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Committee selects school

The stone schoolhouse which will commemorate Fort Hays State's 75th anniversary is to be selected on commencement day.

The schoolhouse project, which is under the sponsorship of Phi Delta Kappa, the education fraternity, was initiated because FHS's 75th anniversary is so close to America's bicentennial. A stone schoolhouse will be preserved because it is considered by many faculty members as a characteristic point of the heritage of western Kansas.

"Fort Hays State originally functioned to prepare teachers for western Kansas," said Allan Miller, Stone Schoolhouse Committee chairman, "so there is a regional historical link to one-room schoolhouses."

Of the 32 one-room schoolhouses being considered, the list has been narrowed to nine so far. According to Miller, who initiated the idea jointly with Nancy Vogel, associate professor of English, there is a multiple criteria for selecting the right school.

"We use the physical condition, what kind of limestone the school is made of and the age of the school, as well as the distance from FHS and the ability to tear it down and take it to the campus."

But there is more to consider than the physical aspects, such as the historical background of the school.

The American Education class compiled histories of the schoolhouses by contacting individuals in the community, and looking up records in county courthouses to trace the origins.

Using a list of questions 10 pages in length, the class found schoolhouses that have been involved in range wars, gambling operations, weddings, community activities, funerals and even one which had cockfighting contests.

There are two possible locations on campus for the schoolhouse said Earl Bozeman, Planning Committee chairman.

One possible site is east of the library, across the street by the creek, where many students wanted a parking lot.

This location is valued for the scenic location and its nearness to the Sternberg Museum.

The other site is across the street from Davis Hall.

The labor and funds to move and reconstruct the stone schoolhouse will be volunteered from private sources. The archeological aspects will be managed by Ann Gustad, Hays graduate student, and Max Reed, anthropology teacher from Great Bend.

Carpentry will be supervised by Bill Clafin, associate professor of education, and masonry supervisor is Sam Hamilton, professor of philosophy. The overall building project is supervised by Dave Van Doren, Hays contractor, and Earl Bozeman, FHS planning director. The museum aspects will be coordinated by Merle Walker, emeritus professor of geology.

The stone schoolhouse is scheduled for completion by May, 1973, and will have a full program in operation by the fall semester of that year.

FHS Leader Th. May 12 1977