

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kansas
COUNTY:	Geary
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: First Territorial Capitol

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On K-18 in Fort Riley Military Reservation

CITY OR TOWN: near Junction City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: no. 2, Bill Roy

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Geary CODE: 061

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of Kansas

STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Geary County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Junction City

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 08

STATE: Kansas

COUNTY: Geary

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Geary	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITOL

6. cont.

A Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas
1957 State

Kansas State Historical Society
120 West 10th
Topeka, Ks. 20

Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration
1939 Federal

Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas, was published in 1939.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first capitol of Kansas was a two-story native limestone building constructed as a warehouse in the spring of 1855. It is approximately 40 feet by 80 feet and covered by a simple gable roof with a chimney at either end. There are eight windows on each side of the building, four on each floor. The only access to the second floor is by an inside stairway. Two inch plank flooring was used when the building was renovated in 1927 and 1928. Likewise, three-foot long shingles, like the original handnewn ones, were used in the restoration project. As nearly as can be ascertained, the restored structure now looks much as it did in 1855.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first territorial legislature of Kansas was called by Gov. Andrew H. Reeder to meet in Pawnee on July 2, 1855. The governor was a member of the Pawnee Town Association which had laid out the new town adjacent to the Fort Riley Military Reservation.

The legislature met in a large two-story native stone warehouse built by the Pawnee Town Association. The lower floor was used as the house chamber and the senate occupied the upper floor.

Most of the members of the legislature were Proslavery adherents from border towns and many of them had interests in Missouri. Consequently they felt Pawnee was too far west and too isolated to be the capital. So they passed a law on July 4 providing for the temporary establishment of the capital at Shawnee Mission in Johnson county. The governor vetoed this on July 6, but the legislature passed the law over his veto and promptly adjourned to meet at Shawnee Mission July 16.

The town of Pawnee went out of existence in the fall of 1855 when it was found to be within the boundaries of the Fort Riley reservation. For a time the former capitol was used as an army warehouse, but then it was allowed to deteriorate into ruins.

A major reconstruction project in 1927, financed mainly by the Union Pacific railroad on whose right of way the building partly stands, returned the building as nearly as possible to its condition in 1855. After the preservation work was completed, the Union Pacific railroad presented the building to the state of Kansas, and it is now operated as a museum by the State Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Adams, Franklin G., "The Capitals of Kansas," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 8 (1903-04), pp. 331-351.
 Connelley, William E., A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1918).
 Kansas State Historical Society, "The First Capitol of Kansas" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).
 Letter from George W. Knapp to George W. Martin, Oct. 3, 1896.
 Richmond, Robert W., "The First Capitol of Kansas," The Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 21, no. 5 (Spring, 1955), pp. 321-325.
Union Pacific Magazine, v. 7, no. 9 (September, 1928), pp. 10-12.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	39	05	05
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	96	45	43
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.8**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Oct., 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth St.

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Nyle H. Miller

Title _____

Date Sent to NR: 10/12/70

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS