
Slide Show Presentation Part IV

USD 500 Schools
Past and Present

John Fiske

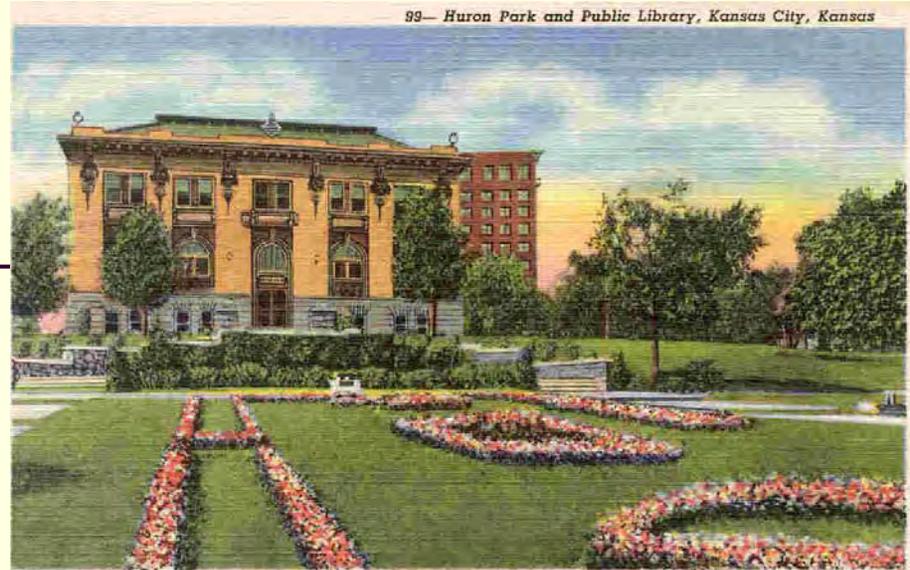
- 1904 - April 12: Residents of the west end (Sixth Ward) asked for a school north of Osage Avenue and west of Tenth Street
- 1908 - Building occupied. PTA organized.
- 1920 – Kindergarten started.
- 1939 - Four-room, two-story addition in use in September. Now 16 rooms.
- 1952 - School back in service after flood January 25: Fire in basement.
- 1984 - New school opened. "Paired with Grant in 1980. Grades 3-4 at Grant; K-2 and 5 at John Fiske. John Fiske was the final project in the capital facilities renewal program undertaken in 1970.



JOHN FISKE SCHOOL.

KCKs Public Library

Rose Garden –
back of Carnegie
Library



- From 1844 to 1856, the William Walker home was the center of culture in the "Indian Country." In 1855, twelve men led by William Walker, organized, under legislative sanction, the Wyandot Lyceum and Library Association. Objectives of the society were listed as the "mutual improvement of its members in oral discussion and literature, and the establishment of a permanent library."
- By 1891, the Wyandotte Library Association had turned over its books to the Public School Library.
- 1892 - The following year, in 1892, the school board appointed a library committee. The Public Library of Kansas City, Kansas opened in a single room of the high school annex.

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- By 1895 the library had out-grown its room at the high school annex and was moved to the second floor of the Court Block on Minnesota Avenue near Seventh Street.
 - 1896 - It was a Mrs. Sarah Richart who came up with a novel idea to benefit the library. A former teacher and president of the Federation of Clubs, she proposed a tax on the dogs of the city and had herself appointed as "dog enumerator." Instead of pocketing the receipts, as was the previously accepted custom, Mrs. Richart turned the money over to the public library fund.
 - 1901/02 - Enter one Andrew Carnegie, millionaire steel magnate, philanthropist, and patron of public libraries. At the urging of the Mercantile Club, Carnegie offered \$75,000 for the building of a public library at sixth and Minnesota.
 - The cornerstone of the new building was laid at night under new electric arc lights on September 6, 1902. Three thousand people turned out to witness the event.
 - 1967 – The Carnegie Library was razed and the current building erected.

