

Inventory Number _____

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES---COVER SHEET

Name of Property Smith-Hollingsworth-Thomas Log House 099.4250-0009

Location Third & Merchant Streets, Thomas Park
(street and number)

Oswego
(city, town, or vicinity location)

41' X 16' structure located on the southeast corner of Thomas Park at the Third & Merchant Streets intersection.
(legal description)

Labette
(county)

Owner of Property City of Oswego

703 Fifth Street
(street and number)

Oswego, Kansas 67356 Labette
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review N/A

date entered in National Register N/A

Description: The Smith-Hollingsworth Log House (ca. 1867) is located on the southeast corner of Thomas Park, at the intersection of Third & Merchant Streets in Oswego, Labette County, Kansas (pop. 2,205). The one-story, double-pen log cabin supports a cedar shake, gable roof and sits on a dry rubble foundation. Its facade orientation is to the south. Centrally located limestone chimneys project from the east and west gable walls. The oak and walnut logs used in the construction of the cabin are interlocked at the corners with half-dovetail notching. Board and batten sheathing is applied to the gables. Double, 4/4 double hung windows flank the center door on the south facade. A shed roofed overhang projects from the area between the windows on the south facade.

Single, 4/4 double hung windows flank the chimneys on the east and west walls. The north wall is broken by three openings, a door for each pen and an enclosed access to the breezeway or dog-trot in the center. The building measures 41' from east to west and 16' from north to south. The log cabin sits on its original site. Sometime after its construction a second story, a lean-to, and weather boarding were added to the structure.

In 1974, after the property was donated to the City of Oswego, the Oswego Historical Society removed the second story, the lean-to, and the weatherboarding, as well as the interior plaster walls, exposing the lath boards and the log walls under them. The project did not include the opening up of the breezeway.

Significance The Smith-Hollingsworth Log House (ca. 1867) is being nominated
to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its association with the settlement
history of Oswego. Initial white settlement of the Oswego area occurred in 1865; Oswego
was incorporated as a third class city in 1870. Jaber (James) Smith and Hiram Hollings-
worth, the men historically associated with the cabin, were among the community's first
settlers. The Smith-Hollingsworth Log House served as the meeting place for the Baptist
Church until 1870 and also served briefly as a jail in 1889. The structure stands
several hundred feet to the south of Humbolt Road, the United States Government's first
military road through the territory. The Smith-Hollingsworth Log House stands as the only
example of Oswego's settlement period architecture.

Form prepared by Martha Gray Hagedorn date 4-23-86

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by the
 Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on May 10, 1986
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.


 State Historic Preservation Officer

May 10, 1986
 Date

In 1974, the property was donated to the City of Oswego. The Oswego Historical
 Society rehabilitated the building to recall its original appearance and operates a local
 history museum from it.