

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# 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 Old Mission Mausoleum  
Other name/site number 173-11405

## 2. Location

Street & number 3424 E 21st Street  not for publication  
City or town Wichita  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67208

## 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.)

*Patrick Zollner*

4-10-09

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
**Kansas State Historical Society**

Date

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 of the Keeper

*Edson H. Beall*

Date of Action

5-28-09

Old Mission Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, 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
		structures
		objects
1	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)

FUNERARY: Cemetery/Mausoleum

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

FUNERARY: Cemetery/Mausoleum

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Mediterranean Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: CONCRETE

Walls: STONE: Bedford Limestone

Roof: CONCRETE; METAL: Copper; RED TILE

Other: Brass Doors & Light fixtures

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 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 it 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

1918-1954

Significant Dates

1918-1922; 1927-1929; 1936-1939; 1950-1954

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Siedhoff, George (builder); Lovell, Sidney (architect of units 1 & 2);

Overend & Boucher of Wichita (architect of units 3 & 4)

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):

- 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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Wichita Historic Preservation Office; Wichita Public Library

Old Mission Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	6	5	0	1	5	0	4	1	7	6	4	2	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 David G. Stuart

Organization N/A Date September 2008

Street & number 3101 N Red Fox Circle Telephone 316-722-3667

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67205-8753

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 City of Wichita

Street & number City Hall, 455 N Main Telephone 316-268-4421

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67202-1688

**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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Old Mission Mausoleum  
Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Old Mission Mausoleum is located on one acre of land within the Old Mission Cemetery, 21st Street and Hillside Avenue, Wichita, Kansas. The Old Mission Mausoleum has always been a separate and distinct entity from the Old Mission Cemetery. The founder of the mausoleum was George Adolphus Saxton. During 1918 he purchased one acre of land within the Old Mission Cemetery with the express purpose of establishing a business enterprise by constructing a community mausoleum. This mausoleum was to be open to all upon payment of the purchase price of a crypt or a family room. A family room consists of five to ten crypts set into an alcove along the main hallways. The alcove opening is secured by a brass gate. During the first phase of the project, in the 1920s, the crypts were priced between \$800 and \$2500, and family rooms were \$4500 to \$10,000.

At the time the one acre was purchased, Saxton was given permanent access to the property by using the existing cemetery entrances and roads, and to new roads that would be constructed in the future as the cemetery expanded around the mausoleum. Today, the one acre and mausoleum are completely surrounded by cemetery gardens with burials and interconnecting roads throughout the cemetery.

The Old Mission Cemetery is located at the northeast corner of 21st Street and Hillside Avenue. The legal description is *1/4 of the southwest quarter of section 2, township, 27S, range 1E of the Wichita East Quadrangle*. The cemetery land is not part of this nomination.

Across 21st Street to the south is the Wichita State University Campus. To the west and across Hillside Avenue are off-campus student housing and some residential homes. At the north boundary of the cemetery is the Wichita Park Cemetery, and to the east are homes that date from the mid 1960s, many occupied by university professors and teachers. The architectural motif of Mediterranean Revival is only found on the Old Mission Mausoleum and is not carried out in any of the surrounding areas mentioned above. It might be surmised that at the time of construction, 1918 this was a popular theme for this type of structure, and the idea may have come from Sidney Lovell of Chicago, the architect.

The one acre that contains the mausoleum, is located almost in the center of the cemetery. The legal description provided by the City of Wichita is *Buildings 1 through 4 of Old Mission Mausoleum, 25 feet from building walls in Lot 1, Mission Chapel Mausoleum Addition*.

The style of the mausoleum is early 20th-century Mediterranean Revival, with the exterior being of Bedford limestone, brass doors, stained glass windows, and a red clay tile roof, sitting atop reinforced concrete and sheet copper.

Mausoleum Defined: "A mausoleum (plural: mausolea) is an external free-standing building constructed as a monument enclosing the interment space or burial chamber of a deceased person or persons. A mausoleum may be considered a type of tomb or the tomb may be considered to be within the mausoleum. A Christian mausoleum sometimes includes a chapel. The word derives from the Mausoleum of Maussollos (near modern-day Bodrum in Turkey), the grave of King Mausollos, the Persian satrap of

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Caria, whose large tomb was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Historically, mausolea were, and still may be, large and impressive constructions for a deceased leader or other person of importance. However, smaller mausolea soon became popular with the gentry and nobility in many countries, particularly in Europe and her colonies during the early modern and modern periods. These are usually small buildings with walls, a roof and sometimes a door for additional interments or visitor access. A single mausoleum may be permanently sealed. A mausoleum encloses a burial chamber either wholly above ground or within a burial vault below the superstructure. This contains the body or bodies, probably within sarcophagi or interment niches. Modern mausolea may also act as columbaria (a type of mausoleum for cremated remains) with additional cinerary urn niches. Mausolea may be located in a cemetery, a churchyard or on private land.”<sup>1</sup>

The Old Mission Mausoleum was built over a 36-year period and consists of four units.

