

# THE TOPEKA LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Holliday Office Building  
620 SE Madison Ave., Holliday Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

## A G E N D A

Thursday, April 12, 2018

5:30 PM

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes –February 8, 2018 Minutes
- III. **CLGR18-02 by Downtown Topeka Foundation**, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the partial demolition of 612 S. Kansas Avenue, and the full demolition of 618, 630, and 632 S. Kansas Avenue, all within the boundaries of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District.
- IV. **CLGR18-03 by Trails Market & Gallery**, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the placement of three wall signs onto the face of property located at 109 N. Kansas Avenue, within the boundaries of the Mill Block National Historic District.
- V. **Review and Comment** on the National Register Nomination for Shiloh Baptist Church, located at 1201 SW Buchanan Street.
- VI. **Other Items**
  - 1. NAPC Conference, July 18-22, 2018 in Des Moines, Iowa
  - 2. Annual SCHS/Landmarks Commission Historic Preservation Awards
- VII. 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, February 8, 2018**

Holliday Office Building | 620 SE Madison | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Holliday Conference Room

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Mark Burenheide, Donna Rae Pearson, Paul Post, David Heit, Cheyenne Anderson, Jeff Carson, Christine Steinkuehler, Bryan Falk (8)

**Members Absent:** Grant Sourk (1)

**Staff Present:** Tim Paris, Dan Warner, Kris Wagers

**Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2017**

**Motion** by Mr. Heit to approve; **second** by Ms. Pierson. **APPROVAL** (8-0-0)

**Mr. Paris announced a change in the agenda, re-ordering certain items.**

**CLGR18-01 by Iron Rail Brewery**, requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of exterior storefront, and other interior renovations of property located at **705 S. Kansas Avenue**, within the boundaries of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial National Historic District.

Mr. Paris presented the staff report and stated that the sign lighting is not yet decided so will not be reviewed this evening. He concluded with the staff recommendation and stated that the architect and developer were both present to take questions. Mike Hampton of Schwerdt Design Group came forward and stated he would stand for questions.

Mr. Carson asked if there would be outdoor dining and was told that it's not planned for this time but maybe in the future.

Discussion included information about the proposed cut-out in the floor to allow brewing tanks to fit into the basement and come up through the cut-out, whether it would be enclosed or have guardrails. Mr. Heit pointed to the perceived change in volume of the interior space and it was agreed that the floor could always be replaced in the future. Mr. Falk spoke to the amount of money the developer is spending on the equipment and suggested that the use of the building will be extended because of that. Additional discussion followed about the height of the tanks and potentially stacking them and thus doubling the height.

**Motion** by Mr. Carson for a finding that the proposed interior and exterior alterations to the property are consistent with the Downtown Topeka Design Guidelines and will not damage or destroy the historical integrity of the structure or the surrounding South Kansas Avenue Commercial District. **Second** by Mr. Burenheide. **APPROVAL (8-0-0)**

**Nomination of 2018 Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Paris stated that Mr. Sourk had expressed a willingness to serve as Chair in 2018 and reported that he had been re-appointed by Council to serve on the Landmarks Commission through February 2021.

Mr. Post stated he would be willing to serve as 2018 Vice Chair.

**Motion** by Mr. Heit to elect Mr. Sourk and Mr. Post as 2018 Chair and Vice Chair respectively. **Second** by Ms. Anderson. **APPROVAL (8-0-0)**

TOPEKA LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
**MINUTES**

---

**Appointment of Members to serve on Design Review Committee**

Following discussion and statements of willingness to serve, it was moved that the 2018 DRC members would be Mr. Burenheide, Mr. Heit, and Ms. Anderson, with Mr. Falk standing in if Ms. Anderson is unavailable. **Motion** by Mr. Carson, **second** by Ms. Pearson. **APPROVAL (8-0-0)**

**Amendment to Administrative Review and Approval Project List**

Mr. Paris reviewed the proposed changes and stated that they've been reviewed and approved by Katrina Ringler at SHIPO. Following a brief discussion, there was a **motion** by Ms. Steinkuehler to approve, **second** by Ms. Pearson. **APPROVAL (8-0-0)**

**Other Items**

Mr. Warner welcomed COT City Manager Brent Trout in the audience.

Mr. Paris spoke about the July 18-22 NAPC Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. He explained that there's a grant that will pay for up to 4 commissioners and 1 staff person. The following commissioners expressed interest in attending: Steinkuehler, Pearson, Heit, Pearson, Falk, and (per Mr. Paris) Sourk.

Mr. Paris reviewed the 2018 HPF grants that the COT plans to or is applying for:

- a. Tennessee Town Historic Resources Survey
- b. NAPC Educational Expenses
- c. Garlinghouse Multiple Property NRHP Nomination

**Adjournment at 6:28PM**

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
REVIEW REPORT  
TOPEKA PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**CASE NO: CLGR18-02**

**by: Downtown Topeka Foundation**

**Project Address:** Located along the east frontage of South Kansas Avenue, including 618, 630, and 632 S. Kansas Avenue

**Property Classification:** Public right-of-way within the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District, Listed on the *Register of Historic Kansas Places*, and the *National Register of Historic Places*

**Standards:** Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

**Attachments:** Site Plan [X] Elevations [X] Arch./Const. Plans [ ] Pictures [X]

**PROPOSAL:** The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of structures located at 618, 630, and 632 S. Kansas Avenue, all located within the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District. The demolitions are intended to allow space for the development of a public plaza. The redevelopment of 612 S. Kansas Avenue will be presented to the Landmarks Commission in conjunction with the plans for the public plaza. All buildings proposed for demolition are listed within the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District as *non-contributing* structures.

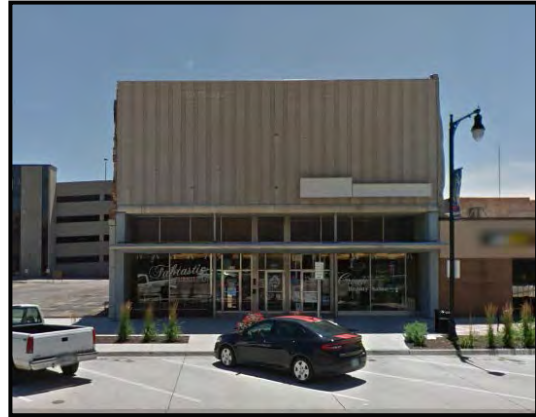
**BACKGROUND:** The applicant is proposing the full demolition of 3 structures. These structures are located on either side of a parking lot located on S. Kansas Avenue. This parking lot was created after the demolition of the structure occupying the property in the late 1980s. The redevelopment 612 S. Kansas Avenue will be presented in conjunction with plans for the establishment of a public plaza along the east side of the 600 block of S. Kansas Avenue. Plans for the plaza are currently in the developmental stage, and will be presented for review for approval under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation at a later date.

The Topeka Landmarks Commission has been requested to conduct a Certificate of Appropriateness Review to determine any possible damage or destruction of the historic character this proposal may impose on these properties, and to the surrounding South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District.

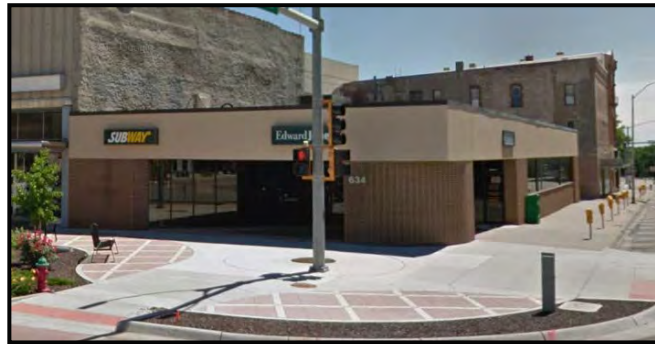
**618 S. Kansas Ave.** - This property is listed within the KHRI as being a two-story building, used for commerce/trade purposes. Its architectural style is categorized as Postmodern/Neoelectic. Its physical description is a "*two-story professional building with dark brown brick walls and deeply recessed fixed, tinted windows and cantilevered balconies. The south wall is the original stone wall for the building that stood on the site previously. A portion of the first story is open as a pass-through from the east side of the building to the west. An exterior dogleg stair with curved brick walls stands at the center of the rear elevation.*" The estimated date of construction for this building is 1986.



**628-630 S. Kansas Ave.** – This building dates to 1925, but is listed within the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District nomination as a non-contributing structure due to several modifications that have removed its historic integrity from the period of significance. The properties physical description in the KHRI states: *“This three-story Two-Part Commercial Block has stone side walls and modified east and west walls. The first story contains modified aluminum and glass storefronts, a ceramic tile surround, and a metal canopy. The upper story is clad entirely in polychrome concrete panels. There are no windows on the front elevation. The rear (east) elevation is concrete block with multiple non-historic doors and glass block windows. Constructed new building in 1925 within the north and south walls of the existing building.”*



**634 S. Kansas Ave.** – The stimated date of construction for this building is 1970. Its entry in the KHRI describes this building a 1-story, non-contributing building, designed in the modern/modern movement style of architecture. It’s physical description reads: *“This one-story building has brick veneer on the lower portion of the corner building and a wide band of EIFS panels capping the building. The southwest corner of the building is deeply recessed and a wide brick column stands at the outer corner of the recess. The west facade contains large aluminum and glass storefronts. The south facade contains a band of tinted windows with fixed panes. The rear (east) elevation is clad in EIFS panels.”*



**REVIEW SUMMARY:** The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office requires that all projects occurring on any property listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places be reviewed for their affect on the listed property and the surrounding district. State law (K.S.A. 75-2724) establishes

that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation be used to evaluate changes proposed to any property that is individually listed, or is located within an historic district. The following is an analysis of the application of each Standard to the proposed project.

**Standard 1.** *A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.*

**Analysis:** Absent their replacement with buildings of a similar use, the demolition of these buildings would remove their historical use for commercial activities from these properties. The nomination for the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District states the following of the historical significance of the commercial use of properties within the District:

*"The South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District (District) is significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE as an intact example of a commercial corridor that has seen cycles of boom, bust, and reinvention from the founding of the City of Topeka to the present day. The District incorporates all of the commercial, social, and civic functions necessary for the development of a successful urban center, with evidence of specific building booms and the influence of policy changes, such as urban renewal, present in the variety of building types and styles."*

Additionally, the Nomination states of the physical environment within the District:

*"The South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District (District) is significant as an intact example of a dense commercial corridor that reflects the economic and civic development of Topeka from shortly after its founding to the present day, with most of the development occurring in the early to mid-twentieth century. The 103 buildings (sixty-three contributing and seven previously listed) were constructed to house all of the businesses, financial institutions, social halls, and local government offices necessary for the development of a successful urban center. The District is a representative collection of commercial architectural styles and property types, both high style and vernacular, spanning from the late nineteenth century through the late twentieth century. Updated façades of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings reflect efforts by owners to refresh their properties in an era of changing architectural aesthetics. Despite shifts in architectural tastes from Victorian to historical revival to Modern Movement, the District retains its definitive commercial character. The District clearly communicates associations with the historic context defined for the commercial, civic, and social function of the area as well as the evolution of popular architectural styles and property types."*

The demolition of these structures without replacement would permanently remove their historic use, and their massing, size, scale, and rhythm from the development of Downtown Topeka's history. Their defining physical, cultural, and economic characteristics would be lost. The subsequent use of these properties as an open public plaza would also be inconsistent and incompatible with the historical uses of these properties within the surrounding historic district.

**Standard 2.** *The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

**Analysis:** The concluding paragraph of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District Nomination states of the character of this area, “*Despite shifts in architectural tastes from Victorian to historical revival to Modern Movement, the District retains its definitive commercial character. The District clearly communicates associations with the historic context defined for the commercial, civic, and social function of the area as well as the evolution of popular architectural styles and property types.*” This statement reflects the established history and purpose of the District as being used for commercial purposes. By establishing this area as an historic district, the National Park Service has concurred with the City of Topeka in its determination that this area should be preserved.

The demolition and re-purposing of these properties as a public plaza will have a corresponding effect on the surrounding district, as well. The adopted Downtown Topeka Design Guidelines prescribes 4 primary goals through its recommendations for the treatment of historic properties within the District. These goals are:

- 1) *Create an active, appealing, and prosperous downtown center.*
- 2) *Recognize, preserve, and enhance Downtown Topeka’s historic character as a significant component of downtown revitalization.*
- 3) *Provide support for private sector investment in downtown projects through the use of rehabilitation tax credits., and*
- 4) *Encourage the preservation and appropriate treatment of authentic building fabric.*

The Design Guidelines state with regard to Goal No. 4, “*Once damaged, destroyed, or lost, authentic fabric cannot be reclaimed. Authenticity and appropriate care and treatment should take precedence over other design issues.*” Although the buildings in question are listed as “non-contributors” to the historic district, their use as commercial properties, consistent with the mass, sizing, rhythm, and scale as the rest of the surrounding historic district, would be irreparably lost. The subsequent use of these properties as an open public plaza would be inconsistent and incompatible with the historical uses of these properties within the surrounding historic district. Furthermore, the loss of these buildings, or the inappropriate alteration of any contributing building within this block, would jeopardize the inclusion of this block within the boundaries of the historic district.

