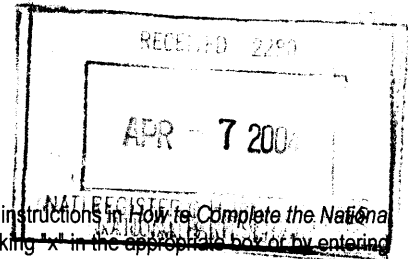


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### 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 Virginia School District #33  
Other name/site number Missionary Baptist Church

#### 2. Location

Street & number 71st Street and Clare Road  not for publication  
City or town Shawnee  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Johnson Code 091 Zip code 66227

#### 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.)

*Richard D. Conkertz* DSHPO

April 2, 2004

Signature of certifying official/Title  
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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

*Elson H. Beall*

5/19/04

Virginia School District #33  
Name of property

Johnson County, KS  
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	
2		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
3		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)

Education: school

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

Vacant/ Not in use

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**7. Description**

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

Other: rectangle, gable roof

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone; Concrete  
walls Wood: Weatherboard

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roof Metal: galvanized steel

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other

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

Name of Property Virginia School

County and State Johnson County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

[X] 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.

[X] 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 its 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

Education

Period of Significance

1878-1953

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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): Primary location of additional data:

[ ] 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

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State agency

[ ] Federal agency

[ ] Local government

[ ] University

[X] Other

Name of repository:

Monticello Community Historical Society

Name of Property Virginia School

County and State Johnson County, Kansas

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property 1 acre**

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   5	3   3   7   8   8   0	4   3   1   8   2   6   0	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing					
2				4							

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 Cynthia Ashby, Member Bertha Cameron, Board Member, 6990 Mize Rd. Shawnee, KS 66226

Organization Monticello Community Historical Society Date May 13, 2003

Street & number PO Box 860283 Telephone 913-441-2871

City or town Shawnee State KS Zip code 66286-0283

**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 Mr. Dennis Hillhouse

street & number 26525 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Shawnee state Kansas zip code 66227

**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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Virginia School (c. 1877) is located at 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Clare Road within the city limits of Shawnee in Johnson County, Kansas. The building stands on a 208 foot by 208 foot lot in the southeast corner of SE1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 17, T. 12, R. 23. Bounded by 71<sup>st</sup> Street to the south and Clare Road on the east, a woven wire fence bounds the property to the west and a brome pasture on the north. Blacktop streets run along the east and south sides of the property.

A cistern stands at the southwest corner of the building. A two-door outhouse stands on the northeast corner of the property.

The one-story, gabled roofed frame building sits on a rock and masonry cement foundation. The school maintains a southern façade orientation, measuring approximately 31 feet east to west and 45 feet north to south. A 7 foot, 11 inch by 11 foot, 5 inch vestibule projects from the southern façade.

The rectangular school is surmounted by a galvanized metal gable roof. A small wooden bell tower, covered with a galvanized metal gable roof rises from the vestibule's roof. The vestibule was added in the early 1900s. A new foundation was poured in 1977.

Three, 4/4 double-hung, wooden sash windows fenestrate the east and west sides of the building. A brick chimney rises on the west side of the building.

Two double-hung windows flank the vestibule's entry door. An aluminum storm door stands in place of the original wooden door. Tongue and groove siding finishes the vestibule's walls and ceiling, an oak floor provides a solidly well-worn platform within the entryway. Original coat hooks and lunch shelves line the vestibule's east wall. A five-panel wooden door leads from the vestibule into the classroom. The original glass transom over the classroom door has been replaced with wood.

The classroom measures 23 feet, 1 inch by 32 feet, 1 inch. The interior walls are wood lath and plaster, tongue and groove wainscoting accents the walls. The wainscoting measures 28 inches high and is capped with a chair rail. Oak floors are used in the classroom space. A seven inch raised stage is located across the north end of the room. A double door wooden cupboard with shelves projects from the south wall, on west side of the entry door. The flue for the stove-pipe rises along the west wall, connecting to the brick chimney on the roof above.

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A small propane furnace enclosed in wood paneling stands in the northwest corner of the room. A small air conditioner has been installed in the south wall on the east side of the entry door.

The original wood lath and plaster ceiling has been replaced with sheet rock. Six rectangular florescent light fixtures hang from the ceiling.

The Virginia School closed at the end of the 1962 school year. When the school closed in 1962 the land reverted back to the landowner. The building was purchased by the landowner and was used as a church until the fall of 1999, when the property was sold to the current owner. Although the building is now vacant it still maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity typical of a rural one-room school.

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The Virginia School (c. 1877) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Johnson County, Kansas, and for its architectural significance as a one-room schoolhouse. The Virginia Schoolhouse served Johnson County School District Number 33 from its completion in the fall of 1877 until 1962, when unification forced its closing.

Virginia School exemplifies the prototypical, one-room country schoolhouse in its form and design. The one-story, front-gabled schoolhouse is typical of the one-room prairie schoolhouses constructed in rural Kansas during the last half of the nineteenth century. A vestibule capped by a small cupola projects from the building's façade. The large, 4/4 double hung windows provided much needed breezes to cool the classroom. During cold weather, it was heated with coal.

