

THE TOPEKA LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Holliday Office Building
620 SE Madison Ave., Holliday Conference Room, 1st Floor

A G E N D A

Thursday, June 13, 2019

5:30 PM

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Minutes –May 9, 2019**
- III. Announcement of Potential Conflicts (Because....)**
- IV. Review and Comment on the National Register Nomination for St. Marks AME Church, 801 NW Harrison St.**
- V. Review and Comment on the National Register Nomination for Topeka Fire Station No. 4, 813 SW Clay St.**
- VI. Discussion of “Historic Signs” and responsibilities of the Landmarks Commission as reflected in the newly adopted City of Topeka Sign Regulations**
- VII. Administrative Approvals**
 - 921 S. Kansas Ave., approval of substitute materials and minor alteration of finished design
- VIII. Other Items**
- IX. Adjournment**



ADA Notice: For special accommodations for this event, please contact the Planning Department at 785-368-3728 at least three working days in advance.

TOPEKA LANDMARKS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Holliday Office Building | 620 SE Madison | 1st Floor Holliday Conference Room

Roll Call

Members Present: Jeff Carson, David Heit, Donna Rae Pearson, Grant Sourk, Christine Steinkuehler, Cassandra Taylor (6)

Members Absent: Cheyenne Anderson, Mark Burenheide, Paul Post (3)

Staff Present: Tim Paris, Kris Wagers

Chairperson David Heit called the meeting of the **Topeka Landmarks Commission** to order with five members present for a quorum. Mr. Carson arrived after roll call.

Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2019

Motion by Mr. Sourk to approve; **second** by Ms. Taylor. **APPROVAL** (6-0-0)

Announcement of potential conflicts

Ms. Taylor stated that she would abstain from voting on CLGR 19/15 by The White Linen as her company is working on the project.

CLGR19-07 by The Iron Rail, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness review for the refinishing of the east portion of the basement of the building located at 705 S. Kansas Avenue. This property is listed as “contributing” to the historic integrity of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District.

Mr. Paris noted that the applicant’s architect was not able to attend this evening’s meeting but had provided renderings of the finished (proposed) project. He concluded by presenting staff’s recommendation for approval.

Mr. Sourk asked for clarification on what the plans are for the ceiling. It was agreed that the applicant intends to paint the pipes, etc. and leave them exposed. They are not original. It was noted that if the 1st floor and basement projects had been reviewed together then the commission would likely have asked the pipes be installed differently, but since the applicant is expanding their business and the pipes are already in place, this is the best option. Addition of a ceiling would potentially add more problems.

Additional discussion topics included the addition of a bathroom and the plans for what appears to be a stone wall.

Motion by Mr. Sourk for a finding that the proposed refinishing of the basement of the property located at 705 S. Kansas Avenue will not damage or destroy the historical integrity of the structure or the surrounding South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District. **Second** by Ms. Taylor. **APPROVED** (6-0-0)

CLGR19-15 by The White Linen, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness review for the placement of an illuminated projecting sign onto the southeast corner of the building located at 112 SW 6th Avenue. This property is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

TOPEKA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Mr. Paris presented the staff report, concluding with staff's recommendation for approval, noting that it is placed appropriately, is of the correct massing and size, and though it's illuminated, it's subdued in its illumination. Mr. Paris noted that a representative for the applicant was available for questions.

The applicant's representative (Andrew Wiechen) was present and noted that the placement of the sign will be on materials remaining from the building next door which has been torn down. None of the materials original to the building in question will be damaged. Ms. Pearson later noted that this fact was important to her approval of the project.

Mr. Sourk noted he is happy with the proposed size and placement of the sign, as well as the fact that the original limestone on the building will not be damaged. His only question would be how to deal with signs in the futures when there are multiple tenants in a building. It was agreed that this is something that will need to be addressed at some point in the future.

It was noted that no historical photos could be found of this building with a sign attached to it and it was agreed that likely signs had been placed in windows only. Mr. Paris pointed out that while this is likely the case, the Standards allow for reasonable change and this is, in his opinion, a reasonable change.

Motion by Ms. Pearson for a finding that the proposed illuminated projecting sign on the south face of the building located at 112 SW 6th Avenue will not damage or destroy the historical integrity of the structure.

Second by Mr. Sourk. **APPROVED** (5-0-1 with Ms. Taylor abstaining)

Administrative Approvals

Mr. Paris noted that there was one administrative approval that was reviewed by the DRC.

Other Items

Mr. Paris noted that plans are being made by Sunflower Foundation for new development on Menninger Hill. The company will utilize revenue bonds approved by Topeka's City Council.

Mr. Paris announced that the City of Topeka received full funding for the grants applied for with SHPO. They include "The Big Reveal", the 2nd half of the Tennessee Town Survey, and the Mid-century Modern Multiple Property document. He also shared details about the upcoming workshop and vinyl siding removal project that is being called "The Big Reveal". This is scheduled to take place in June of 2019.

Mr. Paris spoke about the nomination of Topeka Fire Station #4 and other stations to be added to the National Register.

Mr. Sourk announced that recipients of SNCO Historical Society awards are being announced this evening at 7:00. Next Friday Kansas Preservation Assn. is having a state-wide awards announcement.

Adjournment at 6:15 PM

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DRAFT
4/9/2019

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Other names/site number St. Mark's AME Church; KHRI #177-5400-01491

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 801 NW Harrison Ave.

City or town Topeka

State Kansas Code KS County Shawnee Code 177 Zip code 66608

not for publication

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious/Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival (Simplified)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone
walls: Brick Veneer over wood studs
roof: Asphalt shingles
other:

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is located at 801 NW Harrison Street, Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, just north of the railroad tracks and Kansas River. The 1½ story simplified Romanesque Revival brick church sits on a rusticated cottonwood limestone foundation and is topped by a high-pitched asphalt shingled gable roof. The gable shaped east and west façades, adjoining entrance tower, and projecting rear apse to the north are prominent features. The main entrance has a southern orientation.¹ The overall T-shaped form is symmetrical when viewing the building from the north, but the tower on the southeast corner gives the building an asymmetrical appearance from the south. The lower level houses the fellowship hall, while the raised main level houses the sanctuary. The overall measurements of the building are approximately 62'-8" east to west and 33'-6" north to south, while the projecting rear is 19'-5 1/4" east to west and 7'-8" north to south.

Construction on St. Mark's AME Church began in 1914 but was not finished until 1920. Gable roofs, crenellations, and arches in tower openings are common in ecclesiastical architecture. Romanesque influences are found in the round windows, the door and window arches, and simplified façade. No significant exterior alterations have been made over the past 100 years. The front steps have been changed twice and the lower windows have been boarded-over, but the shape and massing of the building remain. A few interior features, such as the original plaster, the beadboard ceiling, and the main walls of the entrance vestibule remain. The beadboard ceiling has been hidden as part of a 1970s remodel and is still in good condition, allowing the church to be easily recognized by anyone from the 1950s when Reverend Oliver Brown was the leader of the congregation. The building maintains good integrity in terms of design, materials, setting, association, and location.

Elaboration

Setting

Located in the northeastern part of the state, Topeka rests along the Kansas River in Shawnee County. Topeka is made up of several residential and mixed-use neighborhoods. St. Mark's AME church is located in the Historic North Topeka East Neighborhood, a mixed-use district just a few blocks west of the current NOTO Arts District.² The mixed-use district is a transition area of high industrial to traditional residential buildings, evident in the veneer and millwork factory, automotive repair building, and Topeka rescue mission warehouse to the south and east, with housing located to the north and west.³ A few of the houses closer to the south have been converted to businesses. There are also three other churches in a four-block radius of St. Mark's AME. Currently, there is no formal landscaping on the St. Mark's site except for a gravel parking lot to the west of the building and a small shrub on the south side.

Exterior

St. Mark's AME Church features a rusticated limestone lower level on the main east and south façades. The north and west are secondary façades that feature a limestone rubble wall on the lower level. The main level is brick veneer, and a gable roof runs east to west. The church is asymmetrical, and each façade is individually distinguishable. The building's foundation and lower level are rough-faced cottonwood limestone with a partially finished belt course that wraps the building's south and east façades, and ends with a single stone return on the north façade. The north and west façades do not have a finished belt course, but the limestone foundation maintains the belt-course height. Most openings in the limestone use the belt course level as the lintel.

The building's raised main level has brick veneer on wood stud walls topped with a wood framed gable roof. The southeast tower is also built with a brick veneer on wood stud walls and has a flat roof topped by a crenelated parapet. The east and west façades have circular wood stained glass windows beneath the peaks of the gable roof. Unless otherwise noted, all windows located on the main level are the original, historic wood double-hung stained glass units, of varying widths. All have arched stained glass transoms. The northwest window on the west elevation has had the sash replaced, and the northwest window of the projecting rear apse has had the stained glass repaired and replaced.

¹ St. Mark's does not sit on a true East-West orientation, the stated South elevation is truly facing South-West- South.

² Topeka Planning Department, and Historic North Topeka East Neighborhood Improvement Association. Historic North Topeka East Neighborhood Plan. An Element of the City of Topeka Comprehensive Plan: City of Topeka, December 2013.

³ Shawnee County, KS Interactive Maps. Property Search. "Shawnee County Appraiser's Office Interactive Maps." Scale 1:1000. <http://gis.snco.us/publicgis/PS/#>. Accessed 08/01/2017

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

The south façade contains the main entrance. The limestone base features four windows and a door towards the east end. This door was the main entrance to the lower level and has since been converted to a semi-accessible entrance for people who cannot use the main entry stairs to the main level. The two westernmost windows have been infilled, one with CMU brick and one with plywood. The center window contains an air-conditioning unit. Unlike the other windows, the westernmost window head is lower and does not use the belt course as a lintel and originally had an extended stone sill close to grade.⁴ The main level contains the main entrance on the south-facing southeast corner. Twelve cast-in-place concrete steps, accessed from the west, are lined with black square tubular handrailing. These stairs lead to a landing that accesses the main, non-original double doors centered in the tower. The original limestone stairs used to have a double access point from the east and west that converged in the center of the tower leading to the double doors (Figure 27 & 28). The main double doors are topped by a semi-circular stained-glass transom, which reads "St. Marks AME Church." To the west of the main entrance doors are three arched wood double-hung stained glass windows in the main level wall.

The east façade features a gable end and the east face of the tower. The limestone base has two fixed windows that share a stone sill and utilize the belt course as a lintel. The main level has a single arched wood double-hung stained glass window centered in the tower, a circular wood stained glass window centered in the gable, and a large arched wood double-hung stained glass window offset to the north underneath the gable. The large arched double-hung stained glass window is not centered on the gable end or the circular window above and does not align with the two fixed windows in the limestone base. A cornerstone is in the limestone foundation on the southeast corner; not all of the words can be read.

The north façade is the most symmetrical and is divided into three sections. The center section is a gabled projection centered on the facade. The limestone base has two fixed windows centered on each section of the north façade, utilizing a finished lintel at the belt course height. All windows on the lower level are either covered or missing, with the masonry openings infilled with concrete masonry units. The windows on the lower level of the rear projection are covered with plywood and are penetrated with fresh air and exhaust pvc pipes from the furnace. The main level has arched wood double-hung stained-glass windows centered over the two fixed windows in the limestone base. On the main level to the west side of the projection and east of the arched window, is an arched door that opens onto a wooden stair platform exiting down to grade. There are no records or historic photographs of the north elevation but, according to a member of the church, "the rear exit has always been there, but the stairs exiting used to be steeper and immediately dropped outside the door."⁵

The west façade features the western gable end. The limestone base has a single fixed wood window at the north side and a door at the south end which might have been a window at one point. Based on observation, the opening appears to have been planned since there is a clear lintel stone of the same cottonwood limestone at the water table band that matches the rest of the lower level openings. Both openings on the west utilize finished lintels at belt course height. The main level has a single arched wood double-hung window set towards the north. The stained glass in the wood double hung window has been removed, but the circular arch transom above the windows retains its stained glass. A fixed circular wood stained glass window is centered under the gable peak. A mechanical unit is mounted at the center of the façade south of the window.

Interior

The interior features two levels that correspond with the exterior cladding. The lower level divides into four main spaces: the fellowship hall, the kitchen and bathrooms, the storage areas, and the office. The main level contains the sanctuary and offices.

The fellowship hall occupies most of the lower level and features a large open space for fellowship programs or overflow services. The fellowship hall has been redone since the 1980s with the walls and ceiling furred out with white gypsum board, covering the existing historic limestone foundation walls. The gypsum board ceiling covers evidence of the historic beadboard ceiling in small fragments still attached to the floor joists above. A four-inch concrete slab was poured over an earlier concrete slab on grade. The slab extends partially into the northern storage closet and eastern storage room below the entry tower, creating a small step poured against the stair. Based on observation the floor was raised because the existing wood joists were probably deteriorated and instead of pulling them out, concrete was poured over them. The hall's west wall contains two pedestrian openings that access the western third of the lower level comprising

⁴ This window could have been used as a coal chute before the modern furnace was installed.

⁵ Interview with Hollis Peoples. Member of the Congregation. November 20th, 2017.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

the bathrooms and kitchen behind a one third-height limestone wall. The north opening leads into a small north-south hallway with two restrooms along the hallway's west wall.

A door at the south end of the hallway opens into the kitchen, which occupies the building's southwest corner. The kitchen is also accessed directly from the fellowship hall (via the south opening in the fellowship hall's west wall) and through an exterior door in the kitchen's west wall; two steps lead up from the kitchen floor to the outside. The kitchen's east wall contains the doorway into the fellowship hall and a window opening on either side of the door. Underneath the bathrooms and kitchen is a crawl space accessed by a hatch in the floor at the north end of the hallway. A door in the fellowship hall's north wall leads into a storage room occupying the lower level of the building's north projection. The northeast corner of the lower level contains a small vestibule. A door in the west wall of this vestibule leads into an office that was added in a later renovation.⁶ A door in the south wall of this vestibule opens into the fellowship hall; in the vestibule and to the east of the door into the hall is stairs leading up to the main level. A door in the east wall of the fellowship hall leads into another storage room. The south wall of this storage room is the north wall of the building's entry tower. Centered in this wall is an opening that leads into another storage room beneath the main level entry vestibule. The fellowship hall's south wall contains a single door opening that leads outside via an interior ramp. The fellowship hall has simple finishes; carpet on concrete floors, masonry walls have been furred over with gypsum board and column furred with wood veneer.⁷

The main level reflects the T-shaped plan with a large open nave, an apse-like projection towards the north, a southeast tower with entry vestibule, and three rooms along the west wall. The entry vestibule is clad with light-colored wood paneling covering the original plaster walls from carpeted floor to ceiling. The ceiling in the vestibule retains its historic wood beadboard ceiling but is covered by a non-original suspended ceiling system. The main entrance is via a pair of doors in the vestibule's south wall. Another pair of doors in the vestibule's west wall opens to the sanctuary. The sanctuary has light-colored wainscoting on all walls. Above the wainscot is plaster original to the building. The arched double-hung stained glass windows have painted light-wood trim. The pews rest on wood flooring sloped down towards the altar to the north, and the aisles are covered in red carpet that matches the upholstered pews. In the sanctuary and aligned east-to-west hang three original translucent glass pendant light fixtures. Similar fixtures are found centered over the pulpit and centered in the vestibule. The altar and choir bench are elevated above the nave. The sanctuary's non-original suspended ceiling is raised over the center of the nave and lower towards the ends of the gabled roof. The suspended ceiling system covers the original painted wood beadboard ceiling. Just below the suspended ceiling, six tie rods run north to south across the sanctuary. To the west end of the nave is a partition that separates the choir dressing room which was originally the pastor's office(north), mechanical room (center), and additional office space (south) from the sanctuary. At the east end is a staircase, equipped with a chair lift, that leads to the lower level.

Alterations

The church sits on its original foundation which mostly follows the January and July 1915 renderings drawn by architect L.M. Woods (Figure 25 & 26).⁸ According to sources, much of the construction was done by members of the church.⁹ The foundation for the current church began in 1914, and when finished, the congregation held services in the basement.¹⁰ In June 1915, there was a flood that rose the Kaw River 12.4 feet in 8hrs and at the time of the reporting the water level had risen another 2.3 feet. ¹¹ With the history of multiple floods in the area, this would have swayed the minds of the pastor and the congregation to build their sanctuary on an elevated floor, thus during the original construction, the decision was probably made to change the design from one level to two. Other deviations, such as the tower layout and material choice, from the Wood design were also made as construction was completed.

