

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Osceola Public School Building

other names/site number Osceola High School Building

2. Location

street & number Fifth and Pine streets [n/a] not for publication

city or town Osceola [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Clair code 185 zip code 64776

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title *Claire F. Blackwell*
Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

10 Dec 98
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the
National Register

other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

n/a

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Education/school
Recreation and Culture/auditorium

Current Functions

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: four-over-four school building

Materials

foundation concrete
walls brick
stone
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education _____

Architecture _____

Periods of Significance

1915-1948 _____

Significant Dates

1915 _____

1937 _____

Significant Person(s)

n/a _____

Cultural Affiliation

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

Heckenlively, James L [1914-15 unit] _____

Smith, Charles A. [1937 addition] _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	438500	4210800			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cydney E. Millstein
organization Architectural and Historical Research date September 1998
street & number P.O. Box 22551 telephone 816/363-0567
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64113

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Isaac Hatfield
street & number 319 West 4th Street telephone _____
city or town Appleton City state MO zip code 64724

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Osceola Public School Building
St. Clair County, Missouri

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Description

Osceola Public School, located at 5th and Pine Streets, Osceola, Missouri, was built in two separated building campaigns. The original three-story brick and cut-stone unit, designed by Springfield, Missouri, architect J. L. Heckenlively, was constructed in 1914-15. The two-story brick and cut stone unit built to the east in 1937 was designed by prominent Kansas City architect Charles A. Smith. Located on a promontory southeast of the downtown district, Osceola Public School has maintained much of its original historic integrity. To the southwest and northwest of the "L"-shaped building are residential neighborhoods; located due southwest is a parking lot; to the southeast is an arm of the Osage River.

1914-1915 Unit

The primary facade of the Osceola Public School faces northwest. The segmental arched, recessed main entrance, placed in a projecting centered bay of the 1914-1915 two-story unit, features a non-original aluminum double-door, flanked by sidelights and crowned by a multipaned transom. Contrasting cut stone skewbacks further delineate the main entrance. Fenestration of the central bay, slightly modified from the original, is one-over-one, aluminum-framed double-hung, sash with brick surrounds at the ground level and stone lug sills at the upper levels. Fenestration placed directly above the main entry is tripartite with inoperable, single pane transoms at the second story. The remaining fenestration at the main facade is ribboned, one-over-one, aluminum-framed double-hung sash, with continuous sill coursing and single-pane transoms at the upper stories. A wide, continuous water table, flanked by header and stretcher brick stringcoursing, separates the ground level from the first story. Basement fenestration is embellished with brick surrounds and skewbacks; four basement windows at the western-most bay have been infilled with plywood. Historic photographs indicate that the original fenestration displayed six-over-one windows with tripartite transoms.

A secondary entrance located at the central projecting bay of the southwest facade mirrors the design of the main entry. Additionally, fenestration configuration and design of the main facade is repeated at the southwest facade. Tripartite fenestration, featuring one-over-one, aluminum-framed windows with inoperable, single-pane transoms and stone lug sills, is placed above the secondary entrance between the second and third stories. Third-story fenestration is aluminum-framed, double-hung, sash with stone lugsills. Basement level fenestration, also aluminum-framed, double-hung sash, features brick surrounds with contrasting skewbacks. Raised stretchers and contrasting cut stone simulating panels, are placed at the second story level, which is

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devoid of fenestration. The wide water table and stringcoursing of the main facade wraps to the southwest facade.

The rear facade of the 1914-15 unit features original, paired two-over-two, double-hung wooden sash fenestration with stone lugsills and brick headers. The second and third, and fourth and fifth bays are separated by prominent brick piers. Deeply recessed basement fenestration, often paired, features two-over-two, single-hung, sash units with operable multipaned transoms. A single entry with wooden apron door and operable single pane transom, is located at the second bay (counting west to east). A window unit placed at the fifth bay has been modified with the addition of a metal coal shoot. Several basement windows have been covered or infilled with plywood. A prominent brick exterior chimney is placed between the third and fourth bay.