The school represents one of many one-room schoolhouses that were constructed every three miles or so in each township. These schools were funded with public money and usually stood on an acre of land donated by a farmer. Until consolidation forced the closure of many of Kansas' one-room schools in the 1950s and 1960s, Kansas children learned their ABCs and algebra in small groups taught by only one teacher.

School District Number 33 was organized in 1865. District Number 33 was supervised by the Johnson County School Superintendent and an elected school board. The first school building was located one half mile east of the present Virginia School. The 1874 Monticello Township map shows the 1865 school was located on Henry Mize property. The 1865 schoolhouse was sold when the new 1878 school was built and moved to a nearby farm.

In 1875 C. J. and Sarah Mize deeded one-acre to school district #33 for a new school. Records show the Mize family, some of the township's earliest settlers, were dedicated to educating children of the community. The schoolhouse was erected in the fall of 1877 with the first school term beginning January 1878.

In 1878 the area surrounding the school was a rural farm community. No village or incorporated town existed within approximately three miles of the school. The closest small towns of Wilder and Monticello were located north and east of Virginia School.

In 1878 average monthly salary for teachers in Johnson County was \$37.40 per month for male teachers and \$21.88 per month for female teachers. All schools in Johnson County held seven or nine month school terms in 1878. The first term in the new Virginia School

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began January 1878 and closed the week of March 21, 1878, making the 1877-1878 school year a seven-month school.

Christian (Chris) Wagner helped build the Virginia School in the fall of 1877. Four children of Chris and Mary Jane Wagner, early Monticello area settlers, attended the school in 1898. Twenty-seven students were enrolled in Virginia School in 1898. School was taught by Mattie Hoy, a 21 year old who had attended school district #42, about two-and-one-half miles north of Virginia. One of these Wagner children, Harry, taught at Virginia School in the early 1900s. Harry married in 1910, went into the mercantile business and died in 1912.

In addition to the regular school curriculum, Virginia School provided a location for other activities. In 1878 Louis A. Gleason conducted a writing school at the building. Church services and Sunday school were held at the school. The community enjoyed debates and programs through a lyceum program that was held at the new school.

The early twentieth century witnessed the growth of the school community. After 1900 school enrollment averaged around 30 students a year, rising to as many as 57 pupils in 1920. However, enrollment dropped markedly during the Depression years of 1929 to 1933, sometimes to as few as 10 students. After World War II the enrollment began to climb, necessitating the construction of a second building in 1954. School records for 1917 show the district used the Standard Kansas State Series of textbooks.

Forty-six students were enrolled at Virginia School in 1921, the teacher's salary was \$140 a month for the eight-month term. Ada Barth was one of 26 female students enrolled at the school in 1921, their ages ranging from 7 to 20 years. Ada's father, William G. Barth served as School Board Clerk in 1921. Later, her brother Bill Barth, served as the last School Board Clerk in 1962.

Ada Barth taught at the school from 1933 to 1937, when, according to her family she stopped teaching to get married. During the 1930s and 1940s students used the Bobb's Merrill *Primer and Readers*; the classroom contained a large world map that pulled down from the ceiling in front of the blackboards and the globe that hung from the ceiling.

As many as three and four generations of the same families attended school as students, taught as teachers and served on the various school boards. Members of these same families still live in the community, as close as one-half mile from the schoolhouse.



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Virginia School continued to be the center of school and community activities during the 1940s and 1950s. The school provided opportunities for socializing and cultural exchanges. The annual Mother's Day Teas held in the 1950s were planned and organized by the children and supported one hundred percent. Even working mothers took time off to attend.

The community rallied to provide anything needed by the school. An active Mothers Club was organized in the late 1940s for organized activities including fund raising for improvements to the school. The school was upgraded with electric lights replacing kerosene lights, a cistern with water pump replacing the old well. An oil-burning furnace replaced the wood and coal-burning stove.

Because of increased attendance a second separate building was built west of the 1877 schoolhouse in 1954. Grades 5 through 8 attended the old building and grades 1 through 4 attended the new building. With the construction of the second building, the school board hire two teachers, one for each building. Ruth Lynn, teacher and later principal of the two schools, taught from 1955 to 1962, when the school closed.

The school continued to be directed by the local school board and Johnson County School Superintendent until closure in 1962. After the school closed, all equipment was auctioned including the large bell. At the auction, Ruth Lynn's husband purchased the bell and presented it to her as a memento of the many years she rang it to call he children to class. Ruth, now 91 years old, still has the school bell. The bell had been used as a dinner bell on the Huston farm, part of the same land parcel the school buildings were located on. The Huston family had donated the bell to the school district.

In 1962 the one-acre tract reverted to the current landowner as specified in the original deed. The 1954 school building was sold and removed from the property. The Virginia School was purchased by the landowner and leased to a local congregation for a church until 1999 when the property was sold. The building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently vacant.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is located in the S2, E2, SE4, SE4, S17, T12, R23E in Johnson County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east by Clare Road, to the south by 71<sup>st</sup> Street, and to the west and north by adjacent property lines.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the property that is historically associated with the school.