

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 25 2005

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Osage Mission Infirmary  
Other name/site number Dowd House / 133-4890-0006

2. Location

Street & number 325 Main Street  not for publication  
City or town St. Paul  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Neosho Code 133 Zip code 66771

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/21/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official /Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] 9/16/05  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

Osage Mission Infirmary  
Name of Property

Neosho Co., Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- 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
1		structures
		objects
2	total	

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE: clinic

RELIGION: church-related residence

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: limestone

Walls: WOOD: weatherboard

Roof: Asphalt, Metal

Other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Osage Mission Infirmary

Name of Property

Neosho Co., Kansas

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1872, 1912

Significant Dates

1872, 1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, etc.

Name of repository:

Osage Mission - County Museum

Osage Mission Infirmary  
Name of Property

Neosho Co., Kansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property .43

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1  
Zone 15 Easting 308080 Northing 4154320  
2

3  
Zone Easting Northing  
4

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Stefanie McKenzie, Scott Walters, and Robert Beardsley; Edited by KSHS staff  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date 09/01/04  
Street & number 1460 Reynolds St. Telephone 410-539-2542  
City or town Baltimore State MD Zip code 21230

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

Name Henri & Susan Coeme  
Street & number 696 E 640 Avenue Telephone 620-347-4948  
City or town Arma State KS Zip code 66712

**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. 470 et seq.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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**DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

Located at 325 Main Street in St. Paul, the Osage Mission Infirmary is a Second Empire-style, one-and-a-half story, wood-frame building with a dormered, mansard roof. Originally completed in 1872 as an infirmary, the building was moved to its current location in 1912 for use as a private residence.

**Elaboration**

Originally, the Osage Mission Infirmary was part of, and built in the same style as, the St. Francis Institute, a Jesuit Community complex. Located just west of the St. Francis Church and across the road from St. Ann's Academy, the nominated property served as an infirmary under the Jesuits and the Sisters of Loretto until 1894 when the property transferred ownership to the Passionist ministries. In 1912, to make room for a new Passionist monastery, the infirmary building was purchased and moved via log rollers to its current location by John T. Dowd, a former student at the mission.

The house has an almost square plan, measuring 35' X 32'. It sits upon a limestone foundation, hand-cut from a local quarry, raised approximately 27" above grade. Native limestone lines the partial basement and original heating pit. Situated beneath the main dining room, the basement measures 30' X 18'.

The front, or eastern, elevation faces Main Street. An 80" deep porch extends for 30' along nearly the full length of the front façade. The porch, which was added shortly after the move in 1912, features a shallow hipped roof with a small centered gable decorated with wood shingles. The roof is supported by four limestone piers with Tuscan columns. The two outer piers each contain three clustered columns, while the two piers flanking the staircase and supporting the centered gable each have a pair of columns. Square-cut, ashlar limestone walls also flank the front steps on each side. All stonework has been painted white. The three-ranked, symmetrical façade consists of a single, eight-pane entry with full-length sidelights flanked by a large window on each side. Each window contains a small upper sash with leaded glass designs over a large single pane.

The mansard roof section on this elevation is fenestrated by three gabled dormers. The two outside dormers each contain a single four-over-four, double-hung window with a segmental-arched upper sash. The larger central dormer contains a pair of the segmental-arched, four-over-four windows. The four corners of each window is adorned with small scrolled brackets.

The north and south elevations are identical in fenestration. The first story contains a central pair of conventional four-over-four, double-hung windows with projecting crowns flanked by a similar single

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four-over-four window at each end (a total of four windows per elevation), and the mansard roof is identical in composition to the front elevation.

The rear, or western, elevation originally adhered to the house's three ranked façade theme with three double-hung windows. This elevation has been slightly altered by the addition of a small, shed-roof kitchen extension on the southern end of the elevation and the addition of a deck measuring 20' X 28' which gracefully integrates an ADA ramp for handicap accessibility. The mansard roof on the rear elevation deviates from the other three by having only a single window in the center dormer.

Inside, the building has remained virtually intact with few changes to its main character-defining features. The house maintains its interior four-paneled doors and original hardware, baseboards, and the door and window moldings, which incorporate an egg-and-dart motif.

The first level consists of six rooms, all with 11' 8" ceilings. The front porch provides entry into the formal foyer. Two oak Tuscan columns on low oak pedestals separate the foyer from the central living room. In this space, the staircase opens to the second level and is surrounded by a balustrade of octagonal newel posts and square balusters. The north side of the first level contains a bedroom and parlor area. All window and door casings in the first floor parlor remain unpainted. The south side of the first level contains the dining area and kitchen. The west end of the first level contains the pantry and utility addition.

The second story of the house consists of five rooms with an open stairway and 11'3" ceilings. A wide corridor services all rooms, as well as a closet that occupies the space originally containing a large brick chimney originating from the basement. The chimney is evident in a historic photograph depicting the relocation of the building, but has long since been removed. This floor contains the infirmary room with original cabinetry used for storing medical supplies. In addition, three bedrooms and a bathroom are arranged around the spacious hallway.

There is a well on the lot that has been capped with concrete and a reconstructed stone watering trough that was found in the ground beside the well.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Osage Mission Infirmary is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent vernacular example of the Second Empire style of architecture.

