

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

**PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (EA) (PAGE 1 OF 3)**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

EA NUMBER

DATE

1. LOCATION

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC NAME OF THE PROPERTY? (IF KNOWN)

Scarritt Elementary School

WHAT IS THE CURRENT NAME OF THE PROPERTY?

Scarritt Elementary School

ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY - IF THERE IS NO ADDRESS PLEASE INCLUDE LOCATIONAL INFORMATION (I.E. NEAREST INTERSECTION, UTM, LAT/LONG, ETC.)

3509 Anderson Avenue

CITY

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri

ZIP

64123

COUNTY

Jackson

2. DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION?

THE DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1890, 1906, 1927, 1961

THE ARCHITECT'S NAME

Smith, Charles A. (1906 & 1927 blocks), Swanson, Terney & Brey (1961 block)

THE BUILDER'S NAME

Lishear, T. J. (1927 block), Fox Construction Company (1961 block)

THE NAME OF THE ORIGINAL OWNER

Kansas City Board of Education

3. WHAT ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THIS BUILDING WAS BUILT? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additions	YEAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacement windows or doors	YEAR 1979
<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of porch or porches	YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement siding or resided	YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of decorative details	YEAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interior remodeling or updating	YEAR 1996
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved from its original location (if moved list why, from where, and when in the description below)	YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> Any part rebuilt or reconstructed (if so list which parts, why, and when in the description below)	YEAR

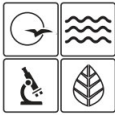
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES CHECKED ABOVE

See continuation sheets.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PROPERTY SHOULD BE LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES? IN ONE OR TWO PARAGRAPHS, EXPLAIN WHY THE PROPERTY IS IMPORTANT.

See continuation sheets.



**PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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5. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY?

FOR STATEMENTS OF HISTORICAL FACT PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR SOURCE INFORMATION IN THE BOX BELOW.

See continuation sheets.

6. SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIBE THE AREA I.E. LIST ANY OTHER STRUCTURES OR BUILDINGS (SUCH AS GARAGES OR SHEDS) ON THE PROPERTY, RURAL AREA WITH FARMLAND AROUND, URBAN AREA WITH LOTS OF BUILDINGS NEARBY, ETC

See continuation sheets.

7. SOURCE INFORMATION

SOURCE INFORMATION MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM RESOURCES LIKE NEWSPAPERS, COUNTY HISTORIES, OR FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND OUR EVALUATION MAY DEPEND SOLELY ON THE INFORMATION THAT YOU SUBMIT, THEREFORE, YOUR SOURCES SHOULD BE CREDITABLE.

See continuation sheets.

8. HOW WOULD LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BENEFIT THIS PROPERTY?

Listing in the National Register would make the school eligible for historic tax credits, which would be an additional incentive for prospective developers interested in purchasing the long vacant school.

9. PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM

NAME

Mason Martel

COMPANY

Rosin Preservation, LLC

ADDRESS

1712 Holmes Street

CITY

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri

ZIP

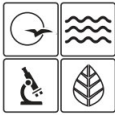
64108

TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE

(816) 472-4950

EMAIL ADDRESS

mason@rosinpreservation.com



**PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (EA) (PAGE 3 OF 3)**

10. OWNER (IF DIFFERENT FROM NUMBER 9)

NAME

Shannon Jaax (Owner Contact)

COMPANY

Kansas City School District

ADDRESS

2910 Troost Avenue

CITY

Kansas City

STATE

MO

ZIP

64109

TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE

(816) 418-7725

EMAIL ADDRESS

sjaax@kcpublicschools.org

11. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

■ A COMPLETED COPY OF THIS EA FORM

- Please provide as much information as you can to allow staff to accurately evaluate the property.
- Please attach extra pages if additional space is required.

■ PHOTOGRAPHS

- The images should be recent and clear.
- If you are using a digital camera, set the camera to the highest quality possible.
- Printed photos will be accepted. Please no Polaroids or videos.
- Take the photo far enough away from the building so the whole building from top to bottom is visible in one photo.
- Take a photo of each side of the building.
- If there are multiple buildings on the property, please photograph each building individually.

■ MAPS

- Please include a map indicating the location of the property.
- If there are multiple buildings on the property, please include a sketch map indicating the location and relationship of these properties to each other.

■ PHOTO LOG

- If sending digital images use the file name to describe the photo. (i.e. front of barn, or back of house)
- If printing photos, please number the back of the photo and send a list to describe each photo

■ SOURCES

- Please include a list of sources or copies of the sources used. Sources could be newspapers, county histories, first-hand accounts or other creditable documentation.

The following items are not required. If available this information may assist staff in the review of the property. Also please note we are not able to return anything that is submitted so please **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS.**

FLOOR PLANS

- Some buildings have important interiors and floor plans may help us understand the building. The floor plans can be hand drawn and don't have to be to scale.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

- Historic photographs can be helpful to understand any changes to the building.

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS

- Some interior photos can be helpful to understanding the building. Please don't photograph every room. Images that illustrate the general lay out of the building may be helpful.

12. SUBMIT TO

Mail completed submission to:
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
P.O. BOX 176
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102-0176

NOTE:

Digital submissions are encouraged. For instructions or questions about submitting via Dropbox please contact (573) 751-7858 or moshpo@dnr.mo.gov. To submit on disc please mail to the address listed above.

3. Brief Description & Alterations

Exterior

Scarritt Elementary School is a 2-story brick building with an irregular L-shaped footprint, a reinforced concrete structural system, a series of flat roofs, and a concrete and stone foundation. The existing school was built in two phases in 1927 and 1961 (*figures 4-6*). The 1927 block has a roughly rectangular footprint Romanesque Revival elements and extends east-west at the east half of the north elevation. The 1961 block has an L-shaped footprint with International styling. It sits a few feet back (to the south) from the 1927 block and extends east-west at the west end of the north elevation, and north-south along the west elevation. Masonry openings on the first story that correspond with the 1927 block have flat cast stone sills and lintels; second story openings have steel lintels. Openings in the 1961 block have cast stone sills and steel lintels and are separated with narrow aluminum mullions. Windows are generally in place behind plywood covering; they have aluminum frames and a multi-light configuration with lower operable hopper units in the 1961 block. Openings in the 1927 block are generally filled with pairs of non-historic aluminum-framed 2/2 hung windows.

North (Primary) Elevation

The long front elevation faces north (*photos 1-6*). The 1927 block spans the east half of the elevation. Nine irregular bays divide this elevation. A band of brick at the parapet has stone diamonds set at regular intervals. More of the stone foundation is exposed as the street slopes down from west to east along the wall. The east two bays have an identical fenestration with a single masonry opening on each story. The two bays flanking the auditorium entrance are stepped forward slightly; each has a masonry opening on the first and second stories. The auditorium entrance bay projects further out than the rest; it has a recessed entrance with a heavy stone arch. Stone pilasters divide the second story of this bay into thirds. At the top of the bay, stone scrolls are at each end of the cornice, which has a diamond-shaped pattern with a mix of blonde and red brick. The name of the school is set in stone below the cornice. The word "AUDITORIUM" is set in stone above the recessed entrance in this bay. Seven bays divide the 1961 block, which is largely void of ornament. Bays #1-3 looking east-west are divided horizontally with a narrow aluminum awning. Bay #1 to the east is void of any openings; the name of the school is spelled out with metal pin-mounted letters in the masonry above the awning in this bay. The main entrance to the school is slightly recessed into bay #3; the east side of the entrance has green stacked course brick that extends over to the bottom of the window opening in Bay #2. Short stone steps and a concrete landing lead up from the sidewalk to the entrance. Bays #2, 4-7 each have a wide masonry opening with a cast stone sill on both stories, and bay #3 has an identical opening above the entrance. Narrow vents for the HVAC system pierce the masonry beneath the openings in bays #2, 4, and 6.

East Elevation

The 1927 block spans the entire length of the east elevation (*photos 5 and 6*). Three engaged brick pilasters divide the elevation into four bays. Cast stone scrolled capitals cap the pilasters; cast stone coping spans the center two bays with three sphere finials in line with the pilasters. The brick and stone band from the front elevation continues above the second story, spanning the entire elevation. Each bay has a nearly identical configuration, with a tall

first story opening and a shorter second story opening above. Beyond the 1927 block, east-facing sections of the 1961 block step back to the south along the ell (*photos 6-8*). Three bays organize the two-story north half of this elevation. The south bay corresponds to an interior stair; narrow, glazed green brick clads the opening above a metal awning, and a large masonry opening pierces the upper façade. Two rectangular masonry openings pierce the north two bays at each story. No openings pierce the one-story south half of the elevation. A short interior stair wing extends south from the center of the 1927 block (*photo 6*). It was built in 1961 and has a narrow rectangular opening on the first story, with a larger masonry opening on the second. Green glazed brick clads the wall above and below the openings.

South (Rear) elevation

Most of the south elevation dates to 1961, with an exposed portion of the 1927 portion at the east end (*Figure 13*). The elevation faces the parking lot/playground area to the south of the school (*photos 7 & 8*). It is largely unadorned, with the exception of the 1927 block, which continues the same brick and cast stone banding at the parapet wall as the north and east elevations. The 1961 block contains evenly spaced masonry openings similar to those along the north elevation. The one-story west third of the wall steps to the south with the ell. An aluminum awning spans much of the wall, with wide masonry openings flanking a pair of entrances that are accessed via a switchback concrete ramp.