**Standard 3.** *Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

**Analysis:** This project will not introduce any features that will present a false sense of historical development. Demolition of these structures will remove their presence as commercial structures within the historic district.



- Standard 4.** *Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.*
- Analysis:** No changes to any of the properties within to this proposal have achieved historic significance in their own right. However, their use for commercial purposes has remained consistent since their original development, and should be preserved.
- Standard 5.** *Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.*
- Analysis:** Remnant portions of the original construction remain within the storefront of 628-630 S. Kansas Ave. The inlaid tile between the sidewalk and the recessed entry remains as a unique feature that is a defining characteristic of this property. Depending on a renovated treatment to the upper level of this structure, the possibility remains that this building could be classified as a *contributing structure* to the historic district in the future.
- Standard 6.** *Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.*
- Analysis:** N/A
- Standard 7.** *Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.*
- Analysis:** N/A
- Standard 8.** *Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.*
- Analysis:** N/A
- Standard 9.** *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*
- Analysis:** Although no contributing structures will be lost as a result of this proposal, the subsequent use and redevelopment of these properties as an open public plaza would be inconsistent and incompatible with the historical uses of these properties, and with the massing, size, scale, and architectural patterns represented within the surrounding historic district.
- Standard 10.** *New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*
- Analysis:** This review is limited to the full demolition of three buildings only. Any subsequent redevelopment proposal will be submitted and evaluated at a later date.



**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** In light of these standards and the preceding analysis, Planning Staff recommends to the Topeka Landmarks Commission a finding that the proposed demolitions of the properties located at 618, 630, and 632 S. Kansas Avenue without replacement of similar structures or uses **will damage or destroy the historic character or the historic integrity of these properties, and the historic integrity of the surrounding South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District.**

**APPEAL TO THE GOVERNING BODY:** If the Landmarks Commission determines that the proposed treatment will damage or destroy the historic integrity of the property and/or the surrounding historic district, the applicant may appeal to the governing body. It will be incumbent upon the governing body to make a determination, after consideration of all relevant factors, that: (1) there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the demolitions of the structures; and (2) that alternatives to the project include all possible planning to minimize harm to the property and the district that may result from those alternatives.

Suitable grounds for appeal under the Kansas Preservation Act, and as outlined within the adopted Downtown Topeka Design Guidelines, include any project that:

- Is a substantial, contributing use of clear public benefit to the revitalization of Downtown Topeka, either as an anchor, or as a small project with minimal negative impact;
- Enhances vitality in the streetscape, and is of benefit to adjacent historic properties;
- Emphasizes historic character and, though not in full compliance with the Secretary's Standards, adequately addresses the preservation and appropriate treatment of existing historic fabric;
- Is compatible with and enhances the overall character of the historic district;
- Exhibits exceptional design quality;
- Has no negative impacts to the historic district's primary contributing historic buildings of high integrity; and
- Mitigates any adverse effects on other contributing historic buildings.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Timothy Paris, Planner II



March 2, 2018

Tim Paris  
City of Topeka  
Landmarks Commission

Re:

**Downtown Topeka Foundation Public Plaza Construction  
600 Block of South Kansas Avenue 612, 618, 630 & 632 S Kansas Ave**

**Landmarks Commission Request for Demolition & Concept Plan Review**

Downtown Topeka Foundation and the Topeka Lodging Association is planning to construct a public plaza in Downtown Topeka in the 600 block of South Kansas Avenue on the north east corner of 7<sup>th</sup> & Kansas Ave. The development of the plaza is a second phase of the recently completed (2016) Kansas Avenue streetscape improvements. Additionally, it follows recommendations found in the 2000 (year) Downtown Topeka Revitalization Plan recommending further streetscape improvements to enhance downtown. The plaza will feature open space, covered stage, optional digital video screen and dry deck type fountains. Landscaping and low retaining walls, along with loose furniture will complement the plaza and its programming. The plaza will be programmed year-round.

Construction of the plaza will require demolition of three existing structures (632 S Kansas Ave, 630 S Kansas Ave, 618 S Kansas Ave) within the boundary of the South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District (Figure A). All structures are found to be non-conforming (Figure B). The remaining property at the north end of the site, 612 S Kansas Ave, will be reconstructed on the front and rear of the building. The reconstruction will bring the front of the building out to the historical edge of the sidewalk presenting itself as a complementary, modern structure in the context of the district. This application to the Topeka Landmarks Commission seeks approval for demolition of said structures and construction of a public plaza.

The development of a public plaza in Downtown Topeka specifically embodies two of the four goals of the Downtown Topeka Historic District Guidelines. The plaza will create (and enhance) an attractive, appealing and prosperous downtown center (Goal 1) and will encourage further private sector development throughout the district by demonstrating the commitment to Downtown Topeka through this project. (Goal 3). *Overall, the District communicates feelings about and associations with the continuum of commercial development that shaped Topeka as well as the social, civic, and transportation related resources integral to the function of the city*

*from the late nineteenth century to the present day.* (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2015). The plaza will serve as a social and civic function for downtown Topeka, further enhancing the District's commercial development.

During development of the concept for the plaza, the design team met with the Landmarks Commission Design Review Committee in October 2017 and then again in January 2018. During these meetings, our discussions centered around recognizing open space within the historic district. Studies of the historical context of the block, beyond its current state, revealed a vibrant block of businesses in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The current configuration of buildings pulled off the sidewalk frontage and an empty lot do not embody the same vibrancy of the past. This recognition led us to further study that defining edge set by those early buildings. These buildings presented themselves along the edge of the sidewalk to pedestrians passing by. Retail businesses occupied many of these early structures. The recessed entries of the buildings invited people off the sidewalk as they transitioned into the store. This notion of the edge created by the face of the storefronts and the recessed entries led the design team to a concept of creating a defining edge to the plaza through low planter walls but intermittently along the sidewalk providing a recessed area inviting people into the plaza proper. These recessed entries vary in formality and sizes mimicking the recessed entries of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century block. Pedestrians are invited to transition between the sidewalk and plaza while maintaining an open feel between the public realm of the street and sidewalk and the plaza. Attached Figure C illustrates this analysis and the relationship between the plaza sidewalk edge and the building edge of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

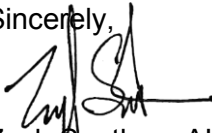
Additional discussions with the Design Review Committee centered around redevelopment of the northern most building on the site (612 S Kansas Ave). Currently the building face is pulled approximately 30 feet off the edge of the sidewalk creating an uninviting building front. Within this project the front of this build would be expanded out to the edge of the sidewalk creating a new storefront but with a historical context. Following the prescriptions of the Downtown Topeka Design Guidelines (Chapter 8), the new façade will be sympathetic to the character found in the District through materials, massing, form and rhythm but clearly distinguishable from the surround historic structures. The lower level will consist of a recessed storefront while the upper level will feature individual punch window openings. The materials on the front will mostly be masonry and glass. As the building turns the corner, the south façade facing the plaza will consist of new materials as well as portions of the historic wall remaining.

Lastly, across the country, public plazas are shown to be a catalyst for revitalizing the surrounding areas by attracting a critical mass of people to the area year round. The development of the public plaza adjacent to Kansas Avenue and within the Historic District signifies the commitment Topeka has to its downtown and will spur additional redevelopment efforts of surrounding historical properties. Operational program considerations for the plaza have discussed the possibility of the plaza being the starting point for downtown walking history tours.

Concept images of the plaza are included in this review request to indicate the overall character of the plaza.

We seek approval for this project by the Landmarks Commission and are available for questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach Snethen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zach Snethen, AIA  
HTK Architects

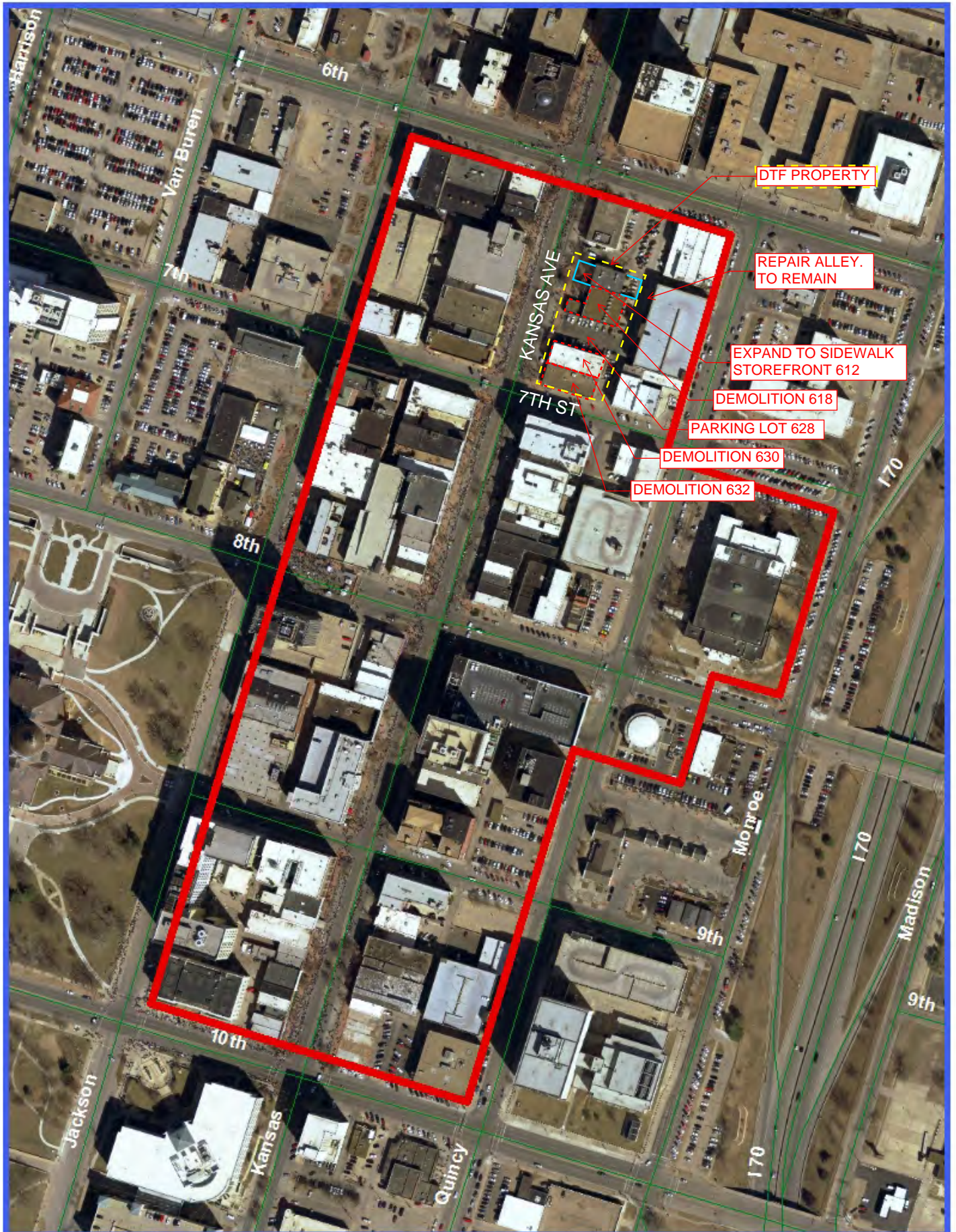
CC: Kurt Young - TLA

Attachments:

- Figure A – South Kansas Avenue Historic District
- Figure B – South Kansas Avenue Historic District – Contributing Properties
- Figure C – 600 Block Edge Study
- Figure D – Plaza Site Plan
- Figure E – Concept images of the plaza



