

# Ashland School District Records (SC216)

## *Introduction*

This collection contains Ashland School District records including information for Ashland, Kensington, and Manchester elementary schools.

## *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: Ashland School District  
Title: Ashland School District Records  
Dates: 1866-1899  
Size: 0.4 linear feet, 1 box  
Collection Number: SC216

## *Donor Information*

Found in collection.

## *Citation Note*

Ashland School District Records (SC216), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: Additional information on the Ashland School District may be found in the following vertical files: Schools-Public-Kansas City, Missouri-Ashland; Schools-Public-Kansas City, Missouri-Kensington; Schools-Public-Kansas City, Missouri-Manchester.

## *Historical Sketch*

Ashland, Kensington, and Manchester schools were part of the old Ashland School District before the district was annexed by the Kansas City, Missouri School District in February 1899. Ashland School, named after the ash trees in the area, was originally Wright School, named after one of the school directors, Bryan Wright. The school began in 1852 after Larkin Steele gave an acre of his land for the building of the school, a one-room frame house. In 1875, an addition to the building was constructed and the name became Ashland. The school is still standing and has changed over the years from a one-room schoolhouse, to an eight-room brick building, and to another larger building by 1911.

Kensington School opened in 1888 on the lower floor of a frame store building at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Norton Avenue. The next year the school moved to the second floor of a brick store building at 15<sup>th</sup> and Myrtle. By the 1880s the school was located at 17<sup>th</sup> and Poplar in a two-story brick building with four rooms on each floor. In 1915,

construction began on the present building which opened in 1916 at 17<sup>th</sup> and Van Brunt. Currently, the building houses the Southwest Charter School.

Manchester School opened in 1888 originally at 16<sup>th</sup> and Bristol. In 1919, plans were started for a new building which opened in 1920 at Truman and Winchester. It was the first school building to add bathrooms to each class room, and featured a specially constructed picture booth furnished with a projector. Manchester School had evening classes for students who did not speak English or was their second language. By 1922, 750 students were enrolled. The building was last used in 2003 and was destroyed by fire in 2011.

### *Scope and Content Note*

The collection contains Ashland School District records. Materials include Board of Director's meeting minutes, various district records, and a memoranda and weather book. The collection is arranged chronologically.

#### **Series 1: Memoranda and weather book, 1866-1890**

This book contains planting and weather information.

#### **Series 2: District records, 1889-1899**

This series consists of five ledgers containing district information including Board of Director's meeting minutes, teacher contracts, school expense estimates, orders drawn, lists of resident taxpayers, enumeration of students, director oaths, and district reports.

### *Collection Inventory*

#### **Series 1: Memoranda and weather book, 1866-1890**

f. 1 Memoranda and weather book, 1866-1890

#### **Series 2: District records, 1889-1899**

- f. 2 School District Records, 1889-1891
- f. 3 Board of Director's Minutes, 1889-1892
- f. 4 School District Records, 1892-1894
- f. 5 District Clerk's Record, 1895-1896
- f. 6 District Clerk's Record, 1898-1899

**Processed by Sheri Volpe, Intern, October 2014**