

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| STATE: <u>Oklahoma</u> | |
| COUNTY: <u>Pottawatomie</u> | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| <u>MAR 7 1973</u> | |

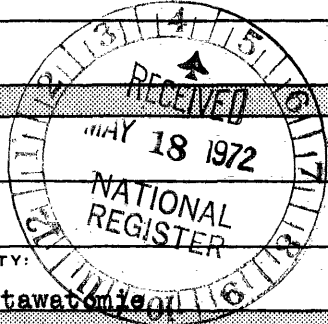
1. NAME

COMMON:
Shawnee Friends Mission
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Friends Meeting House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 2 m. S of
CITY OR TOWN:
Shawnee
STATE:
Oklahoma

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| <u>40</u> | <u>Pottawatomie</u> | <u>125</u> |



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 | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Shrine</u> |
| Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Pottawatomie County Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Shawnee

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| STATE: | CODE |
| <u>Oklahoma</u> | <u>40</u> |

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of the County Clerk
STREET AND NUMBER:
Pottawatomie County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN:
Shawnee

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| STATE: | CODE |
| <u>Oklahoma</u> | <u>40</u> |

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building
CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| STATE: | CODE |
| <u>Oklahoma</u> | <u>40</u> |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|------|
| STATE: | COUNTY: | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| <u>Oklahoma</u> | <u>Pottawatomie</u> | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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 Quaker building was located perhaps a quarter-mile north of the present meeting house. It was a two-story structure, 14 x 28 feet in size. For the first few years it served as both living quarters for the missionary and his family and school/meeting house.

The first Quaker structure on this site was a small log cabin, long since disappeared. The present meeting house was started in 1879, or shortly thereafter, when Franklin Elliot came to serve as Friends missionary to the Shawnees. The structure as it stands today is a somewhat mis-shapen cross. An entrance bay on the south is its head. The arms create a single room approximately 20 x 53 feet. The wing to the back, on the north, forms the base of the cross. Some 16 x 20 feet, it includes what is believed to be the first-built part of the church. Today it serves as a small museum while the rest of the interior, with its original pews, is still used upon occasion for meetings.

When the Pottawatomie County Historical Society acquired the property in 1936 it was quite run down. Shortly afterwards oil development in the area enabled the society to lease the property for enough to re-roof the building, strengthen some of the uprights, and make other general repairs. It remains in excellent repair today, its belfry and old bronze bell intact. Near by and soon to be restored is the old (1882) Bourbonnais log cabin. Although it was long the home of a Shawnee family closely associated with the Society of Friends Mission (cf. No. 8), it was moved here recently from a nearby site and is not related to the Shawnee Mission itself.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

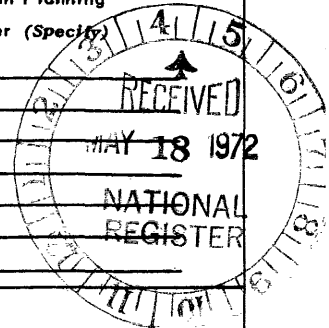
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1879-1924

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input 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 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

Mission work by the Society of Friends began among the Absentee Shawnees of this area as early as 1871. Although always on a relatively modest scale, the fact that today only the Baptist church has a larger membership among tribal members indicates that the work was not without lasting influence on the Shawnees. The Friends Meeting House, built around 1880 and carefully preserved today, thus stands as a fittingly modest tribute to the labors of that determinedly modest sect. (The Quakers also worked with the Kiowas, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and other tribes located in Oklahoma and their mission among the nearby Kickapoo is still active.)

First construction in connection with the Quaker effort in this area was a two-room building, 14 x 28 feet, located down the hill perhaps a quarter of mile to the north of the present meeting house. The Indians themselves hauled the material and native lumber from a government mill at the Sac and Fox Agency about 35 miles away. The first missionary was Joseph Newsom, who lived in the east room with his wife and four children. The west room was used for meetings and for the day school, which opened in 1872 with Newsom and his daughter Emma as alternating teachers.

As time went on, attendance increased and meetings were held on Sundays, when the older Indians could be induced to come. In 1872 the federal government assumed control of the school with the thought of preparing the Shawnees for future citizenship. Wanting to maintain at least the religious aspect of their work with the Indians, the Friends built a log cabin on a hill just south of their first building - on or very near the site of the present meeting house. Here they continued their mission work with the day school pupils and other Shawnees. Elkana Beard and his wife were the first missionaries to occupy this cabin. This represents the beginning of weekly Quaker meetings.

