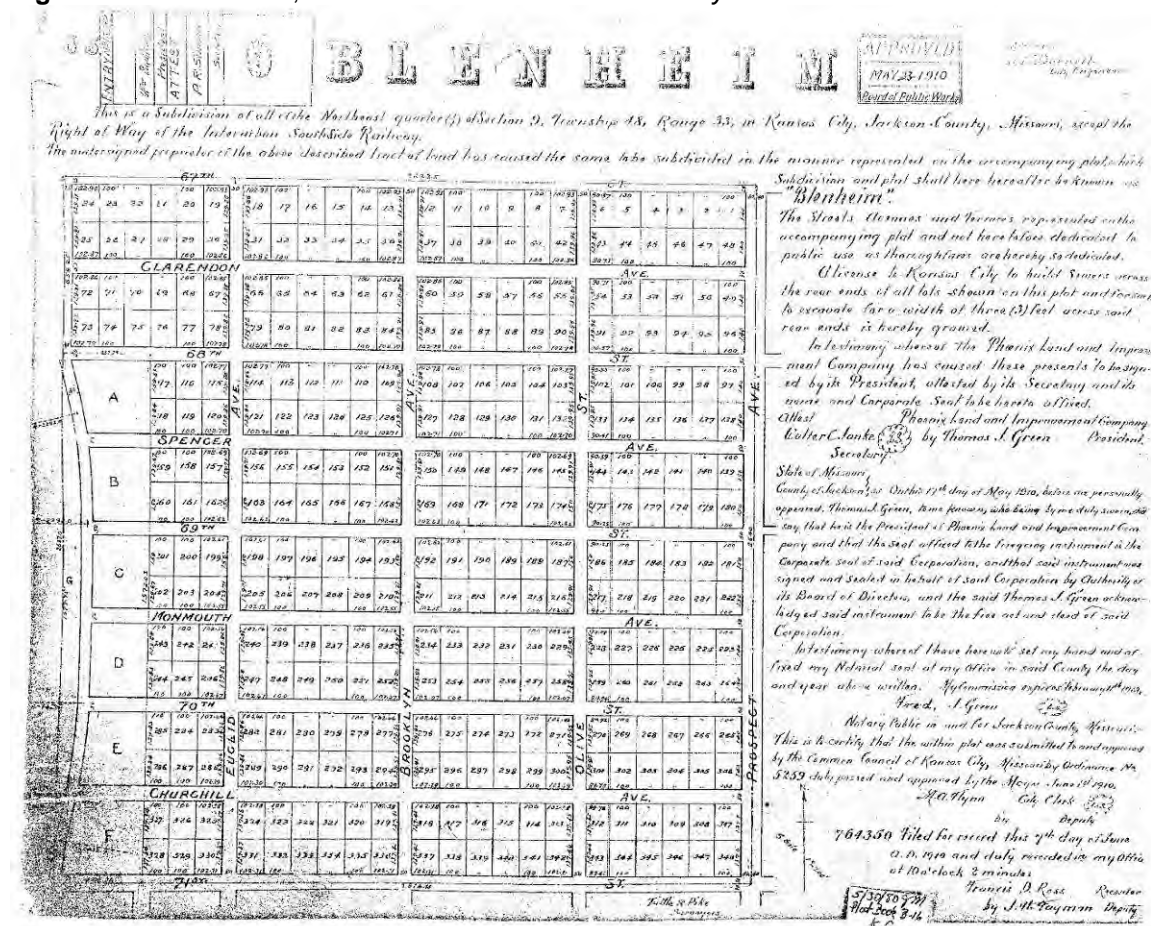
County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District

Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 19. Bleheim Plat, filed 1910. Source: Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 40

