Form No. 10-300

FOR NPS USE ONLY:

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kaw Methodist Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Old Kaw Mission

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

500 North Mission St.

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

VICINITY OF

No. 5, Joe Skubitz

STATE

Kansas

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Kansas

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

Register of Deeds

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Morris County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Council Grove

STATE

Kansas 66846

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration

DATE

1939

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Records destroyed. A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939

CITY, TOWN
The Kaw Methodist Mission is a sturdy rectangular stone structure of eight rooms built in 1850-1851, with rectangular door and window openings and a gabled roof with chimneys at either end. Except for the addition of several colonial porches, the exterior of the building looks much like it did originally.

The interior wall structure remains the same, but the lower floor now houses a museum related to the mission activities and the pioneer settlement of the area. At the present time the upper floor is used as living quarters for the caretaker.
An 1846 treaty with the Kansa or Kaw Indians relegated them to a diminished reservation 20 miles square which included the site of present Council Grove. In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, signed a contract with the government to establish a mission and school for the Kaw Indians at Council Grove.

The government paid for the building which was finished by February, 1851. The building was large enough to house 50 students in addition to teachers and other mission workers. The school opened in May, 1851, with Thomas Sears Huffaker in charge. The classes continued for the Indian children until 1854. The average attendance was 30 students a year, who were instructed in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. One reason for closing the school was the high cost—$50 a year per pupil. Another reason was the lack of response by the Kaw Indians. The only children sent to the school were orphan or dependent boys.

In May, 1851, Huffaker had also established a white-school department in part of this building with 12 to 15 white pupils. This was one of the first schools for white children in Kansas territory. When the government withdrew its financial support in 1854, the school for the white children of Council Grove continued.

This was the westernmost Indian mission building constructed in Kansas.
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Blackmar, Frank., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard
Holter, Don W., Fire on the Prairies: Methodism in the History of Kansas (Methodist
Kansas State Historical Society, "Council Grove and the Historic Kaw Mission" (Topeka,
State Printer, n. d.).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY four

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Richard Pankratz

ORGANIZATION
Kansas State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
120 West Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN
Topeka

STATE
Kansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
9.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Resident's Name

Resident's Address

State

City

County

Counties

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