After the major flood of 1951, repairs to the interior were done with the aid of the Mennonites.¹² Based on the flood marks on the stained-glass windows (Image 19) and historic photos, it appears that a portion of the plaster was removed below the water line and new wood-paneled wainscoting was installed.¹³

⁶ Interview with Hollis Peoples. Member of the Congregation. November 20, 2017.

⁷ Tim Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood," Topeka Capital Journal (02/21/1987) pg13

⁸ "Topeka Churches - African Methodist Episcopal," n.p.

⁹ Interview with Hollis Peoples. Member of the Congregation. November 20, 2017. & Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood."

¹⁰ Wims, Thomas. "History of St. Mark's AME Church," November 1944, 8.

¹¹ Unknown. "Heavy Rains Send Kansas Streams To Flood Stage." The Topeka Daily Capital, (06/05/1915).

¹² Coleman, James Sr. "Historical Excerpt." In Financial Records of St. Mark's AME, edited by James Sr. Coleman. Not Published 1959.

¹³ "What Happened to the Plaintiffs in Brown v. Board of education?" NBC Interview with Linda Brown at St. Mark's AME church, Air Date: 05/19/1957.0

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

In the 1970s, Rev. Theodore R. Evans authorized modifications to the interior including a new suspended ceiling system, new red carpeting, new piano, air conditioning of both floors, loudspeakers in the lower floor to accommodate those who cannot climb steps, and remodeling of the bathrooms.¹⁴ Rev. Evans also authorized raising the floor with a 4" concrete slab in the fellowship hall, and installing wood rails at the piano, building bookcases and cabinets for the basement, moving the doorway to the church office, and cladding basement walls with gypsum board.¹⁵ In 1985 the rear steps and roof cladding were replaced.¹⁶ After two years of raising money, in 1987 new pews were installed.¹⁷

Other alterations are evident on the exterior and interior but have no record of when they were done. By comparing historic photos to current conditions, additional modifications have been identified that were not recorded or remembered. Many of these alterations appear to fall outside the period of significance. Lower level interior alterations include the infill of the lower windows, partition walls added to create the eastern storage closet¹⁸ and the additional office space, and a chair lift installed on the stairs. Alterations on the interior of the main level include changes to the west window sash on the west elevation and increasing the height of the partition wall of main floor offices (Image 7 & Figure 30). Changes to the vestibule tower interior include the installation of wood paneling and a suspended ceiling. Also, historic photos show no evidence of the tie rods. The tie rods were installed spanning the sanctuary sometime after the 1951 flood to support the brick walls, which were "moving in opposite directions on the north and south sides because of the flood."¹⁹ The plaster walls and wood wainscot in the northwest office were removed and replaced, or covered, with faux-brick wall cladding.

The exterior lower level alterations include the removal of the extended stone sill on the westernmost window (Figure 28) on the south elevation and the repointing of the limestone. The original stone entry steps on the front have been replaced with concrete steps that do not match the historic photos. The stairs on the north façade were replaced with a new wood platform and stair system. Exterior repairs on the main level include replacement of the double hung stained glass in the northwest office with clear glass. An HVAC condensing unit was installed on the side of the west elevation's main level, and an A/C window unit was installed on the south façade. All the exterior doors on the lower level and main level have been replaced. The once exposed rafter tails have been boxed in at an unknown date.

Integrity

The seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Register are location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. St. Mark's will be evaluated under each category to determine eligibility for listing.

Integrity of Location

The location of St. Mark's has been the same since 1900 when the property was first donated to the church, retaining its integrity.

Integrity of Design

The building remains largely as it was when completed in 1920. The building was constructed by the congregation and most subsequent repairs or alterations were also by the congregation. The exterior remains largely intact with a few modifications. A few of the lower level windows are boarded up with wood, stucco and CMU for security measures. This only has a slight impact on the integrity and can easily be reversed. The main entrance stairs have also undergone change from stone steps that allowed a two entry paths to a single path concrete step. The replacement of the steps has changed the integrity of the main façade of the building but could be easily reversed as well.

The interior has undergone several minor alterations over time. The pews on the main level have been upgraded and been made permanent and the office partition has been raised for HVAC alterations. The original space and direction of viewing in the sanctuary has not changed with these alterations and its integrity remains intact. In the basement, an office has been added and the walls throughout clad with gypsum board. These alterations have not changed the purpose of the spaces in the basement and the integrity remains.

¹⁴ Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood." & Irma L. Johnson, "History of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church," Research in Local History Paper, Washburn University (1971) 13.

¹⁵ Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood."

¹⁶ Anderson, Bishop and Mrs. Vinton R. Historical Souvenir Booklet African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth Episcopal District. 1989., "No page number, section Message from Pastor

¹⁷ Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood."

¹⁸ Interview with Hollis Peoples. Member of the Congregation. November 20th, 2017.

¹⁹ Ibid.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Integrity of Setting

The setting in which the church is located is in an area of north Topeka, where an African American neighborhood grew out of the Exoduster migration. This area was nicknamed "Sand Town".²⁰ The north Topeka area is located roughly two blocks north of the Kansas River, where floods were recorded in 1903 and 1905 and high water was recorded in 1909 and 1915. With the site being lower than the river, the church was susceptible to flooding. The flooding probably contributed to the redesign of the church and why it was built to be elevated. The most notable flood in 1951 came up to the water marks that can still be seen today in the windows. A pastor's house, which pre-dated the church, once stood on the church site, but was destroyed by fire pre-1950. The site also previously featured large trees surrounding the building to the west (Figure 27), which were removed at an unknown time. The immediate setting on the site from the time Oliver Brown was pastor, retains a high degree integrity. The larger surrounding neighborhood and river also setting retain a high degree of integrity.

Integrity of Materials

The building structure and materials are mostly original to the 1920s construction. The stained-glass windows are in their original frames and date to 1925.²¹ The repairs that were completed after the flood of 1951 fall within the period of significance, are mostly intact, and retain historic integrity. During the 1970s, alterations covered but did not remove, some historic material. The material can be uncovered and the building restored to its period of significance.

Integrity of Workmanship

The Exodusters came to Topeka with very little and with what they had, they made do. Many of the families who belonged to St. Mark's church were Exodusters and their simple way of life is reflected in the construction and workmanship. The workmanship is important because the church is a simplified Romanesque Revival style which came about because the church was built by the parishioners. All the materials and labor were provided by the people of the congregation; whether it was through fundraisers held for materials that might have been second hand or doing the work themselves. The church retains high integrity of workmanship.

Integrity of Feeling

St. Mark's maintains high integrity of feeling. It retains its expression of a simplified, Romanesque-Revival building, lovingly constructed by its congregation. The interior retains much of the characteristics that can easily be recognized by many past people of the congregation.

Integrity of Association

The church stands out from the other churches in Topeka because St. Mark's was Oliver Brown's first church as head pastor. As the lead plaintiff for the Brown vs. the board of education, St. Mark's was the first stepping stone in Brown's career as a pastor and who he became as a civil rights advocate leader. The church is still recognized as the church where Oliver Brown was head pastor during this important civil rights case, and thus retains a high degree of integrity of Association.

St. Mark's Church retains a high degree of integrity from the 1950s period of significance when Oliver Brown was Pastor. While there have been some interior and site alterations, the original construction design and intent remain intact.

²⁰ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing. 2013. Pg. 91

²¹ Hrencher, "Church tops off comeback from devastating '51 flood." 1987.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☒ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

SOCIAL HISTORY

ETHNIC HISTORY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Period of Significance

1950-1959

Significant Dates

1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Reverend Oliver Brown

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

L.M. Wood – Architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1950 to 1959 which includes the period when Reverend Oliver Brown was the primary plaintiff in the Brown vs. Board of Education Case and his tenure as pastor at St. Mark's AME Church. Although the building retains good architectural integrity, the purpose of this nomination is to recognize the church for its association with Rev. Oliver Brown during this ministry at this church.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

Criteria Considerations (justification)

As a religious structure, St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church must meet Criteria Consideration A. It requires justification on architectural, artistic, or historic grounds to avoid the appearance of judgement by the government on religious beliefs. St. Mark's meets this requirement, as it derives primary significance from its association with Topeka's Civil Rights Movement beginning in the 1950s and not its religious doctrine.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Topeka, Kansas, is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the African American twentieth-century Civil Rights Movement. It served as a local community gathering place to promote African-American education and discuss the *Brown vs. Board of Education* case.²³ St. Mark's AME Church is specifically associated with Rev. Oliver Brown, the Brown family, and the Brown family role in the landmark Supreme court case *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education*, which took place from 1950 to 1954. The church is also significant under Criterion B, from 1953 to 1959, from the time Oliver Brown became a reverend for the church to the time he was asked to move to Springfield, Missouri to lead a different congregation. This period overlaps with the Supreme Court case. The church stands as a historic symbol to Topekans who remember it as the first church assigned to Oliver Leon Brown, the first listed plaintiff of *Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas*.

Elaboration

Background of Topeka African American Community & Supreme Court Case Brown vs. The Board of Education

From the "1879 Exodus and the first kindergarten started by Charles Shelton" to the Brown case, schools and education have played a significant role in African American life in Topeka.²⁴ "Eager for advancement and empowerment after slavery, African Americans in Topeka took every advantage to educate themselves and their youth."²⁵ The fight for education was important in Topeka, and started in the 1890s and continued to the 1950s, when the right for equal education became a national movement for equality in all aspects of life.

Even though there were no official laws on segregation after the Emancipation Proclamation, people were still segregated by customs and practices employed in the southern state, causing African Americans to create their own communities.²⁶ With the freedom to choose, many African Americans moved to Kansas as an escape from the south because it was advertised as the promised land. It was known for "exploits of anti-slavery activists like John Brown [which] gave Kansas an almost holy sacredness to many African-Americans."²⁷ Once in Kansas, the migrants from the south, known as Exodusters, began to set up communities. The majority of African Americans coming to Topeka congregated beyond the railroad tracks and to the east.²⁸ At the time Topeka was a small city and the African American community set up neighborhoods on the edges of town because "Topeka was still separated more by custom than by law" and many places downtown would not serve African Americans.²⁹ This caused the African Americans to create their own communities and services.³⁰ The goal of the African American community was that they worked together and prayed together to develop organizations that helped each other.³¹ Notable African American neighborhoods were Tennessee Town, located in the King addition to the southwest of the Capitol, Sand Town located in North Topeka across the river (where St. Mark's is located), and Mud Town, the entertainment district, located between 1st and 4th street to the northeast.³² The North Topeka neighborhood is home to many churches and families. St. Mark's AME, Second Baptist

²³ Micheal Barga, "African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church." VCU Social Welfare History Project. Virginia Common Wealth University. <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/religious/african-methodist-episcopal-a-m-e-church/>. Accessed 12/08/2017.

²⁴ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. 2013. Pg. 43

²⁵ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. 2013. Pg. 43

²⁶ Masters, The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown, 29

²⁷ Arrington, Todd. "Exodusters." US Department of Interior : National Park Service. April 10, 2015. <https://www.nps.gov/home/learn/historyculture/exodusters.htm>

²⁸ Masters, The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown, 34

²⁹ Masters, The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown, 33

³⁰ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg.68

³¹ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg 19

³² Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg.18,91,98

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

Church, Ashbury Mount Olive United Baptist Church, and Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church can all trace their roots back to the 1880s when the Exodusters arrived in Topeka.³³

Education & Religion have always been important to the Topeka African American community, with the first education program being supported by the Central Congregation Church.³⁴ Education was separated by race up to high school; Topeka High school was integrated, but most of the after-school activities and sports were segregated.³⁵ Because education was so closely tied to the church community through groups like the Colored Women's Club, which supported literature groups, self-improvement and leadership skills lessons, and various human needs like sanitation,³⁶ knowledge was shared and spread throughout the African American community in Topeka. Since so many African Americans in Topeka were highly educated and aware of their social surroundings, many people questioned their civil rights and the inequality of separate but equal.

The Civil Rights Movement was a national movement in the struggle for social justice that took place in the 1950s and 1960s, and can be traced back to Topeka as one of its starting places. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments aimed to integrate freed slaves into the political and social order during Reconstruction after the Civil War, but the amendments fell short, and the public reaction created discrimination and segregation beginning shortly after Reconstruction.³⁷ This movement, therefore, sought to gain equal rights for African Americans under the United States Constitution.

At the center of the equal rights' struggle was the 1896 Supreme Court case, *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, which established "separate but equal" in terms of public transportation and facilities. This notion was carried over into every aspect of life, validating segregation if the facilities were "equal," since it is the "equal" protection of the laws that is guaranteed by the 14th amendment.³⁸ Over the next 60 years, the "separate but equal" social doctrine was upheld while standards of what was considered equal became more rigid. The idea and definition of "equal" was not reexamined until 1952.

In 1952, the Supreme Court heard cases from Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia all challenging racial segregation in public schools. Some of the cases showed that the facilities were equal in terms of building, teachers, and other factors, but the *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* lawsuit brought before the court was the constitutionality of the doctrine in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* and whether it should be affirmed or reversed. On May 17, 1954, the court issued a landmark decision that stated, "Separate education facilities are inherently unequal."³⁹ The supreme court case was not just one state with one person fighting for equal educational rights. The entire African American population in each of the plaintiffs' communities backed them in their fight for equality. Because of the high pressure and intensity of the issue for civil rights, many of the plaintiffs were not able to freely discuss their ideas and thoughts in public, and there are no early records of meetings that can easily be found.

History of St. Mark's AME Church

By custom and practice in the wake of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, public recreational facilities and transportation were segregated all over the U.S., leading to African American-organized clubs and entertainment. In African American communities, entertainment typically took place in the home or the church.⁴⁰ The church played an important social role in the community, dating back to the time of slavery. Many avenues of freedom were closed, but slaves were free to maintain religious worship, thus giving rise to the AME church and creating an important social aspect of the church.⁴¹ The church was a place of gathering and an escape from the white community.⁴² The church and its ministers extended their services beyond the spiritual gratification to reach out to the families and community to improve the living standards and education of their people. The ministers reached out to governments to secure and ensure freedom and justice for their people.⁴³ Churches were the backbone of the African American community in Topeka.⁴⁴

³³ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg. 14,15

³⁴ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg44 a

³⁵ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg 55-57

³⁶ Ibid. Pg 37 & 38

³⁷ Martha Hagedorn-Krass, "Sumner Elementary School & Monroe Elementary School," NRHP Nomination (1991): 71.

³⁸ Ibid., 71.

³⁹ Ibid., 72.

⁴⁰ Isabell Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown, The First Listed Plaintiff of the Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas*, Doctoral Dissertation, The University of Oklahoma (1980), 32.

⁴¹ Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown*, 12

⁴² Barga, "African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church."

⁴³ Johnson, Irma L. "History of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church." Research in Local History Paper. Washburn University. 1971

⁴⁴ Camp, Sherrita. Images of America: African American Topeka. Pg.19

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

The Methodist Episcopal church had been in Topeka since 1855 with no formal organization. In 1880, Edward Dunlap, known as the "the home guard" preacher, organized a congregation in the north part of Topeka that was officially recognized by the African Methodist Church, and Rev. J. W. Williams was assigned to serve. Rev. Williams served for three years, and during his tenure oversaw the donation of land and construction of a church building.⁴⁷ In 1881, W.O. Kelly bought the corner lot at Harrison and Railroad streets and gifted it to the church congregation, which built a 20'x20' "box house" with brown walls.⁴⁸ In 1883, Rev. H.H. Lucas named the church, "St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church."⁴⁹ When the congregation moved from Railroad Road to its current site, there was a dwelling on the land that was used as a parsonage while the church was built in front of the house facing Harrison Street.⁵⁰ St. Mark's AME sits one block north of the railroad tracks, along with two other Baptist churches in the area, placing St. Mark's in the heart of the African American community growing in North Topeka. Over time St. Mark's was a place for Topeka's AME community to come together to worship and discuss the quality of life.