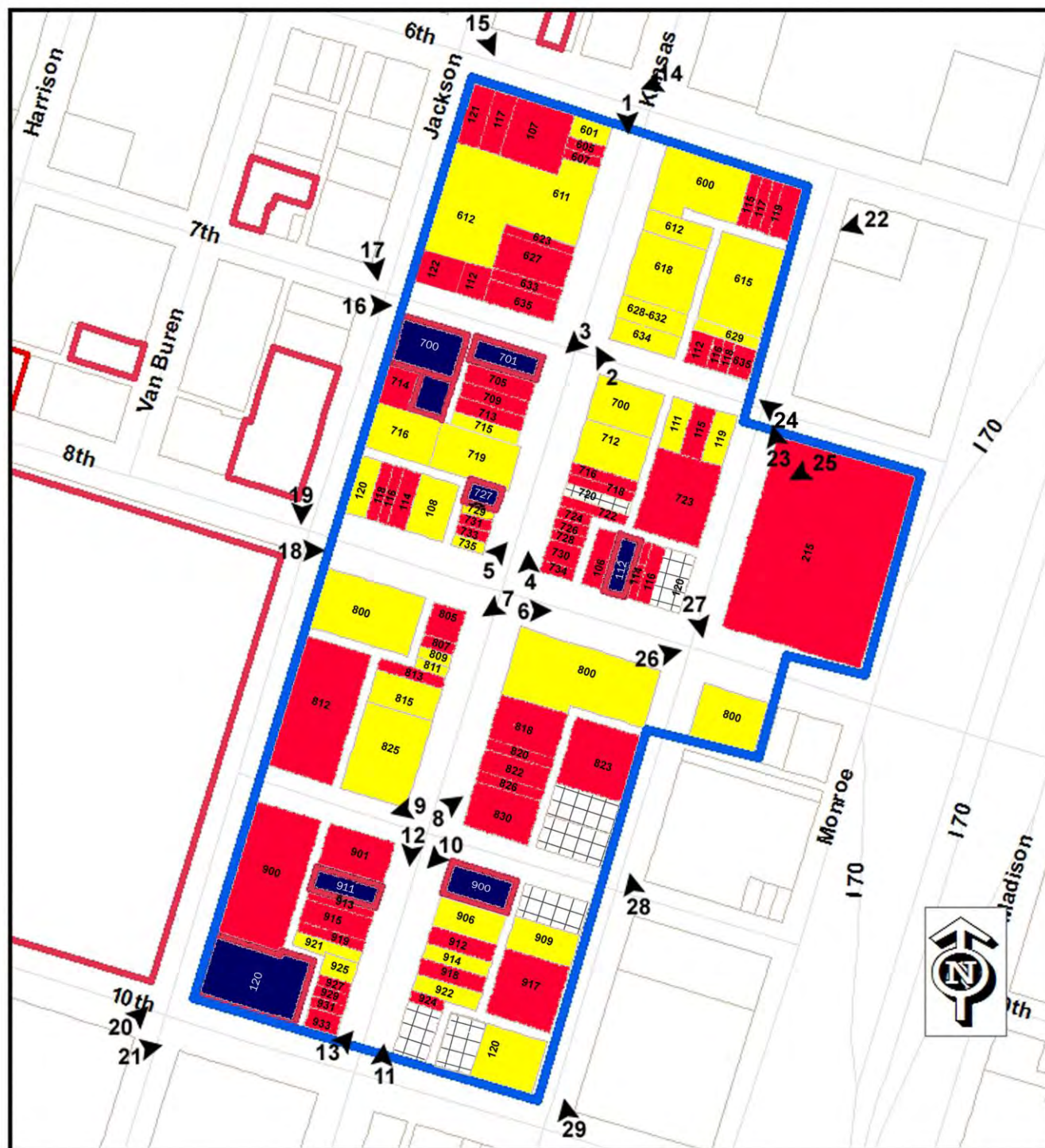
# South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District









South Kansas Avenue Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State



- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Listed in the National Register |
|  | Contributing Properties         |
|  | Non-Contributing Properties     |
|  | Vacant Properties/ Parking Lot  |

<b>S. Kansas Ave Commercial Historic District</b>	<b>Contributing</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Status</b>
600 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3228)	NC
601 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3213)	NC
605 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3214)	C
607 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3215)	C
611 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3216)	NC
612 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3227)	NC
618 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3226)	NC
623 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00075)	C
627-631 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3217)	C
628-632 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3225)	NC
633 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3218)	C
634 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3224)	NC
635 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00118)	C
700 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3235)	NC
701 S Kansas Ave., NR-listed (7/19/1976) (KHRI # 177-5400-00057)	NRL
705 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3205)	C
709-711 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3206)	C
712 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3234)	NC
713 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3207)	C
715 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3208)	NC
716-718 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00076)	C
719 S Kansas Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3209)	NC
720 S Kansas Ave., Vacant Lot (KHRI # 177-5400-00077)	V
722 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3233)	C
724 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00078)	C
725-727 S Kansas Ave., NR Listed (9/15/1977) (KHRI # 177-5400-00103)	NRL
726 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3232)	C
728 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3231)	C
729 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3210)	NC
730 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00079)	C
731 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3211)	C
732 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3230)	C
733 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-01536)	C
734 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3229)	C
735 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3212)	NC
800 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3239)	NC
801-805 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00080)	C
807 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3200)	C
809 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3201)	NC
811 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3202)	NC
813 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00081)	C
815-819 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3203)	NC
818 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3238)	C
820 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3237)	C
822 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00110)	C



825 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3204)	NC
826 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00083)	C
830 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00114)	C
900 S Kansas Ave., NR Listed (10/20/2010) (KHRI # 177-5400-00111)	NRL
901 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00124)	C
906 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3246 177-3245)	NC
909-911 S Kansas Ave., NR Listed (1/11/2006) (KHRI # 177-5400-01261)	NRL
912 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-2618)	C
913 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3195)	C
914 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3244)	NC
915-917 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00085)	C
918-920 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3243)	C
919 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3196)	C
921 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3197)	C
922 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3242)	NC
923-925 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3198)	NC
924 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3241)	C
927-931 S Kansas Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-01283)	C
933-935 S Kansas Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3199)	NC
700 SW Jackson St (117 SW 7th St) NR Listed (3/11/1982) (KHRI # 177-5400-00113)	NRL
714 SW Jackson St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3263)	C
716 SW Jackson St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3264)	NC
800 SW Jackson St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3265)	NC
812 SW Jackson St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3266)	C
900 SW Jackson St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00130)	C
615 SE Quincy St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3278)	NC
629 SE Quincy St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3277)	NC
635 SE Quincy St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3276)	C
723 SE Quincy St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3275)	C
800 SE Quincy St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3273)	NC
823 SE Quincy St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3274)	C
909 SE Quincy St., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3272)	NC
917 SE Quincy St., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3271)	C
115 SE 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3257)	C
117 SE 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00089)	C
119 SE 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3258)	C
121-123 SE 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00105)	C
107 SW 6th Ave, Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00135)	C
117-119 SW 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-01529)	C
121-123 SW 6th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00054)	C
112-114 SE 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00094)	C
115 SE 7th Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3253)	NC
116 SE 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00095)	C
118 SE 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00096)	C
119 SE 7th Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3254)	NC
215 SE 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-2616)	C
112 SW 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00008)	C

122 SW 7th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00107)	C
106-108 SE 8th Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3250)	NC
110-112 SE 8th Ave., NR Listed (3/31/1975) (KHRI # 177-5400-00138)	NRL
114 SE 8th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3251)	C
116 SE 8th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-3252)	C
108-112 SW 8th Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3249)	NC
114 SW 8th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00098)	C
116 SW 8th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00099)	C
118 SW 8th Ave., Contributing (KHRI # 177-5400-00117)	C
120 SW 8th Ave., Non-contributing (KHRI # 177-3248)	NC
120 SE 10th Ave., Non-Contributing (KHRI # 177-3247)	NC
120 SW 10th Ave., NR Listed (7/17/1975) (KHRI # 177-5400-00120)	NRL

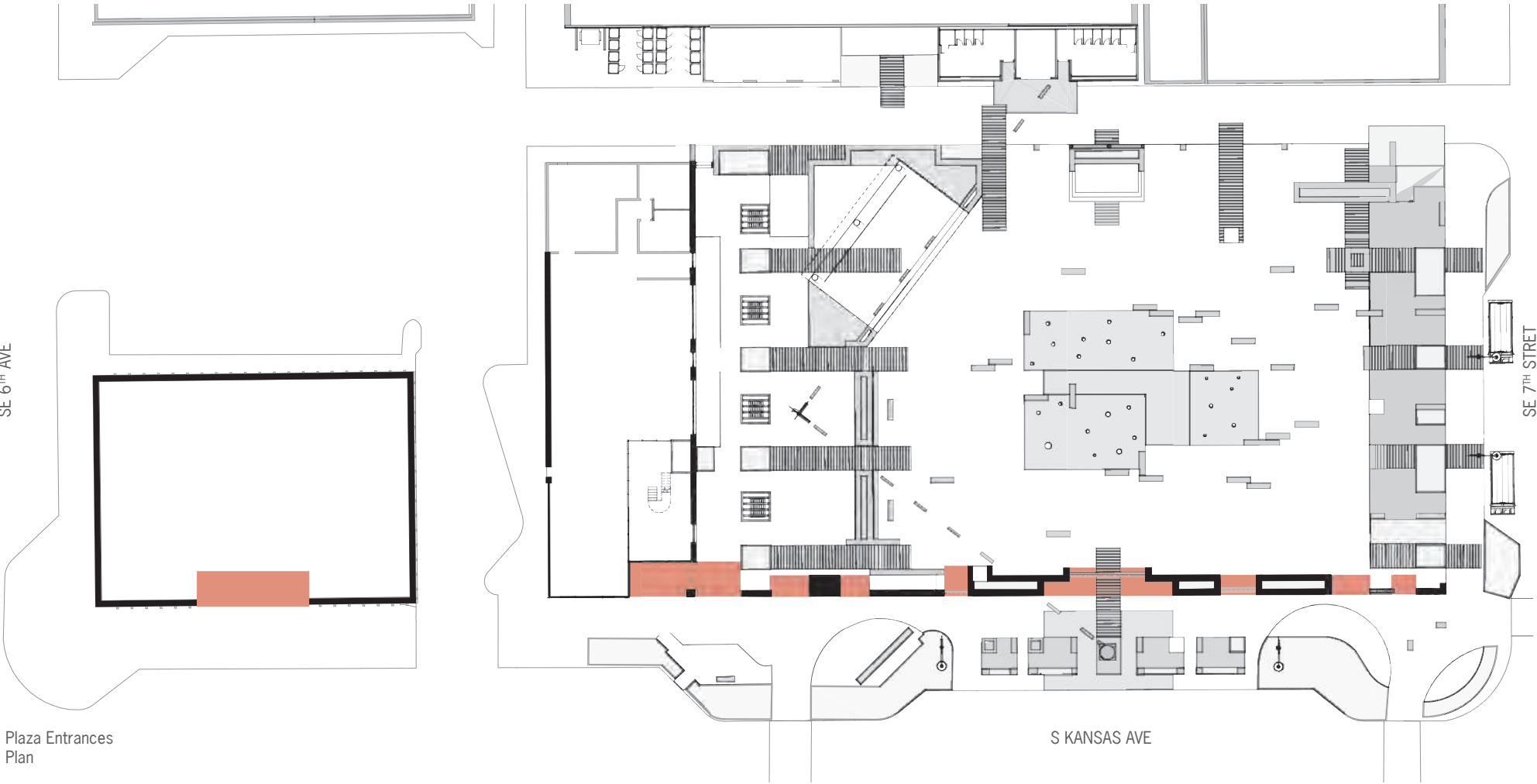
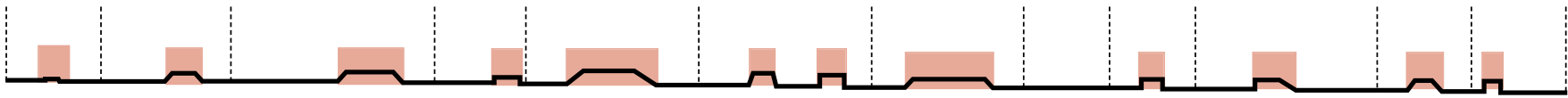
1930's



Storefront Entrances  
Elevation Mass



Storefront Entrances  
Plan

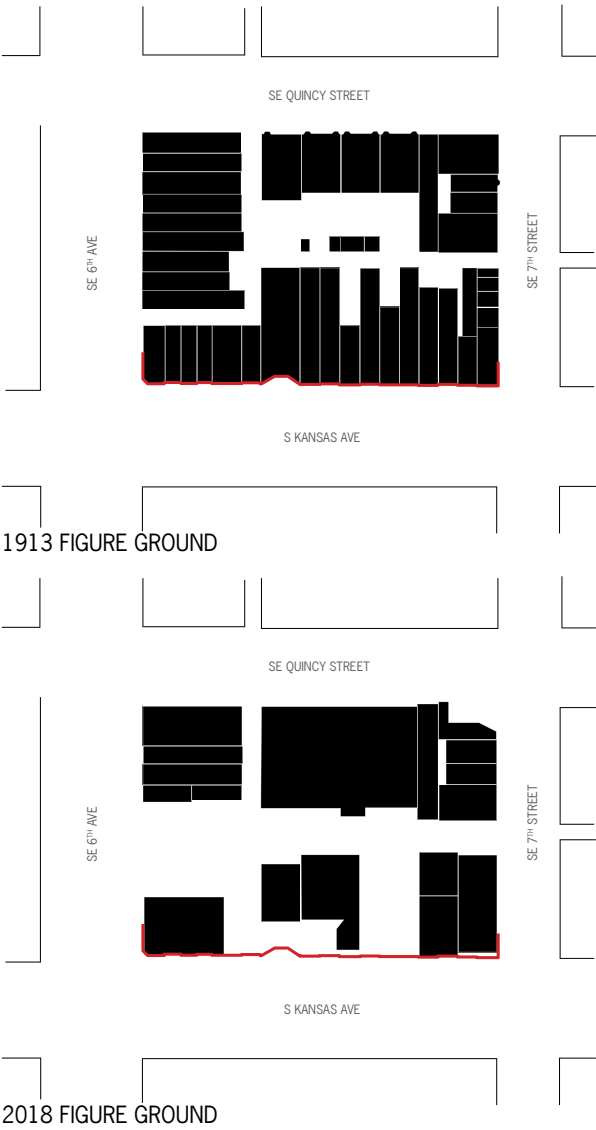


Plaza Entrances  
Plan



**612 S KANSAS AVE - EDGE STUDY &  
STOREFRONT ADDITION**

3/28/2018







- 1 - MAIN STAGE & CANOPY (50'x30')
- 2 - SIDE STAGE & SCREEN (30'x15')
- 3 - LIGHT & SOUND TOWER (4 Total)
- 4 - NEW STORAGE & MAINTENANCE SPACE
- 5 - NEW RESTROOMS & STORAGE SPACE
- 6 - 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET IMPROVEMENTS & FOOD TRUCK ZONE

- 7 - SPLASH PARK
- 8 - FOUNTAIN
- 9 - PUBLIC ART
- 10 - TOP CITY SIGNAGE
- 11 - PORTABLE RESTROOM ZONE
- 12 - TRASH ENCLOSURE
- 13 - WINTER ICE RINK (80'x120')

- 14 - DROP OFF/FOOD TRUCK PARKING
- 15 - ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS
- 16 - BUILDING ADDITION

PLAZA PLAN

3/28/2018





PLAZA - LOOKING NORTH



PLAZA COMMONS & STAGE



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**DRAFT**  
**3/6/2018**

# 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 Shiloh Baptist Church

Other names/site number Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; KHRI #177-4203

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 1201 SW Buchanan St.