**Unit One (1918-1922):** Sidney Lovell (1867-1938) of Chicago was the architect of this unit. He was a leading architect of his day for structures of this type, with several to his credit in the Chicago area, along with homes in the upscale area of Chicago called Beverly Hills. “Construction was started May 1919, with a cost set at \$200,000. It was to be 128 feet long and 60 feet wide, with 500 crypts. The building was to be of the old Spanish architecture.<sup>2</sup> Unit One was completed the last week of June 1922 at a cost of \$250,000. Thirteen carloads of Vermont marble and 120,000 pounds of reinforcing steel were required for the construction. The inside consisted of 360 individual crypts and 23 private sections.”<sup>3</sup>

George H. Siedhoff was the local contractor who had many building projects in the Wichita area to his credit. He was a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete construction, which was the main form of construction. As the project continued over the years the Siedhoff Construction Company was in charge.

The first unit is a rectangular building that faces south and runs parallel to 21st Street, which runs east to west. At this time there was only one entrance into the building, located at the center of the building, and the entrance was a main foyer/hall. Branching off of this hallway left and right are two other hallways that ran the length of the building, east and west. The interior of this unit and the other units to follow was faced with Vermont marble on the walls, crypt fronts, and floor. The exterior concrete of this unit and future units was faced with Bedford limestone.

The crypts were arranged in vertical rows of five, from floor to ceiling along each hallway. Each crypt was covered with a Vermont marble shutter or faceplate. At the time of use this plate was removed for the entombment to take place. While the faceplate was removed, the name and appropriate dates were engraved and filled with gold leaf. The faceplate was then repositioned and

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<sup>1</sup> [Wikipedia encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausoleum): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mausoleum>

<sup>2</sup> [Wichita Beacon](#), June 18, 1919, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> [Wichita Beacon](#), July 2, 1919, p. C-5.

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fixed in place with plaster on the back side. Upon completion, Unit One contained 590 crypts. Today there are 68 empty crypts waiting for future use. (All of the space in the total complex is sold out.)

**Unit Two (1927-1929):** Planning began in 1927 for the second unit with the “same plan of permanence and beauty of the original building” to be carried out.<sup>4</sup> “This unit will be of the same general type as the main building and about half its size. It will be of stone exterior and marble and bronze interior like the present unit, with much reinforced concrete. A contract was let Monday to the George H. Siedhoff Construction Company, which will place an order for the stone and marble at once. The size of this unit will be 30 x 120 feet. It will contain a corridor extending from end to end of the building with crypts on either side. There will be 300 crypts.”<sup>5</sup>

In 1927, planning started on the second phase of this project, and again. Lovell provided the architectural plans and the Siedhoff Construction Company was employed. During this construction phase the same materials and attention to detail were used with Vermont marble for the walls and floor and Bedford limestone as the facing material over the concrete exterior. The result was a smaller version in exact detail of Unit One.

This unit consists of one hall running north to south and parallel to Hillside Avenue to the west. Entrance to Unit Two is gained by the main entrance of Unit One. Again both sides of this unit are lined with crypts, floor to ceiling, five to a row. Upon completion, this unit contained 258 crypts. Today 24 are unused, but sold. As in Unit One, each crypt is faced with Vermont marble, and those that have been used are engraved with gold leaf. Recent research [July 2008] has located two construction photos of this unit and may be viewed online, at “The Old Mission Mausoleum web-site.”<sup>6</sup>

**Unit Three (1936-1939):** This unit will be a mirror image of Unit Two, being 30 x 120 feet and will run north and south, starting on the east side of Unit One, it will contain 320 crypts. “Work on the third unit of Old Mission Mausoleum, located in Old Mission cemetery and one of the largest and finest equipped mausoleums in this section of the country, will begin late this spring, 1936. Plans for the new unit, which will join the first unit on the east, have been completed and the work will cost \$100,000, making the total investment of \$400,000 in the mausoleum. The new unit will be built with an exterior of cut stone and the architecture will be in keeping with the other units. The interior will be of marble, and the metal trimmings of bronze. Ten private rooms, varying in the number of crypts, will be contained in the new unit, as well as individual crypts.”<sup>7</sup>

The summer of 1936 saw the start of construction on Unit Three. It was to be a mirror image of Unit Two, and was located to the east side of Unit One. Unit Three contains one hallway that runs

<sup>4</sup> Wichita Beacon, September 11, 1927, p. 32.

<sup>5</sup> Wichita Beacon, January 28, 1929, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> David G. Stuart, “Old Mission Mausoleum History.” Accessed January 26, 2009.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dgstuart/mission.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> Wichita Eagle, March 8, 1936, p. 16.

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north to south with crypts lining both sides of the hall, floor to ceiling. Since the Siedhoff Construction Company was sold to project superintendent Will Mike Hahner in 1934 and became the Hahner-Foreman The Hahner Foreman Construction Company, a company run by a former Siedhoff Construction Company project superintendent,<sup>8</sup> was employed to work on phase three using the same high standards that had been employed on the first two units. Since Unit Three was to be a mirror image of Unit Two, the local architectural firm of Overend and Boucher was employed for the design work. All of the materials and detail that had been used in the first two units were again used in this unit. Upon completion of this unit the total complex looked like the letter "U" with the open end to the north, awaiting future development. Unit One faced south, Unit Two faced west and Unit Three faced east and was parallel to Unit Two. Upon completion, Unit Three contained 326 crypts, and today all are sold with 11 waiting future use.