West Elevation

The west elevation dates to 1961 and parallels Bales Avenue (*photo 9*). The basement level is exposed along this wall, and tall stone retaining walls flank the north and south ends. Seven bays divide the wall, and the parapet steps down at bays #6 and 7, looking north to south. A narrow aluminum awning divides the first story and basement along the entire wall. Bays #2-5 each have an identical pattern of fenestration, with masonry openings similar to those along the north elevation. Glazed green brick clads the basement walls above and below the masonry openings. The basement bays have narrower openings set within glazed green brick cladding. The two short south bays do not have any openings at the first story. A narrow window and door opening pierce the basement level. A pair of glazed steel doors pierce the basement level of the north bay; they are clad with painted plywood.

Interior

A wide double-loaded corridor organizes each of the three floors (*photos 12, 18, 19, and 25, figures 4-6*). Short corridors extend north in the 1927 block, and south from the west end of the 1961 addition. Classrooms fill the 1961 footprint on all floors and the basement (*photos 22-23, typical classroom interior*). They generally have an open configuration, with a narrow cloak room/closet on one end. Some classrooms have historic restrooms, wood built-in shelves, and cabinets. Administrative offices are located along the south side of the corridor on the first floor in the 1961 block. A large historic auditorium occupies most of the west half of the first floor within the 1927 block (*photo 14*). A stage spans the west end of this two-story space, and a balcony spans the second floor of the east end. The east half of the 1927 block's second floor contains an open space that was most recently functioned as a library (*photo 20*). The basement contains a two-story gymnasium with an open volume of space

in the east half of the 1927 block (*photo 26, figure 6*). Classrooms, a kitchen/cafeteria, and mechanical spaces occupy the rest of the basement in the 1961 block.

Flooring in classrooms, corridors, and the gym is mostly asbestos tile on concrete (*photos 13, 22 and 26*). The auditorium has a mix of asbestos tile in the aisles and exposed concrete at the seats (*photo 14*). The stage has historic wood flooring (*figure 16*). The library has carpet flooring (*photo 20*). Most secondary spaces have exposed concrete floors. Corridor and restroom walls have historic glazed concrete block wainscot with painted plaster above (*photos 13, 18-19, and 25*). Most other spaces have painted plaster walls. Ceilings are a mix of painted plaster and suspended ACT. The auditorium has a distinctive historic coffered ceiling grid with acoustic tiles (*photo 12*).

Alterations

A number of minor alterations have been made to Scarritt Elementary School since 1961 (mostly on the interior), but the school looks much the same as it did when that addition was completed. A cooking room, and a sewing and lunchroom were reconfigured into 3 classrooms as part of the 1961 work. The building retains a substantial amount of historic material, but some finishes have been updated over the years. In 1979, wood-framed multilight hung windows in the 1927 block of the school were replaced with aluminum-framed units. The gymnasium originally contained wood flooring; it is not known when the asbestos tile was added, but the historic wood floor may be intact beneath.

The most significant alterations to the interior occurred in 1996, when a renovation project reconfigured several rooms within the school.¹

- In the 1927 Block:
 - Classrooms to the east of the auditorium on the second floor were removed, and the space converted into a library.
 - The gymnasium balcony was removed.
- In the 1961 Block:
 - Two classrooms immediately across the corridor from the main entrance on the first floor were converted into administrative offices; the historic demising walls between the classrooms were retained in their original configurations.
 - An administration office on the first floor to the east of the main entrance was converted into a classroom.
 - A classroom on the first floor along the east side of the west corridor was enlarged by combining it with a conference room to the north.
 - Restrooms in first floor classrooms were removed, and the spaces converted into cloakrooms.
 - A crafts room in the northwest corner of the basement was divided into two classrooms.

¹ Kansas City School District, "Renovation and Addition to Scarritt Elementary School," Kansas City, MO: Kansas City School District, 1996. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.

Integrity

Scarritt Elementary School has seen changes over its 133-year history and the building today is an excellent example of the modernization era of the Kansas City School District. Additions to the original 1890 school in 1906 and 1927 are typical for Kansas City schools, which were designed to be enlarged to accommodate additional students as neighborhoods grew. The demolition of the 1890 school and 1906 addition as part of the 1961 addition was part of a larger push for modernization within the Kansas City School District. No significant alterations have occurred since completion of the 1961 addition, and the historic elementary school use is still apparent.

4. Significance of the Property

Scarritt Elementary School is locally significant under National Register Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an excellent example of a Modern Era elementary school in the Kansas City, Missouri School District (the District), as defined in the MPDF. According to the MPDF “Modern elementary schools were constructed in great numbers after World War II to accommodate growing populations and to replace outdated and unsafe school buildings.”² The proposed period of significance for the building begins in 1961, with the completion of the addition, and ends in 1970 the cutoff date for significance under the Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF).

Scarritt Elementary School meets the following registration requirements for the property type:³

- Historic form and massing, including roof form. Modern Era Elementary schools are defined by their low-slung profiles (1-2 stories) with flat roofs and L- or T-shaped footprints.
 - There have been no alterations to the overall form and massing of the school. The 1961 block retains its low-slung roof and overall L-shaped form.
- Historic exterior materials. Streamlined facades typically have “little applied ornament” with large areas of classroom glazing.
 - The historic brick façade with glazed green brick accents remains on the exterior of the 1961 block. The 1927 block retains its historic brick and stone detailing.
- Interior and exterior recreation spaces.
 - The historic volume of space in the gymnasium has not been altered, and the open site to the south of the school retains its open post-1961 configuration.
- Historic fenestration patterns, although windows and doors may have been replaced.
 - Door and window openings have not been altered since the 1961 block was completed. All windows in the 1927 block were likely replaced within the original openings in 1979. Windows in the 1961 block are likely original.
- Basic interior configuration of corridors and stairwells, or lack thereof.
 - There have been no alterations to the interior corridor or stairwell configurations.
- Additions that are sympathetic to the original design in form and materials and may not compromise the integrity of the resource.
 - The 1961 block of Scarritt Elementary School was built with a similar brick cladding as the 1927 auditorium/gymnasium block and is about the same height as the older section.⁴ Additions to elementary school buildings were common among Modern Era elementary schools, often as a cost-

² Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent [Consolloy], National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” June 22, 2012, F.52.

³ Rosin and Consolloy, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” F.53.

⁴ Although technically an addition, the 1961 block served to function as the main part of the elementary school. The 1927 gymnasium/auditorium block was more ancillary in nature.

saving measure. As discussed in the MPDF, “In some locations only portions of the earlier building were kept, such as the gymnasium or auditorium, in others new classroom wings were added to existing buildings.”⁵ The construction history of Scarritt Elementary School follows this trend; removal of the two oldest classroom sections of the school coincided with the construction of a modern classroom addition. The work retained the 1927 gymnasium and auditorium block of Scarritt, replacing the significantly older and outdated 1890 and 1907 blocks. There have been no additions to the school since the 1961 block was completed.

Scarritt Elementary School is also locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the area of EDUCATION as one of the first four schools in the Kansas City, Missouri School District to implement a gifted education program. To be eligible under Criterion A, “properties demonstrate the evolution of public educational practices and trends in educational philosophy...as locations where experimental educational theories were tested...”⁶ Although the MPDF refers to Progressive Era educational trends and theories in this instance, it acknowledges that other contexts not addressed in the document can have significance under Criterion A. Scarritt was the only school in the northeast part of the city with a gifted education program, and the only school in the District at that time to bring students in for that program from outside the school’s typical neighborhood enrollment boundaries.⁷ Scarritt Elementary School remained the only school in the northeast with a gifted education program following an expansion of the program a few years later. By 1975, Scarritt was still the only school in northeast Kansas City with a gifted education program.

⁵ Rosin and Consolloy, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” F.52.

⁶ Rosin and Consolloy, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” F.40.

⁷ Northeast Kansas City is generally defined as the area north of Truman Road, east of Troost Avenue, south of the Missouri River, and west of the Blue River. See figure 1.

5. History of the Property

Scarritt Elementary School

Named for Reverend Nathan Scarritt, the first iteration of Scarritt Elementary School opened in 1890 on land in northeast Kansas City formerly owned by the reverend. At the time, the District's boundaries generally included all land west of the Blue River and south of Rochester Avenue. The land encompassing the site of Scarritt Elementary School was annexed into the District in April 1885, and included the area south of Rochester Avenue, west of Jackson Avenue, north of Truman Road, and east of Prospect Avenue. It appears that much of northeast Kansas City was annexed into the District in the late-1880s through 1890s (*figure 15*).⁸ The closest elementary schools at the time were Garfield Elementary School (ca. 1884, demolished in 1961, current school built 1962), Whittier Elementary School (ca. 1889, demolished in 1959, current school built 1959), Gladstone Elementary School (date of original school not known, demolished at an unknown date, current school built post-1950s), and Thacher Elementary School (ca. 1900, demolished 2015) (*figure 14*).

The original two-story brick and stone building had a square footprint and Romanesque Revival elements (*figure 7*). Each floor had four classrooms arranged around a double-loaded cross-shaped corridor that bisected the building. The school had an enrollment of 261 students and 5 teachers.⁹ The first addition to Scarritt Elementary School was built to the north in 1906.¹⁰ It was nearly identical in shape to the original 1890 block and had a similar two-story volume of space and internal configuration of classrooms. A central wing connected the addition to the 1890 section to the south via a long north-south corridor. In 1927, a two-story gymnasium, auditorium, and kitchen/lunchroom addition was built to the north.¹¹ Both additions were designed by Charles A. Smith, the architect for the Kansas City Board of Education (*figures 8-10*).¹²

In 1940, Scarritt Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary with a large homecoming and open house. An article publicizing the event listed several school firsts and achievements during that time, which included opening the first kindergarten in the District, and the first corrective gymnasium department. Students at Scarritt Elementary School also established a school orchestra, garden, and charitable relief organization to serve the surrounding community.¹³

⁸ J. B. Jackson, "The School District of Kansas City, MO: 1867 to Date," ca. 1912 map from Kansas City Public Schools.

