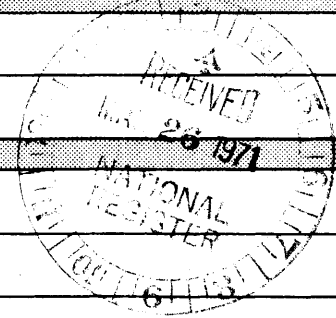


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Mayes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.40.0016	DATE 9/10/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Union Mission *Site*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Union Mission

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
c. 5 m. NE of

CITY OR TOWN:
Mazie (NE/4 SW/4 Sec. 16, T 19 N, R 19 E)

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Mayes	CODE 097
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mayes County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Pryor	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of the Interior

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma
 COUNTY: Mayes
 ENTRY NUMBER: 71.9.40.0016
 DATE: 9/10/71
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An uncertain future delayed construction of permanent buildings at Union Mission. All of its "temporary" log structures had not been replaced when abandonment came in 1837. A century and a third has now passed and the pleasant meadow near the Grand (Neosho) River contains only a few graves (including the canopy-covered monument of the Rev. Epaphras Chapman, the mission's young spiritual leader, who died there in 1825), an Oklahoma Library Association marker noting establishment of Oklahoma first mission and first printing press, and a few scattered stones to hint at location of the early buildings.

The first structure (1821) is described as five log cabins under one roof. Cooking and eating were done under a nearby brush arbor until August 1822 when a common dining hall and kitchen were completed. All of the temporary structures were of logs. Early in 1826 Supt. Vaill writes to the Missionary Board that the houses consist of "about a dozen log cabins, decayed and uncomfortable." He also inventories the property to include a 40 x 60-foot barn; a 12-foot-square stone spring house; a 20 x 20-foot storehouse, two-story and well-covered; a log schoolhouse in poor condition; a kitchen and dining hall under one roof; a smokehouse and a variety of storehouses and shops for shoe-maker, carpenter and blacksmith.

A flood on the Grand in September 1826 caused much damage, emphasized the low, relatively unhealthy location of the mission. But by 1831 a letter from Richard and Sarah Vaill to their aunt in Connecticut gives this description of Union:

Our house room is now more extensive and we generally have plenty of company to occupy them as the road from Wisconsin to Arkansas passes here and people generally make it a stopping place. The log cabins in which we were once crammed are nearly all demolished for firewood. The Mission now rather has the appearance of a neat little village. There are about six or seven dwelling houses besides the dining-hall and storehouse and several outhouses. These are placed around a square about twenty rods long and ten rods in breadth which forms the Yard and is now set with a row of trees on each side.

A mill had been completed in 1823, at a cost of \$4,000, and it operated until 1835. Its value was placed at \$2,000 in Supt. Vaill's 1831 inventory of the Mission property. Five dwellings were valued at \$700 each and miscellaneous other buildings added another \$2,000 to the inventory. The balance was in cattle (200 head - \$1,400), 100 hogs (\$400), ten steers (\$200), and eight yoke of oxen (\$300). Land holdings were given as 1,000 acres ploughed and 80 acres in pasture.

But six years later, in 1837, a William Requa of Tarrytown, N. Y., one of the founders of nearby Hopefield Mission, was at Union "looking things over, - not much to salvage." By the summer of 1829 the

RECEIVED
MAR 21
NATIO
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Mayes	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.9.40.0016	9/10/71

(Number all entries)

No. 7. Description

Union Mission

Arkansas Gazette noted that a passing traveler could see only the weed-choked ruins of a few buildings and the mission cemetery. Today even the ruins are gone and only the cemetery remains. General layout of Union Mission is known, however, and development plans call for location of the principal structures on the site, identification with suitable markers, and construction of such paths and other facilities as will make a visit to this once important site both meaningful and enjoyable.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1821 - 1837

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 | <u>Printing</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>1821</u> |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Much of the brief, but important, story of Union Mission can be told in the day-to-day journal entries of the dedicated missionaries who operated this first school in what is now Oklahoma.