City or town Topeka

State Kansas Code KS County Shawnee Code 177 Zip code 66604

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 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 x 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

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

## Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

## Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

### Number of Resources within Property

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

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

## 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.)

Rustic

Neoclassical

## Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: Undetermined

other: \_\_\_\_\_



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

---

Narrative Description

---

**Summary**

Located at 1201 SW Buchanan Street in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, Shiloh Baptist Church's building was completed between 1926 and 1954. The two-story stone building has a full basement and a gable roof behind a stepped parapet. Facing east, the main entrance is accessed via a two-story pedimented portico. The portico's smooth stone contrasts the rough-cut stone of the remainder of the building; however, other Neoclassical features include fanlight transoms above entry door and sanctuary windows and corner quoins.

---

**Elaboration**

**Background/Neighborhood**

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, affectionately referred to as Shiloh Baptist Church, is located at 1201 SW Buchanan Street in the historic area of Topeka, Kansas, known as Tennessee Town. Tennessee Town derived its name from the large number of African Americans migrating from the slave state of Tennessee to the free state of Kansas in the late 1800s as a part of the Exoduster Movement. Situated at the southwest corner of SW Buchanan and 12th streets (*Figure 1*), Shiloh is located in a residential area of central Topeka and sits on land that was considered one of the most desirable sites in the city of Topeka in 1926. The main entrance faces east and looks toward the State Capitol, which is located on SW 10th and Topeka Boulevard.

Located across 12th Street, directly north of Shiloh, is the historic Buchanan Elementary School.<sup>1</sup> Asbury Mt. Olive, a United Methodist Church, sits northeast of Shiloh on the corner at 1196 SW Buchanan Street. Single family houses are located southeast and west of Shiloh, with a new three bedroom Habitat for Humanity home located directly south of the church. The Habitat home was built on land owned by Shiloh, but it was transferred to the city of Topeka, so they would have the necessary lots to build this home.

**Grounds/Landscape**

The area around the church is open and easily accessible from the north, south, east, and west from the alley (*Boundary Map*). There are two large oak trees in the grassy area between Buchanan Street and the sidewalk on the east side of the building. A flower garden (2 feet x 18 feet) runs along the base of the handicap accessible ramp that was added in 1980. This ramp leads from the south parking lot to the front portico. A vacant lot that had been the site of the church parsonage is located directly west of the church. The parsonage was razed in 2016 due to deterioration and vandalism. A paved parking lot is to the south of the church and 12th Street is to the north.

**Church Exterior**

The church exterior is rendered in the Greek Revival style architecture, and was designed by Ralph E. Scamell. The church building sits on an L-shaped foundation that generally measures 100 feet long (east-west) x 68 feet wide (north-south) (*Figure 2*). The north portion of the building (Sanctuary) has a gable roof behind a parapet and measures 88 feet long x 42 feet wide with the east portico (12 feet x 28 feet) centered on the east elevation. The building's south portion (Sunday School) measures 77 feet long x 26 feet wide and has a low-slope hipped roof. The building's exterior is made of local Kansas stones that are of a golden hue that resembles the color of glowing wheat in the vast wheat fields of Kansas on a bright sunny day. The majority of the walls are laid in a random rubble pattern. A stone water table separates the upper walls from the basement level stone walls, which are laid in a random ashlar pattern. Stone quoins accent the building's corners.

The Sanctuary's front (east) façade contains the main entrance and faces Buchanan Street (*Photo 1*). Two large, clear-paned, aluminum double doors open into the foyer. The double doors are centered in the wall and have a round-arched sunburst fanlight transom (4 feet x 6 feet). Immediately to the right and left (north and south) of the double doors are two historic frosted glass one-over-one windows (2 feet x 5 feet). The masonry openings have smooth stone sills and steel lintels; this is a typical treatment throughout the building, unless otherwise noted. Three additional masonry openings are located in the second floor above the entry and are equally spaced across the length of the façade. The center opening contains a paired window unit while the north and south windows are single units. The façade's stone wall rises above the gable roof, creating a stepped parapet.

---

<sup>1</sup> The current building was erected in 1920, according to the 1935 Sanborn.

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State



Figure 1: Shiloh Baptist Church within its immediate context.

Eighteen concrete steps lead up from the front sidewalk to the church's front portico, which measures 28 feet x 12 feet. Stepped stone wing walls bookend the stairs. The portico's smooth stone pediment is supported by four large majestic round Doric columns at the front and two square Doric pilasters at the rear. The majestic columns and pediment add a stately and regal look to the front of the church and contrast the rustic stonework of the exterior walls.

The east façade of the Sunday School block is set back about 11 feet from the Sanctuary's façade (*Photo 1*). Two evenly-spaced one-over-one windows are located in each upper level with ground level windows beneath them. The main level window lights the sanctuary's overflow area; the upper window lights the Sunday School area. The top of this wall emulates an entablature. A stone banding located a few feet above the second level windows creates a faux architrave that wraps the southeast corner of the building; the wall's stone coping creates the appearance of a cornice, while the wall surface between the coping and banding acts as the frieze. The roof of the Sunday School block is a low-slope hip.

The north façade faces 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Buchanan Elementary School (*Photos 2 & 3*). Centered in the wall are five evenly-spaced round-arched masonry window openings with prominent keystones. The historic windows themselves measure 5 feet wide x 8 feet tall and have six frosted glass lights surmounted by a fanlight, similar to the main entrance. The arch windows provide natural light into the sanctuary. Two smaller single hung windows, one on the main floor and one on the second floor, are on the east end of the north façade. The west end of the north side contains historic doors that lead into a small stairwell in the northwest corner of the sanctuary. Each red five-panel double door contains a single (18 inches x 36 inches) single pane window. The doors are accessed by a set of eight concrete steps leading to a small concrete stoop. At the basement level of this façade are five rectangular masonry openings (3 feet x 5 feet) that are located directly beneath the round-arched windows. These openings contain a pair of historic one-over-one windows. A single one-over-one window is located at the basement level directly below the façade's east windows. These windows provide light to the mechanical room and lower basement basketball court. A coal door is located in the basement level to the west of the stairs. A pair of windows is also located in the portico's north wall; these windows light a storage room beneath the portico floor.



**Shiloh Baptist Church**

Name of Property

**Shawnee County, Kansas**

County and State

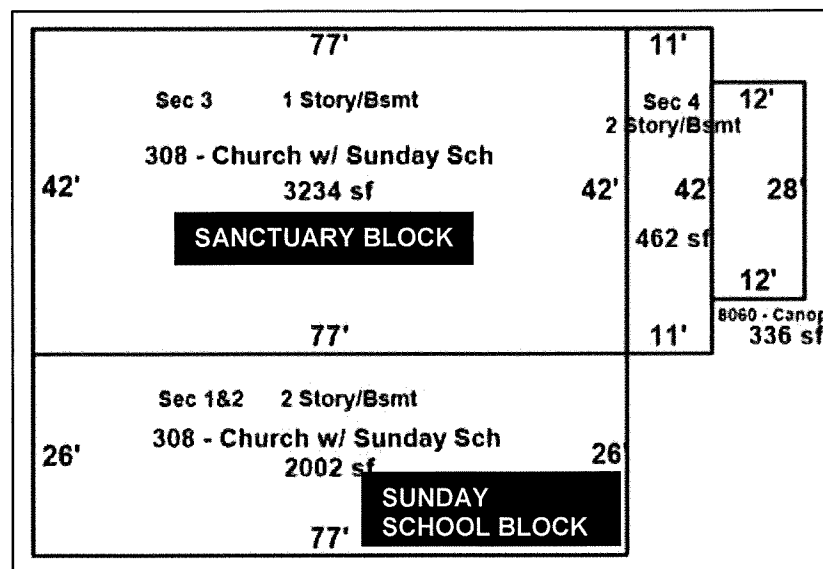


Figure 2: Sketch plan from Shawnee County Appraiser.

The west façade faces the mid-block alley, which runs north and south between Buchanan and Lincoln streets (*Photos 3 & 4*). Prior to 2016, the west side was partially hidden by the parsonage; this building was recently demolished. The west walls of the Sanctuary and Sunday School are flush. Like the east façade, the Sanctuary has a symmetrical west façade with a stepped parapet. Centered in this wall is a stone chimney (with smooth corner quoins) that rises from the ground to several feet above the roof. Except a masonry opening at ground level, there are no openings in the wall on the north side of the chimney. To the south of the chimney are two masonry openings at ground level. Above the southernmost opening is one double-hung window on the main and upper levels.<sup>2</sup> The Sunday School's west elevation contains a pair of one-over-one windows at the main and upper levels with another masonry opening directly below these

windows at ground level (all basement level windows are boarded for security). A non-historic steel door (set within a historic masonry opening) is located at grade between the Sanctuary and Sunday School. This door accesses a back stairway.

The south façade faces the parking lot and is a wall of windows (*Photos 1 & 4*). The main and upper floors each contain seven evenly-spaced square masonry openings with stone sills and steel lintels. These openings have a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows; the main level windows are replacement units. At the basement level and directly below each of the seven window units above is a row of masonry openings with pairs of windows that light the basement common area. The south façade of the Sanctuary is recessed from the window wall at the east end. There are no openings in this wall.

## Church Interior

### Main Level – Sanctuary Block (See sketch plans at end of document)

Shiloh's main entrance faces east towards Buchanan Street. There are two clear glass aluminum framed double doors leading into the foyer located on the first floor of the building. At the north end of the foyer are men's and women's restrooms. The area now housing the restrooms had previously been used as a church nursery until 1982. The west wall of the foyer features three bronze plaques that recognize Shiloh's early financial supporters and contributors to the building improvement fund. The south end of the foyer contains stairs leading to the basement and second story. Excepting the stairwell, the walls are covered in light oak paneling from the 1950s. The floor is non-historic tile; the ceiling is plaster.

In the foyer's west wall are two wooden swinging double doors, each with a 12 inch wide x 36 inch long rose colored window, that provide entry into the church sanctuary area, which was designed to seat 1200 people (*Photos 5 & 6*). The west end of the double-height sanctuary contains the pulpit area. The entire west wall is covered in a medium oak paneling. A large wooden cross with indirect lighting is in the center of the west wall directly behind the pulpit. The pulpit area is in the center of the church and has three levels from the main floor. Five steps lead up the main floor of the pulpit. There are two identical choir stands on each side of the pulpit, one on the north side and one on the south side. An oak paneled trapezoidal wall partition encloses the pulpit area. The baptismal pool is located on the main floor directly under the pulpit area with the communion table placed directly in front of the pulpit for communion services. The baptismal is stored beneath the pulpit when not in use. In the northwest corner of the sanctuary, behind the northern choir box, is a small L-shaped stair leading to the double doors on the north elevation. When the church was constructed, this exterior entrance also led down to a community prayer room. Similarly, at the southwest corner of the sanctuary, behind the south choir box, is a small stair down to a door that leads to a door in the south wall leading to the church's back stairwell.

The east end of the sanctuary is partially covered by a balcony. At the north end of the east wall beneath the balcony is a framed plate glass window that formerly looked into the nursery room that is now used as the women's restroom. Paneling

<sup>2</sup> These windows formerly lit the sanctuary and in the 1950s were covered by wood paneling on the west wall of the sanctuary.

Shiloh Baptist Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

covers the restroom side of the window. The sanctuary side of the balcony's west wall is covered with horizontal wood paneling surmounted by a simple wooden banister. Centered in the east wall at the balcony level is a pair of swinging double doors leading into the main stairwell accessed from the foyer.

Evenly spaced along the sanctuary's north wall are the five exterior windows with sunburst arch grilles. The bottom panes of the windows are frosted and the arch window is clear; this is a historic treatment. The easternmost sanctuary window is partially obscured by the balcony.

Along the south wall, from the pulpit area to the sanctuary's east wall, is a bank of accordion fabric partitions. Except for at the balcony, the partitions are surmounted by wood-framed frosted yellow transoms. At the balcony level of the south wall is a single wood slab door, allowing access between the balcony and the Sunday School area.

