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### Article and Document Relating to Stone Schoolhouse

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# Fort Hays Is Looking For Stone Schoolhouse

Oct. 27 - 1976

Merle Walker

**HAYS — Wanted:** One used stone schoolhouse.

Even though the day of the one-room schoolhouse is all but history, Fort Hays Kansas State College is looking for one. A special committee was recently appointed by President Gerald Tomanek to investigate the possibility of securing and reconstructing a stone schoolhouse on the Fort Hays State campus.

Committee chairman is Dr. Allan Miller, associate professor of education at the college.

A request was made by the FHS chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a national education honor society, for a college committee to examine the possibility of having a stone schoolhouse on campus. It was felt this would be another suitable project to help celebrate the college's 75th anniversary in 1977, Miller added.

Superintendents of unified school districts and others who might have knowledge of a stone schoolhouse which could be relocated should contact one of the special committee members at the college.

Others on the schoolhouse relocation committee besides Miller are Dr. Robert Luehrs, associate professor of history; Dr. Nancy Vogel, associate professor of English; Dr. William Robinson, professor of education; Dr.

John Garwood, dean of instruction; Earl Bozeman, director of campus planning; Ann Gustad, history graduate student; and Larry Thomas, education graduate student.

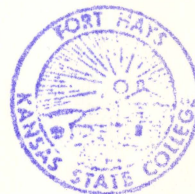
The Fort Hays State committee hopes to locate the school this year and have it ready for removal to a permanent campus site by next September. The committee hopes to relocate the school in an area with "high visibility," close to the old fort and new sports complex in the southwest section of the present campus.

Besides Phi Delta Kappa, the FHS Alumni Association and the FHS Endowment Association will be asked to support the stone building project, Miller stated.

*Please treat as confidential!*

## FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

HAYS, KANSAS 67601



To: Planning Committee; Earl Bozeman, Chairman  
From: Stone Schoolhouse Committee; Allan Miller, Chairman  
Subject: Stone Schoolhouse at Fort Hays State  
Date: January 25, 1977

The stone schoolhouse project began in the minds of several faculty members in the spring of 1976. These members were concerned with several events taking place in their western Kansas environment.

As the world demand for Kansas wheat increased, more farmers were interested in planting every possible unused acre in wheat. This meant some stone schoolhouses were in the way.

Another threat to the stone schoolhouses of our region came from a recent rash of crimes, which were many times concealed by abandoned rural buildings. Law enforcement officials encouraged farmers to tear down all buildings which were not presently occupied.

A bitter-sweet experience happened to one of the faculty members while visiting Knott's Berry Farm in southern California. Admiring the beautiful reconstruction of a western frontier town, he noticed that the old frame schoolhouse was taken from Beloit, Kansas. It might be fine to export one old schoolhouse for the children of California to glance at, but what about our own Kansas kids? Wouldn't they be interested in their own frontier heritage?

At Fort Hays State, the various departments, committees, and individual faculty members began thinking about contributions to the nation's bicentennial and, more specifically, the seventy-fifth anniversary of ole Fort Hays State. Why not preserve an old stone schoolhouse? Aside from the stone churches and the more modern grain elevators (Kansas cathedrals), nothing is more indigenous to our western Kansas heritage. And why should it be preserved by Fort Hays State? Because our school was started as a normal school which had the charge to train the teachers of these stone schoolhouses. There is a bit of Fort Hays State in each one of them. Additionally, the stone schoolhouses are of regional interest and Fort Hays State is the only regional institution of higher education in western Kansas. We should preserve a stone schoolhouse for those western Kansans who have passed on, as well as for those western Kansans of the future.

The most fitting place on campus for this stone schoolhouse is the site of the old gymnasium, east of Forsyth Library. This site is favorable due to its close proximity to Sternberg Museum. It is believed that people, particularly groups of school students, coming to the campus on a field trip to visit either Sternberg or the stone schoolhouse will want to visit both upon arrival. This proposed site also offers ample parking in the lot between the tennis courts and Forsyth Library. The aesthetic appeal of the site is the third item in its favor. Green lawns, tall trees, and a small creek would allow the schoolhouse to blend in nicely with the environment.

\*  
The labor and funds to move and reconstruct the stone schoolhouse will come completely from private sources. The labor will be volunteer and is already partially committed: the archaeological aspects will be handled by Ann Gustad, graduate student in history, and Max Reed, anthropology teacher at Great Bend; the carpentry supervision by Bill Claflin of the education department; the masonry supervision by Sam Hamilton of the philosophy department; the overall building project by Dave Van Doren, Hays contractor and builder, and Earl Bozeman, college planning director; and the museum aspects will be supervised by Merle Walker, emeritus professor of geology.

*Did not attach  
to March 1978*  
A grant of \$2,500 has already been obtained by Dr. Nancy Vogel from Phi Delta Kappa. Other grant money is expected and fund drives started. The monies will be deposited in a Fort Hays State Phi Delta Kappa chapter special account. The Fort Hays State Endowment Association will be consulted. It is this committee's understanding that a commitment of \$300 per year be made to the college to cover utilities and ground maintenance. We believe that to be fair. We will proceed to work on this commitment with the Endowment Association.

The future time table of events leading to the completion of the stone schoolhouse project is as follows:

Spring semester, 1977--

32  
Exploration, compilation of histories of the twenty-eight schoolhouses under committee consideration. (The committee will be assisted by graduate students in the History of American Education class.)

Details of maintenance agreement worked out with Endowment Association, Planning Committee.

Schoolhouse selected during May.

Summer session, 1977--

Building needs, assessments determined.  
Building cost estimates determined.  
Building fund raising campaigns formulated.  
Grant proposals written, submitted.

Fall semester, 1977--

Razing and removal of stone schoolhouse to Fort Hays State campus.

Foundation poured and reconstruction begins.

Fund raising begins.

Spring semester, 1978--

Reconstruction is completed with dedication set for May, 1978.

Fund drives continue, if needed.

Museum design determined and begun.

Summer session, 1978--

Schoolhouse program for children written.

Informational brochures designed.

Fall semester, 1978--  
Full program in operation.

Schoolhouse may also be used for honorary organization meetings--  
open to all honoraries.

#### Addenda Concerning Role of Ellis County Historical Society:

In August, 1976, the committee chairman contacted Mr. Standlee Dalton, extending an olive branch to work together on a project. The chairman was told that it was his (Dalton's) opinion that the above mentioned group would not be interested in a joint project--they would rather work on their own. Presently, after considerable committee investigation, work, grant money obtained, schoolhouses donated to the college, and publicity, there are rumblings that the Ellis County group is interested in a joint project.

It is the collective feeling of the committee that the schoolhouse project is of wider interest and significance than the County Society people might realize. We further believe that Fort Hays State should take the lead in this matter, as we have the expertise to see the project through to a fitting and proper completion.

This addenda is not to exclude the Ellis County Historical Society from helping. We will be glad to offer another olive branch. However, we firmly believe that because we have done the initiatory work, we must determine the nature and role of their help.

#### Proposed Mini-Grant to Graduate Students in History of American Education

1. 10¢ per mile or maximum of \$25, whichever is less. (Estimated cost = \$400.)
2. \$5 per school allotment for film, tape for pictures, oral history-interviews. (Estimated cost = \$115.)

Total cost proposed = \$515 est.