The church had many reverends who came and went, and there was no regular reverend in the early years.⁵¹ Six different reverends served from 1881 to 1900.⁵² The church at Railroad and Harrison was used until 1900 when Rev. I.S. Wilson bought a new lot on Harrison, northeast of the original church, where St. Mark's AME Church stands today. The church had a main entrance fronting Harrison Street.⁵³ Many different fundraisers went on before, during, and after the purchase of the lot. Ida Jordan, an active member of the church and a leader of the Rosebud Club, led the way with fundraising bringing in over \$500.⁵⁴ Many of the fundraisers consisted of basket dinners and pie bakes.⁵⁵ These fundraisers allowed the church to pay off any debt on the land and building, giving the church full control of the property.⁵⁶

In 1915, a newspaper announcement stated that the organization intended to build a \$5,000 new stone church designed by L.M. Wood.⁵⁷ Louis Wood was a prominent local Topeka architect, known for many buildings around Kansas. He also helped write a guide book, "*A Plain Talk to School Board*," to standardize schoolhouse designs.⁵⁸ Wood's drawings show a Gothic-inspired gable-roofed church with a side bell tower, pointed window arches, and a projecting apse (Figure 25 & 26). The church was not completed precisely to Wood's design. The bell tower was not built; instead, a vestibule tower marks the entrance. Most of the work done for the completion of the church was performed by the parish members to save money.⁵⁹ The deviation from the original design could have been caused by the known history of flooding in the area and 1915 high water which probably pushed the congregation to raise the church so the sanctuary would not flood.⁶⁰ Since the church was built by the congregation, they could make the decision to follow the original design or redesign it to address concerns with future flooding.

Rev. W.M. Martin was responsible for preparing the site for a September 1 groundbreaking.⁶¹ The foundation was laid in 1915, but the church was not completed until 1920 when Rev. A.A. Allen was assigned to the church.⁶² During construction, the congregation worshipped in the basement once it was complete.⁶³ Rev. Allen was one of the longest serving pastors during this time at St. Mark's. He stayed with the church for five years, overseeing the completion of the auditorium and the exterior of the church building and growth of the congregation.⁶⁴

In 1930, the parsonage burned and Rev. J.W. Warren Sr. used the insurance money and the congregation's carpenter to rebuild it further north of the church.⁶⁵ On September 6, 1931, a newly built parsonage opened to the north of

⁴⁷ Bishop and Mrs. Vinton R. Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth Episcopal District," (1989), No page number

⁴⁸ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁴⁹ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁵⁰ "Topeka Churches - African Methodist Episcopal. Change in Heads." *Topeka Capitol Journal* (July 26, 1915): n.p. & 1913 Sanborn, p. 103

⁵¹ 1889, 1899 Topeka City Directory.

⁵² Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁵³ 1913 Sanborn, 103.

⁵⁴ *Topeka Plaindealer* (03/30/1900): 4.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Johnson, "History of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church," 22.

⁵⁷ *Topeka Plaindealer* (04/30/1915): 5.

⁵⁸ Kansas Historical Society. "Kansas School Houses Bibliography." *Kansas Historical Society*.d. <https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-school-houses-bibliography/13645>.

⁵⁹ Interview with Hollis Peoples.

⁶⁰ US Government, N. W. S. (2018). Significant Floods in Kansas. Retrieved from <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-states-ks>

⁶¹ *Topeka Plaindealer* (04/23/1915): 5.

⁶² Unknown. The Long, Long Trail Celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary. Topeka: St. Mark's AME Church. (11/20/1980).22

⁶³ Unknown. Souvenir Program of St. Mark's AME Church. Topeka: St. Mark's AME Church (02/09/1960) 5

⁶⁴ Wims, Thomas. "History of St. Mark's AME Church," November 1944, 8.

⁶⁵ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

the current parsonage.⁶⁶ Sometime within the next 20 years, the 1931 parsonage was removed from the site. From the 1930s to the 1951 flood there were a total of 13 different Reverends, but the church survived spiritually and financially.⁶⁷ The parsonage was damaged in the 1951 flood but was repaired with the aid of the Mennonite flood aid group.⁶⁸ The parsonage has since been removed, at an unknown date.

After the 1951 Kansas River flood, the Mennonite Church volunteered with the Red Cross to help flood victims rebuild. Since St. Mark's AME Church was an organization, rather than individuals, they could not get help from the Red Cross. A verbal agreement was made that if the Church members would buy the building materials and pay the Mennonite's room and board (\$40.00 per month each), the Mennonite Church members would repair St. Mark's A.M.E. Church at no charge.⁶⁹ Until the time St. Mark was reopened on June 2, 1952, the congregation went to joint services at St. John's AME on the south side of the Kansas River.⁷⁰ During the time away from the building Rev. Vinton Anderson was assigned to the congregation, but soon after returned to Wilberforce University.⁷¹ Thus, Rev. Oliver Brown was assigned to St. Mark's AME, and on June 2, 1952, the newly renovated church became his first church to lead. From the 1960s to the present there have been more than ten reverends who have served St. Mark's.⁷² Most recently, Rev. Theodore R. Evans and Rev. Dr. Theodore R. Lee each completed various minor renovations to the church.⁷³

St. Mark's is a community church that has weekday and weekend services. Services start at 9:00 a.m. and typically finish by the afternoon, with many people staying after for a lunch fundraiser. The church further connected to the community by conducting services in the public city park on the south bank of the Kansas River.⁷⁴ St. Marks created different committees and clubs that encouraged sociable, charitable, and cultural actives such as the Colored Women's Club, All City Gospel, Calvary Boys & Girl Scouts, Go Forward Club, and Rosebuds.⁷⁵ St. Mark's hosted many different concerts, plays, and contests that were open to the community, to use as fundraisers and community entertainment.⁷⁶ Besides many of the social and entertainment activities provided by St. Mark's, it was an important place in the community because since the early days St. Mark's hosted "meetings of colored citizens of N. Topeka, Tuesday Nights, a club organized to be known as North Topeka Colored Welfare Club."⁷⁷ This club was concerned with the advancement of the needs of African American citizens. There is not much on or about this club, but it can be deduced that this club could have been the start of the discussions for the civil rights movement.

St. Mark's is entrenched in the city of Topeka because many of the families can trace their ancestry and relation with the church back to when it was founded in the 1880s and to the Exoduster families who came from the south. Carolyn Wims-Campbell, the first African-American to serve of the Kansas State Board of Education, is a lifelong member of the church and she can trace her ancestry back to some of the founding members of the church; Moses and Luvenia Wims.⁷⁸

Oliver Brown vs. Board of Education

Rev. Oliver Leon Brown was born in 1918 in Topeka, Kansas, and grew up in a religious house two miles north of St. Mark's AME.⁷⁹ Growing up, Brown did not finish high school, but the church and religion were important parts of his and his family's life. Brown grew up going to St. John's AME church, in downtown Topeka. Being an active member of the ministry at St. John AME in his 20s, Brown started to have thoughts about being a Pastor. Serving as part of the ministry pushed Brown to finish high school at 35, and take classes in Theology and English at local Washburn College to be able

⁶⁶ *Topeka Plaindealer* (08/28/1931): 1.

⁶⁷ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁶⁸ Anderson, "St. Mark's AME Church Condensed History," No page number.

⁶⁹ Coleman, James Sr. "Historical Excerpt." In *Financial Records of St. Mark's AME*, edited by James Sr. Coleman. Not Published. 1959.

⁷⁰ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number.

⁷¹ Unknown. *Souvenir Program of St. Mark's AME Church*. 8

⁷² Unknown. *The Long, Long Trail Celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary* 28 & 29

⁷³ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁷⁴ Camp, Sherrita. *Images of America: African American Topeka*. 99

⁷⁵ *Topeka Plaindealer* (08/08/1902) 4 & Camp, Sherrita. *Images of America: African American Topeka*. 41

⁷⁶ *Topeka Plaindealer* (08/21/1925)4 & *Topeka Plaindealer* (06/28/1907)1 & *Topeka Plaindealer* (03/18/1927)2 & Johnson, Irma L. "History of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church." 23

⁷⁷ *Topeka Plaindealer* (03/21/1924)

⁷⁸ Camp, Sherrita. *Images of America: African American Topeka*. 2013. Pg. 90 & *The Long, Long Trail Celebrating the One-Hundredth Anniversary. Topeka: St. Mark's AME Church*. (11/20/1980). Pg. 25

⁷⁹ Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown*, 47.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

to serve as a pastor.⁸⁰ With his refined command of the English language, Brown was able to give sermons at St. John's AME. His first sermon was so good and impressed Rev. Cyrus Keller so much he was promoted to assistant pastor immediately.⁸¹

With his start at St. John's, Brown became ordained in 1951 and began his first solo pastoral assignment at St. Mark's AME in 1953.⁸² While serving as pastor for St. Mark's AME church, Brown worked for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway.⁸³ Brown stayed for six years at St. Mark's until he was reassigned to Springfield, Missouri in October 1959.⁸⁴ Brown was an integral part of the St. Mark's church community, presiding over regular services and performing special ceremonies.⁸⁵ As the leader of the church, Brown was able to raise money with the help of the congregation and pay off a Federal Housing Authority loan for \$1600.00, as well as make several improvements to the church.⁸⁶

Brown is perhaps most significant as the lead plaintiff in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Brown's daughter, Linda, would have to cross train tracks to reach Monroe Elementary School, three miles away, even though Sumner Elementary School—an all-white school—was two blocks from the Browns' house. As an active member in the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and friends with lawyer Charles Scott, who helped argue the case, Brown "felt that the life of all negro people should be improved and that it should be done through the courts."⁸⁷ Starting in 1950, Brown attempted to enroll his daughter into Sumner School but was denied because of the 1896 ruling of *Plessy vs. Ferguson* where "separate but equal" was adopted in all public facilities.⁸⁸

In 1951, The NAACP assisted a group of parents in Topeka to challenge segregation. Brown, along with 12 other parents from the Topekan African American community, filed suit against the Board of Education claiming that the "separate but equal" laws were not "equal."⁸⁹ The federal district court set a hearing for June 1951.⁹⁰ The court case was ruled in favor of the board of education claiming that only the Supreme Court could overrule segregation, so an appeal was immediately filed with the Supreme Court. Since religion was such a focal point in Brown's life, it helped keep him grounded while prepping for the Supreme court case. During this time Brown had finished becoming a pastor and was helping at St. John's as an assistant to Rev. Cyrus Keller.⁹¹

On December 9, 1952, the Supreme Court was set to hear *Brown vs. the Topeka Board of Education*.⁹³ The court was split and knew their decision would have a major impact on the country, so the court ordered all five cases to be reargued in the 1953 Term.⁹⁴ Coinciding in December 1952, with the court hearing was the annual AME district conference. At the conference, Oliver Brown was sent to St. Mark's to be head pastor after former Pastor Vinton Anderson left.⁹⁵ During the entire year of 1953, Brown was head pastor at St. Mark's, and was preparing for the rehearing of the court case. With the untimely death of Justice Fred Vinson in early 1953, and the appointment of a new Justice, Earl Warren, the case was not reheard till December 8th, 1953, allowing Brown and the five other court cases an entire year to prepare. While there are no written records of specific meetings at the church about the case, it can be surmised that Rev. Brown, the other plaintiffs, and their attorneys met on numerous occasions at the church in 1953 to prepare for the case in front of the supreme Court. With the final court decision coming on May 17th, 1954, the court ruled in favor of Brown, claiming:

To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. Segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a determined effect upon the colored children. The

⁸⁰ Ibid.48.

⁸¹ Ibid.51 & 56.

⁸² Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁸³ *Topeka Capitol- Journal* (01/29/2017): 5.

⁸⁴ Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown*, 61.

⁸⁵ *Topeka Plaindealer* (08/21/1953): 4.

⁸⁶ Anderson, "Historical Souvenir Booklet...", No page number

⁸⁷ "Linda Made History Decade Ago," *Topeka Capital Journal* (05/11/1964)

⁸⁸ Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown*, 79.

⁸⁹ Masters, *The Life and Legacy of Oliver Brown*, 79

⁹⁰ Brown, Cheryl . "Brown vs. Board of Education." *Brown Foundation*

⁹¹ Ibid.51 & 56.

⁹³ Brown, Cheryl . "Brown vs. Board of Education." *Brown Foundation* .

⁹⁴ Linder, Douglas O. "The Brown vs Board of Education Trial: A Chronology." Famous Trials. 1995.
<https://www.famousrials.com/brownvtopeka/667-chronology>.

⁹⁵ Wims, Thomas. "History of St. Mark's AME Church," November 1944, 8.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

impact is greater when it has the sanction of the law; for the policy of separating the races is usually interpreted as denoting the inferiority of the Negro groups. A sense of inferiority affects the motivation of children to learn. Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has a tendency to retard the educational and mental development of Negro children. We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. We have now announced that such segregation is a denial of the equal protection of the laws.⁹⁶

The landmark case argued that separate but equal was not fair and overturned segregation in the K-12 school system, but did not consider other tangible factors that might otherwise affect equality for African Americans.⁹⁷ The *Brown vs. Board of Education* case was used as a decision to fight racial segregation and discrimination in many facets of life.⁹⁸ The case allowed other education cases to be brought to court and was the gateway for the Civil Rights movement in America.

St. Mark's and the Civil Rights Movement

Based on the importance of education in the African American Community in Topeka, unequal education was seen as the root of the unhappiness in the community. Since St. Mark's was tied to education and the betterment of the African American Community, through their various groups, it was a place for the African American Community in North Topeka where people in the community could come and discuss their civil rights. St. Mark's is also important as the first church where Oliver Brown's was the lead Pastor and prepared for the rehearing of the *Brown vs. Board of Education* Case.

Bishop Vinton R. Anderson was the pastor from whom Oliver Brown took over in 1952. St. Mark's was his first church to pastor, and Anderson went on to pastor at five different Kansas churches before ending his pastorate at St. Paul's AME in St. Louis. Anderson was a well-known and liked pastor; he was a vocal advocate in civil rights and ecumenical issues.⁹⁹ "He understood that the African American Church had a unique goal in ensuring the quality of life in the communities in which they were located."¹⁰⁰ Bishop Anderson wrote multiple books and was concerned with the educational wellbeing of the African American community, in line with the values placed on education by the Topekan African American Community.¹⁰¹

Linda Brown, daughter of Oliver Brown, also continued advocating for integration and equality in the school system almost 25 years after the historic case. In 1979 the *Brown* case was reopened in the Topeka school districts by Linda Brown. Brown and other African American families "argued that the Topeka School Board and its successor, U.S.D. #501 had failed to desegregate within the mandates of *Brown* and *Brown II*, in which the court in May 1955 ordered that desegregation proceed with 'all deliberate speed.'"¹⁰² It was found that segregation was no longer based on race but class and economic status, prompting an investigation by the Office of Civil Rights of the federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).¹⁰³ The court case bounced back and forth between the district court of appeals and the Supreme Court, where the final decision came in July 1994: the district court approved the school district's third desegregation proposal, but the school district continued to be subject to the court's jurisdiction.¹⁰⁴ Brown continued to be a voice of desegregation – and pianist at St. Mark's – throughout her life.

⁹⁶ Charles U. Smith, "Observing the 50th Anniversary of the 1954 United State Supreme Court School Desegregation decision in the *Brown vs. board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*," *Negro Educational Review* 56 (January 2005): (Smith, 1975; reprinted by permission, 1996) pg 24.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 24

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 25

⁹⁹ Price, Marissa. "Bishop Vinton Randolph Anderson Remembered." *The St. Louis American*. 7.

http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/bishop-vinton-randolph-anderson-remembered/article_6fbc9f06-0cf0-11e4-b8f0-001a4bcf887a.html.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid*

¹⁰¹ Unknown. "Bishop Vinton R. Anderson." Vernon Temple AMEC. 2014. <https://www.vernontemplebda.org/single-post/2014/07/10/Bishop-Vinton-R-Anderson>.

¹⁰² Van Delinder, Jean. "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Part 2: A Landmark Case Unresolved Fifty Years Later." *National Archives*.d. Spring 2004, Vol. 36, No. 1. <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2004/spring/brown-v-board-2.html>.

¹⁰³ *Ibid*

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid*

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

Linda Brown's sister, Cheryl Brown, also an advocate for civil rights, helped found the Brown Foundation as a legacy to her father and as a program to give scholarships to minority students pursuing higher education.¹⁰⁵ The Brown foundation helped develop the Brown vs. Board of education National Historic Site; the site provides visitors with interpretive exhibits used to educate and inspire present and future generations on civil rights and the civil rights movement in Kansas and Nationally.¹⁰⁶

Conclusion

During the trial the church was an integral part of Brown's life and he "continued to perform his pastoral duties; visiting the sick, burying the dead, helping the needy, and comforting the weary, despite the opposition and bad feelings on the part of some of the parishioners to his involvement in the case."¹⁰⁷ St. Mark's is a testament to the African Methodist Community since it is one of the first churches in Topeka and its congregation is still active today. The church also stands as a historic symbol to Topekans who remember it as the first church assigned to Oliver Leon Brown to lead as head pastor. Brown is also a symbol as the first listed plaintiff of *Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas*, a reminder to the community that the people who worshipped here were part of the historic case that opened the way for the Civil Rights Movement.

