

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Dyche Hall (preferred name)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Museum of Natural History

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: University of Kansas Campus, northwest corner of 14th Street and Oread Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Lawrence CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: No. 3, Larry Winn

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Douglas CODE: 045

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: State of Kansas

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Douglas County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Lawrence STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Federal Writers' Project of Work Projects Administration

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939. Records destroyed.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

045-3010-075

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

Dyche Hall, on the campus of the University of Kansas, is a four-story building with a full basement. The building faces east and features a tower on the east side.

The exterior, which is basically a Romanesque style, is of rough hewn limestone laid in irregular courses. The individual stones vary in size. Belt lines are featured at the floor lines plus a very decorative corbel belt along the fourth floor line. One of the building's highlights is the combination of column and arched roof detailing on the facades to give the impression of massive window units. These large false windows are very ornate and detailed in trim, including two carved stone gargoyles on each false window. On the front are double towers, an octagonal one of three stories and a square one rising three stories above the roof line. The top floor is all columns and windows reaching to the detailed cornice with an arcade directly above the arched main entry. The main entrance was said to have been modeled after one of the world's most beautiful portals--that of St. Trophime at Arles, in southern France.

The roof form is in a hipped style and covered with red clay tile shingles. A detailed cornice provides a break between the walls and the roof. The main tower extends well above the roof to enhance the roofing structure. The tower's roof itself is a steeply pitched octagonal form with smaller roof elements on each of the tower's four sides.

The windows vary considerably from floor to floor. Few windows are placed on the first and second floors, except in the towers. Third floor windows are mainly thin rectangles with arched heads. The fourth floor windows sit behind the arcade and are basically rectangular in shape.

An addition was built to the north in 1963 to provide more classroom space.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      1901-1902

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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

The Dyche Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Kansas at Lawrence was built in 1901-1902. Dr. Francis H. Snow, the chancellor of the university, had been asking the Kansas legislature for funds to construct such a museum since the early 1890's. But it was not until 1901 that the legislature appropriated \$75,000 for construction. Following a design competition among a number of architects, the firm of Root and Siemens of Kansas City, Missouri, was selected as having the best design. The contract for the building's construction was awarded to Henry Bennett of Topeka.

From the time of its conception in the mind of Dr. Snow, the building was intended to house the nationally renowned collections of Lewis Lindsay Dyche, Professor of Taxidermy. Dyche enrolled at the University of Kansas in 1877 and joined the teaching staff after his graduation. An avid outdoorsman, he made numerous trips to the Rocky Mountain region where he obtained many specimens to enlarge the university's collection. More than 100 of his mounted animals were displayed in the Kansas exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. His work was widely acclaimed because of the natural, lifelike stances of the mammals. Dyche's trips to collect specimens ranged far and wide, including a trip to Greenland in 1895 with Emil Diebitsch, brother-in-law of Robert E. Peary, to rescue Peary. He also accompanied Dr. Frederick S. Cook on one of his polar expeditions. Altogether he made 23 expeditions in the interest of the university museum. Dyche was regarded as one of the nation's leading hunters, explorers, naturalists, taxidermists and lecturers.

The museum was first used in October, 1902, while still under construction. It housed classrooms and laboratories but was mainly the home of Dyche's growing wildlife collection. Following the death of Professor Dyche in 1915, the building was officially named Dyche Museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Douglas	
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(Number all entries)

1.

8. In 1932 Dyche Museum was declared to be structurally unsafe and closed by the State Architect. The concrete floors were not adequately reinforced or supported and had been weakened by the weight of the displays. Consequently the building was not used for nine years during which time the university attempted to obtain sufficient funds to allow for the strengthening and refurbishment of the structure. The interior had to be completely rebuilt, and when that was completed, two more years were needed to clean and repair the displays.

The museum was reopened on June 6, 1941, after an expenditure of \$125,000. A wing was added in 1963, and the building continues in use as the university's museum of natural history.

Dyche Hall is regarded as one of the most distinctive buildings on the university campus. Together with nearby Green Hall and Spooner Hall, it forms a small core of architectural tradition on the campus.

9. chitecture), May 24, 1932, pp. 131-134.  
"Dyche Museum Is Vacated as Unsafe," Lawrence Journal-World, November 30, 1932.  
"Dyche Museum K. U.'s Show Place," University of Kansas Newsletter, v. 52, no. 29 (March 28, 1953).  
"Dyche Museum to Be Vastly Improved," The Graduate Magazine of the University of Kansas, v. 38, no. 1 (September, 1939), p. 15.  
"K. U. Launched a Century Ago," University of Kansas Newsletter, August 28, 1965.  
Landon, John Cobb, "The Dyche Museum," Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, no. 19 (October, 1953), pp. 21-26.  
"Legislature Will Decide on Appropriations Soon," The Graduate Magazine of the University of Kansas, v. 35, no. 6 (February, 1937), p. 3.  
"Naming the Museum," Lawrence Journal-World, February 8, 1958.

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2.

9. O'Leary, Theodore M., "Outstanding K. U. Feature Restored by the Reopening of Dyche Museum," Kansas City Times, June 6, 1941.  
"Restoration of Dyche Museum Recalls Famous K. U. Scientist," Kansas City Star, December 4, 1937.  
Taft, Robert, Across the Years on Mount Oread, 1866-1941  
(Lawrence, Kan., The University of Kansas, 1941), pp. 58, 59.  
"Work on Museum Nears Completion," Lawrence Journal-World,  
March 1, 1940.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Animals in Dyche to Be Beautified," Lawrence Journal-World, August 16, 1939.  
 "Ban on Dyche Museum," Kansas City Times, December 1, 1932.  
 Burnau, Pat, "Old Buildings Make Way for New on K. U. Campus," Topeka Daily Capital, May 21, 1963.  
 Chase, Frank M., "Noted Museum is Direct Product of Hunting Trip," Topeka Capital, June 8, 1924  
 Compton, J. Howard, The Building of the University of Kansas, (unpublished thesis submitted to the Dept. of Architecture in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Ar-

**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	0 ' "	0 ' "		39° 57 ' 31 "	95 ° 14 ' 36 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charles Hall, Architectural Consultant  
 Richard Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Nov. 5, 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 December 1, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

G R A

4318000m N

WAKARUSA

ATOPKA

Waterworks

Memorial Hospital

Clinton Park

Finckney Sch

ALABAMA STREET

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Potter

McAllister Sch

LOUISIANA STREET

Cordley Sch

19TH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS STREET

HASKELL

UNION PAC

UP Sta

SANTA FE

Post Office

Santa Fe Station

STREET

Central Park

City Hall

South Park

Lawrence

McAllister Sch

STREET

Cordley Sch

STREET

MASSACHUSETTS STREET

HASKELL

LINCOLN STREET

5TH ST

Lincoln Sch

STREET

STREET

New York Sch

Clur House

12TH STREET

Lawrence

McAllister Sch

STREET

Cordley Sch

STREET

MASSACHUSETTS STREET

HASKELL

KANSAS

Memorial Park Cemetery

BM 873

39°05'31"

57'30"

IV NE  
CE WEST

95°14'36"

IV NE  
CE WEST