

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shawnee Mission

091-1770-0002, 0003-0005

AND/OR COMMON

Shawnee Methodist Mission

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3403 W. 53rd Street

CITY, TOWN

Shawnee Mission

VICINITY OF

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

003

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kansas State Historical Society, Nyle H. Miller, Executive Director

STREET & NUMBER

120 West Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66612

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Olathe

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/Annex, Prints and Photographs Division

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(restored)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the height of its activity, Shawnee Mission was an establishment of 2,000 acres with 16 buildings, including the three large brick structures which still stand, and an enrollment of nearly 200 Indian boys and girls.

3403 W. 53rd St. 091-1770-0005
The West Building was the first permanent structure at the mission. Thomas Johnson, superintendent of the mission, moved his family to the new building in 1839, and school began the same month. Another building, twenty feet square, was erected in the rear and in 1840 the two were joined by seventy-foot walls to make a dining hall seating 200 persons. In later years fifty feet at the end of the West Building were removed. An "historic" porch was reconstructed in 1968, but subsequent research indicates no such porch existed west of the Mississippi in the 1840's.

3405 W. 53rd St. 091-1770-0003
The East Building, 100x30 feet and two stories high, was built in 1841. It contained fourteen school and lodging rooms for teachers and children. The chapel occupied part of the first floor, and the attic was the boys' dormitory.

3408 W. 53rd St. 091-1770-0004
The North Building was erected in 1845 to accommodate increased enrollment. It was 100x20 feet, two stories high, with a piazza across the entire length except at the ends.

The building was divided into connecting rooms which were used as the girls' school and dormitory. At one time Johnson and his family lived here as well.

The school was abandoned in 1864 and for the next sixty years the buildings served variously as Union Army barracks, a dance hall, dairy bottling plant, apartments and a boarding house. In 1927 the state bought the three remaining buildings and began restoration work and landscaping on the 12-acre grounds. The West Building has become the caretaker's residence, and many interior alterations have been made. The East and North Buildings are museums. Some rooms have been authentically restored and refurnished. Others are incongruous in style of refurnishing. These rooms were done in the 1930's and '40's by private historical societies. The grounds have been attractively landscaped, with no attempt at historic reconstruction. A brick garage was built behind the North Building about 1935.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1839-1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shawnee Mission and Indian Manual Labor School was among the earliest of such institutions in the Louisiana Purchase area. The mission was established in 1830 by the Rev. Thomas Johnson. Indian children of many nearby tribes were taught English, manual arts, and agriculture here from 1839 through 1862. At the height of its activity nearly 200 Indian students were enrolled.

The first territorial governor of Kansas had his executive offices at the Mission in 1854, and the first territorial legislature met here in 1855. The pro-slavery assembly unseated all but two of the Free Staters attending and legalized slavery in Kansas by the "Bogus Laws," as the Free Staters who refused to recognize the actions called them. On August 8, 1855, the legislature moved to Leocompton, followed shortly by the executive offices.

The mission declined rapidly after this time. The Indians sold their lands and moved away. Border troubles became serious. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Thomas Johnson, although himself a slaveholder, pledged his allegiance to the Union cause. The Johnsons closed the mission in 1862. In 1864 they moved to Missouri, where Johnson was killed by a band of Quantrill's guerillas on the night of January 2, 1865.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The Shawnee Mission State Park comprises 12 acres out of the original 2,000. It includes the three historic buildings still standing and the sites of outbuildings no longer in existence. The grounds are attractively landscaped and, thus, provide an unobtrusive, although not entirely historic background for the buildings. The boundary, therefore, encloses the 12-acre Shawnee Methodist Mission State Park, as described by the red line on the accompanying map B, labelled "Shawnee Mission" and dated June 17, 1975: From a point at the intersection of Mission Road and 53rd Street, proceed north along a line extending the east curb of Mission Road about 200 meters to the property line of Bishop Meige High School. Proceed east along the property line about 140 meters and then south about 320 meters. Proceed west about 160 meters to the east curb of Mission Road and then north about 120 meters along the curb to the point of beginning.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shawnee Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Shawnee Methodist Mission

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Shawnee Mission

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Johnson

STATE

Kansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' series--Shawnee, Kan. and Kansas City, Mo.--
Kan. quadrangles

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1964 (photorevised 1974) for both.

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 2986-75