**Unit Four (1950-1954):** "The architect's drawings of the north end of the fourth unit were presented today. With completion of this unit there will have been expended on the building, with its perpetual care fund, over a million dollars."<sup>9</sup> The materials used in its construction were the same as used in previous units, its dimensions being 160 feet wide by 76 feet deep, and will contain 1120 crypts. The one change (1950s) that took place in this unit was the use of a vaulted ceiling in the main foyer. "Old Mission Mausoleum, North Hillside Avenue at 21st Street, will open its fourth and final unit for public inspection Sunday. The build is constructed of heavily reinforced concrete and the exterior is faced with Indiana limestone. Facing on the spacious well-lighted interior is Vermont marble. The building is roofed with copper."<sup>10</sup>

During the 1950s, Saxton drew his long project to a close with the start of the fourth and final unit of the complex. Unit Four was to be the largest of the units with 1114 crypts. Again the same materials, construction firm, and attention to detail were in place for this final phase of construction. Mr. Lovell, the architect who had drawn up the plans for Units One and Two, had died in 1938. The local architectural firm of Overend and Boucher, was again employed, to do the work on Unit Four. The exterior of this unit matched exactly the other three units; and when completed, the top of the letter "U" was filled in, making a complete complex. Unit Four has a north-facing entrance, while the main structure of the unit extended east and west, parallel to the first unit. As construction of Unit Four began, the north ends of Unit Two and Three had to be opened, so that their north-end hallways could be connected to the east and west wings of the new construction. Once completed it was possible to enter the door of Unit One, or Unit Four and walk either east or west and return to the starting point. All of the main halls were connected, with the passageway being one continuous hall within the confines of the structure.

The new features in this unit include a vaulted ceiling in the main hall and a columbarium at the south end of the hallway. Cremation was becoming more accepted in the 1950s, and the

<sup>8</sup> Siedhoff Construction Company was sold to employee Will Mike Hahner in 1934 and became Hahner-Foreman Construction Company.

<sup>9</sup> Wichita Eagle, October 12, 1947, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Wichita Eagle, October 23, 1954, p. 2A.



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columbarium offered another marketing avenue for Saxton. The main hall branches into three side hallways, and again all halls contain crypts, floor to ceiling, five to a row. Vermont marble was again employed inside for the crypt faces, walls and floor. Bedford limestone again faces the outside concrete of the building.

The columbarium room contains ten crypts, five on each side, floor to ceiling. The center of this room, on the south wall contains the largest stained glass window in the complex. It is flanked on both sides with 24 niches, each covered with an eight inch by ten-inch brass faceplate. The window is mounted high and set on a marble altar where flower arrangements might be placed. The unit was completed in 1954, and the long project came to a conclusion. Unit Four has 106 sold, but empty crypts are awaiting future use.

Today, if viewed from the air the building is a rectangle with a courtyard in the middle. The courtyard has a lawn surface but has never been used for any purpose. Unit One entrance faces south and Unit Four entrance faces north, all doors are made of brass and copper is used for all guttering and down spouts. At this current date the Bedford limestone used in all external construction has weathered uniformly and today it looks as though it was completed in one construction phase. The structure is as true and sound as the day the first footings were poured in 1918. As each unit was being completed over the 36 years, the same Vermont marble was being use inside, with the overall appearance today being again, of one construction phase. Within the halls of the mausoleum are 2300 crypts, each with the name of the occupant and relevant dates all engraved with the same font lettering and filled with gold leaf. In addition to the many individual crypts are some 55 family rooms, each enclosed with a brass gate. Brass lighting is used for illumination and decorative plaster moldings can be found scattered throughout the building. A final touch to add elegance to the structure is the wide use of stained-glass windows.

This structure has not been restored and at this point in time only needs routine maintenance to keep it looking like it did when each unit was completed. Since January 2008 the one acre of ground and the mausoleum are the property of the City of Wichita, with the city providing maintenance and upkeep. The mausoleum is still a working facility with the average entombments since 2000, being eight to nine a year. The city has a working arrangement with the funeral directors on staff at Old Mission Cemetery to provide for the opening and closing of the crypts at the time of need. As stated earlier the mausoleum is sold out and the 147 empty crypts are owned by individuals and family members.

The original blueprints and drawings have been located and are now accessible on the Old Mission Mausoleum website.<sup>11</sup> Copies of the drawings have been deposited in the Special Collections at Ablah Library, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, Kansas, 67260.

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<sup>11</sup> David G. Stuart, "Old Mission Mausoleum" website:  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dgstuart/mission.htm>

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Old Mission Mausoleum is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a well-preserved and highly intact Mediterranean Revival-style mausoleum. The style was popular throughout the United States between 1890 and 1925, and is defined by the use of massive masonry walls with broad unadorned surfaces and low-pitched clay tile roofs. The mausoleum was built over 36 years and as each of the units were added, care was taken to use the same Bedford limestone, stained glass windows, brass doors and windows, and red tile roof. Today, all of the material is still in place and has weathered to a uniform patina, giving the appearance that the entire structure was constructed during one construction phase.

The interior of the structure was constructed with the same care, with the use of Vermont marble on the walls and floor. The interior doors, gates and lighting fixtures are all made of brass, which has also developed a nice patina. As each marble crypt face was placed in use, the same lettering font was used for names and dates, with the engraving done by hand and then filled with gold leaf. Today, the result is very uniform and striking, as many of those entombed within the mausoleum were the founding fathers and early developers of the city of Wichita.

Walking through this structure today, one immediately notices the craftsmanship and quality of materials that have gone into its construction. The Old Mission Mausoleum is an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival style and a positive tribute to the workmanship of the American worker between 1918-1954.

**Elaboration**

Although the practice of entombment goes back many hundreds of years, there was a revival of the practice throughout Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when many large private mausoleums were built – largely out of concern about health risks and decomposition of the dead. The rural cemetery movement was this country's response to health concerns posed by crowded urban burial grounds. In the United States, entombment in mausoleums was primarily reserved for the wealthy prior until the 1880s. "Admirers of mausoleums viewed them as symbols of the greatness of America, icons to material and social success."<sup>12</sup> And by about 1880, superintendents responded to a growing public interest in entombment by creating community and private mausoleums.<sup>13</sup> The heyday of these community and private mausoleums was from 1880 to 1920.

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<sup>12</sup> David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991) 221. Kansas Historic Preservation Office Library, GT 3203 A2 S56 H5.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 222.

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Interest in mausoleums started in the eastern United States. Larger cities in the east were developing these community mausoleums in their cemeteries at the same time many of the older cemeteries were undergoing a transformation into "lawn garden" type cemeteries. The movement of community mausoleums was transitioning from the large cities in the eastern United States across the country in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of mausoleums are Ferncliff Mausoleum (1902) in Hartsdale, New York; Oak Grove and Valhalla (1911), both in St. Louis, Missouri; and the massive structures in Denver, Colorado, Fairmount and Crown Hill. On the west coast was the Great Mausoleum at Forest Lawn Cemetery (1920s). This cemetery and mausoleum was conceived and built by Dr. Hubert Eaton, at Glendale, California. The Great Mausoleum is truly the largest in America with its more than 35,000 crypts, one-of-a-kind stained-glass windows, original and reproductions of world famous statuary, and many celebrity entombments. It stands at the panicle of mausoleum construction in the first half of the 20th century.<sup>14</sup>

All of the above history provides context for George Saxton and his involvement in community mausoleum construction, as this interest moved into the medium-size cities. In 1918, the Old Mission Cemetery was being developed at the northeast corner of 21st Street and Hillside Avenue in Wichita, Kansas. George A. Saxton purchased one acre of land within the cemetery for the sole purpose of constructing a community mausoleum.

George A. Saxton was born in 1876, in Pennsylvania. He received a B.A. degree in 1898, and moved to Nebraska where he became a teacher and superintendent of schools. Sometime in 1914, he and his wife, Nellie [they never had children] moved to Wichita where he began working for the American Cemetery Company. One of his first ventures was to oversee the construction of the Wichita Mausoleum (1919). This mausoleum contains 300 crypts and is located in the Highland Cemetery, Hillside Avenue and Ninth Street, Wichita, Kansas. The mausoleum is still in use, and many similarities may be seen which would be incorporated in his future project, Old Mission Mausoleum.

Chicago architect Sidney Lovell developed the original Old Mission Mausoleum plans for what would become Units One and Two. Lovell was instrumental in the architectural development of the largest mausoleum in the Chicago area, the Community Mausoleum located in Rosehill Cemetery. In addition he also drew up plans for many of the fine homes that were being built in the upscale Beverly Hills area of Chicago.

Saxton secured funding for the Old Mission Mausoleum project and future additions initially with the First Trust Company of Wichita. This company became the mortgage holder. As crypts were sold, money was deposited in the Old Mission Mausoleum account to repay the debt. Part of the sale price of each crypt was set aside in a trust with a board of control to advise the trustee, which was also First Trust Company of Wichita, to be used for future upkeep of the mausoleum and grounds. Over the years, the

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<sup>14</sup> Photos of these community mausoleums throughout the United States can be viewed online. Community Mausoleums in the United States web-site: <http://tinyurl.com/5gfkmw>

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First Trust Company of Wichita was sold or had name changes. The next trustee was the Fourth National Bank of Wichita [1938-1996], followed by Boatmen's National Bank [1996-1997], then Nations Bank [1997-1999]. The Bank of America, as successor bank through mergers, became trustee in July 1999. By this time all of the crypts had been sold and the original debt had been paid in full. Bank of America, was the title owner of the property pursuant to the trust documents and the trustee of the perpetual funds which had been accumulating over the years for the upkeep of the building and grounds. By mid 2007, the perpetual fund had fallen to \$25,000, due to restrictions on investments and necessary capital improvement expenditures, with no future source of revenue. On January 1, 2008, the Bank of America, as trustee, deeded the one acre of ground within the Old Mission Cemetery and the Old Mission Mausoleum building and contents subject to the rights of crypt owners, along with any remaining funds to the City of Wichita pursuant to state statute for failed cemeteries. The Old Mission Mausoleum remains a sound structure and a community asset that will have a positive position in Wichita's future.