¹⁰⁵Brown, Cheryl . "Brown vs. Board of Education." *Brown Foundation*. 2017. <http://brownvboard.org/content/background-overview-summary>. Accessed 01/29/2017

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷Charles U. Smith, "Observing the 50th Anniversary of the 1954 United State Supreme Court School ..." 98.

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

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St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.35

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.067930</u>	<u>-95.671320</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is located on lot 207, 209, and 211 in the Curtis Addition subdivision, Township 11 South and Range 16 East. The property is bounded by NW Norris St. to the south, NW Harrison St. to the east, and alley to the west, and property line to the north.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kelsey Liu
organization TreanorHL date 12/15/2017
street & number 719 SW Van Buren St. telephone 240-751-8997
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66603
e-mail kliu@treanorhl.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name St. Mark's AME Church
street & number 801 NW Harrison St. telephone _____

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66608

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: **St. Mark's AME Church**
City or Vicinity: **Topeka**
County: **Shawnee** State: **Kansas**
Photographer: **Vance Kelley & Kelsey Liu**
Date
Photographed: **07/13/2017-10/31/2017**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 20: Over view of the church from the south east corner across the street. Camera facing south east. Vance Kelley
- 2 of 20: The main stained-glass window arch over the entrance doors. Camera facing north. Vance Kelley
- 3 of 20: The east façade. Camera facing East. Vance Kelley
- 4 of 20: The south façade. Camera facing south. Vance Kelley
- 5 of 20: The west façade. Camera facing west. Vance Kelley
- 6 of 20: The south façade. Camera facing south. Vance Kelley
- 7 of 20: Overview of the interior of the sanctuary facing the west corner. Camera facing west from entrance vestibule. Vance Kelley
- 8 of 20: Overview of interior of sanctuary facing north west. Camera facing north west from entrance vestibule. Vance Kelley
- 9 of 20: Overview of the interior of the sanctuary facing north. Camera facing north from entrance vestibule. Vance Kelley
- 10 of 20: Overview of the interior of the sanctuary facing east. Camera facing east from offices. Vance Kelley
- 11 of 20: The main doors from the vestibule to the sanctuary. Camera facing west from entrance doors. Vance Kelley
- 12 of 20: Photos on the interior wall of the entrance vestibule paying tribute to Linda and Oliver Brown. Camera facing east from entrance vestibule doors. Vance Kelley

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

13 of 20: Overview of the basement interior facing north west. Camera facing north west from entrance basement door. Vance Kelley

14 of 20: Overview of the basement interior facing north. Camera facing north west from entrance basement door Vance Kelley

15 of 20: The main stairs to the basement facing south. Camera facing south. Vance Kelley

16 of 20: The foundation walls in the basement on the west side, facing south. Camera facing south from restroom doors. Vance Kelley

17 of 20: Fixed circular stained-glass window on the east façade. Camera facing east and up. Kelsey Liu

18 of 20: Double hung stained glass window on the east façade. Camera facing east. Kelsey Liu

19 of 20: The watermark from the 1951 flood seen on the south east window name plaque, just below the wainscot. Camera facing south. Kelsey Liu.

20 of 20: The original bead board ceiling in good condition above the suspended ceiling system. Camera facing north west corner of building above offices. Kelsey Liu.

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Figure 21: An Ariel photo facing north east during the 1951 flood. Wolfe Camera's

Figure 22: An Ariel photo facing west during the 1951 flood. Wolfe Camera's

Figure 23: 1913 Sanborn Map showing the original foundation when the lot was bought by W.O. Kelly. The church faced Harrison St. The building to the west is believed to be the original parsonage.

Figure 24: 1925 Sanborn map showing two additional buildings on the lot, one to the west and one to the north west. The church faces Norris St. and is in its current position. Norris St. was connected through the lots running North to South.

Figure 25: 1915 article from the Topeka Daily Capital showing the original design for the church by L.M. Wood. This design was never realized

Figure 26: 1915 article from the Plaindealer showing the original design for the church by L.M. Wood. This design was never realized

Figure 27: A picture of the exterior of the church showing the stairs facing Harrison St. and towards the west are made of stone. Photographer unknown.

Figure 28: A picture of the exterior of the church facing north west. The stairs face Harrison St. and towards the west. The rafter tails are exposed. Photographer unknown

Figure 29: Picture taken after the 1951 flood at the reopening service facing east. The paneling in the vestibule is not present. Photographer unknown.

Figure 30: Picture taken after the 1951 flood at the reopening service facing west. The tie rods are not present, and the partition height was lower. Photographer unknown

Figure 31: Picture taken after the 1951 flood at the reopening service facing north. Photographer unknown.

Figure 32: Picture taken as a screen shot in 1957 during an interview with Linda Brown. She is sitting in a pew in St. Mark's AME church, direction unknown. NBC Learn

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church

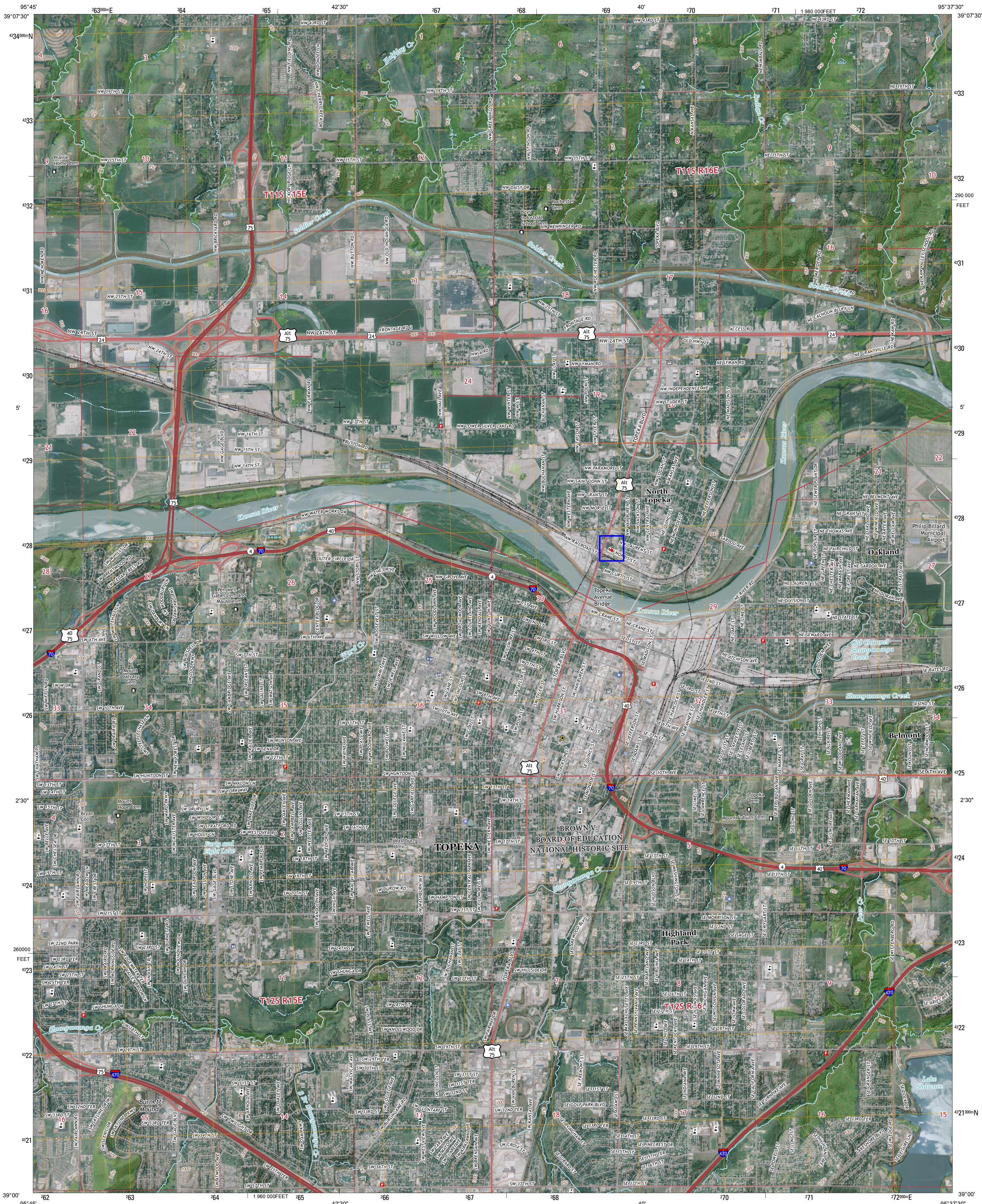
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

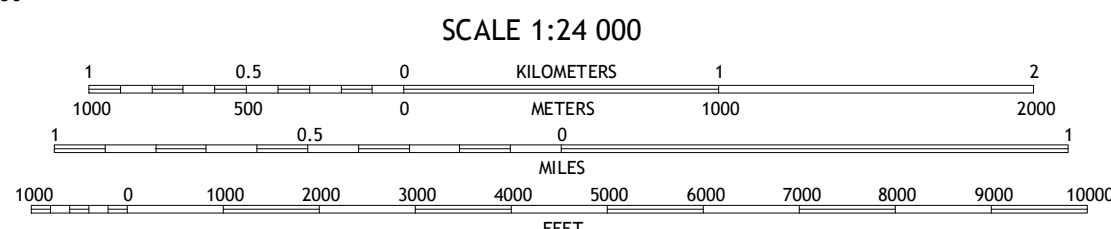
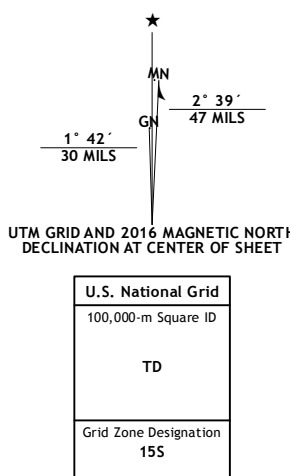
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



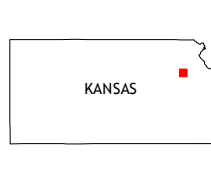
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84), Projection and
1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15S
10 000-foot ticks: Kansas Coordinate System of 1983 (north
zone)

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery.....NAIP, July 2014
Roads.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 - 2015
Names.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2015
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2014
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2008
Boundaries.....Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 - 2015
Public Land Survey System.....BLM, 2015
Wetlands.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 1977 - 2014



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988
This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.19



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Grove
2 Elmont
3 Wenden
4 Silver Lake
5 Grantville
6 Auburn
7 Wakarusa
8 Richland

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Expressway	Local Connector
Secondary Hwy	Local Road
Ramp	4WD
Interstate Route	US Route
	State Route

TOPEKA, KS
2016

*7643016367833
NSN 7 643 016 367 833
NSA REF NO. USGS X 24 K 4 5 4 2 2

Property Map



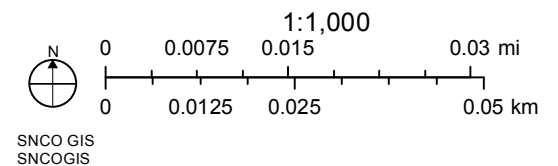
January 28, 2019

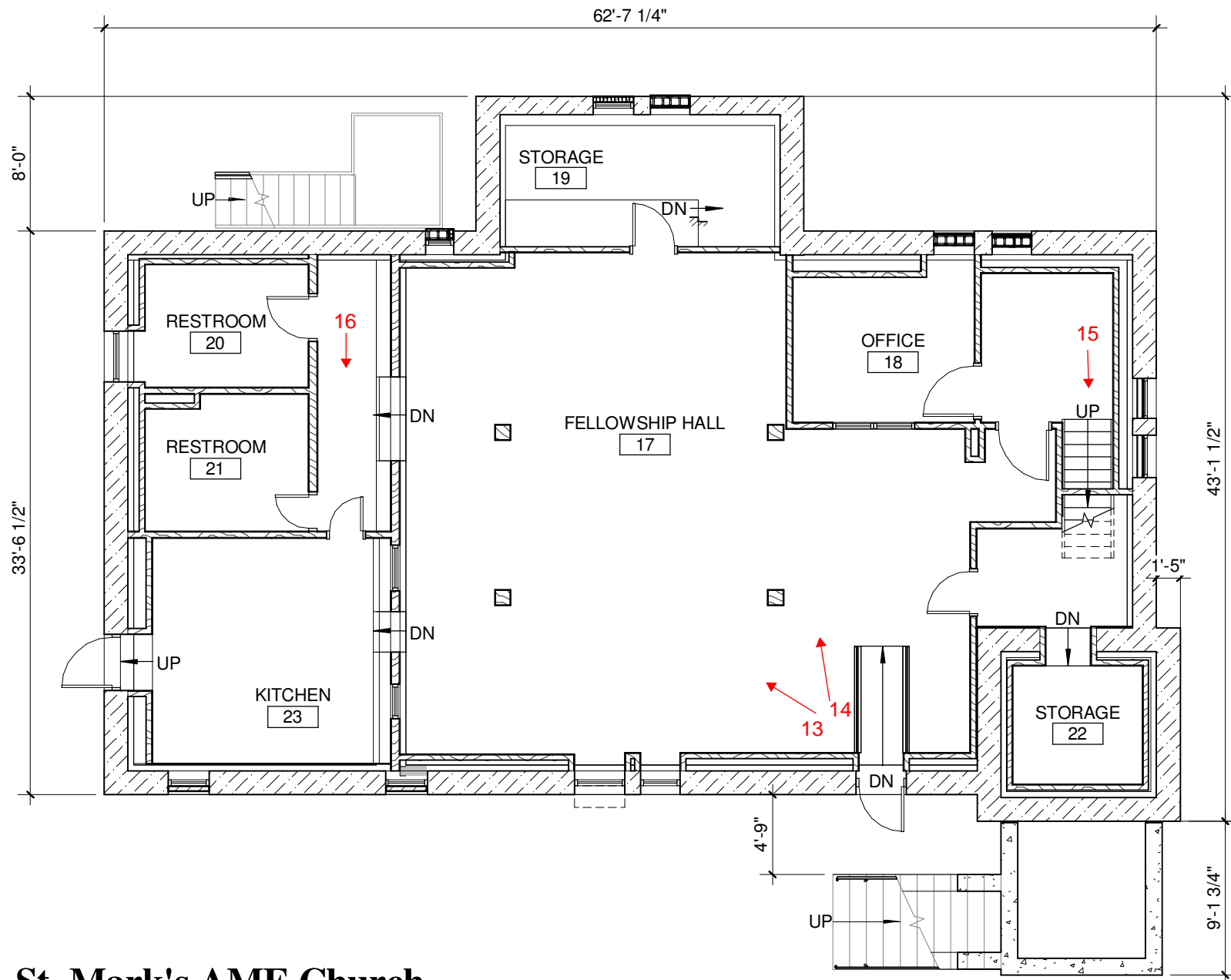
Parcels

Parcels

Parcel Owner Labels

Subdivisions





St. Mark's AME Church



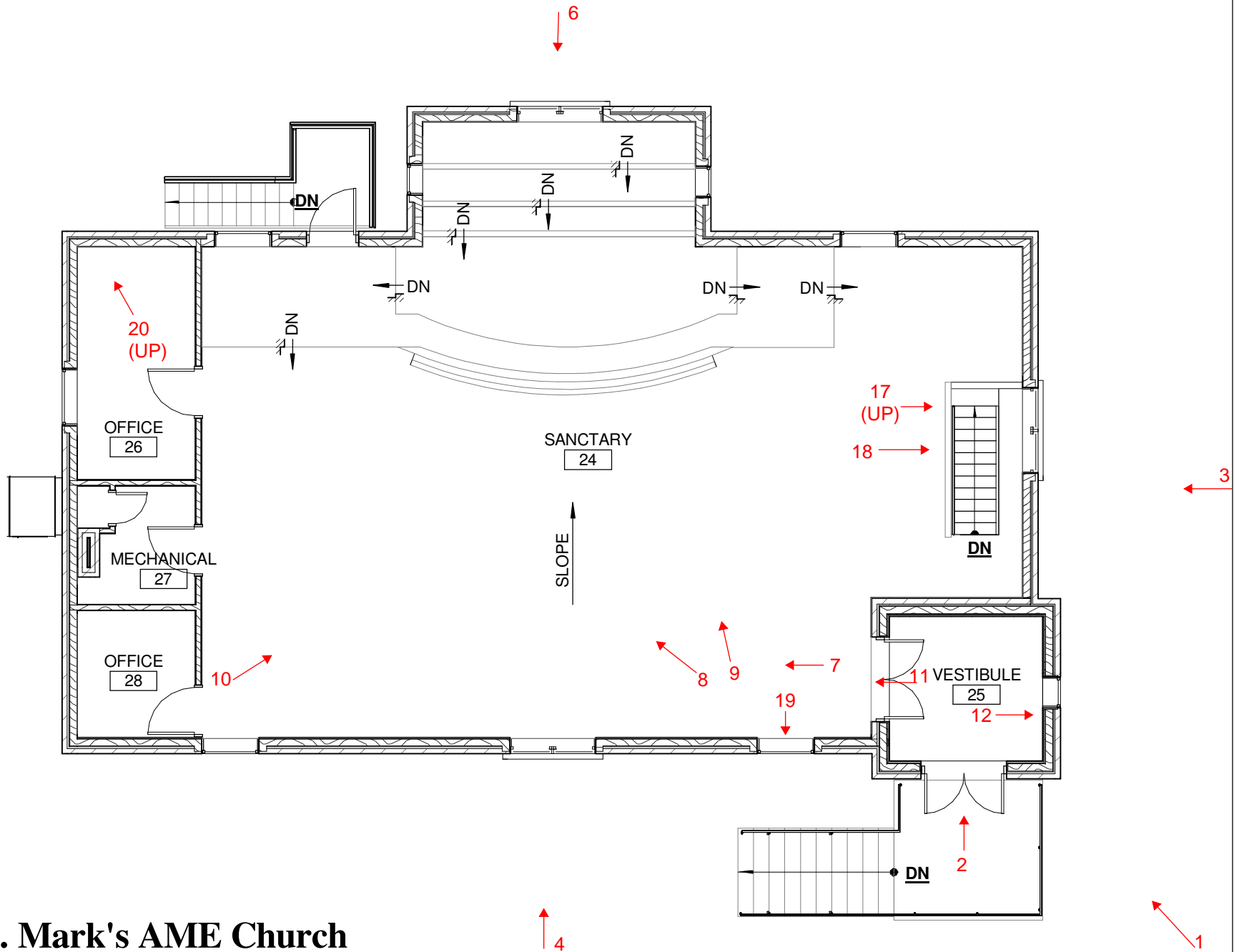
1

PHOTOMAP LOWER LEVEL

1/8" = 1'-0"

This material was produced with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

TREANORHL



St. Mark's AME Church



2

PHOTOMAP MAIN LEVEL

1/8" = 1'-0"

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TREANORHL

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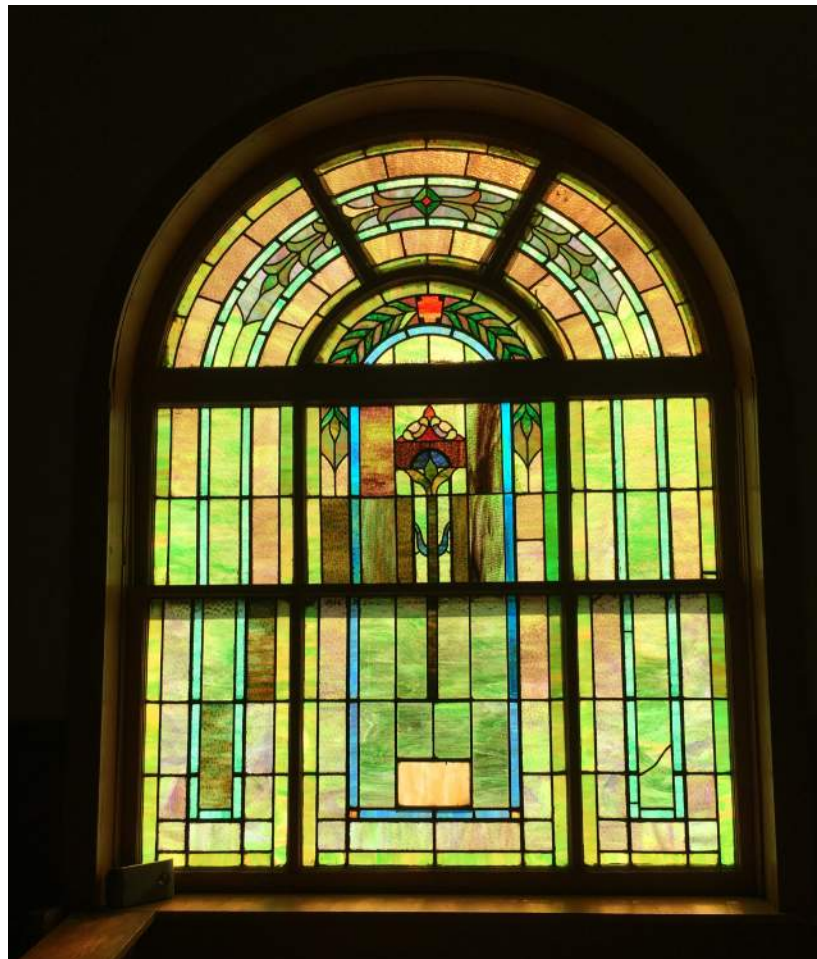
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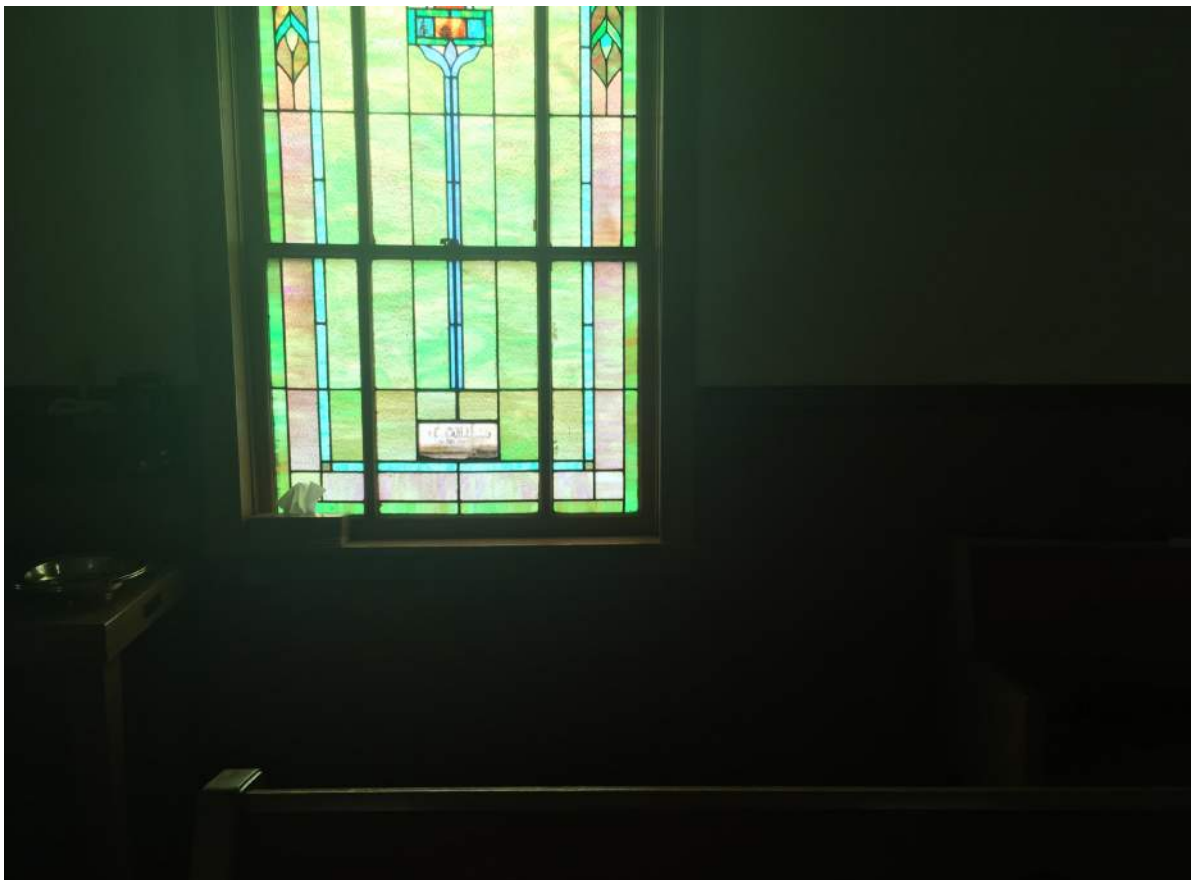
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18



19



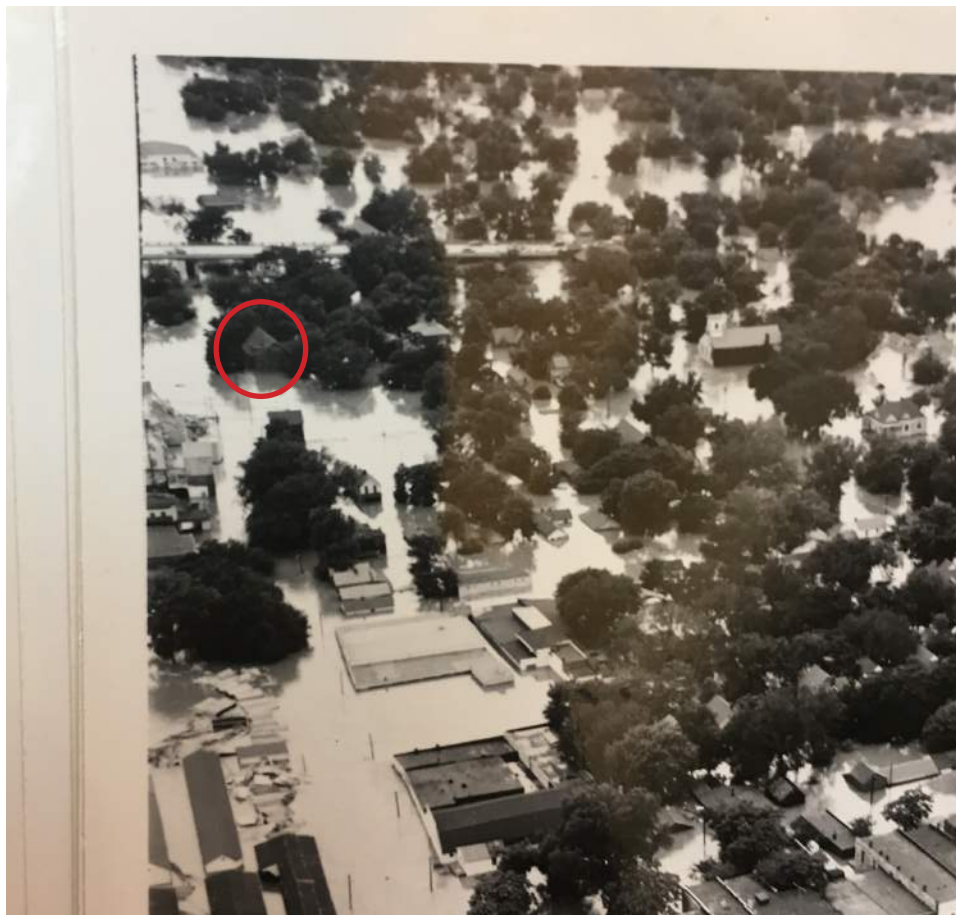
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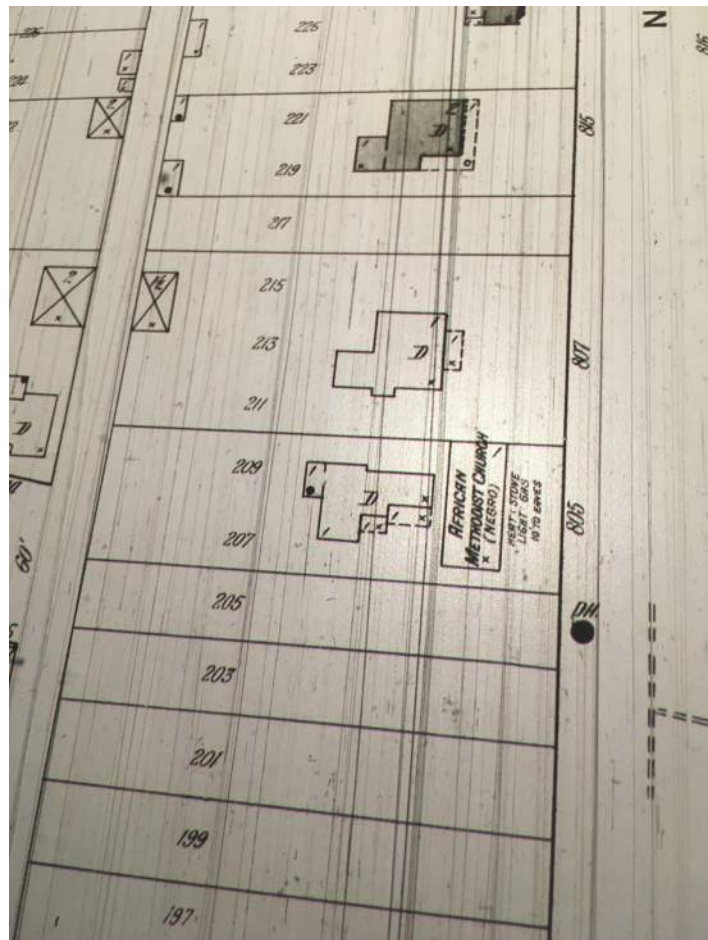
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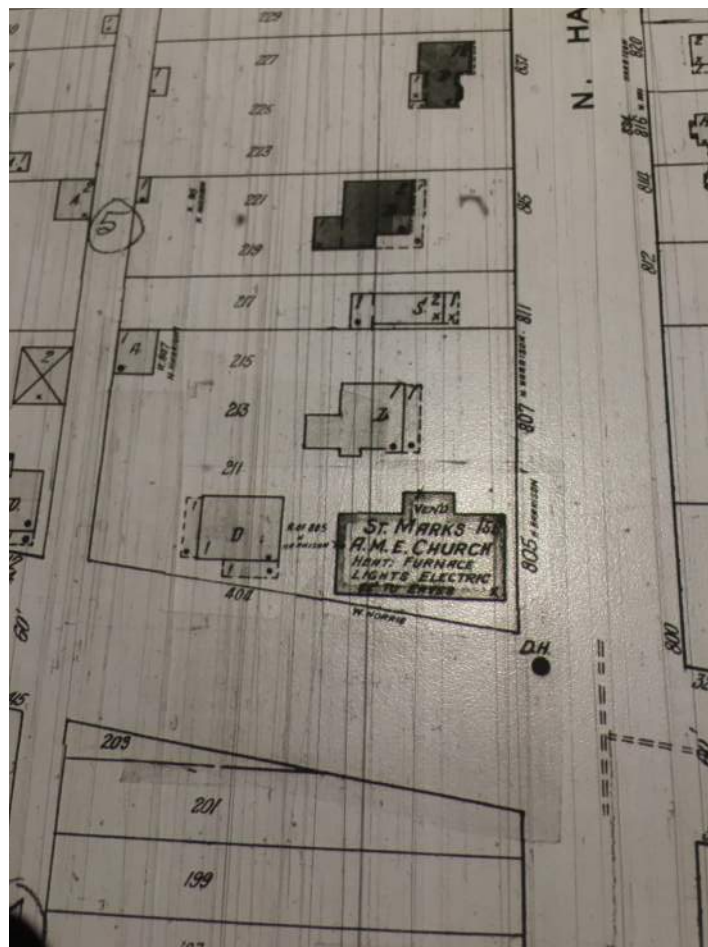
22



23



24



St. Mark's African M. E. Church to be Replaced by New Structure

TDC 1/31/1915



New St. Mark's A. M. E. Church Being Built in North Topeka at a Cost of \$8,000. L. M. Wood is Architect.

Beginning the construction of an \$8,000 church before he has been in Topeka four months, is the record of the Rev. William M. Martin, pastor of St. Mark's. They had often tried to get together on a new church, but each time some one was in despair.