Additional features of the original 1914-15 building include a stepped parapet at the northwest and southwest facades, contrasting brick banding, and terracotta coping.

1937 Addition

Aluminum-framed two-over-two, double-hung sash fenestration of the main facade of the 1914-1915 unit is repeated at the main or northwest facade of the 1937 addition. Units are ribboned; second-story fenestration features brick lintels. Brick stringcoursing and a cut-stone water table is placed below the cornice line.

The original wood framed, multipaned, double-hung sash fenestration (often paired), at the secondary facades is extant. Six-over-six fenestration of the west facade, separated by brick piers with cut-stone amortizements, is tripartite at the far north bay and paired at the remaining two bays. Lugsills are cut-stone. Basement fenestration is multipaned industrial metal sash with operable central units. Fenestration of the south facade is wood framed, nine-over-six, single-hung sash with cut-stone lug sills (second story); while the end bays of both stories feature three-over-three units. A single basement window at the far east bay has been infilled with cement block. Two non-original doors, single and paired, are placed at the western-most bays.

Fenestration of central projecting bay of the northeast facade is original nine-over six, single-hung wood sash with cut-stone lugsills, but has been obscured by plywood. Cut-stone panels crown each window unit. A single non-original window unit, matching those of the north facade and a paired, two-over-two aluminum-framed unit with cut-stone lug sill, are located at the northern bays of the northeast facade. An original multipaned and paneled

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paired entrance with recessed multipaned transom and brick surround is placed at the second bay (counting north to south). Basement windows have been infilled with concrete block. Stringcoursing and water table of the northwest facade continues to the first two bays of the northeast facade.

While the exterior of the Osceola Public School building has retained much of its original integrity and remains in fair to good condition, the original interior, including classrooms, corridors, and auditorium, remains intact, although generally in poor condition. Currently there are proposed plans for the renovation and adaptive re-use of the Osceola Public School. These plans are being prepared by Duncan Architects, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for The Treatment of Historic Properties*. Once the proposed plans are completed, they will be submitted to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office for review.

