

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Shawnee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 13 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
 \* \* The Menninger Clinic Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3617 West Sixth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Topeka

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
no. 2, Bill Roy,  
(after January, Martha Keys)

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20 COUNTY: Shawnee CODE: 177

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Menninger Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 829

CITY OR TOWN:  
Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Shawnee County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Topeka

STATE: Kansas CODE: 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

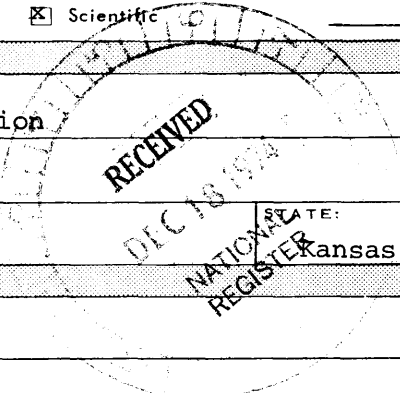
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Shawnee
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 13 1973
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Menninger Clinic Building is a typical turn-of-the-century Midwestern farmhouse. The rectangular two-story white frame structure which sits on a concrete block foundation is covered with horizontal lap siding and has an attic and a partial basement. It is situated in pleasant, tree-filled surroundings, in a quiet park-like atmosphere, with the other buildings of The Menninger Foundation's east campus nearby but yet not in close proximity to it.

A large porch runs the width of the north front and wraps around part of the east side. Its roof is supported by five square columns of white glazed brick on concrete block bases. The porch is supported by the same concrete block foundation on which the house sits.

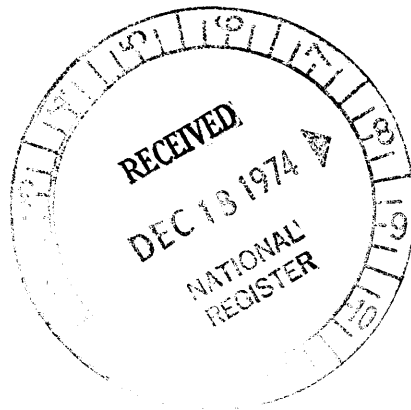
The original part of the building has a medium hip roof covered with light rose colored asphalt shingles. The roof of the rear additions is flat. There are two brick chimneys on the rear slope of the main roof.

A large dormer on the north front provides a decorative touch. This wide gable dormer contains four small windows and has some flat trim for ornamentation.

There is a two-story bay on the east side and an oriel window at the first floor on the west. Window openings are all rectangular with double-hung windows.

A number of additions and changes have been made to the building's exterior. In 1935 a second story addition over the patio at the southwest corner was built. In 1936 the patio was enclosed. In 1939 the two-story addition was made to the southeast corner of the building. At some unknown time a second story porch located on the east side just north of the bay was enclosed. Some small dormers have been added to the attic apparently for ventilation. In 1972 the front entrance was changed.

The interior has been altered a number of times to fit the changing uses of the building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Shawnee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		FEB 18 1975

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

(Continuation Sheet)

RECEIVED  
DEC 15 1974  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

(Number of Pages)  
8. REGISTER

The Doctors Menninger based their cooperative practice on a point of view which was new in that day. Each patient was studied thoroughly, not only by means of the well-established procedures of clinical diagnosis--physical, laboratory, and X-ray examinations, etc.--but with psychological and neurological examinations as well. The nervous and mental symptoms, emotional conflicts, the frustrations and unhappiness complained of by the patients were given consideration equal to that given to infections, tumors, hemorrhages, and other physical ailments.

In 1925, the partnership included Doctor Will who had completed his medical training. In that year, too, it was recognized that expanded facilities and additional personnel were needed to care for the growing practice. Then, with the help of friends in Topeka, the partners organized the Menninger Sanitarium Corporation. Enough stock was sold to buy a small farm on the edge of the city (now known as The Menninger Clinic Building), and the house thereon was remodeled to become a small psychiatric hospital of 11 beds. Within 10 years, the Menninger Sanitarium had established itself as one of the best hospitals in the United States. In 1935, Fortune magazine saluted the small sanitarium as "...the outstanding private mental hospital west of the Alleghenies."

(The Menninger Sanitarium Corp. purchased the 20-acre farm from Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Christensen in May, 1925. A mortgage of \$20,000 was recorded. Prior to the Christensen family the property had been owned by John Sutherin who acquired it in 1880, and by people named Brown who purchased it in 1903 and sold it to the Christensens in 1904. The house may have been built in the mid-1890's by Sutherin although some accounts state it was built as late as 1905. An 1898 county atlas does show a house at the approximate location, and the 1902 city directory lists Sutherin's address in the general vicinity. Chris Christensen was the occupant in 1907.)

A new hospital was built in the 1930's, and the old farmhouse became an office building for the Doctors Menninger. From it came the Menninger approach to mental illness that has been termed "a mixture of Freud and friendliness" and that became a model for psychiatric treatment in private and public hospitals across the country.

From it grew the Menninger School of Psychiatry, the largest training center in the country. Nearly seven percent of all psychiatrists in the United States have had their training in Topeka. They practice their skills in 43 states and 22 countries.

From it came the Menningers' writings--a prodigious stream of books and papers--The Human Mind, Man Against Himself, Love Against Hate, You and Psychiatry--which have had such great impact on both the professional and public understanding of emotional illness and emotional health.

And, finally, this old farmhouse served as the symbol of the Menninger philosophy of "Brains before Bricks" in improving the treatment of the mentally ill. It was the message that Dr. Will carried to the legislatures of more than 20 states and to President John Kennedy in the White House in his efforts to change our mental hospitals from warehouses of humanity, from "snakepits", to places where troubled people came to get well.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Shawnee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		FEB 19 57

Page 2 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9.

"The Menninger Foundation and Kansas" (The Menninger Foundation, Topeka, 1972).

"Postwar Need Sparked Great State Mental Health Program," Wichita Beacon, March 22, 1965.

"The Remarkable Menningers," MD, The Medical Newsmagazine, vol. 16 (June, 1969), pp. 189-195.

Richmond, Robert W., Kansas: A Land of Contrasts (Forum Press, Saint Charles, Missouri, 1974), pp. 220, 221, 267, 278.

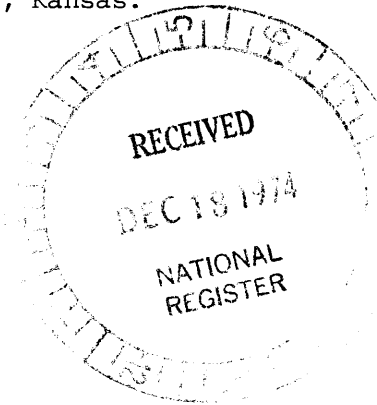
Standard Atlas of Shawnee County (George A. Ogle and Co., Chicago, 1898).

Topeka City Directories, 1902, 1905, 1907.

Topeka Mail and Breeze, May 22, 1896.

Winslow, Walker, The Menninger Story, (Doubleday and Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1956).

The basic statement of significance and the 1925 photograph were furnished by Dr. Robert G. Menninger, Director, Museum and Archives, The Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1925

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old farmhouse now known as the Menninger Clinic Building is significant as the birthplace and, for many years, the headquarters of The Menninger Foundation, the internationally-noted center of psychiatric treatment, education, research, and social applications.

How The Menninger Foundation developed there is a story which can be said to have started in 1889 when Dr. Charles Frederick Menninger began the general practice of medicine in Topeka. More than 60 years later, still a practicing physician, Doctor Menninger wrote his recollections of the organization's genesis:

"...The doctors then had no X-rays, no knowledge of blood analysis, no laboratories, few serums and vaccines,...no penicillin, no biopsies. There was no preventive medicine except sulphur and molasses, sassafras tea, and asafoetida bags.

"...But what made matters infinitely worse for me was the isolation of the doctor. Each doctor worked alone, and many a time in the middle of the night in a house of illness, where the family looked at me as the final authority who held life and death in my hands, the responsibility and loneliness of my work seemed almost too much to bear.

"Over and over again I thought, 'I wish I could talk to some other doctor about this. I wish I knew where to go for help!

"In 1908 I attended a meeting at the Mayo Clinic, also founded in a small midwestern city. There I met Dr. Will Mayo and told him how keenly I felt the isolation of the general practitioner. He asked me to stay after the meeting and I spent three days visiting with Dr. Mayo and other members of his staff. Here was the thing I was looking for...

"I got back home in time to have breakfast with my family. I told them how these doctors worked like a team and sick people got well. But the doctors here were all used to working alone. Where could I find a group willing and able to work together?

"The boys around that breakfast table gave me an idea. I said to the family, 'I know what we will do with our boys. It will take some time, but these boys will be doctors, and we will have our clinic here.'

"That was the start."

Dr. C. F.'s dreams approached reality in 1919 when Dr. Karl received his medical degree at Harvard and joined his father in Topeka in a partnership known as the Menninger Clinic. However, the dream came true in a rather different way than Dr. C. F. had first expected, for the new clinic adopted the specialty of psychiatry.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bliss, William Montague, "Topeka, the Capital City," Carter's Monthly, vol. 12, no. 6 (June, 1897), pp. 595, 596.  
 "Doors of Original Clinic Building Remain Open," TPR (employees' publication issued by The Menninger Foundation), vol. 28, no. 5 (Sept., 1969), pp. 4-6.  
 King, James L., History of Shawnee County and Representative Citizens (Richmond and Arnold, Chicago, 1905), pp. 521, 522.  
 Menninger, C. F., "How We Started," Menninger Quarterly, vol. 5, no. 2 (spring, 1959), pp. 4-6.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

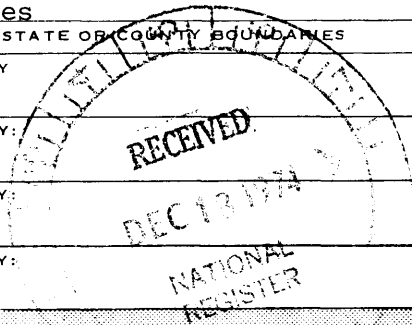
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		39 03 29	95 43 15	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

15/2543  
4226-5

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1-2 acres

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: Dec. 11, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West 10th

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 Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society  
 Date December 12, 1974

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

W. B. Martensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/13/75

ATTEST:

W. M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-11-75