25

Episcopal, St. Marks



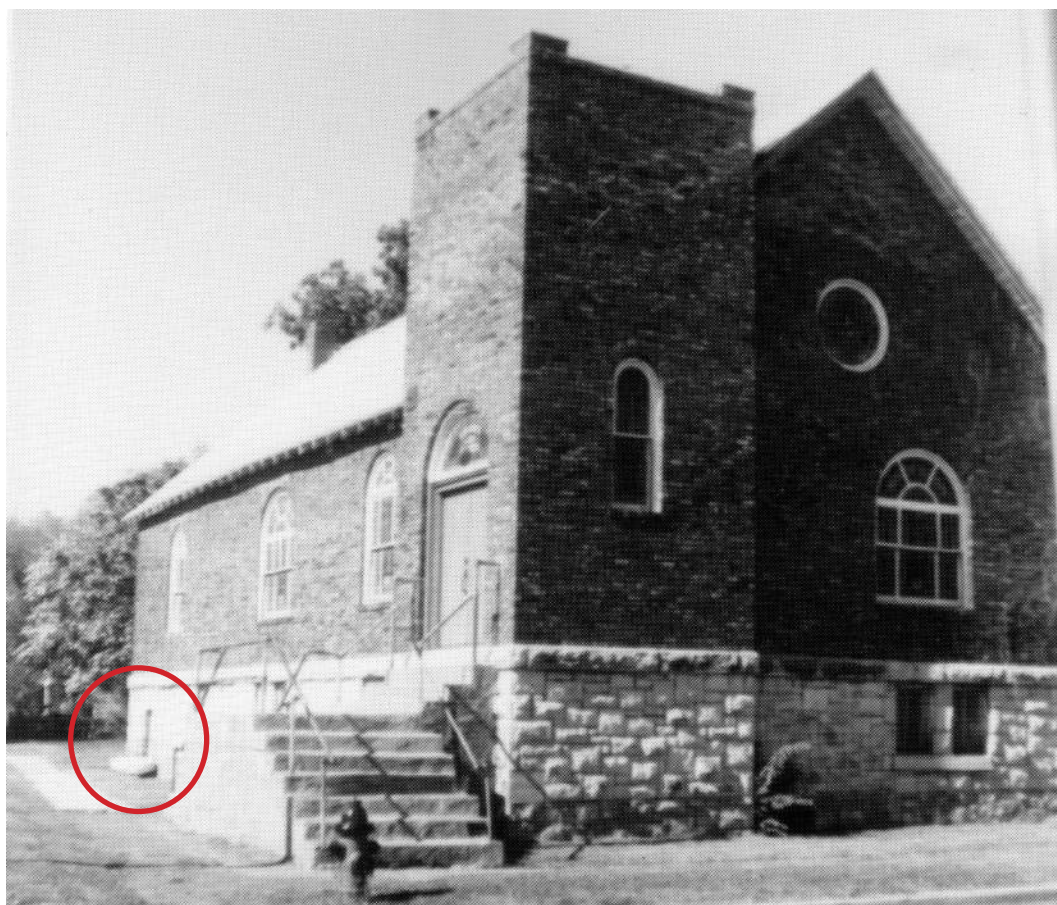
St. Marks A. M. E. Church Building.

26

27



28



Pictures taken during the first Church Service after the 1951 flood disaster. McKinley School Graduation pictures follow those.



29



30

31



BACK

What Happened to the Plaintiffs in Brown v. Board of Education?

Air Date: 05/19/1957



32

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Fire Station No. 4

Other names/site number KHRI #177-2542

Name of related Multiple Property Listing NA

2. Location

Street & number 813 SW Clay Street

N/A

not for publication

City or town Topeka

N/A

vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Shawnee Code _____ Zip code 66606

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

____ national ____ statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ____ B ____ C ____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

Date _____

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____

Date _____

Title _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT – Fire Station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT – Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS/Collegiate Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE/limestone

roof: Terra Cotta Clay tile

other: _____

Fire Station No. 4

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary -

Fire Station No. 4 is located at 813 SW Clay Street in the Old Town neighborhood of Topeka. Constructed in 1927, this is the oldest operating fire station in the City of Topeka. Designed by Topeka architectural firm of Squires & Ross, this 2-story structure was designed to serve the single function of a two-engine fire station. This station was constructed to replace the original Fire Station No. 4 (1887-1926) which was located on the same site.

Fire Station No. 4 was designed with two engine-bay doors to accommodate two full-sized fire engines. A third bay door is placed toward the rear of the building along its north façade. This bay door accommodated the automobile of the City Fire Chief. The footprint of the building measures approximately 90' x 50', and faces east, parallel to SW Clay Street. A small, one-level 10' x 10' room extends north at the front of the building beyond the building's otherwise rectangular shape. This extension is original to the building and serves as the primary pedestrian entrance, as well as the original firehouse office.

Station No. 4 features many design elements that are consistent with the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. Typical features of this style include tracery around the second-level windows, stone accents above and around the openings, and piers with accents imitating a spire or buttress. Other identifiable features are the arched openings, masonry construction, a porch entryway, and crenulated parapets above the windows.

The front façade features the majority of the building's character-defining features, including both of the station's fire engine bay doors, and also the predominant pedestrian entrance to the station. The engine bay doors are clad with a recessed limestone arch. The bay doors themselves, are aluminum replacements, as are the second-level windows. The dormers above the second-level windows are capped with limestone and feature ventilation louvers surrounded by a quoined limestone frame. The pedestrian entrance is a single-story in height and features a flat roof, shielded from view by a parapet that extends above a band of inlaid limestone.

The interior of the station is designed in a utilitarian fashion, and its original structural features remain completely intact. The main bay for fire engines is the largest room within the structure. The north, south, and west walls are painted brick, while the east wall is dominated exclusively with the front engine-bay doors. The ceiling is exposed concrete with exposed ductwork, plumbing, and electrical wiring. These utilitarian items have been added to enhance the function and efficiency of the station over several decades. Several of the light fixtures within this bay date to the 1930s, and appear to be original. Also in three locations are the remaining fire-poles dropping down through the ceiling from the second-level. The floor is also exposed concrete. The rear bay door is located on the north wall at the far northwest corner of the room. The remaining portions of the 1st floor contain the firehouse hose tower, a restroom, and utility room housing the station furnace, clothes washer and dryer, and water heater.

The second level of the fire station houses the living quarters and offices for the firefighters. The largest room is the dormitory, which occupies the northern half of the fire engine bay below. Adjacent to the dormitory and the south is the fire investigator's office. This office was added in 1997 with the creation of two interior walls. Along with the addition of this office a women's locker room and restroom was added to the second floor. Stationed behind the dormitory on the northern half of the station is placed the firehouse kitchen, dining, and living room.

Elaboration

SETTING

Fire Station No. 4 is located at 813 SW Clay Street, and is a prominent building within the immediate vicinity. SW Clay Street adjacent to the station has been reconstructed in brick pavers to reflect its original material and appearance. The surrounding area is mixed-use, consisting of low-density residential, with a light mixture of institutional and commercial uses scattered in an uneven pattern in surrounding blocks. SW 8th avenue is located less than ½-block to the north. This

Fire Station No. 4

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

avenue runs in an east/west direction, and is a minor arterial corridor carrying vehicular traffic into and out of Downtown Topeka. Most of the buildings in this area, regardless of their residential or non-residential use, date from either the late 19th or early 20th Centuries.

Building Description – Fire Station No. 4 is a two-story concrete building clad with a tan brick veneer and cut limestone detailing. Its construction contains several gothic revival elements that collectively establish its overall architectural style. The building's footprint is rectangular in shape, measuring 90' x 35', with its predominant length extending in an east/west direction. Two small extensions from this rectangular footprint protrude from the north façade. The largest of these extensions lies along the east (front) façade, and measures approximately 10' x 10'. This extension is a single-story in height, and is the location of the station call-center and front door entrance. The second extension lies near the west end of the north façade. This extension measures roughly 2' x 12', and is the location of the rear vehicle-bay door.

The most elaborate architectural features of the building are the hipped roof that retains its original terra cotta roofing tile, the front dormers extending eastward from the east slope of this hipped roof, and the intricate stonework embedded around the openings of the engine-bay doorways. A row of soldier brick is also present and in-line with the bottom limestone windowsill of every 2nd-level window on all four facades. All windows in the building are constructed with a uniform limestone windowsill.

This building is in excellent condition, and is still in use for its original purpose as a municipal fire station. An extensive 2nd-level remodeling was completed in the early 2000s that subdivided the dormitory to accommodate the addition of an office, and a women's locker room/restroom. Beyond this work, however, the building still retains all of its original exterior and interior features. All new interior doors were constructed to match the remaining original interior doorways, and were installed with similar and compatible hardware. The extent of remaining original materials, and the attention provided to the installation of new features within the building, leads the overall structure to retain its historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Main/East Façade - The main entrance to the Station faces SW Clay Street to the east. This façade is comprised of two individual sections, the engine bays, and the pedestrian entrance. The primary section is approximately 35 feet wide and contains the majority of the building's stylistic design features. The dominant feature of this section are the two engine bay doors, both of which are accentuated with brick columns, each approximately 2 feet wide, and 8 feet tall. Two columns are placed at the outer edge of each door, with a third column placed in between. Each column is constructed with a stone base and a triangular-shaped stone cap and extends approximately 6" out from the face of the building. Behind each capstone and extending above are two additional parallel stone obelisks, each with its own triangular capstone mimicking buttresses or spires associated with the Collegiate Gothic style. The engine-bay doors are framed in limestone and are constructed with a shallow archivolt top. Two bands of limestone are inlaid above the doors and extend the entire width of the façade. The lower band is placed approximately 6" above the apex of the arched engine bay doors. The second band is in-line with the sill of the second-level windows. Each of these windows is approximately 40" x 40" in size, and is framed in quoined limestone. Below each window, and connecting each parallel band of limestone are four additional vertical pieces of inlaid limestone. Above each window is crenulated parapet, each with a small, centered and quoined window for ventilation.

North of the engine doors on the east façade is a smaller, single-room, single-story extension or portico, which contains the pedestrian doorway that is centered within the extension. This extension utilizes the same brick as the remainder of the station and is accentuated by an inlaid band of limestone above the door. Centered above the door, and immediately above the band of limestone is the identification nameplate for the fire station. This plate is approximately 12" x 48", is cast aluminum, and reads "FD No 4." A parapet with crenellation extends above the band of limestone, capped with additional limestone.

North Façade - The north façade of the station is approximately 90' in length and consists of four bays: the extension, windows, garage door, and windows again. This face of the building encompasses the extension/main entrance in the first bay at the east end of the building, as well as a third garage-bay door located in the third bay approximately 20 feet from the building's west end. The extension measures approximately 12' from the building's east face. This portion consists of one window which measures roughly 40" x 40" in size and is centered within the extension. This window has a stone sill below, and a row of soldier brick above, and is not quoined. Above the window is an extension of the horizontal inlaid stone band that is along all three faces of the extension. Above the stone-band extends the parapet with two crenellations.

Fire Station No. 4

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

There are a total of seven windows; four of the windows are on the second level, while three windows are on the ground level. The second-level windows are all evenly spaced and uniform in size, each measuring approximately 40" x 40". Each window on the northern façade is a single-pane, double-hinged casement with a horizontal transom above, with a limestone sill below. A single row of soldier brick is laid in line with the window sill for the entire length of this façade. The three remaining windows on the first level are directly in line with the second-level windows. Each of these ground-level windows measures roughly 30"x 40".

The garage door on the north facade projects outward roughly two-foot from the wall and has a gabled parapet roof. This door differs from the two front engine-bay doors in size, and in purpose. This doorway was placed in this location for the entrance of a smaller vehicle, an automobile driven by Topeka's Fire Department's fire chief at the time, Joseph Waldelich. This doorway was made to accommodate a small vehicle and so the recessed archivolt is partially infilled with a transom window above the door. Flanking this doorway are two columns, very similar in size, design, and materials that surround the engine bay doors on the front of the station. The archivolt for this doorway is constructed of brick, as opposed to the carved limestone archivolt present on the front engine bay doors. Above the doorway is a second-level window, which is a 3'-wide, single-pane casement with a horizontal transom, and a limestone sill. Extending above this window is the gabled parapet roof with stepped corners at its base, and a centered narrow window for attic ventilation.

The fourth bay and western end of the north façade is simple in form, featuring only three windows. Two windows are located on the second level. The window to the left is a single-pane, single-hinge casement, while the second window to the right is slightly wider, single pane, and is non-functional. The first-level window is identical in size and function to the left window located directly above. Also on the first-level is a steel door for the coal chute.

West Façade – The west (or rear) façade contains the rear entrance to the station, and matches the main portion of the east façade in width at 35'. The rear doorway is enclosed by a wooden shelter that is not original to the building, being added at an unknown date. This enclosure is constructed of wood with a low-pitched gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The enclosure is clad in vertically-aligned and painted wood siding. This entire structure measures approximately 5' in width x 7' in height x 9' in depth. Within this structure are steps leading down to a partially submerged lower level. The west wall of the station continues the same tan-colored brick, with the continuation of the single-row of soldier brick in-line with the second-level window sill. The lone window on the second level is placed immediately to the right of the rear entrance, which is in the center of the west façade at the ground level. This window is a single-pane, single-hinged casement with a single-pane transom above. Immediately to the left of the rear entrance is placed a second, non-functional window that is single-pane, no transom. This window is placed consistent with the landing of the interior stairwell to the second level of the station. The most prominent feature located on the west façade is the chimney for the station furnace. This chimney is centered between the southern rail of the second-level window and the south wall of the station. The chimney rises above the second level to a height consistent with the apex of the station's hipped roof.

South Façade – The south façade of the building consists of six second-level windows and four ground-level windows. Five of the six second-level windows are uniform in size, configuration, and spacing, each being a dual-hinge, single-pane casement with a single-pane transom above. The sixth second-level window nearest to the west end of the building is a single-hinge, single-pane casement with single-pane transom. The four lower-level windows are also uniform in their size, configuration, and spacing, each being a single-hinge, single-pane casement with a single-pane transom. The first-level windows are all placed directly below the central four second-level windows. An opening similar in size to a window is directly below this western-most window for ventilation purposes. This opening features a limestone sill and is slightly lower than the other four first-level windows. Rising above the roofline between the first and second windows extend the hose tower. This hose tower is equal in height to the chimney, although its other dimensions are substantially larger. At its crest, the hose tower measures about 4' deep x 5' wide x 8' tall, and is capped. Within the south face of the tower is an opening for ventilation approximately 2' wide x 3' tall. The primary material for this tower is the same tan brick used throughout the remainder of the station. The roof of the tower is a sealed rubber membrane.

Interior-Ground Level – The ground level of the interior floorplan of Fire Station No. 4 has remained mostly unchanged since its original construction in 1927. Only one room has received a substantial change, that being the installation of drop-ceiling in the main office in the early 1990s to conceal conduit and electrical lines necessary for air conditioning and fluorescent lighting. Doors and associated hardware, such as hinges and door handles all appear to be original. All ground-level interior walls are finished with paint over exposed brick, while all floors remain finished and smoothed concrete. No

Fire Station No. 4

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

features within the interior have been removed or substantially altered, leading the interior of this level to retain its historic integrity with regard to design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Office - The office is located within a small, one-room extension on the north side, along the building's east end. Located within this office are the communications equipment for station operations and a retractable Murphy bed. The office features one window. The Murphy bed is stored within a shallow closet located on the room's south wall, immediately west of the main exterior entrance to the office. There is a door on the south wall that leads to the fire engine bay. Interior walls are all painted concrete from the baseboard to the ceiling. The floor is a combination of acrylic tile immediately inside the main entrance, then transitions to a short-looped carpet. The ceiling is an acoustical foam-board drop-ceiling that is placed approximately 6" below the original concrete ceiling.

Main engine Bay – The main engine bay is the largest room in the station, designed large enough to house four full-sized fire engines, and a full-sized automobile. The north, south, and west interior walls are all constructed of painted brick, while the east wall consists almost entirely of the two engine-bay door openings. A third bay door is located in the north wall, near the west end of the room. This door reflects the same pattern and materials used in 2 similar doors that are located within the west wall. The door on the right is the entrance to the second level stairs, while the door on the left is the entrance to the station's furnace, water heater, an old coal room, and the rear entrance to the station. The floor of the engine bay is a smoothed poured concrete, while the ceiling is also poured concrete, with a network of concrete beams for structural support. Attached to these support beams are the station's interior plumbing, HVAC conduit, and electrical wiring. Lighting within this engine bay is achieved through the use of centrally located tube fluorescent lights that were installed during the 1980s, and also six original hanging pendant lights. The station still retains all three of its original fire poles, as well. Two of the fire poles descend from the dormitory located at the east end of the second level, and are in-line with the center of the ground-level between the two engine bay doors. The third fire pole is located near the north side of the room, just east of the single rear bay door. This fire pole descends from the living room above on the second level.

Hose Tower - Located at the southwest corner end of the engine bay is the hose tower. This tower extends into the engine bay approximately 6' from the south exterior wall, and another 6' from the west interior wall.