Unit One, was constructed between 1918 and 1922, and Unit Two, followed in 1927-1929. Cecil F. Boucher, [1890-1967] and Harrison G. Overend, [1891-1957] both Wichita architects drew up the plans for Units Three and Four, using the same guidelines and designs that had been implemented by Lovell for the first two units. These next two units were constructed, 1936-1939 and 1950-1954 respectively.

During this long construction phase the same materials and attention to detail were implemented to insure that the final project would have an overall uniform appearance. Additionally, George H. Siedhoff [1878-1966] of Siedhoff Construction Company,<sup>15</sup> Wichita, Kansas was used as general contractor the first two units until he retired and sold his company to Hahner-Foreman Construction Company, which worked on the final two units. Siedhoff was a well-respected builder in the area and was responsible for many of the fine buildings and homes that are still in use today in the Wichita area.

**Architecture**

The building's architecture is influenced by several popular early 20<sup>th</sup> century styles. Although it is simplistic in detail, its smooth masonry exterior and low-pitched roof with red clay tiles are characteristic of the Mediterranean Revival style. Its limestone exterior and marble interior evokes a sense of permanence. Ornamentation can range from simplistic to dramatic and may take cues from a number of Mediterranean references including Classical, Spanish, and Beaux-Arts. The style first gained attention in Florida as similar Spanish and Italian revival styles grew in popularity in the western U.S. – particularly after the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 that celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal.

This mausoleum design could easily be adjusted to highlight any number of the Mediterranean influences. Perhaps Sidney Lovell's best know design is the 1914 Community Mausoleum at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago, which is similar to Wichita's Old Mission Mausoleum but features more Neoclassical elements including a dominant Greek Temple. It was Lovell's successful Chicago commission that gained him

<sup>15</sup> Wichita Beacon, July 15, 1928, p. 23.

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widespread notoriety and brought many more commissions in the subsequent years. He designed 47 mausoleums between 1912 and 1938, including six in Kansas.<sup>16</sup>

**Summary**

The impressive Mediterranean Revival-style mausoleum is a testament to the efforts of founder George A. Saxton and his attention to detail over the long construction period; to the designs of architects Sidney Lovell, Harrison Overend, and Cecil Boucher and their attention to total uniformity in design; and to longtime local builder and contractor George H. Siedhoff. Built over 36 years, they produced a well-built structure that is truly unique. With proper care and consideration, this building will stand for several more centuries as a true testimony to what planning, attention to detail, and the American worker can achieve. There have been no substantive changes to the four units of the building since they were erected.

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<sup>16</sup> These include Salina's Hillcrest Mausoleum (1927), Topeka's Mount Hope Mausoleum (1928), Independence's Mount Hope Abbey Mausoleum (1930), Eureka's Greenwood Mausoleum, and Hutchinson's Fairlawn Mausoleum. David Stuart, "Sidney Lovell's Community Mausoleums in the United States. Accessed online 26 January, 2009: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dgstuart/lovellmausoleums.htm#salina>

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Old Mission Cemetery is located at the northeast corner of 21st Street and Hillside Avenue. The legal description being "1/4 of the southwest quarter of section 2, township 27S, range 1E of the Wichita East Quadrangle." The Old Mission Mausoleum is located on one acre of land within the cemetery, its center location is 700 feet east of Hillside Avenue and 700 feet north of 21st Street. The legal description provided by the City of Wichita is: "*Buildings 1 through 4 of Old Mission Mausoleum, 25 feet from building walls in Lot 1, Mission Chapel Mausoleum Addition.*"

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Old Mission Mausoleum. The cemetery is NOT included.

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Property Name: Old Mission Mausoleum  
Location: NE Corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Hillside Avenue, Wichita, Sedgwick County, KS  
Photographer: Sarah Martin  
Date: November 12, 2008

Digital Negatives on File at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, KS

- Photo 1: South (front) elevation looking across the sprawling lawn, facing N
- Photo 2: South (front) elevation and west (side) elevation, from the adjacent cemetery, facing NE
- Photo 3: South (front) elevation and west (side) elevation, facing NE
- Photo 4: South (front) elevation, main entrance, facing NE
- Photo 5: North (rear) elevation, secondary entrance, facing SW
- Photo 6: North (rear) elevation, close-up of secondary entrance, facing SW
- Photo 7: East (side) elevation and south (front) elevation, facing NW
- Photo 8: Central courtyard, facing W
- Photo 9: Set of three stained glass windows, showing open hopper window on south elevation, facing N
- Photo 10: Single stained glass window on south elevation, facing N
- Photo 11: South (front) elevation, close-up of main entrance, facing NE
- Photo 12: Interior, main entrance hall showing door to exterior, facing SE
- Photo 13: Interior, main entrance hall showing Amsden Memorial, facing N
- Photo 14: Interior, main entrance hall showing original wicker furniture, facing W
- Photo 15: Interior, typical hallway view
- Photo 16: Interior, typical hallway view
- Photo 17: Interior, view of columbarium
- Photo 18: Interior, plaque honoring George A. Saxton
- Photo 19: Interior, workroom where marble is etched