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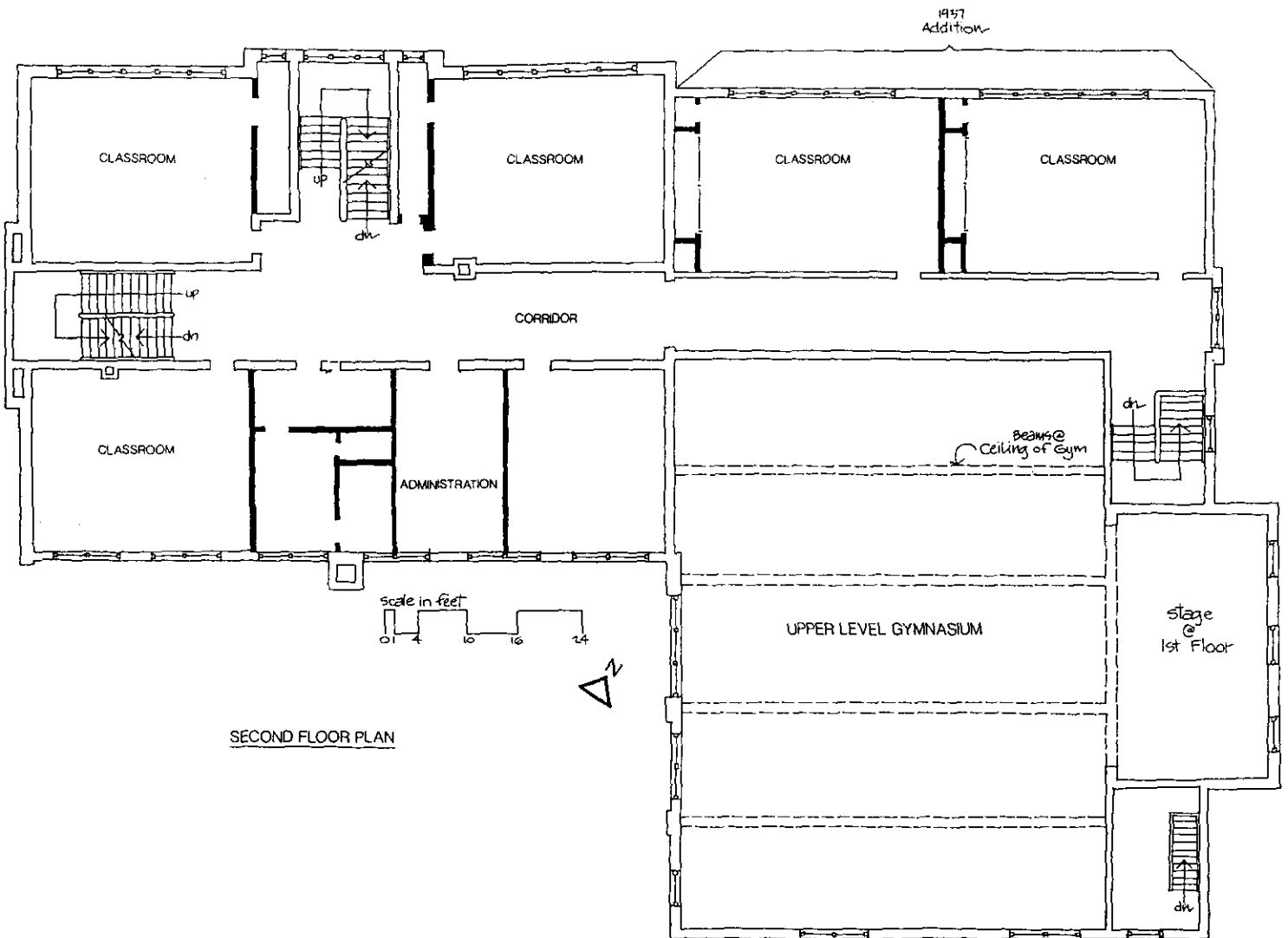
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St. Clair County, Missouri

Osceola Public School
Built 1914-15, 1937
Osceola, Missouri



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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St. Clair County, Missouri

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SUMMARY

The Osceola Public School is significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and is significant in the following areas: EDUCATION: Constructed in 1914-15, Osceola Public School is the oldest extant public school in Osceola, housing elementary through secondary classrooms from its inception until the 1975 when a separate elementary school was built. During that sixty-year period it remained the sole public school serving the city of Osceola and surrounding rural St. Clair County. Furthermore, Osceola Public School was the first educational institution in St. Clair County to offer the Teachers Training Course which allowed students to secure a license to teach in any public elementary or rural school throughout the state of Missouri for a two year term. In addition, during the year of its construction, Osceola Public School became the first, fully accredited First Class High School in the county, assuring graduates admission to state colleges and universities. Furthermore, with the construction of the 1937 addition, the Osceola Public School doubled as a much needed community center, serving Osceola until the construction of a high school addition to the elementary school facility in 1990. ARCHITECTURE: Designed by Springfield architect James L. Heckenlively, with an addition by prominent Kansas City architect Charles A. Smith, Osceola Public School is a representative example of the standardization of school architecture established nationwide in the first decades of the 20th century. This standardization in schoolhouse design was adopted to insure state of the art facilities, instituting an hygienic, physical environment for the student population.

Osceola, Missouri, and the Development of Its Public School System

Osceola, county seat of St. Clair County, is situated on the south bank of the Osage River, approximately seventy-seven miles northwest of Springfield and 107 miles southeast of Kansas City. Settled in 1836 by Philip Crow and Richard P. Crutchfield, natives of Kentucky, Osceola was surveyed one year later by Messrs. Dr. P. M. Cox and brothers Joseph and William. They named the town Osceola in honor of the great Seminole Indian Chief. With the development of the area, locals began to feel the need for independent organization, thus, St. Clair County was one of fifteen counties established by the Missouri General Assembly on February 15, 1841. Osceola was named the county seat the same year, incorporated as a village on August 6, 1868 and became a city of the fourth class on March 28, 1883.

