**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*Type all entries - complete applicable sections*

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### 1. NAME

- **Common:** Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station (preferred name)
- **And/or Historic:** Indian Agency Building

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### 2. LOCATION

- **Street and Number:** NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 10, T 10 S, R 12 E
- **Off US-24-40 east of the city limits, west of St. Mary's College campus, on Mission street**

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### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **Owner's Name:** Missouri Provincial Educational Institute
- **Street and Number:** 4511 West Pine Blvd.
- **City or Town:** St. Louis
- **State:** Missouri

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### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:** Register of Deeds
- **Street and Number:** Pottawatomie County Courthouse
- **City or Town:** Westmoreland
- **State:** Kansas
- **Code:** 66549

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### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **Title of Survey:** 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 Street
- **City or Town:** Topeka
- **State:** Kansas
- **Code:** 66612
The original Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station building was a one-story stone structure. Native stone was used for the walls with a minimum of effort being used to dress the stones. Coursing is extremely random, suggesting that any available stone was used. The mortar joints are very rough with a minimum of pointing. Larger stones were generally used for quoining with all the larger stones at or near ground level for the obvious reason that only manpower was available to lift the stones into position. Very simple windows and a door allow sunlight to reach the interior. Chimneys pierce the wood shingled gable roof at either end and effectively terminate the horizontal roof line. This structure is a typical example of the frontier architecture that served the very basic requirements of shelter for its occupants. The small stone structure has been enlarged by a one-story frame addition at right angles to the stone portion.
### SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>17th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
<th>19th Century</th>
<th>20th Century</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Columbian</td>
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<td>19th Century</td>
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**SPECIFIC DATE(S): (If Applicable and Known)**

- ca. 1850's

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Aboriginal
  - Prehistoric
  - Historic
  - Agriculture
  - Architecture
  - Art
  - Commerce
  - Communications
  - Conservation
- Professional
  - Education
  - Engineering
  - Industry
  - Invention
  - Landscape
  - Architecture
  - Literature
  - Military
  - Music
- Political
  - Religion
  - Philosophy
  - Science
  - Sculpture
  - Social/History
  - Theater
- Other (Specify)
  - Urban Planning
  - Other (Specify)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station in St. Marys, Kansas, reportedly built in the early 1850's, was used by government agents in paying the Pottawatomie Indians' annuities. These Indians had been moved in the 1830's from the Great Lakes region to Kansas, where they were allotted land to establish a reservation in what is now Miami county. Later the government permitted them to move to present Pottawatomie county. After choosing their own location, the first permanent group of Indians arrived September 9, 1848, accompanied by Catholic missionaries, who immediately began a mission and school. This settlement later became the town of St. Marys, and the Indian school became St. Mary's College in December, 1869.

When the Pottawatomies exchanged their lands for a reservation in Kansas, the United States government agreed to pay $3,000,000 difference. This money was given to the individual members in small amounts every three months, often at the small stone building on the mission grounds. The annual amount paid to individuals in 1870 averaged $688.00, and some families received as much as $5,000. A newspaper account of one of the last annuities payments in St. Marys in 1870 described the event as "an utterly forlorn, dismal, and miserable spectacle." A paymaster from the Interior Department read off the names from inside the building, and an interpreter standing in the doorway repeated them, each individual coming forward to the building to get his payment. Much of the money passed immediately to traders or others having claims against an Indian.

The Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station is the oldest surviving building of the St. Marys Indian Mission and the oldest building in Pottawatomie county. Because of its use as a pay station for the Pottawatomie Indians by U. S. government agents during a period of approximately 20 years, it has significance and is worthy of recognition.
4. The City of St. Marys now has a 50-year lease on the Pottawatomie Indian Pay Station and it is being used as a museum.

"Pottawatomie County," Pottawatomie County Herald (Louisville), March 26, 1879.
"A Short History of Pottawatomie County," Onaga Herald, August 21, 1941.
Sutterlin, John Floyd, "Historical Outline of Pottawatomie County," 37 pp. manuscript in Kansas State Historical Society Library.
Watson, John, "Historic St. Mary's College Started as Indian Mission," Wichita Evening Eagle, September 17, 1953.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kansas State Record (Topeka), October 30, 1870.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES</th>
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<tr>
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<td>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY</td>
<td>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES</td>
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<td>CORNER</td>
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<td>LONGITUDE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society

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 [x] Local [ ]

Name: Nyle H. Miller
Title: Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society
Date: December 15, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: ____________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: ____________________________