Ground-Level Lavatory – The ground-level lavatory is located at the northwest corner and is approximately 6' x 6' in from the north and west walls. The toilet, sink, and centrally located ceiling light fixture appear to be original to the station's construction. An original steam radiator is on the east wall of the lavatory at a height consistent with the north-facing window.

Rear Utility Rooms and Rear Exit – To the west of the main engine room is a room containing the station's furnace, water heater, laundry machines, electrical breakers, and an air compressor. This room is accessed through a door on the bay's west wall and is three shallow steps down to a level just slightly below ground level. The dimensions of this room are approximately 12' east/west x 27' north/south. The finishes of this room have remained unchanged since its original construction, consisting of poured concrete floor and ceiling, and painted brick walls. The room has no defining details or architectural features that would indicate the general use or purpose of the room.

Additionally, the room has no windows, but there are three doors. One doorway accesses the engine bay to the east. In the northwest corner of the room, a doorway facing west accesses the station's rear entrance. The third doorway is on the north wall and accesses the former coal room, which has been modified for storage. The coal room features the same rustic finishes as the utility room, with its exterior dimensions being roughly 8' x 12'. The underside of the staircase to the second level is exposed and visible from this room, featuring its building materials of concrete, brick, and structural clay tile. The use of this clay tile within the building is unique to the staircase. The former coal chute is elevated on the north exterior wall of this room, approximately 7' above the floor level.

Staircase to the second Level – The stair to the station's second level is U-shaped, with a switchback and landing at the elevation mid-point. Each staircase is approximately 40" wide, separated by a concrete divider that is capped with a flat, single-board yellow pine handrail. The exterior walls of the staircase are painted concrete. Each riser and the steps are covered with an adhesive rubber-based tread over concrete. One window is centered within the wall at the landing.

Interior-Second Level – All of the original interior finishes of the second level remain intact, with the caveat that a portion of one room was subdivided into a total of three separate rooms. This alteration was confined to the southeastern portion of the level. Along with this new construction was the installation of a drop-tiled ceiling within all rooms, except for the

Fire Station No. 4

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

station dining room. No original finishes or structural components of the second level were removed in conjunction with these new additions.

Although one room has been subdivided, the second level still retains all of its original interior features. All new interior doors were constructed to match the remaining original interior doorways, and were installed with similar and compatible hardware. The flooring remains in its original finish of smoothed and polished concrete. The window openings all remain unchanged with each window opening still retaining its original tan-brick windowsill. All rooms are also equipped with their original steam radiators for heating. The extent of remaining original materials, and the attention provided to the installation of new features within the building, leads the second level of this structure to retain its historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Dining Room – The dining room is accessed directly from a short hallway at the top of the stairs that leads to the station's living room. This room measures about 20' to the north, and about 10' wide. Located on the west wall is a doorway, approximately 5' feet from the room's north wall that provides access to the station's kitchen. This room retains its original concrete wall finish but features a drop-tiled ceiling to conceal the ductwork for the station's air conditioning conduit and electrical wiring.

Kitchen – The kitchen is accessed through a doorway located on the west wall of the dining room. From its entrance, the kitchen runs to the back of the station's west wall. Although the cabinets and counters have been replaced, the flooring, walls, and ceiling all retain their original finishes

Living Room – The living room is the primary focal point of the second level, being the first and only room immediately visible when entering from the stairs. This room occupies the central portion of the second level, providing access to the dining room, the fire fighter's dormitory, and the men's and women's locker rooms. This room has minimal ornamentation, retaining its original concrete-finished walls, and the original terrazzo floor, although a drop-tiled acoustic ceiling was installed circa 1985 to conceal air conditioning conduit and electric lighting. The west wall features the room's original wooden double door to the dining room. Next to this door is the hallway leading to the stairway, the kitchen, and the men's locker room. At the mid-point of the room's east wall is the original wooden doorway to the station's dormitory, while the south wall features only the door to the women's restroom and locker room. One fire pole is also present within the living room. This fire pole is located near the northeast corner of the room, and retains its original cover at the floor level, along with the iron pipe-cage framing that provides the pole's structural support.

Dormitory – The station's dormitory is located in the second-level's northeast corner, directly above the north-half of the main engine bay. All surface finishes in this room are the same as for the dining room and living room. Three are placed along the north wall, all equally spaced between the room's west wall, and the station's eastern front façade. A fourth window is located on the station's east wall. Placed below the center window is a steam radiator. The north wall in the dormitory is non-original, being added in 2002 to create space for the Department's Fire Investigator's office. The material for this wall is sheetrock, yet is painted to match the color of the other three walls within the room. There are two fire poles in the dormitory that extend down to the ground level. One fire pole is located in the southeast corner of the room. The second fire pole is located near the southwest corner of the room. Both of these fire poles are identical to the third fire pole located in the living room, with a hinged steel cover, and an iron pipe cage embedded into the floor to provide structural support.

Investigator's Office – The Investigator's Office is located in the southeast corner of the station's second level. This room was created in 2002, and expanded slightly to the west in 2006. Overall, this room mirrors the others on the second level in its distinct lack of decorative ornamentation. One window is located on the east wall, while two windows are located on the south wall. The door to the room is also located within the north wall. This door and frame are constructed of yellow pine, matching the materials used for all other doors on the second level of the station.

Women's Restroom/Locker Room – The room west of the investigator's office is a dual purpose, women's restroom, and locker room, which was added to the overall floorplan of the second level in 2006 to accommodate women fire investigators and women firefighters. The only wall within this room original to the building is the exterior wall on the south. The doorway to this room is located on the north wall, and opens directly into the dormitory.

Men's Locker Room/ Restroom - The men's locker room and restroom lies to the immediate west of the women's locker room/restroom, and is essentially in its original position within the floorplan. The primary modification performed in this

Fire Station No. 4

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

area is its reduced size. This room is now approximately ½ of its original size from the east to west walls. The south wall is the only original wall and contains two windows. Doorways to this room are located within the west wall, with two additional entrances from the north. One entrance from the north is from the hallway near the dining room, while the second doorway is from a hallway that extends west from the dormitory. On the room's west wall is the entrance to the station's chief's office.

Chief's Office – The Chief's Office within Fire Station No. 4 is in its original location and retains its original walls and configuration. This room is located in the second-level's southeast corner and maintains all original materials for walls and floors.

Alterations - Fire Station No. 4 has been in continuous use since its original construction in 1927. Since this time, several changes have been made to the building to modernize and replace outdated features, or to modernize the facility for the safety and convenience of firefighters stationed within the building. These changes include the addition of central air conditioning in the 1990s, the replacement of kitchen cabinetry and countertops, and bathroom fixtures. Complete records of these changes are maintained at the City of Topeka Fire Department Headquarters, the Office of Facilities Management, and the City Engineer's Office.

The second level of Fire Station No. 4 has received substantial alteration to its floorplan, yet retains all original interior walls. These changes began in 2002 when space within the second level was created for the placement of the Topeka Fire Department's Investigative office. This change subdivided the eastern half of the station into two separate portions. The north portion remained the firefighter's dormitory, while the southern portion became the office space. In 2006, additional changes were made to expand the investigator's office slightly, and also to create a separate women's locker room and restroom. All of these changes are contained within the southern half of the second level, while the northern half retains the station's original floor plan.

Fire Station No. 4 is in excellent condition and retains the vast majority of its historic integrity. The building remains in its original location and its original footprint, both dating to its construction 1927. These elements are reflective of the continuation of its setting, which is comprised of low-density residential development, with a mix of other light commercial and institutional uses, all dating to their period of development in the earliest decades of the 20th Century. The building also retains its original structural building materials, including all flooring, interior and exterior walls, roofing, wooden interior and exterior trim, and other exterior stone ornamentation. These materials are reflective of the skilled craftsmanship available at the time of its construction. Its continued presence within its surrounding neighborhood, combined with the virtually unchanged appearance of function of the building itself, emits a sense of its historic place within the development of this portion of the City of Topeka.

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1926-1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Squires & Ross

Bowers Construction

Period of Significance (justification) 1926-1940 Fire Station No. 4 is significant relative to an era in Topeka's history and the development of Topeka's Fire Department, most notably dating between the time frame of 1926 and 1940. This timeframe encompasses a bond that was authorized by Topeka's voters in 1926, specifically for the improvement of the City's firefighting capabilities, and the construction of new fire stations to accommodate the expansion and development of Topeka's western suburbs. This timeframe encompasses the era of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), through which additional funds were added to this bond for construction of four total fire stations in the City of Topeka. This era in Topeka's history ended in 1940, commensurate with the beginning of WWII, and after the final funds from the 1926 bond were spent. This year also marked the cessation of the local use of WPA funding for the development of local infrastructure.

Fire Station No. 4

Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

Fire Station No. 4 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture, and Criterion A for the building's association with the growth and development of the City of Topeka. The Station is an example of an early-20th-century fire station in the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture, it embodies the functionality required by professional firehouses and was designed by the renowned Kansas architect, Frank C. Squires.

Topeka. Firehouse No. 4 originally went into service in 1887. In 1892, the City invested in a wood-frame fire station on the same site that housed 2 horses and pump wagon. During the 1920s, Topeka's pace of growth had accelerated. In response to this growth, the citizens of Topeka voted in 1926 to authorize a bond of \$250,000, specifically to be used for the enhancement and expansion of fire protection services throughout the City. The passage of this bond would result in the construction of 6 new fire stations, including the reconstruction of Fire Station No. 4.

Elaboration

Historical Fire Service in Topeka

From its founding in 1854 until February of 1870, the City of Topeka functioned without a dedicated fire service. The first fire recorded in the City was during the very first winter of 1854-1855. Flames engulfed the log cabin, with thatched roof and cotton door cloth, that was occupied by the City's founders. At that time, this cabin was the only recognized "house" within the City limits. One of those founders, Fry W. Giles, reported that the fire left the City in "ruins."¹

For the City's first decade, no other serious fires were reported, thus negating the need to establish an organized system for fighting them. This hiatus of fires within the City, however, began to change when on April 24, 1867, the City recorded an earthquake. The epicenter of this earthquake was located near the City of Manhattan, Kansas, but tremors were reported from as far away Carthage, Ohio². As with any earthquake, the seismic activity shook buildings, broke windows, and started several fires throughout the city, affecting several businesses and private homes. This event prompted the City to begin organizing a structured response to fires by creating a system to pump and distribute water from the river throughout the business and residential areas.³

The lack of a dedicated fire service emerged as a crucial factor limiting the growth of the city in 1869 when fires destroyed two prominent buildings, the S.D. McDonald Building and the Ritchie Block. In 1870, the Topeka City Council authorized and funded the acquisition of a steam pump and fire wagon, which arrived on February 5th. In October of that same year, a team of volunteer fire-fighters was organized, and all equipment was stationed in a converted blacksmith shop in the 500 block of SE Quincy Street.⁴ This location served as the City's sole fire station until 1874, when Fire Station No. 1 was constructed across the Kansas River in North Topeka. Fire Station No. 1 was located at the southeast corner of N Kansas Avenue and N Gordon Street, originally platted in the Town of Eugene. Eugene was annexed into the City of Topeka in 1867.

The construction of Fire Station No. 1 began a new and significant era for firefighting in Topeka, leading to the construction of four additional stations during the next fifteen years. Fire Station No. 2 was constructed in 1878 in the rear portion of the new City Hall, located at SE 7th Street & S. Kansas Avenue. The construction of Fire Station No. 3 followed in 1882 in the 300 block of NE Quincy Street, followed by Station No. 4 in the 700 block of SW Clay Street (1887), and Station No. 5 in the 600 block of SE Lake Street (1890). The construction of each of these fire stations in Topeka was a direct result of the growth of the City and the resulting demand by businesses and residents for reduced response times.

¹ Ripley, John W., Fire Service in Topeka, the Early Years, Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin No. 63, 1986, p. 3

² Lykins, W. H. R., 1867, Earthquake in Kansas: Am. Jour. Sci., 2d ser., v. 44, no. 130, p. 132

³ Keith S. Krause, *Impact of Water on the Development of Topeka - A History*, March 1993

⁴ National Register Nomination for Fire Station No. 2" (Topeka, Ks. Kansas State Historical Society, 2002) Sec. 8, p 7

Fire Station No. 4

Topeka, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State

One of the premier references to the evolution of fire stations built within the United States is Rebecca Zurier's *The American Firehouse, an Architectural and Social History*. Zurier notes a fundamental shift in the design of the American firehouse during the age of the transition from the horse and steam pump and wagon to the internal combustion engine. Fire Station No. 1 was the first fire station in the City of Topeka to accommodate a combustion-engine fire truck, as opposed to the traditional horse and wagon. As such, its design was altered from the traditional approach for fire stations that featured two-story design with the fire-pole and living quarters located on the second level, to a uniformly single-level design. The new fire station was modeled in the same approach as the "bungalow," where all company living quarters were on the ground level. This change in design was in part to the wholesale adoption of the internal combustion fire engine, and also to a wealth of changes in firefighting apparatus, firefighting procedures, firefighter scheduling changes, and changes in city planning.⁵

As long as fire stations required horses to haul their firefighting apparatus, the traditional firehouse of the 19th and early 20th Centuries were essentially modified livery stables. The accommodation of the horse as a necessary component of firefighting apparatus required the firehouse to contain haylofts, feed rooms, stalls, hanging harnesses, and the high-ceilinged rooms that accommodated them. The inclusion of these necessary accommodations for horses within the traditional firehouse resulted in various health concerns for firefighters, chief among them was a condition referred to as the "ammoniacal vapors," which was simply a reference to the unsanitary smells attributable to the horses on the main level. The removal of horses and their accommodations afforded both a cleaner environment for the firefighters and also the ability to place the living spaces of the firefighters closer to the fire engines.

This "cleaner environment" manifested itself through several different means. These means can be categorized under building materials, firehouse floor plan, and the physical location of the firehouse, itself.

In terms of building materials, the transition from the horse and pump wagon to the combustion engine fire truck coincided with the widespread focus on the sanitation and cleanliness of fire stations. Enabling this focus on sanitary conditions was the adoption of poured concrete as a favored material for many public and municipal buildings. The local architect of Frank C. Squires maintained these national trends in the design for Fire Station No. 4, utilizing poured concrete and brick as its' primary building materials. The use of these materials enabled Fire Station No. 4 to replace wood floors with terrazzo, and window sills and walls with decorative, yet compatible brick. These hard, non-porous surfaces greatly enabled the overall sanitation and cleanliness of the firehouse.

The rearrangement of the firehouse floorplan also brought with it the introduction of a kitchen for the in-house use of firefighters. In older, pre-bungalow firehouses, the now unnecessary stalls could be removed, leaving room for expanded storage of fire-fighting equipment and vehicles, while the living quarters remained separated on the second level. Upon the advent of the multiple-shift scheduling of firefighters, one member of the firehouse was appointed as the shift "cook," while other firefighters adopted the job of cleaning and washing dishes.

Perhaps the most notable alteration to firehouse design was that without the horse and wagon and the space necessary to accommodate those living elements of the firefighting apparatus, fire stations could be placed further within residential neighborhoods. Stations constructed during this period fundamentally changed the public's perception of the firefighter as a civil servant. This change was such that taxpayers did not mind spending a little more for the comfort and accommodations of their local firemen. Coupled with the advancement in the technology and performance of their equipment, the design of the American firehouse during the 1890s to 1920 is described by Zurier as being a time of castles and palaces. Thus, the exterior of Fire Station No. 4 was embellished with an eclectic Collegiate Gothic style, while the interior was finished with durable and non-porous finishes that enabled the firefighters to live in clean luxury.

During the 1920s, Topeka's pace of growth had picked up, growing in a more southerly and westerly direction. New fire protection services were required to service these newly annexed areas, as evidenced by the passage of the municipal bond in 1926. The passage of this bond, valued at \$250,000, would result in the construction of 6 new fire stations. These stations were a new and independent Headquarters and Station No. 2 in 1927, a new No. 4 also in 1927, and new stations Nos 5, 6, and 7 built in 1935, and a new No. 1 in 1940. The construction and dedication of these fire stations enabled the

⁵ Rebecca Zurier, *The American Firehouse, An Architectural and Social History*, (New York: Abbeville Press; 1982) p. 157

Fire Station No. 4

Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas

County and State

City of Topeka top grow substantially in the late 1920s, and more importantly, in the years following the Great Depression and WWII.

