

Amended nomination form for a National Register property.

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Shawnee
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Pottawatomie Baptist Mission Site

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: NW 1/2, NW 1/4, Sec. 32, T 11 S, R 15 E; on Urish Road, .3 mile north of Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second--Bill Roy

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66615

COUNTY: Shawnee CODE: 177

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dale Carman State of Kansas

STREET AND NUMBER: 1836 Oakley

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66604

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66603

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVLY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 66612

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas

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ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
	(Check One)				(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pottawatomie Baptist Mission farm originally encompassed 320 acres, legally described as follows: S 1/2, SW 1/4, Sec. 29, T 11 S, R 15 E; NW 1/4, Sec. 32, T 11 S, R 15 E; and N 1/2, SW 1/4, Sec. 32, T 11 S, R 15 E. The main structure of the mission still stands although its original appearance was quite different from the present.

The Pottawatomie Baptist Mission school was a three-story structure of rough-hewn ashlar stone 85 feet long and 35 feet wide. Divided into 12 rooms, it had 60 doors and windows. Walls were two feet thick on the first floor and one and one-half feet thick on the upper floors. The description was given in 1849 by the school superintendent, the Rev. Johnston Lykins; however, no photograph or sketch of the building when in use as a school has been located to date.

Existing evidence seems to indicate that the front of the school was either the north or east side, not the south as at present. A ramp and large door on the south which now permit access to the second floor likely were added when the building was converted to a barn. The remains of a fireplace on the first floor and the former location of a chimney directly above the door (visible in 1897 photographs) seemingly demonstrate that originally there was no door on the south. Some of the first and second floor windows have been boarded or blocked up. Also, some of the crosswalls have been removed on the second floor as has the stairway from the first floor. The third floor, which had been used as sleeping quarters for the Indian students, no longer exists. Substituted for it has been a third floor loft of frame construction. At the present time the building has a gambrel roof with two ventilating cupolas. The upper roof portion projects over the end of the wall.

A number of log structures which were constructed nearby had disappeared by the turn of the century, but some archeological evidence of their locations has been found.

The mission buildings were situated in the N 1/2, NW 1/4, Sec. 32, T 11 S, R 15 E. It is this approximately 80-acre parcel lying to the northeast of the I-70 and Urish Road overpass which the National Register nomination is being amended to include. This acreage, which has the I-70 right-of-way for its southern boundary, slopes gently upward to the north. Most of it consists of tilled fields and pasture land. A corral is placed adjacent to the stone building. Fields border the nominated area on the east and north. At the northeast are several houses.

The change in boundaries of this National Register property is requested to provide for the preservation of the aesthetic values still presented by the rural nature of its environment. The city of Topeka is presently growing westward; urban development is occurring to the south of this property across I-70 and to a lesser extent to the west.

Additionally, considerable attention has recently been focused on this building and acreage as the possible site of a proposed Bicentennial project. Whether this materializes or not, long range plans now being developed will include State acquisition of the 80

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Shawnee	
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(Number all entries)

7. acres, exterior restoration of the mission building, and the construction of a new state historical museum building at such a location where it would not detract from the old mission structure. The property also has the potential for the development of archeological sites as an educational tool for visitors. The presence of two small streams and a wooded area northeast of the old building afford a prime opportunity for nature trails and related activities. In all likelihood, a sizeable portion of the property would be returned to native grasses.

Located as it is adjacent to the heavily traveled Interstate 70 highway, this property is ideally situated to attract visitors and should be easily accessible. Its listing on the Register and subsequent development as a historical museum and park should help to retain an open green area in a developing urban region.

8. given the terrain of the mission farm, this parcel would likely have been one of the first to be plowed and planted. The mission farm would have been one of the very earliest in what is now Shawnee county.

The mission was located near the Kansas river on one of the branches of the California-Oregon trail, about one-half mile from a ferry. Travelers on the trail camped near the mission and availed themselves of its blacksmith facilities. The mission site is one of the few remaining Kansas links to that era. The date of the building's construction makes it one of the oldest buildings in Shawnee county and in the state. It is also the only structure remaining from Baptist Indian mission activities in the state.

The reasons for requesting the boundary change have been explained in item 7.

9. Schenck, Lena Baxter, "The Forty-Niners and the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission," Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, No. 27 (April, 1957), pp. 17-21.
Sharp, W. A. Seward, History of Kansas Baptists (Kansas City, Kan., The Kansas City Seminary Press, 1939), p. 37.
Starburg, Robert E., Baptists on the Kansas Frontier, unpublished B. D. thesis, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1960.
"Topeka's Oldest Relic," Topeka Journal, May 22, 1954.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1849

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Western settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1847 the Pottawatomie Indians were removed to a reservation on the Kansas river just west of present Topeka. Baptist missionaries Robert Simerwell and the Rev. Johnston Lykins moved to the reservation the next year. Lykins supervised the construction of various buildings including the school. As superintendent of the Pottawatomie Baptist Manual Labor School he sent a report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on September 30, 1849, in which he described a stone building in the process of completion. Details of his description are given in item 7 of this nomination form. The estimated cost of the school building was \$4,800, which was to be paid by the federal government under its program of supporting manual training schools for Indian children.

In 1849 there were 39 students and two teachers. Training was to be offered in domestic skills, woodworking, metal work, farming, the three R's and religion. About 60 acres of prairie soil were plowed and 25 acres planted each to corn and to wheat, with smaller amounts in potatoes, beans and garden vegetables.

Progress made from year to year is somewhat difficult to trace because of missing reports. The early 1850's seem to have been troublesome times for the school. It apparently closed in 1855 when it was transferred to the Southern Baptist convention for reorganization. Reopened in 1856, the school had increased enrollment and its greatest success from 1858 to 1860. It was closed again in 1861 when the federal government dropped its support because the Southern Baptist Convention which supervised the school was identified with the Confederacy. An unsuccessful attempt was made by the Pottawatomies to have the school reopened in 1869.

Around 1874 the Baptist mission board sold the 320 acres known as the "Baptist Mission Farm" to Robert I. Lee, who had evidently farmed the ground on a rental basis since 1869 or 1870. Lee converted the stone mission building into a stable for race horses. The structure is still used as a barn.

The 320-acre farm has been divided into a number of parcels with different landowners and usages. The approximately 80 acres to which the National Register nomination of the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission building is being amended contains the remaining building and the building sites associated with the mission. And from all indications,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, Louise, compiler, The Beginning of the West (Topeka, Kan., Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), pp. 741, 800, 889, 930, 1062.
 Connelley, William E., "The Prairie Band of Pottawatomie Indians," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 14 (1915-1918), pp. 488-555.
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 71, 72.
 "The Oldest Building," Topeka Mail and Breeze, May 22, 1896.
Reports of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1849, 1851-1853, 1855-1862, 1869.
 Schenck, Lena Baxter, "The First Days at the Kansas River Mission," Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, No. 23 (July, 1955), pp. 11-13.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	03'	29"	95°	46'	48"						
NE	39°	03'	29"	95°	46'	15"						
SE	39°	03'	14"	95°	46'	15"						
SW	39°	03'	14"	95°	46'	48"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **81.373 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard Pankratz, Planner**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **January 22, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West Tenth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: **Nyle H. Miller**

Title: **Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society**

Date: **January 22, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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