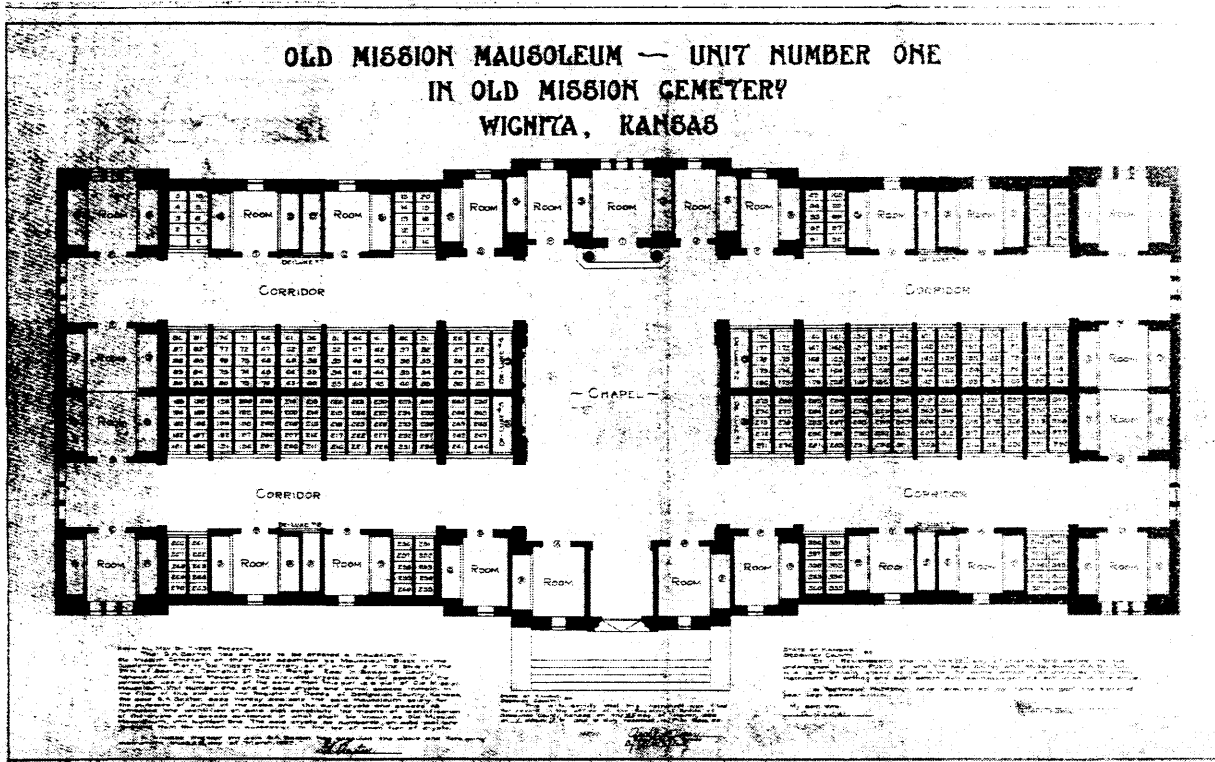
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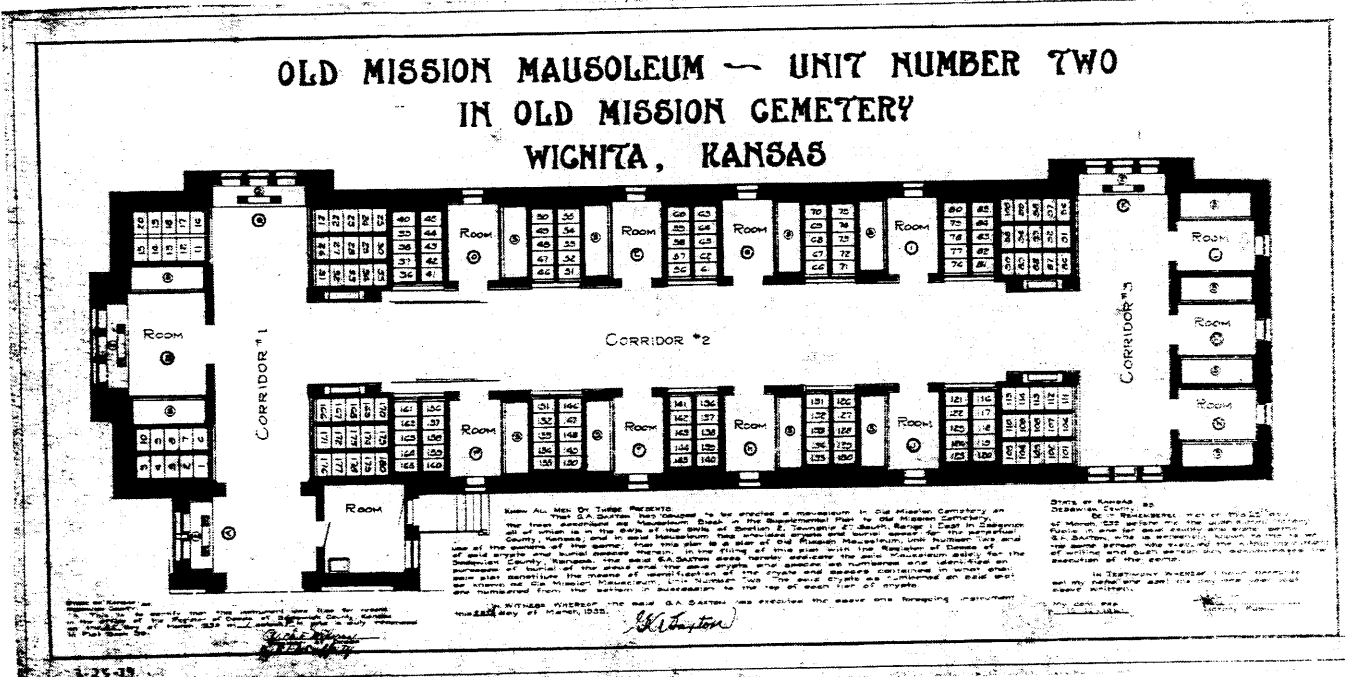
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Unit 1 (1918-1922)



