

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 3 1979  
DEC 11 1979  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mato Kosyk House  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of Albion off U.S. 271

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albion mo.

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

003

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Pushmataha

CODE

127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Olen W. Whitfield

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albion

VICINITY OF

STATE

OK

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Pushmataha County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Antlers

STATE

OK

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

OK

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mato Kosyk house is a small one-story, rectangular, white frame building located about three-quarters of a mile west of Albion on a gravel road. It is not entirely visible from the road, and access to it is by a private driveway leading south from the road, then west to the house lot.

Its overall dimensions are approximately thirty feet by twenty feet. The front porch is open on the east and north sides. The porch floor is concrete. Three wooden pilasters support the porch roof on the north side, and four more support it on the east side. The east side contains two windows and a dormer window above the porch.

1.  
2.

A single door on the north side enters the house from the porch. One window on the north side is immediately to the east of the door. Two more windows are on the rear north side. The south side of the house contains three standard windows and one shorter window. The rear (west side) of the house contains one single door at ground level near the northwest corner of the building, and a back porch door semi-enclosed and screened. A wooden tool shed, approximately six feet by ten feet, is located about thirteen to fifteen feet west of the back porch.

There is a raised concrete slab in the southwest corner of the house lot, possibly to cover a well. A small concrete bunker is located on the south side of the house, about five feet south of the south end of the east porch, possibly to house an electric generator.

The entire house site, approximately sixty feet by forty-five feet, is enclosed by a chain length fence. There are three pine trees, one elm, and one catawba tree within the south perimeter fence line, two pine trees just outside of the east perimeter fence, and one pine tree in the northeast corner of the house lot. The house was built about 1910.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Approximately 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is important because of its association with Mato Kosyk. Kosyk (1853-1940) was the most popular poet of the Sorbian people. The Sorbs, or "Wends", as they are also called, form the smallest of the distinct nationalities within the Slavic language group. They occupy an area called Lusatia, which is presently in the German Democratic Republic, and today native speakers of their language number approximately 80,000. For centuries they led a somewhat isolated existence among their forests and marshes, and the Germans who migrated into Lusatia threatened to submerge their culture and language. Only two enclaves of immigrant Sorbs were established overseas, in Texas and Australia.

Beginning with the dawn of Sorbian nationalism about the middle of the nineteenth century, the rich oral tradition of the people was first given written form, and a Sorbian national literature was born. A high point was reached in the work of Mato Kosyk. He was born in Werben in 1853, the son of a peasant. At an early age, he turned his hand to poetry and journalism, and between 1880 and 1884 earned immediate popularity with a series of epic poems based upon Sorbian Folk themes. The Sorbian Wedding in the Spreewald (1880), The Treason of Margrave Gero (1882), and The Fall of Brandenburg (1882) all belong to this period.

Disillusioned by the lack of opportunity afforded one of his nationality and education, Kosyk immigrated to the United States in 1884, where he studied theology. He was ordained as a Lutheran pastor, and served a number of churches throughout the midwest. His last pastoral assignment was at El Reno, Oklahoma, from 1908 to 1913.

At this point he retired, and with his wife and son, he moved to the Albion area, where he bought a farm. He engaged actively in farming for a few years, but gradually abandoned all outside activities in order to devote himself entirely to his poetry. Kosyk composed lyrics, elegies, and epics in his native Sorbian and regularly mailed these works back to Germany, where they were published. To this period belong his Autobiography (1928), two volumes of Poems (1929, 1930), and Poems of Later Years (1933-37). The poet often employed some American, notably Indian, motifs derived from his extended residence in Oklahoma.

At the time of his death in 1940, little notice was given to his work, since the Nazi regime in Germany actively suppressed manifestations of Sorbian cultural

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dalitz, R. and Stone, G., "Mato Kosyk in America" (Unpublished MS, Oxford, En ., 1976).  
 Nielsen, G. R., In Search of a Home: The Sorbs (Wends) on the Australian and Texas Frontiers (Birmingham, England, 1977).  
 Engenrand, G. C. M., The So-Called Wends of Germany and Their Colonies in Texas and in Australia. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1934).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Under 1 acre  
 QUADRANGLE NAME Albion, OK QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	3,0,5	4,5,5	3,8	3,8	9,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SE, NE, NW, SE 1/4 Section 5 T2N-R21E

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Dr. Douglas Hale, Supervised by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek  
 ORGANIZATION  
Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey  
 STREET & NUMBER  
Oklahoma State University  
 CITY OR TOWN  
Stillwater

DATE  
May, 1979  
 TELEPHONE  
(405) 624-5678  
 STATE  
OK

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE H. Glenn Jordan

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 9/18/79

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally G. Dolbe DATE 12/11/79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Bob Gussow DATE 12/5/79  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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nationalism. In recent years, however, there has arisen an enormous interest in this most popular of all Sorbian writers, the "Nightingale of the Blota". Efforts have been made by Professor Klaus J. Dippmann of Berlin and Professor Richard H. Dalitz, of Oxford, among others, to erect a suitable monument in Albion to Kosyk's memory. The increasing interest in Sorbian culture in East Germany continues to enhance the significance of Kosyk and his work.

This structure, where Kosyk spent the last 27 years of his life, is the only remaining building that is associated with Kosyk's life.