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

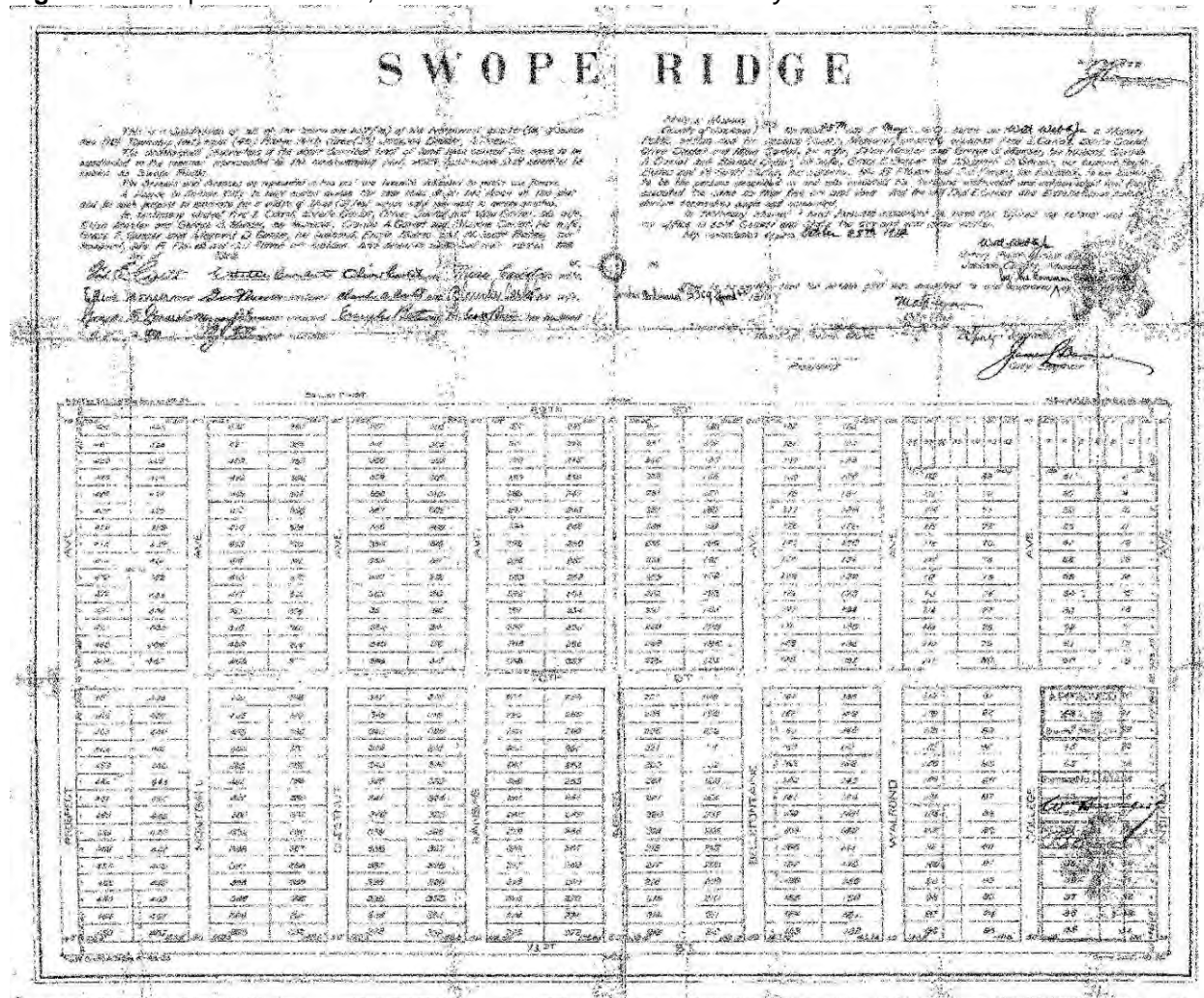
County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District

Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 20. Swope Addition Plat, filed 1910. Source: Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 41

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 21. Tuttle and Ayers Map, 1925. Source: *Atlas of Kansas City and its Environs*. Kansas City: Tuttle-Ayers-Woodward Co., 1925.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 42

