

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Glenville School

other names/site number NeHBS #CY06-003

2. Location

street & number 401 South Fifth Street not for publication

city or town Glenville vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Clay code 035 zip code 68941

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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]  
Signature of certifying official

11/10/98  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instruction)

EDUCATION:school

DOMESTIC:multiple dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

foundation brick

walls brick

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**

(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 a 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Education**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

**1903-1948**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

**1903**

**1924**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**N/A**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

**Woods, A.W., architect**

**Hempel Bros., builders**

\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 1 acre

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	563025	4483550	3.			
2.				4.			

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 Melissa Dirr, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date September 1998

street & number 1500 R Street, Box 82554

telephone 402.471.4408

city or town Lincoln

state NE

zip code 68501

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Todd Brown & Cody Carson

street & number Box 75

telephone 402.771.2299

city or town Glenville

state NE

zip code 68941

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glenville School

Name of Property

Clay County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Glenville School is located in the small village of Glenville, in Clay County, Nebraska. The two story brick building, designed by A. W. Woods, has simple classical details and is one of the most prominent buildings in the town. It is located at the east edge of a block-and-a-half sized lot approximately three blocks west of the small downtown. The school is located on a large open lot with landscaping limited to large trees near the main entrance. The sparsely populated town now serves as a bedroom community to Hastings, the Adams County seat, approximately 15 miles northwest of Glenville and home to Hastings College. Built in 1903 and expanded in 1924 and 1950, the building retains a high degree of historic integrity as well as prominence within the community.

The brick school is constructed in a simple running bond pattern and has a symmetrical façade with a projecting central entrance. The entrance projection illustrates most of the stylistic details with a simple entablature above the door, palladian type window with keystone and a return cornice on the gable roof capping this projection. Rising from the apex of the gable is the original bell and bell tower with detailed cut-out woodwork ornamenting the openings. All original double hung windows remain intact. Originally the 1903 building had four classrooms and a full basement which served students through the eighth grade. When 9th and 10th grades were added in 1924 an addition was constructed adding three more classrooms. This addition was attached at the back or west side of the school and was sensitively designed using the same building materials as the original building.

The addition in 1924 brought the school to a total of seven classrooms, four offices, and a full basement with a kitchen, cafeteria, physical education, and special education room. To accommodate the higher grades anticipated as a result of the addition the new rooms included an auditorium with a stage and a science room, both still in-tact. The school was further modernized when two small restrooms were added at either side of the projecting entrance and the fire slide was replaced with modern fire stairs.

The interior of the school retains all its original wooden floors, interior doors, transom windows, and ornate pressed metal ceilings. Each large room has a small cloak room usually at the front. The rooms are accessed by a large central stair that splits at the main level with two side stairs leading to the second floor. The setting of the school is very simple. It resides on a large lot with minimal landscaping except for mature trees on either side of the central walk leading to the main entrance. A date plaque next to the main entrance reveals the architect and builders names as well as the school board who dedicated the building.

Located behind the Glenville School were two privies used prior to the construction of the 1923 addition. Although no longer extant, these may be features worthy of consideration in future plans. Currently the building is occupied as a residence and is undergoing a certified rehabilitation project for its conversion to apartments.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glenville School

Name of Property

Clay County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Glenville School is locally significant under criterion A for its contribution to educational development in the small village. The school is representative of a combined use building including all grades from elementary through high school. Although the original building housed only elementary grades, the 1924 addition was designed to accommodate high school students. It was erected as the first substantial and permanent school for the town and served its function from its construction date in 1903 until 1995. Its period of significance, therefore, extends from 1903 to 1948, the established fifty year cut-off date.

Glenville, located in Clay County is a small village which had 300 residents at its peak population in the 1920s. It is currently home to about half as many. The town was first surveyed in 1873 with a store, hotel, and post office present. The Glenville school district was first organized in the winter of 1871 predating the official incorporation of the village. This is because the city itself is located on the contiguous corners of the original pre-emption claims of R.S. Winters, Daniel Fitch and Robert Thompson, who in 1871-72 also organized the school district. The first schoolhouse was built in 1872 and was a typical rural wood frame building. This school was destroyed by a tornado in 1882 and rebuilt within the same year..

The current schoolhouse in Glenville was built by Hempel Brothers builders and designed by A.W. Woods Architects from Lincoln, Nebraska. The two story four room brick building with a full basement began as an institution for kindergarten through eighth grade. As demand increased, ninth and tenth grades were added. Soon the existing building required more space and an addition was completed in 1924. The larger school building was able to accommodate high school grades, so 11th and 12th grades were added creating the Glenville High School. Enrollment was strong through the late 1930's reaching a student body of 92 pupils.

Although Glenville never reached great size, it was soon apparent that the growing community needed a better educational facility. In 1903 a larger and improved lot for the new school grounds was purchased and development of the new building began in the same year. These new grounds were larger and more open than the previous site allowing for an outdoor play area. This was a significantly new way of thinking at the time of construction. Outdoor playgrounds were considered very modern and a product of "a Progressive era concern with physical education." (Theobald 1995). Schoolyards appeared in most rural schools during the 1910s and 20s, although the Glenville School did not purchase new playground equipment. This was a goal of William K. Fowler, the state Superintendent of Public Instruction whose administration began in 1900. He wanted to devote his efforts to reviewing past successes and considering future accomplishments especially when it came to creating modern schools and improving the quality of rural schools. Many of his philosophies were incorporated in school construction of the era. The idea that the Glenville School would serve all ages of pupils in the town was one of them. To date there are two other combined elementary and high schools listed on the National Register in Nebraska; the Valentine Public School in Valentine, the north central part of the state, and the Steele City School in southeastern Nebraska.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Glenville School**

Name of Property

**Clay County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 8 Page 2**

---

After construction of a new high school in 1966 in a neighboring community, the Glenville building was converted back to a grade school and continued to operate until May, 1995 when all educational functions at the building were terminated. The Glenville School is significant to the town's education history in accordance with National Register criterion A because it represents the only educational facility in the town and housed all grades from kindergarten through high school. It is unusual to find school buildings serving a combined function housing high school as well as elementary school. This type of school was always appropriate for Glenville because it satisfied the educational needs of this small town where all classes could fit into one building. Often high school programs were not fully developed to require a separate building (Steele City School National Register nomination, 1997).

Overall, the Glenville School retains a high degree of historic integrity and significantly contributes to the history of education in Glenville. Visually it is one of the most prominent buildings in town and is locally significant under National Register criterion A.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Glenville School

Name of Property

Clay County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9-10 Page 1

---

**Bibliography**

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.

Theobald, Paul. Call School: Rural Education in the Midwest to 1918. Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press, 1995.

Peterson, Patricia. Steele City School, National Register Nomination, 1997.

Glenville Nebraska Centennial 1872-1972, Glenville, NE.

Hiwel, Bill. ed. The Story of Clay County, 1969, Service Press.

**Boundary Description**

The school resides on its original lot defined as lots 25 and 26 of block 29 in the third addition to Glenville village in Clay County.

**Boundary Justification**

The school remains on the lot with which it is historically associated.

All photos by Carol Ahlgren, 1998, original negatives at NeSHPO



Main (east) façade (NSHS 9806/1:28a)



Close up of main (east) façade (NSHS 9806/1:29a)



North façade (NSHS 9806/1:27a)



West and south façade (NSHS 9806/1:22a)



Cornerstone, main façade (NSHS 9806/1:32a)



Main staircase (NSHS 9806/1:33a)



Classroom interior (NSHS 9806/1:34a)