



Sam Gorden/Index

The Lincoln School is located at S. Wabash Street. The elementary school was the first and only elementary school for African American children in Kirksville, established during 1914.

Residents work to remember school

BY DANIELLE BRESHEARS
Staff Reporter

Although the old red brick building on Wabash Street might not get a second glance from some people, some history enthusiasts are calling attention to its significance.

Sitting abandoned at 907 S. Wabash Street, the former one room schoolhouse was established during 1914 as the first and only elementary school for African Americans in Kirksville, according to a local historical book, "A Book of Adair County History," published by The Kirksville-Adair County Bicentennial Committee during 1976. Before the federal integration law was passed during 1954 due to the Brown vs. Board of Education case, if an African American student wanted to attend a secondary school they had to drive to Macon and the board of education in Kirksville would then pay their tuition, according to the same book.

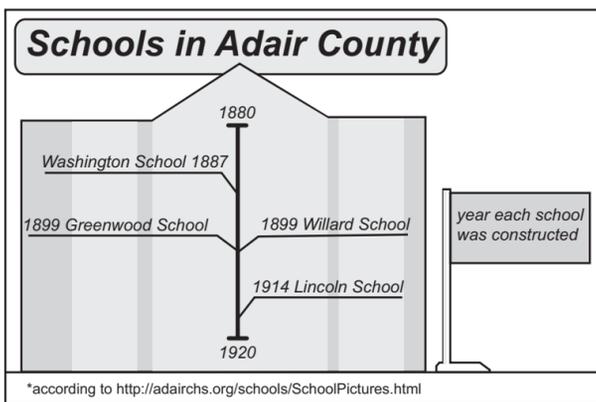
The Lincoln School is being honored with the opportunity to be recognized as an official historic site, said Cole Woodcox, professor and architectural trainer. Woodcox is working together with the site's owner and other people around Kirksville trying to get the site some recognition by making it a historical site.

Minor said she has made trips around the Wabash Street neighborhood to inform the people of the school's history. The building currently is not being used for anything, but is in danger of vandalism.

Woodcox said he is working with the site's owner and other history enthusiasts such as Kirksville resident Claudia Minor to make the building a part of the National Register of Historical Places. The list is the nation's honor roll of sites significant in local, regional or national history, and to be on it means a site is worthy of national preservation, Woodcox said.

"The school is important to community history and history about the environment that shaped the building and should be accessible on a national level," he said.

Woodcox said he thinks the Lincoln School should be recognized



not only because of its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse, but also as a record of segregated education throughout Missouri.

"Recognizing [this building] makes people aware of the local representation of public education and how the foundation of democracy was extended to students across the state in the past," Woodcox said.

Woodcox said he thinks the complex history of the site should be more well-known to students and people around the area of the site, he said.

"It is important that the students living around the building know about its history," Minor said. "This way they can also take pride in the building and keep it protected. I believe it is an important building and represents our past."

Clyde Johnson, former attendee of the Lincoln School and Truman alumnus, voiced his concern for the preservation of the site as well.

Johnson, now 70, attended Lincoln School from ages 4 to 11. The school not only gave him a good education, it also provided him with a social community that supplied lifelong friendships, he said.

"The school setting was very warm and steeped in tradition," Johnson said. "We had one on one instruction and the education I received was very solid and really carried on for a good portion of my life."

Johnson later earned a bache-

lor's and master's degree from Truman — then Northeast Missouri State University — during 1964. He said he looks back at his education at Lincoln School as an asset to his later life accomplishments.

Apart from being a place of education, Johnson said the school also served as the main social area for the African American community. He said the site was used for dinners, games and community bonding.

"The black community's activities centered around two organizations; the church and the school," he said. "[The school] was used for everything from social activities to children's recess play."

Having so many positive memories at the school, Johnson said he thinks everybody around the area should be aware of its history. More specifically, the college generation should be aware and realize how it plays into education then and now, he said.

"The [education] received at Lincoln started at school and spread out to other life activities," Johnson said. "That's where families were brought together and friendship ties were maintained."

After the federal integration law was passed, the last class of the Lincoln School, nine students including Johnson, were placed into existing Kirksville schools, according to "A Book of Adair County History." The building now stands as a record of segregated education across rural northern Missouri.

