

## = Strang School District No. 36 =

Strang School District No. 36 , or the Strang Public School , is a historic school located in Fillmore County , Nebraska , in the village of Strang . The school is one of the two sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the village of Strang . The school building is a small , two @-@ story , brick public schoolhouse , which was built to replace the schoolhouse that was previously located on that site . The schoolhouse was built between 1929 and 1930 , and replaced the previous schoolhouse , which burned down in 1928 . The schoolhouse still retains all original building materials . The school served high school students from 1930 to 1951 , and still functions as a school today , serving grades K ? 8 . The NRHP listing also includes a flagpole located outside the schoolhouse , and five pieces of playground equipment .

## = = History and education = =

In October 1928 a fire destroyed the small school that had previously been located in Strang . Classes were held in two local churches and the Belle Prairie Township Hall for the remainder of that year , while the townspeople held a series of meetings to discuss the construction of a new schoolhouse . Later in 1928 , plans for the new schoolhouse were drawn up and approved , and construction on the new Strang Public School began in 1929 . The majority of the people that worked on constructing the school were local townspeople . The first classes in the new school were held in February 1930 . The schoolhouse was constructed in a " fireproof " fashion , as to prevent another accident . The new schoolhouse was constructed to hold students from first through twelfth grades , from Strang and the surrounding communities . Primary students attending classes were located on the second floor and secondary students classes were held on the first floor . Since construction , there have been no projects undertaken to refurbish or restore the original building , as to protect its historical importance . In 1951 , due to a decline in enrollment , the school reduced to serving just students in grades K through 8 , and has remained this way since . In fall of 2001 , the school had an enrollment of just eight students . By the fall of 2004 ( the last published figures available ) , that number had fallen to just five .

## = = Architecture = =

The Strang Public School is a near perfect example of what is considered a typical twentieth @-@ century " fireproof " schoolhouse in Nebraska , and is constructed somewhat symmetrically . The school was constructed in a simplified version of the Renaissance Revival style , consisting of two stories , with a flat roof .

## = = = Exterior = = =

The building is constructed in a rectangular shape , symmetrical on the exterior , and measures 32 feet ( 9 @. @ 8 m ) by 66 feet ( 20 m ) . The approximate height measurements are not provided by the Register . Large , six over six paned windows are located in the front and the back of the building on both floors . Similar windows are also located on the south side of the building , but only on the top floor . There are no windows located on the north side . The entire exterior of the building is constructed from brick . The roof is flat and constructed of roofing cement , with a parapet located around it , with a section of a chimney that sticks out of the south end of the roof . The most prominent feature of the exterior of the building is the large , central pavilion , with a stepped gable parapet wall .

## = = = Interior = = =

The first level of the building contains two classrooms , both of which have a cloakroom , a set of three swivel doors , and a large slate chalkboard that covers one of the walls . The first story also

contains two bathrooms , four small storage closets , and a central hall , as well as a large stairwell leading up to the second floor . The second story contains three classrooms , with the same features as those downstairs , along with an office and three small storage rooms . A metal fire escape door is located in the center of the west wall of the second story . The schoolhouse also has a partial basement , which contains a large storage room , a coal room , and a disused coal furnace .

= = Geography and facilities = =

The Strang Public School is positioned at the intersection of Main Street and Sharon Street , on the southern edge of Strang , originally planned as a convenient location for the teachers and students coming from surrounding communities . The campus consists of the main schoolhouse , five historic pieces of playground equipment , a flagpole located in front of the building , a basketball / tennis court located north of the school building , and a large playing field west of the schoolhouse . The entire property is contained inside a 300 by 300 foot square plot of land .

A flagpole is located outside the main entrance to the school building , and is included in the NRHP listing as a contributing feature . A set of gym bars , a tether ball pole , a swing set , a " slippery slide " , and a merry @-@ go @-@ round are located on the south and west sides of the property , and are all listed as contributing features . A fenced tennis and basketball court is located on the north side of the property , and a large track and playing field are located on the west side of the property , but none of these features are included in the listing .

= = Significance = =

Strang School District No. 36 was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 25 , 1992. Note 1 On its nomination , Strang School District No. 36 was cited as being significant under criteria C , with the statement : " as a multi @-@ story , brick , " fireproof " school building , an example of a type , period , and method of construction representative of school buildings constructed in many communities in Nebraska , particularly in Fillmore County , during the first quarter of the twentieth century " . The school 's listed year of significance was 1930 , the year it was constructed . The school is considered significant to the surrounding community by Fillmore County , due to its importance to education an historic qualities , being one of the oldest buildings in the area .