*Additional Finishes & Fixtures*

The main level floor structure is poured concrete.<sup>3</sup> The floors of the sanctuary are a combination of hardwood and carpet. The hardwood floors were added in 1940, and carpeting was added later to cover only the aisles. The pews were purchased and installed during the tenure of Rev. Powell H. Hill (1942-1953). The walls are composed of plaster, mostly painted white; the north wall and the underside of the balcony are a mint green color. The ceiling is composed of rectangular lay-in acoustical panels. It is currently unknown when the ceiling was installed and if it covers a finished vaulted ceiling. Ceiling lighting fixtures appear to date to the 1950s. There are three rows of hanging lighting in the ceiling with the center row of lights containing three ceiling fans. Two additional rows of lights hang from the ceiling on the north and south sides of the sanctuary. Each row contains six equally spaced lights, each with five small round white globes arranged in a star pattern. Directly over the pulpit area and choir stands are three medium sized globe lights hanging in a straight line going from north to south.

Main Level – Sunday School Block

The accordion curtain wall at the south side of the sanctuary opens into the sanctuary's overflow area. This space is also used as a chapel when the partitions are closed. This area contains 16 rows of wooden pews with upholstered seats. The east wall contains a single one-over-one window. The south wall contains a series of three wood slab doors and four frosted six-light fixed windows. The easternmost door leads into the business office; the windows and other two doors separate the overflow from what the congregation refers to as the parlor. There are two doors in the overflow's west wall. The south door leads into the pastor's study; the north door leads into the back stairwell. The floor is hardwood; ceilings and walls are smooth plaster. The room can also be divided in half (from north to south) by an accordion curtain partition.

The Pastor's Study occupies the southwest corner of the main level. A faux fireplace is located in the southwest corner of this room. A small water closet is accessed at the south end of the study's east wall.

Directly south of the overflow area parlor. Four frosted windows located in the north wall divide it from the overflow area.<sup>4</sup> Five clear single-hung windows in the south wall provide natural light. In the parlor's west wall is a door leading into a small kitchenette. The parlor is used for special occasions or activities within the church or community. The rectangular-shaped room is carpeted and has plastered walls that are mint colored.

Upper Level

The second story of the church is accessed through a stairwell at the west end of the building and by the foyer's stair. At the top of the foyer stair is a small wood floored landing. A door in the landing's north wall leads into a small classroom space with a window in both the north and east walls. This room is currently used for storage. A portion of the plaster ceiling has collapsed. In the west wall of the landing is a pair of swinging double doors that lead into the sanctuary balcony. The balcony itself measures 11 feet (east-west) x 42 feet (north-south) and retains its hardwood floor. In this area are an assortment of older, curved pews (possibly from the previous Shiloh Baptist Church building) and individual chairs.

The Sunday School is accessed through a door in the balcony's south wall and through the building's back (west) stairway. The 77 feet x 26 feet rectangular area contains the Powell Henderson Hill Educational Unit,<sup>5</sup> which sits directly above the church's overflow and parlor areas on the main level. This area is mostly an open space with a raised stage at the east end.

<sup>3</sup> Visible in the basement but also called out in the 1935 Sanborn map (page 64).

<sup>4</sup> The north wall of the parlor is also used to recognize Shiloh's Sunday School Hall of Fame recipients. These are the congregants who have made a significant impact to the church's Sunday School program.

<sup>5</sup> Named for past Shiloh senior pastor Rev. Powell H. Hill.

Shiloh Baptist Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

Structural columns are located in the center of this room, running east to west. Attached to the south side of these columns and the south wall of the building are accordion fabric partitions. The room's west wall contains two doors. The south door leads into a separate classroom. The north door leads into the back stairway. The second floor finishes include hardwood floors, historic light fixtures, rectangular acoustical ceiling tile (1950s vintage), and plaster walls and ceilings.

Basement

Originally used to hold worship services in 1926, the basement is now primarily used as a common and community area today. The basement is accessed by the foyer stair and the back (west) stair. At the foot of the foyer's stair is a small hallway. A mechanical room is located through a door in the north wall of this hall. A door in the hall's east wall leads into a storage area below the portico. A storage closet is located under the stairs in the south end of the hall.

The main basement common area is located through a single door in the hall's west wall. Consisting of a tile floor and an open ceiling that displays the concrete structural system of the main level, the common area's south wall is plaster with five windows that face the south parking lot. The north wall is a combination of paneling and plaster with the bottom portion made of plaster and the upper portion made of paneling. This paneling and wall separate the common area from the gymnasium. The east wall contains enclosed wooden storage cabinets, and behind the southeast sliding cabinet doors is one of five furnace units for the building. A smaller cabinet is located along the center of the room's west wall; to the north of these cabinets is a door, leading into a hallway. Pendant lights in the common area appear to be historic.

Shiloh Baptist Church has a full kitchen located in the southwest corner of the common area. A 4 feet x 3 feet window in the west wall has been converted as an exhaust fan for the stove and kitchen area. A small pantry is located through a door at the west end of the kitchen's north wall; this pantry is directly under the back stair.

Across a small hall to the north of the kitchen is a women's restroom. This hall leads west from the common room to the back stair.

Through the door in the common room's west wall is a hallway that runs north-to-south, leading to a men's restroom and a mechanical room that is located in the northwest corner of the basement. The hallway also leads to the gymnasium.

The gymnasium, a concrete-floored basketball court with wooden basketball poles and backboards on the east wall, was used by the youth of the community in the 1930s-1960s. This basketball court sits at a lower elevation than the main basement floor.

**Integrity**

The congregants and pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church recognize the importance, significance, and beauty of the church building. In fact, the architectural importance of Shiloh Baptist Church is specifically noted in the book *Remembrances in Wood, Brick, and Stone: Examples from the Architectural Heritage of Shawnee County, Kansas: A Historic Preservation Project*, which states, "The most architecturally distinguished of the more recent black churches [in Topeka-Shawnee County] is the Shiloh Baptist. Built in 1926, it retains many elements from the Greek Revival Style of a much earlier period."<sup>6</sup>

The building retains excellent historic integrity as evidenced by the amount of historic materials (spanning the years of construction and completion) and the intactness of the original design. Few major alterations have occurred that would diminish the building's ability to convey its historic associations. Although the setting has changed over the years with demolition of many of Tennessee Town's earlier structures, Shiloh Baptist has remained a cornerstone of the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan, along with Buchanan Elementary School.

---

<sup>6</sup> Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, *Remembrances in Wood, Brick, and Stone: Examples from the Architectural Heritage of Shawnee County, Kansas: A Historic Preservation Project* (Topeka, Kansas, 1974), 170.

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

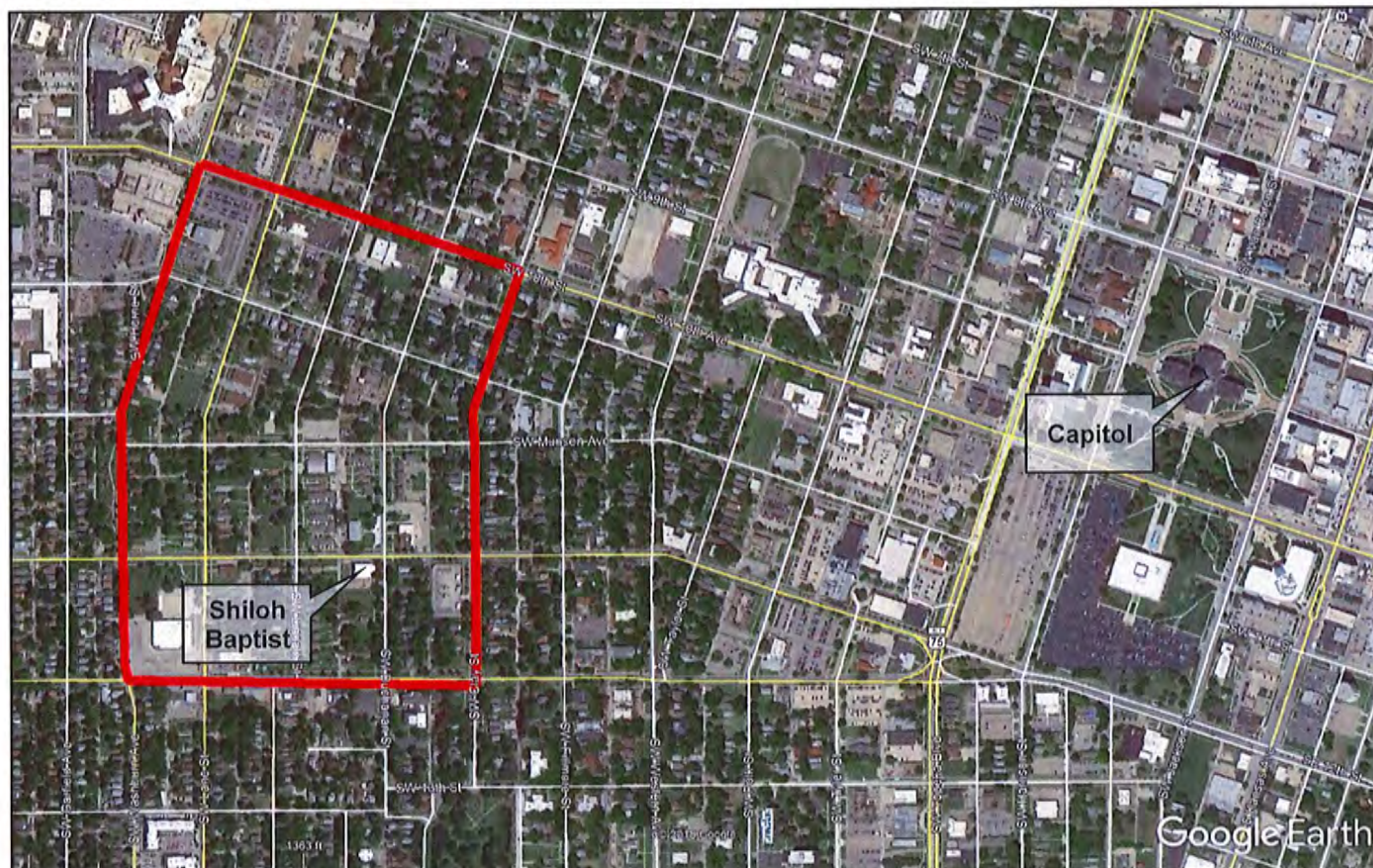


Figure 3: Contextual 2017 aerial, showing boundary of Tennessee Town in bold line (Google Earth).



Shiloh Baptist Church

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

1926-1954

### Significant Dates

1926

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Scammel, Ralph

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance covers the years the building was under construction and finally finished, 1926-1954.

### Criteria Considerations (justification)

Shiloh Baptist Church meets Criteria Consideration A as it derives primary significance from its architecture and not its religious doctrine.



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

---

Narrative Statement of Significance

---

### Summary

Shiloh Baptist Church's congregation was established in 1879 by a group of black people from Tennessee and Kentucky who came to Topeka, Kansas, and settled in King's Addition, a few blocks west of the State Capitol. King's Addition was historically also called "Tennessee Town" because of the large number of people who had come from Tennessee. The current building at 12<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan streets is the congregation's third structure. In 1926 the basement of the nominated building was completed and used for church services before the erection of the unfinished main auditorium in 1928. Between the years 1931 and 1939, the second unit of the church was partially improved, so that services which formerly had been held in the basement could be in the main auditorium. Major construction projects were completed throughout the ensuing years under the tenure of various senior pastors, until the building was completed in 1954. Shiloh Baptist Church is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with Topeka's African-American community of Tennessee Town and under Criterion C as a unique local example of the combination of Neoclassical and Rustic design.

---

### Elaboration

#### History of Tennessee Town

In the 1870s, freed black slaves began the emigration from the South to the West as part of the migration known as the "Exoduster Movement." They left their home in the South in search of a more independent, self-sufficient lifestyle. This was thought to be available in the West where state governments were attempting to develop agriculture and population for the vast, open tracts of land on the prairie. Various posters and advertisements in the South described Kansas as a place of opportunity: "HO! FOR SUNNY KANSAS: Now is the time to go to Kansas. Land is cheap, and it is being taken up very fast. There is plenty for all at present,"<sup>7</sup>

As more and more freed men and their families began the movement westward, some 3,000 of them remained in Topeka, which had become "The headquarters for immigrants from Tennessee." In 1879-1880, a colony of about 500 Exodusters bought a tract of land and secured dwellings in the western outskirts of the city in a locality known as "King's Addition."<sup>8</sup> This was popularly known then and today as "Tennessee Town." Bordered by Tenth Street, Huntoon Avenue, SW Washburn and SW Clay streets, Tennessee Town was initially prairie land before the settlers built their homes and other sturdier structures (Figure 3).<sup>9</sup>

The residents of Tennessee Town had many social and economic problems in getting adjusted in the new community. The first problem was providing shelter. They began by constructing one and two room houses. The emphasis was on basic shelter from the elements, so that many new homes were unfinished on the exterior, devoid of paint and plaster. As the families grew so did their homes. Rooms were added to the rear as needed. This was necessitated by the dimension of the lots (20-25' wide and 150' deep). The characteristics of these growth patterns can be seen in many of the houses, known as shotgun houses, still standing today (Figure 4).<sup>10</sup>

Another pressing problem was establishing community churches. More than worship centers, churches were community centers, supporting more than the spiritual needs of the community. Few of the new settlers possessed skills other than agriculture and many could neither read nor write. The churches in Tennessee Town eventually were instrumental in teaching new skills to the people and getting schools organized. In 1879, godly men of the community established Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, one of the (if not the) first churches in Tennessee Town. By 1885, the city directory lists Shiloh Baptist, the Colored Congregationalist (est. 1883), and the Mount Olive M.E. churches within Tennessee Town.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> *Ho for Sunny Kansas!* Advertisement by Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, a leader of the Exoduster Movement and president of the Tennessee Real Estate and Homestead Association. Kansas Historical Society, State Archives, *Kansas Memory* item 211642 <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/211642/page/75> (accessed 2/26/2018).

