

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wolcott Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1,5	3,4,6,6,0	4,3,3,2,6,0,0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 746' north of SE corner of the W1/2 of the SE1/4 of S31,T10, R24, thence north 141', then west 143', thence south 141' thence east 143' to the beginning. Includes church and cemetery.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Dept.

organization Ks. State Historical Society date 3-30-82

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913/296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

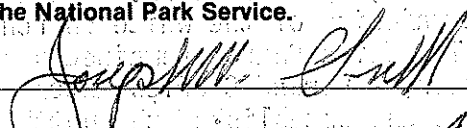
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Ex. Director and Ks. State Historic Preservation Officer date March 24, 1982

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NPS Form 10-900  
(7-81)

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

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received APR 8 1982  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic White Church Memorial Church and Delaware Indian Cemetery

and/or common White Church Christian Church and Delaware Indian Cemetery

## 2. Location

street & number 2200 North 85th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Kansas City N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Kansas code 20 county Wyandotte code 209

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

## 4. Owner of Property

name White Church Christian Church

street & number 2200 North 85th St.

city, town Kansas City N/A vicinity of state Kansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Wyandotte County Courthouse

city, town Kansas City state Kansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ks. State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The White Church Memorial Church and Delaware Indian Cemetery are located on North 85th Street in Kansas City, Kansas. Once very rural in character, the area has become increasingly urbanized since the end of World War II. The church and cemetery stand as sole reminders of the occupation of this area by the Delaware Indians. The limestone church has been added to since its construction, but most of its original fabric is intact. Only the original church and the remnants of the Delaware Indian Cemetery behind it are proposed for nomination.

The ridge-line of the rectangular church runs north and south, parallel with 85th Street. A two-story tower on the east facade houses the entrance vestibule and the bells. The original building is constructed entirely of coursed quarry-faced limestone and is roofed with asphalt shingles.

The north, south and east facades remain relatively unchanged from the time of the church's construction in 1904. An addition to the west facade of the church totally blocks it from view. That wall originally had an alcove located in the center of it, directly across from the entrance. It had two stained glass windows, one on either side of the nook. The alcove has since been removed and the archway that led into it has been widened to permit access to the church's Fellowship Hall (built c. 1946).

The walls of the church and the tower have battered stone buttresses at the northeast and southeast corners. Access to the crawl space beneath the church is gained through a cellar door on the south facade. A chimney in the southeast corner of the roof attests to the fact that a stove once stood in that corner of the church and tried rather ineffectually to heat the high ceilinged space.

The exterior detailing is very simple, giving the church a rustic appearance. The only cornice decoration is on the tower which has a rough band of block modillions.

The crowning glory of the church is its stained glass windows. The north and south walls each have a large pointed arch window flanked by two smaller ones. The windows on the ground floor on the north and south faces of the tower as well as the lights over the front door are all of stained glass also. All of these windows were dedicated, as the central northern window states, "in memory of our 12 apostles to the Indians from 1830-1856 and their heroic wives." The other windows are inscribed with the names of these early missionaries and other worthies.

The interior of the church has been extensively altered. The orientation of the congregation has been changed several times. Currently the pulpit and altar are directly in front of the original entrance door. To gain access to the church, one must enter Fellowship Hall to the south of the church proper.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1857, 1858, 1860, 1904 **Builder/Architect** William W. Rose

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The White Church Memorial Church was built in 1904. Designed by William W. Rose of Kansas City, a well-known architect and public figure, the limestone church is one of his earliest extant designs. The church is a memorial to the early Methodist ministers who established a mission among the Delaware Indians in the Kansas territory. The cemetery directly behind it holds the graves of the early Delaware Indian leaders and one of the earliest white settlers in the territory. The church and the graves are the only physical reminders of the Delaware tribe's occupation of the area.