⁹ "50 Years for a School," *The Kansas City Times*, April 10, 1940, 8 (newspapers.com).

¹⁰ "More Rooms for Schools," *The Kansas City Star and the Kansas City Times*, July 13, 1905, 5 (newspapers.com).

¹¹ "Scarritt School Addition Awarded," *The Kansas City Times*, October 16, 1926, 17 (newspapers.com); Charles A. Smith, "Addition to Scarritt School," (Kansas City, MO: Charles A. Smith, 1926). Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.

¹² Charles A. Smith, "Addition to Scarritt School," 1926.

¹³ "50 Years for a School," *The Kansas City Times*, April 10, 1940, 8 (newspapers.com).

Scarritt Elementary School and Gifted Education

In mid-1958, the Kansas City Board of Education announced plans to begin trials for a pilot study of “accelerated training and instruction” programs for “above average students” at the elementary and high school levels. Gifted classes were held in separate classrooms within the selected schools and took place concurrently with the “regular” classes. Generally speaking, students in the gifted classes studied many of the same subjects as the rest of the students, but at an advanced level and pace, and incorporated more individual, self-guided learning opportunities.¹⁴ Four elementary schools, Scarritt, Hale H. Cook, Border Star, and William C. Bryant, were chosen for the pilot program (*figure 11*). Classes ranged in length from an hour to the full school day, with only Scarritt and Hale H. Cook hosting full-day classes.¹⁵ Of the elementary schools in the pilot program, Scarritt was unique in the fact that it drew students from areas outside of its enrollment boundaries, and bused children in from other elementary schools in the northeast area of the city, including Gladstone, James, Thacher, Yeager, Garfield, and Whittier (*figure 14*).¹⁶ Scarritt Elementary School was chosen to host classes from among these northeast-area schools because of its central location and the fact that it had additional space available for the gifted classes.

The program was extremely popular with parents in the northeast, many of whom went “to every extreme to get their children [to Scarritt].”¹⁷ In 1961, after three years of the gifted classes, District leaders announced that the program had proved a success, stating that students enrolled in the program performed at “a significantly higher level” than students in the regular classes. In addition to increased academic performance for gifted students, those who were not in gifted classes also saw improvement in terms of increased time with teachers and new opportunities to lead in their classes due to smaller class sizes.¹⁸ The success of the early schools like Scarritt that participated in the program prompted the District to expand the program with four new schools by 1962. Of those new schools, three served students outside of their enrollment boundaries, but Scarritt Elementary continued to be only school in the northeast with gifted classes that drew students from other schools in the area.¹⁹ The popularity of the District’s gifted education program continued, and the number of schools with gifted classes increased to eleven by 1975.²⁰ Scarritt Elementary School continued to be the sole school operating a gifted program in the northeast part of Kansas City.

Kansas City was a leader in promoting gifted education throughout the state in the 1950s-1970s. According to data from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, there were just seven school districts

¹⁴ “Classes for Gifted Better for Everyone,” *The Kansas City Times*, April 7, 1959, 9 (newspapers.com).

¹⁵ “Fall Classes for Gifted,” *The Kansas City Times*, May 29, 1958, 18 (newspapers.com).

¹⁶ “Classes for Gifted Better for Everyone,” *The Kansas City Times*, April 7, 1959, 9 (newspapers.com).

¹⁷ “Classes for Gifted Better for Everyone,” *The Kansas City Times*, April 7, 1959, 9 (newspapers.com).

¹⁸ Patricia Jansen Doyle, “Success in Gifted Program,” *The Kansas City Times*, February 15, 1961, 1 (newspapers.com).

¹⁹ Patricia Jansen Doyle, “School Innovations Slow to Evolve,” *The Kansas City Times*, December 6, 1962, 18 (newspapers.com).

²⁰ Stephens, Marge Holler, “Students Set Own Pace in Classrooms for Gifted,” *The Kansas City Star*, October 22, 1975, 14 (newspapers.com).

with a gifted program in the 1974-1975 school year. That number steadily increased over the years, eventually reaching a high of 320 districts with a gifted program during the 2001-2002 school year.²¹ Today, approximately 5% of students in the Kansas City Public School District are enrolled in a gifted education program compared to the statewide average of 4.25%.²²

1961 Addition and Modernization

Scarritt Elementary School retained its 1927 configuration until 1961, when a large addition was added to the west of the auditorium (*figures 12-13*). The addition to Scarritt Elementary School included seventeen classrooms (plus two kindergarten rooms), offices, a cafeteria and kitchen, and teacher's lounge. Approximately \$45,000 was used to furnish the new addition.²³ The 1890 and 1906 sections were demolished as part of that project.²⁴ A kitchen, "sewing and lunch room," and cooking room in the east part of the second floor of the 1927 addition were reconfigured into three new classrooms at that time.²⁵ Some walls in the second floor corridor directly to the east of the auditorium balconies were removed and new finishes were installed in the corridors and on walls. The auditorium and gymnasium spaces in the older 1927 block continued to function in much the same way that they historically had. The new block, along with the reconfigured classroom spaces in the 1927 block functioned as classrooms and administrative space.

The \$709,716 addition to Scarritt Elementary School was part of a district-wide modernization program that was fueled, in part, from the combination of aging buildings, increased school enrollment following World War II, new annexations into the District following the development of the southwest part of Kansas City, and desegregation. As part of the District's plan to address these issues, \$33 million was spent between 1953 and 1957 to add more classroom space for students. Despite this spending, the District could not keep up with the growing pace of enrollment, and by 1958, many schools were still overcrowded.²⁶ To address this deficiency, a \$17 million campaign was proposed in 1958 to construct two new junior high schools, a library, a new elementary school, and additions to at least six other schools, including Scarritt Elementary School. The District also planned to set

²¹ "Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education," *Gifted Education Historical Data*, <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/gifted-education-historical-data> (accessed May 5, 2023). Today there are 518 public school districts in Missouri. It is not known how many school districts were in existence in Missouri during the period of significance.

²² "Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education," *District Report Card: Kansas City*, https://apps.dese.mo.gov/MCDS/Reports/SSRS_Print.aspx?Reportid=6a5392af-6f3d-46a5-92e1-f39fdfa861c2 (accessed May 5, 2023).

²³ "School contracts for 1 ½ million let," *The Kansas City Times*, July 8, 1960 (newspapers.com); "Bids on Scarritt School," *The Kansas City Times*, August 6, 1960 (newspapers.com).

²⁴ *The Kansas City Times*, August 10, 1960, 4, (newspapers.com); Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, "Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School," (Kansas City, MO: Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, 1960).

²⁵ Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, "Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School," sheet 4.

²⁶ Rosin and Consolloy, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," E. 25.

aside an unknown amount of funds to “modernize” additional existing schools.²⁷ Following desegregation, previously segregated white schools were opened up to African American students, swelling enrollment numbers throughout the District. As the student population became more integrated, “white flight” into the suburbs caused the Kansas City School District to experience a significant decrease in enrollment, from 77,000 in the early 1960s, to 44,000 by the 1980s.²⁸ By 2010, enrollment had dipped to 18,000. As a result of dwindling student enrollment, the District closed about 30 schools between the 1980s and 2000s. In 2010, superintendent John Covington submitted a plan that called for closing about a third of the District’s remaining 61 operational schools.²⁹ Scarritt Elementary School was closed in 2010. In 2020, Scarritt Elementary School was identified as surplus property through the District’s ongoing repurposing initiative, which aims to reuse closed school buildings.³⁰

Conclusion

Scarritt Elementary School is an excellent example of the Elementary School property subtype of the Modern Era property type, as defined in the MPDF. The school represents the efforts of the District to modernize existing school buildings to address increased enrollment in the decades following World War II. Scarritt Elementary School also represents an important step forward in educational practices in Kansas City, Missouri. It was the first school in the district to have a gifted education program that served students outside of the school’s boundaries. Gifted classes, such as those in Scarritt Elementary School, proved to be a huge success. As a result, the program rapidly expanded to other all public schools in Kansas City while just a handful of other districts across the state had similar programs. Today, approximately 5% of students in the District participate in the gifted education program.³¹

6. Surroundings

Scarritt Elementary School occupies the north third of a city block in the northeast part of Kansas City known as Scarritt Renaissance neighborhood (*figures 1-3*). Large asphalt-paved parking lots and grass lawns occupy the rest of the site. Concrete-paved streets with wide sidewalks line the site, which generally slopes to the east and west from the center. Quarry-faced stone walls delineate most of the historic boundary; their height generally follows the slope of the land (*photos 9 and 10*). The surrounding neighborhood consists of modest houses set on deep city lots with a narrow street frontage. According to Sanborn maps, most of the houses in the area date from the early 1900s to about the 1920s.

²⁷ Henry Gold, “School Plan is Ready to Roll,” *The Kansas City Star*, June 29, 1958, 85 (newspapers.com).

²⁸ Rosin and Consolloy, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” E.26.

²⁹ “Kansas City Public Schools,” *History of KCPS, School Closings Since the 1980’s*, <https://www.kcpublicschools.org/about/history> (accessed May 3, 2023).

³⁰ “Kansas City Public Schools,” *Site details, Scarritt School*, <https://www.kcpublicschools.org/about/repurposing/school-site-info-details/~board/school-sites-repurposing/post/scarritt> (accessed March 13, 2023).