**History**

The current town of St. Paul was founded in 1847 as an Osage Mission. According to Andreas' *History of Kansas*, from 1829 to 1847 various Catholic missionaries visited the Osage; however, as the tribe desired a permanent missionary, the Bishop of St. Louis, Peter Kendrick, appointed Father John Schoemakers, a Jesuit, as Superior of the mission. Called the "Apostle to the Osage" and the "Father of civilization in southeast Kansas," Schoemakers served for 36 years as spiritual director, doctor, steward, lawyer, judge, catechist, and preacher to the Osage. He also served as an officially appointed U.S. postmaster of Osage Mission from 1851 to 1864. When the Osage were relocated in 1870, he ministered to the needs of the newly arrived settlers. Schoemakers initiated construction of the present St. Francis Hieronymo Church to replace the original log structure, but the church was not dedicated until the year following his death in July 1883. Father Schoemakers has been credited as the first white man to found a permanent settlement in southeast Kansas (*History of Neosho County* by W.W. Graves)

Schoemakers arrived at Osage Mission on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1847 and took possession of two buildings then being constructed by the Indian Department. When completed, one building was used for the education of Osage boys. With the arrival of Mother Bridget Hayden and the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross from St. Louis in October 1847, a school for Osage girls was established in the other building. Both schools were known as Manual Labor Schools.

Hayden spent the next 43 years ministering to the physical, spiritual, and intellectual needs of the young women in her care at the mission. From 1859 until her death in 1890, she was the Superior of the Sisters of Loretto at the mission. The Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross were the first wholly American sisterhood to begin and continue without foreign affiliation. The order was founded by Reverend Charles Nerinckx in 1812 in Kentucky. The sisters traveled with the early pioneers to provide Christian education for the children of the rugged frontier towns. Today, far different from the first log-constructed convent schools are the modern Loretto elementary schools, high schools, and colleges.

The Osage sold their lands to the U.S. Government in 1870 and moved to a new reservation in the Indian Territory. As the Manual Labor Schools had been the central focus of the settlement at Osage Mission, the schools adapted to service the needs of the incoming white settlers. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1870, the

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school for boys was chartered as the St. Francis Institute, and the school for girls was chartered on September 19, 1870 as St. Ann's Academy.

During this period, the schools were expanded, and the nominated building was constructed in 1872 as an infirmary. The Jesuits left the mission in 1892, and two years later the Passionists ministry moved into the former Jesuit complex at Osage Mission. The Passionist ministry began with an Italian, Paul Francis Daneo, who became a religious hermit in 1720 in response to his experiences on a crusade against the Turks. During his hermitage, he wrote a Rule, which was eventually approved by the Vatican in 1769. The men who followed Paul would become known as Passionists because of their dedication to and preaching of the passion and death of Christ. In 1895, the name of Osage Mission was changed to St. Paul in honor of the Passionist founder. It was during their tenure that the sale and relocation of the Infirmary took place.

### Relocation

In 1912, the original infirmary, used as a guesthouse by the Passionists, was sold to John T. Dowd and moved a ½ mile via log rollers to its current location at 325 Main Street. Dowd was born in Ladore, Kansas on January 9, 1872, and attended school in Osage Mission and later the normal school in Pittsburg, Kansas. He then worked as a teacher and stockman in Neosho County. In 1903, Dowd purchased the Bahney hardware store in St. Paul. Over the years, he served on the City Council, the Board of Directors of the Mission State Bank, and as a delegate for the Democrat party. Dowd worked in the hardware store until he was appointed postmaster of St. Paul on April 19, 1936, and he served in that position until 1951. Dowd lived in the nominated property until a few months after his wife's death in 1952 when he moved to Marysville to live with his son. After Dowd's death in 1957, the property changed ownership several times. The current owners, Henri and Susan Coeme, acquired the property in 1999 and restored the building.

### Architectural Significance

The Osage Mission Infirmary is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of the Second Empire style of architecture. The house incorporates these primary design elements associated with the Second Empire tradition: the mansard roof, the central chimney (no longer extant, but its volume preserved), the simple wall cladding of clapboards, and the projecting dormer windows. As a vernacular interpretation, the design ignores stylistic elements such as massive cornice and supporting brackets, and the decorative ironwork that are associated with high style examples. The front porch, while exhibiting the size and massing of those used for Second Empire-style buildings of the period, was added after the building was moved in 1912.



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The original infirmary did not have a porch. With its clustered Tuscan columns, the c. 1912 porch provides a glimpse of the then-popular Colonial Revival style of residential architecture.

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Graves, William W., compiler. *Annals of St. Paul.* St. Paul, Kansas: Journal Press, 1942 (1979).

Graves, William W. *Life and Times of Mother Bridget Hayden.* (St. Paul, Kansas: Journal Press, 1938).

Kinsella, T. H. *The History of Our Cradle Land.*  
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*Mail and Breeze Newspaper.* St. Paul, Kansas. (July 13, 1901).

Morrison, T. F. “Mission Neosho: The First Kansas Mission.” *Kansas Historical Quarterly.* (August, 1935; Vol. 4, No. 3, Pages 227-234).

Neosho County Assessor. Property information card.

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## **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, Block 27, Osage Mission, now town of St. Paul, Neosho County, Kansas.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property is located on a town parcel, having been removed from its original location near the St. Francis Church to provide room for new construction. The house was moved to its current location in 1912 and has attained a historic association with this parcel.

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**Photographic Information**

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Osage Mission Infirmary
2. Neosho Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Patrick Zollner
4. May 2, 2005
5. Negative on file at KSHS

The following information is applicable to specific photographs:

<u>#</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View from the east/southeast
2.	View from the northeast
3.	View from the north
4.	View from the northwest
5.	View from the south
6.	View of front entrance from the east
7.	View of interior staircase from the east
8.	View of living room and foyer from the northwest
9.	View of living room pocket doors from the east
10.	View of dining room from the northeast

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Historic Photographs



1. St. Francis Institute For Boys
2. St. Francis Hall
3. Infirmary Building
4. St. Francis Monastery
5. St. Francis Church