Unit 2 (1927-1929)



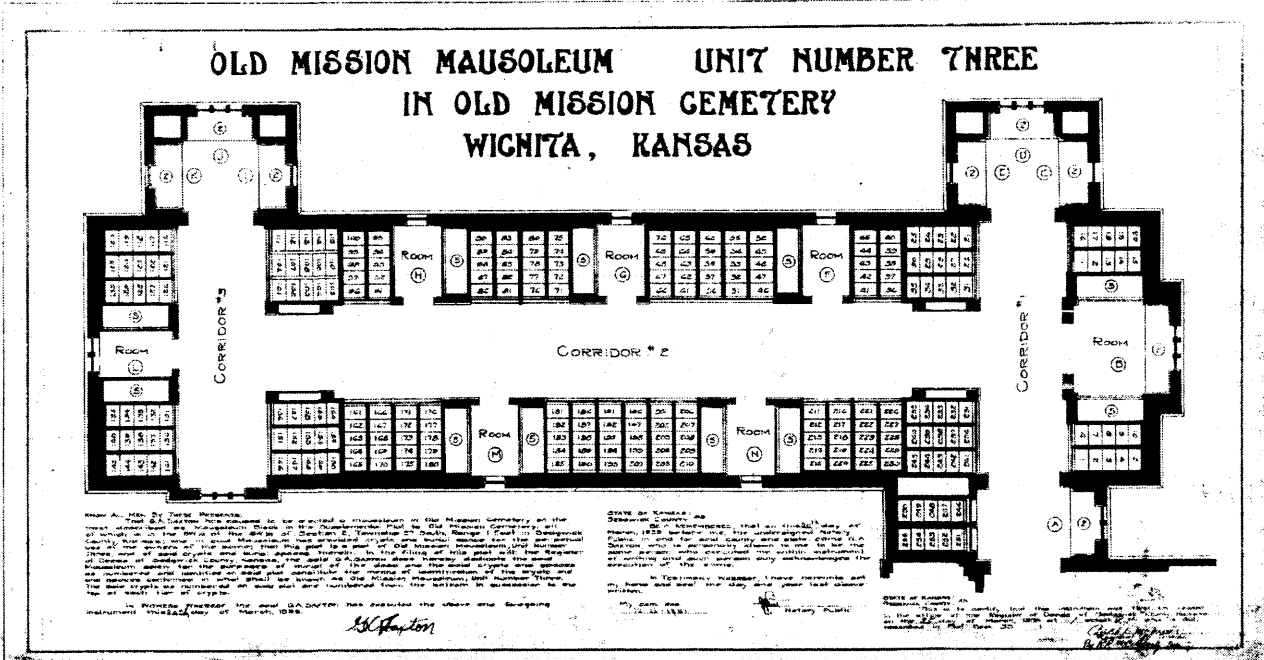
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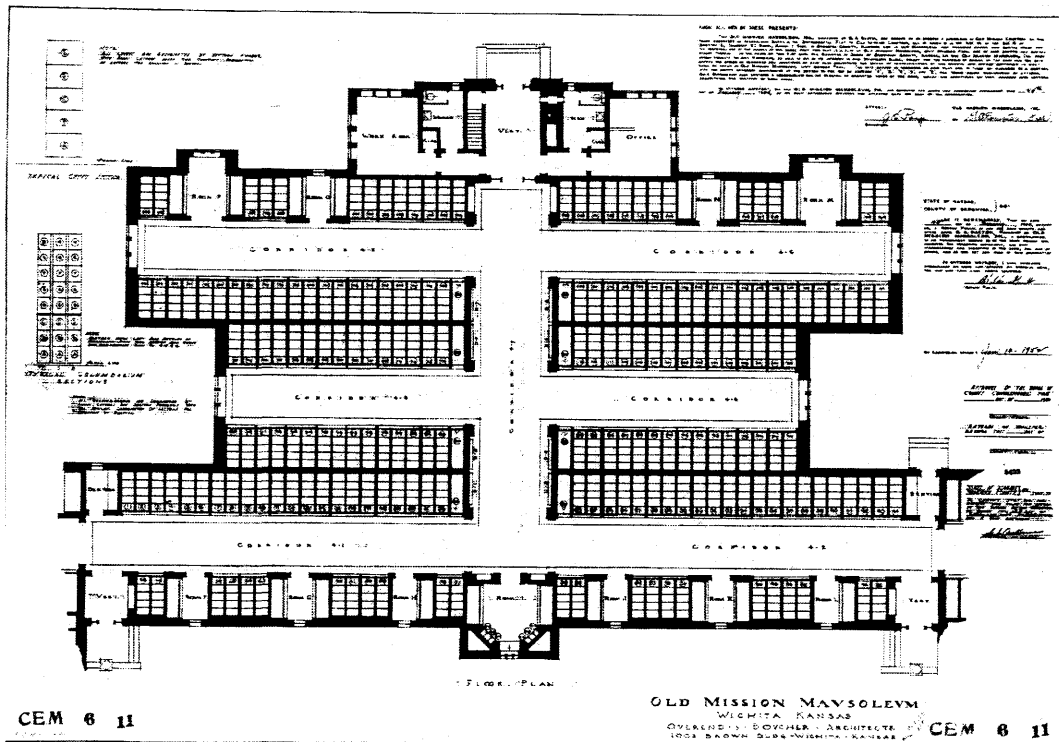
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Unit 3: (1936-1939)