³¹ “Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education,” *Gifted Education*, <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/gifted-education> (accessed May 3, 2023).

7. Source Information

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- Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library.
- Rosin, Elizabeth, and Rachel Nugent [Consolloy], National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," June 22, 2012
- Smith, Charles A. "Addition to Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Charles A. Smith, 1926. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.
- Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects. "Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, 1960. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.

11. Photo Log

Photographs taken by Brad Finch, f-Stop Photography, March 2023.

- 01 of 28:** Exterior, 1927 block, north (front) elevation, view SW.
- 02 of 28:** Exterior, 1961 block, northwest corner, view SE.
- 03 of 28:** Exterior, 1961 block, north (front) elevation, view S.
- 04 of 28:** Exterior, 1927 block, north elevation, auditorium entrance, view S.
- 05 of 28:** Exterior, 1927 block, northeast corner, view SW.
- 06 of 28:** Exterior, 1927 block, east elevation, view NW.
- 07 of 28:** Exterior, south (rear) elevation and playground, view N.
- 08 of 28:** Exterior, south elevation, looking along 1961 block, view NW.
- 09 of 28:** Exterior, 1961 block, west elevation, view E.
- 10 of 28:** Exterior, site, stone wall along south and west sides of the site, view NE.
- 11 of 28:** Exterior, site, stone stairs near center of east boundary, view W.
- 12 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1961 block, main (north) entrance, view N.
- 13 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1961 block, west corridor, looking from S end, view N.
- 14 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1927 block, auditorium, view SE.
- 15 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1961 block, classroom in west wing (typical example), view NW.
- 16 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1927 block, east corridor, wood doors, view E.
- 17 of 28:** Interior, first floor, 1961 block, SE stair landing, view SE.
- 18 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, west corridor, view S.
- 19 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, central corridor, looking from E end, view W.
- 20 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1927 block, library in E end, view SW.
- 21 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, central corridor, typical classroom door, view SW.
- 22 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, typical classroom, view NW.
- 23 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, typical classroom, view SE.
- 24 of 28:** Interior, second floor, 1961 block, restroom, view SE.
- 25 of 28:** Interior, basement, 1961 block, central corridor, view NE.
- 26 of 28:** Interior, basement, 1927 block, gymnasium, view SE.
- 27 of 28:** Interior, basement, 1961 block, classroom, view NE
- 28 of 28:** Interior, basement, 1961 block, cafeteria, view SE.

11. Maps & Other Figures

Figure 1: Location Map. Lightly shaded area indicates approximate boundaries of northeast Kansas City, Missouri (Google Maps, 2023).

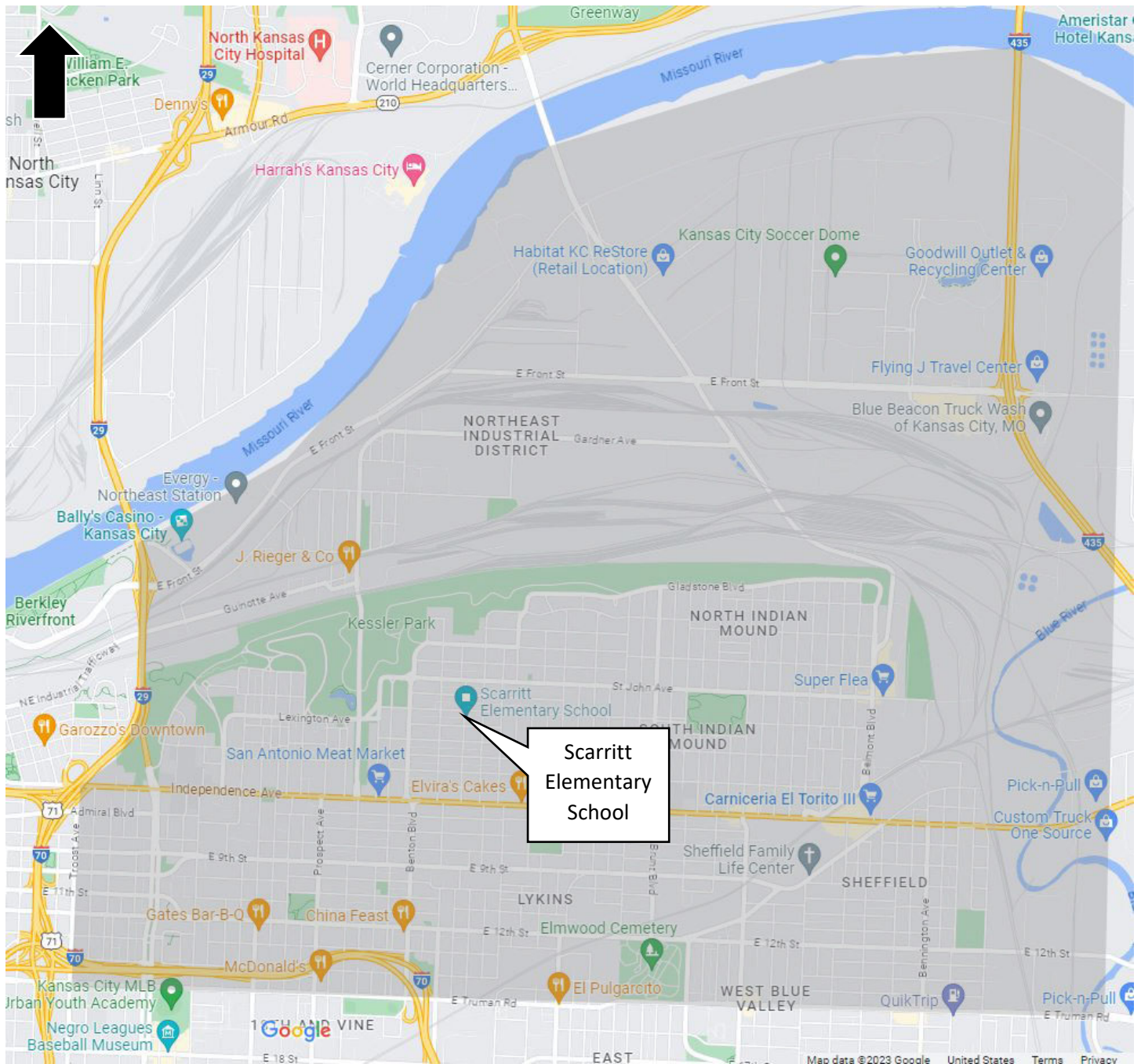


Figure 2: Context Map (Google Maps, 2023).



Figure 3: Site Map. Dashed line indicates approximate historic and current boundaries (Google Maps, 2023).



Figure 4: Annotated first floor plan for the 1961 addition. Note: Red shading is the 1961 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. (Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects. “Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School.” Kansas City, MO: Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, 1960, Sheet 3. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

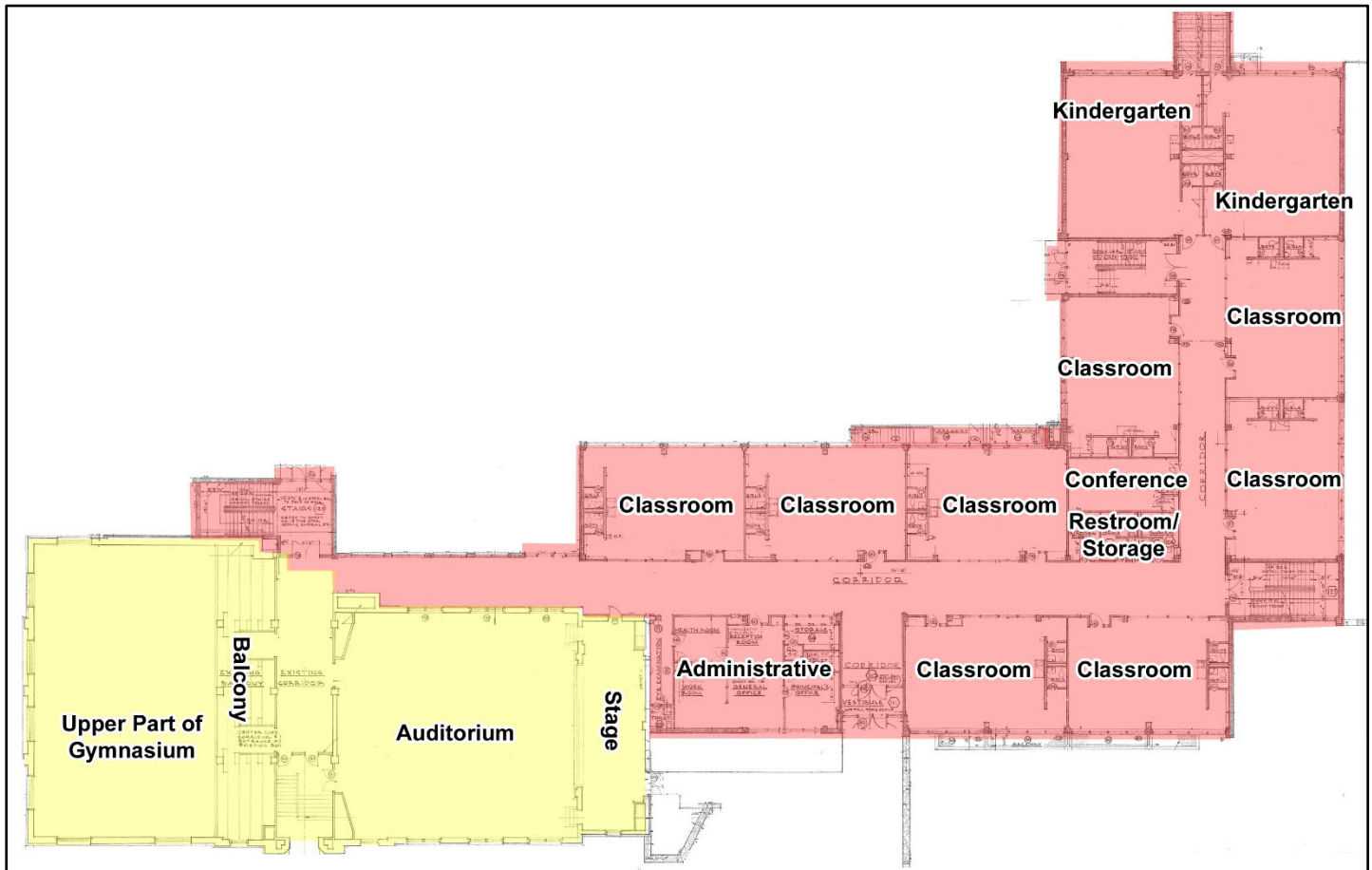


Figure 5: Annotated second floor plan for the 1961 addition. Note: Red shading is the 1961 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. (Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects. “Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School.” Kansas City, MO: Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, 1960, Sheet 4. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