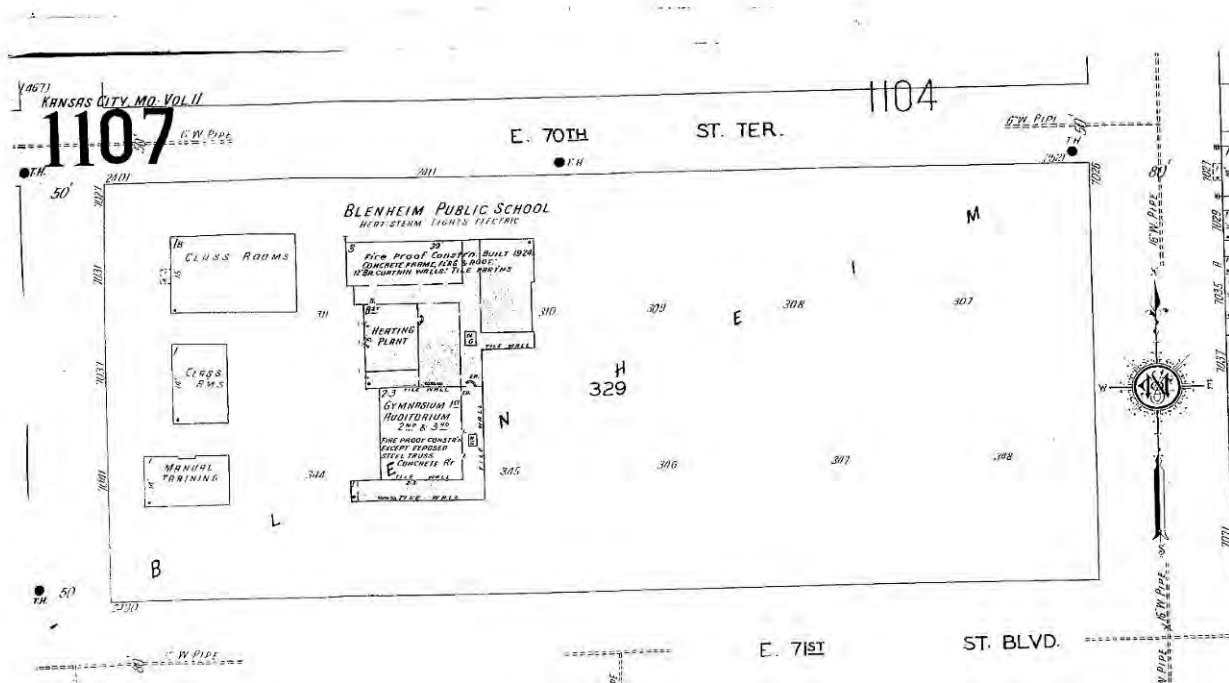
Blenheim School

Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 22. Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kansas City. Vol. 9, Sheet 1107, c. 1927-1929.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 43

Blenheim School

Name of Property

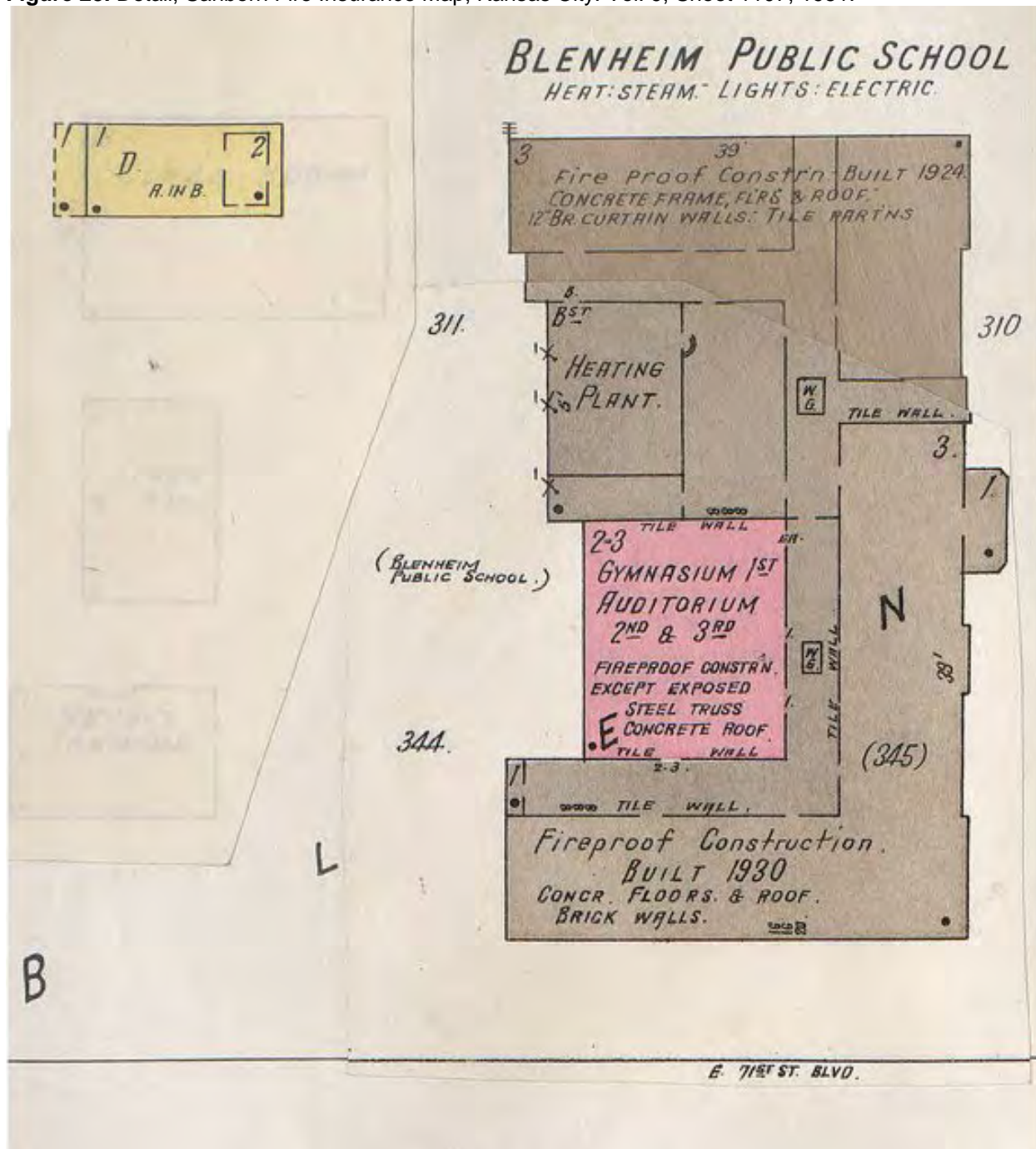
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 23. Detail, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kansas City. Vol. 9, Sheet 1107, 1951.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 44