Although there are reports of a school existing in Osceola as early as the 1840s, one of the initial public educational facilities in Osceola was purported to be a one-story, brick seminary, built in the late 1860s and

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condemned and abandoned as a school in 1870. One year later, after hosting a teachers conference, the town of Osceola elected a school board of five members. According to local accounts, the board advertised for a teacher and an assistant for a term, which lasted seven and one-half months. They ruled that both employees must have a county teaching certificate and must pass an examination given by the Board of Education. In January 1871, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stahl were hired to teach in an existing two-story frame residence known as the Donovan House. By 1875, Osceola boasted of 100 students enrolled in public school.

The system of public schools throughout Missouri had its origin in the Geyer Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1839. This act made provisions for a complete state system, but was not put into operation until the 1853 General Assembly made a complete revision of the school laws. Additional legislation, regarding race of school children (Parker Laws required public schools of all grades to be absolutely instituted for the free education of the colored children of the state) and age (the establishment and maintenance of free public schools for the gratuitous instruction of all persons in the state between the ages of six and twenty years), was adopted in 1865 and in 1875, respectively.

The early high schools in the state were established by the local city or town boards virtually without any actual authority to do so. This legal status of the early High School caused much discussion among educators and in the local community where there was a growing need for such an institution. At one time it was thought that high school course work should be left to the preparatory departments of the universities and colleges in the state. However, the laws of 1883 made a definite provision for the establishment of high schools, while the laws of 1909 simply elaborated the principles outlined in 1883. One important amended provision of the 1909 law regarded consolidated districts to read as follows:

Three or more common school districts, or a village district having less than two hundred children of school age by the last enumeration, together with two or more adjoining districts, may be consolidated into a new district for the purpose of maintaining both primary schools and a High School by proceedings had in accordance with the provision of section 10837.

In Osceola, with a growing school population, the need for a permanent educational facility became apparent. In 1881, Osceola secured a new, two-room frame school house on the site of the present building and by 1887, Osceola offered high school instruction, but no diplomas were awarded. Osceola's

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curriculum further expanded after the implementation of a new eight-room, brick Victorian-styled public school, constructed in 1888 at the same location. Through 1908, the new public school offered only three years of high school work.

Osceola Public School, which began its four-year high school program in 1909 (the same year that the Missouri consolidation law was enacted), became a first-class state approved high school in 1914 offering 20 units of credit and including such courses as ethics and bible study, two years of German and two years of Latin. Pupils were required to make an average of eighty-five percent for passing grades. Unfortunately, shortly after the state approval, the building was destroyed by fire in the summer of 1914. Classes were then temporarily held in churches and residences during the next year while the new Osceola Public School was being constructed.

Upon completion of the two-story eight-room, modern public school in the late spring of 1915, the newly accredited first-class rating was reinstated, thus assuring the admission of graduates to universities and colleges. Consequently, Osceola Public School was the only school in St. Clair County to hold this status until 1920. Achieving this first-class rating required that no less than three teachers had to devote full time to teaching high school classes, the school's term continue nine months and the course of study, requiring sixteen units for graduation, last four years.

In addition to its first-class status, Osceola Public School also was the first school in St. Clair County to obtain the Teacher's Training Course of study, which allowed students to receive a certificate of graduation issued by the State Superintendent of Public Schools. Graduates could secure a license to teach in any public elementary or rural school in any county of the state for a term of two years. The Teachers Training Course was made possible by the Crossley Law passed by the Missouri General Assembly in 1913 that "provided for pedagogical training in certain high schools, so that preparation may be made for teachers to go at once into the elementary schools after completing the course outlined."

Osceola Public School remained the city's sole public school for sixty years until 1975 when a separate primary school building was constructed. The historic school was abandoned in 1990 after a high school addition was built to the elementary facility. It has remained vacant since that time.