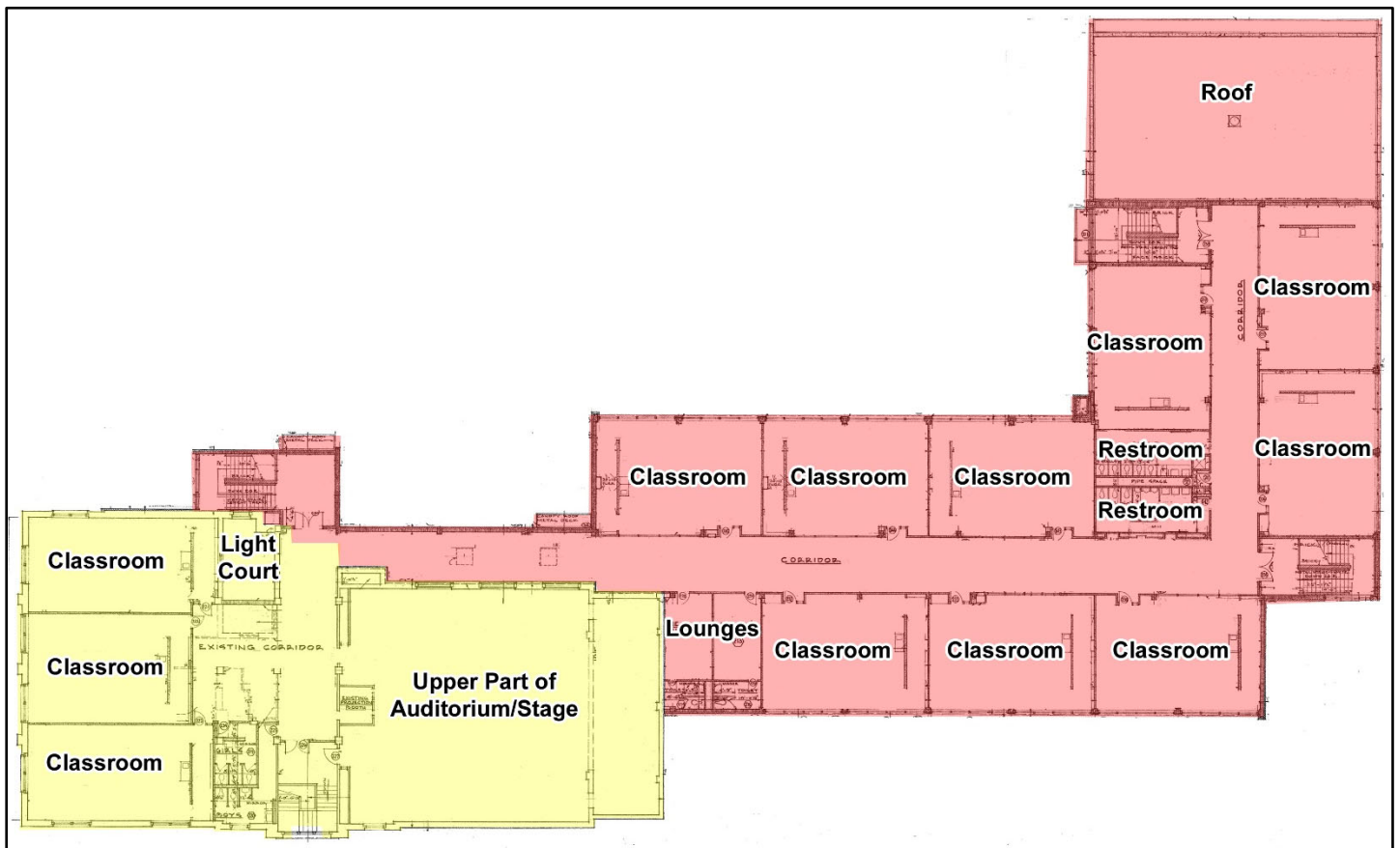


Figure 6: Annotated basement plan for the 1961 addition. Note: Red shading is the 1961 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. (Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects. "Additions and Alterations to the Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Swanson, Terney & Brey, Architects, 1960, Sheet 2. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

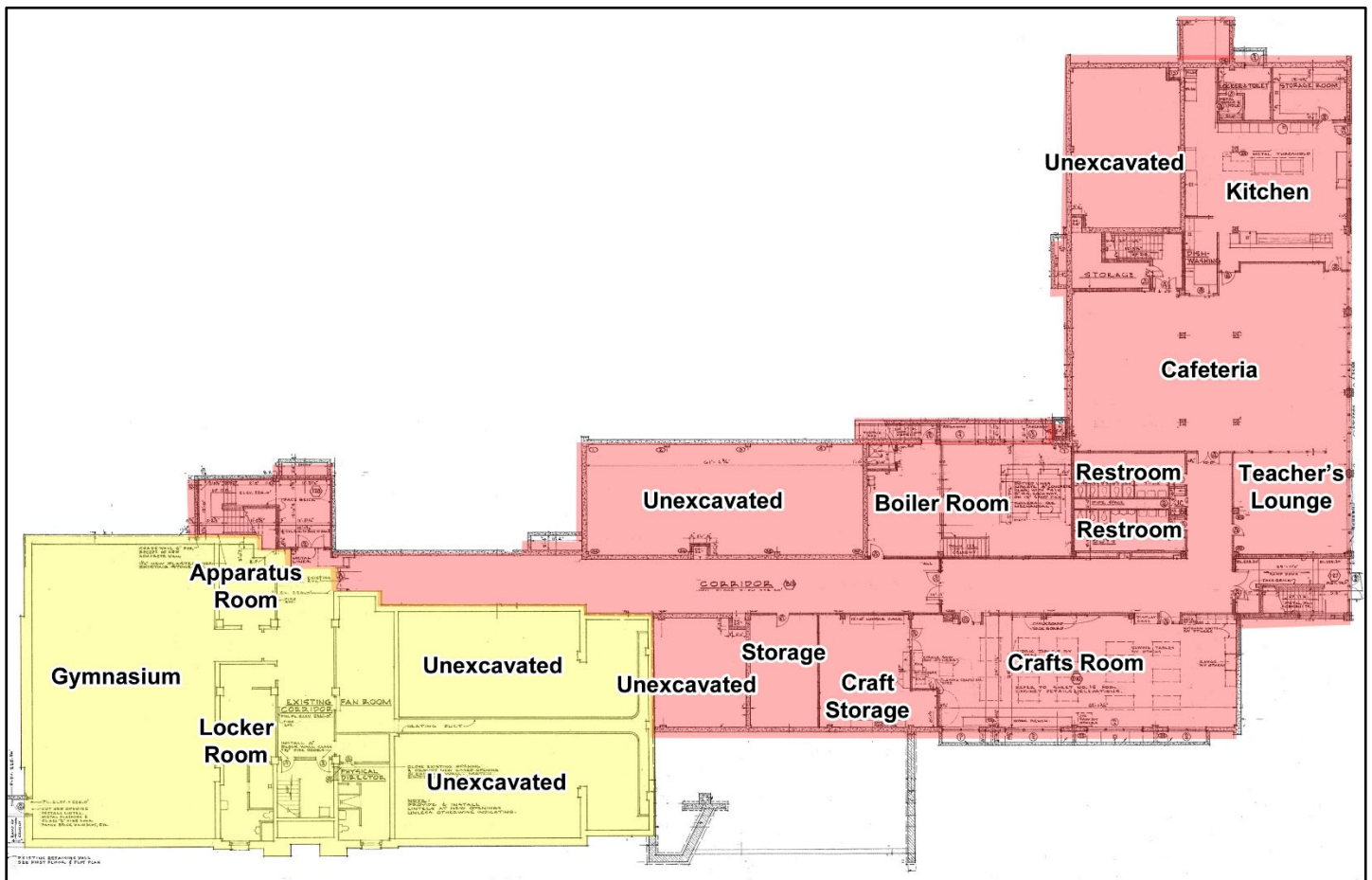


Figure 7: Photograph of the original section of the Scarritt Elementary School (foreground, left), along with the 1906 addition (background, right). Note: the date attributed to the photo is 1905, but it appears to have been taken shortly after the addition was completed (“Scarritt School,” Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, General Collection (accessed March 22, 2023)).