<sup>8</sup> "Shiloh's March of Progress," *The Topeka State Journal* (10 July 1915): 15.

<sup>9</sup> Wayne Amsinger and Clifford Wilson, *Historic Markers Pamphlet*, 73; "Shiloh's March of Progress," 15.

<sup>10</sup> Amsinger and Wilson, 73.

<sup>11</sup> Sam Ridges, *Ridges' 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Directory of the City of Topeka for 1885 & 6*, 40-42.



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State



Figure 4: Examples of houses in Tennessee Town, 1418 SW Munson (left), 1219 SW Lincoln (center), 1209 SW Fillmore (right).

One of the most outstanding features of the Tennessee Town community was the establishment of the first black kindergarten west of the Mississippi River. The classroom was first inside Jordan Hall, a notorious nightclub.<sup>12</sup> Prior to 1907 Topeka public schools did not include kindergarten classes; by the 1908-1909 school year, "the Topeka Board of Education assumed responsibility for the support of" the kindergarten in Tennessee Town.<sup>13</sup> The kindergarten appears to have moved out of Jordan Hall to the corner of King (now Munson) and Lincoln shortly after the city took over the school, remaining in the location until circa 1913 when they moved to Buchanan Elementary School at the northwest corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan.<sup>14</sup> Buchanan School was a segregated school for African American students. In 1915, required attendance to Buchanan led to the first significant confrontation of the color line between black and white students in Topeka's neighborhood schools.

A community snapshot of Tennessee Town taken in 1898 by the Congregational Church found:

- A total of 146 families of which 78 owned their own homes.
- Most homes were framed and averaged 3 ½ rooms.
- Most residents kept a small garden. Some kept horses, cows or pigs.
- Twenty-five families received pensions. Of the remaining families, one or more family members worked.
- Women took in washing or sewing. Men labored at odd jobs or obtained minor positions as day laborers, teamsters, janitors, porters, etc., although a few men worked for the city fire or police departments.
- Annual income of the 184 employed workers averaged \$399.27 [~\$11,925 today], with some incomes as low as \$50 a year and some, such as minters and policemen, earning as much as \$1,000 a year.
- Out of the 384 residents, 167 were born slaves.<sup>15</sup>

In the 1940s-1960s, Tennessee Town was a well-kept neighborhood, and there was no crime. It was a close-knit neighborhood and people would sit out on their porches. Most families had two-parent family households and an extended family who could provide child care. Because of the types of jobs blacks could attain at that time, the neighborhood remained in the lower end of the socio-economic ladder.

It was during these mid-century decades that racial segregation, especially within Topeka's schools, really escalated. The continued confrontations and refusal to let black students attend the white segregated schools was the forerunner to the historic Supreme Court Decision in the *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* case handed down in 1954. This decision declared that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, overturning the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* case in 1896 that

<sup>12</sup> According to historian Roy D. Bird, "Andy Jordan built a hall in the middle of the colony. It was a wide, one-story building and was used for dances. Liquor was always to be had, and the dances which were held weekly usually wound up with a cutting affair of some sort." See, Roy D. Bird, "An Ethnic History of Shawnee County," John Ripley, ed., *The Melting Pot: Shawnee County's Ethnic Communities* (Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society, 1981), 17. Bird places Jordan Hall at 1100 SW Buchanan; both the 1896 & 1913 Sanborn maps show "Jordan's Hall" at 1179 SW Lincoln, one block west of Buchanan; the 1907 City Directory lists the address at 1177 Lincoln (p283). By 1935, Jordan's Hall on Lincoln was the Church of God in Christ.

<sup>13</sup> Peggy Greene, "Dr. Sheldon and Tennesseetown," John Ripley, ed., *The Melting Pot: Shawnee County's Ethnic Communities* (Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society, 1981), 117. According to Greene, "In 1907 the State Legislature authorized the establishment of kindergartens in public schools."

<sup>14</sup> Information pieced together from Greene, "Dr. Sheldon and Tennesseetown," 117; city directories between 1902 and 1916; and the 1896 & 1913 Sanborn maps. The current Buchanan Elementary School building was constructed in 1927.

<sup>15</sup> Douglass W. Wallace & Roy D. Bird, *Witness of the Times: A History of Shawnee County*, (Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society, 1976), xx.

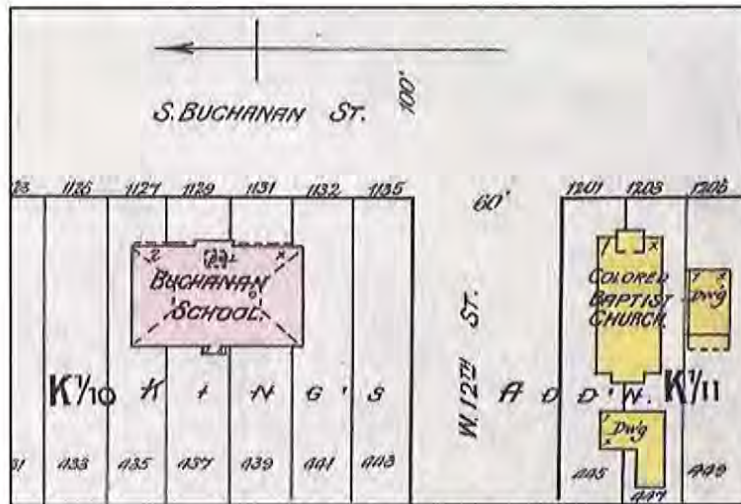


Shiloh Baptist Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State



**Figure 5:** Snippet of page 20 of 1889 Sanborn, showing the first iteration of Shiloh Baptist (at right) with the brick Buchanan School to the north (University of Kansas).

determined separate was equal. In the Brown case, children of the following plaintiffs were Tennessee Town residents, who also attended Buchanan Elementary School: Marguerite Emmerson; Darlene Brown; Alma Lewis; Shirley Hodison; Maude Lawton; and Lena Carper. It is a tribute to the quality of their education that many past residents later become lawyers, educators, politicians, and clergymen. Mr. J.B. Holland, a member of Shiloh, was a principal at Buchanan School and became one of the first African American teachers to be hired at an integrated school in Topeka.<sup>16</sup>

Tennessee Town began to change from the close-knit community it once was when city leaders began a push for urban renewal and when resident-homes became rental properties. However, the Tennessee Town Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA) was started to help build the community and is still an active organization today.

Along with several houses, institutional buildings erected during Tennessee Town's heydays include: Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (1201 SW Buchanan), Central Congregational Church now known as El Shaddai Ministries (1248 SW Buchanan), and Buchanan Elementary School (1195 SW Buchanan), which closed in the 1950s, now houses Housing and Credit Counseling Services, Inc. The congregation of Mount Olive Church, now known as Asbury-Mount Olive United Methodist Church (1196 SW Buchanan), is still located within the community, but the building is contemporary.

### Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

One of the oldest congregations associated with Tennessee Town is the congregation of Shiloh Baptist Church. Throughout its 139-year history, and at this writing, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church has been pastored by 18 men who fearlessly answered the call from God to lead His people. It is through this legacy of leadership that the historical, physical, social, economic, and spiritual development of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church can be traced.

The congregation traces its roots to settlers living in Tennessee Town in 1879. A few Baptists among the settlers began meeting "in private residences, holding cottage prayer meetings and discussing the feasibility of organizing a Baptist Church" in the community. In 1879 Reverend J.F. Thomas, D.D., pastor of the then Second Baptist Church, now Calvary Baptist Church in Topeka; the Reverend S.C. Pierce, together with George Scott, Thomas Lloyd, and Anderson White, met in a small room near the corner of Twelfth and Lane streets and organized the Shiloh Baptist Church just two blocks from its present location.<sup>17</sup>

The Reverend S.C. Pierce served as the first pastor for about four years. Since the membership was small, two deacons - Frank Russell and Anderson White - served well in this capacity and were adequate for the service required at that time. Over the next few years, the congregation grew, necessitating a centralized place to gather. On April 11, 1881, the state of Kansas granted the church a charter to conduct public worship.<sup>18</sup> Almost a month later on May 4, 1881, the church authorized the trustees to secure a loan of \$300 from the American Baptist Home Mission Society in order to erect its first building of worship on a lot at 12<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan that the congregants purchased in April for \$100.<sup>19</sup> This small wood frame structure was the first of Shiloh Baptist's buildings.

<sup>16</sup> Because of Mr. Holland's contributions to the children of Topeka, a district facility named the Holland Center was named in his and his wife Flossie's honor.

<sup>17</sup> "Shiloh's March of Progress," 15. Covers paragraph. According the 1880 US Federal Census, Reverend Thomas (ca. 1843) and Mr. Scott (ca. 1844) were born in Kentucky while Messers. Lloyd (ca. 1847) and White (ca. 1853) were born in Mississippi. No census information appears to be available for Reverend Pierce.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. The charter was signed by Rev. S.C. Pierce, Thomas Lloyd, Kate C. Pierce, George W. Scott, and Andrew White.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. Established in New York City in 1832 as a Christian missionary society, the American Baptist Home Mission Society's mission was to preach the Gospel and establish churches in the American frontier.

Shiloh Baptist Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

In 1885 under the leadership of Reverend James A. Stewart, the membership outgrew this meeting house, and an addition was made to the first building (*Figure 5*).<sup>20</sup> Under the pastorate of Reverend W.L. Grant, D.D., the church's membership outgrew the 1880s building; thus, between 1898-1900, a new wood frame building was erected at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan (*Figure 6*).<sup>21</sup> At the church's dedication in August 1900, Rev. Grant stated:

Five years ago "Tennesseetown" bore the reputation of being the home of the rougher element and that "holdups" in broad daylight were an every day [sic] occurrence. At that time there were only a few Christian people in this neighborhood. ... Since that time the Lord has accomplished wonders. The rough element has been eliminated and the church has been built up in a wonderful manner.<sup>22</sup>

With a larger membership, Shiloh Baptist expanded its influence within Tennessee Town, contributing to the intellectual growth of the community by establishing reading clubs, music and youth ministries, sewing circles, and leadership training.

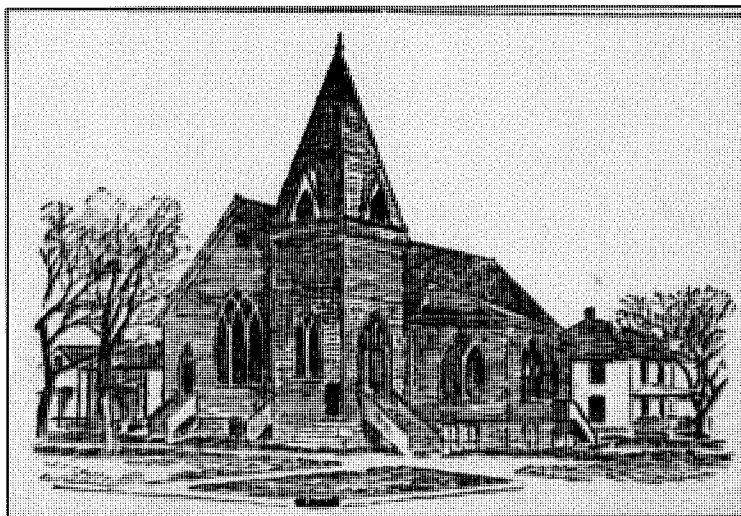


Figure 6: Shiloh Baptist's second building at 12<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan in 1915 (*Topeka State Journal* 1915).

In 1903, the church called the Reverend Charles Gentry Fishback, D.D., of Bowling Green, Kentucky. It was under his 13 years of leadership that Shiloh reached its zenith. The mortgage taken out for the 1898 building was burned in 1905; the basement was remodeled, new pews bought, beautiful chandeliers installed, and a two-story parsonage erected (visible in *Figure 6*). The 25' lot next to the church was purchased. During this time, the church became known locally and nationally because of its interest in benevolence and state and foreign missions. Shiloh owned three lots and two buildings, which were located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan streets, one of the most desirable sites in the city valued at between \$12,000 and \$15,000.<sup>23</sup>

In 1915 the congregation was again considering the construction of a new building. The July 10, 1915 *Topeka State Journal* reported, "The one great need of Shiloh today is more room, we have outgrown our present quarters; we need a Sunday school room which will accommodate 250 children and a reading room fitted up so that the girls might be trained in domestic service." The church also desired a large room for cooking classes and saw it as part of their mission to train "people for larger usefulness."<sup>24</sup> The new building would not be realized for another ten years. Under the leadership of Reverend S.E.J. Watson (1918-1920) many pledges were made towards the erection of a new building. Brother H.I. Monroe led an effort that netted \$800 for the building fund; thus, Shiloh's building fund for the present structure had its beginning.