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 24. Seven Oaks School, primary elevation. *Source: Brad Finch, 2012.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 45

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 25. Meservey School, primary elevation. *Source: Rosin Preservation Staff, 2011.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 46

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

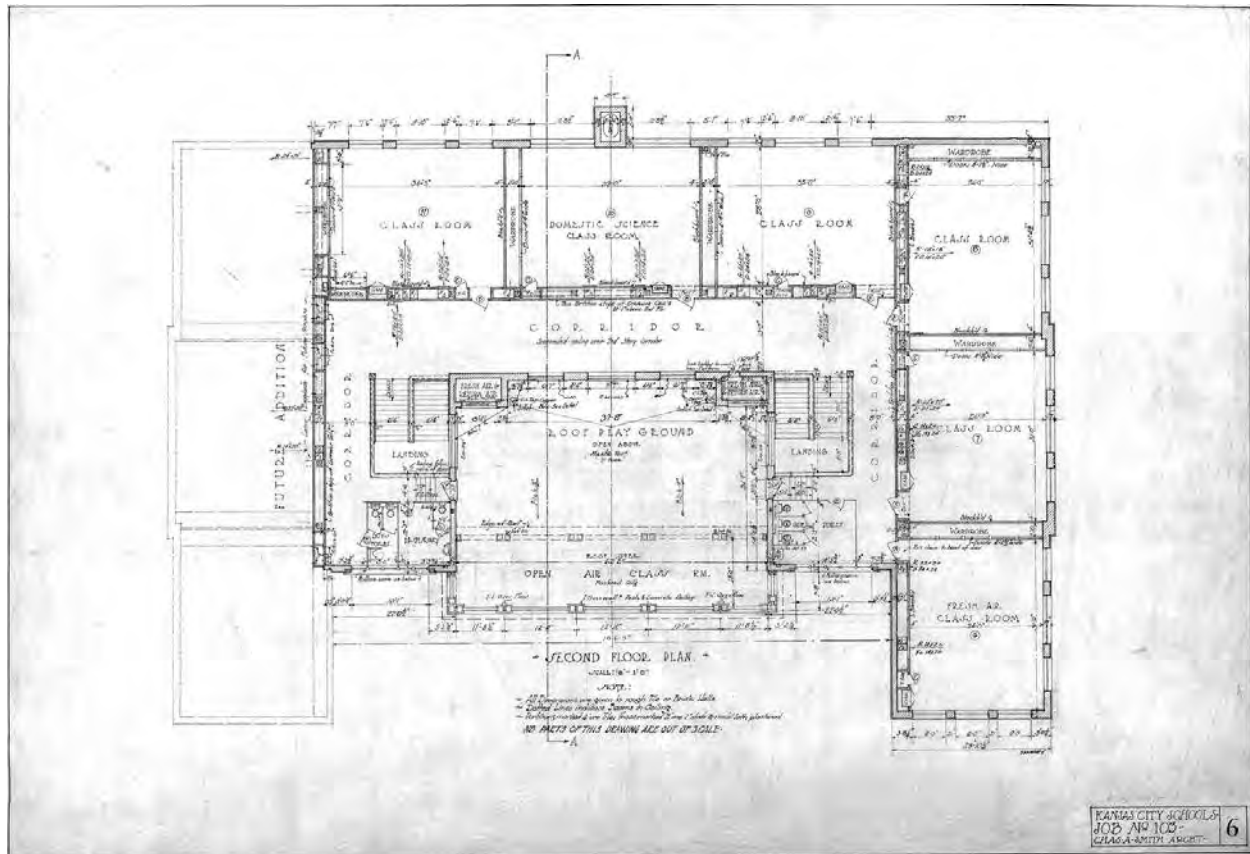
Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 26. Nichols School, primary elevation. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 48

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 28. Swinney School, primary elevation showing the enclosed Open Air classroom. *Source: Brad Finch, 2013.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 49

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 29. Askew School, south elevation. *Source: Rosin Preservation Staff, 2011.*



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 50

Blenheim School

Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri Public School District
Pre-1970

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 30. Hale H. Cook School, primary and south elevations. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



Figure 31. Troost Elementary School, west elevation. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*

















Wabash

1000



E 70th St

ONE WAY

No Parking



SPEED
LIMIT
25







105
POLLARD
James E. Pollard