Figure 8: Annotated first floor plan for the 1927 addition, with original 1890 school and 1906 addition shown. Note: Green shading is the original 1890 school, blue is the 1906 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. Only the yellow block at right remains (Smith, Charles A. "Addition to Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Charles A. Smith, 1926, Sheet 3. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

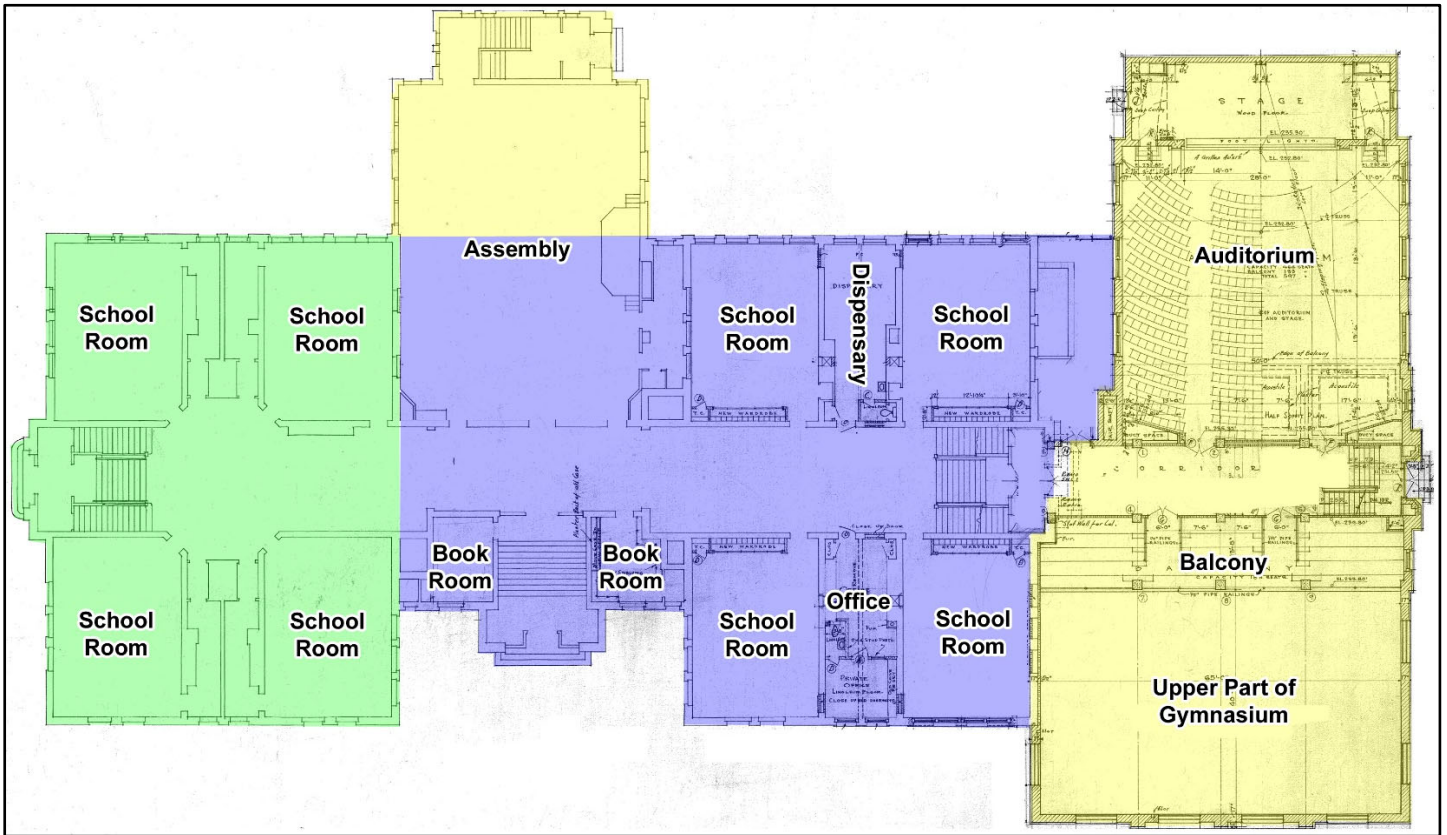


Figure 9: Annotated second floor plan for the 1927 addition, with original 1890 school and 1906 addition shown. Note: Green shading is the original 1890 school, blue is the 1906 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. (Smith, Charles A. "Addition to Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Charles A. Smith, 1926, Sheet 4. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

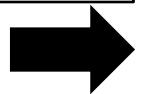
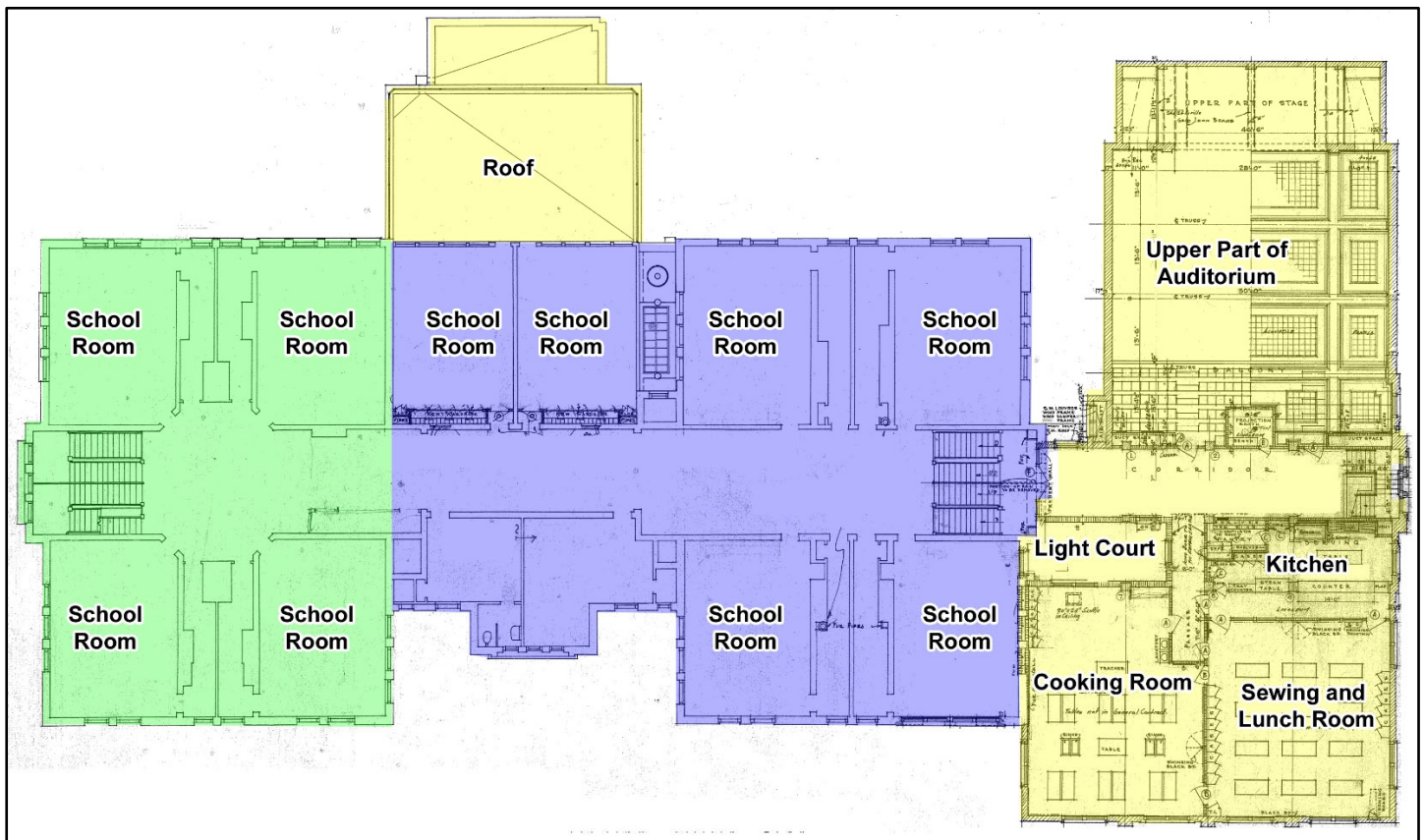


Figure 10: Annotated basement plan for the 1927 addition, with original 1890 school and 1906 addition shown. Note: Green shading is the original 1890 school, blue is the 1906 addition, and yellow is the 1927 addition. (Smith, Charles A. "Addition to Scarritt School." Kansas City, MO: Charles A. Smith, 1926, Sheet 2. Plans from Kansas City Public Schools.)