Separation of educational and religious efforts did not greatly diminish the Society of Friends influence. Under the Interior Department's Indian policy at that time the selection of employees for the school was confined to Quakers. This "Quaker Policy" held until 1885 and involved every employee from the agent down. In 1879 Franklin Elliot came to serve as missionary. He started construction of a meeting

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

to

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drake, Florence, "Mary Bourbonnais Organized a Sunday School," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XL (1962), pp. 386-389
 Thomson, S. Carrie, "The Shawnee Friends Mission," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. II (1924), pp. 392-394
 Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 240-245

HIF

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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 35° 17' 37" | 96° 55' 27" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

141
688280
3907770

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 3 acres**

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

| STATE: | CODE: | COUNTY: | CODE: |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

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: *Don D. Shum*

Title: *SLO for Okla*

Date: *MAY 15 1972*

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

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *3/7/73*

ATTEST:

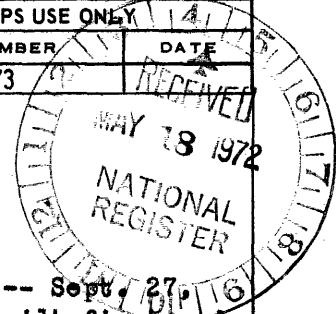
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *3.5.73*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| STATE | Oklahoma |
| COUNTY | Pottawatomie |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| MAR 7 1973 | MAY 13 1972 |



(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 2

Shawnee Friends Mission

house which was dedicated -- pretty much as it stands today -- Sept. 27, 1885. The north projection of this T-shaped structure was built first and thus could date back to as early as 1879 or 1880.

During Mr. Elliot's stay the Quaker missionary effort was extended to other Indians of this agency for the first time. He was succeeded by Dr. Charles Kirk and his wife, Rachel. Dr. Kirk organized the Shawneetown monthly meeting of Friends and as the country became more settled by whites, its membership role included both Indians and whites. Dr. Kirk and wife are buried in the Mission Cemetery (located across State Highway 18 to the west). Mission work ended here in 1924 when the Society of Friends sold the meeting house.

The little frame church stood neglected for years. Then in 1936 the Pottawatomie County Historical Society was given the church and the small plot on which it stands, with the understanding it could be used, if desired, as a meeting place. It was also understood it would be repaired and kept in good condition. This has been done and the restored building now contains, in addition, a small museum.

On the property has recently been relocated a log cabin dating back to 1882. Long the home of Antoine and Mary Bourbonnais, it will, when restored by the Pottawatomie County Historical Society, help to emphasize the influence the Quakers -- and President Grant's "Quaker Policy" -- had on the Shawnees. Mary, a well known Christian in her later years, was asked as a young girl to organize the first Sunday School by Sac and Fox agent John Pickering. "We knew nothing about a Sunday school," she wrote in later years. "Only a few of us could read, not a Christian among us." But she accepted, probably "because they all knew that when I undertook anything, good or bad, I carried it through. Mr. Pickering sent us some Bibles and song books. The next Sunday we started our Sunday school."

She concludes with this account, a tribute not only to her and her husband, but to the Quaker missionary effort among the Shawnees:

About the time Franklin Elliot opened a Friend's Mission at Shawneetown among the Shawnee people, about twenty-five miles from our settlement. He came twice a month to preach to us; he taught and explained the Scripture to us.

In 1880, both I and my husband were converted. I was glad to give up my sins, and lead a better life. I told

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Oklahoma | |
| COUNTY | |
| Pottawatomie | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| MAR 7 1973 | |

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 3

Shawnee Friends Mission

Franklin Elliot that I wanted to join the Friends for their doctrine reach right down into the heart where sin had been - but what about dancing? You Friends don't dance. I can't give up that.

His reply was, "Give your heart to Jesus, and dance as long as He wants you do!" I felt at liberty to dance, so I gave up my all to Him, and bless the Lord I never wanted to dance again. He had ~~had~~ something better for me.

In 1882, we moved to Shawneetown near present Tecumseh where Antoine died. I was the superintendent of the Sunday school in the Friend's Church until 1900.