Architecture of Fire House No. 4

Fire Station No. 4 is an example of a period in American firehouse design that encompasses two separate philosophies in the exhibition of form and function. At the end of the 19th Century, the image of the firehouse, and more particularly the image of the firefighter had transformed from that of a neighbor/volunteer to a full-time paid professional willing to risk life and limb to save citizens from a burning building. In her book, *The American Firehouse, an Architectural and Social History*, Rebecca Zurier produces an excellent account of the complete transformations of the American firehouse since the founding of this country. Zurier points out that by the 1890s, public sentiment was such that taxpayers did not mind spending a little more for the comfort and accommodations of their local firemen. Coupled with the advancement in the technology and performance of their equipment, the design of the American firehouse during the time from the 1890s to 1920 is described by Zurier as being a time of castles and palaces.

As Zurier notes,

"The electrical devices, alarm equipment, and apparatus perfected in the 1880s remained in use for the next thirty or forty years, so the fire station's basic program changed very little in that time. Nevertheless, the buildings did change – not so much in size or layout as in style. While a writer in 1893 had praised the red brick fire stations in Columbus, Ohio, as 'chaste' in appearance, the turn-of-the-century commentator would often compare new fire stations to mansions. The stocky, industrial designs of the red brick stations were left behind as firehouses began to resemble medieval castles, French chateaux, Italian palaces, and Swiss chalets."

In other words, the advancements on building techniques and materials allowed architects to achieve a new range of effects within their designs without raising costs. These effects were achieved through the incorporation of new building materials, such as glazed brick or tile, colored terra-cotta, and a much wider array of colors for bricks as a primary building material. The results were an eclectic mix of architectural styles where buildings incorporated features and materials within the same exterior shells. Fire Station No. 4 is such an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style most closely associated with large institutional buildings.

Fire Station No. 4 was designed as a municipal building to stand out from the surrounding mix of low-to-moderate density residential and commercial uses. Located only one block to the west was the former location of the Governor's mansion and residence, which was a grand Queen Anne-styled home, surrounded by large homes of similar grandeur and status. The primary east/west arterial road through this portion of the City was SW 8th Avenue, and as such had been historically dedicated to a mix of light commercial and residential buildings.

Frank C. Squires designed Station No. 4. Squires was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1871, and moved early in his life to the city of Topeka, Kansas. At the age of 17, he entered the office of James C. Holland, one of the state's most prominent architects. After a very short time in this office, Squires left to study the trade at the Columbia University School of Architecture. After receiving his degree in 1898, he returned to Topeka and again entered into the practice of Mr. Holland. While working with Holland, he was the listed architect of record for a total of 7 individual buildings in Kansas that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings, and the years they were listed include The Junction City High School (1981), the Marion County Courthouse (1976), the Riley County Courthouse (2005), the Rooks County Courthouse (2002), St. John's Lutheran School of Topeka (1985), the Thomas County Courthouse (1976), the Women's Club Building of Topeka (1982). Additionally, Mr. Squires was also the architect for several contributing buildings within the Downtown Manhattan Historic District, the Junction City Downtown Historic District, as well as the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District in Downtown Topeka. Contributing buildings within the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District designed by Mr. Squires include the Majestic Theater, Topeka City Auditorium, the Kansas Children's Home Society, and the Parkhurst-Davis Building.

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas
County and State

Summary –

Fire Station No. 4 is an excellent example of the early 20th Century firehouse, constructed during the period of transition from accommodations of the horse and wagon to the internal combustion fire engine. This period also reflects the change in the public's perception of the firefighter from a neighborhood volunteer to a full-time public hero. This elevation in public status meant that additional resources were afforded to the design and construction of new fire houses, resulting in significantly cleaner and more luxurious accommodations for the fire fighters. This fire station is constructed with a blend of the architectural styles of Collegiate Gothic, and remains largely intact, retaining all of its architectural features dating to its original construction. As such, it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion 'C' for its architectural influences, and Criterion 'A' for its association with the growth and development of Topeka. Designed by the renowned architect Frank C. Squires, this station is an excellent example of his work, reflecting a significant period of his career as an architect in Topeka, and in the surrounding region. Together with the (re)construction of Fire Station No. 2 in the same year of 1927, these stations served as the foundation of a renewed emphasis on the provision of fire services for the City of Topeka, thus enabling its continued growth and development through the beginning of WWII.

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Fitzgerald, Dan. "Inventory of Records of the Topeka Fire Department." Topeka, Ks. 1986.

Krause, Keith S., *Impact of Water on the Development of Topeka, a History*, Topeka, Kansas, 1993

Motor Fire Apparatus, Fire and Water Engineering, Volume 51, 1912

Poppeleirs, John C. and Allen Chambers, Jr. and Nancy B. Schwartz. *What Style Is it? A Guide to America Architecture*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1983.

Remembrances in Wood, Brick, and Stone, Topeka & Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 1974.

Souter, Gerry & Janet. *The American Fire Station*, MBI Publishing Co. Osceola, WI., 2000.

Swayze, Oscar K. *Fire Service of Topeka, the Early Years*, Topeka, KS: Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin No. 63, November, 1986.

Topeka Capital Journal, September 21, 1952

Topeka Daily Capital, Nov. 28, 1954

Topeka Daily Capital, Dec. 19, 1954

Topeka Daily State Journal, Nov. 12, 1927

Topeka Daily Capital, Nov. 4, 1926

The Power Wagon, Fire Department Motors, No. 88, Chicago, IL, 1912

Zurier, Rebecca, *The American Firehouse, an Architectural and Social History*, Abbeville Press, New York, 1982

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.17

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

OR

UTM References

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary for Fire Station No. 4 contains the entire parcel at HORNE'S ADDITION, Lot 265 +, CLAY ST LOTS 265-267 SECTION 36 TOWNSHIP 11 RANGE 15.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary encompasses the entire original site acquired by the City of Topeka to build Fire Station No. 4 in 1886.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy Paris
organization Topeka Planning & Development Department date May 1, 2019
street & number 620 SE Madison St. telephone 785-368-3728
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66607
e-mail tparis@topeka.org

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name City of Topeka
street & number 215 SE 7th Street telephone 785-368-3725
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66603

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Fire Station No. 4
Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas
County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: **City of Topeka Fire Station No. 4**

City or Vicinity: **Topeka**

County: **Shawnee** State: **Kansas**

Photographer: **Timothy Paris**

Date
Photographed: **Aug. 8, 2019**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 of # 39 | Front view from the northeast |
| 2 | Station main entrance |
| 3 | Front stonework details |
| 4 | Stonework surrounding bay doors |
| 5 | Main entrance from the north |
| 6 | Window, second floor, north façade |
| 7 | Window with fan, 1 st floor, north façade |
| 8 | Rear bay entrance, north façade |
| 9 | West façade |
| 10 | West façade with view of south Façade |
| 11 | 1 st Floor, call room/main entrance |
| 12 | Murphy bed, call room/main entrance |
| 13 | Interior, front entrance door |
| 14 | Main engine bay looking east |
| 15 | Main engine bay, front pole |
| 16 | Rear engine bay door |
| 17 | First floor lavatory entrance |
| 18 | First floor hose tower |
| 19 | Interior of hose tower |
| 20 | 1 st floor lavatory |
| 21 | 1 st floor utility room |
| 22 | 1 st floor utility room/door to coal room |
| 23 | 1 st floor utility room ceiling & conduit |
| 24 | 1 st floor coal room/second-level staircase |
| 25 | Rear entrance staircase/south |
| 26 | Rear entrance staircase/north |
| 27 | Main engine bay/ second-level staircase door |

Fire Station No. 4

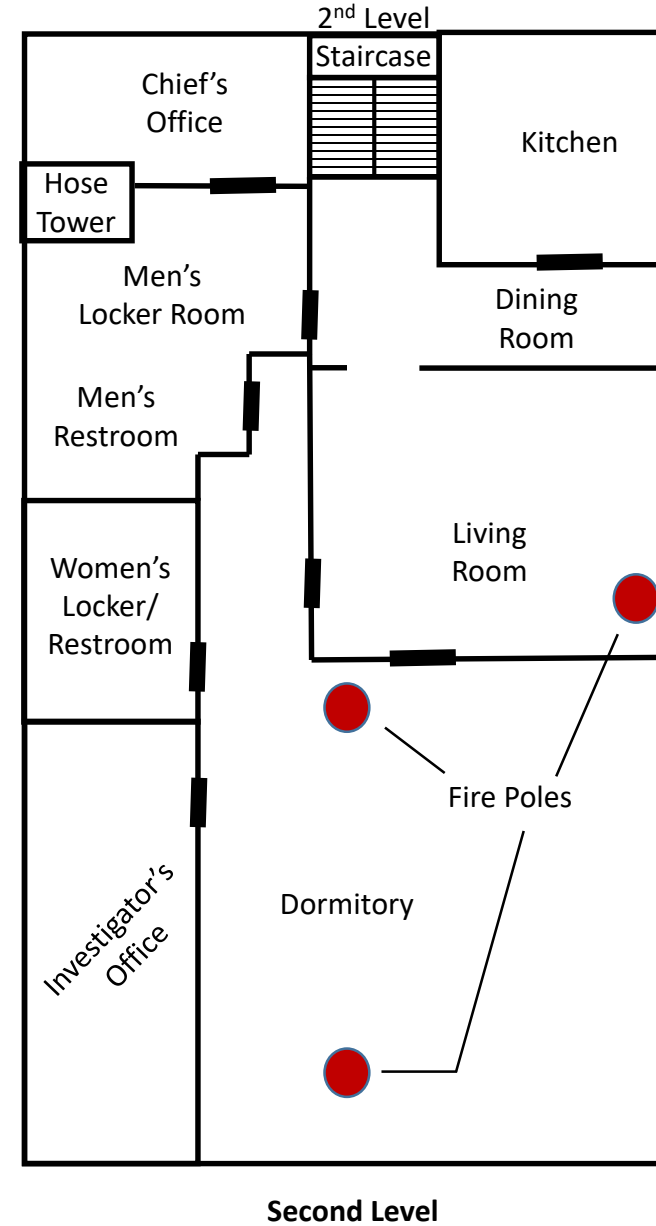
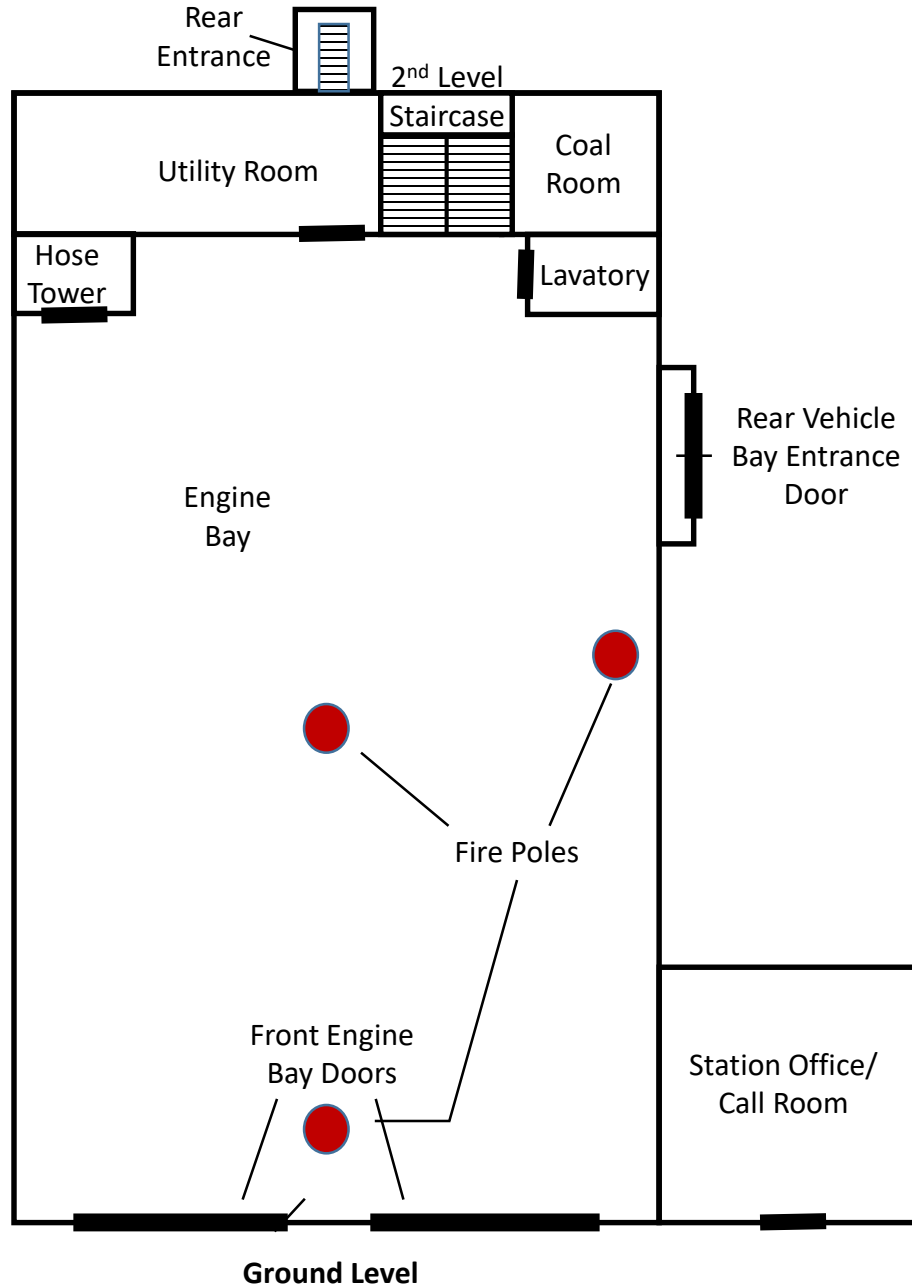
Name of Property

Topeka, Kansas

County and State

- | | |
|----|--|
| 28 | second-level staircase |
| 29 | Kitchen/second-level |
| 30 | Dining-meeting room/second level |
| 31 | Living room/second-level |
| 32 | second-level hallway to locker rooms |
| 33 | second-level dormitory |
| 34 | second-level dormitory fire pole chute |
| 35 | second-level women's locker room |
| 36 | second-level women's restroom |
| 37 | second-level men's restroom |
| 38 | second-level men's locker room |
| 39 | second-level men's restroom |

Topeka Fire Station No. 4 Floor Plan





STATION NO. 4 JULY 1949

Front Row: Capt. Wesley Tucker, Lt. Earl Taylor, Bob Heberling
Merril Lyttle

Back Row: Geo. Norris, Jim Fairbanks, Ed Gaskil, Paul Perry





TOPEKA FIRE STATION NO. 4
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Name of Property: Topeka Fire Station No. 4

City: Topeka

State: Kansas

Photographer: Timothy Paris

Date of Photographs: April 22, 2019

Location of Original Digital Files: Topeka Planning & Development Department, 620 SE Madison St.
Topeka, Kansas 66607

LOG:

Photo #1 - Fire Station No. 4, front view from the northeast
Photo #2 – Main entrance
Photo #3 – Front stonework details
Photo #4 – Stonework surrounding bay doors
Photo #5 – Main entrance from the north
Photo #6 – Window, 2nd floor, north facade
Photo #7 – Window with fan, 1st floor, north facade
Photo #8 – Rear bay entrance, north facade
Photo #9 – Rear entrance, west facade
Photo #10 – West façade with view of south facade
Photo #11 – 1st floor call room/main entrance
Photo #12 – Murphy bed, call room/main entrance
Photo #13 – Interior, front entrance door
Photo #14- Main engine bay looking east
Photo #15 – Main engine bay, front pole
Photo #16 – Interior of rear engine bay door
Photo #17 – 1st floor lavatory entrance
Photo #18 – 1st floor hose tower
Photo #19 – Interior of hose tower
Photo #20 – 1st floor lavatory
Photo #21 – 1st floor utility room
Photo #22 – 1st floor utility room/door to coal room
Photo #23 – 1st floor utility room ceiling/conduit
Photo #24 – 1st floor coal room/underside of 2nd-level staircase
Photo #25 – Rear entrance steps looking southwest
Photo #26 – Rear entrance steps looking northwest
Photo #27 – Main engine bay/2nd-level staircase door
Photo #28 – 2nd-level staircase
Photo #29 – Kitchen, 2nd level
Photo #30 – Dining/meeting room, 2nd level
Photo #31 – Living room, 2nd level
Photo #32 – 2nd level hallway to locker rooms
Photo #33 – 2nd level dormitory
Photo #34 – 2nd level dormitory fire pole chute
Photo #35 – 2nd level women's locker room
Photo #36 – 2nd level, women's restroom
Photo #37 – 2nd level, men's restroom
Photo #38 – 2nd level, men's locker room
Photo #39 – 2nd level, men's restroom