

**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:
Lane University

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
north of high school

CITY OR TOWN:
Lecompton

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) No use <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Unified School District #343

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Perry

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:
045

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 SURVEY RECORDS:
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 West Tenth

CITY OR TOWN:
Topeka

STATE:
Kansas

CODE:
20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lane University building is a two-story rectangular structure, 65 feet long by 50 feet wide with a height of 34 feet. The facades are evenly proportioned and balanced under a very low pitched roof. The ashlar limestone walls are two feet thick.

It is situated on the south third of the foundations of what was to have been the capitol of Kansas. The foundation ruins measure 150 feet by 80 feet.

The first floor is raised about four feet above ground level. It consists of four classrooms of equal size separated by a hallway running the full east-west length and a second hallway from the south front door intersecting with the first.

The basement is arranged similar to the first floor.

The second floor is an open room with no partitions or columns. When used by the university, most of the second floor was a chapel.

All windows and doors have arches, and the second floor windows especially have a slitlike appearance.

Except for the deterioration, the exterior of the building has changed little from its original appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1882

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 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

Lane University was founded by the United Brethren in Christ Church in 1865. They offered to name it for the donor making the largest contribution. He turned out to be Sen. James H. Lane, who pledged \$1,000 but committed suicide before fulfilling the pledge.

The Kansas legislature in 1861 authorized the donation to the Kansas College Association of 13 acres of ground in LeCompton containing the ruins and foundations of the intended territorial capitol. This capitol had been started in 1855 with a Congressional appropriation of \$50,000. When that had been expended, only the basement and most of the first story walls were completed. It was estimated that \$500,000 would be required to finish the structure, but Congress never appropriated another cent for its construction.

The university held classes in an old hotel until its building on the capitol foundation was completed and dedicated in 1882 after a year and a half of construction. Lane University was troubled throughout most of its existence by a lack of students and financial support. Compounding that problem were its poor location and LeCompton's declining population. Enrollment in its early years averaged 40-70 students, with only 20 graduates up to 1882. In 1902 Lane University was merged with Campbell University at Holton, and all movable property at Lane was carried to Holton. Later the school moved to Kansas City, Kansas, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

The building was used briefly as an elementary school, and in 1903 became the community's high school. Replaced in 1927, it has seen occasional usage as a storage building. Plans to restore the building have been advanced periodically by various organizations without visible results.

As a historical sidelight, the parents of Dwight D. Eisenhower met as students at Lane University and were married at LeCompton.

Lane University is an example of the concern demonstrated early in the state's history to provide for the education of Kansas youth. Its significance is heightened by its location on the ruins of what the Proslavery element of LeCompton intended to be the capitol of Kansas.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

"At Historic Lecompton," Topeka Capital, July 12, 1953.
 Blackmar, Frank W., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 2, pp. 103, 104.
 "An Early History of Lecompton, Kansas, and Its Vicinity" (Lecompton, Kan., Lecompton Rural High School English and History classes of 1931-1932), pp. 43-45.
General Laws of the State of Kansas, 1861 (Lawrence, Kansas State Journal 1861), p. 109.
History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), v. 1, pp. 351, 352.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		39	02	42
SE	° ' "	° ' "		95	23	29
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Sept. 3, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth

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: _____

Date Sent to NR: 10/12/70; 12/1/70

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