Under the pastorate of Reverend L.V. Bolton, who served from 1924 until 1928, the nominated church building started its life. The building was planned by renowned Topeka architect Ralph Scamell.<sup>25</sup> Unlike the church's previous structures—and the majority of the surrounding neighborhood—Shiloh's new edifice is a substantial stone and concrete structure designed in a Neoclassical style. The rustic stone veneer contrasts with the smooth stone portico and symmetrical form, a treatment not seen in other religious buildings in Topeka. In 1926 the old wood frame church building was razed and the

<sup>20</sup> "Shiloh's March of Progress," 15.

<sup>21</sup> "Shiloh's March of Progress," 15; "Governor Failed to Come: Mr. Stanley Advertised to Make Address at Colored Church Dedication," *Topeka State Journal* (August 13, 1900): 3.

<sup>22</sup> "Governor Failed to Come," 3.

<sup>23</sup> "Shiloh's March of Progress," 15.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Ralph E. Scamell was born in Atchison, Kansas, and a 1911 University of Kansas graduate. From 1912 to 1918, he worked as a design engineer for Capital Iron Works in Topeka, and from 1918 until 1920, he taught engineering at Washburn College. In 1920, Scamell established a private architectural practice and received numerous commissions in Topeka and northeast Kansas including: Shiloh Baptist Church in Topeka, the Tonganoxie High School, and the National Reserve Life Insurance Building in Topeka. In late 1925, he moved his office from the New England Building to the National Reserve Life Insurance Building that he designed. In later years, he worked as an architect for Neville, Sharp and Simon Architects, and for Black and Veatch.

**Shiloh Baptist Church**

Name of Property

**Shawnee County, Kansas**

County and State

new building's basement was constructed. Church services were held in the fellowship hall until the rest of the building envelope was completed in 1928.

In 1928, the Reverend C.S. Booker became Shiloh's pastor. During his two years of leadership the financing for the new church building for Shiloh Baptist Church was completed in the fall of 1928 and cost \$60,000. Work on the remainder of the building envelope began in November of that same year with the hope that it would be completed enough to be used for services by Christmas.<sup>26</sup> Instead, the first services in the unfinished new building were held May 26, 1929. Dr. L.K. Williams, President of the National Baptist Convention, Incorporated, delivered the main address.

In June 1931, the church extended a call to the Reverend C.A. Pugh of Fort Wayne, Indiana. During his eight years of service, many were added to the membership; the second unit of the church was partially improved, so that services which formerly had been held in the basement could be in the main auditorium. During Reverend L.P. Gregg's one year pastorate in 1941, hardwood floors were laid in the main auditorium and the Sunday School room, and the archways and rostrum designed.

In August of 1942 a call was extended to the Reverend Powell Henderson Hill of Xenia, Ohio, who came to church the fourth Sunday in October. During the years that followed, the church was knit together with the spirit of love, the gospel was preached with power, and numbers were added to the fold. It was also during these years that the financial burden of many years was liquidated; a modern heating plant was installed in the church and parsonage; the main auditorium was plastered; the balcony and foyer were partially completed; a private restroom leading from the office was equipped; the first unit and kitchen were remodeled and redecorated, and other improvements were made. New pews were also purchased and installed during this time.

Rev. Hill was widely known because of his activities in civic, interracial and religious work. He was vice-president of the Kansas Missionary Baptists; the first African American to be elected as the vice-president of the Topeka Council of Churches, and the only African American to serve as president of the Topeka Ministerial Association between 1942 and 1952, the year he retired from the ministry. First Lady Mrs. Mary B. Hill filled many engagements as a Woman's Day speaker and in other civic activities and religious work. She inaugurated the Story Hour for the children of the church and community, and was director of the Daily Vacation Church School for 1947. She was also assistant pianist for the Senior Choir and a teacher in the public schools.

Rev. Hill's civic work included supporting the youth of Tennessee Town. Due to a segregated society, African Americans were not afforded an opportunity to access indoor recreational activities. Shiloh had the foresight to create an indoor basketball court for the youth growing up in Tennessee Town. Basketball games were held with neighboring communities, and Rev. Hill would let Shiloh's youth members borrow the key to access the basketball court whenever they needed.

After Rev. Hill's retirement, Reverend Albert M. Lampkin of Kansas City, Kansas accepted the invitation and came to Shiloh on May 1, 1953. The church saw growth in membership during the seven years he served as minister, and many improvements were made to the building including: the installation of a public address system; the purchase of new hymnals; the installation of an outside bulletin board with automatic lighting; and the completion of the balcony. The majority of the building's interior fixtures and finishes were installed during Rev. Lampkin's tenure. Extensive work in the Sanctuary included rearrangement of choir stands, altar, and Baptistry (and installation of wood paneling) with a Prayer and reading room on the north side and a Deaconess Room on the south side; installation of the accordion curtain partitions on the south side of the Sanctuary to make a Chapel and overflow area; redecoration of the Parlor and Minister's Study; repainting of the First Unit and equipment with dining tables and chairs; completion of the Powell Henderson Hill Educational Unit with installation of partitions, ceiling, hardwood flooring, electrical wiring, heating units, and complete furnishings. Under Rev. Lampkin, the church building that began in 1926 was officially completed in 1954, and the mortgage was burned in 1956. Rev. Lampkin served Shiloh until May 1960.

Reverend Doctor Augustus J. Pearson was called to Shiloh Baptist Church in October of 1960 and served the congregation for 38 years. Dr. Pearson's years of service at Shiloh proved to be most beneficial to the growth and development of the congregation through his emphases on unity, fellowship, and evangelism. It was during the tenure of Rev. Dr. Pearson that long-time church member and esteemed Topeka educator, Flossie Holland, composed Shiloh's theme song "An Ode to Shiloh" as a tribute to the beacon and worship place that Shiloh has been to its members and the community. The theme song is often sung at the church's or pastor's anniversary celebrations.

<sup>26</sup> "New Shiloh Baptist Church, Twelfth and Buchanan, Will Cost \$60,000," *Topeka State Journal* (October 27, 1928): .



Shiloh Baptist Church

Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas

County and State

In the past two decades, Shiloh has been served by Rev. Anthony Charles Barber, Reverend Charles L. Oliver, Jr., and since 2011 Reverend D.C. Clark.<sup>27</sup> Rev. Clark has led the church in many improvement projects which include: new storm windows on the south of the building, walls in the sanctuary repaired and painted, men's restroom painted, new tile in the vestibule, new drinking dispenser, new copier in the church office, new furnace for sanctuary, new carpet in sanctuary, new alarm system, new roof, church office and pastor's office remodeled and painted, and all stair wells repaired and painted. Continuing the dedication to the surrounding neighborhood, Rev. Clark established a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing on land donated by Shiloh.

### Conclusion

Throughout the congregation's 139 year history, Shiloh Baptist Church has been a cornerstone of Topeka's Tennessee Town neighborhood. Begun in 1926, the nominated building is the congregation's third structure. Like those buildings before it, the current structure was created out of a need to accommodate a larger membership and to provide more space for the surrounding community to gather to worship, fellowship, learn, and recreate. The building is one of the largest in Tennessee Town, and its design, a mix of Rustic and Neoclassical, is uncommon to the city of Topeka. Finished in 1954, Shiloh's interior also displays a highly intact mid-century design. The building tangibly reflects the nearly three decades it took to complete while the congregation ministered to the community. Shiloh Baptist is significant for its association with Topeka's African-American community of Tennessee Town and under Criterion C as a unique local example of the combination of Neoclassical and Rustic design.

---

<sup>27</sup> Rev. Barber served Shiloh under the supervision of Rev. Dr. Pearson. Rev. Barber has been a lifelong member of Shiloh Baptist Church and attended Central Baptist Theological Seminary graduating in 1994 with a Master of Divinity degree. Ordained in 1995, Rev. Barber has served as Youth Pastor, Sunday School teacher, and Interim Senior Pastor. He is currently the Associate Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent for the church. Rev. Oliver served for about one year between 2008 and 2009. He was involved in teaching at Western Baptist Bible College, the first and only Christian institution west of the Mississippi River exclusively founded by African Americans.

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Amsinger, Wayne & Clifford Wilson. *Historic Markers Pamphlet*. Information in collection of authors.

Cox, Thomas C. *Blacks in Topeka, Kansas, 1865-1915: A Social History*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Press, 1982.

"Governor Failed to Come: Mr. Stanley Advertised to Make Address at Colored Church Dedication." *Topeka State Journal* (August 13, 1900): 3.

Kansas Historical Society, State Archives, *Kansas Memory* <http://www.kansasmemory.org>.

McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013.

"New Shiloh Baptist Church, Twelfth and Buchanan, Will Cost \$60,000." *Topeka State Journal* (27 October 1928): .

Radges, Sam. *Radges' Biennial Directories of the City of Topeka*. 1883-84; 1885-86; 1905-1916 [digitized online] Ancestry.com (accessed 2/27/2018).

Ripley, John W, ed. *The Melting Pot: Shawnee County's Ethnic Communities*. Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society, 1981.

Sanborn Map Company. "Kansas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Topeka." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1889, 1896, & 1913 [digitized online] The Kansas Collection, Kenneth Spencer Library, University of Kansas <https://lib.ku.edu/sanborn-maps>.

Sanborn Map Company. "Kansas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Topeka." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913 & 1913-1950 [digitized online] ProQuest "Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970" Accessed through the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library <http://www.kclibrary.org>.

Shiloh Baptist Church Souvenir Program Committee. *Souvenir Program of the One Hundredth Anniversary of Shiloh Baptist Church (1879-1979)*. October 14-15, 1979.

"Shiloh's March of Progress," *The Topeka State Journal* (10 July 1915): 15. Accessed from Newspapers.com (2/27/2018).

Topeka-Shawnee County Metropolitan Planning Commission. *Remembrances in Wood, Brick, and Stone: Examples from the Architectural Heritage of Shawnee County, Kansas: A Historic Preservation Project*. Topeka, Kansas. 1974.

U.S. Federal Census, 1880 & 1900. [digitized online] Ancestry.com (accessed 3/2/2018)

Wallace, Douglass W. and Roy D. Bird. *Witness of the Times: A History of Shawnee County*. Topeka: Shawnee County Historical Society. 1976.

### 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



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

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>39.045619</u> Latitude:	<u>-95.692853</u> Longitude:	3	<u></u> Latitude:	<u></u> Longitude:
2	<u></u> Latitude:	<u></u> Longitude:	4	<u></u> Latitude:	<u></u> Longitude:

### Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The church building sits on lots 445, 447, & 449 in Kings Addition, blocks 16. The nominated boundary follows the north property line of lot 445 that parallels 12<sup>th</sup> Street; the west property lines of lots 445, 447, & 449 that parallel the mid-block alley; the south property line of lot 449 that is adjacent to Shiloh's parking lot (lot 451); and the east property lines of lots 445, 447, & 449 that parallel Buchanan Street.

### Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Although the church's property includes lots 445 through 453 (odd numbers) of block 16, only those lots historically associated with and containing the church building are included within this nomination.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Dina Bennett and Duke Palmer with Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)  
organization Shiloh Baptist Church date Fall 2017  
street & number 1201 SW Buchanan Street telephone 785.232.0674  
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66604  
e-mail dina.bennett@washburn.edu

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

name Shiloh Baptist Church  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

### 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: Shiloh Baptist Church  
City or Vicinity: Topeka  
County: Shawnee State: Kansas  
Photographer: Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)  
Date  
Photographed: December 21, 2017

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

- 01 of 10: Looking NW at south and east elevations; Buchanan Elementary School is in the background
- 02 of 10: Looking SW at east and north elevations
- 03 of 10: Looking SE at north and west elevations
- 04 of 10: Looking NE at west and south elevations
- 05 of 10: Sanctuary, looking west from balcony
- 06 of 10: Sanctuary, looking east from pulpit area
- 07 of 10: Sanctuary overflow area to south of main sanctuary, looking east from west end
- 08 of 10: Second floor, Sunday School area, looking ESE
- 09 of 10: Basement, looking SW
- 10 of 10: Basement basketball court at north end of basement, looking east