The Design and Construction of Osceola Public School

Osceola, like most rural municipalities across the United States, did not

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fully realize a truly modern school building until the construction of the third generation of its public school facilities. With the completion of the 1914-15 Osceola Public School, designed by Springfield architect James L. Heckenlively, Osceola was able to offer students a modern, "hygienic" environment with state of the art lighting, heating, ventilating, sanitation, fire protection and arrangement of classrooms. Osceola Public School was built during a period of one of the most rapidly changing fields of architecture when schoolhouse design established a standardization in planning, which in turn, assured that each student had the opportunity to attend an inventive and up-to-date school.

During the first decades of the 20th century, there were several books published on the design of the modern school building. Books including *School Architecture* (Bruce, 1910), *Modern School Houses* (Hamlin, 1910), *American School Building Standards* (Mills, 1915) and *American Schoolhouses* (Dresslar, 1910), outlined the new axioms for planning and building schools. These treatises espoused the rules for orientation, lighting, equipment, rooms, water supply, toilets, heating and ventilation--all important features to be considered in planning a school house for the new century. Plans for "modern" educational facilities were also made available through the Missouri State Department of Education.

As an architect experienced in schoolhouse planning, Heckenlively was undoubtedly aware of the latest reforms in educational building schemes when he planned for the Osceola Public School. The four-over-four school building configuration, with banks of well-placed fenestration, spacious classrooms and basement, allowed for the building of a future extension, a drastic change from the antiquated late-19th century building that was destroyed by fire.

After Heckenlively completed his plans for the new school, bids for construction were received on December 18, 1914. The contract was awarded to J. H. Johnson & Son, Sedalia, a construction firm responsible for laying the foundation for the State Capitol. Paid for, in part, by bonds voted on August 15, 1914, Osceola Public School was dedicated on August 2, 1915.

A change came to the school in 1937 when a gymnasium and additional classrooms, designed by prominent Kansas City architect Charles A. Smith, were added to the original 1914-15 unit. For years there had been a demand by the residents of Osceola for a gymnasium and an auditorium that could be used as a community center, but the expense of construction appeared prohibitive. However, when it was announced that funds (45% of construction costs) for the project could be procured from the Public Works Administration, local administrators began planning in earnest. After a bond election for \$16,000

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passed in July 1936, an application for \$13,500 was filed with the St. Louis office of the PWA on September 7. On October 23, 1936 Senator Bennett Champ Clark wired the Osceola School Board the PWA project had been approved. It was announced that the federal government contributed almost \$14,000 toward the construction of the new school addition.

Under the terms of accepting the PWA funds, work was to commence on or before January 11, 1937 and well underway by mid-April. Yet by the time Smith's detailed plans and specifications were submitted for bids, the price of materials had risen so sharply, it became necessary to vote an additional \$5,000 in bond money, which was passed overwhelmingly on December 11. Consequently, the board applied to the PWA for an extension. Contracts for construction were let to B.O. Short for \$37,391 and work on the new addition was underway by February 18, 1937. Dedication of Smith's addition occurred on September 2, 1937.

James L. Heckenlively, AIA

Known as one of Springfield's most prominent architects, James L. Heckenlively was born on August 18, 1863 in Gentry County, Missouri, the son of Jacob and Martha J. (Shisler) Heckenlively. James was educated at Normal College, Stanberry, and later apprenticed in the office of a local architect. Subsequently, in 1893 he moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where he continued drafting, in addition to carpentry work. In 1894, he settled in Springfield, where he began his career as an architect.

Within one year, Heckenlively formed a partnership with George R. Reed. The firm continued in practice until 1913. When Heckenlively returned from World War I military service in 1918, he and Carl Mark, formerly a draftsman in Heckenlively's practice, joined in business. Their partnership, which lasted for twenty years, produced many of Springfield's most important buildings. During that period, Heckenlively was appointed architect for the Springfield school ward.