Agreed this day to build a school house 18 feet by 20 feet. (August 11, 1821) Moved into our new school house this week that it were filled with young Osages. (September 1, 1821) The old chief (Clermont) upon going into the school expressed the highest satisfaction in seeing the children at their books, and seemed desirous to have time such that he might send his children. (February 8, 1822) Clermont and Tallee, their wives and several children are now with us. Lovely children! and must they return and drag out a still longer portion of their being in pagan darkness? (May 9, 1822) Our Osage boys are doing well. They manifest a very contented mind and are docile in their dispositions and make excellent progress in learning to read and write. (June 29, 1822) Resolved that we build a log house 36 feet long and 15 feet wide with a partition in the middle as lodging room for teachers and scholars. (August 15, 1822) It is pleasing to record the labor done by the Indian girls at schools . . . the number of new quilts made by them is nine. (March 23, 1823) School closed - children can go to the Creek schools. Only a few Osages left. (February 1833)

Union Mission, however, was not a failure, if its influence on the Osages was far from significant. For one thing, as Hope Holway points out, it "has a value because it is an effort that vitalized and ennobles the human race; men and women toiling and sacrificing for the sake of their fellowman." For another, Union Mission actually had two careers - one in education, the other in printing. As such it represents an impressive number of Oklahoma "firsts." These include the first school (opened Sept. 1, 1821), first Protestant wedding (March 10, 1821), first church to be organized (May 26, 1821), first printing press set up and first book published (1835) . . . and almost certainly the first Temperance Society (1833 - with 37 members, about half of them Indians, two Negroes, and the rest presumably Caucasian).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foreman, Grant, Advancing the Frontier, 1830-1860, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1933, pp. 119-142.
 Holway, Hope, "Union Mission, 1826-1837," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XL (Winter 1962-1963), pp. 355-378.
 Porter, C. C., et al., "Centenary of Printing in Oklahoma," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XIII (Fall 1935), pp. 251-253.

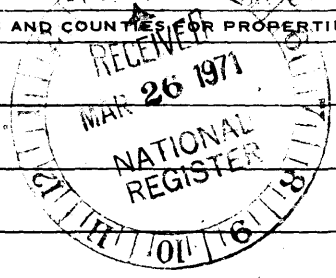
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 07' 34"	95° 17' 09"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.05 a.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **February 1971**

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 [Signature]

Title Liaison officer for Okla

Date [Signature]

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **SEP 10 1971**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **AUG 3 - 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Mayes
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.9.40.0016	9/10/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Union Mission

Union was established in 1820 by the United Foreign Mission Society of New York with the Rev. William F. Vaill as superintendent. The "Mission Family" consisted of 21 persons, including the Rev. Epaphras Chapman, Dr. Marcus Palmer the physician, and teachers John Spaulding and Abraham Redfield. Though dedicated to the conversion (through education) of the Osage Indians, then living in the area, removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from the southeastern United States soon pushed the Osages westward, leaving Union with no clearly defined constituency. This shows up clearly in the make-up of the school's student body.

From its opening in 1821 to its closing Jan. 1, 1833, the school instructed 144 Indian children - 71 Osages, 54 Creeks, and 29 Cherokees. (By sex the break-down was 91 boys, 63 girls.) Creeks began attending in 1829 and by 1830 they made up half the enrollment. The last year saw only 7 Osage pupils in attendance.

The settlement did not disappear at once, of course, with the school. The missionaries had established an oxen-powered mill that ground grain for a wide surrounding area. And Union entertained its share of visitors. Though a spot in the wilderness, it sat beside the well traveled Texas Road. Washington Irving stopped for the night at the mission in the fall of 1832. Another visitor was Charles Joseph Latrobe, the English botanist.

Most important by far of the later arriving residents of Union Mission was Dr. Samuel A. Worcester and his family. They came in 1835 and until the spring of 1836 his press, the first in Oklahoma, printed several tracts in the Creek, Choctaw and Osage languages. Honor of being Oklahoma's first publication goes to a child's primer, printed in the Muskogee (Creek) Indian language, each of its eight pages illustrated with wood cuts.

Removal of Dr. Worcester and his press to Park Hill (principal Cherokee settlement of the period) finished Union Mission. In 1837 the property was appraised for the government, so that the board could establish another mission for the Osages farther to the north (the appraisal value was \$10,000, but the new mission was never established), and Union was abandoned. Today only a few graves -- including that of the Rev. Epaphras Chapman, its stone dated 1825 the oldest known monument in Oklahoma -- mark the once important site.