**1. NAME**

**COMMON:**
Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
Highland Presbyterian Mission

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** one and one-half miles east of Highland on US-36 and two-tenths mile north on K-136

**CITY OR TOWN:** Highland

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** No. 2, Bill Roy

**STATE:** Kansas

**COUNTY:** Doniphan

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY** (Check One)
- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**OWNERSHIP**
- Public
- Private
- Both

**STATUS**
- Public Acquisition:
  - In Process
  - Being Considered

**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

**PRESENT USE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Government
- Park
- Transportation
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Educational
- Military
- Religious
- Comments
- Entertainment
- Museum
- Scientific

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNER'S NAME:** State of Kansas

**STREET AND NUMBER:** State Capitol

**CITY OR TOWN:** Topeka

**STATE:** Kansas 66612

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:** Register of Deeds

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Doniphan County Courthouse

**CITY OR TOWN:** Troy

**STATE:** Kansas 66087

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

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

**DATE OF SURVEY:** 1957

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
Kansas State Historical Society

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 120 West Tenth

**CITY OR TOWN:** Topeka

**STATE:** Kansas 66612
The original building of the Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission, completed in 1846, was three stories high and topped by a belfrey that gave it a total height of 52 feet. It was 106 feet long and 37 feet wide. The first story was walled with native stone and the upper two with brick manufactured on the grounds. Shingles, doors, windows and finished lumber were sent from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Other building materials were acquired locally.

About 25 years after the Mission closed, a long-time resident of the area reminisced about it in a local newspaper. The building was "... built specially as a boarding house for the Indian children, with a large dining room on the ground floor, with a fine chapel and teachers' rooms on the second floor, and dormitories and teachers' rooms above, all furnished in the best manner."

Of the 32 rooms in the building, the largest were the dining room and the chapel, which measured 34 feet by 30 feet.

The present structure is only 46 feet long. The west three-fifths of the building was razed some time after the Mission was sold in 1868.
IOWA, SAC & FOX PRESBYTERIAN MISSION


In 1837 the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions sent Samuel M. Irvin and his wife to establish a mission among the Iowa, Sac and Fox Indians who had been removed to Kansas. The Mission was the first permanent white settlement in what is now Doniphan county. In 1844 the Mission Board authorized the construction of a permanent building which was completed in 1846.

The school, which the missionaries operated in the building, could have handled 100 students, but seldom had more than 40. Lessons were taught in the Iowa language and English. In 1843 the second printing press in Kansas began operating here, printing a hymnal and several grammars in the Iowa language.

The Indians, never too involved with the Mission, dropped their financial support in 1860. But even prior to that, their attendance at the mission and interest in its program had declined in the late 1840's and 1850's when cholera and smallpox epidemics had hit the area.

After the Indian funds were cut off, Irvin, who worked at the Mission from its beginning to its closing, was granted permission to change the Mission to an Orphan Indian Institute. This too was closed in 1866.

The Mission was inactive after 1863 and the building was sold in 1868.

The existing section of the building is now operated as a historic site-museum by the State Historical Society.

This is the only physical evidence remaining of Presbyterian Indian mission activity in Kansas.
Forman, John W., "Reminiscences of the Old Mission, near Highland," unidentified newspaper, about 1887-1888, bound in Doniphan County Clippings, Kansas State Historical Society.

Illustrated Doniphan County, Supplement to The Weekly Kansas Chief, Troy, Kansas, April 6, 1916, pp. 7, 8.


Kansas State Historical Society, "Iowa, Sac and Fox Mission," (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9-10

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

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NAME AND TITLE:

Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

Oct., 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

120 West Tenth

CITY OR TOWN:

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

CODE

66612

20

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

Date (to NR): 10/12/70

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

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-147/1442 3-1