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Form 10-300 (July 1969)		ES DEPARTMENT C	OF THE INTERIOR	STATE:	STATE: Kansas			
		GISTER OF HI RY – NOMINA	STORIC PLACES	COUNTY:				
	(Type all entrie	11.	V NUMBER	DATE	- 14			
I. NAME								
C OMMON		Castle Hall		3	1000			
AND/OR	HISTORIC:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		al C.	41.5	F		
2. LOCATIO	N				·0.0.	F		
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3. CLASSIFI	CATION		<u></u>			04		
	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	ST	ATHS I	ACCESSIBL		
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PRESENT	USE (Check One or )	More as Appropriate	)	<b>_</b>	k			
Comm Educa Enter	ercial    Ir ational    M	ndustrial	<ul> <li>Park</li> <li>Private Residence</li> <li>Religious</li> <li>Scientific</li> </ul>	☐ Transpor ☐ Other (Sg		Comments		
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7. DESCRIPTION							
			(Chec	k One)			
CONDITION	Excellent 🗴	Good 🗌 Fair	🗌 Dete	eriorated	🔲 Ruins	Unexposed	
	(0	Check One)		(Check One)			
	Altered	Unaltered		[	Moved	🕱 Original Site	

ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Castle Hall, a crudely quoined three-story rubble stone building, originally consisted of only two stories. The third story was added later and then afterwards torn off because of poor mortar joints; it was then added for a second time and remains to date.

A simple rectangular plan is carried through to the straight gable roof. All window and door openings are rectangular with heavy stone lintels and sills.

The second and third floor levels are clearly visible because of the beams which extend through the exterior wall surfaces. The old two story roof line is also clearly visible on the back side of the structure.

Although the interior has been renovated many times over the years, the existing plan and interior are considered to be very close to the original conditions.



ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔲 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	🔲 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (II Applicab	le and Known) 1858	·	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	ate)	
Abor iginal	🗶 Education	Political	📋 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Militory	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

On February 3, 1858, the Kansas Education Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church received a charter from the territorial legislature to establish a college at or near Palmyra, and on Feberuary 12 a charter was granted for Baker University. As an inducement to the Methodists to locate the college at Palmyra, the town association gave them a section of land adjacent to the town site. The section was surveyed into lots and over the years most of the land was sold to raise money for construction and operating expenses.

Construction of a temporary college building one block off the campus began in late 1857 or early 1858, and its doors were opened for students November 22, 1858. It was erected off campus because school trustees lacked sufficient funds to build the type of permanent structure they desired and they did not want to erect a temporary building on the campus. College officials could raise only enough funds to construct two stories of the planned threestory structure. The Palmyra Masonic lodge financed the third floor in exchange for regular use of a room for lodge meetings.

After another building was completed in 1871, the Old Castle Hall was no longer used for classes. In 1874 the president of the college, Joseph Denison, used it as his home. Among others, uses over the years have been as a mill, a student rooming house, a public school, and a storage place for athletic materials and other college property.

The third floor was removed during the time it was used as a mill, reportedly because vibrations of the mill machinery had weakened it. When Baker University celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, the third floor was rebuilt. In the 1950's <u>extensive</u> restoration work was carried out by the Old Castle Memorial association, and today the building is maintained as a museum.

Old Castle Hall was the first building of Baker University, which is today the oldest four-year college in the state. Architecturally it is a very fine example of early Plains Vernacular 11 architecture as adapted to a multistory building.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	state Kansas			
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY Douglas			
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY			
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE			
(Number all entr	ries)	111 a au u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u			
6.					
0.	Survey of Historic Sites and Structures	in Kansas (State)			
	1957 Kansas State Historical Society				
	120 West Tenth St. Topeka, Kansas 66612				
	Code: 20				
	Federal Writers' Project of the Works Pro 1939 (Federal)	oject Administration			
	Records destroyed. A guide book, Kansas	, was published in 1939.			
9.					
	Rohrer, Lee Ann, "Baker's 'Old Castle' Ro Lawrence Journal-World, May 30, 195				
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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.
Kansas	XX Arts & Sciences - subtheme Education
3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
Old Castle	, <u>½</u>

5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)

Fifth Street between Elm and Fremont, Campus, Baker University

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)

rm 10-817 Sept. 1957)

Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas - Dr. William J. Scarborough, President 7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes still important and what remains are extant)

On November 22, 1858, Baker University opened as the first college in the Kansas territory. Old Castle was the building in which the first classes were conducted. It now stands as the oldest surviving college building in Kansas. Baldwin's parent town, Palmyra, was on the Santa Fe Trail and realized the activity and history of such a location.

Currently, Old Castle is a well stocked museum of Santa Fe Trail memorabilia. It has been recognized by the State Historical Society as a historica point. Next to Old Castle is an authentic frontier post office or Pony Express station. It was moved to the site for an interpretive setting. Old Castle represents higher education on the way West--a last stop oasis of culture before the perils of the frontier.

Baker University is also host to one of the nation's outstanding Bible collections. William Alfred Quayle bequeathed the nucleus of the holdings to which has been added considerable rare and valuable editions. Baker displays: King James Bible, 1611, first edition; Latin Codex, 13th century; Eggensteyn Bible, 1469; Coberger Bible, 1475; Terra Cotta Cone, circa 2060 B.C.; to name but a few of the over 300 rare Bible

Old Castle is a stone building currently used as a museum of Santa Fe Trail memorabilia. It is in good condition and well cared for.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) Homer K. Ebright, <u>The History of Baker University</u>, Baldwin Kansas 1951.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS *	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT
ATTACHED: YES NO	Good	Museum	May 5, 1965
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)	······································	15. TITLE Contract	16. DATE
ASilfert Selle	A.G. Belles	Historian	June 1, 1965

\*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 101/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317g, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)





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