Fund offers opportunity

Investment fund offers hands-on application for all majors

BY EMILY BATTMER
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Like many student organization presidents, senior Ryan Hashemi is responsible for establishing and leading a selective group of about 30 members. Unlike many organizations however, those 30 members are responsible for making decisions involving thousands of dollars — even though many of them aren't planning a career in finance.

Hashemi, president and founding member of the Bulldog Student Investment Fund, has been working with professors and alumni for the past year to create an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience investing real money in the stock market.

Hashemi said his fascination with stocks began during high school, when he started picking up books and teaching himself about the stock market.

"It was just very intriguing to me," he said. "A lot of my free time was just reading on the stock market and how it worked."

He wanted to apply his knowledge of investing at college, so he approached one of his professors and pitched the idea of an investment fund, he said. At the time, an alumna serving on the Foundation Board at Truman State expressed interest in pledging money to create this opportunity, Hashemi said. He said she pledged to donate \$30,000 throughout the next five years, and Truman agreed to give an additional \$22,000.

Since then, Hashemi has been crunching numbers and leading the Bulldog Student Investment Fund toward its ultimate goal — outperforming the Standard and Poor's 500.

S&P 500 is a stock market index based on the prices of the top 500 publicly traded American companies, and Hashemi said outperforming them is no easy task. To ensure the success of the fund, interested applicants go through a selective application and interview process, and once they're invited to join the fund, spend a semester learning how to invest before they become full members of the organization.

As full members, students are put into teams to analyze different industries in the stock market, Hashemi said. Each group picks one stock and creates a stock pitch that explains why the group should invest money in that company. The fund as a whole votes for the most convincing presentations, he said.

At minimum, Hashemi said members will gain knowledge of how to invest and can apply it to their own personal finances, even if they're not planning a career in stock market investments. However, he said business students probably gain more.

"It depends on where your interests lie," he said. "Those interested in business have a phenomenally greater benefit. You learn

what makes a successful business and you can apply that in your future career."

Junior Zach Brandt, vice president of external relations for the fund, already is seeing the benefits the fund has for economics majors.

"Economics is a great thing to study, but it sort of falls prey to the same thing a lot of majors face — it lacks real world application," Brandt said. "The fund allowed me to bridge the gap between theory and practice."

Since joining the fund during spring 2012, Brandt said he has learned how banks and financial firms decide to invest money and has been able to apply that knowledge to his own money management.

His involvement with the fund also has been a résumé boost and helped him land an internship next semester, he said. He will be working in Washington, D.C. at the Office of Economic Policy in the Department of the Treasury.

"I attribute [my internship] mostly to my involvement with the fund," Brandt said. "The fund was something that came up in the interview and they were really impressed with it."

Despite the benefits for business, accounting and economics majors, the fund is open to anyone, said professor Charles Boughton, faculty advisor for the fund. Even within the student leadership, Boughton said majors range from history to computer science.

Boughton said all students gain important skills from their involvement with the fund, including communication and presentation skills as well as a sense of self-motivation.

"The skills that they build, besides just learning about the stock market, are teamwork skills, [and there are] a lot of leadership opportunities within the group," he said. "Even if a student decided they wanted to do something not in the finance field, the skills that they build would be transferable to basically any other career and what they learned in the fund would be directly applicable to their own personal financial management."

So far, the fund has made one investment using only a fraction of the money, Boughton said. The organization chose the company Ingredion, a Midwestern-based, value-added producer of high fructose corn syrup and other corn and wheat products, he said.

To determine which stocks would make good investments, Boughton said members looked for companies that are leaders in their industry, and have good potential to maintain that leadership, with no indicators of depreciating in value.

"The idea is to create a portfolio of stocks over time so that we spread that money out over a number of different companies to minimize downside risk," he said.

Recently, the group started re-evaluating the proposals made last spring to see which stocks the students might want to invest in later during the fall semester, Boughton said. He said the group will go through the process again of studying an industry sector and creating stock pitches.

When investing, the fund looks for companies that are industry leaders with no indications of depreciating values.



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