#### Figures

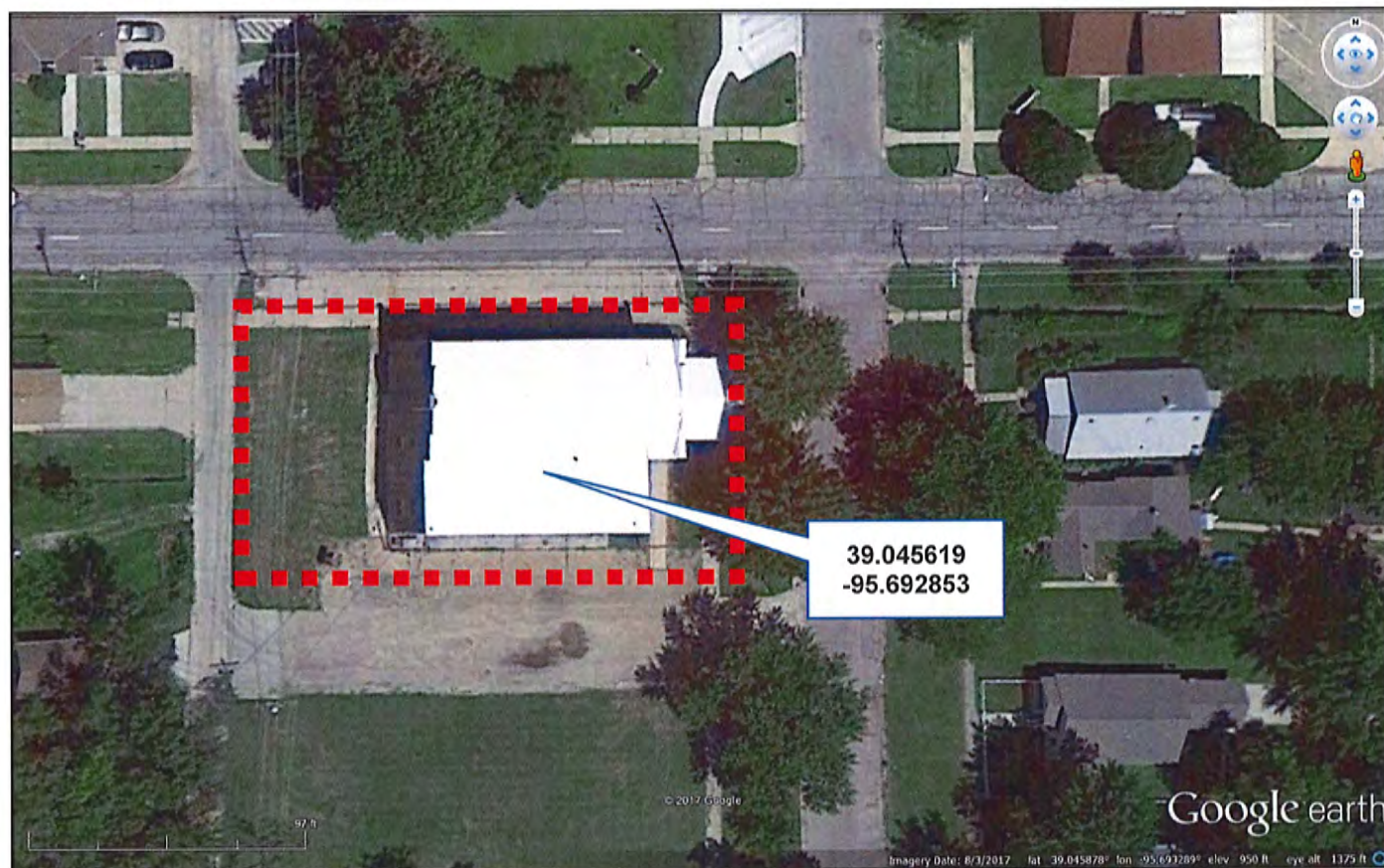
- 01 of 06: Shiloh Baptist Church within its immediate context. Google aerial image. 2017.
- 02 of 06: Sketch plan from Shawnee County Appraiser.
- 03 of 06: Contextual Google Earth 2017 aerial, showing boundary of Tennessee Town.
- 04 of 06: Examples of houses in Tennessee Town. 2016. Images from Shawnee County, Kansas, Appraiser. <http://gis.snco.us/publicgis/PS/> (accessed 01/19/2018).
- 05 of 06: Snippet of 1889 Sanborn map of Topeka, page 20. Sanborn Map Company. "Kansas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Topeka." Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1889 [digitized online] The Kansas Collection, Kenneth Spencer Library, University of Kansas <https://lib.ku.edu/sanborn-maps>.
- 06 of 06: Shiloh Baptist's second building at 12<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan in 1915. "Shiloh's March of Progress," The Topeka State Journal (10 July 1915): 15.

#### Boundary Map.

**Sketch Plans.** Amanda Loughlin, January 2018. Sketches based on site visit.

Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State

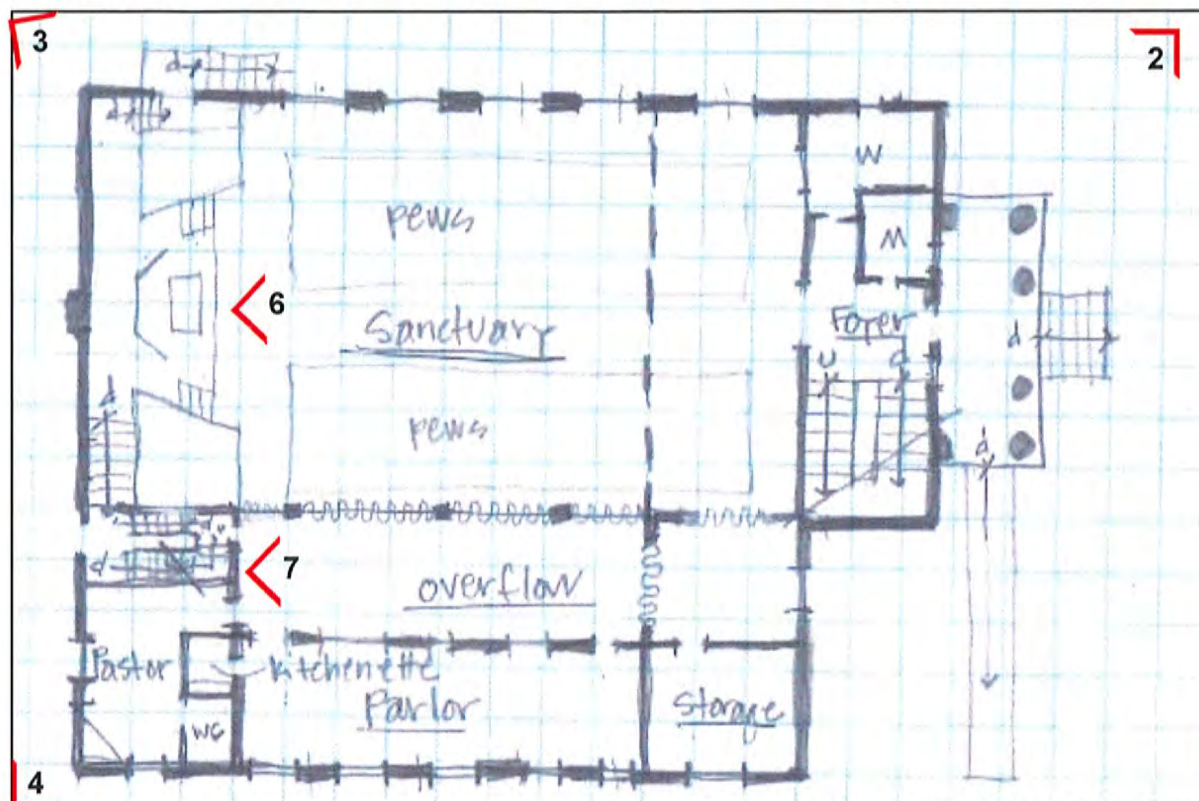


**Boundary Map:** August 2017 Google image of Shiloh Baptist Church. Boundary is in bold line.



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State



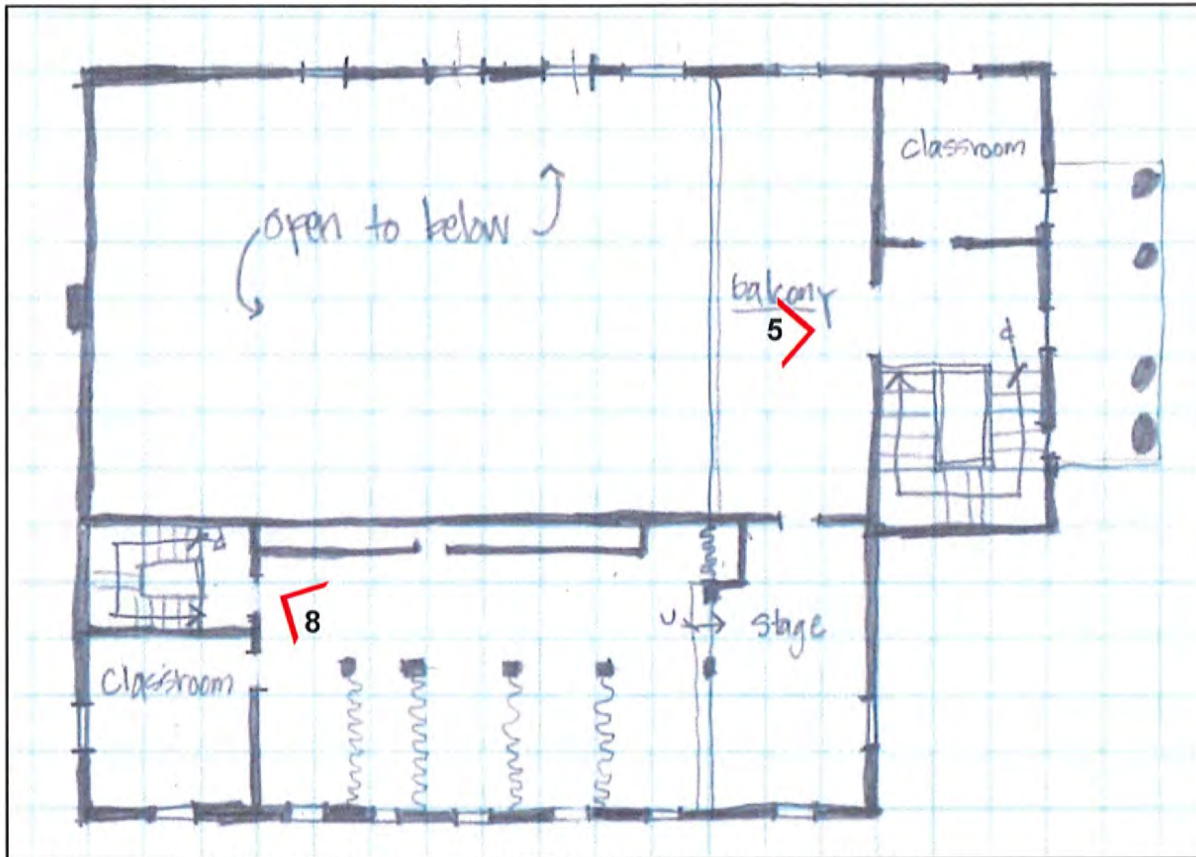
**Main Level Sketch Plan.** North is up; not to scale. Numbers correspond to photos. The room to the east of the parlor is the business office, not a storage room.

1



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas  
County and State



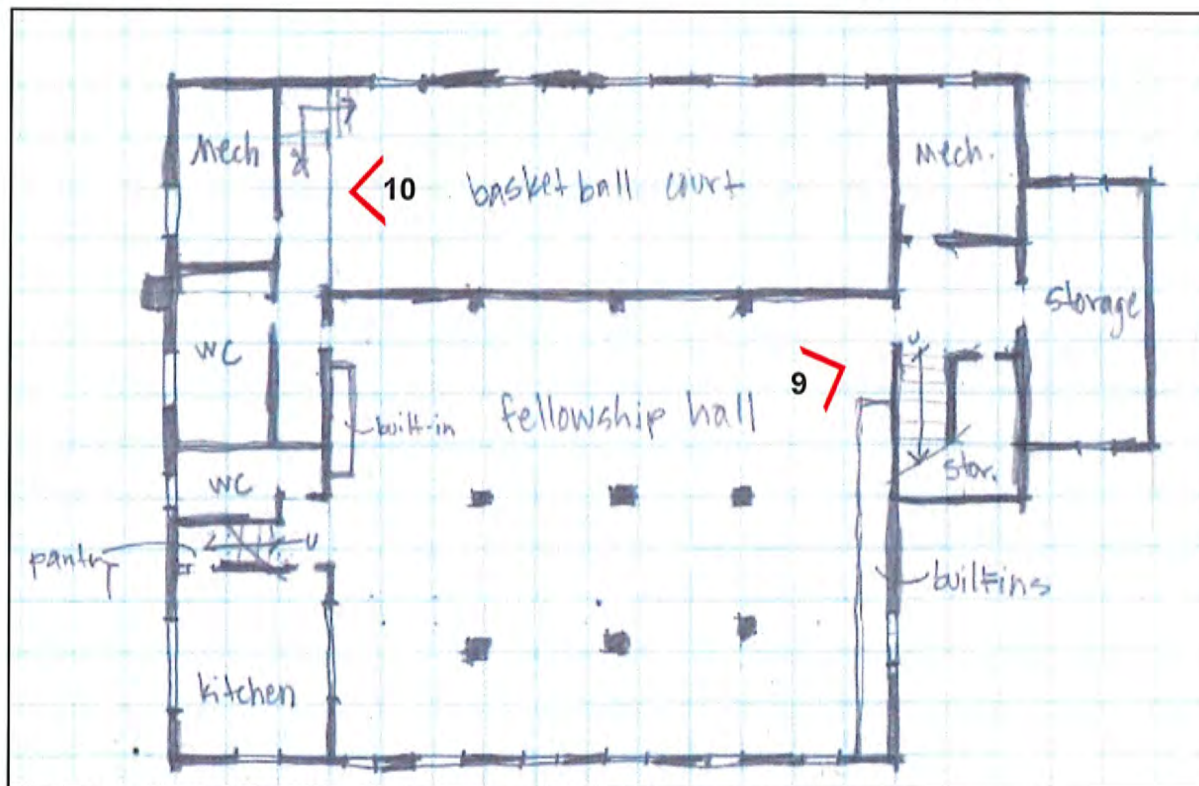
Upper Level Sketch Plan. North is up; not to scale. Numbers correspond to photos.

Shiloh Baptist Church

Shawnee County, Kansas

Name of Property

County and State



Basement Sketch Plan. North is up; not to scale. Numbers correspond to photos.