Lindbergh



- The first school to bear the name "Muncie" was located at 61st and Riverview. This was District #5. In the year 1898, a second Muncie was built at the present site, 65th and Riverview. This was District #43. The two schools were about a mile apart known as Old and New Muncie Schools. The original building at 61st and Riverview was a one-room building. The first teacher was Mr. Day. In 1918, District #5 became Lindbergh and District #43 remained Muncie. In 1924 one room was added at District #43. In 1938 a four-room brick building was built. In 1951, the first addition of the upper building was built. In 1960 eight classrooms and an office were built. January 1, 1967: became a part of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools as a result of votes of Washington USD #201 patrons to attach to USD 500." information was excerpted from "History and Growth of Wyandotte County Educational System," a four-page typewritten paper forwarded to the Board of Education offices in June, 1969, when the office of County Superintendent of Schools was closed.

Mark Twain



- Children in the present Mark Twain district went to Chelsea (1887), Lowell (1898), or McKinley (1916). A Crary youth, living in the Westheight area, attended school at Lowell, located at 11th and Orville. During the week he stayed at a relative's home on 16th Street. At one time he was able to ride with two boys whose father furnished them with a horse and buggy to get to St. Peter's School at 14th and Orville. He walked the remaining blocks to Lowell.
- 1923 - September: New building occupied. Three classrooms, hall and basement rooms.
- 1924 - Grades five and six added; building filled. PTA organized.
- 1927 - Seventh grade added. Two frame portables placed on east playground.
- 1928 - Eighth grade added.
- 1930 - Kindergarten and five classrooms added on north. One previous classroom remodeled into front hall, office and restroom.
- 1957 – New section built and rest of building remodeled.

McKinley



- 1916 - One-room frame portable built on corner of 14th and Armstrong, an old athletic field. It contained the first grade taught by Mrs. Stella Goodwin. This was sometimes referred to as the "No Name" School. (former grounds of "Carnival Park")
- 1922 - Building erected and named McKinley in honor of President William McKinley. One-story, red brick.
- 1927/28 - Four rooms of top floor added.
- 1991 – School closed. Students reassigned to M E Pearson
- 2004 – School reopened to students.

M E Pearson



- 1972 - Agreement between the district and the City of KCKs and Bethany Hospital for various transfer of property allowing the school district to acquire property for the M. E. Pearson School (named for former Superintendent Matthew E. Pearson, 1902-1932). The properties of Abbott, Stowe, and Prescott were given to the city for park purposes.
- 1977 – Building opened.

Stanley aka New Stanley



Stanley Grade School, original schoolhouse at the Southwest corner, 38th and Metropolitan.

Submitted by Edwin D. Shutt II



- 1899 – Stanley Grade School built approx. at what is now 38th & Metropolitan. (aka Gibbs & Payne School)
- 1896 – Became part of Argentine school system.
- 1903 - Address listed as corner of Thirteenth Street and Metropolitan.
- 1910 - Taken in KCKs when Argentine annexed.
- 1912 - Old Stanley burned. Cause unknown. Erected two portables for smaller pupils. Some sent to one-room school at 37th and Powell, others to Emerson and Franklin.
- 1915 – Probable date of construction of new building.
- 1923 – Second story added.
- 1951 Flood – Opened to accommodate evacuees in western part of Argentine.
- 1990 - Received \$750,000, three-year grant from RJR Nabisco Foundation to become a Next Century School. Students to attend 205 days (compared to 180). Teachers on duty 226 days (compared to 187). Renamed New Stanley.

Noble Prentis



- 1910 - School first housed in old yellow store building at 21st and Steele Road owned by people named Snedeker. When superintendent suggested calling school "Roe," a Miss Wilhite said should be "Yellow Hammer." Named used in reports and in neighborhood. The floor was concrete and desks were old and tipped crazily. Parents objected to concrete floors. Planks were laid and desks anchored to the planks. Boards were warped and the room looked like a sea with rocking boats. Once a week, the furniture and floor were moved so the concrete floor could be swept.
- 1911 - January: School on Roe site named Noble Prentis in honor of prominent Kansas historian. Located about 14th and Gibbs. Had stoves with galvanized shields around them. The stoves were used for preparing hot lunches.
- 1912 - Addition of two upstairs rooms..
- 1920 - Another addition. Became part of Kansas City, Kansas school system.
- 1954 – New building built and old razed before 1962.