Some of the major designs by Heckenlively and Mark included the Shrine Mosque, First and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, the Springfield Packing Company Plant, and Carnegie Library. Heckenlively and Mark also designed three buildings at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Indian schools and dormitories at Wagner, Oklahoma. The firm was also responsible for the design of many school buildings, among them Bailey, Bowerman and Campbell schools in Springfield and several others throughout south central Missouri. The public school at Osceola was one of Heckenlively's projects when he was working on his own prior to entering the war as a major

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of auxiliary.

In addition to his architectural practice, Heckenlively was one of the founders of the Reserve Officers' association in Missouri and one of the first presidents of the organization. After a long illness, Heckenlively died on August 28, 1938, six months after the death of his younger partner, Carl Mark.

Charles A. Smith, AIA

Charles Ashely Smith was born in Steubenville, Ohio, on March 22, 1866, the son of Augustine L. And Cynthia Loraine (Parker) Smith. The family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1874, where the elder Smith worked as a contractor and builder, while serving on both the Des Moines City Council and the Board of Education. Perhaps inspired by his father's work, Charles A. Smith was interested in architecture from an early age. Following a public school education, at the age of 16 he was able to secure a position with the architectural firm of Bell and Hackney, designers of both the Iowa and Illinois State Capitol buildings. When William F. Hackney moved his office from Des Moines to Kansas City in 1887, the 21-year old Smith accompanied him as a draftsman. Then in 1892, Smith was made a partner in the firm of Hackney and Smith. One of the firm's most important surviving buildings from this period in Kansas City is the Public Library, erected in 1895-1897, with an addition by Smith in 1917-1918. In 1898, Smith assumed the position as official architect for the Kansas City, Missouri, School Board, a position he retained for thirty-eight years until his retirement in 1936. During his tenure, he designed more than fifty school buildings for the district. Concurrently, he continued to work on non-school projects, most notably the Kansas City, Missouri YMCA, built in 1907-09.

In 1910, Smith joined with Charles Rea and Walter Lovitt to form the firm of Smith, Rea & Lovitt. The firm lasted for ten years (with Lovitt dying in 1920 and Rea in 1921), and was responsible for a number of large commercial designs including the Firestone Building (1915) and the prestigious Kansas City Club (1918).

Smith Rea & Lovitt also worked on commissions in neighboring Kansas City, Kansas. The branch office designed the George H. Gray residence in Westheight Manor and the Tudor style Fire Station No. 11, both in 1924. Smith's largest commission in Kansas City, Kansas, was for the six-story Anderson Storage Co. Warehouse, built in 1925.

By the late 1920s, Smith's work embraced a new architectural vocabulary, that of the Art Deco style. Examples of his designs in this new idiom include the

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Capitol Garage (1928), Fairfax Administration Building (1929-30) and the
Fairfax Twin Hangers (1929). Unfortunately, the Fairfax buildings were
demolished in 1987. Additionally, Smith's Art Deco styled Kansas City,
Missouri, Municipal Airport Administration Building was demolished, while the
Jenkins Music Company building has been radically altered.

After a successful career that spanned over sixty-six years, Charles A. Smith
died in 1948 at the age of eighty-two.

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Osceola Public School Building
St. Clair County, Missouri

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10. Geographical Data
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Verbal Boundary Description:

A tract of land being part of Scoby's Addition to City of Osceola and part of Block C of Johnson Addition to the City of Osceola, described as follows: Begin at Northwest corner of Scoby's Addition, thence Southeasterly along North line of Scoby's Addition 229 feet, thence at a right angle Southeasterly 161 feet, thence at a right angle parallel with North line of Scoby's Addition 84.5 feet, thence in a Southwesterly direction 73 feet to a point 117.5 feet Southeasterly of the East line of 5th Street, thence Northwesterly 117.5 feet to the East line of 5th Street, thence Northeasterly along the East line of 5th Street 244 feet to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Osceola High School building, including the 1914-15 original unit and the 1937 addition

OSCEOLA PUBLIC SCHOOL BLDG.
ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MO
15/438500/4210800