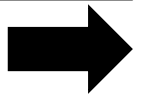
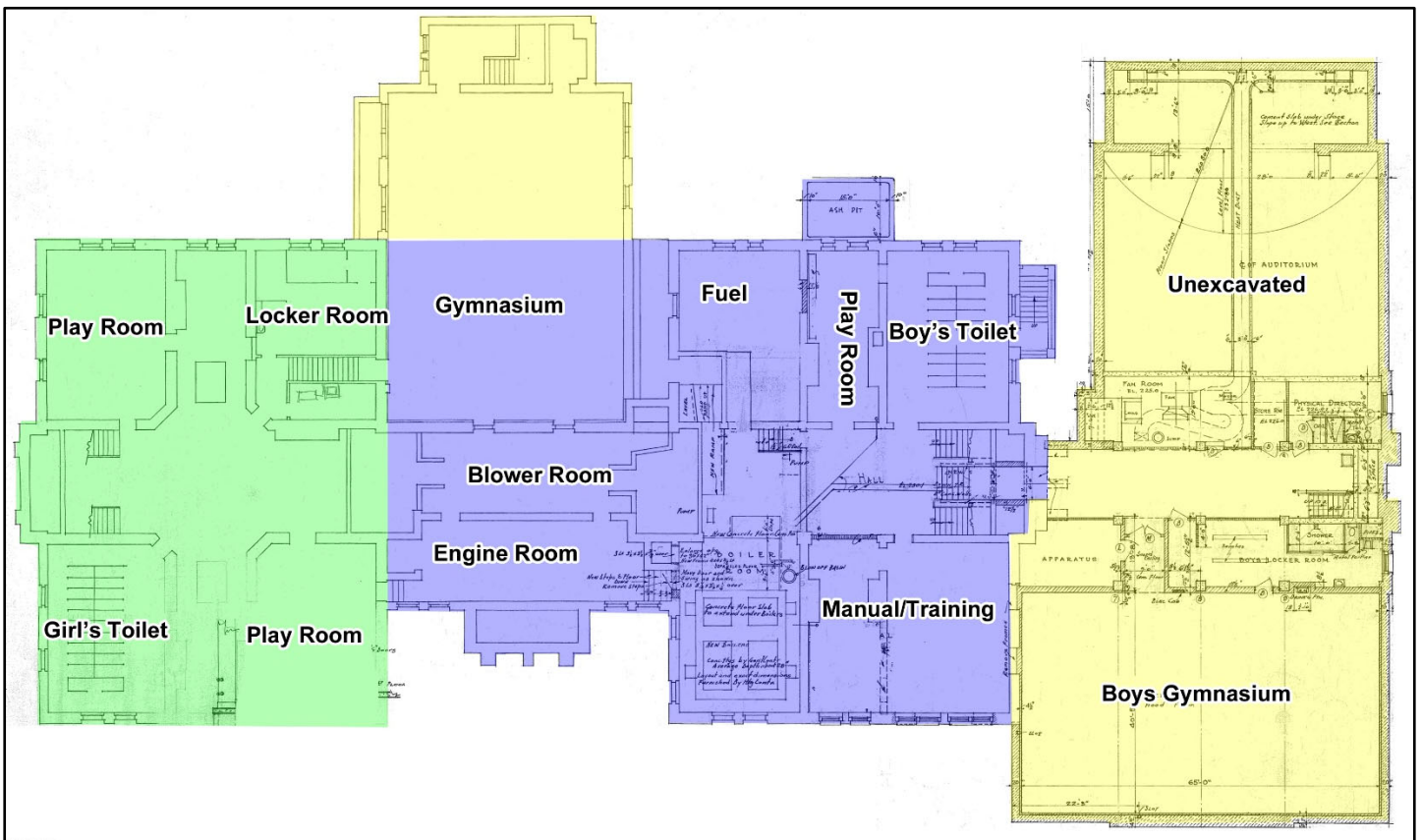


Figure 11: Map of elementary schools with gifted education programs in 1962. Schools denoted with an asterisk served students beyond the school's enrollment boundaries (Google Maps, 2023; list of schools from: Patricia Jansen Doyle, "School Innovations Slow to Evolve," *The Kansas City Times*, December 6, 1962, 18 (newspapers.com)).

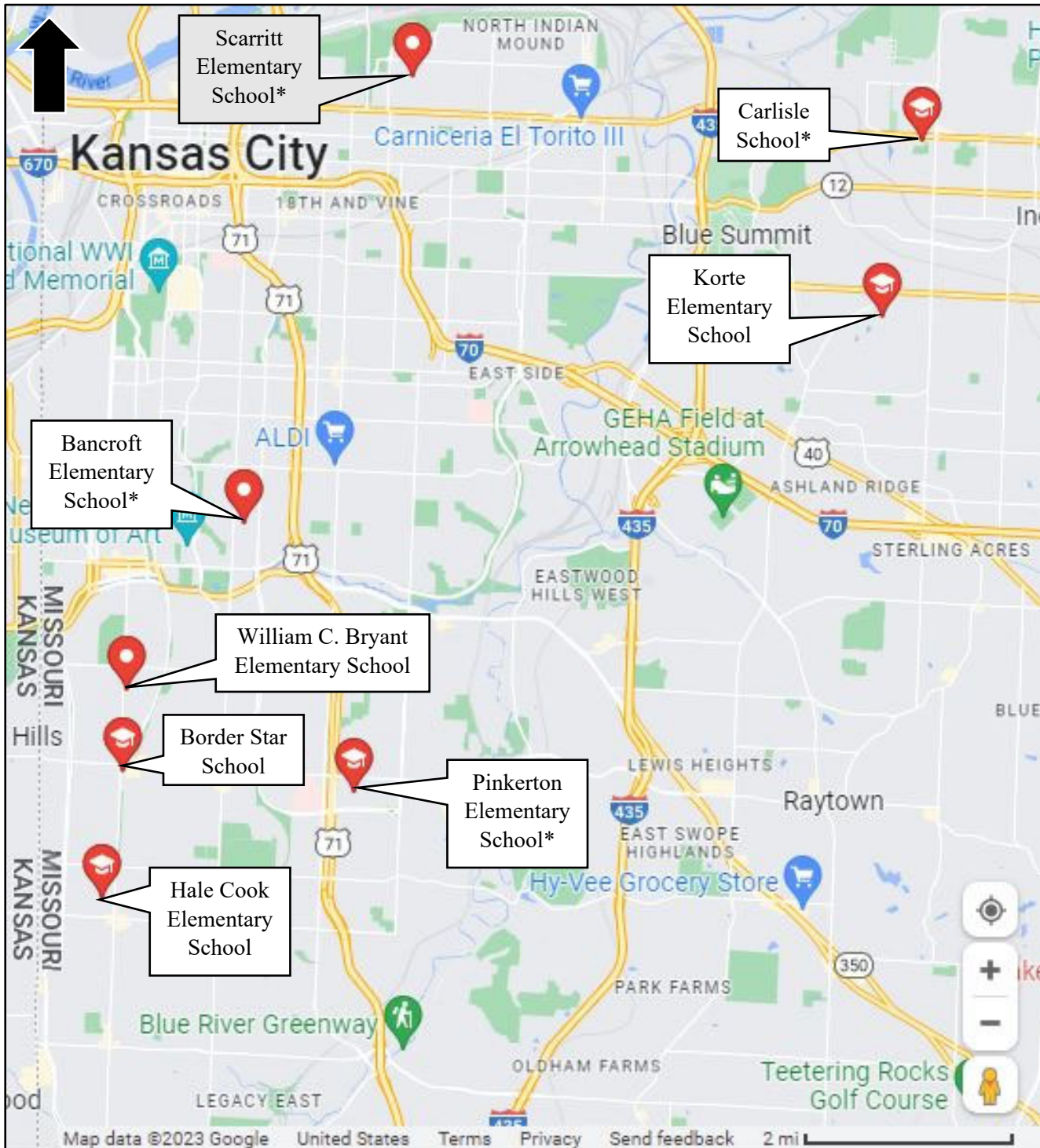


Figure 12: Ca. 1960 rendering of the addition to Scarritt School (Anderson Photo Company, “Architectural drawing for major addition to Scarritt School. Architects, Swanson, Terney and Brey,” Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri School District Records (SC23), Series II, Box 3, Folder 21).



MVSC, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

Figure 13: Site aerial with approximate footprints of each section imposed (Google Maps, 2023; shading added by Mason Martel).