Northeast Jr. High

Northeast Junior High sits on historic ground, dating back to the Wyandot Indians.



- The land was first settled by Matthew Walker, a Wyandot Indian and brother of William Walker, Jr., Provisional Governor of Nebraska Territory in 1854.
- Matthew Walker was one of the leading businessmen among the Wyandots. He was probate judge of Leavenworth County when it included the territory, north of the Kansas river, now included in Wyandotte County. (Note: Wyandotte County was carved from Leavenworth and Johnson counties.) He was a member of the territorial legislature when the capitol of the territory was at LeCompton.
- The first meeting of Masons was held in the Matthew Walker home on August 11, 1854. Matthew R. Walker was the Senior Warden of the Masonic Lodge organized on that day and a charter member. This was the beginning of the Masons in Kansas.

Northeast cont'd.

- The Eastern Star also came to Kansas by the way of the Walker home. This organization was first known as the American Adoptive Rite of the Order of the Eastern Star and the local organizations were called Constellations. On July 26, 1856, John W. Leonard, grand secretary of the organization gathered a small group of men and women, most if not all of whom were Wyandots, at the Walker home, and organized a Constellation. Mrs. Lydia B. Walker, wife of Matthew R. Walker, and reputed tyler for the first Masonic lodge in Kansas, was installed as worthy matron. Matthew R. Walker was installed as worthy patron. Mrs. gave to the Constellation her Indian name, "Mendias," meaning "soft spoken woman."
- The Walker home was a mansion in its time and was purchased later by George Fowler of the Fowler Packing Company business in old KCKs (what we know as the West Bottoms or French Bottoms today). Purchased in 1880, Fowler spent \$75,000 on the home. What cost \$75,000 in 1854 would cost \$1,583,226.71 in 2003.

Northeast cont'd.

- In 1901 - Part of the old Fowler property (350 Troup) had been offered as a site for a school in the Second Ward. The BOE, however, chose a location on the northwest corner of Fourth and Parallel for a two-story four-room brick building. This property at 4th & Parallel was for Eugene Field School, known later as Kealing School and replaced in 1970 by present-day Banneker Elementary School. Banneker sits on the north side of Parallel, to the northwest of Northeast Junior High.
- The Edgerton Place residential district grew up around the Fowler mansion. The Baptist Seminary (later known as Central Baptist Theological Seminary) occupied the building after the Fowlers sold to Swift and Company and left the city.
- In 1923, the Central Baptist Theological Seminary sold ground to the BOE for the Northeast Junior High School and the school was built in 1923.

Northeast cont'd.

- Northeast Junior High built - The elementary schools, with grades one through six which were attended totally by Black students, were considered to be the "feeder" schools for Northeast Junior High School. In addition to those feeder schools, Black families from White Church, Edwardsville and Shawnee Mission, Kansas had to send their children to Northeast Junior High School.
- Northeast Junior was the only junior high school in Kansas City, Kansas which had a membership charter for the National Junior Honor Society. The charter was issued by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Charter #31 was issued to Northeast Junior High School in 1931. Also, Northeast Junior High School was the first junior high school in this city to have a chapter in the F. T. A. (Future Teachers of America). Rozella Caldwell Swisher sponsored this program.
- Northeast was closed in 1976 due to the Court Order Desegregation Order.
- Consideration was given to establishing a Jobs Corps Center at Northeast Junior High.
- Property sold in 1985 to the Pleasant Green Baptist Church.

Northwest Junior High

18th & Haskell

1924 – Opened probably in January. Building occupied by 7th and 8th grades from six schools.



- 1928 - First public address system to be installed in Kansas City schools.
- 1951 Flood - Northwest Junior High School opened facilities to the General Motors, Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac Plant. They installed their temporary offices, an engineering unit, a personnel unit, an inoculation unit and used grounds at Northwest Junior for parking motor cars salvaged from the plant.
- 1982 - Changed to middle school serving grades 6-8.
- 2002 - Voters approved a proposed \$120 million bond issue at the Municipal Election Tuesday (April 3, 2001) to air-condition schools, improve technology, and make other upgrades to schools and public libraries. Northwest was part of Phase II, which was completed in the summer of 2002.