By treaty of 1829 the Delawares were given "the country in the fork of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers extending up the Missouri river to Camp Leavenworth, and running westward to the eastern limits of the Kaw land." They were also given an outlet which extended for ten miles, along the entire northern boundary of the Kaw reservation. This gave them access to the buffalo feeding grounds. The Delawares stayed on this reservation until 1867 when they were finally transported by the United States government to Indian territory.

Two years after the Delawares came to the Kansas territory Thomas Johnson, a Methodist Episcopal missionary, left the Shawnee mission to establish a mission among the Delawares. By 1833 a church had been established, for in that year the first church report was issued. The construction date of the first church building is not known, but it is known that it burned in 1844. A second church, a frame structure painted white, was built in 1845.

Prominent in this early church community were James and Charles Ketchum and Issac Mundy, all of whom are buried in the old Delaware cemetery. The names of the Ketchum brothers recur often in the meshed histories of the Delaware tribe and the Methodist Episcopal church. The Reverend James Ketchum was reputedly the first ordained minister of the Delaware nation. His tombstone behind the White Church reads, "Capt. Ketchum, Chief of the Delaware Nation 28 years, a member of the Methodist Church, E.P. South, 22 years, born in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, 1780, died July 11, 1857, aged 77 years." When the Methodist church split in 1845, James and the majority of the White Church congregation went to the southern branch. (The White Church remained a southern M. E. congregation until 1931.) James' brother, Reverend Charles Ketchum, split with his brother on the church division issue and established the northern branch of the church. His gravestone reads "Charles Ketchum, born December, 1811, died July 20, 1860, one of the Chief Counselors of the Delaware Indians and by his death the Nation met with an irreparable loss, a member of the M.E. Church, 26 years, ordained Deacon

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by Bishop Simpson at St. Louis, 1852."

Isaac Mundy was buried in the Indian cemetery after a hunting accident cut his life short. He was held in high regard by the Delawares and had lived among them since his arrival in Kansas territory. He apparently went to the territory as paymaster for the United States government and served as blacksmith for the Indians. In 1858 he testified that he had lived at Delaware crossing in Kansas territory for about thirteen years. His gravestone inscription is indicative of the esteem in which he was held: "Sacred to the Memory of Isaac Mundy, Born May 30 A.D. 1814 Died Feb. 27 A.D. 1858, Aged 43 Years 9 Mos. A Man among a thousand: distinguished for his integrity, his piety and his extensive influence in community. 'But our loss is his gain.' For it is written 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'"

The cemetery holds several other early markers, including those of other members of the Ketchum family. Well into the 20th century descendants of these Delaware Indians returned to the burial ground to honor their dead.

The white frame church built in 1845 was destroyed in 1886. A new church was not built until 1904, when William W. Rose designed the present structure. The church was not built in any one style. Like many early twentieth century ecclesiastical structures, it borrowed from a variety of sources. Its solid massiveness is reminiscent of the Romanesque style. The pointed arches of the doors and windows are Gothic in origin. These characteristics had, however, become totally dissociated from their original styles and served merely as part of the vocabulary of church architecture, prompting the proper associations in the viewer's mind.

The White Church Memorial Church and Delaware Indian Cemetery are the last remnants of the almost forty year occupation by the Delawares of this area, and their association with the early mission church. As such, they are valuable memorials to a lost era.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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The archway that formerly held the alcove now serves as entrance to the church from the Hall. The original entrance is no longer used.

The walls have all had wainscot paneling applied. The church is entirely carpeted.

Around 1946 Fellowship Hall was built on the back of the church. In the 1950s and 1960s the school was added to the south, connecting to Fellowship Hall.

The cemetery which stands directly behind the church has several important gravestones within its boundaries. Among these are the markers for Isaac Mundy (1814-1858), an early white settler; and the Ketchum brothers, prominent Delaware Indians who were leaders in the Methodist Episcopal church. The three brothers died in 1837, 1860, and 1866.

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Morgan, Perl W. History of Wyandotte County, 1911, p878.

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