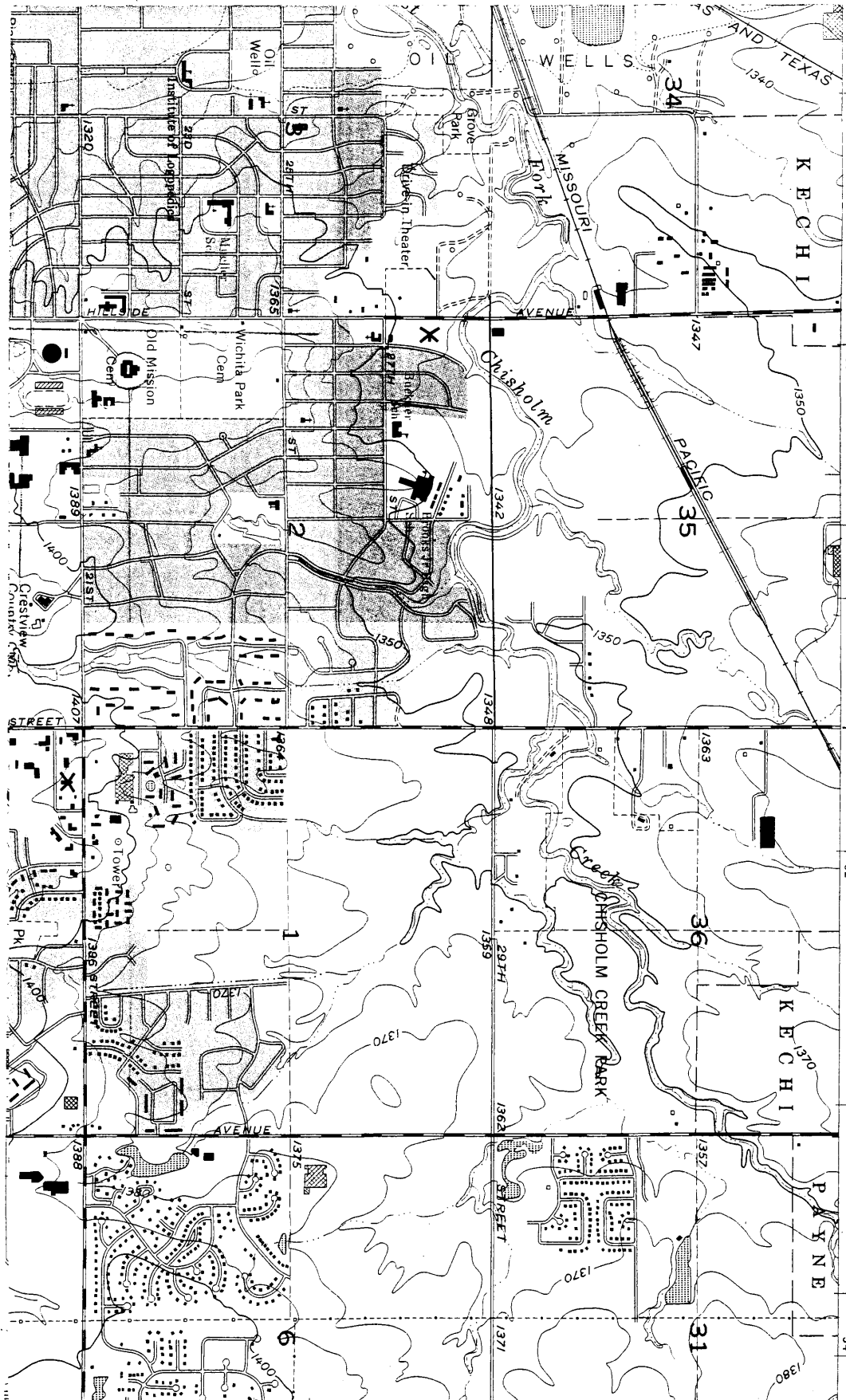


Unit 4: (1950-1954)



F KANSAS

1/4 SE CENTER 649



WICHITA EAST QUADRANGLE  
 KANSAS—SEDGWICK CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

R. 11 E. R. 2 E.

654 97°15'  
 137°45'

6559 1 SW 1/4  
 (GREENWICH)

T. 26 S.  
 T. 27 S.  
 Old Mission  
 Wichita, Sedgwick Co. KS  
 14: 650,150  
 390,000 417.7 417.0  
 FEET