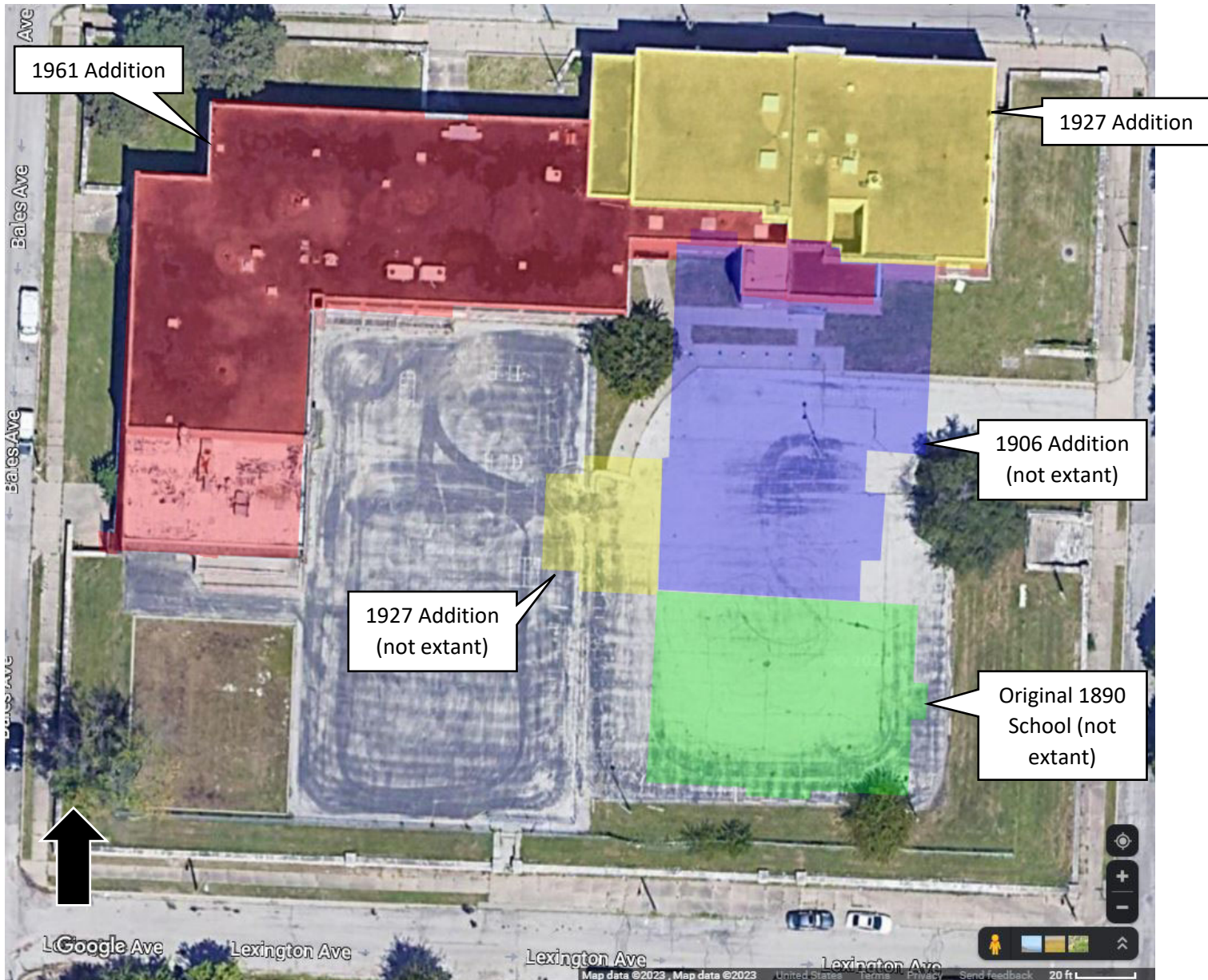


Figure 14: Elementary Schools in northeast Kansas City 1961-1970 (Google Maps, 2023).

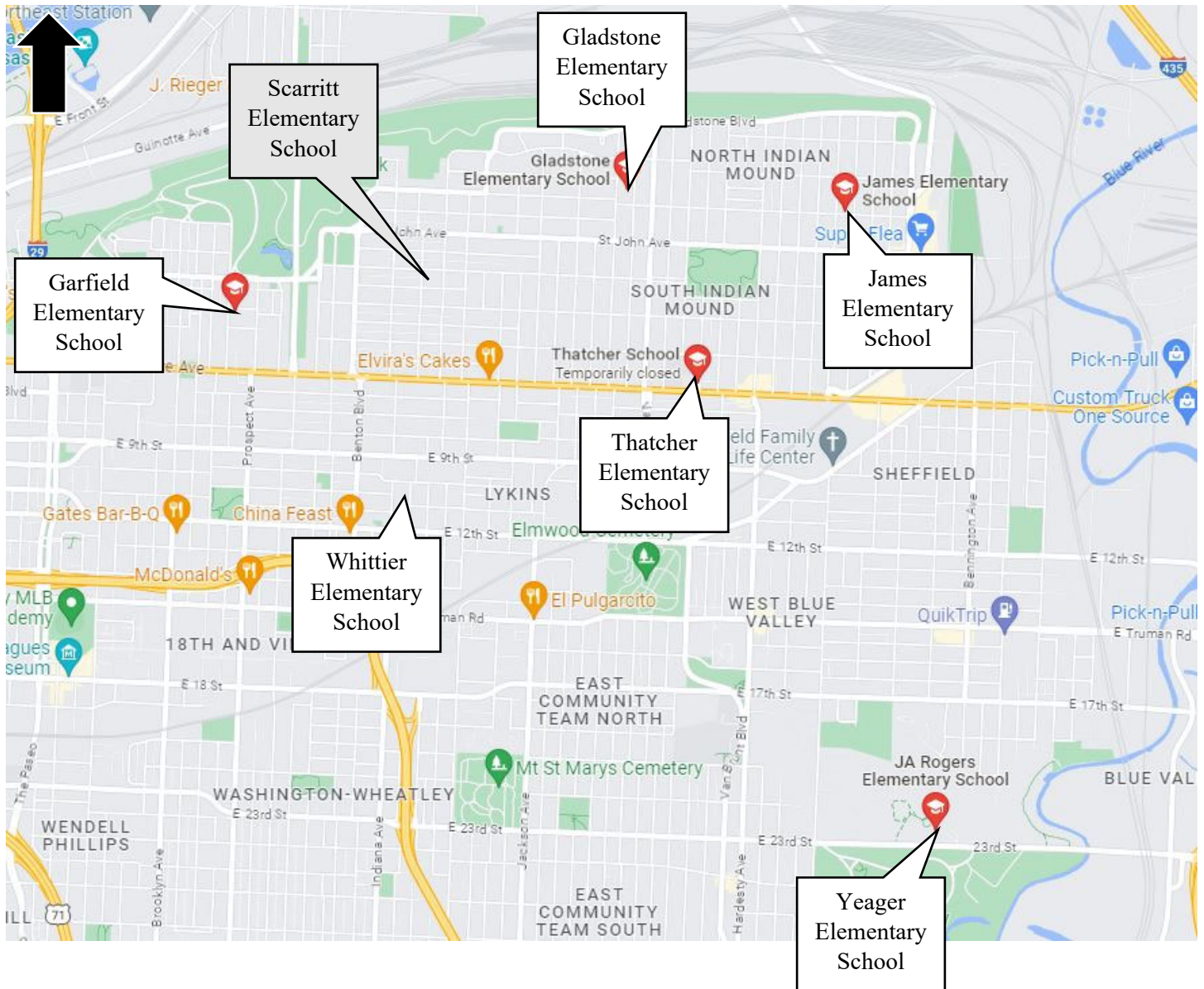


Figure 15: Undated map showing annexations into the Kansas City School District (J. B. Jackson, “The School District of Kansas City, MO: 1867 to Date,” ca. 1912 map from Kansas City Public Schools).

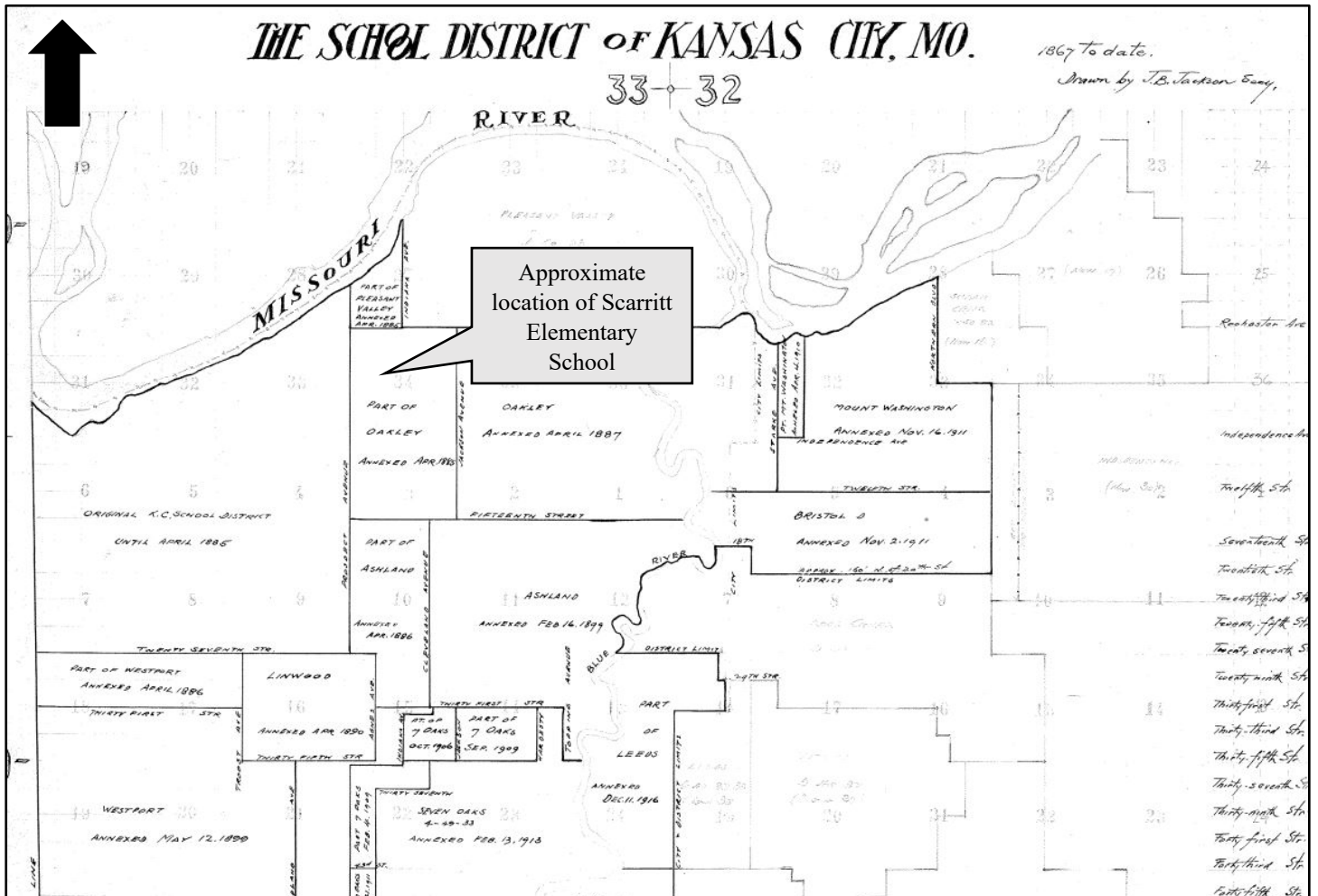


Figure 16: Detail of stage floor in auditorium (Brad Finch, f-Stop Photography, 2023).

